

Shota 131

Chapter 131 Spies (1)

Since this matter had been settled, there was no longer a reason for us to stay there any longer.

As soon as the reinforcements that Shaka had called for arrived, we left that place.

They had come with plenty of carriages, so it was easy for them to carry everyone away without attracting too much attention. After all, this was the bad part of town, so it was normal for them to see things like this.

People wouldn't look too deeply into things and would turn a blind eye since that was the best thing for them.

If they involved themselves in something unrelated to them, all they would be doing was putting themselves in danger.

No one was dumb enough to do something like that.

As for our group, we headed back to Haley's store.

I wanted to leave her father behind and let him find his own way back, but she asked us to take him too. So in the end, we brought him along and took him back to the store where he just sat there in a daze.

pandasnovel.com When we came back, all of her employees immediately came over since they had been worried about her.

I had told Kevin to get the others to look around for her and since they hadn't found her, they had all been worried about her.

It wasn't every single employee of hers that were here, but most of them quickly came back as soon as they heard that she was back.

They had been so worried that they had even closed the store and all gone out to look for her.

They even glared at me when I helped her back since they thought that I was the one who did all of this to her. But Haley quickly explained what happened and they all started comforting her.

The way that they looked at me also changed after that.

Instead of looking at me with hostility, they looked at me as if...they were looking at their next new boss.

But I chose to ignore these looks as I focused on Haley's father.

He had been silently sitting there the entire time, not even moving a single inch.

If it wasn't for the fact that we could still see his body moving from him breathing, we would have thought that he was already dead.

Haley also watched him from the corner of her eyes since in the end, he was still her father.

All of a sudden, Haley's father stood up and turned to leave.

That is he took a single step before turning back to look at Haley.

Haley couldn't help being taken aback when she saw this, but she still looked at him and waited for him to speak. Her employees who had been around her suddenly came forward as if they were about to protect her, but she shook her head to them and they moved back.

After another long silence, Haley's father said, "It's your life, you can do what you want. I'll send you the deeds to this store and pass on paperwork to give you the stocks of this store that my company owns. It's yours from now on."

Without even waiting for her to respond, he turned to leave.

As he walked off, there was an almost dejected look to his figure, as if he had lost twenty years in an instant. I think you should take a look at

When he moved past me, he looked up at me with a complicated look. He gave a sigh before saying, "I'll leave her to you from now on."

Once again, he didn't wait for a response as he walked off.

I felt like there was a misunderstanding, but at the same time, there was a part of me that didn't want to correct him.

Haley didn't say anything as she watched him leave. She just gave a slight bow to him after he said what he said about her store. Then when her face was slightly hidden from this bow, there was a blush that appeared from hearing what he said about Zwein.

She never expected her father to suddenly give his approval like this, but there was also a part of her that didn't want to correct this misunderstanding.

Once he was gone, everyone went back to what they were doing before.

But when I looked at Haley and our eyes met, we both couldn't help looking away awkwardly.

...

The next morning, I was just lazing around in my room when Shaka suddenly appeared.

He had disappeared last night, saying that he was going to check on the Crow Gang who had been captured. He was gone all night, so while I didn't know what had happened, I was certain that something big must have happened.

When he came in, he came over to me and said, "The master wants to see you."

I was taken aback when I heard this, but I gave a nod in response since I had the time now.

After all, there was nowhere that we would be able to go right now.

Haley had just been rescued, but it wasn't as if she was in any condition to head out now. Not to mention, I wasn't in any condition to leave her like this by herself during this time.

Right now, Haley was staying in another room that we rented with Jessica and Nicole taking care of her in turns.

We planned on staying another week for her to recover before heading out to my town.

So during this time, we didn't have anything else to do.

The two of us left the inn together without anyone following us.

Jessica had wanted to come along, but I stopped her in the end.

I didn't know what the noble wanted, but I knew that he was someone who liked his privacy. That was why he had gone through all that trouble to invite me alone that day at the count's manor.

Plus, I could tell that there wasn't any hostility coming from Shaka, so it should be fine.

While Nicole and Jessica weren't assured after hearing this, they still had to follow my orders as the baron.

So once again, I appeared in front of that manor in the ill reputed area.

Chapter 132 Spies (2)

Standing in front of this manor, I couldn't help revealing a faint smile.

After all, it was this place where my fate had changed.

If it wasn't for the noble sending Shaka and his men to come help me, who knows what would have happened when Haley was kidnapped.

At the same time, it was also because of them that I was able to finish the side quest.

That was right, after Haley was rescued yesterday, the side quest showed that it had been finished. The reward had also been released, but I had been too tired to look at it.

I had been planning on seeing what the reward was today, but Shaka had interrupted before I could and now I was here.

Back in this place where it all began.

As we stood by the door, Shaka knocked on it. However, I could hear that there was a special pattern to the knock that he gave.

In no time at all, the butler from before appeared and let us in without a word.

This time, the butler didn't lead the way and instead let Shaka go in by himself. I was surprised by this, but I still followed Shaka in.

As we were going in, I felt like there was someone staring at me from behind. But when I turned around to look, I found that the butler was already gone.

I slightly knitted my brows when I saw this...since I felt something off about this gaze. It was as if there was some kind of hostility behind it.

Seeing that I wasn't moving, Shaka turned around to ask, "What's wrong?"

I was pulled out of my thoughts by his voice. I shook my head and said, "Nothing."

Shaka looked at me with one brow raised, but he didn't ask anything else. He just turned back and walked forward down the hall.

I followed him with slightly knitted brows, but I shook all those thoughts out in the end.

I knew that I couldn't be distracted when meeting the person I was about to meet. I had to keep a sharp mind so I would be able to react to anything that he did.

Shaka led me to the same door as before and when he pushed it open, I saw that the same noble was sitting there with a piece of paper in his hand.

He turned to look at us when he heard the sound of the door opening.

Seeing that it was the two of us, he revealed a smile and waved for us to come over to sit in front of him.

Shaka didn't hesitate to walk over, but he didn't sit down like the noble indicated. Instead, Shaka just stood behind the noble, as if he was guarding him.

That just left me, who was awkwardly standing there.

But I couldn't just keep standing there with the way that the noble was waving at me, so I walked over and sat down in front of him.

After sitting down, the noble picked up the pot of tea in front of him and poured a cup for me that he placed in front of me. Then he pushed a plate of cookies that were on the side over in front of me before sitting back and looking at me with a smile.

It was very strange the way that he acted...almost as if he was trying to be overly friendly...

So in the end, I couldn't help asking, "Is something wrong?"

The noble shook his head as he said, "No, nothing's wrong. In fact, everything's very good because you did a very good job. I really didn't expect the results that you would yield and I can say that I'm very pleasantly surprised." I think you should take a look at

I felt very strange receiving all this praise from him, but I just gave a nod in response.

After seeing this, the noble continued, "Your talent and luck really is something amazing, so I recommended you for a special position?"

"Special position?" I repeated back in a soft voice.

The noble said with a nod, "It's a very special position that I'm sure you'll take since the benefits that come from it are things that you just can't turn down."

I didn't think the same and it was clear by the look on my face, but I still asked, "What is the special position?"

The noble didn't answer this question right away as he said, "You might know me as Baron Trello, but that isn't actually who I really am."

When he said this, he was also carefully looking at my face.

It was then that he saw a trace of confusion in my eyes, as if I didn't know what he was talking about.

Seeing this, the noble raised a brow and asked, "Did you not know who I am?"

An awkward smile slowly crept onto my face when I heard this question. After all, I really didn't know who he was.

I only knew that he was one of the nobles that had been there when I met the count, but I didn't know anything about his identity.

So I just gave a slow nod in response.

The noble looked at me with a strange look, as if he was trying to figure out if I was being serious or not. When he determined that I was indeed being serious, he suddenly burst out into laughter.

To the side, Shaka also revealed a faint smile on his stoic face.

The awkward look on my face just became even more awkward as they laughed at me.

Finally after laughing for a while, the noble calmed down and looked at me with an interested smile. He wiped a tear from his eye before saying, "I'm sorry, I couldn't help myself just now. You really are an unexpected person."

Hearing him say that didn't really make me feel better.

The noble continued by saying, "It seems like you're someone who only cares about the big fish. You're someone that cares about the big picture."

The look on my face turned awkward again when I heard this since I knew that this wasn't the case.

I wasn't someone that cared about big fish or the big picture, I was someone that only cared about my tiny world.

During this time, my one task was to get enough food and supplies for our town and nothing else, so I had only paid attention to that. As for the other nobles of the town, other than the count, there was no need for me to learn more about the barons.

Especially since knowing more nobles meant getting in more trouble.

Connections with nobles usually led to trouble one way or another, so I wanted to avoid that by just staying in my own little world until I had to socialize with others.

The noble continued by giving another appreciative nod before saying, "I need someone with your luck and your intelligence on my team. I want you to join us."

"Join you?" I asked immediately before adding, "Just who is this you that you're talking about?"

"I want you to join Shadow Garden, the organization that I work for." The noble said.

Chapter 133 Spies (3)

"Shadow Garden?" I repeated before asking in a confused voice, "What is that?"

The noble raised a brow when he heard this before saying, "You don't even know what the Shadow Garden is? What kind of things have they been teaching you when you became a noble?"

I had a confused look when I heard this.

He was speaking in such a confident voice, as if I should have recognized what he said the moment that I heard it.

But I really had never heard of this thing before, even back when I had been playing the game, I hadn't heard anything about this Shadow Garden before.

pandasnovel.com That was until I suddenly remembered a tiny bit of lore that I read.

It was a part of a random drop that I had found and there was only a tiny passage about it, but Shadow Garden was supposedly a spy organization that reported directly to the king. This was an organization that had a large influence in the kingdom and could even be considered the secret police with how much power they had.

But like any other organization that had too much power, they had been destroyed because of a power struggle.

After it had been destroyed, all traces of it had been erased because the nobles didn't want something like Shadow Garden rising up ever again.

So Shadow Garden was forgotten in time and was considered a taboo in the kingdom.

If I remember correctly, the year that it was destroyed was the year 643 and currently it was the year 641...

That meant that in just two years, this Shadow Garden organization would be destroyed...

No matter how you looked at it, this was a hot potato.

If I joined Shadow Garden, there was no doubt that I would be caught up in the organization's internal struggles. Moreover, with how much power was at this organization's disposal, there was no doubt that this would be a one way trip into an early grave.

This was not something that I could join, especially since I had no idea what even happened to the Shadow Garden.

As far as I remembered, there wasn't a single storyline route that was related to Shadow Garden in the game. This was only a name that had been mentioned in an obscure drop from one of the side quests.

So I had no information going into this!

I wouldn't throw my life away like this!

Seeing the look of recognition on my face, the noble revealed a faint smile as he waited for me to speak.

The look on his face made it clear that he thought that I had just been joking and that I had been pretending not to know so that I would have an advantage in the negotiations.

But what I said next caught him completely off guard.

"Thank you for your goodwill, but I have no intentions of joining Shadow Garden. If that is all, I will be leaving today. I want to thank you for your help and I hope that we can meet again in the future." After saying this in the most polite voice that I can use, I quickly stood up and was about to make my way to the door.

But before I could even take a few steps, Shaka suddenly moved to block me from going any further.

My body immediately tensed up when I saw this, but I didn't keep pushing forward. I looked up at Shaka and asked, "Is there a problem?"

Shaka didn't say a thing as he turned to look at the noble, but he also made sure that I wouldn't be able to take a single step forward. I think you should take a look at

There was an awkward silence that filled the air for a few seconds before the noble suddenly burst out in laughter. This time, the laughter wasn't as innocent as before and I could hear a bit of a dark undertone to it.

The noble laughed for some time before saying, "I think I just misheard what you said. Did you just say that you weren't interested in joining Shadow Garden?"

As he said this, he turned to look at me.

He had the same expression on his face, but I could see that there was a bit of a dim glow in his eyes.

I knew that this was far from over.

But still, I calmly said, "Yes, I don't have any interest in joining Shadow Garden. I am just a simple baron who is in charge of a simple town on the edge of the kingdom, I am not someone who wants fame and fortune. All I want is to live a simple life."

Though I said this in a calm voice, I did make sure that the determination in my voice got across to the noble.

The noble narrowed his eyes to look at me as if he was inspecting me before finally saying in a deep voice, "Sit."

The tone of his voice made it clear that he brokered no argument and there was only a single choice in front of me. I could either sit, or...

I didn't know how far he would take this, but I wasn't willing to find out, so I went forward and sat back down in front of him.

The noble looked at me and said, "You're someone that has caught my attention, few people can do that. If I say that you have the talent to join Shadow Garden, I mean it." He had said this part in a somewhat cheery voice, but then his voice turned darker as he said, "But those talents are dangerous if they are allowed to wander out there, so if you don't join Shadow Garden, there is always the chance that your abilities will be used against us. That is not something that I can allow to happen."

I knitted my brows when I heard this, but I quickly relaxed them and said, "I really have no intentions of getting involved in anything outside of my territory. All I want to do is live a simple life taking care of my people."

The noble gave a snort when he heard this that made it clear that he wasn't going to give up.

But no matter what he said, I was firmly against joining Shadow Garden.

Joining a ship that I already knew was doomed to fail?

That was like asking me to jump onto the Titanic on its maiden voyage!

I would never accept a ride on this kind of risky ship and put the people that I cared about in danger.

So for now, I had to figure out a way out of this.

If I could even delay my answer for a bit, it would still be better than nothing.

It was just too bad that the noble wouldn't even give me that option.

He already had a plan in mind and he was putting it into action.

Seeing that I had once again deflected his threat, the noble gave a sigh and said, "It seems like we have no choice but to use other methods to compel you."

"Other methods?" I repeated as a chill ran down my spine.

Chapter 134 Spies (4)

The noble gave a nod before saying, "It's very simple, you can either join on your free will or you can join through other means."

I slowly asked, "What do you mean by other means?"

After a pause where neither of us spoke, I suddenly said, "If you're planning on threatening the people that I care about..."

Before I could finish, the noble suddenly raised his hand to cut me off before saying, "Do you really think that we're that brutish? Do you really think that we would have to resort to violence so quickly?"

I was surprised when I heard this, but I was also relieved.

It was just too bad that before I could even let out a sigh of relief, the noble said, "We have more compelling methods than that. Violence is only used by brutes who don't have any intelligence at all. Do you really think that we would use such a foolish method?"

I once again felt a chill run down my spine when he said this, but I didn't say anything as I waited to see what else he had to say.

The noble looked at me with a smile that could be considered friendly, but that smile didn't reach his eyes at all. He just looked at me with those eyes that seemed as empty as the void.

Then the noble said, "You should know what kind of influence the Shadow Garden organization has, right? It would be more than easy enough for us to take care of you with just a few orders to our subordinates."

I didn't know exactly how strong Shadow Garden was, but this was an organization that directly reported to the king and was erased from history when it was destroyed. That was a testament of its power.

So I gave a gulp and a nod.

Seeing this, the noble's eyes relaxed a bit before he said in an almost teasing voice, "Of course, if you really want, I could just get the king to send down a decree for you that orders you to join Shadow Garden."

I trembled when I heard this and I looked at the noble to see if he was joking or not.

He wasn't...

It was at that moment that I realized...that I had no choice to begin with.

From the beginning, he had already planned on making me his subordinate and he hadn't planned on taking no for an answer...

He had already planned for everything that I might have said, so from the very beginning, I was trapped from the moment that I came to this place.

In the end, I could only reveal a bitter smile as I looked back at the noble.

He could see that I understood, so he said with a teasing smile, "So, what do you say?"

I just gave a bitter chuckle before saying, "Do I get to say anything?"

The noble shook his head and said, "Nope."

With a sigh, I said, "Alright, I give up."

The noble said with a smile and a nod, "It's good that you can accept this defeat."

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

The noble gave a nod to Shaka who went over to the side to bring a package over. Shaka came over to where I was sitting and he put the package right in front of me before heading back to the noble's side.

As he moved away, I looked at him with a gaze that was filled with blame, but he completely ignored it.

I'm sure that I was imagining it, but it was almost as if there was a trace of schadenfreude that was in his eyes...

No, I had to be imagining it.

After he put down this package in front of me, I looked carefully at it to find that it was a bunch of papers, along with a token.

I looked over it and it was an actual introductory package to the Shadow Garden organization. There was a lot of information that made it clear that this was something that was only given to a member, such as the organization of the groups.

In the Shadow Garden organization, there were six different directors that were in charge of various groups under them.

With this kind of division, it was no wonder there was an internal power struggle that caused Shadow Garden to collapse.

When I finished reading the package, I looked up and asked, "So who am I going to be placed under?"

The noble revealed a faint smile and said, "Naturally you'll be under me since I'm the one that discovered you. Is there a problem?" I think you should take a look at

I looked at the noble and asked, "You're a squad leader? And I'll be a part of your squad?"

The noble's smile became wider as he said, "Did you really think that I was just a squad leader? I'll have you know that I'm one of the six directors."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look when I heard this before asking, "Are you sure?"

At this, Shaka couldn't help giving a chuckle when he heard this.

When he heard this, the noble immediately glared at Shaka who quickly revealed a stone cold expression on his face.

The noble then looked at me and said, "Yes, I'm one of the six directors and you'll be a squad leader under me."

pandasnovel.com "Squad leader?" I said with a shocked voice.

The noble gave a nod before saying, "That's right. You'll be taking Shaka's place as the leader of his squad and he will be your vice squad leader. In reality though, Shaka will run the squad and you'll just have that title so you have a title."

Shaka slightly knitted his brows when he heard this, but then they relaxed as he remembered what had happened earlier. With the strange things that Zwein had pulled out, it wasn't strange that he would be made a squad leader.

He was certain that the noble had his own thoughts.

I still couldn't help revealing a doubtful look, while also paying attention to Shaka's reaction out of the corner of my eyes.

I was surprised to find that he didn't have a reaction at all since no matter how you looked at it, this was considered a demotion. I had just joined the organization and I was promoted to become his superior, so there should have been some kind of bitterness towards me.

But there was nothing at all.

There was only a calm look that was on Shaka's face when he faced this news.

The noble just ignored the look on my face and said, "So, the first thing that we have to do now is come up with a codename for you. You already know Shaka's codename, which is just Shaka and my codename is Scar, don't ask why. So what codename should we give you?"

My lips couldn't help twitching when I heard this...

There should have been much more important things to discuss, but they wanted to discuss this?

I couldn't help asking, "What will my assignment be?"

Scar was surprised to hear this, but he said, "Most members don't have assignments on a usual basis and are allowed to do what they would normally do. But there will be assignments that will come to you, so you can just wait for those."

The look on my face became bitter when I heard this...

Just what was this organization that was so relaxed even though it had so much power?

As expected of an organization that fell to internal struggles...

It seemed like I really needed to find a way out of this organization still.

Shaka suddenly said, "We already have the perfect codename for him."

Both of us looked at Shaka with a surprised and confused look as he stood there without saying a thing.

Then once again, he suddenly said, "Remember his weapon?"

Scar thought about it for a bit before suddenly revealing a look of understanding and enlightenment. He revealed a wide smile as he slapped his fist in his hand and said, "That's right, there was that!"

I still had a confused look on my face when I heard this, so I asked, "What about my weapon?"

"Big Purple, that will be your codename." Scar said with a wide smile.

The moment that I heard this, I really wanted to dig a hole and hide myself in it.

This was without a doubt the last nickname that I wanted...

But the look on their faces seemed like they had already decided on this...

Chapter 135 The Penetrator

After joining the Shadow Garden organization, nothing really changed with my life.

The only difference now was that I had a new token that represented my status and that Shaka was going to follow me back to my territory along with his men.

Since I had become their group's squad leader, they would now serve under me in my territory.

This wasn't something that I was against since all of Shaka's men and Shaka himself were skilled operatives. They would definitely help improve the defenses of our territory, so there was no reason to not accept them.

The only thing that I had a problem with was...

"Big Purple!"

That was how Shaka had introduced me to the men and that was the name that had stuck since it had been officially set as my codename.

As for meeting them, they accepted me right away.

According to them, they had seen my courage when I faced Rock head on and they had been impressed by that, which was why they had accepted me as their new squad leader so quickly.

So with this, they all agreed to come to my territory and serve as the spy force.

But before that, we still had to wait another few days before heading off.

Haley had gotten better and she had wanted to leave on the third day, but her employees and I didn't let her go.

So in the end, we waited the full week before heading off.

The trip itself was also very boring since there was nothing that happened on the way.

With how many guards there were for this caravan, only a fool bandit would attack it in the first place. Especially with how well armed these guards were, showing that they could only be the guards of nobles.

No one was willing to mess with nobles just for a little bit of benefit.

During the time that they were traveling, there was an interesting question that had been asked by Jessica.

Since the fight with the Crow Gang, she had been acting strange around Zwein.

It wasn't just the way that she looked at him, but also the questions that she asked him.

Finally, I couldn't take it anymore and asked, "What do you want?"

Jessica was surprised when she heard me ask this, but she just as quickly asked, "Can I use that strange purple sword again?"

When she asked me this, I couldn't help revealing a strange look as I asked, "Why do you want it?"

She immediately replied, "That's a weapon, who wouldn't want to be able to use a weapon! That is something that I could never even come close to affording even if I saved all the money that I made in my entire life! Just once more is enough for me!"

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

But in the end, I didn't give it to her since...I knew that she wouldn't be able to control it.

Even if she grabbed my feet and begged for the chance, I still firmly rejected her request.

That was because the strange purple sword was just too dangerous. I think you should take a look at

Its real name was The Penetrator, a famous meme dildo bat from a certain video game series in my past life.

But in this life, it was a very dangerous weapon in my eyes because I could see the stats that it had.

As the name suggested, this dildo bat had the ability to penetrate through an enemy's defenses, or the defenses of whatever it hit regardless of if it was an enemy or not.

As for the penetration amount...it was 99%!

This was an amount that was terrifying because it basically meant that as long as one was strong enough, there was nothing in this world that could resist their attacks. Even if they weren't strong, they could still destroy the defenses of most trained professionals if they landed a blow.

After all, a 99% decrease in defense was enough to destroy most people's defenses.

If she wasn't careful while swinging this sword around...there would be destruction all around them.

This would without a doubt affect their caravan since large holes appearing and trees falling would cause delays.

So I firmly rejected this.

As for the only way to repel the attacks of The Penetrator, it was to have absolute defense which was even rarer than 99% penetration or they had to have defense strong enough to resist a 99% decrease.

Both of these scenarios were rare, so I firmly believed that with this weapon, I could be considered almost invincible in this world.

That is if I was good enough to use it.

In my hands, it was unwieldy and hard to swing. If it wasn't for Rock being overconfident and falling into my trap in the end, I definitely wouldn't have hit him.

The rest of this journey was spent listening to Jessica beg for a turn with the strange purple sword and learning more about Haley and her company.

I had actually learned quite a bit about them, especially about the mistakes that Haley made.

To my surprise, I found that the employees really liked teasing Haley. So they told me about all her embarrassing stories with just a bit of prodding.

But this was clearly a good workplace since the boss could blend so naturally with her employees. I really felt even more respect for Haley.

Shaka and the rest of his group were coming later.

The original plan was to have them come with us, but since they decided to relocate to the town, they would come later. They had things that they needed to wrap up in the city before relocating over to my town.

I didn't mind this since I had faith in Shaka and left him with a letter that he could show the guards when he arrived at my town.

When we arrived in the town, we were greeted by people who came to see the commotion.

When they saw that it was me bringing in food and supplies, they all broke out in cheers and started celebrating.

It was clear that these people had developed a trust in me...one that I didn't understand.

But still, it made me happy seeing them like this.

It made me feel that everything I had done in the city was worth it.

Chapter 136 First Meeting (1)

I left the caravans filled with goods to the guards and workers sent by Baroness Rose to take care of as I headed off to the manor.

Following me was Nicole, Jessica, and Haley.

Haley was here as the representative of her company, so while the rest of her employees were working, she went to go greet the lord that was Baroness Rose.

As we were heading over to the manor, Haley couldn't help revealing a nervous look.

At the same time, she looked at me as if she wanted to ask something. So I turned to her and asked, "Is something wrong?"

Haley hesitated a bit before asking, "What's the baroness like? Is she strict or is she easy going? Is she..."

She started asking me all kinds of things about Baroness Rose. However, I couldn't help finding it funny since the one that she was asking this was me, the baron.

In the end, I couldn't help teasing her by saying, "You're this nervous about meeting the baroness and you're this casual around me, how should I feel about that?"

Haley was confused for a second before suddenly remembering that I was the baron, Baroness Rose's husband.

She opened her mouth a few times and stammered a bit, but she wasn't able to say anything in the end. After taking a while to recover, she finally said, "Your lordship, I didn't mean anything by..."

Before she could finish though, I raised my hand to cut her off.

She just stared at me with a trace of concern in my voice.

I teased her a bit by looking at her with a serious look, but I couldn't keep that up long before revealing a smile on my face and saying, "You don't need to act so serious with me and you don't need to act so seriously with Rose later."

Haley was caught off guard since she had interacted with nobles before and not a single one had treated her with this kind of familiarity.

Most of them looked down on her because of her status as a commoner, though a few had ignored that with their lewd looks which she didn't enjoy.

This was the first time that she had been treated like an equal by a noble like this.

Seeing the smile on Zwein's face, Haley couldn't help revealing a blush before lowering her head to give a nod.

I didn't understand what the blush was about, but I didn't think too deeply into it.

Our group just continued on our way to the manor.

When we arrived, the maids immediately let us in and brought us to the reception room.

Along the way, the maids asked me all kinds of questions about what the city was like.

In a medieval world like this, it was impossible for maids like this to travel far from where they worked. Not to mention that most of these maids were second or third daughters who had been hired from the farms nearby, so they had never gone outside of this town in the first place.

It wasn't strange that they would be curious about the city. I think you should take a look at

I answered the questions as best as I could, but there just wasn't enough time for me to answer everything as we were shown to the reception room.

Since we had arrived, the maids couldn't keep asking me more questions about the city and went to do their jobs. It didn't take them long to prepare the tea and snacks for us before going to get Baroness Rose.

With how skilled they were, I could see that they had been well trained while I was away.

At the same time, it didn't take long for Baroness Rose to arrive.

The moment that she entered the room, she became the center of attention.

With how beautiful she was, it was hard for her not to be the center of attention.

But I couldn't help feeling that she was looking even more beautiful than before.

Well it wasn't that strange since her brows were no longer as knitted as before and she had a smile on her beautiful face. Matching the sunlight that came in from the window, it was almost as if she was glowing with her bright red hair.

She walked in elegantly and looked over the room, letting her eyes stop for a moment as they fell onto Haley.

When Haley felt this gaze fall onto her, she couldn't help lowering her head from the pressure that came from Baroness Rose.

She had faced many nobles before, but there wasn't a single one who had the same aura as Baroness Rose.

She couldn't help feeling that this was a true noble and the ones that she had met before were all fakes.

As Baroness Rose's eyes were on Haley, she narrowed them a bit as if she was inspecting her. But in the end, she turned her eyes away to look at Zwein.

pandasnovel.com The moment that her eyes fell onto me, I could see the change in them.

They went from stern and elegant to the look that a girl would have when she saw her lover.

In fact, without caring about everyone else who were in the room with us, Baroness Rose just ran over to me and threw herself in my arms.

I was caught off guard by this sudden change, but I was still able to react in time to catch her. Then when I was holding her in my arms, she said in a coquettish voice, "Honey, you're finally home."

I couldn't help being taken aback again when I heard this.

After all, this was the first time that she had called me "honey".

While I was in a daze, she suddenly came up so that she was right in front of my face and gave me a kiss without any warning.

She didn't hold back at all as she kissed me, sticking her tongue in, moving her hands, she did almost everything that she could to make it seem intimate.

But that just made everyone else in the room feel awkward...

Chapter 137 First Meeting (2)

Maybe it was fine with Nicole and Jessica since they were our subordinates, but it was definitely awkward doing it in front of Haley who was here as a guest.

Haley also felt very awkward sitting there as she didn't know where to look.

She was surprised that Baroness Rose would do something like this, but she didn't find it strange.

After all, the two of them were married and this was what married couples did...or at least that was what she had heard. She had never experienced it herself with her ex-husband.

Speaking of which, she was now formally divorced from Alex after having submitted the paperwork, so she could call him her ex-husband.

After a long kiss, Baroness Rose finally moved her face away and let me catch my breath.

I looked at her with a very strange look, but she just looked back at me with that smile of hers. Seeing that cute smile of hers, I couldn't stay shocked or angry, so I just patted her on the head and said, "I'm back."

She gave a nod in response before sitting down beside me.

Then she turned to look at Haley who was sitting there with a blush on her face.

When Haley saw her looking over, she gave a cough and cleared her throat before saying, "Your ladyship, it is a pleasure to meet you."

Baroness Rose gave a slight nod which worried Haley, but she tried to keep her calm as she said, "I want to thank you for doing business with our company. I hope that everything has been satisfactory so far."

Baroness Rose gave another slight nod which then caused the room to fall into silence.

Haley wanted to say something else to relieve this awkwardness, but there wasn't anything else that she could say.

So there was just that awkward silence that filled the room as they sat there.

It was finally broken in the end when Baroness Rose said, "So, you're the one that he saved."

When we heard this, all of us couldn't help trembling from the surprise that we felt.

I turned to look over at Baroness Rose, but I found that her eyes were on Haley the entire time. With how her eyes were narrowed and focused, it was almost as if she was trying to gauge Haley's expression.

Haley just lowered her head again out of awkwardness and she didn't know what to do here.

I was about to help by saying something, but Baroness Rose looked at me and glared me down. So all I could do was sit there and wait to see what she was planning.

I knew her and I knew that she wouldn't bully Haley like this for no reason. So I waited and watched to see what she had planned.

Nicole and Jessica also sat there awkwardly, but that was for a different reason.

They were scared that if Baroness Rose knew about me being in danger with the Crow Gang, she would take it out on them. She had known that Haley had been saved, so it was a good guess that she already knew most things that happened in the city.

But there was one thing that bothered all three of us. I think you should take a look at

Just who had been the one that blabbed?

Not a single one of us knew that...it was the driver who had been with us the entire time.

He had been so silent that we had forgotten all about him even though he drove us back.

He had been under Baroness Rose's secret orders to report everything that happened in the city, so he had been diligently sending back messenger birds daily to report on what happened. So Baroness Rose did indeed know about most of what happened, there were just some minor details that she didn't know about.

She didn't do this because she was afraid that he would fail, but rather she did this out of love.

If something happened to him, she wanted to be the first to know so she could send help.

At the same time, if someone got close to him...she wanted to be the first to know so she could deal with that person.

Which was what led to this current situation.

Baroness Rose knew something about Haley that even she didn't recognize herself, which was why she was making this awkward for her.

After a long silence, Haley finally gave a nod and said, "Yes. I apologize for bringing your husband into my matters, but it was because of him that I was able to escape from my predicament safely. I hope that I will be able to repay you for this grace one day."

Baroness Rose didn't say anything after hearing this from Haley, she just calmly looked at her as if she was appraising her.

Then all of sudden, Baroness Rose asked, "How big is your business in Alandal City?"

Haley couldn't help being taken aback when she heard this, but she still gave the information that she thought Baroness Rose wanted.

When I heard this, I couldn't help slightly knitting my brows.

That was because this information was much more detailed than the information that Nicole had provided me.

If my guess was correct, this should be information that only employees of Haley's company knew.

I looked at her, but she just shook her head to me as if she was saying that it was fine.

I revealed a complicated look, but I decided to trust Baroness Rose and didn't say a thing.

Once she was done listening, Baroness Rose asked, "It shouldn't be a problem for you to create a branch of your company in our town, right?"

Haley was caught off guard hearing this since she never expected this to be where it all led, but she quickly gave a nod in response and said, "It's not a problem at all."

Baroness Rose gave a nod in response before saying something that caught everyone off guard, "You like him, don't you?"

Chapter 138 First Meeting (3)

There was a silence that filled the room as everyone turned to look at Baroness Rose with a strange look.

It was a look that was filled with surprise, doubt, and confusion.

Not a single one of them could understand why she had suddenly asked this, though they did know who she was talking about.

Haley's face immediately turned red when she was asked this question and she lowered her head to hide her embarrassment.

After taking a while to calm down, she looked up and opened her mouth, but there wasn't a single word that came out. The only thing that she could do was just open and close her mouth again and again, not saying a single word in the end.

The silence continued in the room as no one knew what to do in this situation.

But in the end, Haley took a deep breath before saying, "I do."

When I heard this, my face couldn't help turning red.

This was my first time being confessed to like this, so of course it was an awkward feeling for me.

But that didn't mean that I was against it.

The only problem was...I was already married. I knew that I was already pushing it when it came to Cecilia, but now that there was another woman as well...I didn't know what Rose would think, but I knew that it wouldn't be good.

So I just remained silent and carefully watched Baroness Rose's face.

She just had a calm look on it as she looked at Haley who looked like she was about to fall over at any moment.

After a long pause, she finally said, "Alright, then create a branch in this town and move here. That way, you can properly support him with us."

pandasnovel.com As soon as her voice fell, all of us looked at her with shocked expressions.

We just looked at her like we couldn't understand what she was saying even though she had said it clearly.

Seeing the look on my face, Baroness Rose turned to me and said, "I already told you that I was fine with you having concubines."

I couldn't help shuddering when I heard this, but then she came closer to say, "As long as you keep me as your number one. If you ever dare to abandon me, then you should know that my wrath won't be light."

I once again shuddered when I heard this, but it wasn't out of excitement this time. Instead, there was a chill that ran down my spine the moment that I heard Baroness Rose say this.

With what I knew about her, I knew that she wasn't joking when she said this.

But of course, I would never do something like that.

With how she had treated me, I would rather die than give her up, so I would never abandon her like she said.

So after being in a slight daze, I gave a nod in response to what she said.

Baroness Rose looked at me with a sweet smile. I think you should take a look at

The two of us just hugged each other for a bit before she turned her head back to Haley who was still sitting there in a daze.

She looked at Baroness Rose like she didn't know if she was being serious or not, but Baroness Rose then asked, "So does that mean that you don't want to?"

When Haley heard this, she jolted back to her senses and said, "I didn't say that!"

She took a moment to sort out her thoughts before asking, "Your ladyship, are you really alright with your husband taking concubines like this? Aren't you the one that holds the title? Wouldn't this hurt your reputation?"

Baroness Rose just said with a sweet smile, "Does that matter? As long as he is happy, it doesn't matter if there's a small stain on my reputation."

I also couldn't help worrying when I heard this, but Baroness Rose looked at me and shook her head before mouthing, "It's fine."

I didn't know what plans she had, but I was sure that she had already prepared for this.

So I just remained quiet and waited to see what happened.

Haley looked at Baroness Rose as if she was trying to figure out if she was telling the truth or not, but Baroness Rose just looked right at Haley without turning away.

After a long silence, Haley finally asked, "Your ladyship..."

Before she could say anything else, Baroness Rose suddenly raised her hand to cut her off. The moment she saw this, her mouth immediately closed and she swallowed her words as she waited for Baroness Rose to speak.

Baroness Rose just simply said, "You don't need to call me that, you can just call me big sister Rose. Since we're both going to be married to Zwein, I'll be like your big sister."

Haley revealed another shocked look as a look of disbelief appeared on her face.

She just looked at Baroness Rose with that same look of disbelief, as if she was trying to figure out if she was kidding or not.

However, Baroness Rose just kept looking at her with a straight face.

So Haley gave a gulp and said, "Big...Big Sister Rose."

When Baroness Rose heard this, she gave a satisfied nod before saying, "Yes, what is it?"

Haley took a deep breath before asking, "Are you sure that you want to share your husband like this? Wouldn't it be wronging you to do something like this?"

The reason she asked this wasn't because she couldn't accept polygamy, but rather because she felt that this would aggrieve Baroness Rose as the title holder.

Baroness Rose revealed a faint smile before saying, "I know how excellent my husband is, so I know that there will be those who won't be able to resist. I also want to gather those who can truly understand how excellent my husband is, so that we can properly support him. Does that answer your question?"

For an outsider, they wouldn't be able to understand her answer, but Haley revealed a look of understanding as soon as she heard this.

After all, she had indeed seen the excellence of Zwein that Baroness Rose spoke of.

So after thinking about it for a bit, she gave a nod and said, "Big Sister Rose, I'll do it."

Chapter 139 First Meeting (4)

Once Baroness Rose heard this, she stood up with a happy smile and walked over to Haley.

Haley was surprised by this and was a bit scared of what would come, but she still calmly sat there and waited to see what Baroness Rose would do.

However, she was caught off guard by what Baroness Rose actually did.

Baroness Rose came right up to her and...took her in her arms, pulling her into a hug. She said with the same smile, "I've always wanted a little sister."

Haley's eyes opened wide in shock when she felt this, but she couldn't help letting herself be pulled into her embrace. That was because this kind of soft and gentle embrace was not something that she had experienced before, even from her actual family.

Her parents had never been advocates of soft love.

So while they did praise her for her achievements, they had never done things like hugging before.

So this was the first hug that she was receiving.

No, she did receive a hug from Zwein before, but the feeling of this hug was different from that.

That hug...was special. But that didn't mean that this hug wasn't special in its own way.

It wasn't a bad feeling as she let her body relax in Baroness Rose's embrace.

Finally, she said, "I've always wanted a big sister too."

Baroness Rose revealed a happy smile before she started chatting with Haley.

I just sat there with a smile on my face as I watched all of this. After all, I was happy to see that the two of them were getting along so well like this.

To the side, Nicole and Jessica couldn't help revealing a slightly envious look since they too wanted this to happen to them. But they knew to keep this to themselves since they didn't have the same things to offer as Haley did.

After the two of them talked for a bit, Baroness Rose stood up again and walked back to where I was sitting. She sat back down and turned to Nicole and Jessica to say, "You two did a good job. Keep it up and we'll have something to talk about."

When the two of them heard this, they couldn't help revealing surprised looks, but there was also a trace of hope in their eyes.

I also understood what she meant by this and I couldn't help looking at her with a purely surprised look.

Baroness Rose just looked at me with a faint smile and didn't say anything else.

I hadn't even mentioned anything about this before and she was already looking for more girls for me...

I really didn't know what to say in response to this.

Once that had been settled, Baroness Rose didn't bother asking about the trip and instead said to Haley, "It's not the right time to have a proper talk yet, so let's have dinner together. I'm sure that you want to go back and take care of your employees first, right?"

Haley gave a nod in response to this.

Since there was nothing else to discuss, she did want to get back to her employees to make sure that everything was done correctly and that there wasn't any trouble with the locals.

These kinds of things had happened before, so she was worried about this.

Baroness Rose gave a nod too before saying, "You can go."

She turned to Nicole and Jessica to say, "You two can lead her there." I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

All three of them stood up after receiving their orders and they headed out, leaving the two of us alone in the room.

Once they were all gone, Baroness Rose suddenly came over to me and entered my embrace.

The two of us just sat there like this without saying a word, cuddling with each other.

Then she suddenly said, "I missed you."

I looked down at her and said, "I missed you too."

There was nothing else to say after that, I just leaned forward over her lips and placed a gentle kiss on them.

For the rest of the morning and afternoon, the two of us just spent our time together in the room.

It wasn't that we were doing what one would think, there were ways to connect other than physical.

We mainly just cuddled and talked about everything that happened in the city.

pandasnovel.com When dinner came, we had no choice but to get up since there was an appointment that we needed to keep.

When we arrived in the dining hall, we found that Haley and Cecilia were already both there waiting for us.

Just like with Baroness Rose, the moment that Cecilia saw me, she got up and ran over to hug me.

She hadn't been here this morning and afternoon since she was on a training trip with her men, but now that she was back and saw me, she didn't hold back at all.

Haley couldn't help being surprised since she had only heard that Baroness Rose was the wife, she never knew that there was already another concubine before her.

I just revealed a happy smile and patted Cecilia on the head, letting her just hug me like that.

Once she was done, she gave a cough and stood back up with a calm look on her face as she said, "I missed you."

I said with a smile, "I missed you too."

We all settled down to eat and that was when Haley was introduced to Cecilia.

While she was surprised, she was also relieved.

She had thought that she would be the only concubine, which would make it worse for her. But since Cecilia was already there setting a precedent for her, it made her position much easier for her to handle.

Cecilia also quickly took to Haley as well.

Haley as a merchant was very sociable and she was able to quickly win over Cecilia.

By the end of it, she was also calling Cecilia big sister.

The four of us enjoyed a happy meal together and when it was over, we were all satisfied.

However, the entertainment was far from over just yet.

Chapter 140 First Time (1)

When we finished, I assumed that we would just have a little chat before turning in to bed.

But that wasn't what Baroness Rose had in mind.

She suddenly said, "Alright, so you two should go to the bedroom now."

The moment that she said this, the entire room fell silent as everyone looked at her with shocked looks.

The words that came from her mouth could be understood, but no one could understand what she meant by these words.

After a long pause, I finally asked in a stammering voice, "What, what did you just say?"

Baroness Rose just looked right at me with a smile on her face as she said, "It's time for you two to go into the bedroom."

Once again, there was an awkward silence that followed.

Now that she had said it twice, there was no mistaking what she had just said.

But no one could believe that Baroness Rose would actually say something like this.

Finally, I couldn't help saying, "Shouldn't this wait?"

Baroness Rose looked at me with a smile and said, "You're a man and you've already taken her as your woman. Do you really think that you should wait for something like this?"

I gave an awkward cough before saying, "This is her first time, so I'm sure that she would want it to be special. Isn't this a bit too crude?"

Baroness Rose had the same smile on her face as she asked, "Why don't you think that it's special? Sometimes...a woman doesn't like to be kept waiting." She then turned to Haley and asked, "Isn't that right, Little Sister Haley?"

Haley was caught off guard when she was suddenly asked this.

She took a moment to gather herself and she was about to shake her head to say no, but...there was a part of her that stopped her.

After struggling with herself for a bit, she finally answered with a nod.

When I saw this, I couldn't help being taken aback.

I never thought that she would also be this aggressive...

Since she was, if I didn't respond, would that make me less of a man?

So I took a deep breath and also said, "Alright, let's go."

When she heard this, Haley's heart couldn't help skipping a beat as her face turned red.

While she had worked up the courage to give a nod in response, that didn't mean that she was fully prepared yet. So when she heard that I had also agreed, she couldn't help feeling her heart start to beat fast.

But at this point, there was just no turning back.

Both of us had already taken that final step forward, so it wasn't as if we could just go back now and say it was a mistake. We had no choice but to act on this step forward that we took.

Baroness Rose just had the same smile on her face as she said, "Alright, have fun." I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

Cecilia who had been holding back on the side finally couldn't take it anymore and said, "Why do only you guys get to have fun? I want to join in too!"

It had been a while since she had been with Zwein, so she was actually quite pent up. She would have dragged him into the bedroom already if it wasn't for the fact that Haley was here.

pandasnovel.com Since there was someone that she wasn't that familiar with, she didn't want to act in this way that she knew was embarrassing.

But since they were about to go and leave her, she couldn't hold back anymore.

Before either of them could say a thing, Baroness Rose stood up and came over to where Cecilia was. She took Cecilia in her arms and said, "How about we have some fun on our own?"

When Cecilia heard this, her face completely turned red.

But before she could say anything else, Baroness Rose said, "Let these two have their alone time for now. You'll get to have your chance later, alright?"

Cecilia had a somewhat unwilling look on her face, but seeing the firm look in Baroness Rose's eyes, she had no choice but to agree.

Once she got Cecilia's agreement, Baroness Rose said, "You two enjoy yourself, we'll be heading out now."

With this, she lifted Cecilia up by the back of her collar and carried her out of the room.

As she left the room, she didn't forget to look back to give Zwein a meaningful look.

When I saw this look, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile...

She was being thoughtful, but wasn't this too much consideration for me?

A normal wife would get jealous over something like this, but she was actually playing the part of a wingman for me...

I really was at a loss for words when I saw this.

Still, this was a test of my capabilities as a man and I wasn't about to fail this.

After taking a deep breath to calm down, I turned to Haley and asked, "Shall we?"

She had been lost in thought after seeing Baroness Rose leave, so when she heard my voice, she couldn't help jolting. Then after reacting to what I said, she couldn't stop her face from turning red and she looked like her heart was about to jump out of her chest.

In the end, she still gave a nod in response.

I was familiar with this place since this was our manor, so it didn't take me long to bring Haley over to the bedroom.

I would have carried her in my arms in a princess carry, but...she was much bigger than me. It wasn't that she was big, it was just that this body that I currently had was too small.

So if I tried to pick her up...it was very likely that I would have dropped her.

This made me even more determined to work on my body after this.

When we arrived at the room, I led her over to the bed and then sat down together with her.

Just like this, we reached another awkward silence where we both just sat on the bed.