

Shota 221

Chapter 221 Building The Store

A few days later, I headed out of the manor late in the morning.

I had woken up late because...I had spent all of last night in bed with Rose.

Since we had decided to have a child, I had been performing my duties every night with her.

Other than spending one night with both Cecilia and Haley, I had spent all my nights with Rose.

Haley was fine since she was focused on building her store, but it was harder for Cecilia.

Still, she understood since she was childhood friends with Rose and she loved her, so she gave us the space that we needed. Though she did glare at me from time to time when we met during the day.

I just looked at her with bitter smiles when I saw her looking at me like this since there wasn't anything that I said.

I was grateful to her that she did all of this for us.

Haley on the other hand...there was nothing to worry about with her.

She had become so busy with the store that she had even forgotten about eating sometimes.

Instead of having to keep her away, it was more like I had to tear her away from the store or she wouldn't rest at all. It had gotten to the point where the builders were complaining to me about her since all she did was watch over their shoulders, making sure that there wasn't a single mistake.

It was a kind of pressure that they really couldn't take, so they asked me for help.

So there were many times where I had to pull her away just so that they could get their work done.

But there was no doubt that Haley was happy since this was her dream shop that was being built.

At the same time, since we had made a deal with the elves, the materials being used to build her shop were the best of the best. There wasn't any wood that we could have gotten that would have been better since we weren't able to find this kind of wood on our own.

That just made Haley even more excited about her shop.

As for where I was heading today, it was Haley's shop that was being built.

The workers had been working on this shop for several days now and it had started taking form.

The basic frame of the shop had already been built and they were planning on raising the first wall today.

For this kind of event, Haley decided to hold a big ceremony for it.

Luckily for me, this ceremony was being held at noon, so I still had time. Otherwise, with how late I had woken up, there was no doubt that I would have been late to the ceremony.

When I arrived, I found that there were a lot of people that were already here.

This world followed the same calendar as Earth, so today was a Saturday, which was why there were plenty of people that were here. The other reason was that...Haley had decided to serve alcohol at this event.

So in part, this was a way for her to celebrate her new store, but at the same time, it was a way to integrate herself into the town.

After all, who didn't love a free party that had free alcohol for attending? I think you should take a look at

So it was killing two birds with one stone.

As I walked through the crowd, I found that there were quite a few people that were already drunk.

It seemed that since it was a Saturday and tomorrow would be their one day off, they had decided to get completely hammered today even though it was the middle of the day.

Though when it came to normal Saturdays, most people took the afternoon off, so this was normal.

I didn't mind since I was happy seeing everyone in the town happy and seeing how happy Haley was about the store.

I was also surprised to see that the elves were among the crowd, drinking with the humans.

Speaking of the elves, it really was amazing how quickly they had adapted to this human town.

They were now talking to humans without any barriers, treating them just like they would elves.

This was in part due to their open nature in the first place, but it was also in part to Moon's orders.

She had ordered them to talk to the humans normally and the order from the daughter of Aisha was something that was held seriously by the elves.

So it didn't take long for the elves to blend into the town.

As for Moon, she was on her own.

It wasn't that she didn't blend in with the humans. She was a beautiful elf girl, so it wasn't hard for her to find humans to become friends with.

But rather, she was staring at me with a strange look right now.

It was just this moment that she had this strange look, she had been giving me this strange look over the past few days. It was clear what she wanted from me, which was why I had been avoiding her over the past few days.

Even now, I avoided her and headed over to the podium where Haley was.

I used her and the other girls as shields against Moon since when she found out that I was engaged to Haley and married to the other two, she looked quite devastated.

From then on, she acted very awkwardly around the three of them.

But that didn't mean that she gave up.

She tried catching me alone, but I did my best to avoid her.

Even now, I was still avoiding her.

The ceremony was quite short since Haley knew what the people were here for, but she did make a speech that left quite an impression on them.

But I didn't remain there to hear it because there was someone that called me away.

Shaka had just returned with a letter for me.

Chapter 222 Official Orders

I left the ceremony after hearing this news and I returned to the manor where Shaka was waiting for me.

When I came into the room, I saw Shaka sitting there sipping his tea as if there was nothing bothering him.

This would have been surprising if I wasn't already familiar with the kind of personality that he had. For him, something like this was normal since he was only serious when he was on the job.

When he was in his free time, he was someone who relaxed and chilled like anyone else.

Seeing that I had come in, Shaka suddenly put down the tea and revealed a serious look.

It was an instant change, but that meant that he had entered work mode.

But that wasn't a good sign either.

If he was in work mode here, it meant that he had some kind of official order from Scar...

That was most likely what the letter that he brought back for me was.

I didn't say anything and just sat down on the couch on the other side of the table.

Then I just looked at Shaka as if I was waiting for something from him.

Shaka didn't hesitate to take out a letter from his pocket that he put down on the table in between us. He then slid this towards me and waited for me to take it.

I looked down at the letter with a bitter smile since I could recognize the mark on it.

It was the official mark of the Shadow Garden organization, so there was no doubt that these were my first official orders from them.

If I had to guess what these were...it was most likely a mission that I was being assigned.

So with a sigh, I took the letter and opened it up to see what the damage was.

As I read it, I couldn't help knitting my brows more and more.

When I finally finished reading it, I looked up at Shaka and asked, "Is this real?"

Shaka just calmly nodded in response to this.

I knitted my brows even more.

As for the reason why I had my brows knitted...it was because the contents of this mission were just too serious. It was at a level where even if I wanted to reject them, I wouldn't be able to.

After all, if this mission wasn't finished, then there was no way that this kingdom would remain safe.

Since my territory and the people that I loved were all based in this kingdom, if the kingdom fell, there was no doubt that we would all be affected by this.

But the fact that such an important mission came to me as soon as I joined the organization, even being my very first mission for them, it really brought a bitter look to my face.

Didn't they have too much faith in me?

Or was it that they were just harassing me at this point?

I really didn't know which one it was. I think you should take a look at

Shaka could see the look on my face, so he said, "You shouldn't underestimate yourself. You're much more special than you think."

I looked at him with a confused look when I heard this.

In what way was I special?

I was someone that didn't have strength or in this fantasy world, so it could be said that I was one of the lowest people here. The only thing that I had was my knowledge from when this world was still a game that gave me a bit of an advantage compared to others.

So there really wasn't anything that was considered special about me.

Shaka could see the doubt that was on my face, so he said, "Do you know how many people have even found demons in the entire history of our organization?"

I raised a brow when I heard this, but I still shook my head in the end.

"Two, there have only been two cases of demons being found in the entire time that our organization has been founded." Shaka said this with a sigh that had a hint of bitterness in it.

A surprised look appeared on my face after hearing this.

I looked at Shaka as if I was trying to figure out if he was joking or not, but it seemed that this wasn't a joke.

After being emotional for a bit, Shaka then said, "Now you know how special you are. In just the month that you've been with us, you've already discovered three groups of demons. It's almost as if they are just attracted to you and will come find you no matter where you are."

Three groups?

That was the one thing that I immediately picked up on.

Seeing the way that I looked at him, Shaka then said, "Did you forget about the demon worshippers that you took care of before? The one that you took down to save this town?"

I revealed a look of understanding before looking at Shaka with a strange look.

I had hidden my involvement in this matter and left everything to Baroness Rose...so how did they know about this?

It seemed that the Shadow Garden organization's information network was much more developed and thorough than I thought...

But since I was also a part of this organization now, I should have access to this information network.

Maybe I should try and see what I could find about some things that I remembered from the game.

After all, there was nothing wrong with collecting the powerful items from the game if I was able to.

They would help increase my survivability in this world.

But back to the main topic at hand, I turned my attention back to the orders that I had received.

With a heavy sigh, I said, "Let me talk to Rose about this and then we'll see when I can head out."

Shaka gave a simple nod in response to this.

This was a matter that hadn't been solved in a long time, so it wasn't a time sensitive matter, but at the same time, it was important to get this done as soon as possible.

After all, the people that involved were powerful enough to influence the entire kingdom.

Chapter 223 New City

Since it was an order from Shadow Garden, Baroness Rose immediately understood how important it was and that I didn't have a choice in this matter.

So she arranged everything so that I was able to set off the next day.

She had wanted to arrange for some people to come with me, but I refused since I knew that this would be a dangerous trip. I didn't want to put anyone that I cared about in danger.

Not to mention, I would be with Shaka and another group that Scar had sent for me that were waiting in the city already.

With all of these people, it should be enough manpower to complete this mission.

As we left, Baroness Rose looked at me with a worried look before giving a deep kiss in front of everyone. After we separated, she said, "Come back safe. Not just for me, but as for..."

Her voice trailed off, but the way that she held her stomach made it clear what she was saying.

Of course, we weren't certain that there was a baby in the oven yet, but with how much we had done it over the past few days, I wouldn't have been surprised if there was one.

I patted her on the head and said, "I'll be back soon."

Though it did look awkward with the height difference...

Still, the people around were moved by this display.

Moon and a few elves had also come to see us off and judging by the look on their faces, it almost seemed like they wanted to follow me. But in the end, I was able to convince them to stay since there was no way that I could bring them along to this mission.

Though Moon still had that strange way of looking at me...

It would be a lie to say that I wasn't glad to have an excuse to get away from her for a few days, or maybe even a month depending on how the mission went.

After our goodbyes, we headed off in the carriage that Baroness Rose had prepared for us.

On the surface, this was a courtesy trip paid by a noble, but in reality it was an investigation for the Shadow Garden.

Of course, it was useful to have this cover as a noble paying a courtesy trip since it would allow them much more freedom than if they were here to investigate as agents.

As for our destination, we were heading to Bright Water City.

This was one of the major port cities of the kingdom and as such, the city lord of this city was someone that was very important.

The one who was in charge of this important city was a duke.

It was the ducal family of Beauchamp, one of the founding families of the kingdom.

They were the target of the investigation this time.

That was why this was a very important and critical mission that had to be completed in a timely manner.

After all, the influence that a ducal family had on the kingdom was very clear. I think you should take a look at

If such a family was under the influence of the demons or if such a family was a family of demon worshippers, there was no doubt that it would be disastrous for the kingdom.

That was why I had no choice but to accept this mission even if I knew that it was dangerous.

During the trip, I tried to dig up as much information as I could about this ducal family from my memories of the game.

Bright Water City was one of the main cities in the game and was an important location that had many different quests, but...the quests had never involved the ducal family. Or even if they did, it was just a small piece of lore that mentioned the ducal family.

Such as them commissioning a survey of a local lake or them sponsoring adventurers to hunt down some monsters.

There was never a quest that had directly involved the ducal family.

At the same time, there wasn't much lore about the Beauchamp Family in the first place.

Only after becoming a high ranked noble would one be able to contact them in the first place. Even the rank of count normally wasn't enough to contact them.

So it could be said that material related to the Beauchamp Family was considered late game material.

Generally by that point, the story had settled and there wasn't much for the Beauchamp Family to do.

At most, they would come to your coronation when you took over as the king by saving the princess...

So there was just no information for me to work with...

As for the quests in Bright Water City, there had never been one that had been related to the demons.

Most of the quests in Bright Water City were either early game quests or quests that required the player to go to other cities.

Bright Water City was a port town, so it was a place where many rumours gathered from different places. That led players to take ships to different cities and towns to solve local problems.

There weren't really any important quests that were based in Bright Water City.

So in the end, the only conclusion that I was able to draw was that...I was screwed.

I had no information about this place and I had no idea where I was even supposed to start to get information.

Without prior knowledge, I would have to depend on pure luck to find the demons that they wanted me to find.

And the fact that I was given this mission in the first place showed that I had no good luck to speak of.

So if I wasn't screwed, there was no other way to put it.

With this heavy heart, we traveled for a week until we finally came into view of Bright Water City.

Seeing this beautiful city, I really couldn't get in the mood to enjoy the scenery since I knew that this was going to be the place of my biggest failure yet.

Chapter 224 Strange Welcome

When our group arrived at the gates of the city, I was surprised by how quickly we were let in.

It wasn't that there was a short line or the queue moved fast, it was that there was a guard that came forward that brought us to another gate that had no one around.

When I asked what this was, the guard told me that this gate had been specially set aside for our arrival.

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look when I heard this.

An entire gate for a busy city like this was booked and people were kept away for an entire day, there was no doubt that this would have a large impact on the city.

This might make sense if it was done for a king or another noble that was in a high position, but why would they do it for someone like me?

I looked at Shaka and he shook his head to show that he didn't have a clue either.

It seemed that there was something happening in this Bright Water City that we weren't aware of...

Would this get in the way of our mission or would it help us?

I wasn't certain, but at the very least we were allowed to enter the city quickly.

But at the same time, there was a guard at the gate that stopped us.

The guards quickly did a check on our carriage, but it seemed more like a formality than actually checking the carriage. They did nothing more than glance over the carriage itself before letting us in.

But then there was the guard there that stopped us.

This guard quickly identified himself as a messenger and brought us a message that surprised us.

"The duke wishes to meet Baron Zwein. He requests that you come to his manor for a meeting right away."

I couldn't help revealing a strange and confused look when I heard this.

As I looked at Shaka, I could see that he also had a confused look on his face.

It seemed that even with the intelligence network of the Shadow Garden, he didn't have a single clue what the duke was up to.

But this was the duke that we were talking about and I was here on a courtesy call, so there was no choice but to follow this messenger.

We were led through the main streets of the city until we reached the center.

Based on the changes to the buildings around us, it was clear that this was the high end district. This was the noble district where the nobles of this city lived and where the most influential merchants opened their stores.

This place was filled with people that couldn't be offended that easily.

However, they all parted when they saw the messenger that was with us.

Since they had been dressed in the normal outfit of a guard, we had assumed that this person was just a normal guard. But judging by the way that all of the people around us looked at him, it was clear that he wasn't just a normal guard.

I looked at Shaka, but once again he shook his head to show that he didn't know anything.

At this, I couldn't help revealing a look of disdain, as if I was asking what he was good for if he didn't know anything. I think you should take a look at

Shaka just revealed a bitter smile when he saw this, but he didn't say a thing since there was nothing that he could say.

With the path created for us, it took us no time to reach a large and luxurious looking manor.

It was clear that this manor was the residence of a powerful noble with just a single glance.

Even the guards that were standing outside had shiny new weapons that helped illustrate just how powerful they were.

Unless one was a fool, they wouldn't dare charge a manor like this.

But when we arrived, the guards on the sides of the gate bowed to us.

Once again, Shaka and I couldn't help being confused why the guards were acting this way.

No matter how one looked at it, they should have been at a higher status than me.

After all, I was nothing more than a simple baron and they were guards for a duke.

If I did anything to them, there was no doubt that I would be destroyed by the baron. But if they did anything to me, I would have no choice but to suck it up to avoid offending the duke accidentally.

So there was no reason for them to be this respectful to me.

Normally, in this kind of situation, the guards would be looking down on me...

After we went through the gates, we found that there was a group of servants that were waiting for us.

These servants included several beautiful maids and one old looking butler who was clearly a senior servant of the ducal manor.

But just like before, all of them bowed to me respectfully when I came out of the carriage.

The butler even treated me with so much respect that one would think that I was his master instead of the duke...

What was happening here?

This just didn't make any sense at all...

We were led into the manor by this group of servants and then brought to a room that was very luxuriously decorated.

Judging by the layout of this room, this should be a room that the duke used to receive important guests of his.

So why would they bring me here?

Could it be that they were all working together to shame me or was there something deeper going on?

I just sat there with a confused look while Shaka raised his guard and started checking the area just in case there were any traps around us. But he wasn't able to find anything in the end.

He had suspected that the demons had laid their hands on the duke and that this was all a trap, but that didn't seem to be the case.

So just what was happening here?

Chapter 225 Duke's Warm Welcome

Not long after we arrived in the room, the door opened and there was someone who was dressed in expensive clothing that walked in.

This person had an aura that just exudes power.

No matter how one looked at it, it was clear that this person was the duke.

When the duke came in, I immediately stood up to greet him, but I was stopped by the duke.

The duke waved his hand and said, "Don't mind it, don't mind it. Just sit down and let's have a talk."

On his face was a friendly smile, almost as if he was talking to an old friend.

But that was strange since I didn't know the duke at all.

As far as I could remember, I had never met the duke in my life. So why was this person who I had never met before treating me like this?

I couldn't help becoming more and more suspicious and tried looking around to see if anything would suddenly appear.

But nothing happened in the end as the duke came over to where I was sitting and sat down on the couch opposite of me.

Seeing that I was just standing there in a daze, the duke didn't mind as he said with a smile, "There's no need for this kind of courtesy, you can just sit down and talk to me normally."

My lips twitched when I heard this, but I still sat down in front of the duke as he instructed.

After sitting down, there was a silence that filled the room.

After all, I had no idea what was going on, so I had no idea what to say to the duke.

I looked at him to try to figure out any clues that I could from his expression, but he was like a stone wall. I wasn't able to figure out a single thing from just the expression on his face.

After that long silence, the duke finally said, "So you are Baron Zwein. I have long heard of your fame, but it really is something else to meet you in person. It seems that you are just as young as they say, but I won't hold that against you. I know that eventually, the younger generation will take over when the older generation can't keep going, so I hope that you will carry on our legacy and continue to protect the kingdom."

All while saying this, he had a smile on his face as if he was a senior looking at a junior.

But once again, that surprised me since I was certain that I didn't have this kind of relationship with the duke.

Still, since the duke said all this, I had to say something, "Your grace, thank you for your kind words, but I'm undeserving of them. I have long admired your grace and everything that you have done for the kingdom. Someone like me would never be able to match the achievements of your grace."

The duke gave an appreciative nod when he heard this, but he didn't say anything else in return.

Just like this, there was another silence that settled in this room.

Eventually, I couldn't take it anymore and said, "I would like to offer your grace my greatest admiration for the warm welcome that you have shown me."

Though it could be considered sincere gratitude, there was a hint of a question in my voice.

After all, it didn't make sense that the duke treated me like this.

The duke just had that same warm smile on his face as he said, "As soon as I heard that it was Baron Zwein who wanted to visit, I immediately knew that I had to properly roll out the red carpet. I had long heard of your fame, but I never had the chance to meet you."

Hearing this, I was even more confused about all of this.

Heard of me?

From who?

I was someone that was completely unknown and had no achievements at all, other than inheriting a title because I had married someone with one.

Someone like me should have been considered trash in the eyes of most people.

But this duke was treating me like I was an honoured guest...

After a twitch of my lips, I said, "Your grace, your compliments are just too much. I am unworthy of them."

The duke's expression didn't change as that same warm smile remained on his face.

Finally, after another pause, the duke said, "I would like to welcome you today with a banquet, but unfortunately, things haven't been prepared yet."

I let out a secret sigh of relief when I heard this since this seemed more normal.

I was just a baron and he was a duke, so being sent away with an excuse like this was nothing strange.

It meant that I had at least gotten over the strange situation that I had found myself in and I shouldn't be in any more danger with the duke.

But then...the duke said, "So how about you come back tomorrow when I have had time to prepare a proper feast? How about you have dinner with my family tomorrow night?"

My chin dropped when I heard this.

The esteemed duke was inviting me to a private dinner with his family?

This was far beyond the treatment that a normal baron should receive from a duke.

One was at the very top of the noble hierarchy while the other one was at the very bottom...

They shouldn't be dining at the same table at all.

But since this was an invitation from the duke, as a baron, I couldn't refuse.

So in the end, I had no choice but to accept.

The duke gave a clap before saying with a happy smile, "Very good. I'll prepare everything, so you can just show up when the time comes. I have already prepared an inn for you to stay in, so I'll have one of my men take you there. I hope that you will have a good rest tonight."

I just gave a defeated nod without saying a thing before following the butler out again.

I had no idea just what the duke was thinking and I had no idea why the duke was acting this way. No matter how I thought about it, all I hit was a blank on what this treatment was.

So I decided to throw it out of my head and think about it later.

Once we had walked out of the room, the smile on the duke's face suddenly disappeared and it was replaced with a stern look.

The duke just sat there on the couch with knitted brows as if he was thinking about something. The longer that he sat on this couch, the more his brows seemed to knit.

Until he finally couldn't take it anymore and stood up to walk out of this room as well.

The duke walked through the halls of the manor until he came to a certain room.

Before going in, the duke knocked on the door first.

Only when he heard the voice calling from inside did he push open the door and walk in.

But the moment that he did, there was a pile of papers that fell down on him.

Chapter 226 Duke's Daughter

The duke wasn't that young, but he wasn't that old either.

He easily dodged out of the way of the falling papers before shaking his head with a bitter smile.

He looked at the girl who was lying in the center of the room, surrounded by stacks of papers before shaking his head. With a sigh, he said, "Darling, you can't keep doing things like this. You know you should at least get the maid to clean up for you."

The girl who was lying there in the center of the room quickly shook her head and said, "If they tidy up, they'll just mess everything up. I already have everything in the place that I want it to be and if anyone touches them, I won't be able to get anything done."

The duke gave a sigh when he heard this and he shook his head, but he didn't keep reprimanding the girl.

Instead, he just looked at the stacks of papers that were closest to her, as if he was trying to figure out what she was working on.

When he looked at it closely, he found that these were reports on supposed demon activity in the area around Bright Water City.

When he saw this, he couldn't help revealing a slightly confused expression since he didn't understand why she was investigating this.

Still, he just accepted it in the end and didn't question what the girl was doing.

Instead, he came over and asked, "Why did you have me go to all that trouble to welcome that Baron Zwein? It's clear that he's nothing more than a simple lower noble that's just trying to flatter our ducal family."

The girl ignored all of this as she asked, "What was he like?"

The duke shook his head before saying, "You really need to stop being lost in your own little world. Do you know how much loss you've caused our family?"

The girl didn't seem to register this question as she was just lost in her own little world.

The duke shook his head again before saying, "Closing one of the gates to the city, that's caused countless losses since it's caused delays at all the other gates. Not to mention sending Tim to receive them, this has caused delays in all of our businesses. Then there's..."

The duke continued to list off all the losses that they had suffered because of the whim of this girl, but the girl still didn't seem to care at all.

In the end, the duke could only give an exasperated sigh before asking, "Why did you want me to do all of this?"

The girl suddenly took a piece of paper from a nearby stack that she handed to the duke.

The duke took it with a confused look on his face, but he still carefully read this piece of paper.

He found that it was a report from Alanday City.

But all that did was cause a confused look to appear on his face.

He raised this piece of paper as he looked at the girl and asked, "What's so special about this? It's just a regular report about what happened there."

The girl raised her hand and suddenly wagged her finger.

Then she said, "Look more closely at the descriptions of the people involved. I'm sure that there's something that will catch your eyes."

The duke revealed an even more confused look, but he still carefully read the report.

He wasn't able to find a single thing at first...but then there was indeed something that had caught his eyes. He looked carefully at it and he realized that there was something that was familiar about this.

A man with a special scar...

Could it be that it was that person?

But why would that person be in a place like Alandal City?

Not to mention, why would he be meeting someone like this Baron Zwein?

That person was related to the most dangerous organization in this entire kingdom and he was meeting an upstart?

The duke immediately looked at the girl and she just gave a nod in response before saying, "That's right, it's the Shadow Garden."

The duke knitted his brows even more when he heard this, but then he quickly said, "Even if he met that person, that doesn't mean that he's related to them. He's nothing more than an upstart, he's not worth this kind of treatment."

Once again, the girl raised her hand and wagged her finger.

She then said, "Didn't you see the one that he came with? Even if had his face hidden, you should have seen his sword."

"Sword?" The duke couldn't help repeating.

The girl gave a nod before saying, "That's right. There should have been a special symbol on that sword..."

She let her voice trail off as she waited for the duke to finish gathering his thoughts.

The duke thought about it for a bit, but he couldn't think of anything at first.

After all, he had assumed that person was just a guard and he didn't pay much attention to him.

But eventually, he was able to remember it.

There was a symbol on that sword and it had left an impression on him since he had thought that it was a strange symbol.

The more he thought about it, the more he started recognizing the symbol until finally...

"Ah! It's that symbol!" The duke suddenly said.

Then his eyes opened wide as he looked at the girl and said, "Then that means...that person was..."

He didn't finish his words, but the meaning behind them was clear.

The girl just gave a simple nod in response to this.

At that, the duke couldn't help revealing a very dire look.

That symbol...it was the representation of a certain man who was known as the demon hunter on the borders of the kingdom. It had been said that this man had disappeared and had started working for the Shadow Garden organization...but he had thought they were rumours.

If that was the case, then this Baron Zwein really was...

At this, the duke revealed an even more serious look as he looked at the girl.

Seeing this look on his face, the girl revealed a smile and said, "You see how important it is now? We have to make sure that we leave a good impression on this Baron Zwein or else our family will..."

Once again, she didn't finish her words, but the meaning was very well implied.

The duke opened his mouth as if he was about to say something, but no words came out. In the end, he just closed his mouth and gave a simple nod in response.

Seeing this, the girl didn't mind this and turned back to the stacks of papers that surrounded her.

She once again entered her own world, completely ignoring the duke standing there.

However, the duke didn't mind at all.

The duke just silently watched this girl lying there amongst the papers with a complicated look, but that look soon turned into a loving one.

He knew that he should listen to this girl because she was special...this daughter of his had shown a very high intelligence since she was young and she had saved him many times from danger.

This time wasn't an exception.

So he decided that he would follow her plan and prepare the dinner for that Baron Zwein.

But as he was about to leave, he suddenly thought of something.

The duke turned back to ask that girl, "Will you be coming to dinner tomorrow night?"

The girl suddenly turned to look at the duke and this time, she seemed to hesitate.

In the end though, she still gave a simple nod.

Chapter 227 Exploring The City

When we arrived at the inn that had been prepared for us, we couldn't help being surprised.

Because it was clear by the decorations of this inn that this was an inn that catered to nobles. However, this inn didn't just cater to any nobles, this inn clearly catered to high ranking nobles.

Someone at my level of nobility shouldn't be living in a place like this.

But this was the inn that the messenger had brought us to.

When I asked about this, the messenger said, "The duke has already taken the time to help you book a room here and has set up everything. He has also indicated that he would pay for your stay, so there's no need for your lordship to worry about anything while you're here."

Though this sounded like it was disdain, it was said with perfect respect, so there was nothing to nitpick about this.

No matter how one looked at it, it seemed like the duke was showing him absolute respect.

But why?

As I was trying to figure this out, the messenger suddenly gave a bow and asked, "If there's anything else that you need, please don't hesitate to contact me. His grace has instructed me to take care of all your needs while you're here."

The strange look on my face became even more strange when I heard this.

I just looked at this messenger for a bit before shaking my head and saying, "No, I don't need anything, thank you. If I do need anything, I'll be sure to contact you."

Hearing this, the messenger gave another bow before saying, "Then I'll leave you to your rest, your lordship."

At this, the messenger turned to leave without another word.

However, this wasn't the disdainful way of leaving since he had made sure that I was fine before leaving. He was sincerely letting me get my rest after what should have been a long day of journeying.

But once again, why was he treating me like this?

As well, why was the duke giving me this kind of treatment?

To make it worse, there were plenty of eyes that were on me now.

Since we were in the main hall of an inn for nobles, there were plenty of said nobles that were standing around us that were currently looking in our direction. These nobles were people of power in this city and naturally they recognized the messenger that had been with us.

Seeing the respectful way that the messenger had treated us, it was clear to them that the duke treated us in a special way.

So they all wanted to see if they could create relations with us.

But that would just ruin our plan if we attracted too much attention like this...

So the first thought that I had was...escape!

I had to escape from this place and find a place where I could gather my thoughts.

When I looked over at Shaka, I found that he had the same thought as me with the way that he looked at me.

With a nod from both of us, we left our things to the attendants and escaped the inn.

Since this was an inn that catered to nobles, the security was without a doubt better than anywhere else. We wouldn't need to worry about the attendants stealing from us even if we left our things to them.

Just like this, we quickly escaped from the hotel and started wandering the streets.

But the place that we were currently in was the noble district near the center.

This place was filled with people of status, power, and wealth, so it really was hard for us to relax in a place like this.

Hiring one of the guides waiting for someone to pass, we had them lead us to the middle part of the city where the commoners were.

Thankfully, we also received a good recommendation from this guide which brought us to a nice cafe that we were finally able to relax in.

This cafe was in an alley, so there weren't as many people here which was just what we wanted.

When we finally received our coffees and sandwiches, we let out a sigh of relief at being left alone.

Both Shaka and I were exhausted by everything that had happened.

Clearly neither of us had expected what had happened to happen, so we were both caught off guard by this sudden change. It was hard for our brains to process this unless we had some time to think about it.

After taking some time to just sip our coffees and sit there in peace, we were finally ready to talk about what had happened.

But before we could talk, the door suddenly opened.

There was a young girl that burst into the cafe and when she did, she said, "Boss, I want my usual!"

The owner of the cafe behind the bar revealed a smile and shook his head before saying, "Take your seat and I'll bring it to you in a bit."

The girl gave a nod before saying with a wide smile, "You're the best boss!"

As soon as this girl came into the cafe, the entire mood of the cafe changed.

There weren't many people here in the first place and they had been minding their own business, but the moment that this girl burst into the cafe, they all revealed wide smiles as they looked in her direction.

As she walked through, heading to her seat, there were many people who even called out to her to engage her.

The girl happily chatted with everyone that called out to her and soon the entire cafe was filled with chatter.

They hadn't talked to each other before, but after talking to the girl, the various customers also started talking amongst themselves.

The girl made her way over to her seat, which to our surprise was right beside us.

But as she passed our booth, she suddenly turned to look at us and said, "Huh? I've never seen you guys here before? Are you new?"

Chapter 228 Ray Of Sunshine (1)

After calling us out like this, the others also turned to look at us and we became the center of attention in this cafe.

Since everyone was looking at us, I had no choice but to say something.

"We just arrived in the city today and the guide showed us to this hidden spot. I have to say that it really is a nice place." I said with a wide smile on my face.

When the girl heard this, she revealed a wide smile as well that was like a dazzling beam of light. Then she said with the same smile, "I know, I know! This place is the best and I've been telling the master to expand his store, but he never listens to me. If he made this place bigger, there is no doubt that there will be more people that come!"

At this, the owner of the store came over with a cup of coffee and a plate of sandwiches which he put on the girl's head. Then he said, "Stop bothering our new customers and take your seat. I've got your stuff right here."

The girl puffed her cheeks out after hearing this and said, "I'm not bothering them!"

She turned to us and asked, "Am I bothering you?"

I just revealed an awkward smile before shaking my head and saying, "She's just saying hello, she's not bothering us."

The girl revealed that bright smile once more after hearing this.

But the owner of the store wasn't fooled as he said, "You don't have to play along with her, I know that she likes to bother new people."

The girl stuck her tongue out at the owner when she heard this.

But I could see the way that the owner looked at the girl.

It was like he was looking at his own daughter.

It was clear that this owner cared about the girl, so what he was doing was actually protecting her from us. After all, we were unknown people that had come to this cafe for the first time, so they had no idea what we were capable of.

But it was clear that this girl wasn't planning on giving up...

At the same time, I couldn't help finding her interesting.

So I took a deep breath before saying with a sincere smile, "Thank you for your concern, but she really isn't bothering us."

When the two of them saw this smile, they couldn't help being taken aback.

After all, it was an understatement to call this body that I had received after reincarnating 'beautiful'. This was the body of the main character of the game, the one that was able to gather all those girls in his harem.

So it was better to say that it was drop dead gorgeous.

Now that I was smiling at them like this, it made me seem even more beautiful.

So beautiful that it completely knocked their breaths away.

The two of them just stared at me in silence for a bit before both of them gave coughs to hide their awkwardness at being dazed like that.

The owner was the first to speak as he said, "Oh, alright. I'm glad that she's not bothering you."

But then the girl said, "Master, leave those dishes here. I want to sit with them."

Both the master and I were caught off guard when this girl suddenly made this decision.

Both of us looked at her with confused looks, but she just had the same happy and bright smile on her face. The way that she looked almost made it seem like she didn't think that this was her problem at all, even though she was the one that was causing the problem.

Seeing that neither of us said a thing, she turned to me and asked, "Am I being a bother?"

As she said this, she pouted her lips and looked at me with puppy dog eyes.

Though the slight glint to her eyes didn't escape my gaze...I knew that she was just using this display to trick me, to stir up my emotions.

I could also see the helpless look on the owner's face, making it clear that he knew what she was doing, but he couldn't do anything either.

So in the end, I gave a sigh and said, "No, you can sit with us."

Revealing a happy and bright smile, the girl said to the owner, "See, they're not bothered by me at all!"

The owner gave a sigh before tapping her head again with the plate of sandwiches again. Then he put them both on the table before giving me an apologetic look.

I couldn't help feeling strange when I saw this, almost wondering what I had gotten myself into with this, but the girl had already sat down.

She sat down right beside me, not caring about how close we were because of the limited space of the booth.

After sitting down, she first took a sip of her coffee before digging into her sandwich. She didn't show any hesitation at all as she bit right into the sandwich and she chewed with her mouth wide open, as if she didn't care about being seen at all.

The way that she ate...really was quite boisterous, completely unlike her appearance.

Since she had sat down beside me, I was able to get a closer look at her.

This girl was without a doubt considered a beauty with her long tied back black hair, her clear sharp eyes, her fine sculpted nose, her fair skin, and that beautiful bright smile that created two dimples to appear on her cheeks.

She was the perfect example of a girl next door and the glasses that she wore gave her a bit of a scholarly vibe.

There was no doubt that this girl would be considered attractive to many men.

Even I couldn't help being a bit lost in her beauty as I stared at her.

But then she suddenly turned around to look at me and asked, "So, where do you come from?"

Chapter 229 Ray Of Sunshine (2)

When I heard this question, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile.

This was the question that I had wanted to avoid the most, but this girl had asked it right away.

Still, I couldn't just say nothing, so I fixed the smile on my face and said, "We come from a far away place that's very remote, so it's not worth mentioning."

The girl looked at me for a bit before suddenly asking, "So where is it? How far away is it? What is it called?"

I couldn't help being surprised when I was bombarded by these questions since normally, people would just leave things like this. But this girl was different where she didn't let up at all and kept asking me more questions.

So I just said, "It's not a well known place, so I don't think you'll know it even if I told you."

The girl didn't give up as she said, "Well you'll never know if you don't tell me."

The sides of my lips started to twitch when I heard this.

It seemed that this girl really didn't know how to take a hint and didn't know to stop asking questions.

But what Zwein didn't know was that she was doing it on purpose.

Still in the end, I said, "We were forced to leave because of extenuating circumstances, so there would be nothing to gain from telling you the name and the location."

Seeing the look on his face, the girl finally knew that she had gone too far, so she stopped asking questions.

Instead, she said, "Alright, then what are you doing in this city?"

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile again when I heard her say this, but this time I didn't fall into her tempo and let her lead me on.

Instead, I said, "Don't you know that you have to answer a question before asking a question? Shouldn't you let me ask a question first before asking another question?"

The girl tilted her head as if she was thinking about it, but then she gave a nod and said, "Alright, what questions do you have for me? If I can answer them, I'll answer them."

I was surprised that she would actually agree to this.

In truth, I was trying to use this excuse as a way to stop her from asking more questions and to get her to leave us alone, but since she agreed to this...there was no reason not to take her up on this offer.

With how outgoing she seemed, she should know a fair bit about the city and the happenings in the city.

But before that...it was better to earn her trust.

So I asked, "What is your name?"

The girl looked at me with a confused look as if she couldn't understand that question since this was the last question that she had expected.

Seeing this look on her face, I knew that what I had suspected was true.

So I said, "We can't just keep talking without even knowing each other's names, right? At the very least, we should know how to address each other."

The girl thought about it before giving a nod and then saying, "My name's Ronnie. There's nothing fancy about it, so you can just call me Ronnie."

"Ronnie?" I repeated in a slightly confused voice.

Hearing this, the girl narrowed her eyes to look at me before saying, "What's wrong? Do you think that my name is strange?" "I think you should take a look at

I hesitated for a second before giving an honest nod and saying, "I can't say that it's a common name that I've heard before. Or at least, it's not a common name that I've heard for a girl before, especially one as beautiful as you."

The girl still looked at me with those narrowed eyes, not being fazed by the compliment that I had slid in there at all.

After looking at me for a bit, she suddenly gave a shrug and said, "That's right, it's not a common name at all." Then she suddenly asked, "That's right, what's your name?"

I had been caught off guard by this, so I just answered in a daze, "Zwein, my name is Zwein."

After hearing this, she muttered to herself, "Your name is Zwein and you're calling my name strange. That really is like the pot calling the kettle black."

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I heard this, but there was something else that caught my attention instead.

It was as if she had completely forgotten about how she had seemed offended just now as she suddenly agreed with me.

I couldn't help being caught off guard by this sudden change in her attitude, but I didn't have time to process this as she suddenly asked another question.

"What are you doing in this city? Why did you come here?" This was the same question that she had asked before, but there was a bit extra tacked onto the end this time.

I thought about it before saying, "We have some business to take care of in this city, but it's private matters so I can't really tell you what we're here for. I hope that you will not mind this."

As I said this, I even gave a slight bow to show how apologetic I was.

Ronnie looked at me with narrowed eyes for a bit before waving her hand and saying, "Alright, since it's private, I understand."

For a moment there, I had thought that she would ignore this and keep asking questions, but it seemed like that fear was unfounded...

No, it wasn't completely unfounded.

I had seen the look in her eyes that almost seemed like she was still about to ask something, but then she had caught herself at the last moment as if she had thought of something.

It seemed like there was something that had stopped her at the last second which I was grateful for.

So after giving a secret sigh of relief, I asked, "Has there been anything special going on in the city lately?"

That was what I wanted to find out from her.

She was someone who was outgoing and friendly with the people of the city, so there was no doubt that she would have heard some rumours from her.

Our task was to investigate traces of the demons in this city, so I had to find those traces in the first place.

Who better for that than a local of the city?

If I could get some information about the city, especially the interesting things that had happened in it, then there was no doubt that it would help me greatly with my investigation.

So even if I wasn't certain if I would get anything useful, I still took my chance and bit the bullet to ask this.

Ronnie tilted her head to think about it and she muttered, "Well, there's nothing really that special that I can think of."

When I heard this, I revealed a trace of disappointment in my eyes.

But then she said, "If you want something special, I can think of a few things that I've heard from the others."

Chapter 230 Ray Of Sunshine (3)

"Oh?" I couldn't help letting this expression out after hearing this.

At the same time, I couldn't help feeling a bit excited since this might just be the clue that I needed for my investigation.

Ronnie could see the interested look that I had, so she leaned in closer and said with a smile, "I've heard some very interesting things, so which ones do you want to know about?"

I was surprised that she would suddenly come in closer, letting me get a closer view of her beauty.

When she was close to me like this, I really couldn't help being taken aback by the beauty that she had.

Those crystal clear eyes that I hadn't been able to look at directly before were now sparkling like the stars in front of me. There was even a glint to her cherry red lips that really made one want to see just how they tasted.

But I held myself back and said, "Well, I definitely want to hear the most interesting one."

Ronnie gave a chuckle when she heard this and then she revealed what seemed to be a naughty smile, which just made her seem even more beautiful.

Then she said in a lowered voice, "You didn't hear this from me, but a little birdy has been saying that the fishmonger's wife has been going out quite a bit lately. According to that little birdy, it seems like she has been heading to the butcher's place almost every other night...if you know what I'm saying."

After she said this, the naughty smile on her face became even wider.

As for me, my chin just dropped down after I heard this, but it wasn't for the reason that you would think.

It wasn't because I had been completely shocked by this news since I didn't even know who these people were.

Rather, I had been shocked that this was the most interesting thing that she knew...

It seemed that I had gotten my hopes up and in the end, I was disappointed.

It seemed that I had been expecting too much out of this girl who was just a commoner, the most interesting things that she had heard were just some rumours about the people of the city.

There was no chance that she would actually have any useful information on the demons.

With a sigh, I said, "It isn't nice to gossip about people like that."

Ronnie pouted her lips and said, "You're the one that asked in the first place and you're judging me!"

I revealed a bitter smile before saying, "You know that's not what I meant."

Ronnie tilted her head to look at me before saying, "You're the one that told me to tell you something interesting and this is the most interesting thing that I know."

I shook my head with that same bitter smile on my face before saying, "Well, is there anything else interesting that you know?"

After hearing this, Ronnie revealed the same naughty smile as before and she began telling me the different rumours about this city.

All of the rumours that she told me involved the people of the city in some way, but they were all gossip about their daily lives.

Such as someone gossiping about people behind their backs, someone telling someone else fake information, or other small and petty things that didn't matter.

With the way that she kept telling me all of this, it seemed that she was quite the talented gossip...

She even seemed like she was on the same level as those old ladies in my past life...

But that wasn't what I wanted to hear and I was getting dizzy from her chattering in my ear like this.

So I said in the end, "Thank you for telling me all of this, but I have to go now since it's getting dark."

It really was getting dark outside since I had been trapped in here all afternoon listening to Ronnie's gossip.

Ronnie revealed a disappointed look, but she also had a look of understanding on her face since she could see how dark it was outside.

But before we could leave, Ronnie suddenly asked, "Will we see each other again?"

I suddenly stopped moving and turned around to look at her, seeing a strange look on her face which made me surprised.

But there was a part of me that didn't want to crush this strange look, so I just simply replied, "If we're fated to meet, we will meet again."

Then without waiting for a response from her, I turned to leave.

At least this would be better than just leaving her with fake promises.

Even after they had left, Ronnie just sat there staring at the entrance to the cafe in a daze.

That was until the owner of the cafe came over and asked, "Young miss, are you alright?"

That snapped Ronnie out of her daze and she narrowed her eyes to reveal a serious look. She looked at the owner of the cafe and asked, "Do you have any information on those two?"

The owner of the cafe shook his head and said, "Young miss, they were first time customers that just came in this afternoon. If you want, I can take the time to get information on them."

After a moment of silence, Ronnie shook her head and said, "No, there's no need for that."

Then her expression became dead serious as she said, "What information do you have for me today?"

The owner of the cafe also revealed a serious look before heading back to the counter to bring over a packet of papers for her.

He placed them in front of her before falling to one knee and saying, "This is the information from the outskirts of the city this afternoon. There's a few strange things that we've noted that we need your help with."

Ronnie looked up one last time at the door before giving a sigh and picking up the top piece of paper on this pile.

As she looked at it, she muttered to herself, "If we're fated, huh?"