

Shota 251

Chapter 251 Investigation (14)

After coming out of the cave, I didn't dare let my guard down for even an instant as I dragged our group away from that mountain.

Only when we were in the middle of the forest did I finally let out a sigh of relief.

But then I looked right at Ronnie who I had dragged out with me.

She looked away and had her head lowered when I looked at her.

Since I couldn't get anywhere with her, I turned to look at Ron and Shaka. Though most of my gaze was directed at Shaka.

I didn't rely on Ron on this, but Shaka was different.

Shaka had his cloak on, but I was still able to see his embarrassment through it. After all, we had been together for a long time now, so I had a good idea of what kind of personality he had.

I was also aware of the small habits that he had, which allowed me to figure out what he was thinking.

In the end, I just gave a sigh and dropped this matter.

I didn't know what the circumstances were, but there had to be something that made even Shaka drop his guard and let Ronnie escape.

There was nothing to gain from getting angry now since there was a more pressing matter we had to handle.

Shaka could see the serious look on my face, so he calmed down too and asked, "How many were there?"

I gave another sigh as I said, "Much more than we expected, at least two thousand of them."

Shaka trembled when he heard this before slowly repeating, "Two...thousand...?"

I just gave a simple nod in response.

After a moment of silence, he asked, "Are you sure?"

I once again gave a simple nod, but this time I added, "There's also a demon there that seems as powerful as the commander from before."

This wasn't something that I could say with certainty, but at least when it came to the amount of power that came from that attack...it was on the same level as the demon commander that I met before.

So at the very least, it could be said that this demon possessed the same level of mana as the demon commander.

As soon as Shaka heard this, he immediately knitted his brows.

After a moment of silence, he said, "We need to go back and report this to the duke."

I gave a simple nod in response.

While this hadn't completely cleared all the doubts about the duke, I knew at the very least that the duke wasn't directly involved in this matter.

It would have been impossible for him to hide the matter of the three villages so well. Even if he was on the demon's side, he would have given some clue that he knew about the existence of the three villages since he wouldn't want us to go there.

So he had no idea about any of this.

The leading theory was still that someone close to the duke was involved in this matter...

After another moment of silence, Shaka came closer to ask in a small voice that only I could hear, "Should I send a report back and ask for help from the organization?" I think you should take a look at

At this, I hesitated a bit.

I was hesitant on relying on the powers of Shadow Garden since I knew what would happen to this organization in the future...but in the end, this was an organization that was created to maintain the peace in the kingdom while also ensuring that nobles wouldn't go too far.

So this was an organization that was perfect for this situation.

After a moment of hesitation, I still gave a nod.

Shaka didn't say anything else and took out a piece of paper from inside of his cloak. He moved to the side and seemed to write something on it before coming back over to say, "It's done. We should get a reply soon."

I gave a nod in response.

Since this was all taken care of, we should go back to the city and report to the duke...

But before that, there was one more thing that I had to do.

I turned to look at Ronnie and said, "Do you know what you've done?"

Ronnie lowered her head even more at this.

She was completely different from before where she had been filled with energy. Instead this time, she acted like a child that had been caught doing something wrong.

But in the end, she said, "I'm sorry."

That wasn't good enough for me as my face twisted in anger and I pointed at the top of her head while saying, "Do you know just how much trouble you've caused with just this? We don't even know how bad the consequences will be."

Ronnie just lowered her head while she kept mumbling, "Sorry."

Her curiosity had gotten the best of her and she had even used a special item that her father had given her to sneak away.

But now...she fully realized just how dangerous it was when she saw the horde of undead in front of her.

Even if she was willful, she couldn't deny that she would have died if it wasn't for Zwein pulling her out of the way when that dark lance had flown right past her.

But as she thought about it...she couldn't help thinking that he was indeed quite handsome...

However, for now, this wasn't the time to think about that.

While Zwein was still scolding her, she suddenly looked up and said, "Shouldn't we head back to the city and report this matter? We can't waste any time here at all."

My expression twisted and it looked like I still had more things to say, but I also knew that she was right.

This was an important matter that had to be reported back to the duke and we had no idea what the undead would do, so we should head back as soon as possible.

In the end, I looked at her with narrowed eyes and said with a sigh, "This isn't over yet."

But then I turned to head to the carriage to show that we were heading back.

However, behind me, Ronnie did have a repentant look in her eyes.

Chapter 252 Sudden Change

We didn't waste any time heading back to the city.

It was a good thing that the place where the undead were wasn't that far, so we were able to get back in two hours. That was also because we both had good carriages and strong horses, so we were able to rush back faster than most people would.

At the end, our horses were completely tired out and we had to leave them in a stable by the gate.

To my surprise, Ronnie's carriage had been allowed in without being stopped by the guards just like us.

We were able to come in without a search because of the special orders of the duke, but why was Ronnie and Ron allowed to come in that easily?

After thinking about it, I realized that it had to be the influence of their family, whichever family that was.

Since we had entered the city, this was where we would part.

After all, we couldn't just bring Ronnie and Ron with us to see the duke.

So I asked her, "What are you planning on doing now?"

Ronnie looked back at Ron who was giving her a signal with his eyes and after a nod, she turned back to say, "We'll head back to our family to report this matter. They will be able to do something about this."

I gave a nod before saying, "Alright, then let's part ways here."

There was a strange way about how Ronnie looked at me when I said this, but she still gave a nod of agreement before saying, "Then let's meet again if we're fated."

Without waiting for me to say anything, she had Ron drive the carriage away.

As she left, I couldn't help looking at her in a daze. She had used the same line that I had used when we had parted the first time, but it seemed different when she used it on me.

It was almost as if there was a certain tone to it like she was making a promise that confused me.

Still, I didn't have too much time to think about this since it was a critical time now.

The one other thing that I noted as she was heading off was that I could have sworn that I saw a hint of blue on her hair. Then when I looked down at my hand, I saw a black patch that was on it.

I couldn't help feeling like I had seen this kind of blue hair somewhere before.

Shaka tapped me on my shoulder to bring me back from my thoughts.

I shook my head and said, "I'm fine."

Then with that, we headed off to the duke's manor.

As soon as we arrived, to our surprise...we were actually asked to wait.

Normally, when we came to the duke's manor, we would be shown in right away.

Of course, every time we came was when we had been expected by the duke in the first place.

The duke was a very busy person naturally since he was someone that ran this entire city. He wasn't someone that was free to meet with people whenever they arrived and most people would need to book a meeting with him. I think you should take a look at

If it wasn't for the fact that he had been waiting for us, we never would have met the duke so quickly.

So the fact that we were made to wait wasn't that strange.

But not long after we arrived, we were quickly shown to the duke's office.

We were surprised to find that not only the duke, but his daughter, and several knights in armour were all there.

The moment that they saw us come in, the knights looked at us with narrowed eyes that seemed to have some kind of hostility.

We were naturally confused by this, but Shaka also moved forward to stand in between me and the knights when he saw this.

Before anything could happen though, the duke suddenly raised his hand and said, "Stop it. We're not here to mess around, we have more important things to do."

The duke waved his hand at us and said, "Baron Zwein, please come over here with your friend."

The two of us were surprised by the duke's serious tone, but we walked over to the desk as he had requested. Once we had made our way over, the duke placed a sheet of paper in front of us and asked, "Were you two responsible for this?"

We looked down and found that it was a report from some scouts under the duke.

However, the most surprising thing was the content of the report.

The reports read that...the undead were currently on the march and heading towards the city.

Both Shaka and I immediately knitted our brows when we read this and we didn't say anything in response to this.

After all, neither of us could understand why the situation had suddenly developed in this way.

As far as I knew, the demons shouldn't have known about us sneaking since they didn't chase after us as we left the mountain...or could it be that they already knew something and they hadn't chased so they could move the undead?

Regardless of why they had moved the undead, the fact of the matter was that the undead were currently moving and we had to come up with a way to deal with them...

As I was thinking, there was something that suddenly caught my attention.

It was out of the corner of my eyes, but I saw a colour that seemed familiar.

It was the colour of Veronica, the duke's daughter's hair.

When I saw it, I couldn't help feeling that it was very familiar, like I had seen it somewhere before.

Veronica had also noticed my gaze on her, so she turned her head as if she was afraid of looking at me.

The duke noticed that something strange was going on, so he asked, "What is going on here?"

Before I could say anything, Veronica suddenly said, "It was my fault. I was the one that had stirred them."

Chapter 253 "It was my fault"

The duke looked at Veronica with a confused look when he heard this as he asked, "What do you mean?"

Veronica lowered her head as an awkward look appeared on her face, but in the end, she still said, "I was the one that caused them to realize that they had been discovered and that's why they are coming to the city."

There was only silence that followed after she said this as everyone looked at her with a stunned look.

After a while, the duke finally said, "What do you mean? You were there today?"

Veronica gave a slow nod in response.

There was another silence that followed, but this time, I was the one who broke it, "Ronnie? Are you Ronnie?"

The others all revealed confused looks, but Veronica looked at me with a shocked look, as if she couldn't believe what I was saying. Then she slowly said, "Did you not notice already?"

I just shook my head in response.

After a pause, Veronica said, "What?! I thought that you already knew it was me, that was why you were staring at me so much! You're telling me that you didn't notice at all!"

I once again shook my head.

Veronica looked down and put her head in her hand before saying with a sigh, "Then it was all for nothing..."

The duke gave a cough to show that he was still there and to calm the situation. Then he said in a serious voice, "Let's hear what you all have to say. It feels like there are things that I'm missing here."

The two of them were silent for a moment before telling the duke everything that they had found.

I was the one that told them most of what happened since I was the one that discovered most of the things.

Veronica added a few bits of information in, but most of what she added was just the stuff that she did. Namely the things that she did behind our backs that didn't have anything to do with the investigation.

Well, they had a bit to do with the undead horde and the villages.

It turned out that she had left notes for the villagers in the villages, trying to see if she could walk them up from their daze.

She had done all of this without us noticing...

So even if the enemies didn't start moving because of the incident in the cave, they might have started moving because of the notes that she left behind.

I couldn't help being surprised since she not only escaped my senses, she even escaped Shaka's senses.

Shaka was someone who specialized in this kind of work, so his senses were much sharper than mine.

She had to be very skilled to escape his perception.

But the duke quickly solved this doubt of mine.

The duke narrowed his eyes to look at Veronica for a bit before suddenly asking, "You used the item I gave you?"

Veronica looked away when she heard this question, clearly avoiding the duke's gaze.

The duke revealed a frown as he said in a scolding voice, "You know that item can't be used that many times and I only gave it to you so that you can keep yourself safe. If you keep using it in such a manner, I'll take it away from you."

Veronica finally reacted when she heard this.

She turned back and said, "Dad, I had to do it."

The duke looked at her with a stern look before suddenly giving a sigh and saying, "It's my fault in the first place. If I had done my job better...none of this would have happened."

When he said this, no one in the room dared to say a single thing as they just waited for him to finish.

But the duke still didn't say a thing.

In the end, it was Veronica who started to say, "Dad, I..."

But the duke suddenly raised his hand to cut her off before saying, "Honey, I know that you have a strong sense of justice, but you should also know when to limit yourself. This kind of thing was too dangerous...what if something had happened to you? If something had happened, I really don't know what..."

His voice trailed off as his eyes filled with sadness.

This time, Veronica couldn't remain calm anymore seeing the duke like this.

She had been willful her entire life, but that was all because she had the backing to protect her so that she never suffered a setback.

For the first time, she was realizing the consequences of her actions and seeing how it hurt the people close to her...

So for this young miss who was a bit spoiled, it really was a wake up call.

After a long period of silence, she said through pouted lips, "I'm sorry. It was all my fault."

Though it seemed like she was angry, one could see the sincere look of apology that was in her eyes showing that she did feel remorse for her actions.

The duke looked at her for a bit before saying with a sigh, "Please be careful next time. I don't know what your mom and I would do if we ever lost you."

Veronica gave a nod before suddenly coming forward.

She walked around the desk and walked over to the duke before reaching out her arms to hug him.

When the duke saw this, he couldn't help being surprised.

But in the end, he revealed a doting look and patted her on the head.

This was his precious daughter, it already hurt his heart being strict with her.

So when she acted this way, he really couldn't do anything other than give in to her.

After they hugged for a bit, they separated and the duke turned his eyes back to Zwein and Shaka.

He narrowed his eyes to look at us for a bit before saying, "Let's not beat around the bush. Have you already contacted Shadow Garden?"

Chapter 254 Weakness

Shaka and I were both taken aback by this sudden question, but we reacted quite quickly since it wasn't as surprising.

After all, we already suspected that the duke knew that we were from Shadow Garden, or else the duke wouldn't have acted this way around us.

Since he wasn't beating around the bush anymore and playing unaware, there was no reason for us to pretend either.

This was a dangerous situation, so we should all do what we need to do.

I gave a simple nod in response to this.

Seeing this, the duke said, "Has there been any response? Are they going to send reinforcements?"

There was a hopeful tone at the end of his voice.

I turned to look at Shaka and he gave a slight shake of his head.

I gave a sigh before saying, "We haven't heard back from our superior yet, so we can't give you any information."

The duke's expression sank when he heard this.

After a long bit of silence, he said in a voice of despair, "Then is this it for our Bright Water City? Can we really not do anything for the people?"

As his voice trailed off, everyone just stood there in silence.

Not a single person here was able to respond to this question from the duke...after all, not a single one of us did have a plan to deal with the undead.

That was until Veronica suddenly said, "We can't give up like this."

When everyone heard this, they immediately turned to look at her in a daze.

Veronica suddenly slapped the table in front of her and said, "We are the only ones that can save Bright Water City. No matter how desperate this situation seems, we can't let ourselves fall to despair. No matter what, we have to think of a plan to deal with this. Not just for us, but also the people of this city."

They all kept staring at her in a daze as they listened to this, but then the duke also slammed his fist onto the table.

Everyone turned to look at the duke as he said with a determined look, "She's right, it is our responsibility to protect the people of this city, no matter how hopeless it seems. Do we really need someone who is half our age to remind us of this?"

The knights gathered looked at each other before nodding with determined looks on their faces.

They were right...they were the only ones that could protect the people of this city, so they couldn't let themselves be filled with despair now.

I couldn't help looking at Veronica with a surprised look.

I had thought that she was a spoiled young miss who acted willfully because she had been spoiled, but it seemed that the sense of justice that she had wasn't fake.

However, even if they had found their spirit, it wasn't as if they could think of a plan.

The undead were there and they knew how hard it was to deal with them. So even if they wanted to take care of this undead horde, it was impossible unless they could think of a method to do so.

There were a few ideas that were thrown out, but there wasn't anything that they could build on. I think you should take a look at

That was until Veronica suddenly turned to me to ask, "What kind of weakness did you find when you were experimenting on that undead?"

When they heard this, all of the knights and the duke turned to look at me as well.

That was because I had left out the part about my experimenting on the undead out.

It didn't seem important since there was nothing that I had really found about the undead, but since she was asking.

"Well it seems like potions work on the undead." I said in a calm voice.

"Potions..." The duke and the knights repeated before giving sighs.

Potions were just too expensive and there weren't that many of them in the city, even if this was a major trade city.

Based on the numbers that I had given them, it was impossible for them to gather enough potions to deal with all these undead in the first place.

Then I put the nail in the cabin by saying, "Weak potions won't be enough to deal any damage. We need at least a high potion to hurt them."

When they heard this, all of their expressions sank once more.

High potions...there was no way that they would have enough of those to deal with all of these zombies. Not to mention, there weren't many of them in the city in the first place.

Perhaps the large auction houses would have a few and the duke might have one or two in his storage, but beyond that, there would be nothing.

Seeing this, I remembered something else and said, "Fire also works since it burns them enough that they can't regenerate."

"Fire..." The duke and the knights repeated before shaking their heads again to deny this suggestion.

Fire was too devastating and if they couldn't control it, they might just burn down the city by trying to fight the undead.

Burning down their city just to stop the undead horde, it wouldn't be worth it.

So they would have to think of another way to deal with the undead horde...

But before anyone could say anything else, Veronica suddenly slapped the table and said, "That's it! We'll burn them all!"

Everyone looked at her with confused looks.

After all, just thinking about it a little would one understand that it wasn't worth burning down the city to burn the undead horde.

But Veronica didn't mind as she pulled the map on the table over.

She looked down at it for a few seconds before suddenly pointing at a spot on the map.

Everyone looked at where her finger was and they saw that it was pointing at a spot called "Wind Valley".

Then they couldn't help looking up at her with an even more confused look.

Chapter 255 Alcohol

The duke didn't say anything at first as he looked at the area that Veronica was pointing at.

But then he said, "Even if we do trap them there, the wind will blow out any fire that we set. It's called Wind Valley for a reason."

Veronica didn't seem discouraged when she heard this. She just simply gave a nod of affirmation before saying, "That's right, the wind will blow out the fire."

After she said this, everyone couldn't help looking at her with a confused look.

Why did she sound so positive when saying this?

This was confirming that her plan wouldn't work since the fire wouldn't last to burn away the undead.

But then Veronica said, "But what if we used something to keep the fire going?"

At this, everyone revealed even more confused looks.

This seemed possible if they used something to keep the fire going, but where would they get that much of that thing?

The undead were getting closer to the city with each passing second and if they wanted to lure the undead to Wind Valley, they needed to do so right as they passed by it, which gave them even a shorter window to put this plan in action. This was around half a day for them to put this plan in action.

With such a short window, how were they able to gather all of this?

It didn't seem feasible no matter how one looked at it.

Veronica could see the look on their faces, but she didn't say a word as if she was keeping them in suspense.

Finally, after a bit, she said, "We'll use alcohol?"

"Alcohol?" Everyone repeated after her with a confused look.

"Alcohol..." The duke also repeated with the same confused look, but his expression slowly started to change as if he was realizing something, "No, you can't mean..."

As soon as his voice trailed off, he turned to look at Veronica and he found that she was looking at him with a sly smile on her face.

"No, please, anything but that." The duke said almost as if he was pleading with her.

But Veronica just had that same sly smile on her face as she said, "Daddy, this is to protect Bright Water City. I'm sure you can make a small sacrifice like this?"

Though he understood that what she said was correct, the duke still couldn't help revealing a pained and unwilling look. After all, what she was talking about was the precious treasure that he had spent years gathering...it was his treasure that was only second to his daughter.

Veronica just ignored him and said, "We'll take all of the alcohol from my father's wine warehouse and use that to drench the undead in."

When they heard this, all of the knights revealed surprised looks before looking at the duke with sympathy.

It was a well known fact that the duke was an enjoyer of fine alcohol, so he had spent quite a bit of his personal money on building this wine warehouse. It contained fine wines from all over the kingdom, so the money spent on this wasn't cheap.

It was enough to buy several manors that were the same size as the one the duke currently used and still have spare change.

This was something that he had spent many years on building and before he could even enjoy it, he had to use it like this. I think you should take a look at

As fellow men, they could understand the pain that this caused him.

In the end, the duke gave a sigh as if he had found closure with this and said, "The people of the city come first. Take the alcohol and do what you need to do."

At this, all of the knights gave a sympathetic nod towards the duke.

Even Shaka and I couldn't help giving a sympathetic nod.

After all, we were men too and we understood the pain that the duke must be feeling.

After hearing this, Veronica didn't waste any time in saying, "Just in case, try to get some alcohol from the bars. We don't want to regret not getting enough when we could."

The knights all nodded in response to this, but then one of them suddenly asked, "What about the money? Do we just take the alcohol and say that it's for the good of the city? Or do we pay for it?"

Veronica didn't miss a beat as she said, "Take the money out of my father's wine collecting stash. Since it's all alcohol, it doesn't matter where it's used."

When the duke heard this, his expression sank and he looked like he was about to die.

This daughter of his...not only was she destroying the treasure that he had spent many years and a large sum to gather, she was even cutting off the future of his enjoyment. This stash that she talked about was the money that he set aside to gather even more alcohol, but now she wanted to use it here...

That would mean that he wouldn't be able to buy more alcohol in the future!

Or at least until the next tax season where he would be able to set aside some more money.

This was just too much...

Veronica then turned to say, "Daddy, this is an emergency. We have to think about the people."

The duke's face twisted when he heard this.

He couldn't help thinking that he had really raised a sly daughter.

After all, she was even calling him 'daddy' when she spoke directly to him to trigger his feelings for her. He had already heard her call him 'her father' when she talked to the others, so he knew exactly what she was doing...

But in the end, he couldn't win against her.

So with a sigh, the duke said, "Gather all the men other than the bare minimum needed to protect the city. We ride out in an hour."

The knights all revealed serious looks and bowed to the duke before walking out of the room.

Since the duke had given the order, there was no more hesitation.

This was a fight for their city, for their family, so there could be no hesitation.

The only one who felt a bit of regret was the duke, but he had already lost much more than the others so it couldn't be blamed on him.

Chapter 256 Wind Valley

Once the knights were gone, there was a moment of silence from the duke for all that he would lose.

But then he turned to me and Shaka to ask, "Will you two be coming with us? Or do you have other orders?"

I calmly said, "We'll come with you. We have experience dealing with demons, so we should be able to help when the time comes."

The duke gave a simple nod without saying a thing.

But he did feel more assured hearing this.

After all, these two were from the Shadow Garden organization. There was a reason why the Shadow Garden organization was feared by the nobles in the first place, their power was not something that could be looked down on.

But when it came to these two...the duke cared more about Shaka coming along.

It wasn't that he looked down on Zwein since he was sure that he was talented or else he wouldn't have been invited to the Shadow Garden organization.

It was just that after hearing what Veronica had told him about Shaka, he had done his own investigations.

When he learned about the man that Shaka had been in the past, he started to respect him and his power even more. After all, Shaka was just that kind of legendary person in the past.

With his help, there would be no doubt that their chances of success would greatly increase.

Since that had all been set, there was only one thing for them to do...

It was time for them to head out to Wind Valley and handle this matter.

...

An hour later, the soldiers of Bright Water City had been gathered.

They all had determined looks on their faces as they gathered together, making it clear that they knew exactly what they were fighting for.

In a fight like this, one couldn't enter it without being determined.

So the duke hid nothing from the soldiers of Bright Water City and made sure that they knew exactly what they were getting into.

Only then would be able to face it with the determination to die.

Standing in front of the soldiers, the duke said, "You brave men will be fighting for your home and families today. If any of you are sacrificed, I will personally make sure that your families will be well taken care of. I hope that you will do all that you can to survive this battle, not just for me, but also your families!"

Once his voice fell, there was a powerful cheer that came from these soldiers.

With that, the duke waved his hand and they all set off.

There were several groups of soldiers that went in different directions after setting out from Bright Water City, but that was all a part of the plan.

They all had different jobs that they needed to take care of, so they were separating like this to take care of them.

The biggest group amongst them was with the duke and they were heading right to Wind Valley. At the same time, there were several carriages that were with them that all had barrels in them.

These barrels all gave off the scent of alcohol. I think you should take a look at

This was the duke's precious collection that had been gathered over many years, as well as alcohol that had been purchased from the local taverns.

The guards all took a formation around the carriages, as if they were guarding a treasure.

Though in a sense, these things could be considered treasures.

Once they arrived at Wind Valley, this group once again split off into smaller groups.

Each of these smaller groups took several carriages filled with alcohol with them as they went off in different directions.

They had gone all around the valley and took positions so that there wasn't a single blind spot. As long as they were in this formation, they wouldn't miss a single thing that happened in this valley.

Since they were all in position, the only thing that was left for them to do was wait for the undead to arrive.

The ones that had split off from them before were in charge of leading the undead here into the trap.

They were the ones that had taken on the most dangerous job, so they were naturally the most elite out of all the soldiers. They all belonged to the knight order that was directly under the duke.

As they waited, there were reports that came in from the scouts that watched over everything.

Through these reports, they were able to find that the undead were slowly making their way closer and closer towards the Wind Valley under the lead of the knights.

So far, there hadn't been a single casualty among the knights which allowed the duke to let out a sigh of relief, but he also knew that it was far from being over.

With these reports, they were able to understand when to prepare their trap.

If it was prepared too early, then the enemy would notice the traces and be wary.

If it was prepared too late, they wouldn't be able to catch the enemy in the trap.

So they had to prepare the trap at just the right time.

When the reports came in that the undead horde was finally in position, the duke gave one last speech to his men.

Though they were too far away to actually hear him, the duke had already prepared something so that they would be able to communicate with each other.

Through this system, his words were still passed on to each of the soldiers stationed around the valley.

His words were very simple.

"Destroy the enemies and protect our city. Do not put yourself in deliberate danger."

Once these soldiers received this message from the duke, they all revealed determined looks.

With morale raised, all that was left was for the enemy to arrive.

It didn't take long before they saw the dust clouds coming from the distance and the sounds of horse hooves rang out.

Then behind them...was the large pack of undead.

Chapter 257 Fighting The Undead (1)

This group of knights led the undead right to the entrance of Wind Valley.

Once they were there, they didn't hesitate to dash in with their horses.

However, once they were inside of Wind Valley, they immediately started taking a specific path. They were moving back and forth through the valley, looking quite strange as they went through it.

But the undead didn't care as they followed right behind them.

Unlike these knights, the undead ran straight forward without following the same path as them.

Then it was revealed why the knights had moved in these strange patterns.

There were hidden traps placed along this path.

There were many different traps that were triggered by the undead, but they weren't able to kill them in the end. The only thing that they were able to do was trap these undead along this path.

There were deadly spike traps, spears being triggered, and other similar traps that would impale the undead since that was the best way to deal damage, but there were only a few that were lucky enough to stab the undead through the head. The rest of them just pinned the undead to the ground, forcing them to rip off parts of their bodies to get up again.

It all seemed useless, but there were a few undead that were killed.

The most important thing was that it slowed them down enough that they weren't able to catch up to the knights right away.

Then there was the sound of more hooves and more undead.

This time, the knights took a different entrance into the valley.

This Wind Valley had many different entrances that would lead to the main valley, but these paths varied in length.

The first set of knights had gone along the longest path.

As for these new knights that had appeared, they went down the second longest path.

With the difference in distance between them, the undead led by the second group of knights would reach the center of the valley just as the first group of undead arrived.

Following that...there were three more groups of undead that came being led by knights.

They all took different passages of different lengths so that just like with the first two groups, they would arrive in the center of the valley at the same time.

Finally, there was the last group of knights leading one more pack of zombies that took the shortest path into the valley.

This path didn't have a single trap in it and the knights charged right through the path to reach the center of the valley where the rest of the knights were waiting.

When all of the knights were gathered like this, they were completely surrounded by the undead following them.

The paths that they took came from all different directions so when they reached the center, they were indeed completely surrounded. That is except for a single path in front of them that would lead them out of the valley.

However, these knights didn't charge forward right away. I think you should take a look at

Instead, they waited in the center of the valley, as if they were waiting for the undead to catch up to them.

Slowly but surely, the undead came closer and closer until they were right about to catch them.

It was only then that the knights suddenly charged forward with all of their speed.

The undead had also sped up when they had charged at them, thinking that they had caught these knights off guard and were about to take them all down. But this went against them since that speed made it so they couldn't stop as they crashed into each other.

This crashing of undead against each other created a large pileup in the center of the valley, which only became bigger when the undead following the first line of undead crashed into this pileup.

As more and more undead crashed into the pile, the distance between the knights and the undead increased.

Seeing this, the duke suddenly raised his hand to give the signal.

The moment that the signal was given, not a single soldier wasted a single second in throwing the barrels in their hands down at the pile of undead in the middle of the valley.

These barrels shattered the moment that they hit the undead, but they didn't really do any damage to them. There were a few wooden shards that stabbed the undead, but they were quickly shrugged off.

But that wasn't the important thing.

The important thing was that the liquid inside of the barrels also splashed out and soaked the undead pile in the center of the valley.

Seeing these undead completely soaked in his precious alcohol, the duke couldn't help feeling a tinge of pain in his heart. But he resolved himself and raised his hand again to give the signal.

The moment that this signal was given, there was no hesitation as torches were tossed down into the center of the valley.

When the torches touched the alcohol, there was a powerful blaze that appeared that spread with the alcohol covering the undead. The undead were instantly covered in flames and there was a strong smell of flesh burning that filled the air.

Of course, since they were rotten corpses in the first place, there was a putrid smell of rot that also filled the air.

However, the soldiers didn't mind this and even enjoyed smelling this smell.

That was because for them, this was the smell of victory.

Seeing the undead being burned like this, they all revealed looks of joy as they thought that this fight had ended in their victory.

But the look on my face made it clear that I thought differently.

I had been carefully counting the number of undead that had been following the knights into the valley.

There were around two hundred undead in each of the groups, for a total of six groups.

But I had easily counted over two thousand undead in the cave...

So where were the remaining undead?

Chapter 258 Fighting The Undead (2)

There was no way that the undead would disappear, so they had to be somewhere...but where?

With this bad feeling growing inside of me, I couldn't take it anymore and said to the duke nearby, "Can you gather everyone? I have something I need to ask them."

The duke was confused when he heard this, but seeing the serious look on my face, he knew that it wasn't a joke. So he quickly gave a nod in response before turning to the messenger to give the signal.

The messenger was also confused about this order, but since it was an order from the duke, he had no choice but to follow it.

He quickly passed on the message to the various groups, including the knights who had now met up with the rendezvous outside of the valley. It didn't take them long to gather at the gathering spot that they had all agreed on.

When we arrived, we found that the knights and all of the soldiers were already celebrating their victory which made me knit my brows.

Without wasting a single second, I came forward and stopped them before asking, "Did you see any other undead?"

When they saw this, they were naturally unhappy about being interrupted like this.

But seeing that the duke was with me, they still answered my question.

The various leaders of the knight groups reported that this was all the undead that had followed them. They didn't see any other undead as they led them to this valley.

I turned to the sixth group leader and asked, "Are you sure that there aren't any more undead?"

The sixth group leader was confused, but he still shook his head and said, "No, I didn't see anything. The remainder all followed us to the valley."

I deeply knitted my brows when I heard this.

Shaka immediately asked, "What's wrong? Should we go back and check?"

I gave a nod before saying, "The numbers don't add up."

Everyone who heard this revealed a confused look.

The plan that we had used was to attack them in waves to make it seem like we were skirmishing them. That way, we would be able to draw the undead away in groups so that we could avoid suspicion.

The target was of course to draw them all to this valley to be burned with the alcohol which had already happened.

But since there was the danger of being followed by the undead the entire time, the knights hadn't counted the number of undead that had followed them.

However, I had been counting the undead that followed these knights when I had been watching from above.

There had only been around two hundred undead that followed each of these groups and that added up to around one thousand and two hundred undead.

That was far from the two thousand undead that I had seen in the cave.

At the same time, I had noticed that there were far less undead that were made from monster corpses among the undead that followed these knights into the valley.

After a long period of silence, one of the knights finally said, "Could it be that you just made a mistake when counting the undead in the cave. Who knows if there were actually as many as you said there were in that cave." "I think you should take a look at

When I heard this, I immediately knitted my brows.

But I could also hear murmurs of agreement coming from around me.

It was clear that the other knights and soldiers were thinking the same thing as the knight who had spoken.

Even the duke gave a slight nod though he kept a neutral look on his face.

But before I could say anything, I was surprised by Veronica cutting in.

She pointed at the knight and said, "I also saw just as many of the undead in the cave. So are you also going to say that my eyes were mistaken as well?"

When the knight heard this, his mouth opened wide, but he wasn't able to say a thing.

It was one thing to talk about this person who was a baron who had been brought in by the duke.

They didn't know who he was and he didn't have a high status, so it didn't matter if they said anything about him.

But it was different with Veronica because she was the duke's daughter.

After a long silence, the knight finally said, "Young miss, I didn't mean that...I was just saying..."

Veronica suddenly cut him off by raising her hand and saying, "There's no time to talk about this now. Just go and find where the rest of the remaining undead are. Like Baron Zwein said, there's no way that they just disappeared. They must be around here somewhere."

The knights and soldiers didn't move right away.

Instead, they turned to look at the duke, almost as if they were waiting for permission from him.

The duke looked at Veronica for a bit, but after seeing the serious look that she had on her face, he said, "Go and search for them. If these undead do exist, then it won't be good leaving them. We need to find them before they cause any harm."

The knights and soldiers gave a sigh before saddling up to go search.

It was clear by the tone of their voice and the way that they acted that they clearly didn't believe this.

Even the way that the duke had given this order made it seem like he didn't believe this.

This caused both Veronica and I to knit our brows.

But before either of us could say a thing, there was a loud sound that suddenly rang out.

It was the sound of many footsteps approaching us.

When I turned in the direction of this sound to see the dust being raised in the distance, I revealed a bitter smile as I knew immediately what was happening.

"It's already too late." I said in a bitter voice.

Chapter 259 Fighting The Undead (3)

The moment that they heard these sounds, the knights and soldiers immediately turned in the direction that it came from.

They all pulled out their weapons and raised their guard.

At the very least, this was a good demonstration of how well trained they were. The moment that they saw the enemy appear, they were prepared to fight.

It was just too bad that the situation was much worse than they thought.

After this first cloud dust appeared, there were even more clouds of dust that appeared all around them. Before long, they were completely surrounded by the dust clouds that had appeared around them.

Seeing this, I couldn't help saying, "It seemed that gathering together worked against us rather in our favour." At the same time, there was a bitter smile that appeared on my face.

As they came closer and closer, we were able to see the true appearance of these dust clouds.

Just like I had suspected, these were the rest of the undead that hadn't been accounted for.

They had separated from the main group when we hadn't been looking or maybe they hadn't even been with the main group in the first place. Regardless of what the reason was, they were now surrounding us.

At first, the knights and soldiers still seemed like they were prepared for a fight. However, as more and more of the undead revealed themselves, the looks of being ready to fight disappeared from their faces.

That was because they could see that they were...completely outnumbered.

Around a thousand undead, that was my rough estimate of how many enemies there were.

If we had brought all of the knights and soldiers from the city, perhaps we would be able to match them.

However, since we had left a group of soldiers in the city to protect it...that meant that we had less troops.

We couldn't just leave the city undefended since the undead wasn't the only threat that this large Bright Water City faced.

The duke couldn't allow that since it was his duty to protect the people of Bright Water City.

But it seemed like that had backfired on them now that they were completely surrounded by these undead.

The knights and soldiers looked at the duke in a panic with eyes that were clearly asking him what they should do. However, the duke could only look back at them with a helpless look since he didn't know what to do either.

If it was any other kind of enemy, perhaps they could gather together and break free of this blockade. However, it was different when they were facing the undead since the undead wouldn't go down as easily.

They were much tougher than normal enemies and even if they were to gather all of their power to break through a single point, it wouldn't work because of how tough the undead were. They wouldn't be able to exterminate the undead that stood in their way fast enough and they would be surrounded instantly.

Since this forced them to gather all of their strongest fighters in a single spot, that would leave their formation weakened.

Unlike now where they evenly divided their troops around them, this would cause the backside of their formation to be weak. Once they were surrounded after being stopped by the undead, the backside of the formation would be slaughtered.

At the very least, they would be able to resist for a bit if they were in formation. I think you should take a look at

However, the worst part of all of this were the undead formed from monster corpses that they could see.

These made up most of the undead that surrounded them.

The power that undead had depended on the material used to create them.

If human corpses were used to create undead, they would have the power of a human that was enhanced by the dark used to create the undead.

But if a monster corpse was used to create undead, then it would have the power that the monster originally had, along with being strengthened by the dark used to turn it into an undead.

This created a monster that was even stronger than when it was alive.

Monsters were already powerful enough, they were strong enough that normal soldiers wouldn't be able to fight against them. Knights would only be able to match them barely and would still need help to fight against them.

And that was just for normal monsters...

These undead monsters would without a doubt be stronger than normal monsters.

So what should they do in this situation?

Should they try to push through, using some of their members as bait to escape or should they stay and fight.

Neither of these methods seemed like there was any hope, but at least the former had a higher chance of survival. Or at least it did for those that were considered important.

This was basically exchanging the lives of those weaker soldiers to save the duke, his daughter, and some of the knights. The ones that escaped would return to the city where there was a higher chance of fighting back.

It was a way of preserving their battle strength, but it was one that came at the cost of lives.

While the duke was hesitating on what to do, I had been carefully observing the undead that were coming closer.

I could see that there was a particular formation to these undead, with most of the undead monsters being gathered in one area. They were gathered behind us where it was most likely that we would go to escape.

It seemed that they wanted to trap us and prevent us from escaping.

But if they did that, it left their ranks weaker in front of us.

So there had to be something that made up for that.

As I had guessed, the ranks of undead in front of us parted to reveal...a demon.

This wasn't just any demon, it was the same demon that I had caught a glimpse of back in the cave.

Chapter 260 Fighting the undead (4)

When the demon stepped out from the line of undead, he looked over us as if he was sizing us up.

Then all of a sudden, the demon said, "You're the ones that caused me all this trouble? Just with you, you were able to do all of that?"

No one said a word in response to this, but some of the soldiers with weaker wills couldn't stop their legs from turning soft at the pressure that this demon released.

Even the knights couldn't help breaking out in a cold sweat when facing the demon.

There was only me and Shaka who just stood there firmly because we already had experience with demons. The pressure from this demon wouldn't be enough to scare us since we were already used to it.

No, there was someone else who also stood firm.

Surprisingly, Veronica didn't react at all when she felt the pressure from the demon.

Either she had nerves of steel...or she was too scared to react.

When the demon appeared, I immediately turned to look at Shaka and he gave a nod in response.

Both of us knew that to take care of these undead, we would have to take care of this demon.

To take care of pawns, one needed to take care of the king.

But it was also clear that this demon was stronger than the demon commander that I faced before, so we needed something to get the edge over this demon.

While everyone was focused on the demon, I pulled out The Penetrator from my inventory and handed it over to Shaka.

Shaka was surprised to see me pull this out from behind me, but he knew better than to question it. After all, he had seen much stranger things from me that he knew better than to ask questions.

However, his eyes did light up when he saw The Penetrator.

After all, he had already seen how much power was in this weapon and even he was curious about using it. It was just that he never had a chance and he wasn't as shameless as Jessica to just ask for it.

Still, now he had a chance to use this weapon and he couldn't help feeling excited.

Though most of that excitement was suppressed since he knew that he and the rest of their group were in serious danger.

Once he grabbed The Penetrator, Shaka didn't hesitate to step forward.

All of the knights and soldiers were surprised by his sudden move, even the demon was taken aback by this human who suddenly came forward.

But seeing the way that Shaka raised his weapon, the demon couldn't help breaking out in laughter. After that, the demon said, "Do you really think that you're a match for me?"

With that, the demon raised his hand and there was a black lance that appeared in it.

This black lance was something that I recognized immediately since I had an intimate encounter with it before. If I had dodged a single second later, then Veronica would have been impaled by this lance.

I could also see Veronica giving a shiver when she saw this lance. It was clear that she recognized it as well.

The demon wasn't finished yet, after pulling out the lance, he said, "This is an insult not just to me, but to the demon king who personally gave me this mission. Human, since you are seeking death, I will help you."

Without hesitation, the demon charged forward with the lance in hand.

At the same time, the undead followed behind the demon and also charged forward.

Shaka didn't hesitate when he saw this, he dashed forward to meet the demon head on.

The duke had been in a daze when he saw the undead appear, but he snapped out of it at this moment.

He knew that they would only have a single chance to survive this, so he didn't hesitate to give the order, "Back him up! Block the undead in his way so he can fight the demon! Only if he wins will we be able to escape this place!"

The knights and soldiers had also been stunned, but they were also pulled out of their daze when they heard this.

They looked at each other before giving nods and charging forward behind Shaka.

But since they had horses while Shaka was on foot, they quickly caught up and even overtook him so that they formed a line in front of him.

On the other side, the demon had deliberately gone slower so that the undead would be in front of him.

With the two sides charging like this, it didn't take long before they clashed.

Or rather, it was the knights and soldiers who crashed into the undead line. Since they were faster, they used their mobility to slash at the undead while maintaining a distance from them.

Like this, they were able to lure the undead from the area around the demon away, exposing the demon to Shaka.

The demon wasn't surprised to see this and he didn't panic at all as he raised his lance to stab out at Shaka.

Shaka also wasn't afraid, he just raised The Penetrator up to swing out at the demon.

When he brought it up, this was the first time that everyone saw The Penetrator in its full form. He had been hiding it slightly in his cloak before this and they had been in a daze over what had happened, so they hadn't seen it.

But now that they saw The Penetrator, they couldn't help feeling that it looked very strange...especially the tip of this weapon.

It almost looked like a...

Shaka ignored all of this and focused on the demon.

The demon was caught off guard as well, but then he focused on Shaka.

During all of this, while everyone's attention was away from me, I pulled out something.

Then without hesitation, I pulled out a match from my Storage Ring.

If Shaka was going to win this, he would need something to give him an edge and this was my way of helping him.