

Shota 271

Chapter 271 Meeting The Duke Again

I gave a cough to calm down before reaching out to take the bowl and spoon from Veronica.

As I did that, I said, "I can eat on my own, there's no need for you to feed me."

But before I could take the bowl and spoon from her, Veronica moved them away from my grasp.

She then said in a calm and stern voice, "You've just woken up and you're still weak. You shouldn't push yourself in this condition and just learn to accept help from others."

I revealed a bitter smile when I heard this, but I said in a firm voice as well, "I'm fine, I can do this on my own."

Seeing that I wasn't backing down, Veronica revealed a displeased look.

Then it was replaced with an unwilling look, but when she peeked at Shaka, she still handed the bowl and spoon over with a sigh.

If it was before where we were still alone, she wouldn't have been as willing to back down. But since Shaka was here as a witness, she had her own reputation to care about and couldn't act as strong.

But when I took it, she did give my hand a strange touch that made me shiver.

I took the bowl and held it in front of myself. As I did this, the smell of the oatmeal entered my nose and my stomach couldn't help grumbling.

I wasn't embarrassed by this since it was a natural thing.

I had been in a coma for three days, so it wasn't strange that I was hungry.

In fact, I was curious how they had even taken care of me during these three days that I had been unconscious. However, after thinking about it, I decided that it was better not to ask since it would most likely result in some embarrassing answers.

As I ate, I talked to Shaka about a few more things.

Naturally, the first thing that he asked me was, "Why did you faint? Do you know anything about that?"

Since he had asked, I had no reason to hide it. I just calmly said, "That orb is powered with mana and I had to use my mana to use it. However, it takes a large amount of mana to power it in the first place. I overdrew my mana and that was why I fell into a coma in the first place."

Shaka slowly said, "Then you're saying that if we had given you a mana potion, you would have woken up earlier."

I didn't say anything in response to this since I really didn't have an answer to this.

After all, I really couldn't confirm or deny this.

In the game, you could refill your mana with potions even if you completely ran out of mana. However, there wasn't a case of fainting when running out of mana in the game since that wouldn't be something that would be fun for the player.

So I had no idea if it was because I had 0 MP that I fainted or if it was because I had negative MP that I fainted.

So I honestly couldn't say if a mana potion would have worked or not. I think you should take a look at

In the end, I just silently ate my oatmeal until I was finished.

After taking a moment to calm myself, I started to stand up.

When Shaka and Veronica saw this, both of them came forward as if they wanted to help me, but I waved my hand to stop them. There wasn't a problem with my body anymore, I had already rested for three days, so I was completely recovered.

I stood up and then said, "Let's go see the duke, I'm sure that he's already waiting for us."

Shaka looked at me for a bit before giving a nod.

However, Veronica said, "Wait, you still need your rest."

I just looked at her with a smile before saying, "I'm fine." Then without even looking back, I walked out of the room with Shaka.

Veronica just looked at me while biting her lower lip as I walked off, but in the end, she still followed me out.

Though I was leading when we came out of the room, I let Shaka take the lead since I didn't actually know where I was going.

Though I knew that we were in the duke's manor, that didn't mean that I knew the layout of the manor.

Shaka didn't have a problem with this and led us through with ease, as if he had been through this manor many times already. It seemed that quite a bit had happened while I was out...

When we got closer to the duke's office, I started recognizing the way because we had been here before when we had gathered to discuss what to do about the undead.

Shaka just went into the office without any hesitation and there was the duke who was sitting there talking to a few knights.

When the duke and knights saw the door opening like this, they couldn't help knitting their brows at first. But they quickly relaxed their expressions when they saw who it was coming in.

All of them looked at me with looks of admiration and concern when they saw me which surprised me since I didn't feel like I had done anything to earn their respect like this. At the same time, I could also see that there was a bit of fear in their eyes which confused me more.

Was I that terrifying of a person that they needed to look at me like this?

After a moment of silence, the duke asked, "Are you feeling better now?"

I gave a simple nod in response to this and said, "Thank you for taking care of me over the past few days."

The duke revealed a bitter smile and said, "How could I not when you saved our Bright Water City?"

I just gave another simple nod before asking, "Where's the demon?"

Chapter 272 Strange Proposition

Seeing that I was becoming serious, the duke also revealed a serious look and said, "We have him in our dungeons and we have stabilized his conditions, though it was hard since it was our first time treating a demon."

The demons had different body structures from humans, so it had been hard for the duke's private doctors to treat their demon prisoner.

It could even be considered a miracle that he survived at all.

But since they had treated him, the demon had remained silent.

The demon had been conscious, but he had completely withdrawn into his mind and didn't react no matter what anyone said to him.

The duke had tried using his interrogators to get some information from the demon, but he wasn't able to get anything out of him.

But it would be different for Shadow Garden since this was what they specialized in in the first place.

Hearing this, I gave a simple nod before turning to Shaka to ask, "What happened to the demons from before that we caught?"

Shaka looked around at the knights and they all couldn't help taking a step back at this, but he still said, "They've already been taken care of."

I gave another simple nod in response since it wasn't hard to figure out what he meant by taken care of. For a human kingdom like this, it was the most simple way of dealing with demons who were trying to invade them.

So I said, "Then can you call for someone to pick up this demon as well?"

This time, it was Shaka's turn to give a simple nod.

With that, I turned back to the duke and said, "Your grace, are you alright with those arrangements?"

The duke didn't hesitate to nod in response.

This was already the best result for him.

He had already taken care of the threat to his city and at the same time, he had provided help to the Shadow Garden agents that had been sent to investigate.

While there would be a bit of backlash because of him neglecting this problem for so long, he would still have the merit of acting up to solve it and even helping in subduing a demon.

So there was no doubt that he would be rewarded by the king once they reported this in.

As for getting more than this, the duke wasn't greedy. He knew that if he tried for more than this, he would just be bringing trouble to his own door.

Since the duke was so cooperative, that actually helped them very much.

There was no need for Shaka and me to personally escort the demon, there were other agents from Shadow Garden for this. So all that was left was for Shaka to contact them and they would come to get the demon.

With this, I said, "Your grace, thank you for your assistance and cooperation. I hope that we will have a chance to meet again."

Seeing that he was about to leave, the duke couldn't help feeling a bit of regret.

After all, he still wanted to build a relationship with these two from the Shadow Garden. I think you should take a look at

If he could, it could be said that he would be on the road to success.

Then as if he had suddenly thought of something, the duke said, "Oh, that's right, there was something else that I had forgotten to mention."

At this, both Shaka and I stopped and turned to look at the duke, waiting to see what he had to say.

The duke didn't keep us in suspense as he said, "There was someone else who was captured after the incident."

Both Shaka and I looked at the duke with a confused look since we didn't expect this, but then we understood what the duke meant when he said his next words.

"It's one of my advisors." The duke said in a heavy voice.

As I had already expected, one of the advisors of the duke was involved in this matter. After all, it was impossible to hide everything that had happened in those villages unless there was someone covering it all up.

But I had completely forgotten about this matter since the matter of the demon and the undead had already been solved.

Now that the duke had taken the initiative to bring this up, naturally we also needed to handle this.

I looked at Shaka and said, "Can we take him with us as well?"

Shaka gave a nod in response to this.

Of course it wasn't a problem to take this advisor in with the demon since this was someone that had colluded with the demon to create that horde of undead. There was no doubt that he was connected to the demons in some way or another.

If he had to guess, it was most likely that this advisor was part of the demon worshipers.

So the amount of information that they could get from him definitely wouldn't be small.

It was just a simple line added in his message to bring him along as well.

Since the duke had also mentioned this to us, I had no choice but to thank him for this information.

But before I could say anything, the duke suddenly said, "Your lordship, I've heard that you have a beautiful wife, but have you ever considered having a concubine?"

The moment that I heard this, I couldn't help revealing a shocked and confused look.

Why was the duke suddenly asking me this?

The duke didn't mind the look on my face and continued, "If you have, then have you considered my daughter?"

There was only silence that followed after he said this.

I could only look at the duke in shock and disbelief as he said this, but it wasn't just me who felt this way.

Everyone in the room looked at the duke in the same way because...no one would have thought that he would ask something like this all of a sudden.

Chapter 273 Chase Him Down

The duke didn't mind the silence as his eyes were still on me.

With the way that he was looking at me, it was almost as if he was expecting something from me, but I really didn't know what to say.

In the end, I didn't have to say anything as Veronica herself suddenly charged into the room.

She ran right past everyone and went right up to the duke sitting behind the desk. She grabbed a bunch of paper from the desk and rolled it up into a tube before smacking the duke right on the head with it.

There was even more silence that followed after that smack as even the duke didn't believe that his daughter would do this to him.

All of the knights were so afraid of what was happening that they had taken a step back and pretended like they didn't exist.

Finally, Veronica took a deep breath and let it out before saying, "Sir Zwein, please don't mind what my father was saying. It is nothing more than some murmurs in his sleep."

With the way that she looked at me and the smile on her face, I couldn't help feeling a chill run down my back.

I gave a cough to calm myself down before saying, "Young miss, I didn't hear anything just now."

Veronica gave a nod with the same smile before saying, "I wish you safe travels."

I cupped my hands and gave a slight bow both to her and the duke before leaving with Shaka.

As I left, I had to control the speed at which I walked out.

Even though I wanted to leave as soon as possible, if I ran out of the room...it would be rude to the duke. So I had to control myself to move at a moderate pace instead of speeding out of the room.

Once he had left the room, there was a chill that suddenly appeared in this room.

This chill forced the knights to take another step back, but they didn't dare leave the room without permission.

A long time passed before Veronica finally said, "You can leave now."

As soon as the knights heard this, they didn't hesitate at all to evacuate the room. Though before they did leave the room, they did make sure to give a slight bow to the duke and Veronica.

While they were doing this, they could see a look coming from the duke.

This was a look of pleading, asking them for help. He wanted them to find some kind of excuse to take him with them, but...they just gave him an apologetic look before fleeing.

They didn't want to get involved in the young miss' matter since they knew just how terrifying she could be.

So even though they had sworn to protect both the duke and the people of this city, they abandoned their first promise now in the face of the young miss. That was just how terrifying this young girl was.

Once it was only the duke and his daughter left in the room, the duke tried to appease her with a smile, but all he received was a cold glare.

So the duke had no choice but to meekly sit there in his seat, waiting for Veronica to speak.

After a long silence, Veronica finally said, "Why did you do that?"

The duke was flustered when he heard this since he could hear the blaming tone in her voice. He waved his hands around a bit as he scrambled to explain before finally settling down by saying, "I just wanted to do something for your future. I was worried about you."

Veronica looked at him with narrowed eyes that made the duke turn his gaze slightly to the side, but then she said with a sigh, "There's no need for you to do that. I know what I'm doing."

The duke looked at her with a surprised look before saying, "But I haven't seen you making any moves and you're not getting any younger. Your mother and I..."

Before he could say anything else, his mouth closed and he swallowed his words when he saw the way Veronica glared at him. I think you should take a look at

She glared him down until he was meekly sitting in the chair again before saying, "Who says that I'm even interested in him?"

The duke revealed a sly smile and said, "I've seen the way that you've looked at him and I know that you've been waiting for him to wake up for three days now. You can't fool your papa."

Veronica once again glared at him which caused the duke to look away before saying with a shy voice, "Even if I am interested in him, he already has a wife."

The duke gave a shrug and said, "Does that matter?"

Indeed, for them it didn't matter.

Unlike the other noble families that cared only about the status of the ones that they married, their family only cared about love. If they loved someone, then they should get married regardless of the situation.

Veronica gave another sigh before saying, "I have my own plans."

The duke raised one brow as he looked at her without saying anything.

Seeing the way that he looked at her, Veronica said, "Didn't he say that he came here looking for your support? Even if that was a cover, it is a real concern for a small noble like him living in a rural area."

The duke revealed a confused look when he heard this, but he didn't say anything as he waited for her to explain.

Veronica slowly revealed a smile that could only be described as the smile of a devil as she laid out her plan, "Since that's the case, we'll just show our support for him. What better way to show our support than if the daughter of the duke were to visit his territory?"

"Eh?" The duke couldn't help letting this exclamation out when he heard her plan.

But the thing that he was most surprised by was the look on her face.

That was because this was a look that he was very familiar with...he had seen it many times when he was younger...

That was because this was the face that her mother had shown before when chasing at him.

It could be said that she was sly and ruthless as well, using all kinds of different tricks to trap him. But there were cute sides to her that had made him fall in love with her in the end.

Still, that didn't mean that he wasn't scared of her...

It seemed that his daughter had inherited more than just her beauty from her mother, it seemed that she had also inherited her cunning. He had hoped that this wouldn't be the case since he didn't want more men to suffer in this world, but now it was too late.

Veronica was still muttering to himself while he was lamenting. She said things like, "I'll bump into him...I'll trap him in a closet...I'll..."

The duke couldn't help feeling more and more scared the more he heard.

But he had to draw a line at least, "Don't get pregnant before getting married."

That was the bottom line that he had to draw since it was a matter of reputation at that point. He didn't want his daughter's reputation to be ruined because she took things too far.

Veronica looked at him with a smile and said, "Papa, don't worry, I know my limits."

The duke couldn't help lamenting what Zwein would have to deal with in the future. He could only silently apologize to him in his heart.

He wanted to leave?

That was fine.

She would just chase him down.

Chapter 274 Going Home?

As I came out of the duke's manor, I couldn't help giving a sneeze.

I looked around myself before asking, "Is someone talking about me?"

Shaka looked at me with a strange look because they didn't have this superstition in this world, but that look quickly faded since he knew that I was a strange person. He had seen all the strange quirks that I had, so he slowly got used to them.

When we left the duke's manor, Shaka went off on his own a bit before coming back with a carriage for us.

This was the same carriage that we had taken into this city and we were using it now to leave. During this time, the carriage had been put aside to prevent anything from happening to it, so the driver was very relieved to see that we were safe.

After all, the driver had been staying with the carriage the entire time and hadn't heard any news about us.

Shaka gave the driver a few instructions before sitting down with me in the carriage.

As we sat there, I let out a sigh of relief as I finally relaxed.

This had been a long mission with many twists and turns. There were many times where I thought I would lose my life, but I had survived in the end and had even captured the demon.

This was without a doubt the best ending.

I just relaxed as the carriage headed towards the gate of the city. When we arrived, we didn't have to wait at all since we still had the pass that the duke had given us, so we were able to easily leave the city without even being checked.

But after leaving the city, I realized that something was off.

We were going in a completely different direction from the way home.

I immediately stood up and walked over to the window to question the driver, but before I could do anything, Shaka raised his hand to stop me.

I looked at Shaka with a confused look, but he said, "I changed our destination."

"Huh?" I was even more confused when I heard this and I couldn't help feeling a bit wary.

Could it be that something had happened in the past three days and something had caused Shaka to betray me?

Or could it be that something had happened in the Shadow Garden organization that had caused this change?

Shaka could see the look on my face, so he said, "It's not what you think. It's just that I received an order to bring you in."

"Bring me in?" I repeated before suddenly asking, "Could it be that I've done something wrong that I need to be brought in?"

Shaka shook his head and said, "It's nothing like that."

Without explaining any further, he took out a piece of paper that he handed over to me.

I looked at this piece of paper with a skeptical look, but seeing that Shaka wasn't saying anything, I had no choice but to take it. I think you should take a look at

As I read what was written, I couldn't help knitting my brows.

That was because on this piece of paper was an order from our superior ordering us to come to the capital. With that, I now knew where this carriage was going.

But why were we being called in like this?

Shaka saw the way that I looked at him after reading the note, so he said, "We're being called in to report to the king."

"The king?!" I said in a shocked voice.

Shaka gave a nod as he continued, "That's right, the king." Then his tone changed as he said, "It isn't a strange thing that we need to report to the king. The Shadow Garden Organization is one that is directly under the king, so it's normal that we report to him. Not to mention, this was a large event that even involved a duke, so of course we would be called in."

I couldn't help revealing a bitter look on my face as I said, "And you couldn't tell me all of this earlier?"

Shaka took off his hood and revealed a bitter smile too as he said, "Would you have come with me if I did?"

I firmly shook my head in response to this.

Shaka gave a sigh as he said, "I knew that would be your response. I've been with you long enough to know that you don't want to get involved with Shadow Garden and the royal family at all. While I don't know why you have this kind of aversion, you really should just accept it at this point."

The bitter look on my face became even stronger as I thought to myself, "I know that Shadow Garden is about to collapse soon, so why would I accept it? I'm still trying to find a way out before anything happens."

But it wasn't as if I could say this right to Shaka's face.

So I answered the other question, "There's nothing good in getting involved with the royal family. You should know how dangerous it is to be around the royal family since you've been around them before, so how can I accept this?"

Shaka shook his head before saying, "This isn't a bad thing. You have caught a demon and saved one of the major cities from being destroyed. No matter how you look at it, you will be rewarded by the royal family."

The bitter smile kept growing on my face as I said, "You might think so, but there will always be a catch."

"Catch?" Shaka asked with a confused look.

I nodded as I said, "Everything in life comes with a price and that is also the case with things given by the royal family. There is no doubt that there will be some kind of special order that comes with this reward...That's why I didn't want to go. I would rather let someone else take the merit than go by myself."

Shaka couldn't help looking at me with a strange look, but I didn't bother explaining.

I couldn't run away from Shaka in the first place and even if I did, I wouldn't have a way to get back to the town.

So all I could do for now was...think of ways to reject whatever was going to be awarded to me and find a way to avoid catching the eyes of the royal family.

Only then would I be able to live a peaceful and long life.

Chapter 275 Picking Someone Up

The capital was a long distance from Bright Water City, so it would take several days of traveling to reach there.

During this trip, Shaka had at least planned out all the stops for us, so that we wouldn't be sleeping out in the open. Though this was more of a concern that I would escape more than a concern of comfort.

After all, in each town that we stopped in, the inn was already prepared for us. We didn't even need to check in or anything, we were allowed to head to the inn right away as if everything had been prepared ahead of time.

As for leaving the inn...other than to get some food, there were no outside trips.

It was just like being trapped in a prison.

Still, I had already expected this after seeing how he had gotten me to come on this trip in the first place.

It was clear that he had received some kind of separate order to bring me to the capital.

This just made me even more fearful of what would happen...

Just like this, we traveled over the course of several days, getting closer and closer to the capital.

But the closer that we came, the more nervous I felt because...I hadn't been able to think of a way to reject whatever was coming to me. The other side was the king, so there was nothing that I could say that would give me an excuse to reject whatever he wanted to give me.

The only possibility that I could think of was to accept it and then get involved in politics...

As I was feeling despair and we were getting closer to the capital, something happened before we reached the capital.

At the town right before reaching the capital, we met someone.

It wasn't anyone random, but rather someone that I knew quite well.

After all, this was the person that had dragged me into Shadow Garden in the first place.

It was our supervisor, Scar.

When we arrived at the inn for the night, he was waiting there with a big smile on his face. Seeing us coming over, he waved his hand at me, but I had different plans.

Without hesitation, I ran right at Scar and then jumped.

As I jumped, my knee came up so that I was flying at Scar with my knee out.

In my previous world, this move was called the flying knee!

But it was just too bad that there was a difference in physiques.

While I had been slowly training, Scar was someone who had been in Shadow Garden for a long time. He was someone who lived his life in danger, so of course he was skilled in avoiding said danger.

With a simple step, he moved out of the way of my flying knee and I landed on the ground.

Then he came up behind me and said with a smile while also reaching his hand out towards me, "What are you doing?"

I glared at him, but I still took the hand offered to me. I think you should take a look at

When I stood up, I patted the dust off my body before finally saying, "Why are you doing this to me? Didn't you say that you wouldn't interfere with my life?"

Scar gave a helpless smile as he spread his hands before saying, "It's not my fault. Even if I don't want to do this, I can't go against the order of his majesty."

I immediately knitted my brows when I heard this as he had just confirmed what I had suspected.

The only ones that could give this kind of order to bring me to the capital were the royal family. Based on what Scar had said, it was the king that gave the order to bring me here.

But why would the king be interested in someone like me?

For once, I didn't keep my thoughts in and asked Scar, "Why? Why would someone as important as the king be interested in someone like me?"

Scar raised one brow and asked, "Someone like you?" Then he looked at Shaka and the two of them broke out in laughter at the same time.

I couldn't help looking at both of them with a strange look as I couldn't understand what was happening.

Why would they suddenly laugh at something like this?

I didn't feel like I had said anything strange.

But I had to wait for the two of them to stop laughing before getting my answer.

As for the answer they gave me, it was more shocking than I thought.

After a while, the two of them stopped laughing. Scar wiped the tears from his eyes as he said, "Sorry, sorry, I wasn't laughing at you. I just found it funny that you weren't aware of your own importance."

I couldn't help feeling even more confused when I heard this.

After all, I didn't feel like I was that important.

When Scar saw the confused look on my face, he couldn't help feeling surprised. He kept looking at me with that strange surprised look as he said, "Do you really not know how important you are?"

I just slowly shook my head.

Scar once again burst into laughter when he saw this.

After a while, he calmed down and said, "You're someone that has already had four different encounters with demons since joining us, this is definitely a new record."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look as I said, "But isn't that normal? Shadow Garden is an organization that protects the kingdom, so they should be encountering plenty of things like this. I feel that I'm quite normal."

Scar looked at me first before turning to look at Shaka, but Shaka just gave a helpless shake of his head like he was exasperated.

Then Scar turned back to look at me as he said, "Are you serious? Do you really think this?"

I just gave a simple nod before looking even more confused.

Chapter 276 Lack Of Common Sense

Finally, Scar had a different reaction.

Instead of bursting out in laughter again, he gave a sigh and said, "It turned out that he lacked self awareness and common sense. I was wondering why he was acting this way, but it turned out that he was just an idiot in common sense..."

I couldn't help feeling a bit insulted when I heard this, so I said, "Hey, you know I can hear you, right?"

Scar looked at me and just gave another sigh like he was done with me.

But I didn't feel like I had done anything wrong. After all, I was just doing my job as part of Shadow Garden, I wasn't doing anything that would be considered special.

So why did he say that I lacked common sense?

Seeing the expression on my face, Scar put his head in his hand and shook his head as he said, "Look at him, he doesn't even understand what's wrong with him. I really am speechless..."

The more that he said this, the more insulted that I felt, so I said, "Can you at least explain why you think that I lack common sense?"

Scar looked at me with serious eyes and asked, "Have you heard about how many times demons have been found in the history of our organization?"

I tilted my head to think before suddenly remembering something. I slowly said, "Wasn't it two? I remember Shaka telling me this..."

Scar gave a nod before saying, "That's right, two...and that's in the entire history of our organization."

Seeing that I was still confused, Scar then clapped his hands in front of me so that I was forced to focus before saying, "That's two in the entire history of our organization which has lasted for countless years and in just a few months, you've encountered demons four different times. That's double what we had encountered in all of our time as the largest information organization in this kingdom."

I was slowly starting to understand what he was saying and realizing that my values were indeed a bit twisted.

After all, I was still thinking of this world as a game world.

Events like this were normal in the game world and would come at random intervals, that was how the creators of the game kept the game interesting.

But if it was from the viewpoint of a citizen in this world where these events didn't happen daily and were rare occurrences, it would seem strange that I was encountering all of these demons.

Even in Bright Water City, the demon had been able to avoid detection for so long for a reason.

If it wasn't for me stirring up the hornet nest, what had happened in Bright Water City wouldn't have happened. Though it most likely would have resulted in the city being taken over by the demons with the undead army...

No, that wouldn't have happened since I didn't remember such an event from the game.

So where did the demon and the undead go in the game if they didn't bring down Bright Water City?

Did someone take care of them before they could develop further or was there something else that happened to them?

The more I thought about it, the more that I fell into this tangent. I think you should take a look at

In the end, it was Scar who brought me back by clapping in front of my face again to snap me out of my thoughts.

He looked at me with a worried look and asked, "Are you alright?"

I realized my mistake and quickly said, "I'm fine, I was just lost in my thoughts."

Scar gave a sigh as he said, "You, it's always one thing or another with you. I really don't even know what to say anymore."

I just gave a nod and said, "I admit that I'm a bit special compared to everyone else, but I'm sure that others could do the same if they had the same opportunities."

"Huh?" Both Shaka and Scar reacted the same way when they heard this before looking at me with looks of disbelief.

I didn't back down as I just looked back at them with a calm look on my face.

Then both of them gave sighs before putting their heads in their hands.

"Broken, his common sense is completely broken...I knew that I shouldn't have expected better from this kid..."

My lips twitched when I heard this, but I didn't argue with them since I knew that I wouldn't be able to convince them.

It was just too bad that Scar wasn't about to let it end here since he had some grievances with me...

Scar suddenly looked up and pointed at my face as he said, "That's right, what is up with the elves as well? You go on a trip and all of a sudden, you're friends with elves? Do you know how much of a stir that has caused?"

"Huh? Why does becoming friends with the elves cause a stir?" I asked in a confused voice.

Scar looked at me like I was ignorant as he said, "Do you know how long the elves have been ignoring us? Not just years, but centuries! Since the founding of this country, the elves have been here and they've ignored us all this time!"

"Oh." That was all that I had to say in response to this.

"Oh? Oh? Is that really all you have to say?" Scar pointed in my face once more, but I really didn't have anything else to say to that.

After all, as long as people were willing to put the work in, they would be able to befriend elves. I didn't think it was that strange to be able to befriend elves.

Scar just shook his head again as he said, "You've somehow managed to open up relations with the elves, that is something that is very important to our country. So you could even say that you've become a very important person to our country for those that know about this."

"What?" I said in a shocked voice

I clearly did not expect him to say this.

Chapter 277 Situation Of The Capital

Scar gave a sigh again before saying, "Now you are finally starting to understand the situation you are in."

He had been able to hear the shock and disbelief in his voice, so he knew that Zwein had started to realize how special he was.

But I just said, "How is becoming friends with the elves that important? The elves keep to themselves anyway, so it isn't as if it would change anything if I become friends with them."

Scar revealed a serious look and said, "The elves have many secrets that we humans don't know about. They are also powerful users and they have created many special items that we just have no knowledge of."

I just gave a simple nod in response to this, but for some reason that just served to provoke Scar.

He pointed at me and said, "You're still nodding like this? Like it doesn't concern you?"

I didn't know what to say since I really didn't understand what was so important about this.

Scar could see that from the expression on my face, so he shook his head again and said, "Just the fact that you've been able to create a way to contact the elves is big enough. We've never even managed that since they've always avoided contact with us other than the occasional traveling elf."

The more that he spoke, the more I began to understand.

It seemed that this trip to the capital wouldn't be as simple as meeting the king, but rather there would be other nobles and royals that would try to pull me to their side.

After all, if they were able to get the special items of the elven race through me...their power would increase and they would have more influence.

Seeing the changing look on my face, Scar finally gave a sigh and said, "At least you're starting to understand."

I just gave a simple nod in response to this.

Seeing this, he revealed a smile and said, "Good, good, it seems that we can teach you common sense yet."

Shaka also let out a sigh of relief.

After all, as long as Zwein lacked common sense, it was him and his men that were put in the most danger.

He was happy to fight a demon since it meant keeping the kingdom safe, but fighting one every week at this point...it really was a bit too much even for him.

He wouldn't last at this rate...

Seeing that he finally had an effect on him, Scar then said, "Let me give you some good information then. You should at least learn the situation of the capital before we arrive so you can plan for yourself what you want to do."

This time, I didn't just casually nod along, but rather gave a serious nod.

That was because I knew that this would be actual important information for me.

The more I knew about the ones that I would be dealing with, the better I would be able to handle them.

So I carefully listened to what Scar had to say.

In my heart, I felt a bit of gratitude since I could feel the care that a boss had for his subordinate in his words. After all, he had specifically come all this way just to tell me all of this, so I would listen carefully.

Scar's first words weren't that surprising, "There's currently a power struggle in the capital. It's between the first prince and the second prince on who will take the throne."

I wasn't surprised at all since this was also in the game.

There was a main quest that involved competing for imperial power and that ended with the main character marrying the princess and taking the throne. It was a very intriguing plot that had involved both the first and second prince, but there was also a part of the plot that no one had expected. I think you should take a look at

Scar had paused for dramatic effect, but seeing that I wasn't as surprised, he continued, "There are many nobles that are flocking to the sides of the first and second prince, but there are also many nobles that are remaining neutral. The ones that are neutral might contact you so that they can use you to keep their neutrality, but you should expect more proactive contact from the nobles under the first and second prince. There's even a chance that either the first or second prince might contact you directly."

I gave a simple nod in response to this since this was all within my expectations.

Scar couldn't help feeling a bit annoyed with the way that I lacked a reaction, so he said, "You should know that the prime minister is supporting the first prince and the captain of the imperial guards is supporting the second prince. This is a fight between literary talents and military talents."

Once again, I just gave a simple nod since this was all knowledge that I already knew.

In fact, I knew that there was someone else who I should be more wary of because that person was amassing power in secret. So far, that person should already have power that surpassed both the first and second prince.

But that person wasn't making a move because unless they were confident they would win, they wouldn't act.

Right now, they were even plotting against their own father who controlled the power of the kingdom.

I didn't mind this kind of plot, but it would without a doubt destroy the peaceful life that I had wanted to build for myself...so I couldn't help hesitating on getting involved.

But then I made up my mind as I thought it through.

At this point, it didn't matter if I was willing to get involved or not since they were planning on dragging me into this in the first place. Even if I wanted to keep my distance, it was already too late since I had gotten involved in Shadow Garden.

They were the hands of the king after all.

So I couldn't help feeling both annoyed with and grateful towards Scar.

He had dragged me into this, but at least he was trying to take responsibility.

He really was a boss that cared about his subordinates, that was his one redeeming feature.

So I said, "Thank you for this information. I'll be careful."

Seeing the look in my eyes, Scar no longer looked as worried as before. He could see that I had already come up with my own plans, so there was no need for him to worry anymore.

So he just patted me on the shoulder and said with a sigh, "I know you will."

Then he suddenly revealed a smile as he said, "That's right, I heard about what happened in Bright Water City."

I couldn't help revealing a confused look as I didn't understand what he was trying to say, but his next words made it clear.

"It seems like Big Purple really was the right name for you." As he said this, he looked at me with a knowing smile.

But three black lines appeared on my face right away.

I turned to glare at Shaka, but he turned away and gave a cough.

It was clear that he had been the one that had reported this, but this was too much!

He could have left that part out!

I turned back and said in an exasperated voice, "It isn't what you think..."

Chapter 278 Surprise Drop In

After staying in that town for two days to relax and finally being given a chance to stretch my feet, we headed off to the capital.

In a sense, this was like a final meal before an execution.

A little bit of fun before I was thrown into the whirlpool of politics that was the capital.

In a sense, this was the bit of kindness that Scar was showing me.

But the capital did await and the one waiting for us was the king...so we had to go in the end.

The town that we picked Scar up in wasn't that far from the capital in the first place. It was considered the closest town to the capital and only existed because of a hot spring that was found there.

So this was by all means a tourist attraction.

We had fully enjoyed the hot springs though I did receive a few strange looks in the hot springs itself. Especially towards my lower half which I did my best to cover up...

We had set off in the morning, so when we arrived in the capital, it was already the evening and the gates were about to close.

We were among the last ones that were allowed to line up to enter the capital.

There were others behind us and even others in front of us that were rejected, but we had been allowed to enter the queue because of the special orders that we had. The guards that were about to chase us away stopped when they saw the token that Scar flashed them.

There was a look of understanding and they waved us into the queue to the dismay of the other travelers.

There were even some that had wanted to argue about this, but the guards quickly sent them away without any qualms. They even threatened to use force and lock them up if they kept complaining.

So as they left, they couldn't help looking at us with strange looks as if they were wondering who we were.

But these were commoners, so it didn't matter if they were curious.

They just headed to the inns that were outside of the city for those that couldn't make it into the city gates in time.

Of course, there was one that had snuck into our carriage during this time.

Scar and Shaka had wanted to do something about them, but I stopped them. Both of them looked at me with confused looks, but I just simply shook my head to show them that it was fine.

Since they didn't want to make a fuss, they decided to just go along with what I had in mind.

As I noticed the slender figure hiding in the back, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile.

That was because no matter how she tried to hide herself, I would recognize her immediately.

I had seen her many times in the game world and had even seen her naked CG, so I would recognize her body anywhere.

For now though, I will keep silent.

As we moved closer and closer to the city gate, the one that was hiding in the back seemed to get more and more nervous that she would get discovered by the guards.

However, when it was our turn, the one hiding in the back realized that all of this worry was useless.

When the guards came up, the captain personally came over to inspect our carriage.

But in truth, all he did was wait for Scar to flash the same thing as before and then he passed something over to Scar.

With that, we were allowed to enter the city without any trouble.

I kept the carriage going for a bit before stopping beside an alley and saying, "I think it's time for you to get out, isn't it?"

When the one hiding in the back heard this, she couldn't help trembling.

She had thought that she had hidden herself quite well that no one would be able to find her, but it turned out that this wasn't the case. They had known about her all along and had chosen to help sneak her in.

Since they had been so frank and kind, there was no need for her to show any suspicion towards them.

The slender figure jumped out of the carriage and gave a slight bow before she said in an oriole like voice, "Thank you for helping me. If there is a chance, I will repay you for this favour."

When she looked back up, she couldn't help being shocked by the face that was in front of her.

The two old men she completely ignored, but the handsome young face in front of her swept her off her feet.

She couldn't help stumbling a bit before asking, "This sir, may I ask what your name is?"

I just shook my head with a smile and said, "If we're fated, we will meet again."

The last time I had used that line, it bit me in the butt...would it be the same this time?

But without hesitation, I started driving the carriage away.

As we were leaving, Scar couldn't help narrowing his eyes to look at the slender figure.

The confused look on his face slowly started to change as if filled with more and more shock.

He turned back to look at me before asking, "Did you know that it was her?"

I slowly gave a nod.

Scar looked at me with a very strange look as he asked, "You've never been to the capital before, so how did you know?"

I just revealed a bitter smile without explaining anything.

After all, I had seen her in the game before...

I had not only seen her countless times in the game, I had even seen her naked CG in the game...but it wasn't as if I could say that out loud.

Scar just looked at me with the same strange look and asked, "Are you sure we should have left her there?"

This time, I gave a nod and said, "Her guards are already here, so there's no need to worry."

Scar looked at Shaka and he gave a nod to confirm this.

Then he gave a sigh and said, "Let's forget this ever happened, understood?"

Both me and Shaka gave a nod in response.

Chapter 279 Meeting Nobles (1)

The carriage headed through the city as per Scar's directions.

Eventually, we arrived at a neighbourhood that was very luxurious and clean.

This was the neighbourhood that was specially made for the nobles, so it was a place that commoners couldn't come to. Naturally this place was kept very clean by the people that were hired by the nobles that ran this place.

The inn that we arrived at was also a very luxurious and clean one, but this inn was a bit special.

That was because as soon as we arrived, we were immediately welcomed by the staff of the inn.

The note that the captain of the guard at the gate had handed us were directions to this inn.

So it could be said that this inn had been specially prepared to welcome us.

But things didn't seem as beautiful as it did on the surface. After all, no one would book an entire inn just to welcome us without any ulterior motives.

Scar had been hesitating about whether to come to this inn or not, but I had been curious about who had called us here. There was nothing to lose from meeting this person, rather I would be able to get more information from meeting them than avoiding them.

However, the person that had called us here didn't reveal themselves right away.

The staff just welcomed us and then guided us to our rooms.

Naturally, the rooms that we were given were separate.

"They want to separate us, huh?" I said under my breath.

Scar knitted his brows when he saw this, but I waved my hand to show that it was fine.

So in the end, Scar and Shaka took the rooms on the left and right while leaving the room in the middle to me.

Just like this, we were able to get a proper night's rest.

The problems came the following morning.

When we came down to the inn's restaurant for breakfast, we found that there were already several people that were sitting there. Based on the clothes that they were wearing, it was clear that not a single one of them had a simple status.

In fact, they even watched us out of the corner of their eyes when we came in.

It was clear that we were the center of attention in this restaurant.

Though that really wasn't strange since Scar had already explained what the situation would be like in the capital. It was also the reason why we had accepted the invite in the first place.

When we arrived at the table, we found that there were already people sitting there waiting for us. With the way that they sat on opposite sides of the table, it was clear that they didn't get along with each other.

I narrowed my eyes to look at the two sides before sitting down without any fear. Shaka and Scar on the other hand hesitated a bit before sitting down beside me.

The ones on my right were the ones to speak first. Their representative was a balding middle aged man who looked like a typical noble. I think you should take a look at

No, with his appearance, he looked like one of those nobles that looked friendly but turned out to be evil in the end. Though I really couldn't say he was evil, that was just the feeling that I got from him.

It was confirmed when he spoke that he really did have this kind of personality.

"Baron Zwein, it is an honour to meet you. I've long heard about your name and I must say that I am not disappointed." This balding middle aged man said with a friendly smile on his face.

However, the only thing that passed through my mind was...

Snake.

That was the only way that I could see him because I recognized this kind of behaviour.

After all, I once had a friend that was very similar to this balding middle aged man, so I knew what to look for when it came to people like this. And by friend...I naturally meant someone from my past life...

The most important thing was their eyes.

No matter how well they tried to hide it, it would be impossible to hide it completely in their eyes. People like this would always have a strange sense of pride and you could see it right away when you looked into their eyes.

The balding middle aged man reached his hands out towards me as if offering me a handshake, but then there was a snort that rang out.

The balding middle aged man looked in the direction of that snort and it came from the other party at this table.

This person was a rough looking muscular man who also didn't seem that young. However, there was a powerful aura around him that made it clear that he was someone from the military.

The balding middle aged man glared at the person who had given a snort, but then he turned back to me with the same smile on his face as he waited for me to take his hand.

However, I didn't take that hand as I had turned to look at the rough looking man.

Seeing that I was looking at him, he gave a slight nod and said, "It's a pleasure to meet you."

It was surprising how fast he was able to change from one tone to another, but unlike the balding middle aged man, it actually seemed genuine. No matter how you looked at it, this was the classic case of the difference between a minister and a general.

It also made it clear who had sent these groups to come and see me.

Right now, I would have to say that I preferred the muscular man over the balding middle aged man.

Especially since when the balding middle aged man saw that I didn't take his hand, there was a glint that appeared in his eyes. I would have missed it if I hadn't been paying attention to him out of the corner of my eyes, but I had seen it.

Still, I didn't act flustered and just calmly took the menu before giving my order to the waiter.

Both the muscular man and the balding middle aged man looked at me with strange looks when they saw this.

But then they quickly adjusted themselves and looked at me with inquisitive looks as if they had misjudged me.

I was also judging them though.

Chapter 280 Meeting Nobles (2)

After the food was brought, I ignored the two of them and just slowly enjoyed my meal.

Since I was acting calm and collected, they couldn't say anything and also ordered food to go along with me.

The balding middle aged man tried to talk to me during the meal, but he gave up after all he got were non-committal answers. The muscular man just calmly ate his meal without making much sound.

After I finished the meal, I still didn't acknowledge them as I ordered dessert.

At this point, it wasn't just the people at the table that were feeling uncomfortable, it was also the people around who were feeling uncomfortable.

These were people that had wanted to talk to me as well, but they had no choice but to give up this idea when they saw the ones that were already sitting at our table. These people already at the table had much higher statuses, so they couldn't just barge in or they would suffer consequences.

But they didn't want to leave that quickly either, so they sat nearby to see if they could get any useful information.

However, right now, I just made everyone feel uncomfortable.

The kitchen didn't take long to prepare our desserts since they knew what kind of people were waiting.

They might not know me, but they knew who the balding middle aged man and the muscular man were.

If they dared delay, it would become a matter of life and death.

So they rushed the dishes out as quickly as possible while also making sure to maintain the quality of the food.

I could really tell that the kitchen was trying their best since the food that they made was quite delicious. This had been one of the best meals that I had in my entire life, even including my past life.

It was just that I didn't enjoy what would come next.

After dessert, I also ordered a coffee that was brought over right away.

I slowly stirred the sugar cubes that I dropped into the coffee until they dissolved before taking a sip while deliberately looking at the two groups to both of my sides.

When I put the coffee down, I finally said, "What are you here for?"

When they heard this, both the balding middle aged man and the muscular man couldn't help being taken aback by how abrupt I was. However, I was happy to see this since this was all part of my strategy.

There was a reason behind everything that I had done so far.

I had deliberately kept them waiting and made them uncomfortable with this just so I could catch them off guard with this sudden question.

As for why I knew they wouldn't leave...I could see it from their faces.

Even though I ignored them like this, they hadn't reacted at all.

It was most likely because they were feeling the pressure from the ones above them that forced them to stay even if they felt that they had been disrespected.

So I had capitalized on that.

The one to react first was the balding middle aged man. I think you should take a look at

He was someone who was knee deep in the world of politics, so he was familiar with tricks like this. He was able to keep his mind firm and focus on the task at hand, so he said, "I've come here today to befriend your lordship. I feel that we have a lot in common and can learn from one another."

I narrowed my eyes to look at him before nonchalantly saying, "Is that so?"

The balding middle aged man just looked back at me with the same smile on his face.

Seeing this, I turned and looked at the muscular man without giving him an answer.

I could see out of the corner of my eyes that the eyes of the balding middle aged man narrowed slightly, but he also quickly restored the smile on his face.

The muscular man looked right into my eyes as I stared at him before saying, "I wish to thank you for what you've done. The demons couldn't have been easy to find and defeat. Your actions have saved many lives in our kingdom."

After he said this, he put his hands on the table and gave a slight bow.

This time, it was my turn to be surprised since I didn't expect this muscular man to suddenly say this. But I had gotten much better at controlling my expression after everything that I had been through. So even if I was surprised by this, there was the same calm expression on my face.

I gave a nod in response to this before turning to look at both of them again.

There was an awkward silence that filled the air once more, but no one said a single thing.

After all, no one was willing to expose their cards early.

But in the end, the balding middle aged man finally couldn't take it anymore as he opened his mouth to say something.

I beat him to the chase and said, "Who are the masters that you work for?"

Once again, both of them couldn't help revealing shocked looks since they never thought that I would be so direct with this.

Even the muscular man had thought that I would beat around the bush a bit instead of asking this directly.

But I knew that this was what they had expected, so I knew that it was better to be direct.

Sometimes, thinking too much would make one lose sight of the overall picture.

I knew that the strategist would be his own downfall when overestimating their enemies too much.

So the best way to catch them off guard was to keep it nice and simple.

That was what was happening now.

Both the balding middle aged man and the muscular man looked at each other with strange looks before falling into silence.

Neither of them seemed like they were willing to say a thing.

So it was just silent in this restaurant.