

## **Shota 291**

### Chapter 291 Royal Audience (7)

The voice that the king said this in wasn't loud or soft, but there was no doubting the power that was behind it.

This was the voice of one that had the power to rule over this kingdom completely, so it was not something that was easily tarnished.

As soon as his voice rang out, all of the ministers and generals trembled.

Then without any hesitation, all of them fell to one knee and bowed their heads in fear, as they waited for what the king would say next.

The ones that felt the most fear were naturally Marquis Bloom and Scar who had been the ones arguing in front of the king.

They were afraid that they had provoked the king's anger and what this would mean for them.

But in the end, all the king said was, "Leave this matter. Viscount Zwein works for the Shadow Garden organization, so unless there's an absolute need, he will keep working there. If there are any departments that wish to ask for his help, they may send a direct request to me. If it's a worthy request, I will naturally not reject it."

Once his words fell, all of the ministers and generals revealed bitter looks on their faces.

Even if they were fools, they would be able to understand the meaning behind his words.

With the way that the king had said this, it was clear that he had already decided to protect Viscount Zwein.

Even if they were to submit a request for this matter, it was very likely that this request would be ignored or denied.

But this was an important matter and they wouldn't give up on it so easily...

So the ministers and generals exchanged secret glances as they started to come up with a plan to handle this matter.

The main gist of their plan was that they would all submit requests at the same time to the king. With all of these requests coming in at the same time, they believed that even the king wouldn't be able to reject all of them with their combined influence.

At the same time, they were preparing to call in even more nobles to make requests with them.

This was one of those times where numbers did matter.

For now, they would bide their time and wait to send those requests. Once they had enough people, it was only a matter of time before this Viscount Zwein fell into their hands, even if the king wanted to protect him.

Since the king had spoken, no one dared to go against him.

After a long silence, everyone said, "Yes, your majesty."

Hearing this, the king gave a satisfied nod before saying, "Then we'll end things here."

"Yes, your majesty." Everyone said once again before waiting for the king to leave.

At an event like this, naturally the first one to leave was the most important person.

If anyone dared to leave before him, that would be considered insulting that person.

So they all kneeled there waiting for the king to leave.

They could have stood up and bowed instead, but they kept kneeling since they were afraid of what mood the king was in. After all, they had heard the tone that he had spoken in just now.

But the king didn't leave right away.

Instead, he just looked at me with an interested look.

As I kneeled there, I could feel his gaze on me. I think you should take a look at

But in the end, he still turned to leave through the side entrance that was only used by him.

After the king was gone, everyone still waited for a while before slowly standing up and letting out sighs of relief.

The ministers and generals didn't leave right away and started gathering together, as if they were discussing things in private.

As they discussed, I could hear a few things that they were saying and I could feel their gazes directed at me. I wasn't a fool, so I could easily tell that they were talking about me.

But I did all that I could to ignore this as I went over to Shaka and Scar's side.

The three of us exchanged glances before quickly leaving this place.

We were the center of attention right now and that was never a good thing. It was best if we left this place as soon as possible.

Even as we left, I could still feel the gazes of the nobles on me.

It was clear that this matter wouldn't be over yet...

They definitely wouldn't drop this matter...

...

A beautiful young girl was sitting there in this luxurious room with one hand holding her cheek as she stared out the window at the beautiful city beneath her.

However, even with this beautiful scenery in front of her, her eyes weren't focused at all.

It was as if instead of this scenery, there was something else that was on her mind.

After staring out for a bit, she couldn't help suddenly giving a sigh.

But then, there was a click that came from behind her as the door to this room suddenly opened.

When she turned to see who it was that came in without even announcing themselves, she immediately revealed a smile as she said, "Papa!"

The beautiful girl stood up and ran over to the man that walked in before jumping into his arms.

The man also revealed a smile as he took this beautiful girl in his arms.

After letting her hug him, he patted her on the head and said, "Now, now, stop playing around."

The girl reluctantly moved away but she moved away in the end. Then she asked with a sly look on her face, "How did the royal audience go?"

The man gave a sigh before shaking his head to say, "I might have played around a bit too much."

The girl covered her mouth as she said, "He, he, papa really doesn't hold back when he plays around."

The man revealed a proud look as he said, "Your papa will never hold back when playing around."

The two of them seemed like a normal pair of father and daughter, but if one looked carefully...they would see a set of crowns on their heads.

These two were the king and the princess.

#### Chapter 292 Father And Daughter

After laughing for a bit, the princess still said with a slightly worried look, "But if you play around too much, that might still drive them away. Are you sure that you didn't go too far?"

The king shook his head as he said, "I've already given him enough benefits that he won't be able to run even if he wanted to. Plus, he's now the center of attention in the entire court, so there's nowhere for him to run."

Seeing the look on her father's face, the princess even felt a bit sorry for that person.

With a sigh, she said, "Father, if you bully him too much, won't you break his confidence?"

The king just casually gave a snort and said, "Who told him to raise all this trouble? If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have had to work so hard these past few weeks."

The princess just shook her head with a smile that seemed like she found this all funny, but then she said with a serious look, "But it is a fact that there are more and more demons appearing in our kingdom, isn't it?"

The king was silent for a bit before saying, "It's just small tricks that they're playing, they won't be able to do anything to our kingdom."

The princess revealed a look that showed that she clearly thought differently, but she didn't say anything else. Instead, she said with a sigh, "First brother and second brother really are going at it, aren't they? Why can't we just be a family?"

The king shook his head with a sigh as well, but he didn't say anything since he knew that this was impossible.

As the former crown prince, he knew the struggles of the succession race, so he knew that it was impossible for his sons to settle down.

But these were his sons, the children that he had cared for since they were young.

To him, they were precious and important, so he didn't want to see them fighting like this.

For this, he had come up with a plan that would minimize casualties...but he also knew that it was impossible for this to be settled quietly.

The succession race could and would only become more and more explosive.

Eventually...death might even be inevitable.

But for now, he didn't want to think about this...so the king changed the topic by saying, "You've been going out to play a lot lately. Did you really think that I wouldn't notice?"

The princess trembled when she heard this, but then she looked away and gave an innocent whistle before saying, "I have no idea what you're talking about. I've never gone out to play once, I've been studying all this time."

The king shook his head and gave a sigh before saying, "Did you really think that I wouldn't find out? Or did you think that your guards wouldn't say a thing? Who do you think is the king?"

When she heard this, the princess revealed an aggrieved look.

She had already sworn those guards to secrecy, but it seemed like they hadn't kept their vow at all. The moment that her back was turned, they had immediately gone against her and told her father. I think you should take a look at

It seemed like she needed to punish those guards once her father left.

At the same time...she needed to go find her fourth brother for an explanation.

After all, it was her fourth brother who had assigned these guards to her in the first place.

She had even done him a favour to make sure that he gave her guards that would help her keep this secret for her. But now they went and stabbed her in the back like this, so he couldn't avoid taking responsibility for this.

After a long moment of silence to complain in her mind, the princess finally said, "It's so stuffy staying in the palace all day, you should know that, royal father. I just wanted to go out and see the city."

"See the city?" The king repeated after her with one brow raised.

When the princess heard this, she couldn't help jolting again.

After all, the way that the king said this, it almost seemed like he knew more than he was revealing.

The princess carefully looked at the king as if she was trying to figure out just what he knew, but the king had a calm look on his face that didn't reveal a single thing.

Finally, she gave a sigh and said, "I just snuck out of the city a few times and went to the surrounding villages. I just wanted to see what the lives of the people in the villages were like."

The king revealed a bitter smile when he heard this, but then he gave a sigh to calm himself down before revealing a serious look, "You should know how dangerous it is outside of the capital. It's not that I don't understand what you're thinking, but you always take the most dangerous path. It's not safe out there with all those monsters and you know it."

The princess pouted her lips as she muttered, "If I didn't sneak out, who knows when I would be able to see the villages?"

The king once again revealed a bitter smile as he said, "But there are better ways than sneaking out. I can arrange for a visit to those villages if you want or we can find a better solution. All you're doing is causing worry for your mother by sneaking out like this."

The princess pouted her lips even more as she said, "If I go with all those guards, how will I be able to see the villages in their true form? They'll be too scared to even walk with all those royal guards."

The king just gave a sigh before patting her on the head, "It's for your own good, I will not budge on that."

The princess kept pouting her lips without saying a thing.

That is until the king suddenly asked, "So, what do you like about him?"

When she heard these words, the princess' eyes opened wide and she looked at him with a shocked gaze.

The king said with a smile, "Did you really think that I wouldn't notice?"

Chapter 293 Reporting Back



A blush came over the princess' face when she heard this and she lowered her head in shame.

But then a soft voice suddenly rang out, "How did you notice?"

The king just said with the same smile, "You're my daughter, did you really think that I wouldn't notice?"

The princess lowered her head even more when she heard this, but in the end, she still said, "I don't know..."

The king shook his head with a sigh before saying, "Then I guess I can't help you."

The princess quickly looked up with sparkling eyes when she heard this before saying, "Royal father, do you really mean it?"

The king gave a sigh when he saw this.

This was his only daughter, the gem of his eye.

If possible, he didn't want her to leave his side at all...but he knew that it would come eventually.

So if it would come, he would do all he could to prepare for it. He would never hand his precious daughter to anyone that he wouldn't approve of.

And the one that his daughter had fallen for...could barely be said to pass his standards.

But in the end, he still gave a nod in response.

Seeing this, the princess started going into detail about what she thought of that person.

"He seemed mysterious at first, but when I learned more and more about him, I realized that he was..."

The king just revealed a bitter smile as he sat down to listen to his daughter brag about another man.

This was like being stabbed in his heart again and again by countless blades.

There was truly nothing more painful than listening to one's daughter praise another man like this.

...

After leaving the palace, we didn't leave right away.

Instead, we went to the same old bookstore from before and took the same secret entrance to head back into the palace.

Waiting there in that office for us was the same bunny doll.

Seeing us come in, he waved at us to sit down on the couch in the reception area before asking, "What happened?"

Though he asked this like it was a general question, it was clear that this question was directed at me.

As the leader of the Shadow Garden, the biggest information organization in this kingdom, it should have been easy for him to get a report on what had happened at the royal audience. In fact, he should have even been invited and would have gone if not for his personal problems.

Of course, what he was talking about was...the viscount issue and the coat of arms.

So both Scar and Shaka looked at me as well as they waited to hear an explanation. I think you should take a look at

All I gave them was a shrug and a simple 'I don't know'.

That was because it was true, I really didn't know what was happening right now.

I had only thought that I would be called in to give my report, but then before I could react, I had been given this title and this coat of arms.

I was the one that wanted to question someone, but the other side was the king...so what could I do?

It wasn't as if I could grab the king and question him, right?

There was a silence that followed after I gave this explanation, but then Bunny Boss said with a sigh, "Alright, let's forget about this then. At the very least, you need to stay in the capital for a few days now."

"Huh?" I said in a confused voice before asking, "Why do I need to stay in the capital for a few days?"

Bunny Boss just calmly explained, "Now that you're the center of attention, do you really think that you can go wherever you want? If you leave the capital now, it's not certain that you won't be kidnapped."

I couldn't help jolting when I heard this.

That was right, those ministers and generals clearly wanted something from him and they had been very aggressive about it. It would make sense that they would do something if he left the capital without any guards.

So what Bunny Boss was saying was to stay in the capital for now so that they could protect him during this time. Then once the heat around him died down, he would be able to return while everyone's attention was on someone else.

In the busy capital of this kingdom, what was in the spotlight would change in just a few days, which was why Boss Bunny told him to stay for a few days.

I looked at the bunny doll at the desk with a touched look as I said, "Boss..."

The bunny doll revealed a smile and said, "I have to take care of my subordinates at the very least, right?"

But I could tell from the way that he looked at me, it was clear that he wanted something else as well.

Shadow Garden wasn't made up of people who had no desires.

They would also want benefits and I had something that made them want to protect me.

I didn't know what it was, but I knew that it was better to trust the ones that I already knew than people that I didn't. Since I had done quite a bit for Shadow Garden, it wasn't as if they would toss me away right away.

So it was better to trust them for now.

After settling this, Boss Bunny then said, "Also, you should take this time to talk to some of the other nobles while you're here."

I once again revealed a confused look since I had been planning on living the hikki life by staying in my inn during my time here.

Boss Bunny saw the look on my face, so he said, "It's better to build a few relationships where you can. Then at least you'll have a few allies, won't you?"

After thinking about it, I realized that he was right.

My plan was valid, but his idea was better. It was all about walking the fine line and getting to know just enough people that didn't have ill intentions towards me that would be able to help me in the future.

So with this, I said with a sigh, "I'll try."

## Chapter 294 First Dangerous Visitor

When I returned to the inn, the first thing that I did was fall flat on the bed.

Even though it was only the afternoon, I felt like I was completely drained of all energy.

After all, with all that I had gone through, this wasn't that strange.

I wished that there were a few more of me so that I wouldn't have to deal with these nobles anymore...but I did have to keep talking to them since Bunny Boss was right. It would be good to create a few allies that I could trust while I was here so that I could deal with what would come in the future.

Especially when the Shadow Garden organization crashed one day.

But for now...I would hide in my room.

As a hikki in my past life, I could be considered an introverted person.

While I was fine dealing with people, I did need some time to recharge by myself or I would crash.

It was fine if I took today off, I would go make friends tomorrow.

Normally at this point, some mother figure would come in and tear the blankets off me while telling me to go out, but that didn't happen here.

After taking the rest of the day off, I was much more recharged the next morning.

I even had a smile on my face as I came down to breakfast, but that smile quickly disappeared when I saw who was waiting at my table today.

This was a face that I recognized from the game...so I knew exactly who this person was.

But Scar still said, "This is the minister of the agricultural department, Viscount Stark."

The agricultural department, this was a department that was in charge of the agriculture of the kingdom. It could be considered one of the important departments in the kingdom, but with how prosperous the kingdom has been in the past decades, its importance had slowly fallen off.

After all, if the kingdom's agriculture never suffered and people never lacked food, there was no need for them to manage anything.

So those that took the position as the minister of the agricultural department were those that were considered to be in training for the future. Or it was a position that was taken by a minister that had fallen out of power.

Of course, this Viscount Stark wasn't one of those people.

Viscount Stark's father was Duke Stark who had done what he could to get his son this position for training.

There wasn't much to do at the agricultural department other than making sure that the grain stockpiles were filled and that the taxes were paid. So it could be considered quite the comfy and cushy job.

But in terms of prestige, Viscount Stark shouldn't have had enough that these other nobles would give this seat to him. Or at least that was what it was if they just looked at his prestige alone.

Above Viscount Stark was Duke Stark, who was from one of the founding families of this kingdom.

He controlled a large territory with a large family just like the Beauchamp Ducal Family, so they had to give respect to Viscount Stark. I think you should take a look at

At the same time, they didn't mind giving this respect since it meant that none of the princes' envoys would be able to talk to Baron...no, Viscount Zwein. In a sense, this was a deadlock. After all, it was well known that Viscount Stark and the Stark Family as a whole were in the neutral faction who didn't back any princes.

But I knew better than them...

I knew that Viscount Stark was backing a prince even if the Stark Family wasn't.

After all, in the game, Viscount Stark had been one of the prince's right hand man.

He might be in the agricultural department now, but Viscount Stark was a monster in his own right. He was someone who had all kinds of dirty tricks that he could use to destroy his enemies without a single trace being connected to him.

So he was someone that no one would ever want to offend.

Viscount Stark was under the fourth prince, the most terrifying prince of them all.

I had no idea how much power the current Viscount Stark had, but I didn't dare underestimate him.

The problem was...he had come to see me.

Was he here on behalf of the fourth prince or was he here for something else?

If I had my way, I would never come in contact with him, but since he had come to see me...I had no choice in this matter.

To even make matters worse, when he saw me, he waved his hand at me as if he was trying to catch my attention.

When he made things clear, it wasn't as if I could just ignore him anymore.

So taking a deep breath, I walked over to the table and sat down across from Viscount Stark.

Viscount Stark didn't say anything to me and just turned to the waiter, giving him a nod.

Not long after, the waiter brought over a buffet of dishes that he placed in front of us.

There were all kinds of dishes that were brought out and placed on the table, but there was so much of it that it was clear that the four of us would never be able to finish it alone.

However, Viscount Stark didn't seem to care as he just had the waiter bring everything out.

Of course, for someone that came from a ducal family like him, this bit of food really wasn't anything even if this was one of the most expensive restaurants in the city.

It was nothing more than a drop in the bucket for someone like him.

Once the waiter finished bringing out all the food, Viscount Stark just gave a wave of the hand to dismiss him before turning back to look in my direction with a smile on his face.

He said in a natural voice, "Viscount Zwein, I've been looking forward to meeting you."

Chapter 295 Second 'Friend'

When I heard his voice, I couldn't help trembling.



This was the voice that I had heard before in the game, a voice that had almost become a trauma for me with how many times I had fallen for his plots.

This was a voice that I never wanted to hear again after I had perfect cleared the game...

But now, here was this person sitting in front of me, speaking with this voice.

I really wanted to reveal a bitter smile, but I forced myself to have a neutral expression on my face.

I calmly said, "Viscount Stark, I've long heard of your name as well. It's an honour to meet you."

Viscount Stark raised a brow when he heard this, but then looking at Scar and Shaka sitting beside me, he revealed a faint smile.

That's right, he was thinking that I had heard about him from the Shadow Garden operatives beside me. But what he didn't know was that I knew much more about him than most people did...

Still, I had no reason to expose myself since it would only end poorly for me if I did.

So I just calmly waited to see what he was planning on doing.

Viscount Stark's expression quickly returned to normal, he even revealed an amused look as he said, "I never thought that someone as unforgettable as me would be able to attract the attention of the most popular person in the capital right now. It really is my honour."

I really wanted to laugh in his face when he said this.

Unforgettable?

I was sure that I would be having nightmares about all the times that I had suffered at your hands tonight...

I wouldn't say that you were unforgettable.

But of course, that only applied to me.

For other people, they wouldn't know about all the things that he would do in the future.

I just gave a polite laugh as if I was playing along with his joke before saying, "I wonder, does Lord Stark have something you need from me? Or is this just simply a courtesy call?"

Viscount Stark wasn't bothered by this direct question at all as he kept the same smile on his face.

He just calmly said, "I would like to say that this is a courtesy call, but it would be a lie to say that this wasn't related to work at all."

I just raised a brow and waited for him to explain.

Viscount Stark cleared his throat and said, "You should know that at our agriculture department, we have to think of ways to promote plant growth just in case disease or famine strikes. I've heard that the elves have all kinds of nature that they can use that will help plants grow. So I was wondering if Lord Zwein could..."

He left his sentence hanging, but it was very clear what he was implying.

When I heard this, I narrowed my eyes to look at him as if trying to figure out something. But then I gave a nod and said, "Alright, since this is for the good of the people, I will help you ask about this." I think you should take a look at

Viscount Stark couldn't help revealing a surprised look when he heard this, but then he said with a smile, "I'm glad that Lord Zwein is as friendly as I've heard. I was worried about what your response might be, but it seemed that worry was all for nothing."

I just said with a smile, "Well, I can't call myself friendly, but if it's for the good of the people, I have to do my part. Don't you guys think so as well?"

This time, I was speaking to Shaka and Scar who had already started eating.

They had wanted to hide themselves while eating, but I wouldn't allow that to happen.

If I had to deal with him, then I wouldn't spare them.

Both of them were surprised by me suddenly pulling them in, but then they just simply gave a nod before turning back to their food.

I couldn't help being surprised by just how thick their faces were.

If they were any thicker, they could be used as part of the city walls!

But before I could say anything else, Viscount Stark said, "Then I have to thank you on behalf of both our agricultural department and on behalf of the people."

I just gave a simple nod in response to this.

After all, I didn't want to continue this conversation and I wanted to use the most simple method to end it. Some might find this kind of arrogant, but I didn't care at all since I didn't want this person to like me in the first place.

I wanted as little to do with this Viscount Stark as possible.

But to my surprise...he didn't care about it either.

Instead of acting offended like one might expect, he just calmly said, "You're quite the impressive person, aren't you?"

"Eh?" That was all I could react with, but I kept a calm look on my face as I waited for him to say just what he wanted.

Viscount Stark didn't mind that I was silent the whole time and just said, "How about we become friends? I'm sure that you'll need help in the future and I'm confident that I'll be able to provide that help."

I couldn't help shivering when I heard this.

I knew that he wasn't saying this just because he wanted to seem confident, I knew that he was saying this because he really meant it.

Of course, there weren't many people that knew just how much power he had in the first place.

Seeing that I was hesitating, Viscount Stark added, "I would very much like to have you as a friend."

The hidden implication there was the same as the fourth prince...

I would rather have you as a friend than as an enemy...

So with this, I had no choice but to make my second 'friend'.

Chapter 296 Secret Meeting

In another manor in the capital.

"It's no use! We can't stop her at all!"

"Don't run! We have to stop her for his highness!"

"Ah!"

Those were the different cries that rang out through the manor as the guards tried to stop the intruder. However, no matter how they tried, they weren't able to stop the intruder at all.

That was because...they didn't dare touch her.

There wasn't a single guard that dared lay a single finger on this intruder because they knew that they would be dead if they did.

The princess slowly made her way through the manor, throwing aside all the guards that tried to block the way. No matter how firmly they tried to hold on, they found that they were no match at all for the strength of the princess.

All they could do was let her throw them like ragdolls until her rampage was over.

But she was slowly getting deeper and deeper into the manor where his highness was...so they couldn't let her go any further.

However, as for touching her, they would never do that.

Even if the king didn't do anything, his highness would skin them alive if they were to even harm a single hair on this princess' head.

So they were helpless against this invader.

That was until a voice suddenly said, "Alright, that's enough! Let her through, I'll deal with her."

After this voice fell, there was an exasperated sigh that followed.

As soon as the guards heard this voice, they all revealed a relieved look like they had been spared an execution.

Without any hesitation, the guards all moved aside and allowed the princess to walk forward.

She looked at them with disdain before walking over to the person who spoke and saying, "Fourth brother, don't you think that your guards are just too weak? They couldn't even stop a little fragile girl like me."

When the guards heard this, they all revealed bitter smiles.

They couldn't stop her?

It wasn't that they couldn't stop her, but they didn't dare stop her.

Though they would never say that out loud since all that was waiting for them was a beating. After all, when they were being thrown around by the princess...that wasn't just a result of them not resisting.

Even if they had resisted, it was very unlikely that they could have stopped her from throwing them around like this.

What fragile little girl?

She was simply a monster in human skin!

But once again, they only dared to think this and didn't dare say it out loud. I think you should take a look at

Though if it was a real fight, it was impossible that these trained soldiers would lose against a princess. Or at least that was what they liked to think.

Though in reality, they would have to use an actual battle formation if they wanted to stop her.

The fourth prince saw the bitter smiles on the faces of his subordinates and he too revealed a bitter smile before waving his hand to dismiss his subordinates. Then he said, "Big sister, come in and have some tea."

The princess nodded with a smile on her face.

But that smile didn't last long.

After entering the fourth prince's study, she sat down without a single care like she was the owner of this place even though it was the fourth prince's study.

The maid to the side was also used to this, so she simply poured a cup of tea for the princess before moving to the side. However, the fourth prince waved his hand at her as well to dismiss her, so the maid just gave a simple bow before leaving.

Once they were alone, the fourth prince said with a sigh, "Big sister, what do you need from me?"

The princess didn't speak right away as she just simply took a sip of her tea. Then when she was done, she calmly put it down and said, "Little Betty really makes the best tea."

The fourth prince said with a helpless smile, "I'll pass those..."

Before he could finish, the princess had already slapped the table with one hand while her other hand was pointing in the fourth prince's nose as she said, "Why did you betray me?"

"Eh?" The fourth prince said in a surprised voice.

The princess then said, "You're the one that picked out the guards for me and you told me that you would only get me guards that wouldn't rat me out to our royal father. So why does he know everything that I've been doing?"

The fourth prince revealed a bitter smile when he heard this.

With a sigh, he shook his head before saying, "What did you expect me to do against royal father? It's not as if I could just say no, right?"

The princess pushed her finger even further forward until she was poking the fourth prince's nose and she said, "Little fourth, I've been good to you, right? I've never done anything bad to you, right?"

The fourth prince couldn't help giving a gulp when he heard this, but he still said, "Right..."

The princess then said, "Now that you've betrayed me like this, I wonder how I should punish you."

The fourth prince trembled when he heard this before saying, "Big sister, please be gentle..."

He knew that it was pointless to struggle, so he just straight begged for mercy.

The princess revealed a smile when she heard this. She sat back down on the sofa, pulling her arms back before saying, "Well there's a way for you to make it up to me."

When he heard this, the fourth prince couldn't help feeling a chill run down his spine. Slowly, he asked, "What...can I do for you?"

The princess' smile became wider as she said, "Well, it turns out that I need a favour from you. I need you to help me arrange something."

The fourth prince felt another chill run down his spine when he heard this, but with a sigh, he said, "Alright, I'll do what I can."

Chapter 297 Bumping Into Each Other

The next few days were quite the flurry of events.



Meeting nobles day in and day out, trying to find some people that were like minded to ally with.

I was able to find a few in the end since I had the experience from the game.

Of course, the ones that I chose were all those that belonged to the neutral faction.

The neutral faction was naturally the best for me since I didn't want to get involved in any of the politics of the capital. The less that I was involved, the less my life would be in danger.

I didn't desire that kind of power, I just wanted the ability to keep myself safe and live a peaceful life.

So staying neutral was the best.

The ones that I chose to befriend were those that weren't greedy and would have great power within the neutral faction in the future. They were weak now, but I knew what kind of opportunities they would have since there were quests affiliated with them.

When the time came, I would do those quests and make them even stronger while also building favourability with them.

It was killing three birds with one stone!

This was the power that came with knowing what would happen in the future in advance!

I was like a bird that was finally able to soar in the sky with my knowledge of the game unleashed!

Of course, I wouldn't go that far to involve myself in dangerous plots.

I made sure that the quests that I would have to do were simple ones that I could do even now. So there wouldn't be a need to worry about me being able to finish them in the future with my developed forces.

Finally, I was able to get a day off from having to deal with all those nobles.

Finally, I was able to sneak out and walk around the town without being hounded by the nobles.

But I was naturally confused why I was given this opportunity.

In fact, it was actually Scar and Shaka who had suggested that I go on this trip.

I was naturally surprised and confused by their sudden generosity, but I chose not to question it in the end. After all, if I did, then I might lose this opportunity.

I had been cooped up so long that I was about to explode, so I didn't care what scheme they had.

As I walked through the town with the cloak on me, I found that I was avoiding the attention of most people. Even if they could see me, it was as if there was something about that was drawing their attention away from me.

If I had to guess what it was, it was most likely the cloak that I was wearing.

This had to be some kind of item that caused people to turn their attention away from me.

This cloak was given to me by Scar and Shaka and I was surprised that they would give me such a valuable item.

But I was grateful that they would do all of this for me.

However, I was also very concerned by the look that they had given me when I had left the inn.

They had looked at me with pity, as if they knew what was about to happen and they felt sorry for what was about to happen...

This had filled me with a bad premonition when I left the inn.

But now it seemed like I was too worried.

That was until someone suddenly bumped into me.

I couldn't help being surprised since they shouldn't have even noticed me in the first place. But as we walked past each other, that person suddenly stumbled and bumped into me, causing both of us to fall.

With this commotion, even the of the cloak wasn't able to stop us from drawing attention.

The person that bumped into me also had a cloak on, so I couldn't see what they looked like.

However, when I heard their voice, I could tell that they were female.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to bump into you." She said in a worried voice.

Then she tried to stand up, but she just tripped over her own foot and fell atop of me again.

When she did, I could feel a soft feeling coming from my chest as she pressed up against me.

If it was the past me...I might have been caught off guard by this, but I was a changed man now. I was a man with experience, so just this alone wouldn't be enough to catch me off guard.

Though it was indeed a soft feeling...

I gave a cough before helping her off me and saying, "It's fine, it's fine. There's no harm."

The girl was still panicking and tripping over her own foot, pressing down against me, but I did get stronger with training. I was able to help her stand up in the end.

Once we were standing there, I noticed that people had started to gather to see what the commotion was about.

This was the last thing that I wanted since I didn't want to attract more attention than I needed to. I had snuck out after all and if people were to gather, it might expose my identity.

So I took the girl's hand and said, "Shall we leave now? I think that we're attracting a crowd."

When the girl saw that I took her hand, she couldn't help jolting, but then she gave a slow nod to show that she agreed.

I didn't have time to think too much about it since I could see that the crowd was gathering around us.

So I pulled her by her hand and ran out of the area, pushing through the crowds that had gathered.

There were some people that had wanted to come forward to stop us since they saw a person pulling someone else away, but those people were stopped by others hiding in the crowd.

Under the cloak, the girl revealed a faint smile as she followed him.

Chapter 298 Hard To Speak

I kept running for a bit until I was certain that there was no one following us.

Only then did I come to a stop while catching my breath.

When I finally caught my breath, I realized my mistake and quickly let go of the girl's hand.

As I did so, the girl couldn't help revealing a disappointed look under her cloak.

Taking a deep breath to calm myself down, I said, "I'm sorry about what happened earlier. I shouldn't have grabbed your hand like that."

The girl shook her head and said, "No, it was my fault in the first place for bumping into you. If it wasn't for me, then none of that would have happened."

I had to agree with this, but I held myself back from showing any signs of this. After all, I knew that I would hurt this girl's feelings if I did that and I had no reason to hurt the feelings of a girl that I randomly met.

Since I had already finished explaining, then there was no reason for me to say anything else.

It was still my precious free day, so I couldn't just waste it here.

I casually said, "Then since that's resolved, I'll be leaving. I hope that you have a nice..."

Before I could finish, the girl suddenly grabbed my hand again and said, "Wait, let me treat you to make up for it. I know a place with good food in this area."

I couldn't help knitting my brows slightly when I heard this, but in the end, I said with a sigh, "Alright."

The reason why I agreed was because I was going to get some food anyway, so it didn't hurt to have a local guide me to a good place.

But there was also another reason...

I could feel the girl's grip on my hand.

It was like an iron vice that had suddenly gripped my arm and I couldn't pull my arm free even if I wanted to.

So even if I said no...it was likely that she would drag me away with her in the first place.

I didn't know how this girl had this kind of power, but there was nothing that I could do in the face of this power.

So I had no choice but to follow her as she led me to a nearby restaurant.

When we arrived, I had to admit that she had good tastes since I could smell the fragrance of food coming from this restaurant.

Just based on this, I could tell that this place was quite the good restaurant.

When we went in, the waiter didn't hesitate to bring us to a table.

As we walked through the restaurant, I realized why this was the case.

Even though there was the delicious smell that filled the restaurant, there weren't that many customers here. There were plenty of empty seats for us to sit at.

Since we were about to eat, both of us had no choice but to remove our cloaks.

When I saw the face of the girl, I couldn't help being surprised.

After all, she had a beautiful voice, one that even seemed a bit familiar though I wasn't able to remember where I had heard it before. But to pair with this beautiful voice was a normal looking face.

There was nothing special about this face and it was a face that would be easily forgotten.

If this Earth, this was a girl that definitely would have become a famous idol on the internet with her voice alone. But it was just too bad that she was born in this medieval game world without the internet.

Someone like her would definitely not be able to do much just with her voice alone.

I couldn't help feeling a bit sorry for this girl.

But I also noticed that there was a blush that appeared on her face as she looked at me which made me feel a bit proud.

It might be a bit arrogant to say this, but I did have quite the handsome face. Or rather, the main character of this world that I had become had quite the handsome face.

This was something that couldn't be denied and was necessary since this was 'that' kind of game. It was a face that could easily attract those of the opposite gender.

In the end, I just picked up a menu and looked it over before saying, "What do you think we should get?"

The girl opened her mouth a few times as if she was trying to say something before suddenly looking down and saying, "Just order whatever you want."

I was surprised by how she acted, but I also found it a bit cute, so I couldn't help teasing, "Anything I want?"

The girl suddenly trembled when she heard this, but she still said with a nod, "Anything you want."

I just shook my head with a smile before looking at the menu again.

I never would have known just how the girl was feeling.

She had thought that she was prepared to talk to him properly when she met him again, but when she saw that face, everything that she had been thinking had been thrown out of her mind. It was like a beam of sunlight that suddenly released its glow into her mind, wiping out all of her thoughts.

She just couldn't help looking at that face in admiration and shock, not knowing what to say.

The girl knew that she had to say something in the end, so it had taken quite a bit of effort to tear her eyes away from his face. It took a lot of willpower to lower her head like this and say those words.

But she knew that she wouldn't be able to make any progress as long as she kept acting this way...

However, it just wasn't fair!

He was too handsome looking at her like this!

Especially when he suddenly revealed a smile!

What was she supposed to do?

Chapter 299 Big!

I just casually ordered a few dishes that seemed like they would be enough for the two of us.

Of course, I made sure to order dishes that were moderately priced since I had remembered her saying that she would treat me. I wouldn't take advantage of her like this just because she was paying.

Though I felt uncomfortable having her pay in the first place.



But I remembered the iron grip that this girl had and knew that it would be more troublesome to try and reject her kind intentions...so I just decided to go along with it.

Once the dishes arrived, the two of us just ate in silence.

It wasn't that we didn't want to talk, it was just that there wasn't much for us to talk about.

Even if we were having a meal, we were still strangers since this was our first time meeting.

At the same time, it felt like the girl was really shy with how she kept looking down as she ate.

At that point, my only thought was to finish eating as soon as possible so I could leave.

But what I didn't notice were the secret gazes from all around me.

These were not gazes that were filled with hostility, but rather with interest and worry. Most of these gazes were aimed at the girl who just sat there in silence.

At the same time, there was a bit of doubt in those gazes as if they were surprised to see the girl acting this way.

The girl herself knew that what she was doing was wrong, but there was nothing that she could do about it. Whenever she wanted to look up, she found that it was just too dazzling for her to look at him directly.

So all she could do was sit there in silence.

Finally, the ones watching couldn't take it anymore and took it upon themselves to push the two together.

A waiter saw that one of their glasses was empty, so he took it upon himself to fill another glass to bring over.

This waiter walked over with the glass on a tray, but as they came right up beside the table, they suddenly tripped.

They tripped in such a way that the glass of water was thrown right at Zwein, landing right on his crotch.

When I was hit with this glass of water, I couldn't help being taken aback.

I had already been shocked seeing the waiter trip like this, so I hadn't been able to react to the glass of water falling on me until I realized that I was completely soaked because of this.

The girl sitting in front of me was also taken aback, but then she suddenly grabbed a napkin and came forward. She came up in front of me and kneeled down as she started wiping my crotch with that napkin.

While doing that, she asked, "Are you alright?"

I still hadn't reacted to this, so I just let her do this...until I realized that this looked very wrong.

A young girl leaning down in front of a man sitting down...how would this make me look? I think you should take a look at

I quickly reached out to take the napkin from the girl as I said, "I'm fine, I'm fine, just let me wipe it myself."

But the girl wouldn't hand over the napkin at all as she kept wiping and saying, "It's alright, I'll take care of..."

Before she could finish, I suddenly jolted. At the same time, the girl's words froze in her mouth and her chin dropped down in shock.

That was because she had accidentally touched my...thing while she was wiping my clothes.

She looked down at my crotch in shock and just completely stopped moving as she kept staring at me.

I felt very awkward seeing her like this, so I reached out to take the napkin while she was in a daze.

Seeing the girl in a daze like this, the waiter also realized that something was wrong, so he came forward to help her. The waiter turned to me and said, "This sir, I'm very sorry about what happened. Please follow me to the back, we'll help you dry that."

I was about to shake my head and reject this, but then seeing the girl still squatting there in a daze, I couldn't help feeling awkward. So I said, "Alright, I'll have to trouble you for that."

The waiter immediately shook his head and said, "No, no, it was my fault in the first place. This is what I should do."

With that, both Zwein and the waiter went to the back of the restaurant.

But even though the two of them were gone, the girl just kept squatting there in a daze.

It was as if she had seen something that had completely stunned her.

Two of the customers couldn't help coming over to help the girl up before asking, "Young miss, are you alright?"

The girl was still in a daze when she heard this.

She looked down at her hands and slowly spread them apart as if she was measuring something.

Then she muttered to herself, "So big...it was so big..."

After muttering this, she couldn't stop a blush from appearing on her cheeks.

The two customers couldn't help knitting their brows when they saw this, but before they could say anything else, there was a female customer that stopped them.

This female customer came up to the girl and tapped her shoulder before saying, "Young miss, if you don't get a hold of yourself, you'll be exposed in no time."

When the girl heard this, she finally snapped out of her daze and she turned to look at the female customer.

She opened her mouth as if she was about to say something, but she closed her mouth in the end and just gave a simple nod. She stood back up and sat down in her seat before waving her hand at them.

With a bow, these customers all walked back to their seats and acted as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 300 What is your name?

When I came out from the back and came back to the table, I found that the girl was just sitting there without doing anything.

She looked at the dishes in front of her in a daze, as if she was thinking about something.

After sitting down, I asked, "Are you alright? Did something happen while I was gone?"

I could have not engaged, but it would have seemed too cruel to not ask since I was having a meal with her.

The girl jolted when she heard this and she quickly shook her head as she said, "No, nothing! Nothing's wrong!"

But I could see that she was looking down when she said this.

In particular...she seemed to be looking at my crotch.

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I saw this since I remembered that feeling from earlier. As she had been wiping away the water, her hand had accidentally touched...that thing down there...

It was no doubt a traumatizing experience for her, but I didn't know what to say...

So I tried changing the topic by asking, "Are you from around this area? Or did you travel to the capital city?"

The girl looked up when she heard this, but then she quickly looked down when she saw my face.

After a moment of silence, she said, "I've lived in this city my entire life, but I've always wanted to travel."

"Oh?" I said before asking, "What kind of places do you want to go?"

The girl gave a sigh before saying, "Instead of being trapped like a bird in a cage, I just want to fly free. But I'll never be able to do that in my life, so I try to sneak out as much as possible."

It seemed like her answer didn't have anything to do with this question, but in truth it told me more than enough.

As I had already expected, she was a young miss from some rich and powerful family. It wouldn't have been surprising if it was revealed that she was from some noble family.

Though there was a part of me that thought that this was all a part of a plan to get closer to me...

But I immediately threw that thought out.

If it was, this plan was just too sloppy and many things could have gone wrong during this. At the same time, I had this cloak that prevented detection, so she shouldn't have known it was me in the first place.

This was most likely all a coincidental meeting.

After a bit of silence, I said, "Freedom takes courage and without courage, one will never truly be free."

The girl couldn't help trembling again when she heard this.

Her mouth opened and closed without making any sound, but it was clear that she was repeating what I had just said before to herself.

Then all of a sudden, she gave a nod and said, "Those are very good words of advice."

I just revealed a smile that had a hint of bitterness to them since these words weren't actually mine and were from my former world. As for where they actually came from...it was an anime that I had watched before.

But now that the ice had been broken, the girl didn't hold back as she said, "Then does this sir have any hobbies that you enjoy?"

I was caught off guard by how quickly she changed the topic, but I calmly said, "Eh, before that, I don't think I even know your name yet, miss..."

I let my voice trail off, but she understood what I was asking for.

"Tiffany, my name is Tiffany." The girl said with a smile on her face, though she did look back down right away after saying this.

Tiffany...this name was a name that had a deep impression on me because...it was the name of the princess of this kingdom.

However, I had already seen the princess before in the game and I knew exactly what? she looked like. So I was certain that she definitely wasn't her.

After all, even if she changed her appearance, she couldn't change her figure. That would be impossible to do, even in a world of .

This girl's figure...was much less curvier than the princess, so I knew that it wasn't her.

Her parents should have named her after the princess, which was why they shared the same name.

Since she had introduced herself, I responded with a smile, "My name is Zwein."

She looked down a bit and muttered, "Sir Zwein."

I didn't say anything about that and just responded with, "You were asking about my hobbies? Well in my free time..."

With this, we started talking while enjoying our meal.

We had already been halfway through the meal, but since we had started talking, we? added a few more dishes since this place really had delicious food. I didn't mind staying a bit longer if the dishes were all as good as the one that we had ordered before.

At the same time, talking to her was much better than the silence that we had been sitting in before.

So we enjoyed our meal just chatting away like this.

As the conversation progressed, Tiffany became less and less stiff and we were able to communicate much easier.

It could really be said that the waiter was the one that had broken the ice with that spilled glass of water.

When the meal was over, she took out a gold coin that she placed on the table.

I couldn't help narrowing my eyes when I saw that gold coin since I recognized it...but I didn't call it out in the end.

Once she had finished paying, I bid her farewell and walked off to walk for a bit on my own.

But as I walked off, I couldn't help narrowing my eyes as I remembered the gold coin that she used.

That was because this gold coin was a special kind of gold coin.

It was a special coin that had been created by and for the royal family, which carried much more weight than normal gold coins.