

Shota 331

Chapter 331 Silvermine Family (4)

After the butler came back, he was also allowed to join in the tasting.

It was clear that the Silvermine Family was different from the human nobles.

They didn't care about status and treated their employees with respect. At the same time, one could see the close bond between them.

It was clear that they were a kind and gentle family, one that was worth befriending.

Unlike those human nobles that only cared about their own benefits...though it could be considered hypocritical since I was also a noble.

But then again, there were also other examples of nobles that weren't like this.

Take the duke's family for example...

So it was more of a case of different people having different situations.

Reflect, I really should reflect.

After they had finished tasting the wine, they asked me how much more of it I had. With the way that their eyes sparkled, it was clear that they were very happy with the tasting.

Since that was the case, I didn't hold back in telling them how much we had prepared.

"Ten barrels?" Ivan said in a shocked voice.

He had thought that just one or two barrel would be good, but ten barrels...that would be enough to last them a while.

It was Nisa who then stood up and said, "Let's go and take a look."

I couldn't help revealing a wry smile when I heard this.

In the tasting just now, she had been the one that had drank the most. She had finished off half of the alcohol all by herself.

None of them dared to compete with her which further proved that she was in control of this family.

But seeing a little girl drink like this...it really felt illegal.

I wished that I was able to send a few more knives to that b*stard designer...I just hoped that my brothers from my past life would continue the good work.

So our group stood up and followed Nisa out.

As we headed out, Rondo complained to Ivar, "If it wasn't for the damn laws, I would have gotten them to bring more."

Ivar just revealed an awkward smile when he heard this.

While Rondo didn't have any official positions and could say things like this, it was different for Ivar who was the family head.

Not to mention, the nobility of the Dwarven Kingdom worked differently.

Instead of rewarding land based on battle prowess, land was rewarded based on forging skills. Ivar as the current head of the family had very amazing forging skills.

Even the king was decided by forging skills, so the current Dwarven King was the best blacksmith in the kingdom.

As such, since they were all highly skilled craftsmen, they got along quite well.

The current most powerful lords in the Dwarven Kingdom were all brothers with the Dwarven King.

In that position, it was hard for Ivar to question the laws of their king.

Though there was a small part of him that did agree with him.

He still said, "Hush, that law is for the protection of us dwarves."

Rondo gave a sigh hearing this, but he didn't say anything else.

When they came out, the guards were caught off guard at first before bowing to them to show their respect. Though based on the direction that they were bowing in, it was clearly directed at Nisa.

Once again...seeing all of these dwarves who looked like gruff old men bowing to a little girl...really seemed strange.

As for my group, they had no idea what was happening. They just knew that someone important was coming, so they gave a bow as well.

Nisa just ignored them and walked over to the humans.

The guards wanted to stop her or at least protect her, but Ivar came out to stop them. He just simply waved his hand for them to back down before turning back to watch Nisa. After walking over, Nisa started going over the carriages before turning back.

She looked at me and asked, "Where's the rest of the alcohol?"

I revealed a bitter smile before turning to look at Haley.

She looked at me for a moment before slowly understanding what was happening.

Once it clicked, she stood up and walked over to one of the carriages. She pulled back the back cover of this carriage and revealed the barrels inside.

With a smile, she said to Nisa, "The product is over here."

Nisa turned to look at Haley with narrowed eyes, which Haley didn't flinch in front of at all. Haley just calmly looked back at her with the same smile on her face.

Nisa was like this for a bit before giving an approving nod. She also revealed a smile and said, "It seems like you're the one I need to talk to. Then let's discuss the price."

Haley gave a gesture towards the carriage with the barrel before looking at her staff. When they saw this gaze fall on them, they quickly moved to help lift the barrels out of the carriage.

As for Nisa and Haley, the two of them just stood right beside the carriage while discussing something.

It was clear that they were discussing the price of the alcohol.

Seeing this, Ivar turned to look at me with a sympathetic look that kind of hurt.

It was as if he misunderstood something...

It was as if he thought that I was in the same situation as him.

I admit that sometimes I let them take the lead, but that didn't mean that I was like him.

I just respected their independence...

And even if I was a bit whipped, that didn't mean that I was as bad as him. It was clear how the power dynamic went between the two of them.

So no, I really couldn't accept this sympathetic look.

Please stop looking at me like this Ivar, your gaze really hurts...

But with Haley taking care of this matter, it didn't take long before the guards started carrying the barrels out of the carriage and into the manor.

As they were doing it, they too couldn't help lick their lips.

Dwarves and alcohol really was a combination that couldn't be separated.

Chapter 332 Silvermine Family (5)

Once all of the negotiations were done, we were invited in for dinner.

We had arrived in the afternoon and after everything was taken care of, it was already getting dark.

Me and a group of my close confidants would be staying at the Silvermine Family manor, but the rest of them would be staying at an inn.

They could have stayed, but we couldn't put our hosts out like this, so we insisted on sending the rest to an inn.

But for us, we were currently seated for a meal.

It was me, Haley, Cecilia, Shaka, Moon, and Veronica.

I had wanted to send Veronica to the inn with the rest, but she used the duke's influence to threaten me in the end.

In front of the duke's influence, I really couldn't do anything.

So I had no choice but to let her come with us, though I did warn her about acting up. Even then, I could already see trouble coming...

But to my surprise, Veronica acted like a proper lady when meeting the Silvermines.

The one that I actually had to worry about was Moon.

As soon as Moon met with the Silvermine couple, the first thing that she said was, "It seems like you dirt dwellers are still doing alright."

All of us couldn't help looking at her in shock as we couldn't believe the normally silent Moon would say something like this. After all, it was just too different from the usual personality that she demonstrated.

But the more important thing was seeing how the Silvermine couple would respond.

So I turned to look at them with an anxious look.

I was surprised to find that there was a smile that was on the faces of both Ivar and Nisa when they heard this.

They just looked right back at Moon and Ivar said, "So the tree hugger has finally decided to come out to their trees. It'll do you some good not to be surrounded by leaves all day."

The words that he said really didn't match the smile on his face.

After all, these seemed like aggressive words that made it seem like he was picking a fight.

But once again, to my surprise, they suddenly shook hands with one another.

This situation was just too much for me, so I asked, "What's going on here?"

Moon just calmly said, "I'm just greeting these dirt wrestlers."

I winced when I heard this and carefully looked at the Silvermine couple, hoping that they weren't offended by this.

But Ivar and Nisa both just gave nods with smiles on their faces. I think you should take a look at

Seeing the scared look on my face, Ivar explained, "This is just how we greet each other, so you don't need to worry about anything."

When I heard this, I couldn't help revealing a confused look.

I didn't understand the words that were coming out of his mouth, even though I did understand what he was saying.

Ivar revealed a smile as he said, "The dwarves and elves are long lived races with small populations. In this world filled with demons and humans, we had to find an ally, so we allied ourselves with the elves. While we do have an alliance, that doesn't mean that there isn't a difference in opinion between our two races. It isn't as if we could force everyone to get along."

Ivar turned to Moon and pointed at her as he said, "So things like tree hugger and long ears are just affectionate ways of teasing the elves that we dwarves have come up with through the ages."

Moon nodded and pointed at Ivar to say, "Ore hugger and dirt dweller are the same way for us to describe the dwarves."

Both of them nodded like it was a natural thing to them, but for us humans...we really thought that they would start fighting.

I wished that I knew about this earlier so I wouldn't have almost had a heart attack just now.

However while we had been traveling together, both Rondo and Moon had done their own things and never interacted with each other. So we had no idea that this was how they would greet each other.

After a pause, Ivar suddenly added, "Of course, there are also those that don't view us dwarves in a friendly manner and they have their own names for us. Those are the names that shouldn't be said."

Moon nodded before saying, "It's the same for the dwarves, it isn't as if everyone agreed to the alliance..."

Seeing the way that they acted, I just gave a nod in response.

It seemed like there was a complicated history between the elves and dwarves, though that was never explored in the game. The elf and dwarf quest lines were separate and had never intersected like this, so I actually didn't know much about this history between them.

But as long as it didn't start a war between elves and dwarves, I didn't really care what they called each other.

It seemed like they were quite close, so I could at least let out a sigh of relief.

After sitting down at the table, we found that the meal brought out to us...was quite heavy...

There was a bunch of roasted meat and alcohol in front of us, with very few vegetables if any.

It seemed like dwarves really liked to eat hearty meals, but it couldn't be blamed on them since they had quite muscular physiques.

It must have taken quite a bit of physical strength to do their forging, so it wasn't strange that they would need a lot of hearty foods like this.

But of course, before we could start eating, there was still one more person that we were waiting for.

There was this little girl who suddenly came into the dining room and after looking around, she ran over to Rondo and said, "Big brother!"

Rondo revealed a happy smile and opened his arms out to her before picking her up in a hug.

But all I could see...was a middle aged man who needed to be taken down to the police station...

Chapter 333 Silvermine Family (6)

The curse of that one designer struck again...

But I had to adjust my mentality since in this world, it wasn't considered illegal.

This was just how female dwarves were and I would need to accept it.

The two of them hugged for a bit before separating from each other.

After that, Rondo turned around and introduced this little girl to us.

As we had expected, she was his little sister. As well, she was the young miss of the Silvermine Family, Nori Silvermine.

She didn't give a polite bow and just greeted us with a smile on her face in the gruff manner that dwarves were known for.

That is until her eyes fell onto me.

The moment that her eyes fell onto me, she suddenly revealed a scowl while glaring at me.

It was as if I had wronged her in some way, but that wasn't possible since I had never met her before. How could I have wronged someone that I had never met before?

So I could only reveal an awkward look as she glared at me.

Rondo came to my rescue by asking, "Nori, what's wrong? Why are you glaring at Zwein? He's a guest, you shouldn't act rude."

Nori just pouted her lips, crossed her arms, and turned her head as if she wasn't happy about this which confused them even more.

Rondo just awkwardly asked, "Nori, what's wrong? You can tell your big brother."

After a moment of silence, Nori finally turned back and said, "This is the audacious human who is spreading the lie that he beat my big brother in a forging duel. How could Nori possibly welcome a dirty faced liar like this?"

Everyone couldn't help revealing awkward smiles when they heard this except for Rondo.

The Silvermine couple couldn't do anything since she was the youngest daughter that they both treasured.

We couldn't do anything since she was the young miss of the Silvermine Family.

So all we could do was stand there with awkward looks on our faces.

But it was different for Rondo.

He had knitted his brows after hearing what Nori said and after looking at her with a disapproving look for a bit, he said, "It isn't a lie. I challenged him to a forging duel and I lost fair and square."

Nori had been about to say something else, but she was taken aback by what Rondo suddenly said.

She looked at him with her mouth wide open, even forgetting to close it since she was so shocked by what Rondo said.

After a moment of silence, she said, "Big brother is the best at forging, how could a human possibly beat you in a forging duel? I refuse to believe this lie."

Rondo gave a sigh before saying with a serious look, "If I dare have a forging duel with someone, I have the pride to admit my defeat or else I wouldn't have the pride to forge again. I'm not someone that foolishly believes that I am the best in the world, there will always be someone better."

Nori just didn't know what to say in the face of Rondo's passionate rant.

But both Nisa and Ivar looked at Rondo with proud looks that only a parent would have. I think you should take a look at

After a moment of silence, her face suddenly twisted and her eyes started misting over. She stuck her tongue out at Rondo before running over to Nisa.

Even if Nisa was a tough woman, she was soft when it came to her daughter.

She reached her arms out and took Nori in her arms, patting her on the back as she broke out in tears.

"Stupid big brother...I hate you..."

That was what came out from Nisa's chest with the sound of sniffing.

But Rondo didn't let his expression change as he forced himself to keep the tough look on his face.

However, if one looked closely in his eyes...they could see that he was a bit hurt hearing this.

It wasn't just the parents of the Silvermine Family who pampered the daughter, Rondo was the same.

She was their precious little girl, so of course she was treasured by them.

Since it was my fault that all of this happened, I stepped forward to mediate.

I looked at Rondo with a smile and said, "Rondo, how about we just call our duel a draw? I don't think anyone will mind that much if we say that."

The sounds of sniffing stopped when I said this and Nori slowly looked out from Nisa's chest with eyes that had a faint sparkle in them.

But Rondo shut that down by saying, "No, my pride won't allow it."

When she heard this, Nori's eyes teared up again and she put her head in Nisa's chest again.

This time, both Ivar and Nisa looked at him with an exhausted look.

Pride was good, but being too stubborn wasn't a good thing either.

It was clear that in this situation, it would be better to take a step back and comfort Nori, but he was just too stubborn for his own good.

Nisa was especially disappointed as she turned to look at Ivar beside her before looking at Rondo again.

Like father like son, these two were cut from the same stubborn mold.

Since Rondo wasn't willing to take a step back, it wasn't as if they could keep going from there.

So everyone just stood around awkwardly while waiting for the situation to change.

Finally, Nisa gave a sigh and said, "Nori, you can't expect this kind of tact from your big brother. You should already know what kind of person he is."

Then she looked at everyone with a smile before saying, "I hope that you won't mind, but there will be a slight delay to dinner. If you will excuse me and Nori for a bit, we'll be back shortly."

No one had a problem with this since they knew that it was impossible to have dinner like this.

The last thing that Nisa did when she left was glare at Rondo which made him tremble.

Chapter 334 Silvermine Family (7)

Half an hour later, Nisa came back with a calmer Nori.

But when she came back, she was no longer as warm towards Rondo as she was before.

Instead, she just turned her head away when she saw him again which made Rondo reveal a bitter smile.

However, it was clear by the look on his face that he wasn't planning on backing down either.

So the two of them didn't talk to each other at all during dinner.

This would have made it awkward if not for the alcohol that we had brought.

Haley had already made a deal with Nisa, so the alcohol had already been transported into the Silvermine Family's warehouse. That was what they had served with dinner tonight.

They just couldn't get enough of this alcohol that we brought, but I also had to admit that it was quite good.

This was a fine brandy that was made with the best grapes aged in an oak cask that gave it a nice sweet taste that had hints of caramel and vanilla to it.

If it was one thing that humans were good at, it was definitely making alcohol.

But...it was strange watching them drink since even Nori was drinking.

Of course it wasn't a problem since in dwarven culture, she was already an adult.

Converting dwarven age to human age, Rondo would be someone in his mid twenties already and Nori would be someone in her late teens, so they were both at the age where they could drink.

It was just the fact that Nori looked like she was five years old that was off putting.

This time, it wasn't just me.

Even the rest of my group looked at Nori with strange looks as we watched her drink.

It was Ivar who snapped us out of this by suddenly saying, "So, let's talk a little business while we eat. How much mithril are you looking to buy?"

When this was said, we had no choice but to focus ourselves and talk business.

And by that, I meant that I would leave it to Haley while listening carefully.

Haley calmly set her utensils down and said, "How much are you willing to sell?"

Ivar raised a brow hearing this before revealing a wide smile to say, "Well, there are certain limitations that we need to follow since it is the law of our Dwarven Kingdom..."

His voice trailed off at this and we couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed.

But then he said, "Since it is our Silvermine Family's territory and the mithril mines that we own, I think that I can give you a bit of leniency in this matter. Of course, it depends on how much you're willing to offer."

As long as he was willing to do this, it didn't matter what the price was.

After all, as long as they sold the mithril in the human territory, they would be able to earn countless more times the profit. I think you should take a look at

Haley just said with a smile, "I'm sure that we can give you a price that will satisfy you."

Ivar gave a nod before saying, "I noticed that you had other barrels of alcohol in your other carriages. It seemed that you were saving them for something instead of selling them to us?"

When we heard this, we couldn't help revealing wry smiles.

Haley had tried to hide them as best as she could, but she knew that it was impossible to do so and was already expecting this question.

Not to mention...Rondo had been with us when we loaded all of the alcohol, so he should have seen how much we had brought.

So it wasn't strange at all to hear this question.

Haley shook her head as she said, "Of course not."

Ivar narrowed his eyes to look at her before saying, "Then is it because you thought that our price was too low that you didn't sell the rest to us?"

Haley once again shook her head before saying, "It's not that at all. Lord Silvermine, please don't misunderstand."

This was the truth, it wasn't because of the low price that we didn't sell the rest to them.

It was because we had a different use for that alcohol.

In fact, we didn't even care about the low price since we had been planning on giving it as a gift, but we felt that it would be too strange to suddenly give this large of a gift. So we had sold it to them at below cost price.

Haley didn't mind suffering a loss at all as long as she was able to build a relationship with the Silvermine Family for the mithril.

Ivar just waved his hand and said, "Don't give me that lord stuff, I don't like being addressed in a stuffy manner." After a pause, he continued in a serious voice, "Then can you explain the reason why you didn't sell it to us?"

Haley already had a reason, so she wasn't frazzled by this at all.

She just calmly said, "Sir Ivar, we didn't sell it to you because we have another need for that alcohol. I'm sure that you know that we are outsiders in your Dwarven Kingdom, so we were planning on using this alcohol as gifts when we met with other dwarves. That is why we can't sell this alcohol to you."

Ivar gave an understanding nod when he heard this.

Since they had come here on business, naturally they would want to form as many connections as they could.

That alcohol that they had really was something else, so it was the best way to build connections.

It seemed that these humans really did have an understanding of the dwarves.

But it turned out that we had underestimated the allure of this alcohol.

Ivar suddenly said, "How about I introduce you to a few friends of mine then?"

Both Haley and I couldn't help being taken aback when we heard this.

In the discussions that we had, we had never expected this kind of proposal.

Chapter 335 Silvermine Family (8)

Since we didn't expect it, we weren't able to react right away and there was an awkward silence that followed.

But then Haley quickly said, "Sir Ivar, we can't really put you out like that. It wouldn't be right since you are our host."

Though she really wanted to take him up on this offer, Haley had tactfully rejected this offer.

She knew that if she seemed too eager, it wouldn't do her any good. So she kept her voice calm and rejected tactfully.

Ivar was a bit surprised to hear this, but he also had a reason not to back down.

After all, his precious alcohol was on the line here.

So Ivar said with a smile, "It's not a problem at all. I would have to visit these friends anyway, so it's just bringing you along. I'm sure that with me, it will make it easier for you to build relationships."

He had gone beyond just offering help casually, he was even trying to push them into taking his help by telling them how useful his help would be.

But that was his panic since he thought that he might miss his chance to get more alcohol.

Haley was surprised by this, but she said, "Well, if it isn't a problem...then we'll have to trouble Sir Ivar for this matter."

Ivar's eyes lit up when he heard this before he gave a loud laugh.

After laughing for a bit, he said with a wide smile, "It's not a problem, it's not a problem at all."

Then he suddenly said in a sly and tactful manner, "Speaking of which, you'll be bringing some of that alcohol with you as a gift...so I wonder if I can get some of that as a referral fee."

Both me and Haley suddenly revealed faint smiles when we heard this.

So that was what he had been aiming for the entire time.

If he took the initiative to help introduce us to the various important dwarves, we would have to show gratitude in some way. So he was taking the initiative to get what he wanted as a gift of gratitude.

Haley looked at me and I gave a nod.

Then she turned back to Ivar and said, "Since Sir Ivar is so gracious to help us like this, naturally we would have to give a gift of gratitude. I'm sure that we can take a bit of the alcohol we were holding as gifts to give to you."

Ivar's eyes lit up when he heard this before he gave a cough and said, "Well, then let's settle this matter there."

He quickly settled this just in case they were to go back on their word.

He had done it so quickly that they hadn't even been able to discuss how much they would be giving him.

It seemed like dwarves really were crazy about alcohol...

To the side, both Rondo and Nisa looked at Ivar with looks of admiration.

They hadn't thought about getting more alcohol like this even though they had also noticed that there was more.

Only Nori just had a happy smile at the fact that they were getting more alcohol.

She hadn't cared about any of this and was just happily enjoying the alcohol, even though it looked morally wrong...

After dinner was over and dessert came, Ivar finally settled in and talked about real business.

The butler came over with a piece of paper and a pen that he placed in front of Ivar.

After thinking for a bit, Ivar wrote something on that piece of paper and handed it all back to the butler.

The butler brought this piece of paper over for Haley and me. I think you should take a look at

Haley took it and looked over it before revealing a confused look.

That was because there was only a number that was on the piece of paper and nothing else.

This number didn't make any sense at all since it was just too much for the amount of alcohol that we had. Even if we gave them all of the alcohol that we had left, it wouldn't be enough to cover this number.

So we didn't know what Ivar meant by giving us this number.

After a moment of silence, Haley asked in a confused voice, "This is...?"

Ivar calmly looked over and said, "This is how much mithril I can sell you."

As soon as he said this, we quickly turned back to look carefully at the number.

The others from our group also wanted to look over to see the number, but they couldn't get out of their seats right now without a good reason.

So they could only reach their necks out as far as they could for a peek.

After another moment of silence, Haley couldn't help asking, "What unit is this in?"

Ivar revealed a faint smile as he said, "Of course it's in kilograms. Or are you telling me that you want it in tons?"

Haley revealed a slightly disappointed look when she heard this and Ivar didn't miss it.

With a wider smile, he said, "You actually wanted it in tons? Unfortunately our Dwarven Kingdom doesn't produce that much mithril ore. Mithril isn't as abundant as you think."

Haley gave a nod to show that she understood, but there was still a disappointed look in her eyes.

Even if the dwarves had the ability to find mithril, that didn't mean that there was that much mithril in the world to find. So it made sense that this was in kilograms instead of tons.

But even if it was in kilograms, there was more than enough to make up a few tons, so it wasn't a small amount.

Dialing back her disappointment, Haley said, "Then how much are you selling it for? Or rather, what currency or goods do you want for it?"

She was subtly implying that she would pay alcohol for it, but to our surprise, Ivar actually rejected this by saying, "We'll trade in gold coins, that's the easiest way."

We had really thought that Ivar would want to trade for alcohol, but he explained, "Mithril trade is regulated by the law, so we can't trade as we like. We need to trade in gold coins."

As soon as we heard this, we understood...or rather Haley understood.

Any form of trade that was regulated by the law had some kind of tax associated with it.

Mithril was one of the important resources of the Dwarven Kingdom, so it made sense that they would want to control it.

Alcohol would be easily embezzled or even stolen, which would put Ivar in a hard spot when he needed to pay the tax for selling mithril to the Dwarven King. He would either have to properly guard it, costing him quite a bit of resources or he would have to make up for it if it was stolen.

So gold coins were the easier way to pay even though gold coins had less value in the Dwarven Kingdom.

But then again, gold coins were easier for them.

Haley gave a nod before saying, "That's not a problem, we'll be happy to pay in gold coins."

Ivar gave a nod before turning to Nisa who looked at Haley with a smile.

It seemed that another price negotiation was about to go down.

In that case, we would leave it to them while Ivar and I enjoyed our dessert.

Chapter 336 Exploring dwarven society

The next morning, we were surprised by Ivar and Nisa.

They had prepared a carriage for us to visit Silver City with them.

They said that it was a sightseeing trip since this was our first time in Silver City, but in reality...it was actually a trip to the mithril mines in the guise of a normal trip.

They didn't want anyone finding out about the mithril trade until the time came since there would be some dwarves that would be against this.

But once it happened, it wouldn't be a problem.

So for now, it was best if they kept it a secret.

It seemed like there were troubles that dwarves faced in their own society, but that was just how it worked in any society.

Sometimes, there were some things where it would be better to hide certain details until the time was right.

The reason behind this was mainly because of the anti human dwarf factions.

There weren't many of them, but there were some dwarves that had strong anti sentiments towards humans.

They were in the minority in the dwarven society and they accepted that humans visited from time to time. However, it was different once a human changed from a guest to a customer.

They didn't want humans taking the resources of the dwarves, so they would certainly take action once they learned that humans were here to trade with the dwarves.

Ivar assured us by saying, "I've already sent a message to the Dwarven King. Once he receives it and gives us permission, then there won't be a problem. No matter how crazy those anti human dwarves are, they wouldn't dare do anything once the Dwarven King is involved."

So with this, we were much more assured.

It was just like Ivar said, all we had to do now was wait for a response from the Dwarven King.

Since that was the case, it was best to go along with him and see the mines to check the quality of the mithril.

At the same time, it would do us good to learn more about dwarven society by going sightseeing in the city.

With this, we set off in the carriages that had been prepared for us.

The dwarven made carriages were even better than our own carriages, but that wasn't surprising since they were better at forging in the first place. It wasn't strange that they would be able to make better carriages than human blacksmiths.

After leaving the Silvermine Family manor, we headed to the most populated business street in Silver City.

Since it was early in the morning, there were many dwarves that were out and about minding their own business.

When they saw the carriage though, many of them made way for it since they recognized the Silvermine Family's symbol on the carriage.

It wasn't that they moved out of the way because they were scared, but because they respected it. This was made very clear by the look on their faces as they moved aside.

There were many of them that even hung around as if they were waiting for the Silvermine Family members to come out of the carriage.

Since they were here to sightsee in the city, naturally they had to come out and put on a show.

So the carriage stopped on this street and they came out.

The moment that they did, there were plenty of dwarves that came forward to greet Ivar and Nisa.

Even though they could be considered nobles, it seemed like they didn't have the same mentality as human nobles.

They talked with the commoners like there was no difference between them.

It seemed that quite a few commoners were actually close to Ivar and Nisa.

Since they saw that we had come with the Silvermine couple, they were also friendly towards us.

Everyone was led away by other dwarves and we wandered around this business street.

Since this was a dwarven city, most of the shops here were forges as expected.

The blacksmiths hammering on their anvils created quite the sound that rang out through the city, but it gave the city quite the lively appearance.

Of course, it wasn't just forges that were in the city.

There were plenty of things that people needed and forges alone wouldn't be enough to provide.

They were also general stores and stores for other products.

Haley was walking around with a few dwarf housewives, but as they were walking around...all I could think of was a mother and her children...

Still, the things that they talked about were quite interesting.

"Eh? You have all those interesting things in your human countries? I wish we had that too, but we just don't have enough merchants going out and buying things."

"Right? I tried buying the scented soap from the store the other day, but they told me that they were all out. When I asked when they would have it again, they told me that it would take at least three months before they could get it in stock again."

"Three months? How does it take that long? I was looking forward to buying some."

While it seemed like idle talk between the housewives, it was actually a jackpot of information for Haley.

The idle talk between these housewives told her all about what kind of products they wanted, giving her an idea of what to trade with the dwarves in the future.

Since we would be introduced to the other dwarven lords through Ivar and would be trading with them in the future, it was a good idea to know what the dwarves were willing to buy.

Haley was just preparing for what we needed to do.

And I viewed this as a very important venture.

After all, the relationship that we built with the dwarves would be very important.

If anything happened and we needed to run, this would be a very good place to come to.

So I fully supported her doing business here.

But as I looked around, I couldn't help feeling that dwarves really were the same as humans in terms of society.

They lived the same lives, but it was just that they were dwarves that people regarded it as something different.

If one day everyone could live in harmony...that would be great.

Chapter 337 Mithril mines (1)

After doing a bit of shopping and gathering information, it was time to visit the mines.

The visit would be an official visit to see the mines and experience what dwarven mining was like, but in reality they were going there to inspect the ores and finish the deal.

When they arrived, there wasn't anyone that came out to greet them.

All of the dwarves just continued to work like they didn't even notice anyone coming, but Ivar didn't mind at all.

Ivar led the group like this was his home as he came up to one of the main tunnels.

There was a group of dwarves discussing something when they came over and the dwarves didn't mind them at all as they kept discussing their matters. However, Ivar just stopped and waited for them to finish.

In human society, this would be impossible.

If a noble was made to wait like this, this would be considered an insult to the noble and that person who made them wait might even be executed.

But it was different in the dwarven society.

Ivar was even happily willing to wait.

Once the dwarves had finished, the one that had been in charge of the meeting turned in their direction.

When this dwarf saw Ivar, he couldn't help revealing a surprised look before coming over.

Raising one hand, he waved at him as he said, "Yo, big brother, what are you doing here?"

Ivar revealed an awkward smile before saying, "Varric, we have guests."

The dwarf Ivar called Varric looked over at us before revealing a surprised look and saying, "Eh, isn't this a bunch of humans? What are they doing here?"

Ivar put his head in his hand and shook his head with a sigh before saying, "I knew that you wouldn't read my message. I even made sure to have them tell you to read it, but it seems like you still ignored it."

As he said this, the dwarves that had been walking away couldn't help stopping before walking away again.

But this time, they had awkward looks on their faces.

It was clear that they knew what Ivar was talking about.

After muttering this to himself, Ivar looked up and said, "Varric, I told you that I would be bringing some guests over today. They are here to inspect the mithril mines.

Varric just gave a nod before saying, "Big brother, did you review the proposal that I sent you?"

He completely ignored us and just went on to talk about what he wanted to talk about.

Ivar revealed a bitter smile before saying, "I already reviewed it, but I can't agree to it."

Varric's expression immediately fell. It had been filled with excitement before, but now it was just filled with despair as he said, "Why not? It's clearly the most efficient way to mine for more mithril. You should know that..."

He was about to say something, but then he remembered that we were here and stopped himself.

But the look in his eyes made it clear that there was some kind of problem.

Ivar knitted his brows when he heard this, but then he said, "Even if that's the case, this isn't something that can be decided that easily. We need to consider the cost and the difficulty associated with doing something like this. This isn't something that could be done that easily."

Varric had a clear unhappy expression on his face, but there was nothing he could say since he knew that Ivar was right.

But then he remembered something.

He turned to look at us and his expression underwent a strange change.

He looked at us with a strange look at first, but then it slowly changed into a weird looking smile that made us feel uncomfortable.

Finally, Varric turned back to say, "There are these humans here. Can't you just get them to help us with this?"

Ivar was taken aback by this sudden suggestion by Varric, but then he looked like he was considering it.

Seeing the look on his face, Varric kept pushing by saying, "You must have brought them here for a reason. They must be humans that we can trust if you're even willing to bring them here. So why not get them to help us with this matter?"

Ivar's expression looked like he was about to give in more and more when he heard this.

He knew that Varric was right, so in the end...he said with a sigh, "I can't guarantee anything, but I can try asking them."

Varric's eyes lit up before turning over to ask, "Do you humans know something about blast crystals?"

I revealed a confused look when hearing this and turned to look at Haley, but she also shook her head to show that she didn't know anything about this.

In the end, it was Shaka who gave a sigh and said, "How do you know about this?"

Both Varric and Ivar were confused when they heard this before Varric said, "It was something that our king told us about."

Shaka shook his head again before saying with a sigh, "This is a new discovery by the Ians Tower, something that very few people know about. Even our country is only able to get a few of these things."

I looked at Shaka with a strange look, but he gave a shrug before giving me a look not to ask more and that he would explain later.

Varric and Ivar knitted their brows when they heard this.

But I couldn't help asking, "Is this really something that you should be discussing out here? Isn't this something important?"

Ivar revealed a confused look before suddenly looking like he understood something and saying, "Oh, you don't have to worry about Varric, he's not an outsider."

He turned to look at Varric before saying, "This is my little brother, Varric Silvermine."

"Huh?"

We all couldn't help being surprised by this because the two of them...didn't look like brothers at all!

Chapter 338 Mithril Mines (2)

They both saw the looks of shock that they were receiving before revealing bitter smiles.

Varric was the one that said first, "We don't look alike at all, right? I'm the more handsome one."

Ivar gave a snort before saying, "And yet you're still single."

Varric just calmly said, "I have more important things to do, like my job. I live for my job, so I don't have time to start a family."

Ivar gave a sigh when he heard this before saying, "When are you going to grow up? Mother and father are both worried about you not having anyone at your age. You should know that you can't keep this up anymore. In fact, I actually have a few marriage proposals for you here."

Varric's face twisted before he said while shaking his head, "I'm good, I don't need any of those. You can just throw it away."

Ivar shook his head as he said, "You can't just run away from them forever. How about you just take a look?"

Varric's face turned uglier as he said, "You really don't find anything wrong with them?"

Ivar raised a brow in confusion, but he didn't say anything.

Varric then said with a sigh, "They all look like human children, don't you find that disturbing? It's strange how everyone's just ok with it, but it feels wrong to me."

Everyone was surprised by what Varric said, but me especially.

It almost seemed like his experience was similar to mine...

Could it be that he was also...

But if he was, then what did that mean?

Still, the chance that there was another reincarnator was something that I couldn't give up.

If he was one, then he could be a very important ally in the future.

So while they were talking, I came forward and said, "If you think that's bad, then you should see the Lost Dominion."

In a way, this was my way of being cryptic.

That was because this was a line that anyone from my old world wouldn't be able to ignore.

After all, that was the name of the game this world was based on.

Varric and Ivar both revealed confused looks when they heard this which I couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed by.

In the end, it turned out that Varric wasn't a reincarnator like me.

He was just nothing more than an anomaly that found his own situation strange.

To put it in simple words, he was just a dwarf that had a different taste than everyone else.

So I couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed in this, but there were other things to take care of.

After they had finished discussing this, they turned back to Shaka to see what he was going to say.

Shaka gave a sigh before saying, "It's possible for us to get some, but that depends on what you're willing to offer."

When he heard this, Varric's eyes lit up when he heard this.

Varric turned to Ivar and said, "Big brother, this is our chance. If we can get those things from the humans, it'll be much easier for us to mine 'that' out." "I think you should take a look at

Ivar gave a sigh before asking. "What are you looking for?"

Shaka just gave a nod and said, "Mithril."

Ivar couldn't help being surprised when he heard this, but he shook his head before saying, "Unfortunately, we cannot give you any more mithril. Is there anything else that you will take?"

Shaka looked like he had to think about it for a bit before suddenly saying, "Gold, silver, and iron."

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

He slowly asked, "Are you sure?"

Shaka gave a firm nod in response to this.

Ivar looked at him with a complicated look before saying, "Thank you."

Shaka didn't say anything in response to this.

I couldn't help pulling Shaka aside to question him about this after he had made a deal.

As soon as we went to the side, I suddenly asked, "Are you sure that you can promise something like this? Didn't you say that it was a special thing that even the country couldn't get much of? How are you planning on getting this?"

Shaka revealed a smile as he said, "Who do you think is backing you? As long as that person gets involved, it isn't a problem to get those Blast Crystals that they want."

The one backing us?

Oh, right, there was the king behind us involved in this deal.

If the king was involved, then it would be no problem for us to get these Blast Crystals.

But would just these ores be enough to move the king?

Seeing the look on my face, Shaka could guess what I was thinking, so he said, "You'd be surprised by the situation of our country. The lack of ore is appalling and the equipment of the army is worse than you'd think."

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

If that was the case, weren't we in danger of being invaded by the surrounding countries.

Seeing the look on my face, Shaka could once again guess what I was thinking.

He said with a sigh, "For now, we have a stalemate with the surrounding countries and they don't dare invade us. It's mainly the work of our Shadow Garden organization that has kept them at bay."

I felt a bit confused after hearing this.

After all, in the future in the game, the Shadow Garden organization was doomed to be destroyed, but there weren't any invasions.

In fact, one of the main quest lines even involved getting with the princess and ruling over the kingdom, though they didn't show what happened after that ending.

So could it be that the ending was darker than I thought.

There were many questions that filled my mind, but I shook those questions out as I said, "Alright, since you're certain that it'll work, I'll leave it to you."

Shaka just gave a firm nod when he heard this.

Chapter 339 Mithril Mines (3)

Since the matter had been settled, we went back over to the rest of the group.

Ivar and Varric were looking at us with strange looks, but I said, "It should be fine. We'll have to talk to someone about this, but we should be able to get the blast crystals that you were asking for."

To my surprise, there wasn't any doubt at all in their eyes as they looked at me.

Normally in situations like this, one would at least feel a bit doubtful over something like this since I had said it in such an uncertain way. But these two didn't seem to have any doubts at all, leaving it all up to me.

It was touching in a way.

But then again, this was just how the dwarves were in the first place.

They were a bit rough around the edges, but they were direct like this.

It was just how they were and it wasn't a bad thing.

Sometimes being direct like this was better than beating around the bush.

Since they put their faith in me, I just said, "I'll try to get the good news as soon as possible."

There were some other things that I had wanted to ask, but I held myself back in the end. After all, it was clear that this involved some kind of secret that they didn't want others knowing about.

In that case, out of respect for them and for the sake of our friendship, I would hold myself back.

With this matter settled, Varric finally asked, "So what did you all come here for?"

Ivar gave a sigh before saying, "We came here for a tour of the mine."

But after saying this, he leaned in to whisper something to Varric.

Varric narrowed his eyes when he heard this and his complete tone changed.

He had gone from an excitable person to someone that was serious and shouldn't be underestimated.

It could be said that he had gone from a collector to a boss.

After becoming serious, he looked at us for a bit before waving his hand and saying, "Come on then, I'll show you around."

With that, he headed into the mines without even caring whether we were following or not.

Ivar revealed a bitter smile, but he led us forward, following behind Varric.

As we went through the mines, Varric didn't say a thing to us, but he did have plenty to say to the dwarves around us.

All of the dwarves that we passed seemed to have something that they had to bring up with Varric and he dealt with them as he led us deeper into the mine.

From the fragments that we could hear, it was clear that Varric was the boss here.

But for a member of the Silvermine Family to personally run this mine, this seemed a bit...

Seeing the look on our faces, Ivar filled in the context.

"It's what he enjoys doing, so we let him do it. He likes working with the ores and personally extracting them from the ground, so why not let him run the mines?" I think you should take a look at

It seemed that it was the whim of a wealthy person.

His family was rich and they didn't need him, so he just did what he wanted to do.

They found him a place that he wanted to be in and left him there.

He wasn't the family head, so it wasn't as if he was needed in the main manor. So he was the free willed second son that just did whatever he wanted.

Plus with the fact that he didn't want to get married, it really fitted the stereotype from my old world...

Finally after walking for a while, we reached the depths of the mine where mithril was being mined out.

When we reached the vein, Varric finally turned back to say with a wide smile, "This is the product that you'll be buying."

I didn't really react, but the rest of my group did.

They all looked at the mithril with strange complicated looks while also having a trace of shock in their eyes.

It was clear that there was something abnormal about this mithril.

After a long silence, Haley slowly muttered, "This quality...it's better than anything that I've heard of before."

Quality?

I took a closer look at the mithril and realized that it was much more silver compared to normal, showing that it was a higher quality of mithril.

But for someone like me who had already seen things like adamantium, mithril really was just a mid tier ore for me. It didn't matter what the quality of the ore was since it was just too low grade for me to get excited about.

But when Varric heard what Haley said, he revealed a satisfied look before saying, "So, what are you willing to pay for it?"

No one said a thing in response to this, but Varric didn't mind as he changed his way of speaking.

Varric calmly said, "I've heard that you brought good alcohol with you this time."

Ivar knitted his brows when he heard this before saying, "Varric, this..."

Varric raised a hand to cut him off before saying, "Big brother, we're just talking about buying alcohol from them. They will pay in gold coins and then we'll buy alcohol from them."

Ivar was about to say something, but then he seemed to realize something.

That was right, it didn't matter if they bought alcohol with the gold coins afterwards. As long as they paid after receiving the gold coins and there was a proper paper trail, there would be no suspicion of embezzlement at all.

Of course, this would create more work for the humans, but...for the sake of his alcohol, he could only endure and push this onto them.

After he thought this through, he turned to look at Haley who had also come back to her senses.

She said with a smile, "Of course, it's not a problem for us."

Both Varric and Ivar revealed wide smiles hearing this.

Chapter 340 Sudden summons

I just left the matter of negotiating to Haley, but they weren't done here either.

Ivar would bring this idea back to Nisa and she would take care of the negotiating.

When Nisa was brought up, even Varric couldn't help revealing a look that had a trace of fear in it.

It seemed that in the Silvermine Family, Nisa was a name that really invoked fear.

I would have to make sure that I don't offend her in the future or else I would definitely suffer at her hands...

Since we knew what we were buying, there was nothing left for us to do here.

In fact, almost everyone in our group wanted to go back as soon as possible to discuss this matter. They all looked like they wanted to grab the mithril right then and there and stuff it in their pockets.

Of course, they would never actually do something like that.

They at least had this restraint.

But Ivar also wanted to head back to the manor to discuss this since it was also a matter of alcohol for him.

With the new direction that Varric gave him, he would be able to secure a long term source of alcohol for him and his family. So of course he wanted to make sure that this happened as soon as possible.

Like this, we headed back to the Silvermine Manor, albeit Varric didn't follow us.

He just simply said, "I still have work to do here, so I'll drop by when I can."

Ivar gave a nod in response to this and left Varric to his thing.

It seemed that the relationship between the two brothers was quite good. It seemed that they were both happy with what they were doing and they didn't care about who the head of the family was.

This was always a good thing to see.

After all, if there was a bad relationship between the members of a noble family...it was very likely that one would betray the other.

Since they were our potential trade partners, I wouldn't want to see this.

I wanted them to be as stable as they could be so that we could continue a long relationship.

When we arrived back at the manor, it didn't go as we had expected.

As soon as we arrived, Nisa came over with a worried look and a letter in her hand.

When Ivar saw this, he didn't ask what was wrong and just took the letter from her hand. This was the trust that had been formed between them over many years of marriage.

Unless it was something very important, he knew that she wouldn't act this way.

As he read the letter, his brows knit more and more and his expression became uglier.

Once he finished reading the letter, he looked up at me with a strange look.

I didn't understand why he was looking at me with this strange look on his face, but it was clear that this wasn't a good look.

So I just waited to see what he had to say.

Ivar looked at me in silence for a bit before suddenly asking, "Have you ever met our king before?"

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

The Dwarven King?

Naturally I had never met this important figure before, so why was Ivar asking me about this?

I just slowly shook my head before waiting for Ivar to explain.

However, all Ivar did was keep looking at me with that same strange look in silence for a while.

Finally, he took a deep breath and asked, "Are you sure?"

I was even more surprised after hearing this and this time gave a nod to show that I was sure.

Ivar looked down at the letter before saying, "This letter is saying that our king wants to meet all of you and me. He is summoning us to the capital to meet him."

"Huh?"

All of us said in a shocked voice as we looked at Ivar with looks of disbelief.

The Dwarven King was the ruler of the Dwarven Kingdom and he was now summoning us to the capital to meet him?

No matter how one looked at it, this didn't seem like a good thing.

This seemed like we were being called in for punishment or for something else bad.

But what had we done to offend the Dwarven King?

I looked at Ivar and asked, "Do you know why he's calling us in?"

Ivar shook his head before saying, "I think that should be my line for you..."

All of us just stood there in silence, not knowing how to respond to this.

In the end, Ivar couldn't help saying, "Is it because of the mithril trade..."

At this, all of us revealed looks of understanding.

If it really was because of the mithril trade, then that would make sense.

After all, Ivar had suddenly sent a letter asking to trade mithril with humans.

Even if he was a dwarven lord and this mithril was from the mine that he owned, it was still a precious resource and it wouldn't be strange if the king was worried about it falling into the hands of the humans.

After another long silence, Ivar finally said, "It seems like we'll have to take a trip to the capital and I'll have to ask you to come with me."

I just slowly gave a nod.

Even if I didn't want to go, it wasn't as if I had a choice.

After all, we were currently in the middle of the dwarves' territory. Even if we wanted to run away, it wasn't as if we could escape with all of the dwarves watching the border.

If we tried to escape, it would just make things worse.

We would have no choice but to meet with the Dwarven King.

Ivar gave a nod in response to my nod before saying, "We'll set off tomorrow morning then. I'll need all of you to come with me."