

Shota 361

Chapter 361 Lay Down Your Hammer (1)

Drogath narrowed his eyes as he looked at me.

There was a tense silence that hung in the air as no one said a thing.

But in the end, Drogath said in a voice filled with disdain, "Who do you think you are? In my own shop and in my own home, you're trying to tell me what to do?"

He wanted to pull his hand away, but he found that there was something that was preventing him from doing so.

Why was this human so strong?

I just calmly looked at him which made Drogath feel a bit of pressure.

He didn't know why he was feeling pressured from this human, but there was this strange invisible pressure that fell onto him.

I had been thinking about how to deal with Drogath since we had last met and I had come to a single conclusion.

The only way that I would be able to stop him without causing too much trouble was if...

"A big man picking on a woman like this, he really is a great man, isn't he?"

My voice wasn't too loud or soft, but everyone in the shop was able to hear it clearly.

There were many that looked like they agreed with me, but there were still some that supported Drogath.

These were clearly the members of the anti human faction along with Drogath...

No, even before that, they were clearly just dwarves that shared the same misogynistic views as him. After all, not a single one of them had even flinched when Drogath went to hit Elsa.

So it was clear that there weren't any good members of the anti human faction.

That made it clear why the Dwarven King didn't do anything to them.

They could be much more troublesome than they currently were, but Drogath could be considered a mellow leader. Since he didn't cause any trouble and even restrained the rest, there was no reason for the Dwarven King to do anything to him.

But there was a personal matter that the Dwarven King wanted to take care of.

Drogath's face twisted when he heard this and he was about to say something.

I just didn't give him that chance as I suddenly said, "Since you're a big man, how about you prove it?"

The look of rage that had been on Drogath's face slowly turned into a look of confusion as he looked at me.

He didn't understand what I was trying to say.

So I just calmly said, "If you're a man, how about you accept a forging duel from me?"

This time, Drogath's face filled with shock and disbelief as he looked at me, trying to figure out if I was being serious or not. When he saw that my serious expression didn't change, he couldn't help being more shocked.

After a long silence, he finally said in a slow voice, "Are you serious?"

There were many dwarves around them that were looking at them with the same expression on their faces.

After all, this was a human challenging a dwarf to a forging duel.

This seemed like nothing more than a joke to them since they didn't believe that a human would be able to take a dwarf on when it came to forging. I think you should take a look at

I just gave a simple nod in response to this.

There was some laughter that came from around us, but Drogath looked at me with a strange look.

It seemed like he was more well informed than I thought.

This human was challenging him to a forging duel, this was simply insulting him and his pride.

But Drogath had heard before that this human had even had a forging duel with the Dwarven King. There were even rumours that he had beaten the Dwarven King in their forging duel.

Of course, he wouldn't believe such false rumours since as the Dwarven King's childhood friend, he had a very good idea just how skilled the Dwarven King was.

He didn't believe that a human would be able to defeat him in a forging duel even if he was beaten to death.

Still, as the leader of the anti human faction, he had to be cautious of these things.

He couldn't just act rashly or else it would all be over for them...

But in the end, his pride still won out.

He didn't want to let this human belittle him like this.

"A forging duel? What are you willing to wager then?" Drogath said in a dark voice, almost as if he was trying to threaten him.

I just calmly said, "What are you willing to offer?"

Drogath couldn't help being taken aback when he heard this, but then he narrowed his eyes and said in the same dark voice, "What if I said that I wanted your head."

There was a cold gasp that came from around us, but I just looked back at Drogath calmly when he said this without saying a word.

There was a silence that lingered for a bit before Drogath started saying, "Well, if you don't have the cour..."

Before he could finish, I suddenly said, "Then are you willing to lay down your hammer if you lose?"

Drogath's face immediately twisted when he heard this as he looked at me with a very ugly expression.

Laying down the hammer...that was not as simple as it sounded to the dwarves.

This was a term that meant...quitting forging forever.

If a dwarf ever made a vow that they would lay down their hammer, it would mean that they would never forge again.

So for the dwarves that had such passion for forging, this was a sentence that was worse than death.

It wasn't ever used unless there was a serious grudge between groups.

Drogath slowly said, "Do you even understand what that means?"

I calmly said, "If you want my life, then I'll come for yours. But I'll make you live a life that's worse than death."

Drogath couldn't help taking a step back when he heard this.

Just what was this human?

Chapter 362 Lay Down Your Hammer (2)

The conviction that this human showed couldn't help making Drogath hesitate.

However, there was no going back for him.

The moment that I had chosen to do this in public, he was already doomed to accept.

After all, if he backed down now after everything that would happen, he would be known as a coward for the rest of his life. So he was already trapped in a corner unless he was able to talk his way out of it.

Drogath narrowed his eyes to look at him before saying, "You think that you can get out of the promise of giving your head since you're a guest of our king, don't you? You want to make fun of us dwarves?"

He was trying to use both logic and emotion at the same time.

He used the logic of him being guests of the Dwarven King to break a promise while also invoking the emotions of the dwarves around him.

But I smoothly shut it down by saying, "Do you want it in writing?"

Drogath's mouth opened and closed a few times as he didn't know what to say.

He didn't understand why this human was pushing him so far.

It wasn't as if he had done anything that bad to this human, he had just tried oppressing him with his words.

It wasn't as far as them wanting each other's lives yet...

Yet this human just didn't back down.

I knew that he would collapse with just a single push, so I said, "I guess you're man enough to beat women, but you're not man enough to accept a duel when offered one. I guess you need to hide behind women after all."

I knew that the final part was insulting to women, but it was the most effective way to provoke this misogynist, so I had no choice. I could only apologize in my heart.

As expected, Drogath's face twisted when he heard this.

His expression changed several times as if he was trying to figure out what to say.

But in the end, he revealed a dark and calm look as he said, "You really want to push me that far? Then don't blame me when you die."

I looked at him and said, "That depends on if you have the skill."

He didn't fall for my provocation this time and simply stated, "What are the terms?"

"A simple duel of forging blades, nothing more, nothing less. Whoever forges the best blade will be the winner of the duel."

Drogath narrowed his eyes as a bit of surprise appeared in them, but then he said, "What about time and place."

I calmly replied, "We'll have the Dwarven King act as our witness, so he'll provide the location. As for the time, let's set it for three days from now so we all have enough time to prepare."

These terms were fair, but Drogath couldn't help being surprised by one thing, "The Dwarven King, you're involving him? Do you think that he's so free that he has time for a forging duel?"

This time, it was Kali who interrupted by saying, "His majesty has the time. He will come as the witness."

Drogath was caught off guard hearing this, but he didn't deny this since he recognized Kali. He knew his position and how close he was to the Dwarven King, so he was qualified to make this statement. I think you should take a look at

But even getting the Dwarven King involved, this was getting more and more complicated.

That meant that this situation was getting worse and worse for him.

With a frown on his face, he asked, "Then the prizes? Are you really sticking with that?"

I looked at him with narrowed eyes as I said, "You're backing down now?"

Drogath's face twisted hearing this, but I didn't give him a chance to speak, "We will use the terms that we've already agreed on. My head for your hammer."

But then after a pause, I added, "Oh, and one more thing."

Drogath knitted his brows, but he said, "What else do you want?"

I simply said with a smile, "It's nothing that complicated. If I win, you'll divorce your wife."

"Huh?" Both Drogath and Elsa were shocked when they heard this before Elsa looked at me with a grateful look.

Drogath on the other hand just looked disgusted seeing this, so he said, "Fine, do whatever you want with this tramp, like I would want her." But then he added, "Of course, that depends on your skill."

After hearing this, Elsa revealed a hurt look.

"Hmm, very well then. I think that we've set the terms. Should we put it in writing?" I said in a teasing voice.

Drogath's face twisted when hearing this, but he waved his hand and said, "Do whatever you want. There's all these witnesses, do you really think that either of us can back down now? Especially since it even involves his majesty?"

I shook my head as I said, "No, it's far too late for that."

Drogath gave another snort before ignoring me.

He was going towards Elsa, but before he could reach her, Kali suddenly stepped forward to stand between them.

Drogath revealed an ugly expression before saying, "What are you doing? Are you also getting between a man and his wife now?"

Kali's expression didn't even flinch as he said, "His majesty has requested that Mrs Elsa come to the castle for a few days. He misses her and wishes to discuss a matter with her."

This was a clear excuse, but Kali didn't back down under Drogath's glare.

So in the end, Drogath just said with a sigh and wave of his hand, "Do whatever you want with this woman. I never should have married her in the first place, she's nothing but trouble."

The hurt look became even stronger in Elsa's eyes when she heard this.

With all of this settled, I didn't want to stay in this store for a moment longer.

So with Kali leading the way, we headed back to the carriage and headed back to the castle.

It was fine since I also had a few things I wanted to talk to the Dwarven King about.

Chapter 363 Confronting The Dwarven King

When we arrived at the palace, there were many dwarves that had gathered.

It seemed that news spread fast since the moment that we arrived, many of them turned to look at me with a strange look.

It was as if they wanted to say something, but they were kept back because of the look on my face.

I had a rare serious look as I followed the captain of the guards Vela to a private room.

This wasn't the throne room that we had gone to before, this was the Dwarven King's private room.

The throne room was for welcoming guests in a grand manner while this private study was just for discussing private matters.

But as the king of dwarves, the Dwarven King didn't use this study much in the first place.

If it wasn't for what he had done, he wouldn't have even been here in the first place.

When we came in, he looked at us with a bitter smile on his face as he saw the look on mine. With that bitter smile he gestured with his hand to the seats in front of him and said, "Come, let's sit and talk."

After sitting down, he said with a sigh, "I know what you're going to say."

"Oh really?" I said in a sarcastic voice.

If this was before, it would be unthinkable to talk to the Dwarven King like this. After all, this was a king that ruled over this entire kingdom of dwarves, a king that wasn't inferior to the king of our kingdom.

Normally this kind of tone would have even sparked a war between kingdoms.

But after getting close to the Dwarven King, I felt assured in using this tone.

I even deserved it a bit after what he had put me through.

The Dwarven King just revealed another bitter smile before saying, "It's not like I had a choice. If I didn't do this, you wouldn't have helped."

"And do I have a reason to help?"

The Dwarven King's smile became more bitter after hearing this, but he didn't refute it.

After all, he knew just how big of a favour he was asking in the first place.

So he just said with a sigh, "I know that what I'm asking for is overboard, but could you have remained calm if it was your little sister in this situation?"

He had given up trying to act dumb, he just directly stated what was on his mind.

In a way, this was much more effective than if he told a lie.

With a sigh, I said, "Fine, what's done is done, there's no time to regret it. But you'll have to tell us what you're willing to give us for helping you with this."

The Dwarven King revealed a serious look when he heard this before taking out a few pieces of paper that he placed on the table. He pushed these forward for us to look at and we couldn't help being surprised.

These were the deeds for several mines.

The Dwarven King then said, "These are some of the mines under my name and not the kingdom. I will give you these mines for helping me." I think you should take a look at

We couldn't help being more surprised because among the deeds, there was even one for a mithril mine.

Mithril mines were fiercely guarded by the dwarves and they would never let such important things out of their hands.

For the Dwarven King to offer something like this...it was clear that he was being sincere.

Since he was being sincere...

I just gave a sigh and said, "Alright, I'll help with this plan of yours." Then under my breath, I added, "Of course, it isn't as if I have a choice on this matter."

The Dwarven King chose to ignore this as he said with a smile, "Thank you."

Then he became serious as he asked, "What is the current situation? I only know that you'll be having a forging duel with Drogath, I haven't learned the details yet."

With a sigh, I told him everything that happened.

By the end of the story, the Dwarven King had a heavy look on his face.

After a pause, he said, "Why did you do such a reckless thing? Betting your life like that, do you really think that he's that weak that you can beat him that easily?"

I was about to say something, but Haley cut in first by saying, "That's right! I've been holding myself back the whole time, but how could you do something like that? Don't you know how dangerous this is!"

It wasn't just her, but also the others that had followed me that said this.

They all disapproved of this gamble that I had made since it was too risky betting my life like this.

Hearing them nag me like this, all I could do was let out a bitter smile.

But there was a part of my heart that felt warm because of their nagging.

After all, they were nagging me because they cared about me.

That was enough to show that they cared.

I calmly listened to all of them and waited for them to finish before saying, "I have a reason for doing this."

All of them revealed surprised and confused looks when they heard this, but they waited for me to explain instead of saying anything else.

I just calmly turned to the Dwarven King and said, "I'm going to destroy him, are you alright with that?"

"Huh?" The Dwarven King was taken aback by how firm and strong my voice was.

It was as if I couldn't already see myself crushing Drogath in this forging duel, though that wasn't too far off from the truth.

There had been things that I had kept hidden that I was going to use now.

There was no chance that Drogath would ever be able to compete unless there was something about him that I didn't know.

The Dwarven King revealed a complicated look after hearing this, but he still gave a nod in the end.

Chapter 364 The Dwarven King's Past

Then he said with a bitter smile, "It seemed that you held back in our duel."

There was a bit of a blaming tone to his voice, but it was more teasing than it was angry.

I just smiled back at him without saying anything.

There was no need for words, the look on my face made it clear what I was trying to convey.

The Dwarven King also didn't push this since he knew that everyone had to hide some of their cards. This was just the natural order of things when one was in a foreign land.

Only by keeping cards hidden would one be able to remain safe.

He didn't hold it against Zwein since he knew that he would do the same.

Instead of continuing this discussion, I suddenly asked, "What happened between the three of you that this happened?"

If Elsa was here, I definitely wouldn't have asked this question.

But since she wasn't, I couldn't help being curious about this.

After all, the Dwarven King clearly seemed unwilling to act personally to handle Drogath. That was why he had gone in such a big circle to take care of him.

However, Drogath was a big enough problem that the Dwarven King didn't mind the fact that I had bet his hammer in this forging duel.

This meant that it was quite serious...

Just what had happened that he was so unwilling to act directly?

The Dwarven King didn't respond after hearing this.

Instead, he gave a long sigh before looking down with dull eyes, as if he was looking into the past.

After a long silence, he finally said, "It's a long and complicated story, if you're willing to listen."

We didn't say anything, but I gave a nod in response to this.

After he saw this, the Dwarven King also peeked over at Haley.

It was almost as if...he was asking if there was any alcohol for him.

This was a hard story for him, so he wanted to have a drink while he told this story.

But since we had just come from shopping, it wasn't as if we had anything like that with us.

So he could only give a disappointed sigh before he started telling his story.

It wasn't that uncommon of a story and it almost could be considered cliché.

The three of them were childhood friends who grew up together, but at the same time, Drogath and the Dwarven King Thorin had been rivals at one point. They had competed with each other in technique and that was what had pushed them to their current level.

The Dwarven King was the one that came out on top, but Drogath never minded this and just did all he could to improve his technique. I think you should take a look at

Elsa, who had always been with them had seen this and she was filled with admiration for him because of it.

That was what had brought the two of them together in the end.

The Dwarven King was happy to see his best friend and rival end up with his little sister since he could see the attraction between the two of them. Especially since his little sister was teased because her figure...was different from the other dwarves.

So seeing him protect her made him feel that he could entrust her to him.

That was until Drogath had suddenly changed.

"What made him change?" I couldn't help asking in a very curious voice.

The story that I listened to made Drogath sound like a completely different person from the one that I had met.

How could a person change this much?

The Dwarven King shook his head to show that he didn't know before saying, "It was a sudden change that happened a few years back. He had just taken a trip to the south when he suddenly came back with all these new ideas."

He couldn't help giving a sigh before continuing, "When he preached these ideas, he started gathering a following. They were naturally willing to follow him because he had the forging skills to make them follow him. They thought that he would be the one that would take the throne and change the country into the one that they dreamed of, a country just for dwarves that completely isolated itself from the humans. But I know that such a dream is impossible since there are just too many humans to begin with. If we really did such a thing, it wouldn't take long for the humans to find a way to destroy us."

With another sigh, the Dwarven King said, "I know that the way forward is co-existence, but they just won't listen."

It was clear that he had his fair share of troubles, but there was something that I couldn't help finding strange.

"He never challenged you for the throne?"

In dwarven society, the throne wasn't a hereditary thing.

The throne was for the most skilled craftsman in the kingdom that wanted the throne.

So only those that had the skills would be able to take the throne in the first place.

If there was anyone that wanted the throne, they were free to challenge the current Dwarven King to a forging duel for it.

This was the right that every dwarf had, but of course there were limits.

One challenge per dwarf in their lifetime, that was the limit.

If one failed, there was no second time.

That was to make sure that dwarves didn't keep challenging the Dwarven King for his throne since that would just hurt the Dwarven Kingdom.

The Dwarven King shook his head as he said, "I don't know if it's because he's not confident in his skill or if it's out of respect for me, but he has never challenged me. But that is a problem in itself since that just causes the anti dwarf faction to grow..."

With another sigh, the Dwarven King said, "I really don't know what to do about them."

But then he looked at me with a worried look and said, "I can't say anything about his personality, but I can guarantee that his skills are comparable to mine. If you really want to crush him, you'll have to take out something very shocking."

I just revealed a faint smile and said, "That's not a problem. I have my ways."

Chapter 365 Elsa's Request

The matter had been set and all that was left was to prepare the venue.

The Dwarven King promised to take care of everything since he was the one that had been responsible for this mess in the first place.

But before we could discuss this any further, there was a knock on the door.

All of us froze when we heard this knock as we didn't expect anyone to disturb us.

But then a voice said, "Big brother, can I come in?"

It was Elsa.

She had been guided away by Kali earlier and he should have been keeping her busy while they discussed business.

So what was she doing here?

Still, it wasn't as if they had the time to slowly think about that since she was already here.

They quickly put away the things that were on the table before the Dwarven King said, "Come in."

The door opened and as expected, Elsa was standing outside.

As she looked into the room after the door opened, she couldn't help revealing a surprised look. After all, it was clear that she didn't expect us to be here as well.

She just gave a bow to us before moving over to stand in front of both me and the Dwarven King.

The two of us looked at each other, but it was clear by the looks in each other's eyes that neither of us knew what was happening.

So the Dwarven King cleared his throat and asked, "Little sister, what is..."

Before he could finish, Elsa suddenly gave a deep bow to both of us which caught us both off guard. Neither of us were able to say a word as we just stared at her in shock.

But in the end, we finally reacted and both stood up to help her get up.

The Dwarven King also said, "What are you..."

Once again, before he could finish, she cut him off by saying, "Please save him."

Both of us were once again caught off guard when we heard this.

Still, we didn't need to ask to know who she was talking about.

With a sigh, the Dwarven King asked, "Why are you doing this? You should know how he treated you, he's not worth you asking for forgiveness like this."

I just remained silent since I knew that this was a matter between the two of them, but there was a look of approval in my eyes.

I too had seen how he had treated her, so I would stand with the Dwarven King on this matter.

Elsa's body trembled a bit when she heard this and she remained silent for a bit after the Dwarven King's voice fell.

But in the end, she still said with a sigh, "You don't know him like I do..."

Both of us knitted our brows when we heard this.

This was the one thing that we had been worried about. I think you should take a look at

What would we be able to do if she still had feelings for him?

If she still did have feelings for him, it didn't matter what we did as she would still try to stand on his side.

As I was trying to figure out a tactful way to ask this question, the Dwarven King suddenly said, "What's wrong? Are you saying that you still have feelings for him even after the way that he treated you? Are you trying to say that you can save him?"

I couldn't help looking at him like he was crazy when I heard this.

There was clearly a much gentler way of putting this, but the way he was doing it was like he was stabbing a stake in her heart.

It was clear by the trembling of Elsa's body that she was affected by his words.

But then she said, "It would be a lie to say that I still had feelings for him, but there are things that you don't know."

We didn't doubt her words since we could hear the sincerity in them, but that just made us even more confused.

After all, what was she basing this on that she was so certain of this.

We couldn't help deeply knitting our brows after hearing this.

After a pause, the Dwarven King said, "What don't we know?"

We couldn't see her face since she was still bowing down, but we could tell what kind of expression she had based on the shaking in her voice as she spoke.

"In the middle of the night, I can hear the things that he says. It's clear that he's struggling with something that he can't deal with."

Both of us knitted our brows even more after hearing this.

It seemed that there really was a story behind this.

After all, the mumblings of a person in their sleep came from their subconscious. There was no way for them to lie about something like that.

And the fact that he was mumbling in his sleep meant that there was something bothering him.

But it was clear that the Dwarven King was more bothered by this than me.

He looked at me with a concerned look after a moment of silence. The way that he looked at me almost seemed like he was leaving this decision up to me.

I didn't say anything right away since this could be considered a big decision.

After a brief period of thinking, I gave a sigh and said, "As long as he doesn't go too far, I can step back as well."

The Dwarven King's face lit up when he heard this, but that look didn't last long.

I then said in a serious voice, "But if he shows no sign of remorse, there's no need for me to hold back. If he intends to hurt me or the people that I care about, I won't show any mercy."

The Dwarven King's expression stiffened when he heard this, but he gave a nod with a sigh as he said, "That's fair. It's already more than I should ask for."

At the same time Elsa stood up and said, "Thank you."

I couldn't help thinking that I really was too soft hearted at times.

But the looks on their faces...seemed like it was worth it.

Chapter 366 Private Meeting

That night, in the residence that the Dwarven King had prepared for us.

The group that had come with me was gathered around a table and I was sitting at the head of that table.

All of them were standing around me and glaring at me like I had done something wrong.

Though if one thought about it...I had done nothing right this entire time.

Not only did I get involved in the Dwarven King's private matters, I had even gotten involved in the national matters of the Dwarven Kingdom.

I had gotten involved with the anti human faction of the Dwarven Kingdom.

No matter how this ended, it would be messy...

So they had all the right to be angry.

But it turned out that it was for a different reason.

After a long period of silence, Haley suddenly slapped the table and said in a sharp voice, "What were you thinking? Putting your life on the line like that, did you really think that was the best idea?"

I couldn't help flinching when I heard this voice.

I also secretly looked at the others and found that they all had similar looks on their faces, showing that they agreed with what Haley was saying.

I just lowered my head and said, "I'm sorry."

But she saw right through it and slapped the table again before saying, "I don't believe you."

Though I had apologized, it was more instinct than it was sincere.

I was apologizing since I knew that it would be easier to apologize now than later.

But in truth, I believed that what I did was right.

After all, if I didn't use something big like my own head as a bet, it wouldn't have drawn Drogath out.

He wouldn't have been forced into a corner where he would have no choice but to take my provocation.

So I didn't actually think that I was wrong.

Haley could of course see this, so she was even more angry.

I lowered my head and expected more angry words to come from her, but they didn't come in the end.

I slowly looked up and saw that she was looking at me with a sad look.

My heart couldn't help trembling when I saw this sad look on her face.

I immediately stood up and came over to take her in my arms as I asked, "What's wrong?"

"What's wrong?" She repeated slowly before saying, "You really are something! Don't you understand my feelings at all!?"

I was taken aback when I heard this.

But she wasn't done yet as she said, "You're putting your life on the line like this without even telling me anything and you expect me to be alright with it? Why don't you think about how it feels for me?"

I was even more shocked hearing this.

However, I was slowly coming to realize my mistake.

I was indeed being too selfish. I think you should take a look at

I was certain that I would win, but for them...it wasn't as certain.

What I was doing in their eyes was putting my life on the line in this forging duel.

And they were just worried about me.

Even if I was confident that I would win, the fundamental principle was still wrong since I was expecting them to know something that was impossible for them to know.

At the same time, I was just being selfish by acting the way that I wanted to.

In essence, this was just them being worried about me and I was completely ignoring it.

I turned to look at Shaka and the others and found that they all had the same sad look in their eyes.

I opened and closed my mouth a few times, but words didn't come out as I didn't know what to say here.

In the end, all I could say was, "I'm sorry."

But this time, it was sincere. This was sincerity that came from the bottom of my heart.

I realized my mistake once again.

When I started using my knowledge from the game, I started taking this world as a game too.

That was why I was so callous with my life.

But this wasn't the case.

This world was a real world that I had reincarnated into and each of my actions had consequences.

If something changed and I lost, then it wasn't as if I would get out of having to give up my life...

Those were the real consequences of my action.

Seeing that I was apologizing for real, they all slowly calmed down and we were finally able to get the real meeting under way.

Haley wiped away the tears that had been in her eyes and she looked at me with a serious look as she said, "What is your plan?"

The others all looked at me with serious looks as well as they waited for me to tell them.

Seeing them look at me like this, I took a deep breath before deciding to tell them what I was planning to do.

If I kept it from them, it would just make them more worried about me and that was the last thing that I wanted.

Since they were people that were close to me, the last thing that I wanted to do was worry them or hurt them.

So I started explaining what my plan was.

They had confused looks on their faces as they listened to my plan, making it very clear that they didn't understand what I was saying.

But I couldn't blame them since most dwarves wouldn't understand what I was saying either.

This was a very advanced technique that very few people knew, so there would be no problem in taking care of Drogha in a few days.

After looking at each other and making sure that no one knew what I was saying, Haley looked at me and asked, "How certain are you that this will work?"

I gave a firm nod and said with a confident look, "I'm 100% certain that I'll win."

They still had worried looks on their faces despite hearing this, but they still gave a nod and said, "Alright, we trust you."

Chapter 367 What Is This? (1)

A few days passed and it was time for the forging duel.

The Dwarven King hadn't held back at all when it came to preparing for this forging duel.

The location that he had found...was the stadium in the center of the capital.

This was the stadium that was used for the most important ceremonies of the Dwarven Kingdom, but now it was being used for a forging duel.

That was the power of the Dwarven King.

As long as he willed it, he could make almost anything happen in this kingdom.

When Drogath arrived, he had an ugly expression on his face.

After all, he never expected this matter to blow up this much.

But since it had reached this point, he had no choice but to face it.

At the center of the arena was his opponent waiting for him along with the Dwarven King.

Seeing the two of them, he couldn't help knitting his brows again.

But he still came up to them and said, "It seems like you really want to let the whole world see your loss. I guess it'll be a public execution then."

I wasn't triggered at all by these words and just calmly looked at him with a smile before saying, "Are you sure that you can still say those words when this is over?"

Drogath also didn't react since he knew that this was nothing more than an exchange of provocation.

The one who actually fell for it would be the loser and he wouldn't be the loser in this case.

So he just gave a snort and turned to look at the forges prepared.

As he looked at it, he couldn't help revealing a look of praise.

Even with his personality, the thing that came first was his identity as a dwarf and his identity as a blacksmith.

When he saw these fine furnaces that had been prepared, along with all of the tools that they needed, he couldn't help praising how well prepared they had been. After all, a lot of these tools were specialized tools that only masters would be able to use.

These were not tools that normal people would even touch.

As such, there weren't many such tools available in the first place.

There was only a small provider, so they were considered rare.

However, Drogath would never let the Dwarven King or this human know that.

So with a snort, he walked over to his own station.

I shook my head with a faint smile when I saw this as I couldn't help feeling that dwarves really were tsun tsun sometimes.

But then I looked at the Dwarven King and gave him a nod.

When the Dwarven King saw this, he couldn't help revealing a complicated look.

Casting a glance at Drogath with that complicated look, the Dwarven King gave a sigh as he returned that nod.

Receiving this nod, I turned and walked over to my station. I think you should take a look at

Following me was Ivar who had been waiting on the side. When he saw me walking over, he came to my side to walk with me.

Drogath had been preparing his things when he suddenly looked at me. He couldn't help revealing a surprised look when he saw Ivar with me before saying, "What are you doing? This is a forging duel, this is not a playdate! Are you bringing companions with you now?"

I just calmly looked at Drogath and said, "Since I cannot do the forging part myself, I have brought an assistant to help me. Or are you scared?"

"You can't forge?" Drogath slowly repeated before suddenly shouting, "Are you kidding me? If you can't forge, where do you get the nerve to challenge me to a forging duel? Are you crazy?"

I didn't flinch at all when I heard this.

I just said with a calm look, "I am not a blacksmith by trade, so I can't do the forging myself. I have brought an assistant to make up for this, is there a problem with that?"

"Do you even hear yourself? You're saying that you're challenging me to a forging duel without even being to forge yourself? Am I going crazy or is the world going crazy?" Drogath roared out.

Once again, I said with a calm expression, "My forging knowledge is far beyond what my skills are, so I've brought an assistant to help me. Or are you telling me that you're scared of a human?"

When his pride was provoked, Drogath completely lost it as he roared, "You dare say that I'm scared of a human? Do you really think that you threaten me in the slightest?"

I just gave a shrug as I said, "It seems that way."

Drogath looked like he wanted to explode, but he held himself back in the end and said with a snort, "Do whatever you want. But if he does more than the blacksmithing, I will not hesitate to call you out."

Once again, with a shrug, I said, "Do as you wish."

After he accepted Ivar, there was someone else that walked over to our group.

It was Moon.

When Drogath saw this, he couldn't help saying with a snort, "Are you telling me that an elf is going to help with the forging as well now?"

I shook my head and said, "She's my assistant for something else."

"Huh? So you're telling me that elves can forge now?" Drogath said with a snort.

I simply responded with a shrug before heading over to my furnace.

Drogath didn't make as much of a fuss this time and just focused on his own work.

That was what I had been targeting.

Since he had already accepted Ivar, I knew that it wouldn't be a problem for him to accept Moon as well.

That was why I had her come up after Ivar.

But it didn't take long before Drogath found something else to complain about.

It was while I was throwing metals into the furnace.

The way that I did it made it seem like I was just throwing random things into the furnace.

This made Drogath explode once more.

"What are you doing? Are you just playing around at this point?!"

Chapter 368 What Is This? (2)

I didn't bother answering him when he roared out at me and just focused on my own work.

When Drogath saw this, he couldn't help almost dropping what he had been holding, but he caught himself in time and stopped that from happening.

If that did happen, then he would have dropped something he didn't want to put in the furnace and that would have ruined the ingot that he had been forging.

But the anger of this caused him to explode even further.

"You! If you're just playing around, then all you're doing is insulting me and all the other dwarves who dedicate our lives to forging!"

There were quite a few nods that came from the crowd after he said this.

The Dwarven King had actually gathered quite a crowd today since I had said that I wanted to give Drogath an execution.

With them all around us, it did give off quite a bit of pressure.

But I didn't mind it at all.

That was until Drogath said, "That is all humans are good for, they just play around and mess with us dwarves thinking that we are inferior to them."

When he dragged race into this, I naturally couldn't just let him get away with this.

So I calmly said, "Instead of sticking your nose into what others are doing, you should focus on your own work. How are you so certain that I'm messing around when you don't even know what I am doing. Do you know everything about my technique?"

Drogath's face twisted when he heard this.

He looked at me with narrowed eyes for a bit before giving a snort and turning back to his own furnace.

Most of the crowd nodded along when they heard this since this was something that they could get behind.

If they weren't dwarves, they might not have backed me like this.

It was only dwarves that could keep this kind of open mind.

Humans...were incapable of this.

So I ignored him and continued focusing on my own furnace.

I watched the mixture being melted inside of the furnace and slowly added more things in accordingly.

Even when Drogath was finished with his smelting, I was still focused on my molten metal.

He looked at me with disdain when he saw this before turning away with a snort.

Since he was done, he would be focusing on forging his metal.

But I wasn't worried at all about this.

After all, this was a challenge of skill and not speed.

Just being fast didn't mean that one was able to make a good weapon.

However, I did peek at his technique out of the corner of my eyes.

The Dwarven King had been right about one thing, he was very skilled.

I had seen the Dwarven King's techniques before when we had our forging duel and I could tell that Drogath wasn't much worse than him. He was still a bit worse, but if he was focused instead of paying attention to what I was doing, he might have been able to catch up to the Dwarven King.

It took a bit longer for me to finish with my smelting, but I slowly took out my molten metal when it was done. I think you should take a look at

I poured it into the prepared mold and let it cool before bringing it out.

When it was taken out, everyone couldn't help revealing a surprised look.

That was because they had never seen a kind of metal like this before.

This was a piece of metal that was completely white in colour and almost seemed like it was transparent, but there was a blur that was in it that prevented people from seeing through it.

If one didn't look closely, they might even think that this metal was glass.

But it was without a doubt metal.

Drogath just gave a snort when he saw this and decided to stop caring. He had reached a crucial part of his forging, so he couldn't let himself be distracted at this moment.

He entered a state of pure focus, which was quite impressive to see.

But I focused on my own forging as well.

Since the metal had been prepared, it was time to hit it with the hammer.

That was where Ivar came in.

Seeing that it was his turn, Ivar grabbed the hammer in one hand and the tongs in the other. He used the tongs to bring this almost see through metal onto the anvil and then slammed his hammer down on it.

"Clang! Snap!"

The moment that the hammer fell down on the metal, it snapped.

The wood handle of the hammer snapped cleanly in half and the top half of the hammer flew through the air before slamming down on the ground.

At the same time, there was a small dent in the shape of the piece of metal that had formed in the anvil.

Ivar looked at the handle in his hand in shock before looking down at the piece of metal on the anvil.

In a stunned voice, he asked, "Just what is this thing? Why is it so hard? I've never seen anything like this before."

I looked at the piece of metal on the anvil for a bit before suddenly saying in a voice that seemed like I had remembered something, "That's right, it won't turn malleable without a source of al fire. How could I forget?"

I turned to Moon and said, "Can you use your to create some fire for us?"

She was surprised to be called, but she gave a nod and came over with her hand up. In her hand, there was a small flame gathered.

She brought this flame up to the piece of metal on the anvil, but she found that it didn't have any effect at all.

So she created an even bigger flame in her hand.

She had to put more and more of her power into this until she finally saw the piece of metal changing colours.

This thing...really ate up her mana.

Seeing this, I called to Ivar, "It's time, come and hit it."

Ivar snapped back out of his daze and with a doubtful look, he picked up another hammer.

But this time, he found that the hammer was able to shape this piece of metal.

So he continued hitting it again and again under my direction.

Chapter 369 What Is This? (3)

As we continued, Moon revealed a more and more strained look.

After all, she had to maintain the flames that were being used to heat the metal to make it malleable.

The amount of mana she needed to maintain these flames wasn't a small amount, so she was slowly being drained by having to maintain these flames. It really was hard for her to keep going.

It was just a good thing that before she ran out of mana, I said, "Alright, that's enough."

Moon let out a sigh of relief and released the flames at that moment.

Ivar landed on last blow to the metal and finished forming the blade.

The moment that the flames disappeared, the metal quickly cooled down and returned to its hard form.

At this point, even if Ivar wanted to forge it, he wouldn't be able to do a thing to it.

All that would happen is that it would break the hammer just like before.

But seeing this blade, I gave a satisfied nod.

Now it was my turn.

Instead of carving right into the blade, this time I pulled out a bag of powder and a brush.

Even if I wanted to carve into the blade, it would have been impossible with how hard it was. Unless I was able to gain some kind of al strength that defied all expectations to be able to carve into this blade.

Though whether I had a tool that could do that was still a doubt.

Still, that wasn't what I had been planning to do in the first place.

This powder that I had was a special powder that I had prepared for this duel.

This powder was made from a mixture of special ores and herbs, creating a catalyst that would absorb mana at a rate far greater than before.

The powder that I had sprinkled into the runes carved before was only a low grade powder. It was actually the weakest formula that I could have brought out, out of all the ones that were in my head.

The one that I had taken out now...was an upper middle catalyst.

Without finding more materials, this was already the highest level catalyst that I could take out.

But the effects of this...were without a doubt shocking.

It took me a while to finish drawing the runes on since I had decided to go all out.

A total of eleven different runes.

At this moment in time, this could be considered a sword that could even kill gods.

But that was only because this was the beginning of the game.

If it was measured in levels, this was a sword that was around level 50 while everyone here was currently only around level 20.

There was no doubt that this would be considered a divine weapon.

The only thing that I had to worry about was not having enough mana to finish this weapon.

But luckily that was where the Dwarven King came in.

He had provided quite a few stones. These stones came from A Rank monsters, so the mana that they contained wasn't small.

These would be more than enough to make a god killing sword. I think you should take a look at

This time, I didn't even need Moon's help to use the stones to fill the runes with mana.

Since there were these stones, all that was needed was a gentle nudge for it to happen.

I had been practicing my mana control this whole time, so I was able to do this on my own.

As the mana flowed into the sword, Moon couldn't help revealing a shocked look.

That was because she could sense the amount of mana that was in the stones and how much of it was being transferred into the sword.

With this much mana...this would be without a doubt a terrifying weapon.

The mana easily flowed into the runes that I had drawn, that was the effect of the catalyst.

It didn't even take much mana on my part to induce this.

The mana inside the stones almost seemed to flow out the moment that the connection was filled.

This was just how powerful this catalyst was.

When all the runes were filled, the that was contained within this blade reached an incredible level.

This was without a doubt a divine weapon.

All that was left was to sharpen the edge of the blade and finish it off.

Once again, I needed Moon's help.

This was an incredibly hard metal and unless we used , it wouldn't work.

My mana alone was far from being enough for this, so I needed her to help me.

She had used this time to recover her mana, so she was able to help me with this.

Moon used her mana to cast a strengthening enchantment on the sand stone, so it was able to grind down the edge of the blade.

The grind stone was able to easily smooth out the edge of the blade to form a sharp blade.

After grinding it a few times, I gave a satisfied nod as I looked at the sword.

Then I turned the blade around and put a little mark at the bottom of the blade.

I had never done this before because I never thought much about the blades that I had made before, but this time...it was different.

This was a blade that I had put my heart into, one that I felt was a fine work of art.

It was with this blade that I understood why craftsmen would put their marks on the works that they were most satisfied with.

It was a way of passing down their name.

It was a way of marking their pride.

It was even a way of saying that this blade was like their children.

When I finished putting that mark on the bottom of this blade, I turned to find that Drogath had also finished with his blade.

It was time for us to test our blades against each other.

Chapter 370 What Is This? (4)

When we had finished forging, the first thing that Drogath did was...

"Ha, is that a blade or a piece of glass art that you've made? It seems more like a piece of decoration than an actual weapon." He said this in a derisive tone with a snort at the end.

I just ignored this and asked the Dwarven King who was the judge, "How are we going to compare them?"

The Dwarven King said with a nod, "We'll use the most simple method, we'll let them clash with each other."

I turned to look at Drogath before walking forward to the table that had been prepared.

This was the most simple method, but there was no doubt that this was the most effective method to crush a person. After all, there was nothing that one could say when their piece of work was smashed directly by someone else's.

Drogath just gave a snort after seeing me like this and walked over to the table as well.

The two of us brought forth our swords and placed them on the table.

Drogath's sword was without a doubt a fine piece of work.

It was a fine sword that was made of mithril, a sword that wasn't lacking compared to the one that the Dwarven King had made.

But just this alone made me reveal a disappointed look.

If this was it, then I might have taken this too seriously...

When Drogath saw the look on my face, his face couldn't help twisting as he said, "What is that look for? Do you really think that you can act that arrogantly?"

I just gave a sigh and shook my head before saying, "So who goes first?"

Drogath's face twisted a bit more and he narrowed his eyes to look at me, but then he said with a snort, "You can go first. I don't want you complaining that I didn't give you a chance later."

I just shook my head and said, "No, that's you. So you can go first."

"You, you, you!" Drogath looked like he wanted to explode the moment that he heard this.

The way that his face twisted, it was almost as if he wanted to beat me up on the spot.

The Dwarven King also looked at me with a strange look.

He knew that this was just an act, but even he was getting second hand influence from this. Even he wanted to beat me up with the arrogant way that I was acting, so there was no need to mention Drogath.

But Drogath knew that he couldn't do that in front of such a crowd.

The moment that he did...something really bad would happen.

Especially since the other side was a human.

He knew as the faction leader of the anti human faction that they weren't even close to being ready for this.

So he endured what he was feeling.

Instead, he turned his anger to something else.

Since he was being asked to go first, then he would go first.

He didn't believe this flashy sword that looked like it was made of glass would be able to resist his finely made mithril sword. I think you should take a look at

"Since you insist, then I will go first."

Drogath picked up his sword and was bringing it up as if he was about to swing down on the glass sword.

But before he could, the Dwarven King stopped him, "Wait, before you do, let him inject mana into the sword. This sword is a rune sword, so it needs mana to power it up first."

"Che." Drogath said under his breath.

As one of the best blacksmiths in the Dwarven Kingdom, Drogath naturally recognized the runes on the sword. While he didn't know exactly what they did, he did know that these would strengthen the sword when activated.

He had wanted this chance to smash this sword before he was able to activate the runes.

This runes gave him a bad feeling, so he had wanted to destroy this sword before anything could happen.

But the Dwarven King stopped him.

Drogath brought his sword down and waited for me to move over to the sword.

Even if he wanted to just ignore the Dwarven King and shatter this glass sword, he had to hold himself back in front of the crowd. At the very least, he had to act like he was following the rules properly.

But to his and the Dwarven King's surprise, I just gave a shrug and said, "There's no problem. There's no need for that."

The expressions of both the Dwarven King and Drogath changed the moment that they heard this.

Drogath once again had a look of rage, but the Dwarven King revealed a worried look.

He slowly said, "Are you sure about that? Most of the power in a sword with runes lies in the runes themselves. If you don't activate them, then the sword won't be at its full power."

Though it sounded like he was just slowly explaining what a rune sword was, he was actually putting silent pressure on Zwein.

He was using this to stress to him to stop playing around and to take this seriously.

But all I did was give a shrug and said, "It's not worth it for him. There's no need to activate the runes against a sword of this caliber."

The expressions of both the Dwarven King and Drogath changed again.

This time, Drogath couldn't take the rage that filled his chest, but then again...he didn't have to.

He was perfectly justified to explode when his opponent was looking down on him this much.

He turned to the Dwarven King and said, "Since he's given his permission, I can go, right?"

The Dwarven King hesitated a bit, but he still gave a nod in the end.

In this case, he would just trust Zwein.

Drogath gave a snort before saying, "You want to act tough? Then I'll go all out to help you!"

After saying this, he swung his sword down at the glass sword on the table with all of his might.

"Crack!"