

Shota 381

Chapter 381 Leaving The Dwarven Kingdom

It was two days later that we finally set off.

We had planned on leaving a day earlier, but because of the ambassador matter, we had no choice but to wait.

We had to give some time to Elsa to pick the ones that would come with her.

Among them were famous blacksmiths of the Dwarven Kingdom who had come from all over to learn from me. They had been in the capital during the banquet and all applied for this ambassador matter.

Of course, it wasn't wrong for them to go as ambassadors.

After all, these were lords of the Dwarven King since they were skilled blacksmiths.

They were equal to the nobles of the human kingdom, so this was a proper group of ambassadors.

They even set off with a carriage filled with gifts to show their sincerity.

So it took a while for them to gather.

But we were still heading off.

We went back the same way with Ivar leading us.

It wasn't the most direct path, but we still had some business in Silver City.

As well as picking up our compatriots who were waiting there for us. We had left them there to take care of business with the Silvermine Family.

So we had some time to get to know the dwarves we were traveling with.

Most of them I already knew because I had been interacting with them on an almost daily basis when I was teaching them about alloys and runes.

The one that I wanted to get to know better was Elsa.

She was the ambassador of the Dwarven Kingdom, so she was someone that I couldn't offend.

Getting to know her better was the best way of making that happen.

So during one of the nights, I spent some time talking to her alone.

When we were alone, she no longer acted as confident as before and returned to the shy way that she acted when I first met her. I couldn't understand why she was acting this way, but it wasn't good for me since I wouldn't be able to get to know her better at all.

As I was about to say something, Elsa suddenly said, "I'm sorry."

I couldn't help being caught off guard when she said this.

I looked at her with a confused look as if I didn't understand what she was saying.

Seeing this, she explained in a hesitant voice, "For my big brother's actions. For him suddenly springing all of this on you."

I revealed a bitter smile when I heard this, but then I said with a sigh and a wave of my hand, "It's fine, it's fine, it's not as if I don't understand where he's coming from. This is an important thing for your kingdom, so I can understand why he did it."

Then after a pause, I added, "Plus, it's not as if this was your idea. You don't have to worry about this."

When she heard this, she suddenly revealed a guilty look that I couldn't understand. I think you should take a look at

All I knew was that she seemed uncomfortable talking about this, so I changed the topic by asking, "So why did you want to come to our human country?"

After I said this, there was a blush that confused me that appeared on Elsa's face.

It was as if this was something else that she didn't want to talk about, but that didn't seem to make sense either.

After a long silence, she said, "I wanted to go out there and see a new world. I've been trapped in the Dwarven Kingdom my entire life and I want to see what the world outside is like."

I couldn't help being surprised when I heard this.

I looked at her with a complicated look before simply saying, "I understand."

Perhaps the Zwein of this world wouldn't understand, but the Lin Fan of the previous world would...

After giving a sigh, I changed the topic again to something much more light hearted and this time, Elsa was much more responsive.

It seemed that she was quite the talkative person which made me think that it really was all because of Drogath that she acted the way that she was before.

This Elsa in front of me now was the real Elsa, the one that had been suppressed by him over the years.

Though she was still clumsy as shown by her verbal mistakes, she was much more cheerful compared to before.

It really was good to see her like this instead of what she was like before.

I couldn't help even cursing Drogath for what he did to her in the past.

But while we were talking, Elsa suddenly changed the topic by asking, "What kind of things do you like eating?"

One moment, we had been talking about random things and then she suddenly asked what I liked to eat.

I couldn't help being surprised by this, but I still answered honestly, "There's not much that I won't eat, but I can't lie when I say that I like fried things."

Elsa gave a nod before taking out a piece of paper and writing something down.

I was confused why she did this, so I asked, "What are you doing?"

She looked at me with a smile to say, "I'm just making some notes on what humans like. Since I'm the ambassador, I should at least do this much."

I gave a nod before saying, "Hmm, but I don't think that I would be the best example for this."

She tilted her head and said, "But you're a normal human male, aren't you? So wouldn't your tastes reflect the tastes of other human males?"

I opened and closed my mouth a few times as I didn't know what to say.

Her logic didn't seem to have a flaw at all, but it felt like there was something off about her questions...something that I just couldn't put my finger on...

Still, she didn't stop there as she kept asking me more questions.

So all I could do was answer even if I felt that they were strange...

Chapter 382 Silvermine Family Again

After traveling for a few days, we arrived in Silver City again.

Waiting for us at the gate of the city were Nisa and Rondo and hiding in the back was Nori.

They led us to the Silvermine Family Manor where the rest of our group was waiting for us.

This was the group that had stayed in Silver City to take care of the ore trade with the Silvermine Family.

They had been talking to the ones that they would get the ores from and preparing everything for when they came back with the goods they would trade them with.

They were laying the foundation for the future trades.

Once they were all gathered, Nori showed them to a dining room that was waiting with dishes.

She had already heard about the group that was coming, so all of this was prepared for the ambassadors.

Many of them were friends of Ivar and the Silvermine Family, so it wasn't a problem for them to relax here.

It was a very lively dinner in the end.

The only one that had trouble fitting in was Elsa since she wasn't that close to the Silvermine Family as the others.

It was funny seeing how both Elsa and Nori were cautious with each other, even though they were around the same age.

Nisa was the one that broke the ice for the two of them and the topic that they found in common was their big brothers.

As little sisters, they were able to bond from that experience.

But on the topic of that, Ivar suddenly asked Elsa, "Is it alright if my son goes with you?"

Elsa was surprised to hear this, but she quickly gave a nod in response.

The Silvermine Family was one of the most influential families in their Dwarven King and she had already heard all about the relationship that Rondo had with Zwein's group, so she had no reason to deny this request.

Rondo was happy to go since he wasn't someone that could stay at home without feeling stuffy.

That was why he had been traveling in the first place.

But all this did was cause a problem with Nori.

"Don't take my brother away from me!"

She said as she grabbed Rondo's arm.

When everyone saw this, they couldn't help revealing awkward looks. Especially Nisa and Ivar who had spoiled Nori to this extent.

They never thought that she would even act this way in this kind of situation.

Of course, they still couldn't get angry with her even like this.

So all they could do was look at Elsa with a look like they were asking her to be gentle on her.

Elsa just calmly said to her, "You love your big brother, right?"

Nori couldn't help being surprised when she heard this.

After a pause because she didn't know what Elsa was doing, she slowly gave a nod of agreement. I think you should take a look at

Elsa then said with an encouraging smile, "Since you love your big brother, you wouldn't want to stand in his way, right?"

Noir was even more confused when she heard this.

Elsa didn't mind this and slowly explained, "This is a very important task for our Dwarven Kingdom, especially since this is our first time engaging with the human kingdoms. This will be an event that will be recorded in the books of our Dwarven Kingdom and will be known by all. As one of the ones that goes, naturally your big brother will also receive a part of the honour."

Seeing the slow look of understanding on Nori's face, Elsa continued by saying, "If you really want what's best for your big brother, wouldn't you want the entire world to know how amazing he is."

This time, Nori's eyes lit up when she heard this.

It was clear that she was slowly being coerced by Elsa's words.

But there was still a trace of hesitation in those eyes as she seemed like she was still unwilling to let go.

In the end, she said with a sigh, "Will it really be the best for him?"

Elsa didn't say anything as she just gave a nod with a smile on her face.

Nori took a while to accept this, but in the end, she still said with pouted lips, "Alright, but don't take him away from me for too long."

Elsa promised that she wouldn't and patted her on the head.

For some reason, Nori didn't resist this even though she normally didn't accept anything from anyone. It was as if Elsa had tamed her with just a few words.

After that, Nori went back over to Rondo to say a few more things, but the situation had been settled.

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

She just looked back at me with a smile and said, "It's surprising how good I am with children, right? I've always had a way with children."

Then as if she was proving something, she stuck out her chest with pride.

But all that did was make things awkward for me, especially with her figure...

The way that she stuck out her chest, it almost popped open the buttons of her dress.

That was how big they were...

Seeing the awkward look on my face, Elsa looked down and realized what I was looking at.

With that look of realization, there was a blush that appeared on her face as well.

I quickly turned away and said, "I'm sorry for staring."

But Elsa said, "It's alright...you can stare more if you want."

I was shocked when I heard this and I immediately figured that she was teasing me, but I really couldn't take this teasing.

So I immediately stood up and said, "I have to use the restroom. If you'll excuse me."

As I walked away, there was a trace of disappointment that appeared in Elsa's eyes.

This was a look that Haley, Moon, and Veronica hadn't missed.

Their womanly instincts told them something and it wasn't wrong...

Chapter 383 Where To Now?

After spending a few days in Silver City finalizing everything, we were on the road again.

But this time I had a bitter look on my face.

That was because of a talk that I had with Shaka.

"What are your plans now?" Shaka suddenly asked me when we were alone one day.

I was a bit confused when I heard this, but I replied, "We're going back to the town. Where else would we be going?"

Shaka shook his head with a sigh before saying, "I knew that you would say this...It seems like you still lack common sense."

I couldn't help pursing my lips when I heard that.

I had learned quite a bit during this time and I felt that I was quite logical, how could he still say that I was lacking common sense?

But before I could say anything, Shaka suddenly looked back up at me and said, "Do you realize what you've done here?"

I was even more confused when I heard this, so I just slowly shook my head to show that I didn't.

Shaka gave a sigh before saying, "You've opened up not just the ore trade for mithril, but also for all those other ores. For our country that has a severe lack of said ores, what do you think this means?"

There was a look of slow realization that appeared on my face.

I of course knew what this meant, but I had thought that they would take care of this matter by themselves.

All I would need to do is leave it to Scar and the others at Shadow Garden to report this matter and I would return to my own territory.

But now...it didn't seem to be the case.

I slowly asked, "Does that mean that...I've been summoned again?"

Shaka gave a nod which sealed my fate.

I had a grim look on my face as I said, "But it hasn't even been that long since the last time..."

Shaka gave a shrug and said, "Who told you to show off like this? What can we do if you do all these things that defy common sense? Just accept your fate."

"I, I, I..." I stammered out without being able to give a real response.

A royal summon, this was not something that I could ignore...

Since it had already been given, there was nothing that I could say.

So the only thing that I could do was go to the capital again.

With a sigh, I said, "Then do we have enough time to go back to my territory first?"

Shaka gave a nod before saying, "We have to meet up with our boss anyway, so we'll be heading that way."

"Scar's coming?" I said in a surprised voice.

Shaka gave another nod as he said, "He said that he's coming and he has a few choice words for you."

I could already guess what these 'choice words' were. It was going to be another scolding...

But it was deserved if I thought about it.

This was indeed a large matter that I was trying to push onto them, even if I had tried to downplay it.

This wasn't just a few simple trades, but trade that would affect the entire future of a nation. I think you should take a look at

So it would make sense that it was such a big deal.

I just didn't feel like it was related to me since I wasn't even the one that made these deals. It was all done by Haley under my name, so it felt a bit detached to me.

With a sigh, I asked, "What's the damage?"

Shaka was a bit confused when he heard this, but then a look of understanding appeared on his face.

With a faint smile, he said, "Damage? What damage? This is a good thing, don't you know?"

I didn't say anything in response and waited for him to tell me.

Shaking his head again, Shaka said, "At the very least, you'll be receiving another title. You're climbing up the noble ranks so quickly, it really is amazing to see."

He let out a sigh after saying this.

But there was a look of despair on my face.

Another title?

I was just made a viscount not that long ago and I was already receiving another title?

I knew that climbing up the ladders so quickly wasn't a good thing.

After all, a tall tree would often attract lightning.

If I climbed too high, I would surely attract the attention of more nobles and that would just cause even more problems.

Shaka saw the look on my face and said, "You're looking down on this? You think that it's that easy?"

I shook my head before saying, "I'm just afraid of trouble."

Shaka's expression became a bit serious when he heard this before he said, "This will attract the attention of quite a few people, you'll have to be careful from now on."

I gave a sigh when I heard this, but I wasn't surprised since I had already expected this.

As expected, a tall tree attracts lightning.

But then he suddenly said, "We've already made a few moves to protect you when the time comes, so you don't need to worry about this for now."

This time, I was surprised.

I never thought that they would have been this decisive to protect me even without seeing how things would turn out.

Shaka said with a faint smile, "Of course, the problem comes from our side in the first place. So it was only natural that we would make a move."

I also revealed a smile when I heard this.

I knew something that they didn't know...that Shadow Garden was filled with internal strife.

So it wasn't strange that they would be doing this.

In a few years, it would become strong enough that the entire organization would fall, so it was definitely serious.

With a sigh, I said, "Still, thank you for doing all of this."

Shaka just gave a nod in response.

Chapter 384 Being Scolded Once More

After traveling for a few more days, we passed the border and arrived back in my town.

Waiting for me was Rose and another person that I was familiar with.

It was Scar who welcomed me with a smile on his face, one that was anything but kind.

It was clear that he was angry with me, but he wasn't able to show that in front of the dwarves.

They were here as ambassadors officially, so offending them was the last thing that he could do.

So he asked to see me in private and I followed him since I was still technically his subordinate.

We went to my study once more and when we sat down...

"What were you thinking?"

Those were the first words out of his mouth, but I had already expected this.

I just revealed a bitter smile before saying with a shrug, "I didn't plan on this either. It just happened."

"It just happened?" He repeated with twitching lips.

Then all of a sudden, Scar slapped the table and said, "How could something like this just happen? Do you really think that it's that easy to do something like this? Do you know how long we've been trying to build a relationship with the dwarves only to be rejected by them?"

I didn't say a thing since I knew that all of these questions were rhetorical.

There was no need for me to say anything since...

"It's been hundreds of years since anyone has been able to make contact with the dwarves like this and you're telling me that it just 'happened'?" He said while pointing a finger in my face.

I gave a shrug without saying anything.

Seeing the look on my face, Scar gave a sigh and shook his head while saying, "He really lacks all common sense. It was my mistake expecting anything out of this crazy kid, if only I had taken this seriously and sent more people to watch him..."

I couldn't help resenting this and said in an aggrieved voice, "It wasn't as if I could do anything. If the Dwarven King wants something, it isn't as if I could say no."

Scar raised a brow as if he doubted me, so he turned to look at Shaka.

Shaka gave a nod to confirm that this was indeed the case.

Shaka had been following me the entire time, so he knew everything that happened.

Scar turned back to look at me with a strange look.

He looked at me like this for a while before suddenly asking, "How did you learn all those things that you showed the dwarves?"

As he said this, there was a trace of suspicion that appeared in his eyes.

It was as if he was saying, "If you already knew all of this, why didn't you give it to us first?"

I just calmly looked back at him, this time without any fear at all as I said, "This is my secret. I don't think I need to tell you anything about this."

Scar narrowed his eyes when he looked at me, but then he said with a sigh, "Indeed, you don't need to tell me where you learned these things, that is what we agreed on in the past. But, there's one thing that I do need to ask..." "I think you should take a look at

His eyes turned sharp as he said, "What are your intentions towards our kingdom?"

This was the bottom line.

He wanted to believe in him because of all the things that he had done before, but the secrets that he kept were just too suspicious.

So if he didn't ask this, he wouldn't be doing his job properly.

I had already been expecting this since I even knew that I had too many secrets that it seemed suspicious.

But I still calmly said, "I have no ill intentions towards the kingdom. My home is here."

There was a tense moment of silence between us as Scar just looked right into my eyes.

With the way that he looked at me, it was almost as if he was trying to see right into my soul.

But in the end, he said with a sigh, "I hope that this is the case."

I also let out a secret sigh of relief at the fact that I had been able to convince him.

If I wasn't able to convince him, this would have become much harder...

After another silence, Scar said, "Did you think that you would be able to get out of a scolding like this though?"

A bitter smile crept onto my face when I heard this.

Scar narrowed his eyes to look at me as that bitter smile on my face became wider.

He just kept scolding me about how I lacked common sense and how I didn't know how to hold back at all.

He told me that I should at least try to stay low profile and that I had a habit of causing trouble wherever I went.

I would have refuted this, but it seemed like this was the case when I thought about it.

After all, every time I had gone to travel, I had caused a big incident.

This trip to the Dwarven Kingdom wasn't any different.

When he was done with his scolding, I raised my hands in surrender and said, "I got it, I got it. I promise that I'll be careful next time."

"Next time?" He repeated before suddenly putting his head in his hand and giving a long sigh.

"There's going to be a next time?" He said in an exhausted voice before saying, "Of course there's going to be a next time with this kid...he doesn't have any self awareness at all..."

I resented this and I made myself clear as I said, "I don't think that's true. I don't want to cause trouble at all, it just happens."

"It just happens he says..." He once again repeated in an exhausted voice.

After another long silence, Scar's tone changed as he said, "Let's get down to business then."

Chapter 385 Deciding Splits

With this sudden change in tone, the entire atmosphere of the room changed.

It was clear that he was about to talk about something serious, so I revealed a serious look as well.

Scar looked at me with that serious look and asked, "How much ore did you secure?"

I had already expected this, plus Shaka should have already reported this to him since Shaka had been there when we made all the negotiations, so I just brought out a piece of paper that I had already prepared.

This was a list of all the ores that I was willing to split with the kingdom, as well as the prices for all of these ores.

The price was already considered quite good, so as long as they weren't too greedy, this would be a good deal for them.

Scar just calmly took this list and looked it over.

When he finished, he gave a satisfied nod before asking, "How are you planning on dividing this?"

That was the main thing that he had wanted to ask.

Division of the ore trade.

This was something that we had already talked about before, but now he was trying to get the specific numbers.

This was something that most likely the king had asked him for, so it could be said that this was a direct negotiation with the king.

I narrowed my eyes and looked at him before saying, "Half."

There was no change to Scar's expressions, but there was a trace of surprise that appeared in his eyes.

He looked back down at the list before giving a slow nod.

But there was still something else that he needed to ask, "What about the transport and the guards, who will be responsible for that."

I narrowed my eyes again when I heard him say this, but this was the one thing that I wouldn't compromise on.

"We'll take care of everything." I said in a calm voice.

But all that this did was make Scar knit his brows.

It was clear that he wasn't happy about this.

This trade with the Dwarven Kingdom was an important matter for their kingdom, so naturally he wanted them to be more involved in this matter.

Not only would that allow them to build a better relationship with the dwarves, it might even open up new opportunities for them.

But if they followed my plan, then they wouldn't have that chance.

Of course, I could see what he was thinking from the expression on his face. I could see that he was dissatisfied with this arrangement.

Before he could say anything, I said, "I'm the only one that they trust right now. If you try to push your way into this, then all that will happen is that a good thing will be ruined."

Scar couldn't help revealing a surprised look when he heard this.

He narrowed his eyes to look at me, but I just stared right back at him with a calm look.

Neither of us seemed like we were planning to back down until he finally said, "Alright, let's take a step back then."

With this, it showed that he was at least willing to compromise...it was just too bad that this wasn't something that I was willing to compromise on.

After a pause, he said, "What if we sent our people to go with your group? They would follow your orders while they were traveling with you."

But I shook my head and said, "No, no one will be allowed to come with us."

Scar deeply knit his brows this time.

He was willing to compromise, but it didn't seem like Zwein was willing to accept this olive branch with how firm his voice was. I think you should take a look at

I could see the look on his face, but I just calmly said, "Even if you only send people, can you guarantee that they will follow my people's orders? At the same time, can you guarantee that other people won't sneak people in?"

Scar still deeply knitted his brows without saying anything.

That was because...he really couldn't guarantee this.

It was impossible for him to guarantee that such things wouldn't happen since there were always such possibilities.

Seeing this look, I said, "That is why I won't allow a single person to join my group. If anyone causes damage to our relationship with the dwarves, this isn't something that any of us can handle."

Scar just silently looked at me with this grim look for a bit before asking, "Even if it was his majesty's will?"

My eyes twitched a bit hearing this, but I still said in the end, "Even if it was his majesty's will."

Scar just carefully looked at my expression, as if he was trying to figure out if I was being serious or not.

Then he said with a sigh, "Fine, but what about guards? With such important cargo, there is no doubt that the other countries will not remain idle. When the time comes, will you be able to protect this cargo with your people?"

This time, he had struck at my sore spot.

Indeed, it would be hard for me to protect it since I didn't have enough guards for this if other countries were to get involved.

I was still training up guards and even then, they would be used to guard my territory instead of being all sent to protect this caravan.

When he saw that I didn't say anything, Scar finally felt like he had found a way in and was about to say something, but I cut him off first.

"We'll have the kingdom's army guard us."

Scar was surprised to hear this before revealing a faint smile.

But that smile didn't last long when he heard the latter half of my words.

"But only in the territory of our kingdom."

Scar knitted his brows once more when he heard this.

I looked right at him and said, "The dwarves will protect us while we are in the Dwarven Kingdom, so we only need to be protected when we come back."

Scar narrowed his eyes to look at me as he said, "Do you really think that the troops of our kingdom can be moved that easily? They'll just protect you when you need it?"

I gave a shrug as I said, "This is important cargo, so they'll move when needed. Not to mention, it's only for a few days each month, so it isn't as if it is anything that bad."

Scar kept looking at me with those narrowed eyes as if he still couldn't accept this.

So I used my last card, "The dwarves have sent an ambassador team this time to build relations with our kingdom."

Scar once again revealed a shocked look and he turned to look at Shaka.

Shaka just gave a calm nod to show that this was indeed the case.

Scar looked at me with a strange look as he muttered, "This kid..."

I didn't show any reactions to this.

Finally, Scar said with a sigh, "Do whatever you want, I can't stop you anyway."

I just revealed a smile without saying anything.

But then Scar said, "You still have to talk to his majesty about this."

At that, the smile on my face turned bitter.

Chapter 386 Explain Yourself

Before leaving this office, there was one more thing that Scar had to mention.

"I've heard that you obtained some mines in the Dwarven Kingdom..."

His voice trailed off after saying this, as if he was waiting for me to say something.

I just calmly looked at him and said, "And?"

Scar was taken aback when he heard this.

He just looked at me with that shocked and confused look on my face.

I took advantage of this to say, "Are you saying that the kingdom is trying to take my private property away from me? Not to mention, private property that I have in another kingdom? Who knows what would happen if they were taken from me."

Scar revealed a bitter smile when he heard this.

He shook his head and said, "Of course not, how could I be saying that?"

I said with a smile, "That's good because I don't know what I would do if you were implying that."

Scar just looked away with an awkward look on his face after I said this.

But in the end, I did help him out of this hole that he dug for himself by saying, "Of course, if the kingdom was willing to buy the ores that I mined from these mines, then I would be grateful."

Scar was once again surprised when he heard this, but then he said with a serious look, "The price?"

I calmly said, "Same price."

Scar looked a bit awkward when he heard this before saying, "Can't you give us a little discount? Since we are all friends and comrades here, you can cut the price a bit, can't you?"

I shook my head before saying, "You should know that since I'm running a mine as an outsider, it actually costs more for me to mine these ores. The price that I'm already giving you is considered a discount."

Scar looked like he thought otherwise, but this was something that he didn't have any information on.

Even Shaka shook his head to show that he didn't know.

This had all been left to Haley by me, so Shaka hadn't actually gotten any information on this.

Scar turned back to look at me with narrowed eyes, almost as if he was trying to put pressure on me.

But I just calmly looked back into those eyes without a single care.

The two of us just stared at each other in silence for a bit before Scar finally said with a sigh, "Fine, we'll use the same price as before."

I gave a nod, but deep down I had let out a sigh of relief.

If it wasn't for Haley already expecting this, I really might not have known what to do.

But luckily she had predicted this and told me everything.

Since that was settled, there was nothing else left for us to discuss.

Everything else would be settled later when we reached the capital since we still needed to talk to the king about this.

After that, we went out to have lunch that Rose prepared.

Since we had arrived in the morning, there was still plenty of time to show our guests around our town.

The dwarves didn't seem that interested other than Elsa who actually wanted to learn more about humans. But since she was the leader of their group, they had no choice but to follow her around. I think you should take a look at

After an uneventful day, we settled in for the night.

But that was where my real problems started.

Rose brought me into a room alone, she didn't even bring Haley and Cecilia with her.

I had thought that it was for 'that', but it turned out that it wasn't.

After we arrived in this room, she immediately had me sit down before she stood there with her arms crossed in front of me.

She was glaring at me like I had done something wrong.

With the way that she glared at me, I knew that she must know something...but I didn't know what she knew.

I didn't know what she was angry about, so that made it hard to apologize.

All I could do was wait for her to tell me while hanging my head down.

After a long silence, Rose finally said, "Do you know why I brought you here?"

I shivered when I heard this.

This was the worst thing that she could ask me since I really had no idea why she had called me here at all.

Anything that I said would have the chance of hurting her and making things worse. But if I didn't say a thing, she would also be angry because I chose to remain silent.

So in truth, there was no right answer here...

But the longer that I stalled, the worse that it would get for me.

In the end, I chose the path that would be less painful.

I shook my head and said, "I don't know."

Rose narrowed her eyes to look at me before coming forward towards me.

She leaned in and put her hands on the armrests of the chair, pushing me back with her face until she was right up in front of me.

She looked right into my eyes like this for a few seconds before suddenly saying, "I heard something quite interesting from the others. I heard that you had a forging duel in the Dwarven Kingdom."

I slightly knitted my brows when I heard this.

I had many forging duels when I was in the Dwarven Kingdom, but I didn't know which one she was talking about.

Rose saw the confused look on my face and calmly said, "I heard that there was a specific duel where you bet something very dangerous."

I trembled when I heard this.

I finally knew what she was talking about.

It was the same reason why Haley and the others had been angry with me back in the Dwarven Kingdom.

She was referring to the duel with Drogath where I had bet my head.

Seeing this look on my face, Rose said with a scary smile, "Would you care to explain yourself?"

Chapter 387 A Different Punishment (1)

I just gave a secret bitter laugh when I heard this.

It wasn't that I didn't believe that I didn't deserve this, it was just that I knew that I was suffering from the consequences of my own actions. If I hadn't tried to risk my own life, perhaps things wouldn't have turned out this way.

But since it did, there was nothing that I could blame it on.

Taking a deep breath, I said, "I'm sorry, it was all my fault. I was too arrogant and didn't think about anyone else."

Rose looked deep into my eyes when I said this and after looking at me for a bit, she said with a sigh, "Alright, I understand that you are indeed reflecting on your actions."

My expression was slowly relaxing until I heard her next words.

"But that doesn't mean that you can escape your punishment." She said with an evil look on her face.

I was taken aback when I heard this, but then I gave a calm nod to show that I would take whatever punishment that she gave me.

This was what I deserved for what I had done, so I wouldn't shy away from it.

But it was a lie to say that there wasn't a part of me that was excited for this...

I would just never admit it no matter what anyone did.

Then to my surprise, she suddenly pulled out a few straps.

I couldn't help staring at them while wondering what she would do with them...

Rose came forward with those straps in hand and leaned in over me before she...used those straps to tie my hand to the chair so that I couldn't move at all.

Now, I couldn't help feeling a bit concerned.

"What is this? What are you doing?" I asked in a slightly worried voice.

But all she did was look at me with that same evil look as she simply said, "Punishment."

I couldn't help feeling a shiver run down my spine when I heard this.

It was both out of fear and excitement.

That was because the way that she had said this...it was just like when I had first met her.

It seemed like that part of her was part of her personality in the first place, it was just amplified by the locket...

So now that she was about to release it, I couldn't help wondering how it would be released.

As I waited to see what would happen next, Rose suddenly stood up straight and moved away from me.

She was the one that had led me to this room, so I didn't even know what this room was for. There were plenty of rooms in our manor that I didn't know what every room was for.

This was one of those rooms that I had never seen before.

Taking this chance, I slowly looked around to see what this room was.

It was an empty room that didn't have much, it seemed like it was just a normal bedroom.

That was until I noticed a few things that I shouldn't have seen.

Why was there something that looked like a cross?

Also why was there something that looked like a wooden horse?

The way that it was all laid out in this room was very familiar...like I had seen it somewhere before.

Of course, I wasn't talking about this life, but rather my previous life. I think you should take a look at

I had seen rooms like this in my 'research' sessions.

Just what was this room!?

After looking around, I couldn't stop the bad feeling from filling me.

I quickly turned back to Rose and I found that she had already finished changing.

When I saw her new appearance, I was completely shocked.

That was because she was now dressed like a BDSM queen.

With that skin tight bunny girl outfit, the stockings, and the high heels, she really gave off a different feeling.

But the most terrifying thing of all was the whip in her hands.

My chin dropped down when I saw this and after taking a moment to gather myself, I slowly asked, "What, what are you doing with that?"

Rose had just turned around when I said this and she said with a smile on her face, "It's your punishment, what else would it be?"

I gave a gulp when I heard this.

This...might have gone a bit too far...

I didn't even know why she had suddenly become like this, but I might have been at fault here.

After all, I had been leaving again and again, leaving her all alone at home.

Could it be that her resentment was piling up and she was angry at me?

Giving another gulp, I said, "Can...we not do this?"

Rose said with the same smile on her face, "No, this is your punishment."

I felt a chill run down my spine when I heard this before saying, "But it'll hurt."

She tilted her head and said, "Well, it's a whip, so it should."

My chin dropped after hearing this.

There was nothing wrong with what she had just said, but...the way that she said it really was something else.

I also couldn't help feeling a bit ashamed of myself for thinking that she was a bit cute when she said it like this...

Seeing that I stopped talking and just stared at her, Rose revealed another smile before coming towards me step by step.

With the way that she walked, her body swayed and bounced. It was almost as if she was showing her body off.

With each step she took, her breasts compressed into that tight bunny girl outfit bounced up and down, jiggling to show how big they were.

At the same time, her hips swayed as she walked over, giving off a mature beauty.

I couldn't help myself as my dick started getting hard and when it did, a large tent was pitched.

Rose revealed another smile seeing this before raising the whip in her hand and saying, "It's time for your punishment."

Before I could say anything, she suddenly brought that whip down on me.

"Ah!"

Chapter 388 A Different Punishment (2)

"Ah! Ah?"

I slowly opened my eyes and looked down at my chest where Rose had whipped me.

It didn't seem like it was hurt at all.

It didn't even leave a mark even though she had clearly whipped me.

I looked down at my chest before looking up at her hand which had the whip down, so it was clear that I had indeed been whipped.

What was going on here?

Rose saw the look on my face and she raised the whip with a smile on her lips.

I had been trying to figure out what had happened, but seeing that she had raised the whip again, I couldn't help panicking again as I said, "Wait, don't!"

But she didn't listen to me at all as she brought the whip down on my chest once again.

This time, I watched as the whip fell down on my chest.

"Ah!"

However, even though I saw the whip hitting me, there was no pain at all.

I looked down at my chest once more and found that it was the same as before, my clothes weren't even rustled because of the whip hitting me.

That just didn't make sense at all.

This was clearly a proper whip, so why was it like this?

Rose just looked at the expression on my face with a smile on her face.

It was as if she was enjoying my reaction to this whip of hers.

After watching me stare down in shock for a bit, she finally said, "It's just a replica."

I looked up at her with a confused look on my face as I couldn't understand what she was saying even if I understood the words.

A replica?

A replica of a whip?

But that would still make it a whip that could hurt people instead of this thing...

It didn't make sense at all how she was hitting me with it and it didn't hurt me at all.

Rose saw the look on my face, so she took that whip and hit her other hand with it to demonstrate.

As she did, she didn't show a single sign of pain.

After doing it a few times, she said, "See? This thing is just for show, it doesn't hurt at all."

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile on my face when I saw this.

The only question I had was... "Why did you do this?"

Rose said with a smile, "Isn't this what you like?"

"Huh?" I said in a confused voice.

She pointed down at my crotch and said, "I saw the tent that you were pitching just now. Plus, when we did this before with Haley and Cecilia, I saw how wild you went."

I couldn't help revealing an awkward look when I heard this. I think you should take a look at

I would have wanted to deny it, but I knew that I wasn't able to since she already had that certain look on her face.

She looked like she already knew everything and there was nothing for me to say.

So I said with a sigh, "Even if it is, why are you doing this?"

For the first time, the smile on Rose's face disappeared.

She looked at me with sad eyes and said, "I missed you."

I couldn't help being shocked when I heard this as I didn't know what to do.

It was a fact that I left her in our territory often since she was the one that took care of it.

No matter what I said, I couldn't apologize for this...

Plus, I had even risked my life without even thinking about her feelings.

No matter how one looked at it, these were the signs that I was a bad husband...

I wanted to reach a hand towards her, but then I remembered that I was still binded to the chair by the straps.

So all I could do was say, "I'm sorry."

Rose looked at me and shook her head as she said, "You don't need to feel guilty about this since I know that you're working hard for our people."

Then after a pause, she added, "It's just that I get lonely sometimes when you're not here."

Once again, I wanted to reach out and once again I forgot that I was still tied up.

So I said, "Can you untie me first?"

Rose gave a nod before coming forward to untie my hands.

She was no longer playing the role that she had played before.

After she untied me, the first thing that I did was take her in my arms.

Without any hesitation, I took her in my arms and said, "I'm sorry...but let me make it up to you now."

Rose was surprised to hear this before she said with a smile, "How are you planning on doing that?"

I also revealed a smile as I suddenly stood up from the chair and lifted her up.

It might have been hard for me before, but now that I had trained my muscles a bit, I was able to carry her up without any problems.

With her in my arms, I walked over to the bed in this room and put her down before climbing up onto the bed over her.

While I was over her like this, I said with a smile, "I'll show you how."

There was a blush that appeared on Rose's face when she saw me acting this way, but she didn't hide her body or stop me. It was clear that she was allowing me to do whatever I wanted with her.

But I couldn't help being stunned by how beautiful she was with this faint blush on her face.

She was already a beautiful woman with her red hair and perfect face, but that blush just added another layer of depth to her beauty.

I couldn't stop myself as I leaned in and sealed her lips with a kiss.

The two of us engrossed ourselves in this kiss, poking our tongues into each other's mouths for a long time before finally separating to catch our breath.

Seeing her panting like this, a tent was soon pitched in my pants.

Chapter 389 A Different Punishment (3)

When I saw her like this, I couldn't hold myself back any longer.

The first thing that I did was pull off my pants and free the beast.

The next thing that I did was bring my lower half forward so that it was right up in front of her face.

Rose had just caught her breath when she saw my dick appear in front of her.

She didn't even need any orders to know what to do.

She brought her hand forward and opened her mouth wide to take it into her mouth.

As soon as it entered her mouth, I could feel the familiar feeling of pleasure wrap around my dick.

No matter how many times I did it with her, there was always this feeling of pleasure that I could resist.

Whether it was the warmth of her mouth, the softness of her tongue, or the wetness that came from her licking it, it was all pleasurable.

I didn't even need to grab her head as Rose pushed herself forward to take it as deep into her throat as possible.

After being together for so long, she knew exactly what I liked.

But it was just too big for her in the end and she could only take it halfway in before she felt herself choking,

"Ah." I said as I felt her tongue rolling across my dick, feeling myself getting closer and closer.

But then all of a sudden, Rose stopped her licking and pulled herself back.

She knew that he was about to finish, so she stopped herself before he could.

After all, there was still more that she wanted from him before that happened.

After Rose pulled my dick out of her mouth, she suddenly sat up and pushed me down so that I was sitting on the bed. Then she moved her body forward so that her breasts were right over my dick.

Then she pressed them together and enveloped my dick inside of that pillowy valley.

At the same time, she let her saliva drip down from her mouth so that it fell right onto my dick in between her breasts.

She held the sides of her breasts and moved them up and down while still squeezing my dick.

The soft feeling that came from her breasts was hard to describe. It was like being enveloped in the softest pillow, but these pillows also had a pressure to them that filled him with pleasure.

As she moved her breasts up and down, the fabric of her bunny suit started to slip.

It was from the saliva that she had dripped down onto my dick.

It had started getting all over her breast and had lubed up the fabric so that it started to slip from her breasts.

Slowly, the triangular piece of cloth slipped off and her soft pink nipples were revealed.

They were standing tall and proud, showing just how turned on she was.

When I saw this, I couldn't hold myself back.

It wasn't fair that I was just enjoying it all by myself, right?

So my hands came up and I reached out towards those soft pink tips.

In one swift move, I used both my hands to pinch both of those soft pink tips. I think you should take a look at

"Ah, don't! Not there, I'm still sensitive~"

Hearing this, I couldn't help revealing an evil smile.

The more that she acted this way, the more turned on I was.

That could be seen by how my dick grew inside the soft valley of her chest, peeking out over the top of those peaks.

Seeing this, Rose didn't hesitate to lower her head down so that she was able to reach the tip of my dick and she reached her tongue out to start licking it all while she kept moving her breasts up and down.

"Ah!" I said as I felt her tongue moving back and forth across the tip of my dick.

"Muu, don't stop."

The two of us kept teasing each other like this, but as we did, we came closer and closer to climaxing.

Finally, it was Rose who gave a tremble first to show that she was close.

When I felt this, I didn't hesitate as I started playing with her nipples even more.

I pulled hard on them and suddenly twisted them.

"Eee, not so hard...Ah, you're going to make me..."

In response to this though, she also started licking even harder and moving even faster with her breasts.

This caused me to tremble as well.

The two of us couldn't take it anymore and I said, "I'm cumming."

When I did, even though she was clearly filled with pleasure, Rose suddenly stopped moving herself up and down.

Instead, she brought her head down over my dick and opened her mouth wide.

Without hesitation, she brought my dick into her mouth and wrapped it tightly as I climaxed.

I also couldn't help myself as I grabbed the back of her head and pulled her in while shooting my load deep into her mouth.

As she took this load in her mouth, I could hear her trying hard to breath as if she was choking.

At the same time, I could see the spray coming from behind her, shooting out onto the bed behind her.

Only after I had finished shooting my load did I let go of her head and let her drop.

Rose fell right back onto the bed after I let go and she tried to breath, but it seemed like she was choking on something. She had to take a big gulp before she was able to breathe again, but there was also a bubble that came out of her nose when she let out that deep breath she was holding.

After catching her breath, she opened her mouth wide for me to see that it was all gone.

I didn't even need to tell her to do this, she just knew that I liked to see this.

"You little minx...you better get ready." I said as I saw this.

Rose just revealed a smile and reached her arms out for me.

I didn't hesitate to move forward and press her down under me.

Again and again we went that night until we finally fell asleep together.

Chapter 390 Hosting the dwarves

The next morning, we woke up a bit late, but we both rushed out since we had things to do.

We still had to show the dwarves around today, so we couldn't wait.

When we met up with the dwarves, they looked at the two of us and the male dwarves all revealed knowing looks.

Elsa revealed a blush, but she didn't say anything about this.

I just pretended that everything was normal as I guided them around the town.

But I did receive a few shoulder slaps from the male dwarves...or at least they tried for the shoulder, only managing to reach the middle of my back.

...

That night, we held an official banquet to welcome the dwarves.

As the lord of this territory, it was only right to do so since they were here as ambassadors.

But with the dwarves, it naturally turned into a drinking party.

There was nothing we could do when it came to stopping them, so all we could really do was bring the best wine that we had for them.

The dwarves didn't stop at all as they drank with everyone that came.

But the only thing that fell were the people that drank with the dwarves.

The dwarves had an amazing tolerance and didn't go down no matter how much they drank.

Humans naturally weren't able to keep up with them.

So we had to keep bringing people who had knocked themselves out with how much they drank away.

I just left them alone since it wasn't a bad thing that they were enjoying themselves like this.

This would let them get closer to one another, making it easier for them to connect with the dwarves.

I went over to where Elsa was sitting.

She didn't drink like the rest of the dwarves.

While she still drank, she took sips instead of chugging it down.

She was on the side with Haley and the other girls.

It was clear that the one that she was closest to was Haley since they had gotten close during the way back, but it seemed like she was also slowly getting closer with the others.

This was something that I was happy to see.

When I came over, her eyes lit up, but she wasn't the one that came over.

It was Rose who came over to me with a smile on her face, but it didn't seem like there was a smile in her eyes.

I couldn't help wondering why she was like this, but I also knew that it was better to apologize sooner than later.

So I pulled her aside to a private room and said, "I'm sorry."

Rose shook her head with a smile on her face before saying, "What are you sorry about?"

I trembled when I heard this.

The fact that she said this was not a good sign, it meant that she was testing me to see if I was sincere...

So my brain quickly turned as I tried to figure out what she was upset about.

Then I thought of one thing.

The fact that I was leaving again in a few days to go to the capital.

Though she had already said that she didn't mind it last night, I knew that it was impossible for her not to mind it at all.

A husband that was always away, how could a wife be alright with that?

So I said, "I'm sorry I'm leaving again. I really don't want to, but..."

As my voice trailed off, I had a bitter look on my face.

Even if I didn't want to go, there was nothing that I could do.

After all, it was a royal summon that was calling me to the capital, so I had no choice but to go.

It was the king that was on the other side and this was not someone that could be offended.

But to my surprise, Rose simply shook her head with a smile as she said, "No, I already told you that I don't mind that. You are doing your best for our territory, so how could I be mad about that?"

I was surprised to hear this since I could tell that her tone was sincere.

So if that wasn't it, then what was it?

Rose's smile turned a bit sad as she said, "I already said that I don't mind you having other girls, I know that is just how outstanding you are."

I was even more confused when I heard her say this.

Why did she suddenly say this?

What was this about?

After a pause, Rose said with the same sad smile, "But it's hard when you're a bit too outstanding."

She looked right into my eyes and said, "You should try to at least have a bit of restraint."

I was even more confused when I heard this.

What was she talking about?

What did she mean by having more restraint?

Seeing the look on my face, Rose just shook her head with the same sad smile.

Then she suddenly came towards me.

I couldn't help being surprised, but I just firmly stood there and waited to see what she was planning on doing.

Rose leaned in forward and wrapped her arms around me. She wrapped me up in a hug while her head went to the side, so that she was positioned right beside my head.

Instead of turning to look at me, she went behind me and then suddenly...bit me.

I couldn't help wincing in pain at being suddenly bitten like this, but then I just looked at her with a confused look.

When Rose let go of me, she said with a much happier smile, "That's my mark, you are my man. No one can take that away."

I didn't know what was happening, but I felt like I should do something...

So I reached out to pat her head in the end and said, "I am your man."

Rose gave a satisfied nod before turning to leave.

Before she left the room, she said, "Go and talk to the other dwarves, I need to have a private chat with Elsa tonight."

Then without turning back, she walked out of the room.

I was just left there completely speechless and confused.