

Shota 431

Chapter 431 Auction trap (8)

The moment that I saw this beautiful woman, I knew that something was up.

Before this, all of the staff that had brought the items up were normal staff members that weren't excessively showing their beauty.

For them to suddenly swap this up...

It was very likely that this item was a bust that they were trying to use sexual appeal to promote.

Hence the beautiful lady bringing it up.

But when I saw what it actually was, I couldn't help revealing a wide smile.

This was just the thing that I had been looking for!

This was something that I wanted!

When the auctioneer pulled away the cloth hiding the item, a small bag was revealed.

On the pillow, there was this small bag that seemed like a coin pouch that was placed there. There wasn't anything special about this small coin pouch other than the symbol that was right in the center of it.

However, not a single person in the crowd was able to recognize the symbol.

There were a few people that were more ally inclined that were able to sense the energy fluctuations coming from this coin pouch, so they were able to tell that this was a item.

They were now just waiting to see what the auctioneer had to say.

But the auctioneer had been silent for a reason...

Plain and simple, there wasn't much for him to read in the first place.

When he finally spoke, all he said was, "This is a pouch that was found in the north. We have no idea what it does, but the energy fluctuations coming from it do indicate that it's a item."

That was it.

There was nothing more than that.

That was all the information that he had been given.

They were just selling this item because they were told to sell the item, but with nothing special about this item, it made it really hard for them to sell.

That was why they had to do all that they could to try and sell this item, hence having this beautiful lady bring it up.

But after the crowd heard this, they all revealed disappointed looks.

Not a single person looked like they were interested in this item.

Though there were a few that seemed like they wanted to take advantage of this.

Even if they didn't know if it did anything, this thing was still a item. As long as they bought it and sold it to someone unsuspecting, they would be able to get a good price for it.

Or for the nobles, they could use it as a gift and pretend that it was something amazing.

So there were still people that wanted to take advantage of this and get this bag for cheap.

It was just too bad for them that I had set my eyes on this thing.

After all, I recognized the symbol that was on the bag, so I knew what this thing actually was and what its true value was.

The auctioneer just wanted to get the auction of this thing over with as soon as possible, so he said, "Now, let's get this auction started. The starting price will be fifty gold coins and each bid needs to increase by a minimum of five gold coins."

Comparing this to the other bids, the starting price and the minimum bid increase was quite low.

After all, the shield from before had sold for over ten thousand gold coins.

This bag was only going for fifty gold coins which was considered nothing.

One could even hear the disappointed tone in the auctioneer's voice as he said this.

But even then, there wasn't a single person that was willing to bid.

They all thought that fifty gold coins was too high of a price and were waiting for the auctioneer to reduce the starting price.

Only then would they make a bid to get this thing for cheap.

Or at least that was the plan for these people until I made a bid.

I suddenly stood up to Shaka's surprise and walked out onto the balcony so that everyone could see me.

However, no one was paying attention to me until I spoke since no one had expected me to give a bid.

"A thousand gold coins."

I said this in a calm voice, but because of the spell that had been cast on this balcony, they were able to hear my voice clearly. As my voice rang out through the auction hall, everyone revealed shocked looks.

They slowly looked up at me with those shocked expressions and looks of disbelief in their eyes, as if they couldn't believe what they had just heard.

Even the auctioneer looked at me with that same look of shock and disbelief.

There was only silence that hung in the air after I made this bid, but that was the reaction that I wanted.

I could have just made a smaller bid of a hundred gold coins, or even bid fifty like they wanted without anyone wanting to compete with me, but that wouldn't have stood out as much.

Only by making this large bid would I be able to make this large impression.

In the end, it wasn't my money anyway, so there was no hesitation in making this large bid.

After that long moment of silence, the auctioneer couldn't help asking, "This guest, can you please repeat what you just said? I don't think I heard it correctly."

Once again, I calmly said, "A thousand gold coins."

The auctioneer's eyes lit up when he heard this before he quickly said, "This guest on the third floor has made a bid of a thousand gold coins. Is there anyone else willing to make a bit for this?"

When they heard this, all of the other guests couldn't help revealing a bitter look.

A thousand gold coins for this small bag?

Was he crazy?

This was a price that none of them would pay for such a small thing.

Not to mention...the one that made this bid was someone from the third floor.

That was the VVIP floor that only had the most powerful guests.

The other person who had made a bid from that floor earlier was the eldest prince, so whoever this person was definitely wasn't someone that could be underestimated. If they dared to bid against this person, there was no doubt that they would offend him.

For a small trinket like this bag, no one was willing to take this risk.

So there was only silence that followed after the auctioneer asked this question.

Of course, the auctioneer had already expected this reaction from the crowd.

The only reason that he had asked this question was because he was doing his job. He had been required to ask this question since this was an auction.

Seeing that there were no responses from the crowd, the auctioneer quickly gave the three count and said, "Sold to the guest on the third floor!"

I just gave a nod before sitting back down with a satisfied look on my face.

In one move, I had achieved my goal and had obtained something very valuable to me.

It seemed that this trip had been worth it.

Chapter 432 Auction trap (9)

After I finished bidding, I sat back down in my seat.

Shaka looked at me with a raised brow, but I just ignored him as I waited for the item I had won to arrive.

But before that, there was another nuisance.

"Count Zwein, is there something special about that small bag that you would pay this much to buy it?"

This was a voice that came from beside my room. This was a voice that came from the room next door.

It was the eldest prince who had suddenly asked this question.

I turned to see that he was leaning on the edge of the balcony, looking over at me.

I just calmly looked at him and said, "I have no idea. I was in need of a coin purse and I felt that this pouch looked good. It's a item too, so it'll be good to show off to others."

The eldest prince looked at me with slightly narrowed eyes when he heard this.

The doubt in his eyes were clear, but there wasn't anything that he could say.

After all, there was nothing wrong with what I had just said.

A noble spending large amounts of money to show off like this was normal. Not to mention that I was a noble that had large amounts of money because of the trade deal that I had with the dwarves.

So for me to spend a large amount to show off now was just the perfect thing to do.

After a long moment of silence, the eldest prince said with a smile, "Then I hope that you'll have the chance to show off that coin pouch of yours."

I just looked back at him with a smile as I said, "Thank you, your highness."

Both of us returned to our private space after that.

After he had turned around, the eldest prince looked at the butler that came with him and said in a cold voice, "Go and inform them of our friend's presence at this auction. I'm sure that they will be very interested."

The butler didn't even ask any questions as he walked out of the room.

The eldest prince sat down with a satisfied cold smile on his face.

As I watched the eldest prince walk away, I could already guess what he was planning to do.

But of course, this was what I wanted to see.

The plan was to draw attention to draw out the ones that would want to hurt me.

If I could use the eldest prince to draw them out, that would make it easier for me.

So there was no reason to use the eldest prince if he was willing to be used like this.

It didn't take long after sitting down for a knock to come from the door.

After I said, "Come in." There was a beautiful woman that walked into the room with an item on a pillow.

This was the same beautiful woman who had displayed this item on the stage, she was the one that had brought this item over.

As for what this item was, it was the bag that I had just brought.

She came over with that item and then presented it to me. As she did, she posed her body in such a way that I could see the sensitive parts of her in full.

But I just ignored this and reached out to take the bag from the pillow.

After I took it, I completely ignored her as I held that bag up in front of my face, looking at it from different angles.

The beautiful woman wasn't bothered by this at first as she waited for me to finish inspecting it.

But then after I had finished inspecting it, I still didn't spare her a glance.

That was when she became worried.

With a cough, this beautiful woman said, "Your lordship, if there is anything else that I can do for you, please don't hesitate to tell me." Then as if she felt she needed to emphasize, she crossed her arms in front of her chest to emphasize her breasts which weren't small in the first place before saying, "Anything at all."

I just calmly looked at her and asked, "You're still here?"

There was a look of shock that appeared on her face as she didn't understand what was happening.

When she made her intentions this clear, he still didn't seem to care...

She had never encountered this situation before.

So she didn't know what she should do in this situation.

"I, this, I, this..." The beautiful woman stammered a bit without being able to say a complete sentence.

I just looked right at her and said, "Can you please leave? I wish to be alone right now."

Now that I've made my intentions clear, the beautiful woman didn't dare stay.

After all, I was someone that she didn't dare offend.

But as she walked away, I seemed to have heard something.

"Does he swing the other way?..."

"Pft."

I heard more snickering coming from the side and I immediately turned to look at Shaka, but he already had a straight look on his face.

As expected of someone who works in this line of work, his poker face really was something else.

I just calmly said, "We're not here for that kind of thing, are we? We should focus on what we have to do."

He looked at me with a teasing smile as he said, "I don't mind if you want to have a bit of fun before then. I can leave for a bit if that's what you want."

My face turned dark when I heard this as I said, "Stop playing around."

Shaka just gave a chuckle before giving a nod and turning back to watch the auction.

I couldn't help giving a secret sigh after all of that.

The nobles of this world really were giving all nobles a bad reputation that these women are just throwing themselves at them like this...

I couldn't stop the headache that was developing because of this...

Chapter 433 Auction trap (10)

Since I had obtained the bag, I naturally couldn't just leave it alone.

I pulled the bag out again and started looking it over, as if I was trying to find something specific.

Shaka peeked over from time to time to see if I could find anything, but I didn't in the end.

Or rather...I was deliberately not finding anything.

The symbol that was on this bag was a dead giveaway of what this bag was.

The symbol that was on this bag was the symbol of a famous ian, but he had long been forgotten because of the passage of time. His name was a name that only existed in history books and was known by famous ians of this era.

That was because he had once been the strongest ian in the world and the one that had laid the foundation for the current system of .

It was the symbol of the first ian, Merlin.

Of course, it wasn't that Merlin from my world. Other than the name, they didn't share anything in common...well, other than being known as the greatest ians in the world.

The Merlin in this game world had been a slave who had awakened his powers when he was a child and had slowly developed them until he became the greatest ian in the world.

With that, he was able to create the current ians Tower, which was the strongest ian organization in the world. The holy land of anyone that claimed to be a ian.

The reason why I recognized this symbol was because this bag was something that I had obtained in the game before.

But the place that I obtained it was different from here.

This was an item that should have been found in the eighth prince's treasury during the noble main quest line.

After the eighth prince was defeated, this bag was supposed to be claimed by the player with the rest of the eighth prince's treasures.

But this bag didn't play a role until much later when one unlocked the Merlin quest line.

It was only then that the player would be able to find the real use of this bag.

It was a bag with spatial , just like the Storage Ring of the elves.

However, this was a bag that was created by the greatest ian, so there was a large difference in storage space.

There was a special way to open it, but I wouldn't open it here while surrounded in danger.

I would wait until I was alone to open this bag.

So for now, it was time to watch the auction.

The auction continued for some time after that.

I had thought that they would be running low on items after the lull with the bag, but it seemed that this item was just considered an intermission. After this bag, there were many special items that were brought out one after another.

There were some that I was even interested in, so I didn't hesitate to bid for them.

Since it wasn't my money in the first place, I didn't care. If someone else was paying, then my wallets were quite loose.

The crowd was surprised to see how much I was spending, but there were people that looked at me with thoughtful looks.

These were most likely those that knew that I had obtained the trade deal with the dwarves.

The way that they looked at me made it clear that they were surprised that I had this much money to spend. It was as if they didn't expect me to earn this much money from trading with the dwarves.

At the same time, it was clear that they were planning on talking to me about this.

But that was too bad for them since I wasn't interested in them.

At the same time, it wasn't as if this was my money.

So that was why I didn't hesitate to spend it.

But seeing all the attention that I got, it was clearly a good sign.

It just meant that our plan was working well and hopefully the ones that we wanted to lure in would take the bait.

After a long while, it was finally time for the final item.

Since it was the final item, it was naturally a very special item.

When it was brought out, there were several guards that came with it. They set up a perimeter around the stage so that not a single person was able to approach it.

It was as if they were going all out to protect this thing.

For the auction house to do all of this, it was clear that whatever they were about to bring out was beyond normal precious.

When it was brought out, it was even surrounded by four powerful looking guards that wouldn't let anyone approach.

This thing covered by a cloth was brought right up onto a stage.

When it was covered like this, one could clearly tell that it was some kind of tall case that held something.

As for what was underneath that cloth, we would have to wait and see.

But as this happened, I could see the looks of a few people in the crowd.

It seemed that some people had already received leaked information and knew what this thing was.

Judging by how excited they were, it should be something that was very special.

Once the thing was brought onto the stage, the auctioneer revealed a wide smile.

It seemed that even he was excited about this.

So this thing that they had saved for the finale should be something that even the auctioneer didn't get to see that often.

With all of these signs, I couldn't help feeling a bit excited.

If it really was something that special, then I might have to buy it.

After all, I currently had a special black card that would let me buy anything I wanted.

All I could do was apologize to the fourth prince's wallet.

The auctioneer came forward to the item brought up and reached out for the cloth as he said, "Now everyone, please get ready for our final item."

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With a single pull, he pulled the cloth off the case and revealed what was inside.

When it was revealed, everyone couldn't help but gasp.

That included me since I recognized the item that he had just brought out.

This was a sword that was displayed in this case that was as tall as him. It was a jet black sword that had irregular juts out of the side of the blade, making it look very sinister.

This was a blade that looked very dangerous.

But because of this unique blade, it was very easy to recognize what this item was.

It was one of the Seven Cursed Swords.

This was the Pain Sword Durand.

But for me who had a deeper knowledge of this world than normal people, I couldn't help finding it very strange that Durand appeared in this place.

That was because I knew where it was supposed to appear...

This was an item that was supposed to appear from a dungeon that spawned not far away from the capital. This was a dungeon that was supposed to appear in three years from now, a dungeon that had caused a disaster for the kingdom.

This had been considered a major event in the noble quest line.

So what was this sword doing here?

It should have been in that dungeon...

No, that dungeon didn't exist yet, so this sword shouldn't have existed either since it was generated by that dungeon as loot.

First there was Merlin's bag and now there was Durand...there were just too many things that appeared that shouldn't have been here...

I couldn't help feeling more and more confused about all of this.

However, it only took a bit of thinking to realize what was happening.

It was all because I was in the past that I encountered these things. These items existed in the world even before the events that I had experienced, so there was a history to them.

Durand was a sword that had been famous for generations along with the rest of the Seven Cursed Swords, so it wasn't as if it just existed in that dungeon.

The reason why the player couldn't get it before was that the code of the game didn't spawn this item before it was time for it to spawn. So in the game, this item only existed when the dungeon appeared.

But now that this game world had become a real world and this was the past of that real world, it was only natural that these items appeared here...

So someone must have won Merlin's bag here and then handed it to the eighth prince.

If that was the case though...then did that mean that the dungeon that appeared wasn't actually a random event?

Someone must have bought Durand today and they would have been the one that caused the incident in the future. Or they would have lost Durand to someone else and that person might have caused the incident in the future.

In short, this meant that the dungeon hadn't appeared at random like the game had presented.

There was some kind of backstory for why it had appeared and I was now a part of that backstory.

It really was a surreal feeling, like lifting the curtains and seeing all the careful preparation made behind the scenes. It was a feeling of being able to change the story before it was written.

This was a feeling that I wasn't use to, but it was an empowering feeling.

If I were to buy Durand before it was used in whatever incident created that dungeon, wouldn't I be able to save myself quite a bit of trouble?

This was when I had the ability to pay however much I wanted to pay for this sword.

I had an unlimited black card from the fourth prince...

I could only apologize to the fourth prince on this matter since I had made up my mind to buy this sword.

If this would save me the trouble of having to deal with it, I wouldn't hesitate.

After he pulled off the cloth, the auctioneer could hear the gasps and see the reactions on the faces of the crowd. As he saw this, he revealed a faint smile before saying, "It seems like the guests recognize this item, so there's no need for an introduction. Since everyone recognizes how valuable this item is, we will start the auction without delay."

He walked back in front of the podium and said, "The starting price for this item will be ten thousand gold coins and each bid must increase by an increment of a thousand gold coins. Now, do we have any..."

Before he could finish his words, there was a voice that rang out through the auction hall.

"A hundred thousand gold coins!"

It wasn't my voice that rang out.

This was a voice that came from my side.

I didn't need to look over to see who it was that said this.

It was the eldest prince who had stood up in front of everyone and made this bid.

When the people saw that it was the eldest prince, they all revealed ugly expressions on their faces.

This was different from the first item where they had just given up as soon as the eldest prince made a bid.

There were many of them that looked like they still wanted to make a bid when they saw that it was the eldest prince. It was just that they were hesitating as they were considering the pros and cons of this.

But in the end, there was still someone that made a bid.

"One hundred and ten thousand gold coins."

"Two hundred thousand gold coins."

As soon as that person made that bid, the eldest prince immediately doubled his original bid and suppressed them.

Once he did that, it was no longer an issue of just his status, but also an issue of how much money he was willing to throw at this.

This was not something that most nobles could compare to.

So it didn't seem like anyone would be able to bid against the eldest prince.

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There was a silence that filled the auction hall after this bid from the eldest prince.

Not a single person seemed like they were willing to raise the bid anymore after hearing the bid from the eldest prince.

The auctioneer had waited because this was their big ticket item, the finale of their auction. If he just let the bid for this item end like that, then it would be bad for their auction house.

But the auctioneer was also an experienced person and could read the room.

He knew that at this point, it was very unlikely that there would be anyone else making a bid for Durand...

He couldn't blame the eldest prince for this, it was just what it was.

So with a secret sigh, the auctioneer said, "We have a bit from the VVIP guest on the third floor for two hundred thousand gold coins. Is there anyone that is willing to make another bid for this final amazing item. This is an item that you won't be able to find anywhere else..."

He went on to talk about all the amazing things about Durand, as if he was hyping it up.

But everyone knew that he was just stalling for time so that other people would have the chance to bid.

It was just too bad that no one had the intention to bid now.

They just couldn't compete with the eldest prince in terms of status or wealth, so they could only let him win.

The auctioneer was quite skilled at stalling, but the eldest prince wasn't about to let him keep stalling.

The eldest prince knew that he had this bid all but won, so he didn't want to waste more time with these games.

The eldest prince came out and gave a cough.

This cough wasn't loud or soft, but it was heard all over the auction hall.

When the auctioneer heard this, his words couldn't help trailing off.

He slowly looked up to see that the eldest prince was looking down at him.

When the eldest prince did this, it was clear that he was putting pressure on the auctioneer to make him finish this auction sooner.

The auctioneer had an awkward look on his face when he saw the eldest prince looking down at him like this, but there was nothing that he could do.

After all, when the eldest prince acted like this, he would be the one that suffered the consequences if he disobeyed.

So the auctioneer had no choice but to start the three count for this bid.

"Two hundred thousand gold coins going once."

"Two hundred thousand gold coins going twice."

"Two hundred thousand gold coins going..."

"Two hundred and one thousand gold coins."

Right before he could finish this count, there was a voice that rang out through the auction hall.

As soon as that voice fell, there was a silence that filled the hall.

The eldest prince deeply knitted his brows when he heard this before he recognized this voice.

The auctioneer had also been silent since he had been shocked by this sudden interjection, but he recovered quickly as a professional.

Right before he was able to say anything, the eldest prince suddenly said, "Three hundred thousand gold coins."

Everyone took a cold breath after hearing that, including the auctioneer.

The eldest prince really didn't play around.

As soon as someone made a bid, he raised the price by another hundred thousand gold coins.

This was something that only someone as powerful as the eldest prince could do.

But at this point, this price was much more than what this item should be worth.

Yet the eldest prince made this bid without any hesitation.

It showed just how powerful the eldest prince was.

The auctioneer revealed a relieved look after getting over his shock.

He had been scared that this auction would end before it reached a point that he was comfortable with, but now that the eldest prince had made this bid, it was fine for him to end it.

He really had to thank whoever made that bid just now or else it would have been him who would have been in trouble.

Wasting no time at all, the auctioneer was about to count down the eldest prince's bid since he didn't believe that anyone else would make a bid.

"Three hundred and one thousand gold coins."

The same voice as before rang out and raised the price by a thousand gold coins just as before.

The auctioneer turned in the direction of this voice with a strange look as he thought, "Brother, you've already done your job! There's no need for you to keep bidding!"

But I didn't care at all as I made this bid.

Yes, it was me who had made that bid at the last second earlier.

I was the only one that didn't care about the eldest prince and made this bid.

This time, there was a deathly silence that hung in the auction hall as everyone looked up at the VVIP rooms with scared looks.

This person had just outbid the eldest prince not once, but twice.

And each time that he did this, he only raised the price by a thousand gold coins, the minimum amount needed to increase the bid.

If this wasn't an attempt to provoke the eldest prince, they really didn't know what it was.

If the eldest prince became angry, it was certain that his wrath would roll out on them in the audience. So they were all afraid of what would happen next, though not a single one of them dared to run.

If they did, they would draw attention from the others and be punished first.

So they all sat in their seats with tense nerves.

The eldest prince didn't say anything when he heard this bid, he just stood there with knitted brows as if he was trying to process this.

But then he walked over to the side of the balcony and leaned in towards my balcony to say, "Brother Zwein, I really need this item. Will you give me some face and concede this bid?"

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When I heard this, I didn't react at all.

As he said this, the eldest prince had made sure to keep the voice enhancing on so that his voice was spread all over the auction hall.

When they heard this, the crowd revealed shocked looks before looking up at us.

Or rather, they were looking at the eldest prince since I was just sitting there without reacting.

No one would have thought that the eldest prince would actually ask for a favour like this.

After all, it was the eldest prince...

There were few people that would have the same power as him in this kingdom, but there was someone that was strong enough that would make him ask for a favour.

Just who was this person?

As for those that recognized me, they couldn't help revealing strange looks.

After all, not a single one of them thought that I would be this powerful enough to make the eldest prince act this way.

Even Shaka couldn't help looking at me with a strange look when he saw that I wasn't doing anything.

There was a long silence that hung in the air as the eldest prince waited for a reaction.

Though he had a calm look on his face, it was clear by the slight twitch of his lip that there was something happening beneath the surface. However, that couldn't be blamed on him since that was just who he was.

He was the eldest prince of this kingdom, the one who was only below a few people.

He was not someone that was supposed to lower his face and yet when he did, he was being ignored like this by someone that he thought was beneath him. It was just too bad that he couldn't directly do anything to this person that he thought was beneath him, or else he wouldn't be acting this way.

So after a bit of silence, the eldest prince said, "Then since I have Brother Zwein's silent agreement, I'll be taking this item."

It had been my bid during this time, but the auctioneer was so shocked that he hadn't said a single thing. He had just been waiting for the eldest prince's reaction since he knew that the eldest prince wasn't someone that he could afford.

After the eldest prince said this, everyone let out a sigh of relief.

It seemed that the person in the other VVIP room was still reasonable.

He knew that there was nothing to gain from offending the eldest prince like this, so he was taking a step back with his silent acquiescence.

The eldest prince turned back to the auctioneer and said, "Three hundred and two thousand gold coins."

This time, he didn't jump up another hundred thousand gold coins.

Even for the eldest prince, this price was already a bit high and he wasn't willing to spend more money than he had to. So he didn't push it up any higher than he needed to.

The auctioneer immediately let out a sigh of relief and was about to answer in kind.

But then...

"Three hundred and three thousand gold coins."

Everyone took a cold breath when they heard this.

This time, not a single one of them dared to look up since they could feel the rage that was coming from the eldest prince. Even if they didn't see his face, they could feel the rage that was coming from his direction.

So no one dared to look up at him out of fear of attracting his attention.

The eldest prince's face was really ugly to look at at this moment.

It was completely scrunched up with rage as he looked in my direction, but I completely ignored him.

After another silence, the eldest prince said, "Brother Zwein, didn't you already agree to let me have this item? What is the meaning of this?"

There was a dark tone that appeared in his voice in the latter half of his words.

This time, I didn't keep my silence.

"That's just your own foolish delusions, when did I ever say that?"

My voice wasn't loud or soft, but it rang out clearly through the auction hall.

The previous good feelings that everyone had for me had completely disappeared as all of them started to curse at me in their minds.

"Who is this crazy idiot? Why would he provoke the eldest prince like this!? Didn't he know that this was just taunting a bull with a red cape?!"

All of them kept their heads down and not a single one of them dared to look up out of fear of being caught up in this.

Even the auctioneer couldn't help taking a few steps back as if he was afraid of getting caught up in this.

The eldest prince looked like he wanted to eat me alive, but I just ignored it all.

Shaka also looked at me like I had gone crazy, but I ignored him as well.

Finally, the eldest prince took a deep breath and said, "Do you really mean this? Are you sure you understand what you're saying right now?"

I just gave a yawn before saying, "Can you hurry up and call it already? I still have other things to do."

A synchronized cold breath passed through the crowd the moment that everyone heard this.

They all felt like they had been thrown into a cooler with the chill that hit them.

This man wasn't just crazy, he was absolutely nuts!

He was ignoring the eldest prince now even though the eldest prince was directly talking to...or rather directly threatening him.

Where did such a person come from where he didn't care at all about any of this?

The eldest prince's expression looked like he had eaten a bucket of shit when he heard this before he slammed his fist down and roared, "You son of a b****, do you really think that you're special just because of a lucky break? You're nothing more than..."

From afar, there were a pair of eyes that watched all of this with an interested look.

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Beside the owner of this interested pair of eyes, there was a cloaked figure that leaned over and said, "Your highness, should we stop this?"

That person who was watching was the fourth prince.

He had been watching from another one of the VVIP rooms.

Of course he would also be here since this was an operation that he was running. He had to be on site to make sure that nothing went wrong.

After he was asked this, the fourth prince just shook his head and said, "Leave it, he's just doing his job."

The cloaked figure visibly trembled with surprise when they heard this before asking, "Your highness, what do you mean by that?"

The fourth prince didn't answer that question and instead asked another question in return, "What do you think he's doing right now?"

The cloaked figure hesitated a bit before saying, "Provoking the eldest prince?"

The fourth prince gave a nod as if that was the answer that he was giving, but that confused the cloaked figure even more. They couldn't understand just what the fourth prince meant by this.

After all, in their mind, provoking the eldest prince was a bad thing.

If the eldest prince lost his temper and did something irrational, that would be very bad for them.

So in the end, the cloaked figure still couldn't help asking, "Then shouldn't we stop him? If the eldest prince loses control of himself and does something irrational..."

The fourth prince shook his head before saying, "Why would we do that?"

Though the expression of the cloaked figure couldn't be seen, it was very clear by their body language that they were absolutely shocked and confused when they heard this.

Just what was the fourth prince implying with this?

The fourth prince hadn't planned on explaining, but since the cloaked figure wouldn't leave him alone if he didn't explain, he had no choice but to with a deep sigh.

"Why is this so hard to understand? He's baiting the eldest prince to act. That will help our plan."

But still, he knew that the cloaked figure wouldn't understand based on that alone, so he asked, "The eldest prince will act when he's provoked like this, right?"

The cloaked figure gave a slow nod of agreement to this.

The fourth prince then continued by saying, "If the eldest prince acts, who would be the one that profits the most from this?"

The cloaked figure was silent for a bit before slowly saying, "The...second prince?"

The fourth prince gave a nod in response before saying, "They're already on edge because of our actions, so they wouldn't dare take large measures. But what if they had an excuse in place? What if they had someone else to blame for their actions?"

The cloaked figure once again fell silent as if they were in deep thought.

Slowly but surely, the cloaked figure seemed like they were figuring something out as they muttered, "If there was someone else to blame for their actions...If the eldest prince was a scapegoat..."

Finally they said in a voice of understanding, "If there's someone else to take the blame, then they can send out more people and blame it all on that person! If the eldest prince has a reason to act, then they can just say that they work for the eldest prince if they are caught and no one would be able to say anything since they know what happened between Count Zwein and the eldest prince!"

The fourth prince gave a slow nod of approval when he heard this.

He turned his gaze away from the cloaked figure beside him and looked at the VVIP room that Zwein was sitting in.

There was a thoughtful look that was on his face as he looked in that direction.

In truth, he had only worked with this Zwein because of his little sister.

If it wasn't for the fact that she cared about him, he would have used him just like everyone else.

He was a valuable piece because of his relationship with the elves and dwarves, but that was it. He wasn't much beyond that, so he had been planning on using him like a piece in a chess game.

But now...he realized that he had been wrong.

This Zwein was much smarter than he thought.

He was able to adapt on the fly like this and create plans that even he didn't think of.

So he had to admit that he was wrong about Zwein.

This kind of intelligence was almost on the same level as his own.

He had almost missed this because of how low profile Zwein stayed, but now he knew what he was capable of.

If that was the case...this Zwein might really be the one.

If he was this smart and if his little sister was this in love with him, then he would do what he could to make it happen.

After thinking for a bit, the fourth prince suddenly turned to the cloaked figure and said, "I want to make a few changes to our plan."

The cloaked figure was surprised to hear this, but they could hear the tone in the fourth prince's voice. So the cloaked figure immediately fell to one knee in front of the fourth prince and said, "Your highness, please give me your order."

The fourth prince gave a nod as he told the cloaked figure a few words.

The cloaked figure didn't look up, but there was a tremble that came from them showing how surprised they were.

But in the end, they still said, "Yes your highness, I will pass down your orders now."

The fourth prince gave a nod as the cloaked figure left.

Then he turned back to look at the fight between the eldest prince and Count Zwein again before saying, "This is very interesting."

But he never would have known that his guess was incorrect.

He had thought too deeply about this.

In truth, Zwein's ideas weren't as deep as he thought.

Chapter 438 Auction trap (15)

After cursing me for a bit, the eldest prince realized that none of this mattered if I didn't react.

After all, he had heard about what the king had done after learning that this Count Zwein had been offended...

So he couldn't do anything in public no matter how enraged he was.

The only thing that he could do now was...

The eldest prince took a deep breath before turning back to the auctioneer and saying in a deep voice, "Three hundred and fifty thousand gold coins."

Since he couldn't convince him, then he would crush him with money.

That was the only way to end this with him getting what he wanted.

But the eldest prince didn't jump up another hundred thousand this time.

That was because...he couldn't afford it. He needed to save as much as he could since there were other things that he needed to do with his money.

But this time...it was him to be pressured.

I knew that the eldest prince would have a limit and it seemed that he was getting close to that limit which was why he was slowing down his bid.

Since that was the case, then I would use my bid to pressure him.

After all, it wasn't my money in the first place.

The auctioneer quickly recovered and was about to give the three count as fast as he could. He wanted to end this auction and send the eldest prince off before they suffered the consequences of his rage.

But before he could...

"Four hundred thousand gold coins."

My voice slowly rang out through the auction hall once more and they looked up at my VVIP room in shock.

Before this, I had only ever raised the price by a thousand gold coins.

But now I was going toe to toe with the eldest prince in terms of bids.

The eldest prince turned to look in my direction with a bewildered look, almost as if he couldn't believe what he had just heard.

After a moment of silence, he gritted his teeth and turned to the auctioneer to say, "I wish to raise a formal complaint! I don't believe that this person actually has the ability to provide these funds and is just causing trouble! I wish to confirm whether this person can actually afford such a bid or I will be raising a formal complaint against the auction house!"

The auctioneer was taken aback when he heard this, but he revealed a look like he believed what the eldest prince was saying.

He didn't know anything about the guest in the VVIP room making the bid, but he couldn't help finding it suspicious that they were able to make such bids.

So the auctioneer was about to see if he could find out the truth about this.

After all, if he could stop this person, that would appease the eldest prince.

But before he could say anything, he suddenly knitted his brows.

It was almost as if there was someone invisible talking to him that made him stop in his steps.

He knitted his brows before mouthing something before knitting his brows even more.

The eldest prince saw that the auctioneer wasn't saying anything, so he gave a cough and said, "I said that I wish to raise a formal complaint."

The auctioneer had an ugly expression on his face as he looked up to the eldest prince and said, "I'm sorry, but we cannot accept your formal complaint. We have already checked the assets of the guest in

the VVIP room and they are more than capable of paying this amount. So we will be accepting their bids."

The eldest prince deeply knitted his brows when he heard this.

He had thought that since he couldn't suppress Zwein, he would just suppress the auction house.

But to his surprise, the auction house didn't back him up at all and instead took Zwein's side.

This didn't make any sense at all!

Why would they do that?

In the end, the eldest prince didn't lose his temper with the auction house.

He knew who was behind the auction house and no matter how enraged he was, he wouldn't lose his calm at a time like this.

Even if he had all the courage in the world, he wouldn't actually do anything to the auction house since he couldn't afford the consequences.

The eldest prince just gritted his teeth and said, "Four hundred and fifty..."

Before he could even finish, I was already cutting him off.

"Five hundred thousand gold coins."

The eldest prince tightly clenched his fists when he heard this and it almost seemed like his eyes were filled with flames of rage.

He looked like he was about to pop a blood vessel with the amount of rage that he was feeling, but he had no choice but to force this anger down.

He looked over at my room, but I just ignored him as I remained sitting there.

The eldest prince tried one more time as he said, "Do you know who you're messing with?"

"Does it look like I care?"

That was my only response to this.

The eldest prince had the strangest look on his face since he never thought that I would respond this way.

His entire body shook as he stood there, but the look on his face made it clear that he didn't know what to do.

Or rather, it could be said that he really didn't have any more options.

"Five hundred and one thousand..."

"Six hundred thousand gold coins."

I said, cutting him off once more.

Our positions had completely changed now.

He was the one that was raising by a thousand and I was the one raising by a hundred thousand.

The eldest prince once more looked at the auctioneer, but the auctioneer also ignored him.

So the eldest prince had no choice but to clench his teeth and turn around, disappearing back into his VVIP room.

With that, the bid came to a close.

Chapter 439 Auction trap (16)

Since the eldest prince had gone back in without making a bid, it was clear that he was giving up on this item.

The auctioneer was completely caught off guard by this and it took him a while before he was able to react.

But after he did, he started counting it down without any hesitation.

He remembered what he had heard earlier, so there was no need for him to doubt it. He was nothing more than a simple auctioneer, so he wouldn't involve himself in this matter.

In the eldest prince's VVIP room, the butler that came with him just hesitantly stood there in the corner as if he was afraid of making a single sound.

He could sense the rage that was coming from the eldest prince, so he knew that he should stay out of the way to avoid attracting his wrath onto him.

But...the eldest prince had other plans.

With a cough, the butler came forward and said, "Your highness, is there anything you need?"

The eldest prince didn't say a word as he just sat there staring down at the auctioneer.

Finally, he said in a deep voice, "Go and call our people. Make sure he disappears tonight."

The butler trembled when he heard this, but then he slowly said, "Your highness, is this really the best idea? You should have heard about what happened with Marquis Heiman...if you were to do anything now..."

The eldest prince slammed his fist down on the armrest of the chair before saying, "Don't you think that I know that?"

He narrowed his eyes and looked at the butler with a dangerous look before saying, "Since you've already passed down the message to those people, we'll take advantage of that. We'll watch from afar and only strike when the time is right."

The butler slowly understood what the eldest prince was saying before bowing his head and saying, "Yes, your highness. I will make sure that everything is ready."

The eldest prince just waved his hand as if he was dismissing him.

The butler didn't dare delay the moment that he saw this wave of the hand.

He left with his head down, almost as if he was being spared.

After the butler left, the eldest prince turned to look in the direction of Zwein's VVIP room and muttered under his breath, "Do you really think that you would get away with making a fool of me? I'll dance on your grave."

...

After the eldest prince went back into his room, I couldn't help letting out a disappointed sigh.

I had been hoping that the eldest prince would keep the bid going, but it didn't seem like he was going to.

So I couldn't help feeling disappointed, but I didn't keep poking at him since I knew that there was nothing worse than a beast that was trapped in a corner.

When he is pushed too far, he might start biting like he really means it.

So it was better not to push the eldest prince into a corner.

But at the very least, I had accomplished what I wanted to accomplish.

When he went back in, I could see the look that was on his face.

I knew what he was planning and that was just fine with me since that was what I wanted in the first place.

I wanted the eldest prince to involve himself in this matter and try to kill me.

Once that happened, he would be caught by the fourth prince and dealt with by him.

The eldest prince had already tried to kill me once, so I wanted to use the fourth prince to take care of him. After all, I didn't believe that the eldest prince would let me go that easily.

Since there was an opportunity now, I would be a fool not to take it.

As for whether the fourth prince would be strong enough to take down the eldest prince and the second prince at the same time, I had no doubts about that.

In the game, the fourth prince had taken down all of the other princes at the same time.

I might be the only one in the world who knew just how deep the fourth prince's hands reached.

So I was the only one that could fear him properly.

He wouldn't be bothered by just the eldest and second prince.

Shaka had been silent the entire time, but after seeing the eldest prince leave, he couldn't help asking, "Was that a smart move? Did you really have to provoke him like this? Won't he be a problem?"

I just shook my head and said, "You shouldn't underestimate the fourth prince. He won't have a problem taking care of both of them."

Shaka was very confused when he heard this and he raised a brow in doubt as he looked at me, but I didn't say anything else in response.

I just waited to see the show that would come.

After the auctioneer finished the count, the item was sold and quickly brought to our room.

This time, it was the manager of the auction hall that came with several guards to bring the item to us.

When they came in, the guards stayed outside as if they didn't need to guard the manager and the manager brought the sword in himself.

After coming in, he didn't even ask about the payment as he presented the sword to me and said, "Count Zwein, here is the item that you've bought."

As he said this, there was a reverent look on his face while he looked at me.

I just gave a casual nod before taking the sword and saying, "Is there anything else I need to do?"

The manager quickly shook his head as he said, "No, no, everything has been handled for you."

He seemed like he was about to say something else, but I said, "Alright, then I'll be leaving. Help me call my carriage around."

The manager had a visible disappointed look when he heard this.

He clearly had wanted to invite me to something else, but since I had said that I was leaving, he didn't dare go against me.

So he just said, "Yes, we'll call your carriage right away."

Chapter 440 Auction trap (17)

The manager left to prepare the carriage, but the guards remained outside the door.

We didn't leave after the manager left since we knew that it would be dangerous for us to leave like this.

Only when our carriage came would we leave.

As for the guards, they were here to protect us in case anything happened.

But of course, anyone that would make a move in this auction house was a fool since this auction house was backed by the royal family. Naturally, there would be the best protection here.

When the two of us were alone in the room, I picked up Durand and held it up in front of me.

As I looked at it, I couldn't help admiring it.

This blade was just like the one in the game, but there was something different about seeing it in real life instead of through the screen.

Holding it in my hand like this, I can sense just how sharp and powerful this sword was.

If one wasn't careful, they might just cut themselves on the blade just by touching it.

But at the same time, I could feel the dark energy that was coming from this blade.

After all of my adventures, I had become quite sensitive to mana. So I could sense the dark attributed mana that was coming from Durand.

As expected of one of the Seven Cursed Swords.

In the game, the description of Durand had been that this was a sword that was forged with the intense pain of ten thousand souls. The cuts that Durand made would never close and would ache eternally, draining on the mind of those that it was used on.

That was why it was called a cursed sword.

But at the same time, there was another curse that came with it.

Those that used this sword would suffer the pain that they inflicted.

In the game, it was damage equal to the damage that was inflicted with the sword that was would be inflicted on the user of the sword.

It was basically suffering the same amount of damage that one dealt.

But of course, this damage could be negated with armour and various different buffs, or this item would be completely unusable. It was only the player character that had this special right and all other people would suffer the damage that they inflicted.

After staring at this sword for a bit, I was about to put it away into my Storage Ring.

However, before that could happen, there was some kind of glow that came from my hand.

When I looked down, I saw that there was a glowing pair of wings that appeared on the back of my hand.

This was the Mark of God that I had received from Solista.

I didn't know what to do, so I just watched as the mark glowed on the back of my hand, waiting to see what happened.

But Shaka wasn't as calm and patient as me as he asked, "What's happening?"

I shook my head and said, "I don't know, but it shouldn't be something bad."

Shaka had a look of doubt in his eyes when he heard this, but he fell silent as he waited to see what would happen.

The Mark of God on the back of my hand glowed for a bit before that glow suddenly appeared on Durand. This glow appeared where my hand was holding the sword and it slowly began spreading across the sword.

It went from the hilt where my hand was until it completely covered the sword.

As Durand was covered in this glow, it was as if the dark energy that was coming from it was getting weaker.

It was almost as if this glow was slowly purifying the darkness of Durand...

I wasn't certain since I couldn't appraise it like in the game, but it felt like Durand was changing.

This glow remained around Durand for a bit before it slowly started to fade.

When it was gone, the feeling that I got from Durand was completely different from before.

It was as if this was nothing more than a normal sword...No, it wasn't a normal sword since I could still feel the powerful energy coming from it. However, it definitely wasn't as dark as it was before.

It was as if the glow from the Mark of God had purified the sword.

Shaka had been staring at the sword just now as it was covered in this glow, but once that glow disappeared, he looked at me with an inquisitive look. It was as if he was asking me what had happened.

I could see this, so I slowly turned to look at him before shaking my head and saying, "I don't know."

Shaka narrowed his eyes to look at me, as if he doubted what I said.

But even if he did, there was nothing that I could say since I had no idea what just happened.

This Mark of God was something that I had gotten from Solista, but I never thought that it had this kind of power...

The two of us just remained silent for a long time as we both stared at the sword.

We were finally interrupted by the door opening and someone coming in.

When we looked over, we found that it was the manager who had come back.

He had walked in and then stopped to look at us. On his face was a worried look.

That was because he saw the two of us just standing there looking at Durand and he couldn't help fearing that something was wrong with it, so he said, "Count Zwein, is something wrong? Is there a problem with the item?"

I slowly shook my head before saying, "Is my carriage here yet?"

The manager was surprised to be asked this, but he gave a nod before saying, "Yes, your carriage is waiting for you downstairs."

I gave a nod before putting Durand away and saying, "Lead the way."

The manager was surprised to see Durand disappear into thin air, but he gave a nod and gestured for us to follow him as he said, "Please follow me."