

Shota 441

Chapter 441 Auction trap (18)

After we came out of the room, the guards that had been waiting outside immediately surrounded us.

The manager quickly turned around and said, "Count Zwein, I hope that you will not mind. We have prepared guards to escort you to your carriage."

I gave a nod since I already knew that this was the case.

If anything happened to me while I was still in the auction house, they would naturally be the ones that would be punished. Not to mention that if I was robbed of the item that I won, they would lose all their reputation.

So that was why the manager was being so cautious.

I didn't mind since this was just how it was.

Plus, it would be a good way of attracting attention like I wanted.

As we walked through the auction hall, it was definitely eye-catching with all the guards around me.

There were many people that pointed and whispered as we walked through, but that was fine with me.

However, we didn't go to the entrance. Instead, we went to the back entrance where my carriage was waiting for me.

After I got in, the manager came forward to ask, "Count Zwein, do you require an escort back home? This is one of the services that our auction house provides for our important members."

I just shook my head and said, "There's no need for that."

Then before the manager could say anything else, I gave the driver a signal and he started moving the carriage. The manager could only watch as we drove off without giving him a chance to speak.

After we left the area of the auction house, I asked the driver, "Is everything set up?"

The driver was someone who was sent by the fourth prince, so he had been taking care of the setup while we had been at the auction.

After hearing what I said, the driver gave a simple nod before saying, "When they come later, all you have to do is remain in the carriage. We will take care of the rest."

I gave a nod back, but the look in my eyes told a different story.

The look in my eyes made it clear that I would act on what I thought was correct.

The driver didn't care though since this wasn't a part of his orders.

All he had to do was bring us to the ambush location.

As we got closer and closer, the driver made sure to give us signs to tell us that we were getting close so we could prepare ourselves.

While we were driving through the streets, I noticed that there were fewer and fewer people walking around.

It was clear that this area had been cleared so that normal people wouldn't be caught up in this. At the same time, the other side would clear out the area so that there would be fewer witnesses.

While we passed by them, Shaka said, "These people aren't normal."

I looked at him with one brow raised and he just gave me a look that explained everything.

These people that were walking around in the streets, they were people that had a dangerous vibe to them. It was a vibe that Shaka would recognize right away because he too had a vibe that was similar to this one.

It was the vibe of someone who...was involved in certain shady businesses.

They were either guards or assassins that had been hired by the fourth prince or the other princes.

Regardless of what I wanted, we were already deep into the plan and there was no turning back.

So I revealed a serious look and focused my mind for what was about to come next.

The carriage continued onward and only stopped after traveling for a while longer.

But this wasn't a sudden stop, this was a stop that came from the carriage slowing down. And they didn't stop because they had arrived at their destination, but rather because there was something that stopped them.

Looking out from the window, I could see that there was a group of people that had suddenly appeared in front of our carriage.

With the way that they stood there, it was clear that they didn't have any good intentions.

In fact, it looked like they were about to attack us.

The driver stopped right in front of them before asking, "Is there anything that we can do for you?"

The leader of this group revealed a smile before saying, "Yes, you can leave your lives and your goods here."

The driver knitted his brows when he heard this before saying, "I don't know who you are, but you should be aware that this is the carriage of the lord Count Zwein. Do you really think that you'll be able to get away with this?"

The leader of the group gave a chuckle before saying, "Isn't that the reason why we're doing this? You shouldn't be a fool, so just leave now and we'll spare your life."

The driver didn't say anything as he looked at this leader with knitted brows, but his hands weren't idle. They were still firmly gripped on the reins connected to the horse in front of him.

Then all of a sudden, the driver raised the reins and was about to drive the horse forward to break through this group.

But before he could, the leader suddenly threw a knife at the driver.

The driver was able to dodge out of the way, but that knife cut through the reins and freed the horse.

At the same time, his subordinates all aimed their daggers at the horse.

Now that the horse was free from the control of the driver, it ripped itself out of its harness when it saw the daggers flying at it. When it did this, it also destroyed part of the carriage while breaking free.

So by the end, the horse was able to run off past these attackers and leave the carriage stranded there in the middle of the street.

There was no escape for them now.

Chapter 442 Auction trap (19)

"Do you want to leave? As long as you leave, we won't make it hard on you." The leader of these attackers looked at the driver and pulled out a dagger when he said this.

The driver just looked right at the leader and said, "Are you saying that you'll really let me go if I leave?"

The leader said with a smile, "I am a man of my word. You aren't involved in this matter, so there's no reason for you to suffer. As long as you are willing to leave, we don't do a single thing to you."

The driver slowly came down from the carriage when he heard this.

The way that he was acting, it was as if he really was moved by what the leader of the attackers had said.

Once he was off the carriage, the driver raised his hands to show that he didn't want any trouble. The attackers just watched and waited to see what he would do next.

The driver slowly moved forward towards the attackers, but still they didn't do a thing.

With his hands up, he said, "I'll walk out of here and you won't attack me. Can you promise me that?"

The leader just gave a nod before moving to the side, clearing a path for the driver to go through. Then he said with the same smile on his face, "As long as you're willing to leave, then we won't do anything to you. We only have business with the one in the carriage."

Though there was a path prepared for him, the driver moved slowly towards it.

It was as if he still didn't trust the attackers even though they had done all that they could to show that they really meant no harm to him.

The distance between the two sides decreased until the driver was only a few steps away from the attackers.

It was at this time that the driver suddenly slowed down even more.

The leader of the attackers narrowed his eyes to look at the driver as he said, "Is there a problem?"

The driver gave a nod before saying, "How do I know that you won't track me down after this? You've seen my face and I've seen yours, so I could be considered a witness. You would want to silence all witnesses, don't you?"

The eyes of the leader of the attack relaxed when he heard this.

He once again revealed a smile as he said, "I can give you my word, for whatever that is worth. I can promise you that we won't do anything to you provided that you leave right away and don't talk to anyone unless they look for you."

Then after a pause, as if he realized that there was something wrong with what he said, he added, "That is as long as you aren't in danger, you won't say anything."

The driver looked at the leader of the attackers with one brow raised, almost as if he was doubting him.

But the leader of the attackers just looked back at him with the same smile on his face.

Finally, the driver said, "Alright, that's very reasonable. I'll be going now."

After he said this, he started moving forward once again.

The attackers didn't make a move as he came right in front of them.

But once he was there, the driver stopped once again to look at the leader of the attackers.

The leader narrowed his eyes once again and there was a trace of impatience that appeared in his eyes as he asked, "What's wrong now?"

The driver calmly said, "Well, it's like this...I still haven't been paid by the count yet, so I was wondering..."

His voice trailed off, but it was very clear what he was implying.

The leader knitted his brows as he said, "Is money really worth more than your life?"

The driver started to cry as he said, "Please sir, I have an elderly mother and many young children that I have to take care of. If I don't get this money, I don't know how we'll make it to the end of the month."

The leader knitted his brows even more and it was clear that he was losing his patience.

He reached into his sleeve and pulled out a dagger to point at the driver before saying, "If you don't leave now, you won't have a life to leave with."

The driver suddenly leaned forward, almost as if he was about to grab the leader's legs...but then he suddenly stabbed his hand out towards the leader's face.

The leader wasn't caught off guard at all as he raised his hand with the dagger in it to meet this hand stabbing at him.

There was the sound of metal clanging against each other as two daggers clashed.

The leader looked at the driver and said with a smile, "It seems like there really are no decent people left in the world. You offer someone a chance to live and not only do they not take it, they even try to stab you in the back."

The driver looked up with a cold smile as he replied, "Stab you in the back? Can you really say that you wouldn't have stabbed me in the back if I really left?"

The leader acted like he was offended as he said, "I am a man of honour, of course I would never do anything like that."

The driver just gave a scoff before saying, "Sure you are."

The leader didn't mind this as he casually said, "But don't you see the problem here?"

With a wave of his hand, his men started moving forward to surround the driver. Once the driver was surrounded, he said, "I think that you might be at a disadvantage here."

However, the driver didn't seem worried at all even though he had been surrounded.

He just looked up with a smile before saying, "Is that so? I think that things might not go the way that you want them to."

Then all of sudden, he shouted, "Now!"

Chapter 443 Auction trap (20)

As soon as the driver gave this cry, there were daggers that suddenly flew through the air.

The attackers immediately moved away from the driver since the daggers were aimed at them.

They all went in different directions since the daggers came at them from different directions.

When they stopped, they found that they were all split up.

It was clear that the daggers hadn't been thrown to hurt them, but rather to force them to move away from each other. It was all to split them up so that they could be taken down separately.

The attackers realized this too late as several cloaked figures suddenly jumped down from the rooftops and surrounded these attackers.

The driver just looked at the leader of the attackers and said, "Now, shall we?"

The leader of the attackers revealed an ugly look, showing that he clearly didn't expect this. However, he didn't panic since he was a well trained person.

These attackers were without a doubt trained people sent by someone and not just normal thieves. So they didn't panic when they were surrounded by all of these cloaked figures.

Instead, they started coordinating with each other to push them back.

The cloaked figures found that the attackers worked quite well together.

These attackers used daggers as their main weapons, but it was used in a different manner.

Instead of stabbing and slashing with these daggers, they threw them. These daggers were thrown at the cloaked figures that had jumped down to surround them.

But the problem wasn't that they were throwing these daggers.

If it was just daggers being thrown, then it would be easy for them to deal with. After all, it wasn't that hard to dodge daggers that were thrown.

The problem was their coordination when throwing these daggers.

Every time that a dagger was thrown, there would be another attacker behind that would catch it and throw it back. This meant that there would always be a follow up attack that came from behind them.

This forced the cloaked figures to be on guard for attacks that came from in front of them and behind them.

It didn't take long before the attackers were once again at an advantage.

The leader and the driver had been clashing with their daggers the whole time.

When the leader saw his men pushing the cloaked figures back, he looked at the driver with a smile and said, "It seems like your people aren't doing that well. Do you want to go and help them?"

The driver pushed the leader back with a quick slash before stopping himself. He looked at the leader and said with a smile, "Do you really think that this is all that we have?"

The leader couldn't help slightly knitting his brows when he heard this.

Then what followed was a cry of pain before a person fell to the ground.

As for which side this person belonged to, he was one of the attackers.

There was a dagger that was sticking out of his back when he fell, but the angle that the dagger inserted itself into his body was strange. The angle made it seem like the dagger had come from above.

The attackers immediately backed away when they saw that one of their own had been killed.

At the same time, they quickly looked in the direction that the dagger had come from.

When they looked up at the roof of one of the buildings around them, they found that there were more cloaked figures standing there. They had daggers in their hands that they were preparing to throw.

The leader also looked up and found that it wasn't just this one building that had these cloaked figures on it. There were many cloaked figures on the roofs all around them with daggers in hand.

They were completely surrounded by enemies.

The leader couldn't help revealing an ugly look that almost seemed to be saying, "How did we not notice this?"

But there wasn't time for him to think about what to do as the driver was already charging at him again.

After the first attacker was stabbed in the back by the dagger that was thrown from the roof, they all started looking for ways to escape this place. They knew that they were surrounded and this was a situation that was very bad for them.

This was not a place that they could stay in for long if they wanted to keep their lives, so they were all looking for a place to escape to.

But how could the ones on the roof allow that to happen?

Let alone those that were down there with them.

The cloaked figures on the ground immediately went forward to chase after the attackers that had wanted to escape.

The attackers immediately threw out daggers to dissuade them from chasing, but the cloaked figures didn't care at all as they faced these daggers head on. After all, throwing these daggers would divert their attention and stall them, so they wanted to see these attackers throw these daggers.

This would give openings for those on the roof to attack these attackers.

The tide of the fight had completely changed with these new cloaked figures that appeared.

Slowly but surely, the attackers were being cut down by these cloaked figures.

It was almost certain that they would all die at this rate.

However, the leader of these attackers didn't seem to panic. Instead, he just focused on his fight with the driver.

Not for a single second did he seem like he was going to give the order to retreat.

It was almost as if they were going to fight to the very end...but that didn't make sense.

The driver couldn't help feeling that something was off.

It was almost as if these attackers were stalling for something...

What no one noticed was that under the carriage, there was another pair of eyes that had been watching the entire fight.

Now that this fight had reached its climax, it was this person's time to shine.

Chapter 444 Auction trap (21)

This person clinging to the bottom of the carriage had only gotten under when the carriage had slowed down.

They had slid under while no one was looking and had been clinging to the carriage the entire time, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

Though they could see that the attackers were struggling against the cloaked figures, this person didn't even spare them a second thought as he only focused on the people that were inside of the carriage.

After all, his one job was to kill those people.

Seeing that the driver was distracted by the leader and the cloaked figures were all focused on the attackers, this person dropped down from the carriage and rolled out to the side before standing up.

There was no hesitation in his actions as he pulled out two daggers and jumped up at the carriage.

He was planning to kick the door in and then stab whoever was inside.

But before he could do that, the door suddenly flew out at him.

This person had a look of shock on his face, but he also quickly brought his hands up in front of him to guard his body.

The door hit this assassin and then sent him flying through the air.

As he flew through the air, he flipped twice before landing on the ground and looking up at the opened door. There wasn't a single second where he had let his guard down even though he had been sent flying through the air like this.

He was prepared to fight at any moment.

Standing at the door of the carriage was Shaka with a strange looking sword in his hand.

The assassin was surprised to see that there was someone inside of the carriage as well, but that didn't mean that he was ready to give up that easily.

After all, there were only two paths in front of him.

Finishing the job or death.

Of course, all of this had made quite a bit of noise, which had drawn the attention of the driver and the cloaked figures.

When they saw the assassin standing there by the carriage, they all immediately knitted their brows and wanted to go help. But before they could, the attackers and the leader all went into action.

Instead of being scared for their lives, they went all out as if their lives didn't matter.

A beast that was cornered fought the most fiercely, so when these attackers and the leader fought without care for their own lives, they were very powerful.

Once they stopped caring about whether they died or not, the cloaked figures and the driver were actually pushed back by them.

Of course, the downside to this was that they suffered large wounds that made it very likely that they would die soon. There would be no way out for them now that they had been injured to this extent.

But that didn't cross their minds at all since they only had one thing to do.

They would buy time while the assassin attacked the person in the carriage.

The assassin narrowed his eyes to look at Shaka, but he didn't panic. Instead, he just threw the daggers that were in his hand up into the air.

Shaka didn't lose focus when he saw this and just narrowed his eyes to focus on the assassin.

After throwing his daggers into the air, the assassin suddenly pulled out two more daggers that he threw forward.

Those daggers hit the two daggers that were falling in the air, sending all four of these daggers flying at Shaka from different directions.

Shaka had been watching all of this and his eyes had followed those daggers, so he just swept that strange looking sword in his hand out.

With the sound of metal clashing, all of the daggers around him were knocked out of the air.

But...there was one more dagger coming at him.

This was the dagger that had been thrown after all the other daggers had been sent in Shaka's direction. This was the dagger that had been delayed so that it would come from Shaka's blind spot after he knocked away all the daggers.

Shaka might have been in danger if it wasn't for his keen senses warning him of this already.

He already knew that this last dagger was coming, so he went with the force of the sword swing and twisted his body out of the way. The dagger flew past him with just a few centimeters to spare.

With another turn, Shaka suddenly dashed forward as a green glow appeared around him.

In an instant, he appeared in front of the assassin and swung the strange looking sword in his hand down at him.

The assassin was surprised to see Shaka appear in front of him like this, but he still reacted as he pulled out another pair of daggers from his sleeves and brought them up to block Shaka's sword.

It was just too bad that these daggers weren't able to resist the sword for even a second.

The moment that the daggers made contact with the sword, there was a cracking sound that rang out before the daggers shattered to pieces.

The assassin didn't even have time to reveal a shocked look as the strange looking sword slammed down into his chest, slamming him into the ground.

After being slammed into the ground, the assassin just stopped moving as his chest had caved in.

It was clear that his ribs had been shattered from this one strike from Shaka.

But one could still see his chest moving a bit, showing that he was still alive.

Even with his chest shattered like this, he was still alive which really was amazing.

That showed just how skilled Shaka was that he was able to hold back to this extent.

After the assassin had been beaten down like this, the rest of them weren't able to hold on any longer and the attackers and leader were all subdued or killed by the driver and cloaked figures.

It seemed like it was all over.

Chapter 445 Auction trap (22)

Once all of the attackers had been subdued, the driver came back to the carriage to check on me.

But before any of them could reach the carriage, there was a ball of fire that suddenly appeared.

Before any of them could do a thing, the ball of fire had landed on the carriage and blew it up.

There was only a second of silence before they all ran over to check on the carriage. But all they could see was a smouldering mess that had once been the carriage burning in the middle of the road.

The driver looked at Shaka and Shaka looked back at him before both of them rushed forward. With the way that they raised their hands, it was as if they were prepared to pull apart this burning mess to look for the person who had been inside.

But before they could, there was a voice that said, "There's no need for that, I already left the carriage."

As soon as they heard this voice, they immediately turned to see me standing there with Shadow Five by my side.

Both of them immediately came to my side and surrounded me, making sure that there wouldn't be any other spells cast before checking on me.

I waved my hand at the two of them before saying, "I'm fine, I'm fine. I got out before the fireball even came."

Both of them looked at me with strange and confused looks, as if they were asking me, "How did you get out?"

I could see that, so I said, "You should know that I'm sensitive to ." Shaka gave a nod since this was more for him than the driver since I didn't know the driver that well. Then I continued by saying, "As soon as they started casting the spell, I already knew what was coming and I got out of the carriage before it could come."

But only I knew the truth...

I didn't get out of the carriage on my own since there was no time for that.

So I had no choice but to get Shadow Five to carry me out of the carriage before the fireball came.

However, I would never admit that even if I was beaten to death!

So I just said that I came out on my own.

Shaka and the driver both gave nods before turning back around to focus on the surrounding area.

They wanted to make sure that there was nothing else coming before they started moving.

After confirming that there was nothing, the driver waved his hand at the cloaked figures that were standing over the captured attackers.

Half of them came over while the other half picked up those attackers and headed off in a different direction.

Once they came over, he turned to me and said, "We need to get out of here. It seems that there are still more of them coming."

I gave a nod before saying, "Lead the way."

The driver turned back to look at the burning carriage before saying with a bitter voice, "It seems like they really aren't putting his highness in their eyes that they're even using these large spells in the city."

But then his eyes turned sharp as he said, "When we get them, I'll make sure that they're punished for looking down on his highness like this."

I could hear the loyalty in his voice and I respected that, but this wasn't the time.

So I gave a cough to remind him of the situation.

The driver came back to his senses and without a word, he headed off in a certain direction. He waved his hand behind him for us to follow him and we quickly went after him.

The cloaked figures formed a circle around me, as if they would protect me with their lives.

The way that I was traveling was just like some of the celebrities from Earth, being completely surrounded by bodyguards like this. However, I didn't have the time to enjoy this feeling since my life was in danger.

We went into one of the alleys to the side and quickly made our way to another street. But this street was just as abandoned as the one from before.

As we made our way through, there were more people that appeared.

This time, there were far more attackers than before.

However, that seemed a bit confusing.

If they had all of these people, why didn't they send them all earlier instead of sending that small group?

Or was it that they were just using that other group as bait to see what cards we were hiding?

Regardless, when this group appeared, the driver immediately gave orders to the cloaked figures and they took a battle formation around me.

They had covered me from every single angle, so that no one would be able to reach me.

But with how outnumbered we were...this did look a bit bad.

One of the attackers stepped forward to stand in front of the driver to say, "I never expected to see you here."

When the driver saw this person, he deeply knitted his brows.

But the look in his eyes showed that he recognized this person.

After a long pause, the driver suddenly asked, "You betrayed us?"

The person who had stepped out gave a shrug before saying, "It's not so much as betrayed you as never being on your side to begin with. From the very beginning, I was never on your side, so it can't really be considered betrayal, can it?"

The driver's brows relaxed a bit as he said with a sigh, "That's right, it really can't be considered that." Then his eyes turned sharp again as he said, "Which is why this can't be considered betrayal either."

As soon as he said this, many of the attackers that had surrounded us suddenly turned and stabbed their comrades.

More than half of them had suddenly attacked the people that they had been standing with.

Chapter 446 Auction trap (23)

In a matter of seconds, the attackers had all been killed or subdued by the ones that had turned traitor.

The one that was standing in front of them looking at the driver slowly turned back before revealing a look of shock.

The expression on his face changed several times before he roared out in rage, "What do you think you're doing!"

But none of them cared about him as they finished off all that were left.

The driver took advantage of this to suddenly move in front of this person and put a dagger to his throat.

When he turned back, the only thing that he could do was raise his hand in an attempt to surrender.

The driver gave a snort of disdain before using his hand to knock him out. As he did, he said, "Did you really think that his highness didn't notice your betrayal? From the very beginning, he was just using you for information."

There was a look of regret in the traitor's eyes as he fainted.

The driver looked at the ones who had betrayed their comrades and gave them a nod.

They quickly responded, dividing themselves in half.

Half of them went to secure the ones that had been captured, along with the leader that the driver had knocked out. The other half went to bolster the driver's forces and surrounded me.

Once they were in formation, the driver waved his hand and they set off again.

As we were walking off, I could see that Shaka was looking in the direction of the other group. He was looking at the person who had been taunting and then was knocked out by the driver.

It almost seemed like he recognized that person.

So I asked, "Is something wrong?"

Shaka didn't answer right away when he heard this as he kept looking at that person. But he slowly turned back and said, "It's not so much that something is wrong as..."

His voice trailed off, but then he said, "I know that person."

I was surprised since I didn't know who that person was and I knew most of the important people under the fourth prince. So that meant that this person shouldn't have been someone important in the game.

But then again...Shaka also hadn't been in the game, but he had become someone that was quite indispensable for me.

So sometimes, I couldn't just rely on my knowledge from the game. Sometimes, I had to judge people based on my experience with them.

I asked, "Who is he?"

Shaka was silent for a bit before saying, "Major Iver, he once served on the battlefield against the demons with me."

I knitted my brows slightly when I heard this.

I had heard bits about Shaka's past, but I had never actually heard about it. I just knew that he had once fought against the demons and he had been regarded as quite the terrifying existence.

Shaka gave a sigh before saying, "It seems that people still can't overcome the situation that they were born in. I don't know why he did it, but I'm sure that he had a reason."

I didn't say anything and just gave a nod to show my support.

But the driver said, "Alright, that's enough chatting. There's something up ahead."

As soon as he said this, we immediately focused our minds and threw all of these thoughts now.

While I was sure that Shaka would want to talk about this, it just wasn't the time now. For now, all I could do was make a mental promise that I would buy him a drink once this was all over.

We moved slowly, but there was no stopping the inevitable.

When we turned the corner, we found that there were a bunch of horses and people riding on horses.

It was a full cavalry unit!

For the first time, even the driver was shocked.

When he had faced the betrayal from that Major Iver, he wasn't as shocked as this.

But now that there was this cavalry unit in front of us, he revealed a shocked look that I had never seen before.

It was clear that he didn't expect this at all.

But then again, how could anyone expect something like this?

Even if there had been plenty of fighting today, they were still in the streets of the capital city. Even if the civilians had been evacuated to get them out of the line of fire, that still didn't mean that this was the place for a full cavalry unit.

The assassins had all come at them with daggers because these weapons made very little noise and were easy to clean up after. Even the fireball that had been shot was considered excessive already.

But now, they had brought all these horses with heavy armoured troops on them...

This was going far beyond a simple assassination.

If one looked at it from a different angle, one might even consider this a full blown rebellion.

After all, these were armoured troops that had appeared in the capital.

The driver walked up in front of the cavalry and looked at the one who was leading them?with narrowed eyes before saying, "General Valleta, don't you think that this is going a bit too far?"

The one that had been called General Valleta gave a snort before saying, "Isn't it your own fault for driving us to this far?"

The driver deeply knitted his brows when he heard this before replying with, "Do you realize what this means for you and your family? Have you thought about the consequences of your action?"

General Valleta gave a disdainful laugh as he said, "Do you really think that you can shake us? We all came here with the conviction to either kill you or die today. You won't be able to make us back down with just words alone."

The driver knitted his brows even more when he heard this.

General Valleta suddenly raised his hand and said, "Get ready!"

Chapter 447 Auction trap (24)

As soon as his voice fell, the soldiers behind him all raised their spears and pointed them in our direction.

It was clear that they were done talking and were prepared to charge us.

As for our group...we didn't have any preparations to deal with a cavalry charge like this.

We had no shields, no spears, no blockades. The only thing that we had were the daggers in our hands and those were far from being enough to handle this group of cavalry.

If they charged us now, the only thing that would end up happening would be us being pierced full of holes.

So I looked at the driver, waiting to see what he had up his sleeve. Though that thought was quickly crushed when I saw the grim look on his face.

It was clear that he didn't expect this, so it would be strange if he could come up with a plan for this.

The only thing that I could think of was that if we had time, we could run into the alley where it was too narrow for the cavalry to charge. Then we would just have to work together to pick them off one by one when they tried to come after us.

A full charge was impossible to deal with, but one or two horsemen were easy to deal with given our numbers.

It was just too bad that we weren't given the time as General Valleta shouted, "Charge!"

Then with a crack of his reins, his horse started dashing forward at us.

The situation had gone from bad to worse, but for some reason, the driver just stood there with that grim look on his face. It was almost as if he didn't know what to do.

I started going through all the different things that we could do in my head, but I found that it was useless.

These horses that they were using were the highest quality horses, so their speed couldn't be looked down on. They cut this distance in an instant and were soon right in front of us.

But even then...the driver didn't say anything.

I was about to say something, but then the driver gave a sigh and said, "It seems like we have to use one of our trump cards in the end."

He used his hand to give a signal to the others and soon they had all pulled out some kind of wand.

These were wands that weren't that big that all had crystals of various colours on them.

The one that had the biggest crystal in it was in the hands of the driver.

As the horsemen came closer and closer, the driver aimed his wand right at the leader, General Valleta. With a sigh, the driver said, "We didn't want to use this, but you've forced us into using this."

With another sigh, he said, "Fireball."

As soon as he said this, there was a bright orange glow that came from the crystal of his wand. This glow became stronger and stronger as flames appeared around it.

In no time at all, there was a giant fireball that was gathered in front of the driver that he shot out with a single thought.

The eyes of the cavalry filled with shock since they never expected the driver to have this kind of trump card in his hand, but it was already too late. There was only so much space on this road and they were already in full charge, so they weren't able to turn, let alone come to a complete stop.

The only thing that they could do was finish this charge.

General Valleta gritted his teeth before saying, "Shields!"

It seemed that they were preparing to use their shields to block this fireball.

The fireball showed no mercy at all as it was shot right out at the cavalry.

With how big it was, it was wide enough to cover the entire cavalry group and burn them all.

This fireball slammed right into the cavalry formation, engulfing them in flames.

But a few seconds later, there were horses that charged right through these flames.

It seemed that most of them had been able to guard against the flames of this fireball, though they did suffer a few burns. There were also a few that had their horses knocked down by the flames of this fireball.

As soon as they fell, they were immediately trampled by the horsemen behind them.

There really was no mercy in this cavalry charge.

It was just too bad for them that...there were still other wands with different coloured crystals on them.

Even if they had blocked this fireball, would they be able to block all of these different spells?

It was time to find out as countless spells were fired at the cavalry.

There were ice spells, earth spells, wind spells, fire spells, and all kinds of different spells shot out.

They rained down on the cavalry, knocking more and more of them to the ground.

Eventually, there was only a single horseman left charging at them, but he left a trail of blood behind him.

This was the leader of the group, General Valleta.

He was worthy of this title of general, as shown by the might that he demonstrated.

He swatted down the spells that came at him, but there were just too many for him to cut down completely.

So he had been hit by quite a few of these spells and was bleeding profusely.

Even then, he didn't bend.

He kept charging at us, even though his horse was clearly exhausted from resisting all these spells with him.

The driver saw this, so he pulled out two daggers.

With an accurate throw, he stabbed the front legs of the horse and the horse flipped as its legs crumbled under it.

With this flip, General Valleta was thrown into the air.

He spun twice through the air before landing in front of the driver.

The driver had already pulled out another dagger and had placed it right in front of his face.

When General Valleta looked up, he knew that it was over.

Chapter 448 Auction trap (25)

"Heh, just do it. Finish me." General Valleta said in a brave voice.

But the driver didn't stab his dagger down right away. Instead, he said, "Do you know what you've done? Bringing cavalry like this into the capital, do you understand what kind of damage you could have caused?"

General Valleta didn't show any fear even though there was a dagger pointed right in his face.

This was his years of military experience on display that he didn't show any fear.

Instead, he just kept laughing as he said, "And what choice did we have? If we didn't do this, wouldn't we just be sitting around waiting for death?"

The driver deeply knitted his brows without saying anything.

Seeing that his words had caused a crack, General Valleta continued, "It's all that b*stard fourth prince's fault! If it wasn't for him insisting on doing all of this, do you think that we would have wanted to do this? If it wasn't for him..."

Before he could finish, his mouth was suddenly filled with blood.

The driver had brought the dagger down and stabbed General Valleta right in the throat, as if he was silencing him.

Even though his mouth was filled with blood and he was clearly dying, he didn't show any fear. He just spat out all that blood and said, "I curse you, I curse you all! If it wasn't for that hated fourth prince, none of this would have happened! I'll be waiting in the...pits of hell...to punish you!"

Then with these final words, he collapsed onto the ground.

The soldiers who had followed him, the ones that were still alive, looked like they would bleed from the eyes seeing this scene.

It looked like they wanted to stand up and fight to the last breath, but the driver's men didn't allow them to.

With a few thrown daggers, all of them were executed and it fell silent.

The driver looked down at the dead General Valleta in silence for a bit before standing back up and waving his hand as he said, "Let's go. It's not over yet."

But to his surprise, he found that I wasn't moving at all.

When he turned around, he saw that I was looking right at him.

The driver revealed a surprised look before saying with a serious expression, "Count

Zwein, we can't stay here. We need to go or else they will surround us."

But even then, I didn't move at all.

I just calmly looked at the driver and said, "Are you sure that you don't have something to tell me?"

The driver slightly knitted his brows when he heard this before asking, "Your lordship, what do you mean by that?"

Though he was being respectful, it was clear that there was a trace of disdain in his voice.

However, I just ignored it since I knew that there was nothing to gain from addressing it. Instead, I just said, "This is clearly turning out differently from what I was told." Then I looked down at the dead General Valleta and said, "Plus, there's what he said just now. I think that I deserve an explanation, don't I?"

The driver knitted his brows even more when he heard this, but he didn't say anything other than, "Count Zwein, this is not the best time for this. We should continue with the plan and head to the next area."

I gave a snort when I heard this before saying, "I'm not going any further if you don't answer my question."

The driver's expression turned ugly since he could hear the firm tone in my voice.

There was a part in his eyes that made it seem like he was debating whether he should just get his men to bring me along or not, but I just simply turned around and started walking away.

The driver and his men all panicked when they saw this.

With a gesture from the driver, his men immediately came forward and surrounded me, as if they wouldn't let me take another step.

I looked at the driver and said, "What is the meaning of this?"

The driver revealed a deadly serious look as he said, "Count Zwein, if his highness were to know about this..."

Before he could finish, I suddenly said, "If the fourth prince were to know about how you treated me, who do you think would be in trouble?"

The driver and all of his men jolted when they heard this.

They all remembered what the fourth prince had told them before this operation.

He had told them that they weren't allowed to let a single scratch befall Count Zwein or they would pay the price...

They had thought that he was joking, but the serious look on his face had made it clear that he wasn't.

So while they had surrounded him just now, not a single one of them had actually dared to do anything to Count Zwein.

If the fourth prince were to learn of this, they wouldn't be able to endure the consequences.

The driver had an ugly expression on his face as he looked at me.

It was clear that he was struggling over something, but in the end, he said with a sigh, "I can't tell you, but his highness will tell you everything when this is all over." Then as if he felt that he should add something on, he said, "I can promise you that his highness had no ill intentions. This was all designed to help you and keep you safe in the future."

I couldn't help deeply knitting my brows when I heard this.

I looked carefully at the driver, I couldn't find a single trace of guilt as he looked right back into my eyes.

It was as if he fully believed what he was saying.

So I couldn't help faltering a bit.

In the end, I said with a sigh, "Alright, but until then, I will move on my own. If I feel that your orders will harm me, then I will not listen to them. If you can't accept this, then I can't work with you."

The driver was taken aback when he heard this.

He looked like he was agonizing over something, but in the end, he said with a sigh, "Alright. But I just hope that you will work with us as much as you can. All I can do is promise that this is all for your benefit."

I couldn't help raising a brow as my eyes filled with doubt at this.

But once again, he looked at me with the same serious look that lacked a single trace of guilt.

It was as if he fully believed what he said and what he was doing.

I slowly looked around at his men around me and they all seemed to have the same expression.

It was as if they all fully believed in what they were doing.

I couldn't help faltering once again in the face of this determination...

So I said with a sigh, "For now, I'll do my best to cooperate with you since we're in this dangerous situation together."

The driver gave a nod and said, "Thank you."

I just gave a nod in response.

Chapter 449 Auction trap (26)

After coming to an agreement, the driver led us along the planned route again.

We were supposed to eventually meet up with the fourth prince's people, but this had been delayed because of our carriage being destroyed by that fireball.

So we had to take a detour to reach where we were supposed to go.

It took a bit longer, but we arrived in the end.

After we arrived, we just stood there in the empty square.

This was a square that was supposed to be filled with people, but right now, there wasn't a single person here. All of the stall vendors, the people walking by, and everything else had disappeared from this square.

It was as if this place had suddenly been abandoned.

But I knew that this wasn't the case.

The reason why there was no one here was because they had all been evacuated before this since this was the place that had been chosen for the final confrontation.

After we arrived, we moved to the center of the square and it didn't take long for some people to show up.

They were running into the square as if there was something chasing them.

Once they were in the square, they suddenly stopped moving as if whatever had been chasing them had stopped.

It wasn't just this group that appeared in the square, but also several other groups that ran into the square just like this group. They all seemed like they had been chased by something.

As soon as they entered the square, they all stopped running just like the first group.

After they arrived in the square, they all just stood there with cautious looks on their faces instead of charging at us. It was as if they were afraid that something would suddenly attack them.

At the same time, they all looked at each other with grim looks on their faces.

It was clear by the way that they looked at each other that they recognized each other.

Even judging by the way that they were dressed, it seemed that they were from the same place.

After a long time, there was one final group that arrived.

This group was different from the rest since they were all guarding a single person as they ran into the square.

It was clear that this person was a very important person to them with how closely they guarded him.

At the same time, when they arrived in the square, the other groups all moved over to guard this one person.

They formed a large group in this square that faced our own.

It was only at this time that there were a bunch of people that suddenly appeared on the roof around the square. These were all people with weapons in hand, as if they were prepared to fight at any moment.

When that group saw these people, they immediately formed a shield wall outside the perimeter to protect that one person in the center.

No one said a thing and a tense silence filled the air.

That was until another group arrived in this square.

When this group arrived, the driver immediately waved his hand for us to follow as he went over to that group.

Our group reached that group and then I was brought to the center of that group where there was a familiar face that was there.

It was the fourth prince.

When he saw me, he greeted me with a smile, "Count Zwein, it seems that you've made it. How was the trip? Did you have fun?"

The way that he greeted me almost seemed like he was casually greeting a friend instead of us being in a dangerous situation like we currently were.

I just calmly said to him, "It seems like some things aren't going as planned."

The fourth prince revealed a faint smile before saying, "Well, there are some things that have gone wrong, but...it seems like it'll end the way that it was supposed to."

I deeply knitted my brows when I heard this before turning to look back at the group in front of us.

They still had their shields up like they were scared of being attacked.

It was clear that whoever was in the center, they were very important to these people.

The fourth prince saw that I wasn't saying anything, so he said, "Alright, let's go and end this."

I looked back at him and seeing the smile on his face, all I could do was give a slow nod in response.

Then with a wave of the fourth prince's hand, we started moving towards that other group.

They didn't move since there was nowhere for them to move.

Behind them were a bunch of people on roofs with weapons pointed at them, so they wouldn't be able to escape even if they went that way.

The only thing that they could do was hold their ground and wait for an opportunity to break out.

The fourth prince didn't lead our group forward that far, we just went up in front of this other group and stopped.

Our two groups stared at each other and both sides held their shields up, just in case the other side decided to do something. But neither side did anything as they just stood there with a tense feeling in the air.

After a while, the fourth prince waved his hand and the shields moved aside to reveal him.

The other side was surprised to see this, but eventually they also moved aside so that the person they were protecting could be seen.

When I saw who it was, my guesses had been confirmed.

It was the second prince who was standing in the middle of this formation.

It wasn't just the men that the second prince commanded, but rather the second prince himself that was standing in the center of this formation.

If it was anyone else, I might not recognize him, but it was a different story if it was the second prince.

My one question was...what was he doing here?

Chapter 450 Auction trap (27)

There was a tense silence that hung in the air as the fourth prince and second prince faced each other.

Neither of them had any expressions on their faces as they just stared at each other.

Then all of a sudden, they revealed smiles. However, if one looked carefully, they would see that these smiles never reached their eyes.

These were smiles that were as fake as some women's br...

The fourth prince was the first to speak as he said, "Second brother, I didn't expect to see you here."

The second prince replied with the same smile on his face, "It really is a surprise to see you here, fourth brother. What winds have blown you here today?"

Though it seemed like they were having a friendly conversation, the atmosphere became even more tense as the two sides were just waiting for the inevitable.

They were just waiting for the princes to drop this act and all hell broke loose.

The two of them didn't seem like they were in a rush as they exchanged pleasantries, but if one had a sharp eye, they would be able to catch what was happening. After all, there were quite a few barbs in the second prince's voice.

It was clear that he was blaming the fourth prince for something.

Finally, the smile on the second prince's face disappeared and he said with a serious tone, "Fourth brother, is there any chance that you'll let this matter end here today? Is there any chance that you will let me go?"

As soon as he said this, the already tense atmosphere of this place became even more tense.

Everyone prepared for a fight to break out, but they also all turned to look at the fourth prince, waiting for his reaction.

The fourth prince just calmly looked at the second prince and asked, "Second brother, what do you think?"

Everyone couldn't help being shocked since this didn't seem like something the fourth prince would say. He was someone that was humble and respectful of others, not someone who would use a taunting tone like this.

It was so different from his usual tone that everyone couldn't help being surprised.

Or at least that was the case for most people.

There were a few that knew the fourth prince's real personality and that included me.

I knew that this was just how the fourth prince acted in private, so this wasn't surprising to me.

The second prince revealed an ugly look when he heard this before he said, "Why are you doing all of this?" He turned to look at me as he said, "Is it all because of him?"

The fourth prince shook his head and gave a sigh before saying, "Second brother, do you still not understand?"

The second prince revealed a confused look when he heard this, showing that he indeed didn't know what the fourth prince was talking about.

The fourth prince gave another sigh before continuing, "Royal father has already given you all these chances and you still collude with others against our family. Do you really think that our royal father is just going to watch this happen?"

The second prince revealed a very ugly look when he heard this, but he didn't say anything.

His expression changed several times before saying, "Isn't it because you all forced me into this?"

His eyes turned firm and determined as he asked, "Do you know why I did all of this?"

The fourth prince also revealed a serious look as he said, "No, please tell me."

The second prince raised a hand to point at the fourth prince as he said, "It's all because of you."

This time, it was the fourth prince's turn to be confused.

The second prince laughed when he saw this before saying, "It seems that you aren't even aware of this. What a joke."

The fourth prince looked even more confused when he heard this.

He opened his mouth as if he was about to say something, but the second prince cut him off, "It's all because of how close you are with our royal father. Do you really think that the rest of us can't see what's happening? Do you really think that we don't know?"

The fourth prince just knitted his brows without saying anything, but the look in his eyes made it clear that he didn't understand what the second prince was saying.

But of course, that didn't matter.

The second prince had already started letting it all out, so there was no stopping it.

His voice kept growing louder and louder as he continued, "This is all because of the special bond that you have with our royal father! We all know that he's already chosen you as his heir, do you really think that we wouldn't find out?!"

Then he grabbed his hair and pulled as he roared, "But I'm not willing to give up! I want to become the king!"

The fourth prince deeply knitted his brows at this point.

He raised one hand as if he wanted to calm the second prince down before saying, "Second brother, you're thinking too much. Royal father doesn't have those intentions, he just wants our family to be at peace."

"Screw peace!" The second prince shouted right back at the fourth prince, "All I want is the throne! All I ever wanted was the throne and the absolute power that comes with it! I don't care about anything else!"

His eyes slowly turned dark as he said, "I will do whatever it takes to get that throne, no matter who I have to throw away."

The fourth prince still had that deep frown on his face as he said, "Second brother, that is why there's no turning back."

The second prince once again broke out in laughter as he said, "Ha, ha, ha, so what? Isn't this an opportunity for me now?"

He roared out to his men, "Whoever kills the fourth prince now will receive whatever they desire!"

When his men heard this, all of them revealed greedy looks.

The fourth prince just shook his head again before giving a sigh.

