

Shota 511

Chapter 511 Banquet For Nobles (11)

But along with this understanding look, there was a look of difficulty that also appeared on Viscount Henry's face.

It was as if there was something that he was struggling with.

And if I had to guess what that was, it was most likely that he was struggling because of the risk that came with this decision.

There was no doubting the benefits that would come with accepting this post, but it would also make him a target. Once he became a target, he and his town would be exposed to danger from other people.

If this plan succeeded, he would be one of the highest ranking people as Count Zwein's aide, so there was no doubt that the other nobles would want to take him down to advance their own positions.

After a long silence, Viscount Henry turned to look at his wife, but he saw that she just shook her head in response.

It was as if she was saying, "Just do what you think is right."

It was clear that there was a large amount of trust between the two of them.

Viscount Henry looked down for a bit longer as if he was sorting out his thoughts before finally looking up and saying, "I accept your offer."

I immediately revealed a wide smile and said, "Good."

Then without hesitation, I stood up and walked over to Viscount Henry to pat him on the shoulder before saying, "I'm sure that things will be much easier with your help."

Viscount Henry just gave a firm nod in response.

But none of that really mattered since the two of us were only side characters in the first place.

As soon as they heard that we would be working together, our wives immediately started discussing even more things. There were so many technical terms that it completely made me dizzy, so I didn't even bother trying to understand what they were saying.

Instead, I said to Viscount Henry, "Should we leave them be and go get a drink?"

Seeing the two of them like this, Viscount Henry gave a nod with a bitter smile on his face.

The two of us stood up and went back to the banquet while Rose and the viscount's wife continued their discussion.

With how focused they were, it seemed like they were about to do something serious.

I couldn't help feeling sorry for whoever they would involve in this plan.

The banquet outside was still the same as ever.

But there was another person that became as popular as the elves and dwarves.

That person was Haley.

She was surrounded by the different nobles that all wanted to discuss a deal with her for the ores that we were trading.

This was the job that I had thrown to her, but it didn't seem like she was unhappy about this at all.

Rather, it seemed like I should be feeling sorry for the nobles around her.

It was clear by the looks on their faces that they were completely being taken advantage of by her. But there wasn't anything that they could do since they didn't have any cards to play.

If they tried to do anything, they would immediately be stopped by the guards that were standing beside her.

Not to mention, they knew who was behind her and they didn't dare do anything to offend me.

So they could only do their best to negotiate for the best terms that they could get.

Still, it didn't seem like it was going well judging by the looks on their faces.

I just ignored all of this and went over to the bar with Viscount Henry.

The dwarves that were there waved their hands for us to join them, but I could see that they were really trying to use me as a shield against the nobles that had gathered around them.

So I just shook my head and gave a look like I was saying, "Enjoy yourselves."

They looked at me with grim looks on their faces, but they just sucked it up and went back to drinking, doing their best to ignore the humans around them.

Though one of the dwarves came over to talk to Viscount Henry.

This was the one that he had befriended earlier.

Since it was Viscount Henry that he came to talk to and not me, I didn't mind and let this dwarf join us.

The other dwarves glared at me like they were blaming me for playing favourites, but I once again ignored them.

In no time at all, the three of us were hitting our mugs together and enjoying the alcohol that was being poured for us.

I didn't need to worry about my image anymore since I had already played the role that I was supposed to play. All that was

left was for everyone else to do their jobs.

My job as the figurehead was over, so I could sit back and relax.

By the end of it, I had gotten completely drunk with Viscount Henry and that dwarf.

When Rose and Viscount Henry's wife came out from their discussion, they saw the state that we were in and shook their heads with sighs.

Rose helped me up and Viscount Henry's wife helped him up before they took us away.

Since it was already late, most of the nobles had left.

There were a few that would be staying in town to further discuss the deal that they had made and to see if they could talk to the dwarves and elves some more.

Haley came over to help Rose with carrying me and we headed off to the manor.

Along with them came Viscount Henry and his wife since it would be too late for them to return to their territory now.

So we would be hosting them in our manor.

This was the privilege that they received as close friends and now subordinates of ours.

The other nobles would all have to get their own inns and take care of themselves.

With this, the first banquet that I held in this world ended.

Chapter 512 System Factory (1)

A few more days passed before all of the nobles left my territory.

During these past few days, I had been meeting with many of these nobles separately to discuss the finer details of our trade deal.

These nobles wanted things that went beyond what Haley offered them, so they wanted to negotiate with me directly. Of course, though they were negotiating with me directly, it was still Haley that took care of most of these deals.

I just showed my face to show support for these deals and make them official.

In truth, I was completely bored while sitting through these meetings.

There was something that I had wanted to do, but I never got a chance to do since I had to sit through all of these meetings.

But now that all of the other nobles left, I was finally able to take care of this matter.

Since coming back with the ores, I had been preparing something with the system.

I gave the system ores and I had been waiting for the notification that the system had finished the task that I had given it.

I received this notification right in the middle of the banquet, but I never got a chance with how many meetings I had to go to.

But now that I was free, I was finally able to go see the results.

This was a building that was on the edge of the town, in a place that people rarely went to.

I had made sure to request a building in an abandoned place, which had confused Rose and Haley, but they still gave me this building in the end.

Once I had received this building, I immediately let the system go to work with it.

In no time at all, the system had transformed this place into a factory for producing sex toys. This was what the system had been telling me to do the entire time and I had finally taken care of it.

As soon as the factory was set up, I immediately put in an order and now it was time to pick up the items that I had the system make.

When I entered the factory and saw all those modern machines inside, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile.

This really was a place that couldn't be shown to others or else I really wouldn't be able to explain all of these modern machines that were inside of this building.

I went to the end of the assembly line where I found a box filled with the items that I had the system create.

The things inside of this box had a very strange shape, but it was one that I was familiar with since it was something that I already had. But unlike the one that the system had given me, these ones seemed a bit weaker.

It was true, these things were indeed weaker than the one that the system gave me since this was only a level one assembly line.

With the materials that I had on hand, I wasn't able to upgrade the assembly line and get better items.

That was something that I actually felt quite bitter about, but I couldn't do anything about.

After all, the material that had been used in the creation of this thing was mithril and other precious ores.

Just what would I need to get to get a higher level assembly line?

I couldn't even begin to imagine what I would need to do...

After being bitter about this for a bit, I turned my attention back to the things that were in the box.

I picked up one of them and held it in both hands before giving it a swing.

Feeling the weight of it as I swung down, I gave a satisfied nod.

This thing seemed even lighter than the one that I had been given by the system, but it still had a good weight to it. It would certainly make a good weapon and I knew just the people to use them.

Luckily, they were currently in town and practicing, so I could bring this over for them.

With this, I put the thing in my hand back into the box and then went forward to lift the box up.

But as I was doing this, I realized that I had made a mistake.

One of these things wasn't that heavy, but a box filled with them...was quite heavy.

After all, this was a box of stuff that was made of mithril and other ores, so it was just as heavy as all those ores.

It was not something that someone as weak as me could pick up that easily.

It was a good thing that I had the people that I had called along to help me haul things waiting outside.

The only problem was...how would I get it to them without letting them see the production line in this building?

...

In a place not far from the manor, I could hear the sounds of weapons clanging and shouting.

This wasn't anything dangerous.

This was just a bit of light sparring.

Though it did sound a bit more than light sparring.

But being in this place again, I couldn't help feeling a bit nostalgic.

That was because this was the place where I had met Cecilia for the first time and then...

I shook my head to throw out that thought before heading towards those sounds.

In the middle of the training ground, there were two separate groups that were attacking each other.

It seemed like they were in the middle of a practice session involving group combat.

But when they saw me, Cecilia immediately raised her hand and said, "Stop!"

The knights and guards that had been clashing with one another separated from each other and stood on guard.

With how they looked and how quickly they followed Cecilia's orders, I could tell that all of them were well trained.

All of her training had really paid off.

After stopping them, Cecilia came over and asked, "What are you doing here? Didn't you say that you had something to do today?"

Chapter 513 System Factory (2)

I pointed at the box that the people behind us were bringing over and said, "I brought a few new weapons that I made over. I want you guys to help me test them out."

When the guards and knights heard this, their eyes immediately lit up.

After all, the last weapons that I had brought were the mithril swords forged by dwarves.

These were priceless treasures that they would never be able to buy on their own, but because of me, they were each able to get a mithril sword of their own.

So they couldn't help wondering just what kind of good thing I had brought this time.

Cecilia also revealed an excited look when she heard this.

She was just like the others, she was very excited to see what kind of good thing I had brought.

The only one that had a surprised look was Viscount Henry.

After he accepted becoming my subordinate, he had been training with Cecilia and the others every day.

As expected, his wife was the one that took care of most of their businesses and he had been used as a cover just like me. Everything that he had talked to Rose about when we visited them had been things that his wife had taught him about.

He wasn't actually capable of doing any kind of town management, he was just a soldier through and through.

That was how he had earned his title on the battlefield in the first place.

But that meant that he was very useful in training Cecilia and the others.

I later learned that even this group combat exercise was something that Viscount Henry had organized.

Viscount Henry didn't know much about me like the others, so he couldn't help feeling skeptical about the things that I brought.

Well, he actually didn't feel skeptical at first.

It was only when he saw the shape of these things that he couldn't help revealing a look of doubt.

These were strange weapons that he had never seen before, so he couldn't help wondering if they could even function as weapons.

But the knights and guards didn't think the same.

That was because they recognized these things as soon as they saw them.

They had seen Cecilia use the original before, so it only took a single glance for them to recognize these things and as soon as they recognized them, they couldn't help revealing even more excited looks.

They had seen the power that Cecilia had demonstrated after equipping the original. They had also heard Jessica tell them all about how powerful it was after she had the chance to wield it.

So all of them were looking forward to using this thing.

Cecilia had a surprised look for a bit before suddenly asking me, "Where did you get all of these? Didn't you say that you only had one of them?"

I revealed a mysterious smile as I said, "Well, I have my ways." Then after a pause, I added, "Though they aren't as strong as the original."

The box that I brought was filled with long bats, but all of these bats had strange appearances.

They were very long and the tips of them were rounded, which was strange for a weapon to have.

But none of the knights and guards look down on these things.

These were a bunch of dildo bats, only these ones were a bit shorter than The Penetrator.

I could see that the knights and guards couldn't hold themselves back any longer, so I waved my hand at the ones holding the box for them to pass out the dildo bats.

But before they could, the knights and guards had already come forward to take them on their own.

It seemed that they couldn't hold back their excitement at all as they swarmed the box and started taking dildo bats for themselves.

However, with how many knights and guards there were, it didn't seem like there would be enough for all of them.

Once all of the dildo bats were taken from the box, the ones remaining that didn't get one couldn't help revealing disappointed looks. The ones that had been fast enough to snatch one all revealed sighs of relief at the fact that they had moved fast enough.

I couldn't help shaking my head when I saw this and waved my hand at the other group that had been waiting.

Those people came over with another box filled with dildo bats.

The moment that the ones that didn't get one saw this box being brought over, they looked at each other before rushing over without any hesitation. They were afraid of missing out again if this box was completely taken, so it even seemed like they were about to fight over these dildo bats.

Seeing this, I couldn't help shaking my head with a bitter smile before waving my hand at another group in the back.

A third box of dildo bats was brought over for everyone.

Naturally I wouldn't make the mistake of only bringing enough for just a few people.

If I was going to bring these things, I would naturally bring enough for everyone to get one.

The eyes of the knights and guards all lit up when they saw this, but that didn't stop them from rushing over to claim a dildo bat for themselves.

When everyone finally got one, there were still plenty of dildo bats that were left in the third box, so there was no need to fight for them anymore.

As soon as they got their dildo bats, there was no need to fight for them anymore, so they immediately headed off to test these bats.

All of them had seen the power that Cecilia had when she used The Penetrator, so they had all wanted to use it for themselves.

They went off to hit the practice dummies and there were many dummies that were destroyed as a result of this.

Viscount Henry slowly came over and asked, "What is this strange weapon that you've brought?"

Chapter 514 System Factory (3)

I revealed a smile when I heard him ask this before picking up one of the dildo bats and throwing it to him.

Viscount Henry had no problem catching this dildo bat with his athleticism, but he couldn't help knitting his brows slightly when he caught it.

He held it up in front of him, looking at it with a strange look before reaching his other hand up to grab the handle as well and swinging it a few times.

After swinging it, he couldn't help revealing an even stranger look as he looked at the dildo bat.

Seeing him like this, I pointed at one of the dummies on the side and said, "Why don't you test it for yourself. That should be the best way to see what kind of weapon this is."

Viscount Henry revealed a surprised look, but then he gave a nod and walked over.

He tightly gripped the handle with both hands and brought it up over his head.

When I saw a muscular and serious man like Viscount Henry holding the dildo bat over his head like this, I really couldn't help wanting to laugh. But I was able to hold it back by covering my mouth with my hand.

However, even then, Viscount Henry heard me and turned back to ask, "Count Zwein, is something wrong?"

I shook my head and said, "No, no, I just choked on my spit a bit."

Viscount Henry raised a brow to look at me, almost as if he didn't believe me when I said this. But in the end, he was still drawn by the allure of the dildo bat and turned back to raise it over his head again.

Then in one quick swing, he brought it down on the dummy in front of him.

That dummy wasn't a weak one.

These dummies that were around the practice field were special dummies that had been made by the dwarves. These were special dummies that were made with refined iron that was much stronger than the straw dummies that they used before.

But even then, it wasn't able to resist the swing of the dildo bat at all.

As soon as the dildo bat made contact with the dummy, there was no resistance at all as the dummy started to cave under the dildo bat.

The dummy continued to cave until it completely collapsed under this one blow.

The dummy snapped in half and shattered apart in front of Viscount Henry.

When Viscount Henry had reacted, he was shocked to see that the dummy had disappeared.

Then when he looked down at the destroyed dummy at his feet, he couldn't help being even more shocked.

He looked down at the dildo bat in his hand before looking back at the dummy scraps left on the ground. Then after all of that, he turned to look at me as if he was asking for an explanation.

But before I could give one, Jessica suddenly said, "This...isn't it weaker than before?"

When Viscount Henry heard this, he immediately turned to look at her in shock.

Jessica was surprised to see Viscount Henry acting like this, but she still turned to me to ask, "My lord, this feels weaker than the time that I used it before."

Cecilia knitted her brows slightly and came forward to take the dildo bat from her hand as she said, "Really?"

There was a trace of disappointment and a trace of worry that appeared in her eyes as if she was afraid that Cecilia would take this dildo bat from her, but then Jessica said with a nod, "It definitely feels weaker than the one that I used before."

Cecilia walked over to one of the free dummies and casually swung down at it.

When the dildo bat made contact with the dummy, it immediately crumpled under the pressure of her attack and was smashed into the ground.

But unlike when Viscount Henry did it, it flattened completely like it had been smashed by a large hammer and it became a metal pancake on the ground.

Viscount Henry looked at Cecilia in shock, but she didn't care as she stared at the dildo bat that she was holding.

After staring at it for a bit, she looked up at me and said, "It is weaker than before and not just a bit weaker, it's much weaker."

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I saw what she did to the dummy.

After giving a silent apology to the dwarves that would have to remake these dummies, I said, "Un, these are the mass produced versions, so they are weaker. They can only double your power."

Viscount Henry looked at me in shock this time as he repeated, "Double?" Then he said in a loud voice, "It doubles your power and you still consider this weak?"

We looked at him like he was crazy before nodding in response.

He looked like he couldn't understand the world anymore as he looked at the dildo bat in his hand.

When I said double, that was because these mass produced dildo bats only had a 50% penetration effect unlike The Penetrator which had a 99.9% repeating effect. The Penetrator made one's strike infinitely stronger while the mass produced dildo bats only doubled the force.

After hearing what I said, Cecilia looked down at the dildo bat in her hand and said, "That's fine, we can just switch these out with the mithril swords when we need to. I'm sure that we can find a way to use these things."

I gave a nod before saying, "If you ever need more, just tell me."

I had a factory now, so I could produce as many of these things as I wanted.

Though there would be an issue with supplies, it wasn't a real problem since I was trading for ores with the Dwarven Kingdom.

Cecilia gave a nod before turning to the rest and saying, "Alright, let's learn how to use these new weapons today."

To her side, Jessica was still waiting for her to give her the dildo bat back.

But Cecilia just claimed it for herself.

I shook my head with a faint smile before pulling out another one for Jessica.

Though it was the same, she just felt that it was different since it wasn't the one that she had been using before.

I never would understand warriors and their preferences with weapons.

To the side, Viscount Henry was still standing there in a daze looking at the dildo bat in his hand.

I went over to him to pat him on the shoulder before asking, "Are you alright?"

Viscount Henry snapped out of his daze and immediately turned to me to say, "Count Zwein, is it possible to get these weapons for my soldiers as well?"

I thought about it before shaking my head and saying, "For now, I'm not planning on giving these weapons to anyone else."

Viscount Henry revealed a disappointed look before suddenly realizing something, "You said that 'for now', does that mean in the future..."

He left his words hanging, but I understood what he was implying.

I just gave a cryptic smile and said, "Who knows?"

Chapter 515 Dungeon Exploration

A few more days after bringing the weapons to the knights and guards, we finally had a real chance to test them.

During this time, there had been many things that we had to take care of, but now things had finally settled once all of the deals had been made.

The only thing left was to give the goods to everyone and receive the money for said goods.

Rose would still need some time to prepare the development plan for this area with Viscount Henry's wife, so it would be some time before we started talking to the various nobles and trying to convince them to follow our development plan.

So I had some free time to take care of something that I had been planning to take care of for the longest time.

In the land that I had received after becoming a viscount, there was a dungeon.

This was a small dungeon, but it was a dungeon regardless.

It might not have the most monsters or treasures, but it still was a source of items and monster parts for us to farm.

Plus, if we left it for too long, the monsters might gather in the dungeon for a while before suddenly breaking out and attacking human settlements.

So it was something that needed to be cleared from time to time.

Since we had the free time now, I was bringing Cecilia's group and several mercenaries and adventurers that we hired to clear this dungeon.

Cecilia and her troops would be the main forces for clearing the dungeon, the mercenaries and adventurers were just there for future prospects.

After all, we could always build a town near the dungeon for the mercenaries and adventurers to stay in while they hunted in the dungeon.

That would take care of the problem of clearing out the dungeon in the future.

At the same time, we would be able to buy the goods from them for a cheap price before selling them to various parts of the kingdom through Haley's network.

That was something that Haley had proposed.

I had felt wrong about taking advantage of them, but I also knew that this was how business worked.

Buy low and sell high, it was all about supply and demand.

But before any of that could happen, we would have to first explore the dungeon and see what was inside first before we could set up all of these things.

That was the main point of this dungeon raid team.

Though my being here...was an outlier.

In truth, something like this didn't require the lord to come personally.

In fact, it was dangerous for the lord to come personally to this dungeon since there was no guarantee that there wouldn't be anything that would come out and attack them while they were here.

The only reason that I was even allowed to come was because...I had thrown a fit.

I had put my foot down and insisted on coming.

It was the first time that they had seen me insist on something like this, so they really didn't know what to do.

In the end, they had no choice but to let me come along since I was so insistent on coming along.

But of course, that meant that there were more guards that were sent to watch over me.

Though judging by the look on their faces, it didn't seem like they were here to protect me. Rather, it looked like they were very excited to test out the new weapons that they had received.

But still, I didn't mind since I wouldn't miss this no matter what happened.

This was the chance to explore a dungeon, something that I had always dreamed of doing.

There were dungeons in the game, but it was nothing like exploring a dungeon with one's own two feet.

This was something that one could only experience in a fantasy world like this.

So no matter how dangerous it was, I would still go.

After arriving, the first thing that we did was set up the camp outside of the dungeon.

This place had already been explored by Shaka's men, so we knew exactly where to go and where to set up camp.

With how many people we had, it took no time at all to set up everything.

Now it was time to decide who would go in first.

This was the first real problem that we faced since everyone wanted to go in first.

The mercenaries and adventurers wanted to go in first for the treasure.

Part of the contract that we had used to hire them was that they would be allowed to keep any treasure that they found to sell privately. So they all wanted to go in first to get first dibs on the treasures.

Cecilia's group also wanted to go in first since they wanted to test out the new weapons that they had received.

I also wanted to go in first, but I knew that it would be impossible because Cecilia would never allow me to do something like this.

The only willful thing that I could do was be allowed to come along, there was no way that they would let me explore this unexplored dungeon first.

So I didn't have hopes of being allowed to go first.

But I did have the authority to decide who did go first, so they all surrounded me and presented their cases.

In the end, I decided that they would all go together which they weren't happy about.

Cecilia and her troops weren't happy about going with adventurers and mercenaries since they didn't trust them.

The adventurers and mercenaries weren't happy about going with Cecilia and her troops since they knew that they wouldn't have the freedom that they would want.

But this was the only compromise that I gave them, so they had no choice but to accept it.

With that, they headed into the dungeon.

Before they went, I told Cecilia, "Be careful."

She gave a nod before leading her troops into the dungeon.

Chapter 516 Bigger Than It Seems

When they came back, they looked much worse than when they went into the dungeon.

There were many adventurers and mercenaries that were injured, but at the very least they were all able to come back in one piece.

Cecilia wasn't injured, but a few of her troops were injured, though they were minor injuries.

The rest of them were just covered in dirt and grime from what seemed like a messy fight.

After they received medical attention, I went to find Cecilia to find out what happened.

"It's a big mess."

That was the first thing that she said when I asked her what happened.

I just revealed a confused look as I waited for her to explain.

With a sigh, Cecilia said, "The information that we received was wrong. This place isn't a small dungeon at all, it's giant once you get in there."

I was surprised by this before trying to search my memories of the game for anything like this in the game. But as far as I could tell, there shouldn't have been anything like this in this area.

This was supposed to be a beginner area that didn't have anything like this as far as I could remember.

So why did this dungeon suddenly appear?

It had to be that I was affecting the progression with the world since I was someone that shouldn't have belonged in this world...

This dungeon only appeared after I received my title as a viscount and received this land...

Cecilia saw that I was lost in thought, so she waved her hand in front of me and asked, "Are you alright?"

I snapped out of my thoughts when I heard this and said with a nod, "I'm fine. Tell me what happened in there."

Cecilia gave a nod before giving a detailed report.

When they entered the dungeon, everything seemed normal.

It was a normal cave dungeon that had monsters in it.

The beginning part was filled with weak monsters like slimes and wolves, but when they went a bit deeper, they found that there were also goblins that were camping in this dungeon.

Still, these monsters wouldn't pose a threat to Cecilia's group.

They had already become much stronger with their training and new equipment, so goblins were nothing in front of them. That was seen when we had fought that wave of goblins in that valley.

So it shouldn't have been these monsters that had caused this mess for them.

"As we went deeper, I could tell that something was wrong since we had been going in for too long. This was supposed to be a small dungeon, but it felt like we had gone in for quite a while." Cecilia gave a sigh after saying this, as if she was regretting something.

I went over and patted her on the shoulder, but I was still waiting for her to tell me the rest of what happened.

After taking a moment to gather herself, Cecilia said, "There were rats that suddenly appeared before I could call for the retreat."

"Rats?" I repeated in a confused voice.

Cecilia gave a nod before saying, "It was a horde of rats, tens of thousands of them that suddenly swarmed from deep inside of the dungeon. We did our best with our torches to keep them away, but they just didn't seem to be afraid of the fire as they charged at us. It was just a good thing that we had our strong shields or else we wouldn't have been able to stop them."

As she said this, I couldn't help turning to look at the shields that the knights and guards had dropped as they went off to clean up.

These shields had dents in them to my surprise.

I was surprised to see these dents because these were mithril shields that had been forged by the dwarves, they were much stronger than normal iron and wood shields that they had used before.

Yet there were dents that had appeared on these shields.

It could be seen how strong these rats were.

But Cecilia said, "No, it's not the rats that made those dents."

I turned back with a surprised look before saying, "What was it then?"

With another sigh, Cecilia said, "There were these humanoid rat creatures that appeared that seemed to be commanding the rats. When they gave squeaks, the rats immediately turned in a different direction to attack."

She also turned to look at the shields that had been placed on the ground and said with a sigh, "The attacks that they made with their fists, it was strong enough to even dent the shields..."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look again.

They had dented the shield with their fists alone...

I had thought that they had used some kind of special weapon or technique to dent these shields, but it turned out that it was their fists alone that did it.

That was terrifying.

One could imagine what would happen to a human head if these fists were to hit one.

These rat creatures were much more dangerous than they seemed.

Not to mention, there was more in the dungeon that they didn't see.

In the end, Cecilia worked with Viscount Henry to push back these rat creatures.

They were only able to wound one of them before running away.

As they ran, they could see that the rat creatures had intelligence as they didn't chase after them. The humanoid rat creatures had stared at them with wary looks, as if they understood that these humans were dangerous.

But as they ran back, they ran into another strange mushroom creature that popped up right in the center of their formation.

That was what had caused most of the injuries to the adventurers and mercenaries.

Though that mushroom itself wasn't that strong since Cecilia had been able to easily cut it down.

When she was finished with her report, Cecilia looked at me and asked, "What do we do now?"

Chapter 517 Adventurers And Mercenaries

I didn't respond when Cecilia asked me this.

Instead, after thinking for a bit, I said, "Can you gather the representatives from the adventurers and mercenaries? I want to discuss this with them."

Cecilia was surprised to hear this, but she gave a nod before turning to gather the ones that I asked her to gather.

During this time, I turned back to look at the dungeon. I didn't even know what I was looking for, but I just couldn't help staring at it for a bit.

After a long silence, I turned around and walked back into the camp.

I went to the large tent in the middle which was the central command tent.

When I came in, I found that there were people that were already in this tent. The way that they were sitting, it was as if they had been here for a while.

Though I could see that many of them were injured and covered in bandages. They should have just received treatment.

They had been talking to each other, but they fell silent when they saw me come in.

These people that were gathered were the representatives of the mercenaries and adventurers. Though there were far more adventurer representatives than mercenary representatives.

That was just the difference between the two.

Mercenaries worked in large groups while adventurers worked in small groups.

Adventurers partied up in small groups while mercenaries formed large companies.

So the adventurers sent representatives for each party which was why they completely outnumbered the mercenary representatives.

The mercenaries only had three representatives, all of which were the leaders of their own company.

Though one of them really looked like they shouldn't be here.

This was a bald headed muscular man who was wrapped up in bandages, showing that he had been seriously wounded. Someone like him should be resting in bed, but here he was sitting in on the meeting.

There was even a cute red headed girl who was helping him, though it was clear by the look on her face that she wanted him to rest instead.

But bringing a girl to a meeting like this...he really was something else.

Though I can't say anything since Cecilia also moved to my side when she saw me come in.

I walked through all of these adventurers and mercenaries that were all looking at me, as if they were sizing me up.

I didn't pay any attention to the gazes from them as I went right to the front of the tent and stood there in front of everyone.

I turned around, but I didn't say a thing as I swept my eyes over them.

At first, the adventurers and mercenaries looked like they looked down on me based on my appearance. However, they couldn't help looking down when my eyes swept over them as they felt a pressure come over them.

This was the pressure that I had built up over my time here as a noble.

Without adapting, it would have been impossible to survive here and going through life and death situations had made me much stronger than before.

So at the very least, I had enough pressure to threaten these adventurers and mercenaries.

Seeing them all look down like this, I gave a nod and said, "We will continue exploring this dungeon, that is all that I have to say on this matter."

All of the adventurers and mercenaries revealed shocked looks when they heard this.

They had thought that the reason that they had been called like this was to discuss whether they would continue exploring this dungeon or not. They never thought that as soon as the count arrived, he would just say something like this.

He didn't even ask for their opinions, he just stated it like a fact.

The adventurers and mercenaries all had complicated looks on their faces after hearing this.

After a while, one of the adventurers finally couldn't take it and said, "Your lordship, this..."

Before he could say another word, I was already looking at him with narrowed eyes and had put pressure on him.

That adventurer immediately closed his mouth and lowered his head.

Adventurers were commoners in the end and even if they were strong, that didn't mean that they could go against an entire country. So the only thing that they could do was bow down in front of the prestige of a noble.

After staring him down, I looked at the rest of them and said, "How much?"

All of the adventurers and mercenaries looked up in shock after hearing this.

They looked at me with confused looks like they couldn't understand what I was trying to say.

I just calmly said, "How much do you want?"

All of them revealed shocked looks this time, but still not a single person spoke.

They were hesitating, they didn't know what the situation was, so they didn't dare rashly charge in and make a mistake.

I couldn't help shaking my head when I saw them like this.

Simply put, they were overthinking it.

I was actually about to throw money at them since I knew that money would make this matter go away.

I had the goddess of wealth Haley on my side, so it wasn't as if I lacked funds to do this.

It was more important to clear out this dungeon to eliminate any dangers in the future.

After a long period of silence, it was the adventurer who had spoken earlier who said, "Your lordship, can I ask if you're serious?"

I looked at him and gave a simple nod.

Seeing this, the adventurer then said, "Twenty gold coins?"

"Thirty it is for everyone." I said with a simple nod before saying, "Any objections?"

The adventurers all shook their heads when they heard this.

In the first place, they were only being paid ten gold coins a group to explore this dungeon and now that had jumped to thirty with just a few words?

How could they complain about anything?

It was just too bad that they didn't know that this was just the first offer that I was willing to make.

I had been planning to go up to five times the price if they weren't willing to accept this, but it seemed that I had overestimated these people.

It seemed that they didn't have as much ambition as I thought they did.

Since they were fine with just this, then there was nothing for me to say.

All of the adventurers and mercenaries revealed excited looks when they heard this, except for one.

The bald man with the red haired girl.

He had his brows knitted during all of this, as if there was something that he was displeased with.

But he was the one that I was the most concerned about since he was the one that was in charge of the largest mercenary group.

The other two were smaller mercenary groups that could be replaced, but it was hard to find a replacement for this mercenary group that had over a hundred members. They were basically a small army.

So I had to do something about this leader of theirs that seemed like he was displeased.

Chapter 518 Wild Boar Mercenaries (1)

Since this issue had been settled for most of them, there was no need for me to say anything to the rest of them.

Instead, I walked over to the bald man and said, "How about we have a private conversation?"

The bald man was surprised to see me come up to him like this, but he slowly gave a nod of agreement.

The red haired girl helped him up and we walked out of this central tent. We went over to another tent which was my private tent.

After entering, I gestured for them to sit down before heading over to the stove.

This stove was a item that Haley had given me and it was a very convenient item. Instead of having to light a fire every time to cook something, I could just use the stones that she gave me to use this stove to cook with.

I put a pot of water on the stove and let it boil while taking out some cups and tea. I just silently prepared the tea without looking back at my two guests sitting there.

Only after I finished making this tea did I bring it over and sit down in front of them.

I could see that they were more anxious after seeing me just boil tea like this, but I didn't care at all as I poured the tea for them and put the cups in front of them.

This was all done on purpose.

I had no idea what had displeased this bald man, but it was never a bad idea to make him unsettled in this situation. It would make it easier for him to let his guard down, giving me the upper hand in these negotiations.

After I put the cup in front of them, I gestured for them to take a sip before taking my own cup to take a sip of the tea.

Neither of them took the cup as they just looked at me with the same strange look.

But I didn't mind them as I slowly sipped my tea.

Only after I had finished drinking the tea did I put the cup down and say in a calm voice, "What's wrong?"

The bald man was surprised to hear me ask him this directly, but he quickly revealed a serious expression and said, "Your lordship, there is something that I wish to discuss with you."

This time, it was my turn to be surprised.

I had never expected him to show this kind of respect.

I could hear the respect in his voice and I could see that he had no ill intentions at all.

I had thought that there was something wrong with the way that I had thrown money at the adventurers and mercenaries that had angered him, but that didn't seem to be the case.

It seemed like it was something completely different.

I just simply gestured for him to tell me what it was.

The bald man didn't speak right away and instead took a deep breath.

After taking that deep breath, he said, "Your lordship, I wish to bring our Wild Boar Mercenary Group under you."

Not only me, even the red haired girl was surprised when she heard this.

It seemed that he hadn't even discussed this with her, so I doubt he had discussed this with the rest of his mercenary group.

I narrowed my eyes to look at this bald man as I tried to remember something...

This bald man was the leader of the Wild Boar Mercenaries and his name was...Gunther.

Right, it was Gunther.

And the red haired girl beside him was Cindy, but she wasn't just a simple girl.

She was the mage of their Wild Boar Mercenaries.

A mercenary group that could even have a mage among them, they definitely weren't a small group.

So why would they suddenly want to join me?

No, it wasn't as if they wanted to join me, it was just the leader that wanted to join me.

I didn't know if he could speak for the rest yet.

I didn't answer Gunther's question and turned to look at Cindy to say, "Does he speak for the rest of you?"

Gunther was caught off guard by my question, but he didn't say anything.

He didn't even turn to look at Cindy since he knew that this would just affect her decision.

Cindy looked at me when I asked this question before looking back at Gunther and then back at me. Only after all of this did she slowly give a nod.

She didn't say anything, but that nod was more than enough to give an answer.

At the very least, it seemed that the members of this Wild Boar Mercenary Group trusted their leader quite a bit.

But there were still doubts that I had about this.

After getting this confirmation from Cindy, I turned back to look at Gunther without saying a word.

I narrowed my eyes as if I was sizing him up.

Gunther couldn't help flinching at first when he saw me look at him like this, but then he turned to face my gaze head on without any fear.

I couldn't help feeling a bit of praise for him when I saw him face me like this.

At the very least, this was a man that had the courage to stand by his decisions.

Still, there was a part of me that couldn't understand why he was doing this.

Since I couldn't understand, there was no reason trying to force out an understanding.

I looked at Gunther and simply asked, "Why?"

Gunther was surprised to hear this, but that didn't mean that he didn't understand what I was talking about.

He looked at me with a cautious look before asking, "May I ask something before giving my answer?"

I was caught off guard by this, but I gave a nod of agreement.

"The weapons that your knights used, were they provided by your lordship?"

Chapter 519 Wild Boar Mercenaries (2)

I slightly narrowed my eyes when I heard this.

I looked at Gunther with a cautious look, as if I was trying to see something from his expression.

But no matter how I looked at him, it didn't seem like he had any other intentions in asking this question.

It seemed like he was indeed just asking this question just for himself and no one else.

So after a long silence, I gave a nod and said, "That's right, I'm the one that provided those weapons."

When Gunther heard this, his eyes immediately lit up and he said, "I knew it, it could only be the famous count that could provide those amazing weapons."

I raised a brow with a confused look when I heard this.

Gunther saw this and explained, "In our world of mercenaries, we've long heard of the count who can bring out all kinds of strange weapons and items. We've heard of all the amazing things that you've done and..."

He paused for a bit as if he was hesitating to say what he wanted to say, but he still said in the end...

"I'm your fan."

"Huh?" That was all that I could say when I heard him say this.

It seemed that this wasn't something that even his subordinate expected as Cindy looked at him with a shocked look.

I just looked at him with a strange look for a bit as he looked at me with a look of admiration.

Out of all the ways that this could have gone, this definitely was not how I had expected this to go.

After a long silence, I gave a cough and said, "Ke, thank you for this, but I don't think that this is enough for you to come under me, right? I'm sure that there's another reason why you want to join me, right?"

Gunther slowly gave a nod in response to this.

After looking at me for a bit, he said, "I know that someone like you isn't destined for small things. I know that being under you will bring me large benefits in the future. So I want to fall under you while you're still small enough for someone like me."

I narrowed my eyes to look at Gunther again as if I was trying to figure out if he was being serious or not.

To be honest, I couldn't tell if he was a gambler or just smart.

In a sense, what his words were saying were correct.

Though I didn't have any ambition to raise my own position, it seemed like I really had no choice since the people around me had ideas for me. Even without trying, I kept raising up the ranks.

I knew that it was impossible to stop this, so it was better to increase my strength as much as possible while I could.

It wasn't a bad thing to take Gunther and his Wild Boar Mercenaries under us, but I was just worried that he was coming under me for some bad reason.

After staring at him for a bit, I said, "What are you looking for under me?"

Gunther revealed a serious look as he said, "Being a mercenary is a dangerous job. I just hope that we will be able to obtain stability by falling under your lordship."

I could tell that there were some heavier emotions that were in his voice as he said this.

It resonated with Cindy as she also revealed a complicated look after hearing this.

It was clear that being a mercenary wasn't that easy.

In fact, it seemed like it was something that was much harder than one thought and didn't give them as much freedom as one would imagine.

Stability was something that all humans looked for, so it wasn't strange that they would want a stable life as well.

Since that was the case, then should I help them and get their gratitude?

After thinking for a long time, I said, "For now, let's just do it on a trial basis."

Gunther and Cindy were both confused when they heard this as Gunther said, "Trial basis? What does that mean?"

I looked at him with serious eyes as I said, "You suddenly asked to come under me, does that not seem suspicious to you?"

Gunther revealed an awkward look before slowly giving a nod.

Even if he wanted to fall under Count Zwein, he wouldn't just lie about this. This was a fact that couldn't be denied, so he had to admit that it was true.

Seeing this nod, I continued, "Since there is that suspicion, but I still want you under me, naturally we'll do this on a trial basis. You will fall under Cecilia's control, but you will still maintain your identities as mercenaries. In a sense, it will be as if you signed a personal contract with me as your employer."

Gunther was surprised to hear this, but he quickly asked, "What are the terms of the contract? How much will be the recompense?"

I wasn't offended by this at all since I could tell that he was a leader that cared about his people.

In a sense, it was his selfish request to join under me, so he couldn't endanger the livelihoods of his people for this selfish request.

Even if it was on a trial basis, he would make sure that he would get proper payment for his people.

I waved my hand and said, "It'll be done according to the normal rate and if you have any requests, you can talk to Haley when we go back. If you aren't satisfied with anything, you're free to leave."

Gunther bit his lip when he heard this, but he still gave a nod in the end.

With that, I reached my hand out towards him and said, "Then will you accept my offer?"

Gunther looked at Cindy one last time and seeing that she gave him a nod of affirmation, he reached his hand out to take mine.

I said with a smile, "Then to a happy cooperation."

Chapter 520 What Are You Doing Here?

A week passed after that.

We could have gone back into the dungeon, but I didn't take that risk.

After what had happened, I wasn't certain that it would be a good idea for us to go in without some extra supplies, so I sent someone back to town to pass on the message.

With the time that it took to head back to the town and for the supplies to come, a week had passed.

But when they came, I couldn't help being surprised.

That was because there were several faces that I didn't expect that came with these supplies.

"What are you doing here?"

The ones that had come along were Haley, Moon, Veronica, and Elsa along with some elves and dwarves.

Haley was the first one to answer this, "You said that you discovered an even larger dungeon, so of course I would be here. I need to be here to appraise all of the items that you bring out so we can sell them properly later."

As she said this, there was an excited look that was in her eyes like she had discovered a treasure.

I couldn't help shaking my head when I saw this, but I knew that this would have happened if she heard this.

So I was more surprised to see the others here.

Moon just calmly said, "A bigger dungeon means more monsters and that means danger for us elves as well. So we're here to see what the new dungeon is like."

As for Veronica, I didn't even bother asking her what she was here for since I could already guess.

She was just here to watch the fun, so there was nothing to really ask her.

After all, it wasn't as if I would actually let her in the dungeon.

Though she did pout her lips when she saw that I ignored her.

I looked at Elsa and she said, "There might be new materials in the dungeon, so we're here to see if there's anything that we can use for our forging."

It seemed that all of them had come with excuses prepared already and there was nothing that I could do in the face of these excuses.

Or rather, I was glad that they were here.

Well, there were a few that I wasn't glad were here, but I was glad that the elves and the dwarves were here.

The elves and the dwarves were powerful in their own rights and they would definitely be helpful in exploring this dungeon. As long as they were willing to cooperate with us, it would help us while exploring this dungeon.

So I looked at Moon and Elsa and said, "Are you alright with following a human's orders while exploring the dungeon?"

Both of them looked at each other and looked at the other elves and dwarves before turning back to give a nod.

If they weren't alright with this, they wouldn't have come to my town in the first place.

Since they knew that this was a dungeon in my territory, they would need to cooperate with me to explore it. Cooperating with me meant working with the humans, but they already had experience with this because of their time spent in my town.

Seeing that they were willing, I gave a nod and then had Cecilia guide them away.

She would make sure that they would understand the formation that she had prepared and would be able to work with them properly.

I didn't need to get involved in this matter.

I didn't need to worry about Haley either since she was here for one reason and she was already getting down to it.

She went over to the supplies tent and was going to evaluate the items that we had already gotten from the dungeon.

With her eyes, I didn't need to worry about her.

The only thing that I needed to take care of now was Veronica.

She had snuck off and come here with their group, but she was still the daughter of a duke.

This place was a dangerous place that she shouldn't have come to and she definitely wouldn't be participating in the dungeon.

So I simply said, "I'll send two guards to watch over you. You will stay in the camp and not go into the dungeon."

Veronica immediately wanted to complain, but I wouldn't listen this time.

This was too important to play around, so I couldn't let her mess things up here.

Seeing the serious look on my face, it was as if she was crestfallen.

But at the very least, she understood that I wasn't joking.

So I had the two guards take her to one of the tents and had another guard prepare a better tent for her as a guest.

As for me, I went over to where Cecilia was instructing Moon and Elsa.

Once I came over, I asked, "What's the plan?"

Cecilia was surprised to see me ask this, but she gave a simple explanation of the plan.

However, before she could finish, I said, "No, give me the real plan. I'm going in with you."

As soon as I said this, it was like a bolt of lightning had fallen down.

Cecilia, Moon, and Elsa immediately all tried to talk me out of this, but I wouldn't listen at all.

I couldn't help being surprised by Moon and Elsa trying to convince me otherwise.

It was normal for Cecilia to try and talk me out of this as one of my wives, but Moon and Elsa didn't have a reason to.

However, I wouldn't budge on this matter.

I just simply said, "You've seen all the things that I have done, you should understand what I'm capable of. Since that's the case, you should just let me go in with you all."

Then as if to add the cherry on top, I said, "I do have some tricks that I've been saving."

Cecilia hesitated for a long time, but she agreed in the end.

Just like that, I was heading into the dungeon.