

Shota 531

Chapter 531 Dungeon Exploration (11)

Since we had arrived where the rats came from last time, it was time to be careful.

Instead of going forward on our own, we had the adventurers and mercenaries create a defensive line in front of us. But that was still far away from where the rats had appeared last time.

I had the zombies that I had created go forward instead to explore.

There were that were attached to them, so we could clearly see what was happening with them.

However, even as they moved forward, it didn't seem like anything was about to happen.

They just continued forward to where they had met the rats last time as if everything was normal.

Cecilia deeply knitted her brows seeing this and turned to me to give a look, as if she was saying that she wasn't lying about this.

I just gave a nod and patted her arm before giving her a look that said, "Just be patient."

I of course didn't doubt the information that she had brought back, but things were different now since it was a monster zombie that was moving forward instead of a human.

Would the rats attack another monster when they were all from the same dungeon?

That was unknown.

If need be, we might need to send someone down to provoke the rats into appearing.

Though that was an idea that I wasn't leaning towards.

I didn't want to sacrifice someone just to make the rats appear.

The slime that we sent down continued moving forward, going further than Cecilia's group had gone last time. However, there still wasn't a single rat that appeared even though it had gone that far.

I just patted her on the arm and said, "Don't worry, it just means that they weren't here. They were most likely wandering around and you ran into them by..."

Before I could finish, there was a slight tremble that came from under me.

I quickly turned back to look at the slime that was about to disappear out of view.

With the light from the slime, I could make out...many black wriggling forms that had appeared in front of the slime.

These were the rats!

Only when the slime had come deep into their territory did they finally appear.

So they would appear right away if it was humans, but they didn't appear right away if it was another monster.

The monsters seemed to have established territories and were forgiving to a certain extent.

It was only when the slime had gone too deep into their territory that the rats suddenly appeared to retaliate.

Since they came out, the slime immediately turned and ran.

That was the order that I had given it.

As long as it encountered an enemy, it would immediately turn around and run to where they were.

It would bring all those enemies over for them to deal with.

As soon as the slime turned and ran, the rats came out in a swarm.

With just the light from the slime, we were able to see thousands of these rats chasing after the slime. It was like a black wave that came out of the crevices of the dungeon and it seemed like there were even more of them coming out.

However, the slime zombie knew no fear and didn't hesitate at all.

Once it had been given its orders, it only knew how to follow these orders and do nothing else.

Since it had received orders to run, it would run.

With the speed that it moved at, it was able to keep out of the range of the rats.

Just before the rats could reach it, the slime zombie would bounce out of the way of their sharp fangs.

The slime zombie led them closer and closer to the area where we were gathered.

At the same time, it was leading them closer and closer to the trap that we had set.

Seeing that they were coming, I looked at Cecilia and she looked at the ones that were holding our secret weapons.

They had been in a daze at first, but seeing that Cecilia was looking at them, they nodded to show that they were ready.

Cecilia gave a nod back before raising her hand.

However, she didn't let that hand drop as she watched the rats coming closer and closer.

Finally, the slime zombie reached the zone which we had dictated and suddenly stopped running.

It was as if it was looking for death with the way that it just stood there in the face of the impending wave of rats that were coming right at it.

It seemed like this slime zombie was only a moment from death.

That was until something suddenly rained down from above.

There were mushroom zombies that rained down on the black wave of rats.

As soon as these mushroom zombies landed, they exploded in a wave of spores that immediately covered the surrounding rats.

There were some that stopped, there were some that kept going.

The rats were in complete chaos once the mushroom zombies rained down on them as they didn't know what to do.

In the ensuing chaos, there were some rats that were even trampled by the wave that rushed forward. They were one mass, but that didn't mean that there weren't separate rats here.

The ones that were in the front of the wave couldn't resist the momentum that came from the ones in the back, so they were crushed under the weight of all of these rats that couldn't stop in time.

The ones that were covered in the spores were also quickly covered in mushrooms and dropped to the ground.

These rats weren't able to resist the spores of these mushroom zombies at all.

In no time at all, there was a large patch of rats that were eliminated around the slime zombie.

The rats that had managed to stop in time didn't dare move forward again.

It seemed that there was a stalemate that was drawn.

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The lines between the two sides were drawn.

The mushroom zombies wouldn't move forward without my orders and it seemed like the rat army was scared of the mushroom zombies.

But of course, that wasn't strange since just these few mushroom zombies had wiped out a quarter of their entire group.

The spores of the mushroom zombies were as overpowered as I had imagined and they were the perfect tool to cut down the rats.

Now I was just waiting to see what the rats would do.

Reacting to the move of the rats would be less destructive than attacking them head on.

After all, a cornered beast was the most dangerous.

The stalemate seemed like it would last for a while, but then there was this strange high pitched roar that came from behind the rats.

Though there were only a few around the mushroom zombies that had been thrown down, these were bright enough to see where this roar had come from. Or rather, it could be said that these creatures were big enough that they would be hard to miss.

These were the humanoid rat monsters that Cecilia had mentioned before.

As soon as these things came out, the rat army started to tremble as if they were afraid of them.

It was clear who reigned over this group of rats.

These humanoid rat creatures stood six feet tall, had jet black fur like the other rats, and had the normal rat features. But the one shocking thing was that these creatures were completely jacked.

They were like masses of muscle with how much muscle they had on their bodies.

It really was terrifying and strangely fascinating to look at.

They were basically bodybuilders with rat masks on and fur all over their bodies.

Once these humanoid rat monsters had appeared and gave the order, the rats no longer hesitated and began charging forward again.

It was clear that they were unwilling, but they didn't have a choice when the order was given.

A few of the rats that had tried to sneak off were crushed instantly by the humanoid rat monsters. The rest of the rats knew that they would be next if they tried to flee as well.

It seemed that to defeat this group of rats, we would need to take out the humanoid rat creatures.

Once that happened, the rats should scatter on their own since we had the mushroom zombies.

But neither Cecilia or I gave the order for our troops to attack.

This was all going according to plan still.

We had gathered all of our troops in specific locations just so we could deal with these humanoid rat creatures in the first place.

The mushroom zombies were disposable since the life of a zombie couldn't be compared to the life of a human.

Though I did make sure to keep one back.

I wanted to examine it and the spore that it released.

If I could find a way to turn that spore into a weapon, then it would be much easier to deal with dungeon monsters in the future.

So I wanted to keep at least one sample.

But the rest were all deployed to fight the rat army, though there were still some that were left in the hands of our troops.

When the mushroom monsters saw that the rats were charging at them, they suddenly grouped together in one area and waited for the rats to come at them. They could have jumped up and bounced down on these rats to release the spores again, but instead they waited.

That was because...there was another trap waiting for the rats.

We had only thrown a third of all the mushroom zombies that we had after all.

We were just waiting for the rats to charge again.

Seeing that the rats were about to reach the mushroom monsters, Cecilia's hand came down again and said, "Throw!"

Once she gave this order, the soldiers holding the mushroom zombies threw them the same way as before.

These mushroom zombies landed right in the middle of the rat army again with a large burst of spores. As soon as these spores fell onto the rats, mushrooms immediately started sprouting from these rats and they all fell to the ground.

It was the same thing as before where the rat army had been lured in before being taken out in a single AoE attack.

That was just how effective the mushroom spores were.

But this time, there was something that changed.

One of the humanoid rat monsters suddenly charged forward.

It moved at a speed that caught everyone off guard and when it stopped, it was already in front of one of the mushroom zombies. With a single swipe of its tail, that mushroom zombie was cut in half.

But before it could do anything else, there were fire arrows that suddenly fell down on this humanoid rat creature.

This humanoid rat creature was shocked to see this, but it quickly spun its tail again to block these flame arrows. The tail was stronger than the steel arrowheads on these arrows and knocked them all to the ground without hurting the humanoid rat creature.

But these too were a distraction.

The other zombies suddenly charged forward and attacked the other humanoid rat creatures that were in the back.

These were the zombies that we had gathered while coming here.

There were many different zombies and they all charged at the humanoid rat creatures in the back.

As for the one that charged out, it turned back as if it wanted to help the others.

"Die!"

The humanoid rat creature was barely able to react in time to turn around to raise its arms to block the attack that came at it.

This attack caused the humanoid rat creature to fall to its knees before sliding back a bit.

When it was over, one could see that there was a slight dent to the arms of the humanoid rat creature.

It was clear that something was broken.

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Cecilia stood there in front of the humanoid rat creature with the dildo bat raised.

From the very beginning, this was our plan.

It was to separate the humanoid rat creatures from the rest of the rats.

The only reason why Cecilia's group had been forced back last time was because of the wave of rats that came with the humanoid rat creatures.

There were just too many rats for Cecilia and her troops to handle, which was why they had suffered a crushing defeat.

But this time, we were able to separate the humanoid rat creature from the rest of the rats by baiting it out with the mushroom zombies.

As long as it was separated from the rest, Cecilia wouldn't have a problem taking care of this humanoid rat creature alone.

All the while, the other humanoid rat creatures were being kept busy by the other zombies.

There were a total of four of them that appeared, so now there were three of them being distracted by the zombies while Cecilia fought one of them.

After this humanoid rat creature stabilized itself, it knew that it was in a bad position.

As it tried to stand back up, its arms slumped down on its sides as if they couldn't be used anymore.

With the dent in them, it was surprising that they weren't snapped in half.

That was just how dense the muscles of the humanoid rat creature were.

But the way that they hung down must mean that there was some kind of damage to the bones that made it unable to use its arms anymore.

The humanoid rat creature just stared at Cecilia, as if it was about to counterattack.

But then all of a sudden...it turned and ran.

It didn't hesitate at all to turn around and run away.

It was as if it had no pride at all.

But then again, this was a monster with subpar intelligence, so it would be strange if it had pride.

Cecilia was caught off guard by this humanoid rat creature suddenly turning around to run away, but she didn't let herself be caught off guard for long as she suddenly ran after it.

She didn't get too close as she waited to see what this humanoid rat creature would do first. Since it didn't hesitate to run like this, there was no knowing what it would have done.

But there wasn't anywhere for this humanoid rat creature to go.

It gave a screech, but the rats couldn't reach it since they were blocked by the mushroom zombies. The ones that were close by were all stopped by the mushroom zombies that followed Cecilia.

With a single spray of spores, they were all stopped from approaching Cecilia.

The humanoid rat creature also wasn't able to make its way over to the other humanoid rat creatures because of the line of zombies in front of it.

So it could only turn around to face Cecilia again.

As if it had been forced into a corner, it suddenly crouched down as if it was about to do something desperate.

Cecilia knitted her brows seeing this, but she raised the dildo bat in front of her in preparation for this.

The humanoid rat creature suddenly jumped forward before Cecilia could even react.

It moved at a speed that was far faster than what her eyes could track, but she could already guess what it was coming for. So before it could even approach, she was already swinging down at the humanoid rat creature that was charging at her.

But the humanoid rat creature wasn't aimed at her.

Rather, it twisted to the side and moved out of the way of the attack.

It saw that it wasn't able to escape to where the other humanoid rat creatures were, so it chose to run in the opposite direction.

As far as it was aware, the space behind Cecilia was clear for it to run to. since there was nothing there.

In a sense, it could be considered smart...or it could be said to have good instincts.

That was if that space was open for it to run to.

All of a sudden, arrows flew down from in front of the humanoid rat creature, creating a wall of arrows in front of it.

Seeing this, the humanoid rat creature had no choice but to turn around and spin its tail to block these arrows just like before.

But that didn't matter since it created an opening for Cecilia.

She came up right behind the humanoid rat creature with the dildo bat raised up and she swung down at it once more.

The humanoid rat creature looked like it wanted to run, but it couldn't since it was being pinned down by the arrows.

So it had no choice but to attack with its claws in an attempt to block Cecilia's attack.

However, with the penetrating effect of the dildo bat, the claws couldn't put up any resistance at all.

They shattered under the pressure of the dildo bat and that dildo bat continued to slam down, hitting the chest of the humanoid rat creature.

That chest caved in as it collapsed onto the ground and it spat out blood before laying there without any signs of life at all.

However, Cecilia didn't trust it and beat it a few more times with the dildo bat.

Half of it was to make sure that it was dead and half of it was to...vent her anger from before.

Still, that didn't matter since we had another goal in taking down this humanoid rat creature.

When the waves of rats saw that one of the humanoid rat creatures were taken down, they couldn't help being shaken. The powerful ones that had suppressed them and controlled them like slaves were now being taken out.

This was not something that they had expected, but here it was in front of them.

Just like this, there were a few of the rats that started to waver.

There were some rats that started to run away.

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The humanoid rat creatures that were left had wanted to stop them from running away, but they couldn't since they were being stopped by the zombies.

The zombies weren't that strong that they could defeat the humanoid rat monsters without teaming up.

In fact, it was even hard for them to stall the humanoid rat creatures since they were so strong. There were already a few of the zombies that had been ripped apart by the humanoid rat creatures during their confrontation.

However, the terrifying thing about these zombies was that they showed no fear in attacking.

They only existed to follow orders and once they received their orders, they wouldn't back down no matter what.

For now, the order that they received was to attack the humanoid rat creatures and stall them for as long as they could.

So as long as their bodies didn't break down, that was what they would do.

As a result, the humanoid rat creatures didn't have a single second to spare for the rats that were running away.

There were only a few rats that ran away at first, but it was like a dam opening as soon as a few of the rats ran. Once those few rats were able to get away safely, the rest of them didn't hesitate to run as well.

They knew that if they didn't take this chance now, they wouldn't get another chance to escape.

So they didn't hesitate to run.

The humanoid rat creatures looked like they wanted to stop this, but they couldn't do a thing as the zombies charged at them relentlessly.

Even if they wanted to rip apart one of the zombies, the others would charge forward to stop them.

In short, they weren't able to break free from being surrounded by the zombies.

All they could do was try their best to survive against these zombies.

But there was another surprise that was coming.

While this was all happening, I had jumped down from the ledge that I was on and landed down beside Cecilia.

She wasn't surprised to see me, but there was a hesitant look on her face.

I ignored this as I started heading towards the corpse of the humanoid rat creature on the ground.

While I was heading over, Cecilia made sure to come with me as if she was prepared to protect me at any moment.

When we came close, there was even a look in her eyes as if she wanted to grab me and pull me out of there. But I was able to come up to the corpse of the humanoid rat creature in the end.

After reaching this humanoid rat creature, I raised an orb that I was holding in my hand and pointed it at the humanoid rat creature.

The same thing as before happened where some energy came out of the orb and entered the humanoid rat creature.

Nothing seemed to happen until it suddenly started moving.

But the moment that it did, I couldn't help feeling this pain coming from inside of me.

It made me clutch my chest and lean forward a bit as if I was trying to negate the pain.

While this was happening, Cecilia suddenly came forward and made to grab me. It was as if she wanted to lift me up and carry me out of there.

But I stopped her in the end by raising one hand and saying, "I'm fine, I'm fine."

Cecilia still had her arms around me as if she was prepared to carry me away at any moment, but she didn't pick me up at the very least.

That pain that I felt just now, it was from trying to turn this humanoid rat creature into a zombie.

I had underestimated how much mana it would take to turn this thing into a zombie, which was why I had suffered a bit of backlash just now.

However, it had succeeded in the end which was all that mattered.

This humanoid rat creature was just standing there in front of me with glazed eyes, as if it was waiting for my instructions.

Seeing that it was waiting for me, I suddenly said, "Go and attack the others."

The humanoid rat creature didn't even have to ask who it was that I wanted it to attack.

Without any hesitation, it started running at the other humanoid rat creatures that were being kept busy by the zombies.

When the humanoid rat creatures saw the zombie humanoid rat creature running over, they had looks of hope as they thought that this zombie humanoid rat creature was here to help.

But then they were disappointed as the zombie humanoid rat creature started attacking them.

They of course knew how to best deal with these attacks since they were humanoid rat creatures as well.

But that meant that the pressure was even stronger on them.

With this zombie humanoid rat creature attacking the other humanoid rat creatures, the rat army started to panic completely.

They knew that there was nothing left for them, so they didn't hesitate to run.

There wasn't a single rat that wasn't running away at this point.

When the humanoid rat creatures saw this, they started screeching at the rats, but not a single rat stopped for them.

They couldn't do anything to the rats that ran since they were still being trapped by the zombies.

Seeing that they couldn't threaten the rats, they changed their tactic.

They started squeaking at the zombie humanoid rat creature, almost as if they were trying to snap it out of its daze and come back to their side.

But that didn't work at all as the zombie humanoid rat creature just kept attacking.

That was until an arrow was lucky enough to pierce through the heart of another one of those humanoid rat creatures.

That humanoid rat creature wasn't able to remain standing as it suddenly collapsed forward, driving the arrow deeper into its hearts.

With this, the downfall of these humanoid rat creatures began.

Especially when a second humanoid rat creature was formed.

Just like this, the conclusion was drawn and the other two humanoid rat creatures also fell.

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After all of the humanoid rat creatures had been taken care of, the rest of the rats didn't stick around.

They knew that there was nothing to gain from staying here, so they turned and ran as quickly as possible.

When it was all over, we quickly went to see what the damage was.

Surprisingly, there weren't as many zombies that were destroyed as I had thought there would be.

Out of the over two hundred zombies that we had created along the way, there were only around fifty that were destroyed.

Out of the original around fifty mushroom zombies, there were only three that were destroyed.

One was ripped apart by the first humanoid rat creature and the other two were surprisingly torn apart by the last struggle of the rats. Some of the rats that had been affected by the spore actually didn't give up and chose to struggle with the last of their strength.

The mushroom zombies clearly didn't expect this and were ripped apart by the rats before they could even react.

So in the end, there were two more mushroom zombies that were destroyed.

But the gains were hundreds of rat corpses and three more humanoid rat creature corpses.

In the fight, I had seen just how powerful the humanoid rat creature zombie was.

Since it didn't have any fear, it was actually stronger than when it was alive.

It had been able to hold back two of the other humanoid rat creatures by itself while Cecilia focused on taking down the other one with the help of the soldiers and the zombies.

So three more of these powerful monsters would without a doubt be very useful.

But I couldn't turn them into zombies right now since I had seen how much mana it took.

If it was done, it would have to be done when we left this dungeon.

The rats...they were much easier.

They were so easy that I could even do them in batches with the Orb of the Dead.

There was no need to turn the rats into zombies one by one, which saved me quite a bit of time.

With these rats, it was much easier for us to progress forward.

It seemed that other than the mushrooms, the rats were also considered one of the taboos of this dungeon.

When we progressed forward, the monsters that heard the skittering of the rat feet immediately turned to run. So there were no longer monsters that dared to attack us after all this.

The rats that fled completely abandoned their territory, so we didn't have to deal with them either.

Past the area where we met the rats, there was just a large empty space.

It was clear that monsters lived here based on the tracks that were all around us, but they were hiding because of the large group of zombies that we had.

After moving through this large empty space for a bit, we finally arrived at what seemed to be the end of the dungeon.

Well, it seemed to be the end for us since there was no way forward, but that didn't mean that this should be the end of the dungeon.

That was because this was a large stone door.

This was a large stone door that was embedded in the side of the wall and it didn't seem like there was any way of opening this stone door.

Once we reached this area, we immediately secured it and then turned our attention to the stone door.

After a long period of silence, Moon and Elsa suddenly turned around and shook their heads.

Moon said, "This doesn't seem like anything that I've seen before. Even in our elven records, there's no mention of this."

Elsa gave a nod of agreement before saying, "I've never heard of anything like this before. None of us have ever seen this kind of stone before, so we have no idea what it's made of."

Both the inclined elves and the ore inclined dwarves couldn't make head or tail of this thing.

It seemed like this was indeed a dead end.

But I knew that there were certain people that wouldn't let things end there.

So I gave a nod to Moon and Elsa before gesturing with my hand for them to step aside.

It wasn't just them who would be moving aside.

That included the other elves and dwarves that were still investigating the door.

It took a bit of effort for them to bring the rest of the elves and dwarves away, but they were able to do it in the end.

Though it looked more like they were dragging them away then convincing them to move.

After the space in front of the door was cleared, I turned to the adventurers and mercenaries and said, "Do what you want. If you can open this door, then I'll give you a hundred gold coins and your choice of the treasures we hide behind it."

All of the eyes of the adventurers and mercenaries lit up when they heard this.

Without any hesitation, they immediately went forward towards the stone door to see if they could open it.

Though I didn't have any hopes when I said this.

I had only said this because I didn't want the adventurers and mercenaries messing with the door after this trip.

Though it would be unlikely that they would even be able to reach this far without the help of my soldiers, I didn't want to let that small risk remain.

So it was better to discourage them from trying to get this door open now before something happened in the future.

I didn't think that they would do anything too bad, which was why I let them have their way with the door.

After all, I didn't think that anyone would be dumb enough to try something like hitting the door to open it...

Or did I jinx myself by thinking that?

"Tink! Clang!"

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As soon as this sound rang out, I immediately turned to see what it was.

It turned out that one of the adventurers was dumber than I thought and had actually thought to use brute force to open the door.

He had taken a spear and stabbed it into the door, but that spear had cracked after hitting the door.

But that wasn't what I was worried about.

I didn't use brute force since I figured that this door was most likely protected by something. Whether it was or some kind of trap, it would most likely trigger once the door was attacked.

So I was avoiding triggering this thing.

But in the end, it was ruined by this adventurer...

Without any hesitation, I said, "Move away from that door!"

Then I jumped out of the way while covering my head.

However, there wasn't anything that followed.

I slowly pulled my head out of my hands and turned to look at the door, but I found that nothing had changed.

It didn't seem like there were any traps at all that had been triggered because of the adventurer hitting the door.

In fact, everyone was even looking at me with strange looks because of what I had done and what I had shouted. I couldn't help feeling embarrassed because of the way that they all looked at me.

However, I forced that down and carefully looked at the door, as if I was trying to find something off about it.

Cecilia walked over and reached her hand out to help me off the ground.

The adventurers and mercenaries had all stopped doing what they were doing and were looking at me, as if they were waiting for me to say something.

But I just didn't say anything as I kept staring at the door.

Finally, when I saw that there was nothing that was going to happen, I turned to the adventurers and mercenaries to say, "You can keep doing what you were doing."

They all looked at me with strange looks, which I chose to ignore. But in the end, they turned back to the stone door and continued doing what they were doing before.

Now that I knew that there weren't any traps or such that were attached to this door, I started thinking about some of the things that I had that I could use on this door.

Even if the door was hard, would it be to withstand the penetrating effect of the dildo bat?

Of The Penetrator?

If they couldn't break through, it would be hard to imagine just what could break through this door.

But of course, I wouldn't do that while the adventurers and mercenaries were still here.

There was no knowing what was behind that door, but it definitely wasn't simple for it to be in this dungeon.

This was a place that I would want to explore without these adventurers and mercenaries.

So for now, I would try to avoid going in while I could.

I could always come back later with the zombies.

The adventurers and mercenaries tried many different things, but they weren't able to open the door in the end.

I wasn't disappointed by this, but they seemed very disappointed.

It was as if they could sense the precious treasure that was behind this door and they really wanted to get at it.

However, they just couldn't since they couldn't open the stone door.

After doing that dive and learning that there was nothing wrong with this stone door, I didn't remain idle.

I started walking around the area around the door.

I didn't really have anything that I was looking for, but I would take anything that I could get.

Whether it was information about how to open the door or information about what this place was, I would take it.

It didn't seem like I was going to find anything at first, but then I found a strange indentation in the wall.

When I looked more closely, I found that this indentation wasn't just an indentation in the wall. Rather, it seemed like it was because there was something that had been carved in the wall.

This carving was very light which was why people might have missed it if they didn't look closely enough.

But I was able to make it out with the small light that I had.

When I made it out, I couldn't help being shocked.

Cecilia also noticed the strange look on my face and she walked over to take a look at it.

When she did, she looked at me with a strange look and asked, "What are you looking at?"

I looked at her with a surprised look before pointing at that indentation and asking, "You don't see that?"

Cecilia looked at where I was pointing and asked, "See what? There's nothing there other than some strange grooves."

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

But then I remembered something.

Though I could understand the words that they had been saying and read the words they wrote, I did realize that this world had a completely different language.

There was some kind of that translated for me, but that didn't mean that it was the same language as before.

What was carved on the wall was a language from my past life, so that meant that Cecilia didn't recognize it as a language.

It was a language called English, a language that was the most popular language on Earth.

I shook my head and said, "It's nothing."

Cecilia looked at me with the same strange look, but she didn't pursue this matter since I didn't expand further on it.

But I couldn't help looking at the indentation with a strange look again.

The message that was imprinted on this wall wasn't anything special.

In fact, it might even seem like gibberish.

On the wall were carved the words "For the divine".

I had no idea what this meant, but I knew that it wouldn't be that simple.

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In the end, the adventurers and mercenaries weren't able to open up this door.

They had no choice but to give up on this since there was nothing else that they could do.

I had given them the chance to try and open it, so they couldn't keep insisting on staying here since it was still a dangerous place.

But I had already made a decision that I would be coming back here in the future after seeing that indentation.

It was easy for us to come out of this dungeon this time with the help of zombies.

Not a single monster approached us since they could see our zombies around us.

At the same time, most of the monsters that were here had already been cleared with the help of the zombies, so there weren't that many monsters to attack us in the first place.

Once we were out, the first thing that we did was rest up.

Haley had been waiting for us and had already prepared everything as if she had predicted when we would come out.

I would find out later that she had someone watching over the entrance of the dungeon and had been prepared to welcome us at any moment. It wasn't that she had predicted it, it was just that she did it in a way that could be set up at any time.

The adventurers and mercenaries were happy to accept this, but I knew what her real intentions were.

After all, I was called to a private tent with her to celebrate.

But there was no celebration at all for me.

While she distracted the adventurers and mercenaries with this, she was grilling me for information about the dungeon.

She wanted all the information that she could get to make a decision on what to do in the future.

So she was keeping the adventurers and mercenaries, the ones that she would have to deal with busy while she got that information from me.

I wasn't able to get any food in me as I just had to tell Haley everything that happened.

When it was over, she suddenly stood up and said, "Bring me to see the zombies."

I was surprised to hear this, but I followed her out of the tent and led the way over to the zombies.

All of the zombies that we brought out with us had been put in a special area with a fence around them.

Though the fence really wouldn't do much to keep them back, it gave the others a sense of safety seeing the zombies behind this fence.

As she stood on the other side of the fence looking at the zombies, she couldn't help saying in an amazed voice, "How did you do all of this?"

I slowly took out the Orb of the Dead and explained to her what it did.

Haley's eyes were sparkling as she looked at the Orb of the Dead in my hand and listened to what I had to say.

When I was finished explaining, she suddenly raised her hand and slapped my arm before saying, "Why didn't you tell me about this thing sooner? If I knew that you had this thing, I could have gotten you to make a bunch of zombies for me to use as labour!"

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

After all, I never would have thought that this would be her reaction to this.

Raising the dead and controlling it, this was something that was considered taboo by most people.

Yet the only thing that she could think of was how to use it in her business...

I really didn't know if I should be impressed by Haley or scared of her.

She didn't stay on this topic for long as she turned back to look at the zombies and asked, "What are you planning on doing with these ones? Are you just going to leave them here or are you going to use them for something else?"

There was a very obvious implication that came with the latter half of her words.

I shook my head and said, "I'll just leave them here and use them to clear out the dungeon."

Haley looked a bit disappointed when she heard this, but I quickly shot that down by saying, "For now, we're still in a friendly relationship with the country. I don't want to do anything that could be seen as treason."

Haley slowly gave a nod in response to this.

What she had been implying was to take the zombies back and put them in my army.

These zombies were the perfect soldiers as well since they had no fear and were very powerful.

If I used them as soldiers for my territory, there was no doubt that the surrounding lords wouldn't be able to do a single thing to me. At that point, it would be easy for me to do whatever I wanted in the area around my territory.

But that would be dangerous as well.

After all, too much military power could be seen as a threat. Especially when I had powerful weapons like these zombies.

So if I made too many zombies, it might strain my relationship with the royal family since they might see me as a threat to their rule.

So for now, I couldn't make too many zombies.

But...there was an exception.

"We'll still take a few back with us. I hope that you can prepare them when we need to bring them back."

Haley was surprised to hear this, but then she immediately understood what I meant.

We would of course take the powerful zombies back with us and leave the weaker ones here.

That included the humanoid rat creatures and the mushroom monsters.

Those were the ones that I definitely wouldn't leave in a place like this.

Seeing that she understood, I gave a satisfied nod before asking, "So what are your plans for this place?"

Chapter 538 Future Of The Dungeon (2)

Haley heard this, but she didn't answer right away.

She revealed a look that almost seemed like she was conflicted over something, but that quickly cleared as she said with a sigh, "For now, let's do what we were planning to do before."

She turned to look back at the camp and said, "They've all gathered here in hopes of earning big money, we can't take that away from them or else it will hurt our prestige. Not to mention, the materials that they brought back were all good quality, so I know that they will sell. I'm not willing to give up such good business when it's offered to me."

I couldn't help revealing a faint smile when I heard this.

I knew what kind of personality she had and she said this, I knew that she wasn't just saying this because of the good money that it would earn.

She was also considering the influence that this would bring us since there would be many nobles that would want to build a relationship with us for the items that we collected from the dungeon.

I didn't say anything about this since I didn't want to influence her decision.

If she chose to do this, then it was fine since we had moved past that phase where I wouldn't want her to do this.

It was for the good of our family and she was willing to do it, so there was no reason for me to stop her.

After a long moment of silence, Haley gave a nod and said, "Alright, that's decided. Let's go back then."

But before she could head back, I suddenly grabbed her hand and pulled her further away from the camp.

If it was anyone else, Haley definitely would have resisted.

But since it was me, she just silently followed me away from the camp.

Once we were alone in the forest, she looked at me with a teasing look as if she was about to say something, but she quickly stopped.

That was because she could see the serious look that was on my face.

Unless it was something very serious, I wouldn't look like this.

So she asked in a worried voice, "What's wrong?"

I shook my head to show that there wasn't anything wrong at first, but then I said, "I need to go back into the dungeon and I need to do it with a small group."

Haley was caught off guard when she heard this, but out of all of the questions that she had, she chose one specific one, "When and how many people?"

She could have asked why he needed to do this, but she decided to trust him.

I gave a grateful nod before saying, "Just a few people that we can trust and a few zombies so that no one will notice that anything is wrong. Also, it needs to happen as soon as possible."

Haley knitted her brows when she heard this, but then she didn't hesitate to head back to the camp.

I was even surprised to see how much of a rush she was in.

But when she saw that I wasn't following her, she turned around and looked at me before waving her hand to say, "What are you doing? Come on, we need to go now or we'll lose this chance."

I was even more surprised, but I followed her.

It seemed like she already had some ideas.

When we came back to the camp, there were some adventurers and mercenaries who wanted to invite us to drink with them. However, Haley just said in a teasing voice, "Are you really going to bother our alone time?"

All of them couldn't help revealing awkward looks when they heard this.

There were also many single dogs that revealed bitter smiles when they heard this.

Adventurers and mercenaries, there were many single men among them since they traveled far and didn't have time to find meaningful relationships while traveling.

There were some that were able to find love, but even then, they usually left for months on end from their families to earn money for them. So it also hurt them seeing the two of us like this.

But this excuse was very effective in driving the adventurers and mercenaries away.

We were able to make our way through the crowd until we found Cecilia.

She had already completely lost herself in the mood of the party and was already a bit drunk, but she immediately snapped out of it when I told her that there was something important that we had to do.

At the same time, it was lucky that she was with a few of her trusted subordinates.

We had all of them follow us to a tent where Haley explained what was happening.

Her plan was simple, it was to use the cover of the party to sneak into the dungeon while everyone was distracted.

But there was still a problem...

We needed the zombies to make it through the dungeon safely.

If we didn't have the zombies, then it would be impossible.

Haley revealed a smile when I asked this and she snuck something out from the dress that she was wearing.

It was two of the mushroom zombies.

She had put two of them under her large dress and had snuck them back with her...

I really didn't know what to say when I saw this.

I had thought that she was walking a bit strange, but I had thought that was just because she was rushing to come back.

But now I found that she was doing it because she had these two mushroom zombies under her dress.

I really didn't know what to say when she pulled the two of them out.

It definitely was not something that I was expecting...

Still, with these two mushroom zombies, it should be possible to reach the stone door since the monsters shouldn't have repopulated the dungeon yet.

So with this, we snuck back into the dungeon.

Chapter 539 The Stone Door Again

To my surprise, it was easy to go through the dungeon.

Or it should be said that it was to be expected with how many monsters we had killed.

Even if a dungeon could spawn more, it would take time to gather the mana to summon more.

So for now, we were able to make our way through the dungeon without much trouble.

Though as we made our way through, there were still a few monsters that popped out.

For Cecilia and her knights, it was no problem to deal with them.

Then after they were taken down, I used the Orb of the Dead to turn them into zombies.

In no time at all, we had built up a sizable group and were able to leave everything to the zombies.

Once we made our way back to the stone door, everyone stopped and turned to look at me.

After all, it was me who had wanted to come here in the first place.

So it was me that they were waiting for to do something.

I walked up to the stone door, but then I suddenly moved to the side.

I went back over to where the indentation in the wall was.

Everyone just looked at me with a strange look as I stood there in front of the wall. There were some of them that looked at each other as if they were worried that I had gone crazy.

At the same time, they flashed a few looks at Cecilia as if they were asking if they should knock me out and take me out of this cave.

They were worried that I might have been up for too long and was going crazy.

But Cecilia shook her head to stop them.

She knew just how he was and she remembered what he had said when they were here before.

So she wanted to see what would happen.

It was the same indentation as before and there was nothing different about it.

But when I looked more carefully, I found that there were other indentations nearby.

Only this time...it was in a language that I didn't understand.

Though I did know what this language was because of how similar it looked to another language that I had seen back on Earth.

Hindi, it was Hindi.

When I looked further along the wall, I could see that there were many different carvings, but each of them were different.

It was only when I found another one that I recognized that I finally realized that these were all different languages. At the same time, I realized that it was the same thing that was being written in all of these different languages.

"For the Divine."

That was what was written.

I carefully counted all the different carvings that were on the wall, but I soon gave up when I saw that there were thousands of different carvings here.

All of them were just one simple sentence it seemed and if I had to guess, they should all have the same meaning.

But for the people of this world, they didn't understand a single one of these languages.

For them, it was as if there were just strange carvings that lined the wall.

So when they saw that I was excited to see what they considered to be random carvings, it enforced the idea that I had gone crazy. They thought that the stress had gotten to me and I was seeing things that weren't actually there.

This time, even Cecilia couldn't help revealing a worried look.

Her subordinates once again looked at her with a worried and questioning look, as if they wanted to take action. But once again, Cecilia shook her head and stopped them.

Instead, she took a step forward and asked in a soft voice, "Did you find anything?"

I had been focused on the wall, so I hadn't really noticed what was happening with the others. It was only when Cecilia suddenly said something that I turned around to look at her.

With a nod, I said, "Can't you see all the different things that are on the wall?"

Cecilia looked at the wall when I said this before shaking her head to say, "No, all I see are strange indents. I don't see anything."

I just gave a slow nod before saying, "It's different languages that are carved on the wall, they aren't strange indents at all. I thought that you would be able to recognize at least one of them, but that doesn't seem to be the case."

When they heard this, the others couldn't help looking carefully at the wall.

Cecilia did the same before slowly asking, "Different languages?"

But then she asked, "What does it say then?"

"For the Divine." I said slowly.

Cecilia had a very confused look when she heard this, but before she or anyone else could say anything...

"Click."

All of us suddenly raised our guard when we heard this sound.

At the same time, we all moved backwards just in case something happened.

After all, the sound came from the door.

This kind of sound usually would mean that a trap was triggered or something like that.

But there were no traps or things that were similar that were triggered.

Instead, there was a grinding sound as the door suddenly started to move.

The door slowly started lifting itself off the ground, as if there was some kind of mechanism doing this.

Cecilia quickly put me behind her as she raised her sword and pointed it at the void behind the door.

All of us were expecting something to come out of that door, but there wasn't a single thing that came out. At the same time, it was too dark behind the door that we weren't able to see a single thing in there.

We just stood there for a while, waiting to see what would come out from behind the door.

Only there wasn't a single thing that came out in the end.

Since nothing was coming out...then I guess I should go in and see what was there.

Chapter 540 Behind The Door

I took a step forward, but I was immediately stopped by Cecilia.

She turned back to look at me with a gaze like she was asking, "What are you doing?"

But I just said, "There's no point waiting here when it's clear that nothing is going to happen. We don't have all night to stay here, so we should at least see what's behind the door."

Cecilia deeply knitted her brows when she heard this, but she eventually gave a nod of agreement.

She too knew that it was too late to back down now that they had come this far.

At the very least, they should see what was behind the door.

But Cecilia made sure that she was in front of me as we moved forward.

She had her sword raised and was fully on alert, not intending to let a single thing happen to me.

The only reason that I was even allowed to go forward was because I had been the one that opened the door.

So we slowly inched towards the door until we were standing right in front of it.

It was pitch dark through the door frame, so I raised my al light up in front of it to see if it could cast any light in.

When it did, all we could see was a set of stairs that seemed to be leading downwards.

Seeing this, Cecilia naturally didn't allow me to go first.

She looked at me and I could see what she was intending to do, so with a sigh, I stepped back.

Her subordinates immediately came forward to surround me while two went to Cecilia's side to be in the vanguard with her.

The three of them had their weapons raised as they led the way down the stairs.

However, it was pitch dark, so I summoned a few more al to help light the way.

But it really didn't help cut through the darkness that was in front of us.

This was a darkness that was like the deep dark of the night, a darkness that was so strong that even the brightest light might not cut through. So it was hard for my al light to light up that far ahead of us.

It only lit up a few steps down in front of Cecilia and the two with her, so they progressed very slowly.

Eventually, we were able to reach an end.

Eventually, there was some kind of light that appeared in front of us.

These stairs had been heading down, but we hadn't been able to see anything that was under us other than the stairs.

That was until we saw a few blue flames under us.

These blue flames had been faint at first, but they soon made themselves clear.

So clear that it almost seemed like they were the only thing down there.

So clear that...

"Ghosts!" One of the knights couldn't help screaming when he saw these .

But he immediately calmed down when he felt the glare from Cecilia on him.

He closed his mouth and returned to his position, but the trembling that came from him made it clear that he was terrified.

However, it seemed that he was terrified for no reason since these flames were not ghosts.

We soon saw that these flames were torches.

Though there was something for us to be cautious of.

With the faint light of these blue flames, we were able to make out the shape of the things around them.

Buildings, there were many buildings spread out over a large space.

It was a city.

There was a complete city that was underground, under the dungeon.

Just where did this city come from?

However, at that point, that wasn't our main concern.

This was a city that had blue flame torches scattered all around it.

There was no doubt that there would be people living in this place if there were still torches burning here.

So the first thing that we did was immediately rush down the stairs.

This might seem dangerous, but the stairs were just too open for us to protect ourselves. We were basically an open target in the air just by standing on these stairs that looked over this underground city.

Once we came off the stairs, the first thing that we did was find a building to take shelter in.

This was a risk since there might be residents in this building, but we couldn't just let ourselves stay outside.

But to our surprise, we found that there wasn't a single person in this building that we took shelter in.

The building that we took shelter in seemed like a normal household, it was just that it was missing their residents.

When we looked closer, we found that there was even food that was waiting on the table for someone to eat. It was still fresh since there was even steam that was coming from it.

Whoever lived in this house had just finished cooking and had evacuated right before we came in.

Cecilia knew that this was bad, so she didn't hesitate to say, "Grab whatever you can and barricade the doors and windows. We can only assume that they know that we're here, so be prepared to hold down in this place."

Her subordinates immediately sprang into action when they heard this.

However, they found...that they couldn't move anything in this house.

When they tried to move the furniture, they found that these things were held in place and wouldn't budge an inch. No matter how much strength they used, it just wouldn't move a single inch.

It was as if they had been firmly nailed in place.

While that was happening, I was looking at the food that was on the table.

I could feel a strange sensation that was coming from it, so I had been carefully looking at it.

After staring for a bit, I said, "Alright, you can stop trying to barricade this place. There's no danger."