

Shota 551

Chapter 551 I Really Love You

The princess was caught off guard when she heard this.

There was a blush that quickly came over her face when she realized what was happening.

At the same time, she couldn't help peeking at me as if she was trying to see what kind of expression I had.

This made her seem like the princess that I had met before.

After a long silence, the princess asked, "Why are you asking me this?"

Rose just calmly said, "My husband doesn't believe that your feelings are sincere, so he wants to see how you truly feel."

The princess revealed a shocked look before turning to look at me with a hurt look.

The way that she looked at me really made it seem like I was the bad guy here. However, I didn't feel that I was wrong to feel this way.

After all, I had only met the princess a few times in this world. Even if I knew a lot about her because of my time playing the game, I didn't really know the princess of this world.

So I couldn't say that we had a deep bond based on the short interaction that we had. Definitely not to the point where marriage was on the table.

So I just couldn't understand why she was looking at me like this.

After a long silence, the princess finally said, "Alright, then I'll tell you my real feelings."

She looked right into my eyes and there was a blush that came over her face as she did, but she still said, "I really do love you."

When she confessed to me like this, I really couldn't help being shocked.

My chin dropped and I looked like an idiot as I looked back at the princess, wondering if she was being serious.

But she just looked at me with the same look on her face.

It didn't seem like she was joking at all...

After a long and awkward silence, I finally couldn't help asking, "Why?"

It was just a single word, but it contained everything that I was feeling since I really was confused why she would feel this way.

The princess looked down with a blush on her face as she said, "Are you really making me say all of that?"

I really didn't know what to say in this situation since it almost seemed like I was the bad person here.

But I couldn't just say yes since I didn't know what was happening.

With a nod, I said, "I really need to know."

The princess' eyes opened a bit wider when she heard this, but then she said, "Well, you helped me when we first met and I fell for you. That's it."

"Huh?" I couldn't help saying.

It was that simple?

If I remember correctly, it took a long time in the game to even see the princess, let alone to have a chance to woo her. And now she was telling me that she fell for me just because I helped her?

Was there such a thing in the game?

No, no, I couldn't keep thinking of this world as the game since this was a real world with real living people.

I just found it hard to believe that someone like the princess would fall that easily.

I looked at her with a strange look and asked, "Is it really that easy?"

The princess gave a slight nod and said, "I have a weakness for handsome guys."

It was the face!

Of course, it had to be the handsome face that did it.

I didn't know it, but it seemed to be a complex for me...

The moment that I heard her say that it was the face, there was a part of me that lost control and wanted to rant about how handsome people got everything. That was because in my past life, I was one of those people who only had an average face and didn't receive any special attention like handsome people would.

So that developed into a complex that I didn't even know about.

But in the end, I was able to hold myself back and not say anything that I might have regretted.

After calming down, I just said, "But a handsome face isn't everything. You don't know enough about me for this. I might be a bad person, you know?"

The princess couldn't help giving a chuckle when she heard this before saying, "If you're a bad person, then I'll fall with you."

I trembled when I heard this, but I quickly said, "No, no, if I'm a bad person, you should clearly avoid me. After all, being with a bad person isn't good for you."

The princess raised a brow to look at me as she said, "Would a bad person say something like this?"

An awkward smile crept onto my face as I heard this.

I really didn't know what to say in response to this.

But it seemed like the princess wasn't done yet as she said, "Of course, it isn't just your face."

I was even more surprised as I listened to her.

"I know all about you from the reports that I've received, so I know what kind of person you are and that just makes me love you more."

"Reports?" I couldn't help repeating when I heard this.

The princess said with a nod, "I received reports from my fourth brother and my royal father that have told me all about you. I know all about you from the reports that I've read on the things that you've done, so I know what kind of person you are."

I couldn't help feeling very strange about this.

It seemed that the fourth prince and even the king were involved in this matter...

Though why would they be watching over me like this in the first place?

It really made me feel very strange about all of this, as well as a bit worried.

But before I could say anything else, the princess looked up at me with sad eyes and asked, "Do you not like me?"

Chapter 552 Reluctantly Accepting

When she looked at me like this and asked this question, I couldn't help being shocked.

At the same time, I was able to look at her face properly and really appreciate her beauty.

It was no wonder she was regarded as one of the goddesses of this game.

Her beauty was beyond that of the normal beautiful girls in the game.

With that fair blonde hair, those piercing and sparkling blue eyes, and those cherry red lips, this was a face that was priceless. One might never even get a chance to see this kind of beauty unless one was lucky enough in life.

So this was also part of what distracted me.

But in the end, I pulled myself together and seriously thought about this.

The princess was my waifu, that was all I had to say.

To say that I had no feelings for her was a complete lie, but that was only because those were my feelings for her as a game character. My feelings for her now that she had become a person were completely different since I didn't know this person as well.

There was barely any interaction between us, so there was nothing that happened between us that would let me feel that there was something special between us.

So if I were to accept this, it most likely wouldn't be because of how I felt about her.

It would most likely be because of the situation.

There were other countries that were moving because of the trade with the Dwarven Kingdom. They knew that our country was currently trading with the Dwarven Kingdom and getting ores from them, so they would want a part of that as well.

That was why they were making proposals to marry the princess.

But if they found out that I was the one that brokered the deal and was in charge of handling it, there was no doubt that their attention would turn to me.

When the time came, they would all come down on me.

So this engagement to the princess would without a doubt help me in the future when that came.

After all, it would mean that I would have the support of the country in this matter since I was married to the princess.

This was a very enticing matter for me.

Still, there was the part of me that rejected this because I felt that a loveless marriage would only end in failure.

As all of these thoughts mixed inside of me, making me agonize over this decision, the princess began looking more and more sad. It was as if the longer that I delayed this, the more I would hurt her.

So I looked deep into myself and said, "No, it isn't that I don't like you. It's just that this is too sudden that I find it hard to accept."

The princess' expression relaxed a bit, but she still looked a bit hurt.

But after taking a moment to calm herself down, she said, "Then that means that there's still a chance?"

I slowly gave a nod when I heard this.

The princess then said with a smile, "Tell me, what do you need from me to make you agree to this engagement?"

I couldn't help shaking my head with a bitter smile when I heard this.

The way that she said this, it made me sound like a bad person that was only using her instead of actually wanting to get to know her better.

I had already asked her why she liked me, so there really wasn't much else that I could ask her.

I was still agonizing over this decision when I suddenly saw the look that Rose gave me.

That look of disappointment immediately changed what I was thinking...

The way that she looked at me, it was clear what she was thinking.

She was disappointed in me for hesitating so much.

This was an opportunity no matter how one looked at it and if I didn't accept it, it would without a doubt never appear in front of me again.

So I just took one moment to look deep into my heart.

Imagining the princess with someone else, I could feel the anger that was burning in my heart.

In the end, I was a selfish person.

Since this was my new life, then I would live it to the full and accept all the opportunities that came my way. Since she wanted to be with me, then I shouldn't reject this and see where this went.

Though it was hard to completely let go of the reluctance that was in my heart.

Still, in the end, I said, "Alright, I accept."

The princess was caught off guard when I suddenly said this.

She looked at me with wide eyes filled with disbelief before slowly saying, "What did you just say?"

"I said that I accept." I said in a calm voice.

The princess blinked a few times before suddenly revealing a wide smile and letting out a sigh of relief. She then stepped forward and reached her arms around me to hug me, but that became quite awkward.

That was where my height came into play.

After all, while she wasn't tall, I wasn't that tall either.

She was actually a bit taller than me, so my face went to her chest when she wrapped her arms around me.

Feeling that soft feeling that hit me in the face, I immediately fell into a daze as I couldn't believe what was happening.

But the princess quickly realized what was happening as she felt my breath in her chest.

There was a blush that appeared on her face as she stepped back and she lowered her head shyly.

Seeing her like this, I couldn't help revealing a faint smile.

So I took the lead in the end and reached my hand out towards the princess.

The princess was surprised, but she also reached her hand out to take mine.

She thought that I was about to kiss her hand, but...I just gave her a handshake and said, "I'm looking forward to getting to know you."

The princess revealed a bitter smile seeing this, but she still said with a nod, "Me too."

Chapter 553 More Proposals

I thought that it would be over once this matter was settled, but it turned out that this wasn't the end just yet.

After all, when one person obtained the thing that others wanted, they would become jealous.

Once they became jealous, they would act irrationally.

The news of my engagement with the princess was hidden from most people, but those with a certain amount of power were able to find out something as simple as this.

Specifically, there were three that were very incited because of this.

After my engagement with the princess was settled, we went to have a meal to celebrate both this and the deal that we had made with the various representatives. We had just united this area and there was no doubt that we would earn a large amount from this.

So the celebration was naturally something that had to be held.

But of course, we didn't make too big of a fuss over this matter.

Instead of holding a large celebration, it was just a small celebration between the people of my inner circle.

Or at least that was what it was supposed to be...

But there was someone that suddenly slapped the table when she came in and said, "You're getting engaged to the princess?"

I was caught off guard when I heard this before looking at this person with a strange look.

I couldn't understand why they had such a strong reaction to me getting engaged to the princess.

After looking at them for a bit, I slowly gave a nod and said, "That's right, is something wrong?"

That person gritted her teeth as she narrowed her eyes to look at me.

I couldn't help feeling very strange about this as she looked at me.

After all, she was looking at me with an aggrieved look.

It was almost as if I had done something to wrong her, though I couldn't really think of anything that I had done to wrong her.

After a long silence, Veronica suddenly said, "Marry me too."

"Huh?" I couldn't help saying with a shocked look on my face.

I just looked at her with this shocked look on my face for a while before suddenly asking, "What did you say? I didn't seem to hear it clearly."

When I asked this, there was a blush that appeared on Veronica's face. However, she still said, "I said marry me." Then she said in a softer voice, "Making me say it a second time, it seems like he really likes putting girls in tough situations."

There was a bitter smile that crept on my face when I heard the latter part of her words, but I calmed myself down and asked, "Why are you suddenly asking me to marry you? Are you also in a difficult situation where you need me as a shield?"

Veronica gave a sigh before saying, "Why would I ask you to marry me for that?"

At the same time, I saw that Rose, Cecilia, Haley, and even the princess were shaking their heads with their hands on their faces. They also let out exasperated sighs, as if they couldn't deal with me anymore.

I just revealed an even more confused look seeing all of this.

Veronica looked right at me and said, "I want to marry you because I like you. Why else would I ask you to marry me?"

"Oh." That was all I could say.

When two different girls confessed to me in a day, it really short circuited my brain.

Especially since both of them were girls that had high statuses.

One was the princess and the other was the daughter of a duke...

These identities couldn't be looked down on.

But it still wasn't done yet.

"I also want to be included in that."

"Me too."

There were two voices that came from the entrance.

When I turned to look in that direction, I was surprised by who was standing there.

It was Moon and Elsa.

I looked at the two of them with a very strange look as I asked, "Included in what?"

"Marrying you." The two of them said with straight looks on their faces.

It didn't seem like they were joking, so I was even more shocked.

After all, we were from different races.

Would they really want to marry a human like me?

But here they were saying that they did which I couldn't help being shocked by.

After a long period of silence, I slowly asked, "Are you serious?"

Both of them had no hesitation at all as they nodded in agreement.

The look of shock on my face deepened when I saw this.

I didn't know what to say, but there was a part of me that wanted to run after seeing all of this.

I wasn't a person that was very popular in my past life, so I thought that I was already very lucky with the three wives that I had.

But now that my popular period has come, I really don't know how to handle it...

So all I could do was stand there with a stunned look on my face, looking like an idiot.

Slowly, I turned to look at Rose as if I was asking her for help.

But all she did was shake her head as if she was saying, "You're on your own for this one."

It was the same for Cecilia and Haley.

I was surprised to find that not a single one of them were surprised by the proposals made by these three. It was as if they already knew about their feelings and just didn't say anything to me.

Though I'm sure that they would have had their own difficulties.

It wasn't as if they could just tell me about their feelings for them...

Seeing that I didn't say anything, Veronica came forward and said, "Well, what's your answer?"

When she pressured me like this, I turned to look at her with a dazed look.

Seeing this, Veronica revealed a worried look and said, "Do you not like me?"

At the same time, Moon and Elsa also came forward with the same worried looks.

Chapter 554 Even More Wives

Seeing the way that the three of them looked at me, I was completely speechless.

To say that I didn't have any feelings for them was a lie.

We had spent all this time together, so it was impossible for me not to have any feelings towards them.

But I had never thought about them like that before.

I had just considered them as friends.

However, they were suddenly proposing to me and saying that they wanted to be my wives.

At this point, I really didn't know what to say.

Still, I could see the way that they were looking at me and the longer that I delayed my answer, the more they would be hurt.

So I couldn't just delay forever.

Since I had already accepted one...then first I would say...

"I don't hate you. Rather, I like you guys quite a bit."

When they heard this, the sad expressions on their faces immediately turned into faint smiles.

But Veronica still couldn't help asking, "Then why won't you marry us?"

She turned to look at Rose and said, "Is it because..."

She didn't finish her words, but the implication behind her words were clear.

Rose shook her head and said, "I've already told him that I was fine with him having multiple wives."

I also spoke up to defend Rose by saying, "It's not that Rose has stopped me, it's more of a personal issue for me."

"Personal issue?" The girls couldn't help repeating.

Even Rose couldn't help repeating this and looking at me with a confused look.

I gave a sigh and said, "I've never thought that I would have a wife, let alone three. For someone like me who has never even thought about these things before, it's naturally hard for me to accept."

They still looked at me with a strange look after hearing this.

After all, in this world, it was commonly accepted that men were allowed to have multiple wives. It was something that was almost expected when one reached a certain level of power.

That was the level of power that I was currently at.

So when I said that I had never thought about this before, they couldn't help being surprised.

Seeing these looks, I said, "You should know that I was a slave before, right? Someone like me never would have imagined something like this."

But even with this explanation, they still looked at me with strange looks.

It seemed that this wasn't enough for them since even those with low positions would be able to easily accept this.

For once, I couldn't help cursing the fact that the settings of the game world had been carried over to this world...

It made it hard for someone like me who came from another world to relate to the ones from this world who just accepted this logic so easily.

In the end, I just said, "It's just hard for me to accept it, alright?" They still looked at me with a strange look like they thought I was a strange person, but they also had accepting looks in their eyes. They knew that there was something different about me from everyone else, that was what they had fallen for in the first place.

After a long silence, Veronica said, "Then are you saying that it isn't possible?"

As she said this, Elsa and Moon both revealed worried looks again.

I shook my head and said, "It's not that. It's just that it's hard for me to accept this, but that doesn't mean that I can't accept this. I'm just slowly working through it."

All three of them looked at me with confused looks when they heard this, but they also had traces of understanding in their eyes. So they slowly waited for me to think this through and give them an answer.

After a long time, I finally came to accept it.

There was no need for me to think of an answer since I already had an answer in my heart.

I had already accepted one, so at this point, it didn't matter if I accepted one, two, or three more.

After all, I had done the same test as with the princess.

When I thought about the three of them with other men, I couldn't accept it.

So I chose to accept their proposals.

I just had to take a moment to calm my thoughts first.

Taking a deep breath, I said, "Alright, let's get married."

All three of them looked at me with dazed looks, as if they couldn't believe what I had just said.

Veronica even had to ask slowly, "Can you repeat what you just said?"

I said with a nod, "Let's get married. Isn't that what you wanted?"

All three of them revealed happy looks when they heard this and immediately came forward to hug me.

Though with all three of them coming at once and with the height difference, it became quite awkward.

In the end, they looked at each other and came to a decision.

One by one, they all hugged me.

They didn't even say anything as they decided who would be first.

It seemed that they already had a connection with each other that I didn't know about, but that was a good thing. After all, it wasn't as if only my relationship with them mattered, their relationship with each other also mattered since they would be sharing a husband.

If they couldn't get along, then that wouldn't work either.

After they were finished, Rose came forward to hug them as well and welcome them into their group.

She looked at me with a look that seemed to say, "It took you long enough."

When I saw this, I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile.

I knew from that look that it seemed that Rose already knew everything, but she chose to remain silent.

Could it be that I was really that dense that I hadn't noticed the way that the three of them felt for me?

Thinking back, I couldn't help thinking, "Un, maybe I was a bit dense..."

But all's well that ends well I guess.

Chapter 555 Not Allowed

With all of this settled, the meaning of the celebration dinner changed.

It went from just celebrating one engagement to celebrating multiple engagements.

In the span of a single day, I had obtained four new fiancées.

There would still be some other things to take care of, but from what I heard, it seemed that things were going to be smooth.

Veronica had a letter from her father asking me to take care of her.

I didn't know when she got this, but it didn't seem like something that had arrived recently.

It was the same for Elsa as she had a letter from the Dwarven King.

I really didn't know what those two were thinking, sending these letters before anything wawa even finalized. Did they already expect me to agree to this? But if they did, how would they have predicted this?

But the more that I thought about it, the more that I realized that it was better that I didn't know.

I'm sure that I would have been angered to death if I knew just what they were thinking.

The only one that didn't have anything like that was Moon.

It seemed like there was still a bit more to do when it came to Moon's case, but that would be for the future.

Tonight, it was time to celebrate.

Rose had prepared everything and there was plenty of food for us, but...there was also a small war that happened because of this.

It was a simple war that was between the girls, but they didn't give in at all.

It was a contest of who would feed me.

It started with the princess who came over to me to put something in my mouth with her fork. But before she was able to do that, Veronica also quickly came over with some food on her fork as well.

When both of them saw what the other was doing, they started fighting with their forks, trying to get their food in my mouth.

It didn't take long before Moon and Elsa also came over to do the same.

Though it seemed more like a game for them than them actually competing with the two.

I thought that this would be it, but I was wrong in the end.

After all, I thought that Rose and the other two wouldn't be interested in this since they already had the chance to do this before. But it seemed like they still wanted to compete with these new fiancées of mine.

They held themselves back at first, but their expressions soon changed when they saw me surrounded by women.

It was as if they wanted to secure their spot as they also held up forks with food on them for me to eat from.

I just revealed a bitter smile seeing them fight like this, but I still went along with them.

From time to time, I would get a bite or two in, but there really wasn't much food for me to eat.

There was just too much fighting for them to bring any food to my mouth...

I was still a bit hungry when it was all over, but there was nothing that I could do about it. They had given up on feeding me and had gone to feed themselves.

One might think that I could eat alone at that time, but they glared at me as I tried to eat.

It was as if they were warning me that I couldn't eat unless it was food from their forks.

So I just had to accept that the meal was over for me.

To my surprise, I found that all of them had hearty appetites. Or at least better appetites than when we ate together before.

But there was a reason for that as well.

They were competing with each other.

I really wondered how long this would last before they all went back to normal, but as long as they were happy, I didn't really mind it.

The last problem of the night came when it was time to go to bed.

There were two factions that formed.

One that wanted to go to bed with me now that we were engaged and one that wanted us to sleep in separate beds until we were married.

This time, Rose and my two current wives stayed out of this.

After all, it didn't matter for them if they slept with me or not since they weren't going to sleep with me tonight. Tonight was a night where I would have slept alone in the first place to give me some rest after every other night of business.

The split between the factions was even, with two on each side.

The two that were on the side of sleeping together were Elsa and Moon.

The two that were on the side of not sleeping together were the princess and Veronica.

"We're engaged, so does it matter now?" Elsa said in a confused voice.

Moon slowly gave a nod to show that she agreed with this.

Both the faces of the princess and Veronica had blushes on them after hearing this.

Veronica just simply said, "Of course not, you have to wait until you're married to do things like that. Otherwise, people will think that all you care about is each other's bodies."

The princess nodded in agreement as she said, "You have to maintain your purity until you're married."

It seemed that this concept didn't really come into play with these girls from the other races.

For them it seemed that just having love was enough and they were free to sleep with each other.

For the two humans, they cared quite a bit about purity, though that was mostly because of how they were raised. Even if this world was based on a H-game, purity among noble daughters was still considered a very important thing.

In the end, Veronica and the princess just simply said, "It's not allowed."

Elsa and Moon looked like they thought otherwise, but they still accepted since they were currently in human society. Since they were in human society, they would follow the rules of the humans.

Like this, I was able to get the bed all to myself that night.

Chapter 556 Morning Kiss

When morning came, I found that the girls were waiting downstairs for me.

It almost seemed like there was something that they wanted to say, but they seemed like they were too shy to say it.

Since they weren't saying it, it wasn't as if I could just say it for them since I had no idea what they wanted to say in the first place.

But at the very least, I saw that they had made breakfast for me.

Or at the very least, they had attempted to make breakfast.

It was better to call it the remains of their attempt at breakfast rather than breakfast itself.

Still, I wouldn't turn it down when they offered it to me.

To rank them from who did the best to who did the worst...it was clearly Veronica who did the worst.

Her food was barely edible as there were large parts of it that were burnt. It was hard to find even a part of it that wasn't burnt to eat.

The one who did the best was Elsa whose food wasn't actually bad. It was just clear that she wasn't used to human ingredients yet.

After all, she had been a wife for so long, so it isn't strange that she would be able to cook a meal or two. It would have been strange if she actually wasn't capable of that after being a wife for so long.

It really was a hard time swallowing everything that they had made for me, but these were things that they had made with love. I would have swallowed them even if it killed me.

But after swallowing these things, it really was hard for me to move right away.

My stomach was fighting me hard...

Rose came over with a glass of water and some medicine for stomach ache since she had expected this to happen.

I made sure that they weren't looking as I quickly swallowed all of this before giving Rose a grateful look.

She just looked back at me with a smile before heading to the side.

It didn't seem like she was going to leave for work yet as she still hung around.

I was confused why she was doing this, but it was solved very quickly.

Veronica was the first one to come over and ask, "How was it?"

I couldn't help revealing a bitter smile when I heard this, but it was a good thing that Veronica had been looking down when I did this so she didn't see it. I quickly made that bitter smile disappear before revealing an encouraging look and saying, "It was interesting. I can't wait to see what you make next time."

There was a blush that came onto Veronica's face when I said this and she gently tapped my shoulder out of embarrassment.

At least it seemed like she was happy even though that tap made me want to hurl.

It wasn't that Veronica was very strong, it was just that my stomach couldn't handle even a single tap like this.

I had to force my own stomach to settle just so I didn't throw up the food that I ate.

But then there was something else that Veronica requested.

"Now that we're engaged, there's something that I want to ask of you." Veronica said in a shy voice.

It really was strange for me seeing her act shy like this since I had only ever seen her acting willful and confident. But I gave a nod and said, "Just tell me whatever you want and I'll do my best."

Veronica shook her head and said, "It's not something hard, it's actually very easy for you to fulfill this request."

I couldn't help raising a brow when I heard this, but I still gave a simple nod.

Veronica seemed to be hesitating, as if she was embarrassed to say what she wanted to say.

So I said to comfort her, "It's alright. There's nothing that you can't tell me."

Veronica looked up at me as if she was looking for some kind of confirmation.

Seeing that I looked right at her without a single cloud in my eyes, she gave a nod and said, "I want you to kiss me."

"Huh?" I couldn't help saying in a surprised voice.

When Veronica heard this, she immediately said, "Wait, no, I didn't mean it. I, I...I was just joking, you don't have to..."

I stepped forward without any hesitation and took her by the waist before placing a firm kiss on her lips.

Veronica's eyes opened wide when she felt my lips on hers and they opened even wider when I stuck my tongue into her mouth.

It was a very strange feeling, but she wasn't against it as she even started sucking on my tongue. It was as if she couldn't get enough of my tongue as it poked inside of her mouth.

Finally, I let go when I was starting to lose my breath.

When I let go, Veronica's feet couldn't hold her up anymore and she fell to the ground while panting. There was even a glaze over her eyes as if they couldn't focus anymore as she lost herself in the feeling of that kiss just now.

It really seemed like she had lost control of her thoughts from this kiss.

From the side, I could see the others looking at me with envious looks, so I said, "Do you all want some as well?"

They were all caught off guard by this, but then they slowly nodded to show their agreement.

So without hesitation, I walked over and took them in my arms as well to kiss them.

One by one, they all experienced this deep kiss and fell to the ground in a daze just like Veronica.

When it was all over, I couldn't help feeling a bit proud of myself.

I didn't know anything about kissing in the past, but now I was so good at it that I could make girls swoon just from a single kiss.

It seemed like I really had improved.

Now there was one more to go.

That was the reason why Rose hadn't left earlier.

Chapter 557 Conditions

We were currently walking through the forest.

As for how this happened, it was because we were heading to the elven village to see the green haired elder who was Moon's grandmother.

If I was to be marrying Moon, then I would have to at least report this matter to her first.

But I also noticed that Moon seemed to be worried about something.

It seemed like this trip wouldn't go as smoothly as I thought it would.

When we arrived in the elven village, we were welcomed like normal.

But when we met with the elders and Moon told the green haired elder about what happened, she immediately knitted her brows. At the same time, all of the elders revealed grim looks like something was wrong.

It was clear that they weren't as willing to accept this engagement between us.

After a long silence, the green haired elder said, "It isn't that we don't accept this, it's just that..."

Her voice trailed off as she looked at the other elders, but it seemed like they were avoiding her gaze. It was as if they didn't want anything to do with this matter as they tried their best to appear like they were busy with other things.

So with a long sigh, the green haired elder said, "It's just that you should know what status Moon has in our elven race. The one that marries her will without a doubt be under a certain amount of scrutiny. So for that to happen, there needs to be conditions set."

I gave a nod of agreement to this.

It wasn't strange since she was the daughter of Aisha, one of the most famous high elves out there.

So for her to get married, there must be strict conditions.

I just simply gave a nod and waited to hear what the green haired elder had to say.

The green haired elder gave a sigh when she saw me nod like this before saying, "First, you must show that you can provide for both yourself and her. But then again, it isn't as if you wouldn't pass this condition."

Then her expression became serious as she said, "Second, you need the approval of the goddess..."

Her voice slowly trailed off as she said this as she suddenly remembered something.

Right, when she brought him to see the Tree of Life, he had received the Mark of Life. This was something that not a single elf had seen in many generations now and this human had received this mark.

So if he didn't have the approval of the goddess, there really wasn't anyone who could be said to have the approval of the goddess...

The elders all seemed to think the same as their expressions slowly changed.

With another sigh, the green haired elder said, "The third is going to the capital to pass the marriage trial. This is a trial that has been left behind by the ancestors that all those who wish to get married must pass."

Moon knitted her brows when she heard this.

After all, this marriage trial was the one thing that she had been concerned about.

It wasn't the trial itself that she was concerned about, but where this trial was located.

The green haired elder thought the same as she also revealed the same worried look as Moon.

"The capital?" I couldn't help repeating.

That was indeed troublesome because of what had happened recently.

Those elves that had come from the capital, it had ended in a large confrontation with them before they ran back off to the capital. So far, we were still waiting for them to retaliate, but nothing had happened.

It was almost as if they weren't going to do anything, but we didn't believe that was possible.

After all, there had been deaths that had happened in the end.

It was impossible for them to just leave matters as they were.

After another long silence, the green haired elder suddenly said, "For now, let's just leave this matter be."

Moon bit her lip and looked like she wanted to say something, but the green haired elder raised a hand to stop her before saying, "We'll just say that the two of you are engaged for now. You can't be married

until we make a trip to the capital to take on that marriage trial, but you can at least say that you're engaged until then."

Moon stopped biting her lip when she heard this and she looked at the green haired elder with a grateful look.

The other elders however looked at the green haired elder with worried looks when they heard this.

There was no doubt that bending the rules like this would attract some dissatisfaction from the elven capital, but it seemed like the green haired elder was firm in her decision.

So I gave a grateful bow to her along with Moon.

The green haired elder stood up and came forward to help us up before saying, "As long as you're happy, that's all that matters."

Then she moved closer to me and said in a low voice that Moon couldn't hear, "But if you dare hurt her..."

I just revealed a faint smile and said, "I definitely won't."

The green haired elder's expression relaxed a bit as she said, "I know."

Once that was decided, the village was suddenly thrown into a festive mood.

It was clear by how everyone congratulated Moon that she was a well loved member of the village.

At the same time, there were quite a few people that threatened me.

It seemed that they were quite protective of her as well.

Of course, I would never do anything to hurt her.

But still, it was nice to see how everyone cared about her.

This was one of the things that I liked about the elves.

They were very caring and protective of the ones that they opened their hearts to.

Once you gained the trust of an elf, they would be a steadfast companion.

Chapter 558 Another Surprise Visitor

Over the next week, it was quite peaceful.

Now that we had settled our engagements, there was nothing left for us to do other than to flirt with each other and learn more about each other.

I learned quite a few things about the girls that I didn't know before, so I was quite happy since I felt much closer to them now that I learned these things.

This morning, we had been enjoying a nice breakfast together when all of a sudden, there was someone that came in to interrupt it.

"Count, Countess, there's a guest here to see you!"

This person rushed in as they said this in a very loud voice.

It seemed that they were very agitated, so the identity of this guest was most likely not very normal.

Not to mention, we were able to see who it was that suddenly came in.

It was Nicole, the one who worked for me previously that Rose had taken under her wings.

She was one of Rose's trusted subordinates, so that meant that she was someone that wasn't shaken that easily.

If someone like her was even shaken, then this must be a very important guest.

But the strange thing that I noticed was that after coming in, she looked at the princess with a very strange look.

I couldn't help asking, "What's wrong?"

Nicole didn't answer this directly and just said, "I think that the princess will be able to recognize this guest right away."

When the princess heard this, she couldn't help revealing a confused look before asking, "What do you mean by that?"

Nicole didn't answer the question and just said, "The guest is currently waiting for you at the town hall. They are there since they said that this is an official visit."

Rose gave a nod before looking at me.

I nodded back at her and stood up to follow her and Nicole over.

But before we could go, the princess suddenly stood up and said, "I want to go as well."

I looked at her and slowly gave a nod.

Since Nicole said that the princess would recognize the guest right away, then it was most likely a good idea for the princess to come with us. After all, Nicole wouldn't say this for no reason.

The only reason that she didn't directly ask the princess to come was because of the difference in status.

So she could only use this indirect method in the end.

With the three of us following Nicole, we quickly made our way to the town hall.

When we arrived, we noticed that there was a carriage that we didn't recognize parked outside.

This carriage seemed like some kind of incognito carriage used by an important person when they were traveling.

So it seemed like this person was very important...

But when the princess saw this, she couldn't help knitting her brows.

This time, I asked the princess, "Is something wrong?"

The princess slowly turned to look at me before slowly shaking her head and saying, "It's not that something's wrong. It's just that if it's who I think it is..."

She didn't finish her sentence, but it was clear that she seemed to have some idea of who this carriage belonged to like Nicole said.

Still, I wasn't in a rush to find out who it was, so I didn't pressure her for the answer.

We followed Nicole in and we found the person that we were looking for right away.

The moment that we saw him, I also recognized him.

This was a face that I definitely wouldn't be able to forget because of all the things that he had forced onto me.

But I wasn't the one that spoke first when we came into the room.

"Old fourth, I knew that it was you."

When the fourth prince heard this, he couldn't help jolting before turning to look at the princess with an awkward smile on his face, "Big sister, what are you doing here?"

The princess narrowed her eyes to look at him before saying, "You know exactly what I'm doing here. The question is, what are you doing here?"

The fourth prince revealed an awkward look as he said, "Well, I had no choice but to come."

The princess narrowed her eyes even more before saying, "I knew that you and royal father would regret this decision. I've already told you that I'll be marrying him, you can't convince me otherwise."

The fourth prince shook his head and hands as he said, "No, no, that isn't what this is about at all."

The princess looked at him with a doubtful look as she said, "Really?"

It was just a single word, but it was filled with all the doubt that the princess could muster.

The awkward smile on the fourth prince's face became even more awkward as he said, "Really, it isn't about that at all."

The princess still looked at him with doubt, but she didn't say anything else.

Instead, she just sat down and helped herself to some of the tea that had been prepared for the fourth prince.

The fourth prince shook his head with a faint smile when he saw this.

Seeing that they were finished with their thing, I gave a cough and said, "Your highness, you must be here for a reason, right?"

The fourth prince looked at me with a displeased look and said, "You're already marrying my sister and you're still calling me your highness? Aren't we already family?"

This time, it was my turn to reveal an awkward smile, but I still said, "Then brother, is there a reason that you're here?"

The fourth prince gave a nod before suddenly revealing a serious look and saying, "There's actually a very important reason why I'm here today. There's something that I have to tell you."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look before asking, "What is it?"

The fourth prince took a deep breath and said, "We're officially at war."

Chapter 559 War

"Huh?"

That was the only reaction that any of us could have when the fourth prince said this.

Our eyes opened wide in shock as we looked at him, trying to figure out if he was being serious or not.

But the serious look on the fourth prince's face made it very clear that there wasn't a single trace of a lie in his words.

It seemed that we really were at war.

After a long silence, I slowly asked, "Who are we at war with?"

Instead of answering my question, the fourth prince asked me a question back, "I'm sure that my big sister has already told you the circumstances of her arrangement, right?"

I raised a brow as I looked at the fourth prince, trying to figure out what his intentions were in mentioning this.

But he just looked at me as if he was waiting for me to answer.

So I gave a slow nod as I said, "Yes, she's already told me about this."

The fourth prince also gave a nod before saying with a sigh, "Then it's easier to tell you what the situation is."

He once again revealed a serious look as he said, "Those countries that made their proposals all wanted to build a relationship with our country because of your trade with the Dwarven Kingdom. They mistakenly thought that we were the ones that had established the trade, so they wanted a piece of the cake."

I gave a nod since this was something that the princess had already told me.

The fourth prince continued after seeing this nod from me, "We thought that we would be able to deflect their proposals by having big sister marry you, but now it seems like they're not willing to back down. Once we informed them of this, they immediately said that they would be declaring war and then three days later, we received an official declaration of war."

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

They were declaring war over a single woman?

What was this, the Trojan War?

But of course, I also knew that it wasn't just because the proposals were rejected that they were declaring war.

The main thing was the threat the trade with the Dwarven Kingdom posed.

Simply put, the human countries that were in this area were as powerful as each other.

If they were to give our country time to build up power through this trade with the Dwarven Kingdom, then it would only be a matter of time before we reigned over the other countries.

So they couldn't let this happen.

Now that diplomacy had failed, the only option left for them was to use force.

After all, it wasn't as if they could just wait for their deaths, right?

As I realized this, I couldn't help feeling a bit uncomfortable.

The cause of this war was technically me and now that war had broken out, would the fourth prince come here for no reason?

There had to be a specific reason why the fourth prince was here, right?

If I had to guess, it should most likely be to use me as a scapegoat once again.

I was the one that had caused this mess, so it would only make sense that they would offer me up as tribute to appease the other kingdoms.

But instead of saying anything, I just silently waited to see what the fourth prince would say.

To my surprise, the fourth prince suddenly said with a playful smile, "What's with that look on your face? It's almost like you're afraid that someone is here to execute you."

With a surprised look, I asked, "Isn't that the case?"

The fourth prince raised a brow before slowly revealing a look of understanding.

His expression became serious again as he said, "Do you think so little of us?"

I was even more surprised when I heard this.

The fourth prince gave a sigh when he saw the look on my face and said, "Well, I don't blame you since there were those nobles that did suggest offering you to the other kingdoms as a scapegoat."

A bitter smile appeared on my face again when I heard this.

I was expecting it already, but hearing the fourth prince actually say it was a completely different experience.

But the fourth prince revealed a serious look and said, "Do you think that they would just stop at that? Do you really think that they would give up just because we handed you over?"

I slowly shook my head.

Since they had already gone this far, there was no need for them to stop.

With several kingdoms grouping together to siege our kingdom, it was very likely that they would win this war. When the time came, the resources and land that they would get would more than make up for this.

The fourth prince gave a nod and said with another serious look, "So of course we're not going to do something as dumb as weakening ourselves before the war begins. Not to mention, if we show weakness and just hand over our nobles because of a simple threat, where would our face go?"

I couldn't help being surprised again as I looked at the fourth prince.

I had seen his actions in the game, but I had never seen him act this way before, so it really was surprising.

The fourth prince was someone who was supposed to be villainous and sly, using all kinds of methods to achieve his goals. But this fourth prince was completely different from the fourth prince that I had encountered in the game.

Though comparing the two...I would say that I preferred this fourth prince more.

Still, I didn't let my guard down just in case this was some kind of play from the fourth prince.

After waiting for him to calm down, I asked, "Then is there anything that I can do to help?"

I knew that the fourth prince wouldn't come to my place for no reason.

The fact that he came here right before the war started meant that he most likely wanted something from me.

The fourth prince gave a nod with an appreciative look and said, "Actually, there is something that I wanted to discuss with you."

Chapter 560 A new deal

I wasn't surprised when I heard this.

After all, there had to be a reason for him to come all this way when there was a war that was about to break out.

I just gave a nod for him to continue.

Seeing this, the fourth prince said, "As you know, the key to creating a good army is good equipment. You should also know that our kingdom has struggled with this during this time, so our equipment can't be considered the best."

I gave another nod since this was something that I had heard before from Scar and Shaka.

The fourth prince let out a smile when he saw me nod again before saying, "Our chances in this war aren't good since there are four different kingdoms that are targeting us this time. The armies of all four of these kingdoms have the same level of equipment as us, but they have far more troops than we do. So if we were to fight them head on, there is no doubt that we would lose eventually."

I could already guess what he was implying, so I simply said, "You want me to provide you with equipment?"

The fourth prince revealed a relieved look when he heard this.

He had been beating around the bush for a reason since it was awkward for him to be direct about this.

But since Zwein had said it for him, there was no reason for him to hold back anymore.

"Yes." He turned to look out the window before saying, "You have all of these dwarves here and all the ores that you've been transporting, so this is the best place to obtain equipment right now."

I gave a nod since I knew that he was right, but it wasn't as if I was about to offer the equipment that they needed to the kingdom for free.

Even if I wanted to, the kingdom would never take it for free since it meant owing me a favour that they would find very awkward.

So I turned to Nicole and said, "Can you call Haley here?"

Nicole was surprised to hear this, but she quickly gave a nod and ran off.

The fourth prince raised a brow when he heard this, but he didn't say anything as he drank his tea and waited for the person that I called to come.

In less than ten minutes, Haley came into the room.

She was naturally surprised to see the fourth prince, but she came over to my side and sat down before asking, "What's wrong?"

I didn't answer this question and instead turned to the fourth prince to say, "Brother, you can continue with what you were saying earlier. Just tell me how much you need and we'll figure out a price."

Haley quickly revealed a look of understanding when she heard this and then she turned to look at the fourth prince.

The fourth prince couldn't help looking at Haley with an appreciative look when he saw how quickly she changed. Then he gave a cough and told them how much equipment that they needed.

Haley slightly knitted her brows when she heard this.

Seeing this, I asked, "Is something wrong?"

Haley shook her head before also giving a nod and saying, "Yes and no. It's not as if we can't produce these things, it's just a matter of time. I need an accurate time frame to see if it is possible to do it in time."

I gave a nod to show that I understood before turning to look at the fourth prince.

The fourth prince didn't answer right away as he lowered his head to think.

I could hear that he was muttering to himself as he said, "Taking into account how long it will take the kingdoms to prepare, it should take..."

"Four weeks. That's as long as we can wait." The fourth prince suddenly looked up and said this.

This time, it was Haley's turn to look down and think about this.

After a while, she looked up and shook her head to say, "It's impossible."

The fourth prince was surprised to hear this, but he also quickly knitted his brows and asked, "Why?"

Haley looked at me and said, "We still have other orders that we have to fulfil, so we can't focus completely on this one order."

The fourth prince revealed an incredulous look when he heard this.

He looked at Haley almost as if he couldn't believe what he was hearing, but then he couldn't help breaking out in laughter. While laughing, he also wiped the tears coming from his eyes and said, "I can't believe that this is the reason you're rejecting this. This really is something else."

I shook my head with a bitter smile and then turned back to look at Nicole.

She was just standing there with an awkward look on her face.

It was clear that while she had brought Haley here, she hadn't explained to Haley what the situation was. That was the only reason why Haley would say something like this.

I gave a sigh and turned back to Haley to explain the situation.

She had a surprised look when she heard this, but then she still slowly shook her head and said, "It's still impossible. Even if we did delay all the other orders, there just aren't enough materials and workers to process this order in time."

Both the fourth prince and I immediately knitted our brows when we heard this.

I knew how Haley did things and if she said that it was impossible, then it would be impossible. She had most likely already considered everything that could be done before saying that it was impossible.

The fourth prince slowly said, "This matter is very important though. If we don't have that equipment..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but it was very clear what he was implying.

We didn't need him to tell us this since we knew how serious this was.

After thinking for a bit, I suddenly thought of something.

"I don't know if this will work, but I think that I have an idea." I said in a hesitant voice.

The fourth prince's eyes lit up when he heard this and he immediately said, "Brother, what is it?"

Before I could answer, there was someone that suddenly pushed through the door and said.

"My lord, there's trouble!"