

## Shota 561

Chapter 561 Who do you think I am?

I narrowed my eyes to look at this person and found that it was one of Rose's subordinates.

When they came in, they immediately came over to where Rose and I were sitting and said, "There's someone causing trouble in the square."

Rose and I looked at each other before we both knitted our brows.

With my title and our prestige in this area, there shouldn't be anyone that would dare to do something like this.

But then again, even if they did, it shouldn't take much for the guards to take care of them since we had carefully trained our guards.

So for Rose's subordinate to come looking for us about this matter, it seemed that something serious must have happened.

So both of us stood up in the end.

I looked at the fourth prince and said, "Brother, I'm really sorry about this. I'll take care of this matter quickly and come back right away."

But to my surprise, I found that the fourth prince stood up along with us.

He said with a smile, "It's nothing. Since there's trouble, let's go see who it is that's causing trouble for my brother."

Though he was smiling, I could see that the smile didn't reach his eyes.

There was a part of me that was hesitating over letting the fourth prince come with us, but I knew that it would give him the wrong idea if I were to not let him come along after this.

So it was better to let him come along than to leave him out of this matter.

With a small nod, I said, "Alright, let's go together then."

The fourth prince gave a nod before turning to Rose's subordinate, as if he was waiting for him to lead the way.

Rose's subordinate turned to look at us and I just gave a slight nod to show that it was alright.

It was only then that Rose's subordinate started leading us out.

Though he had said that it was in the square, so there really wasn't a need for him to lead us out.

After all, the town hall that we were currently in was on one of the sides of said square. All we had to do was walk out of the town hall and we would be able to see what the commotion was.

When we came out of the town hall, we saw that there was a large group that was gathered in the center of the square.

In the center of this was a group of people who were on horses that stood above the rest.

Judging by the quality of their horses and the nice weapons and armour that they had, it didn't seem like they were of low status.

But what were they doing here?

Since we could see the source of the commotion, we walked over to see what was happening.

As we came closer, we could hear a few things being shouted out.

"Where is your lord? Bring him to me right now!"

When I heard this, I immediately knitted my brows.

It was clear that whoever was saying this didn't have any respect for the lord of this place and that meant that they didn't have any respect for me since I was said lord. The way that they were shouting this, it was as if they believed that they were better than me.

This was not something that I took kindly too.

But at the same time, I found that it wasn't just me who was displeased with this.

It was also the girls and even the fourth prince who had displeased looks on their faces.

Since they were calling me out, I wouldn't just back down.

As I walked over, I found that Cecilia was also here with her troops.

When she saw me, she immediately came over with her troops and backed me as I walked over.

With her coming over, we created quite a big group.

With this big group, it didn't take long before people started noticing us and moving out of the way.

At the same time, the leader of the group on horses also turned to look at me.

There was a strange look in his eyes as he looked at me, but there was no hiding the disdain that was also there.

When I came over, I said, "I am the lord of this place. You were looking for me?"

That leader of this group gave a snort before saying, "You took long enough to get here. All of this really has been a waste of my time."

I knitted my brows when I heard this before asking, "Who do you think you are to act this way on my territory?"

That leader revealed a teasing smile as he said, "Who do you think I am?"

After he said this, his men also started to laugh.

It was clear that they weren't laughing with us, but rather they were laughing at us.

I just gave a shrug as if I wasn't bothered by this at all and said, "Who knows who you are? All I see is a fool trying to act tough."

This provocation immediately had an effect as the leader's smile disappeared and was replaced with a furious look.

I didn't even expect this provocation to work this well since he looked like he was about to explode with rage.

That leader then said in a voice filled with rage, "A lowly count dares to talk back to me? Don't you know who I am?"

I couldn't help shaking my head when I heard this.

I had already said that I had no idea who he was and he was still asking me if I knew who he was...

I really couldn't help wondering if there was a screw loose in his head.

Seeing that I didn't say anything, the leader said for himself, "I am the Marquis of the noble house of Marchchamp and you dare talk to me like this?"

A marquis...

That was a title that was a rank higher than count.

Chapter 562 You, you, you are!

"Oh, is that so? What do you want with me and my territory?" I said in a very calm voice.

Though I was calm on the surface, there was a part of me that was a bit worried.

After all, this marquis wouldn't come here for no reason.

Seeing that I wasn't impressed at all by his title, the marquis lost it again as he pointed at me and said, "You, you, you lowly count! You dare treat my title so lightly? Don't you know how prestigious the Marchchamp family is?"

His subordinates also went along with him as he said, "You lowly count, are you insulting our marquis? Do you want your entire territory trampled?"

The way that they were acting, it was as if they were deliberately trying to suppress me.

Of course, I didn't have any fear since I knew that there was someone on my side that would back me up if anything went wrong.

It was just that I was confused why a marquis had suddenly appeared in my territory like this.

It wasn't as if I had done anything that would attract this marquis to my territory, so why did he suddenly appear like this?

I just calmly faced the marquis and his men and said, "Well, is there anything you want from me?"

When the marquis heard this, his eyes finally lit up and the look of rage disappeared from his face. He gave a cough and said, "You should know how rude it is to keep someone of my status waiting for so long. For a lowly count like you, you should make yourself available as soon as I summon you."

I slightly knitted my brows when I heard this, but I didn't say anything as I waited to see what else he had to say.

The marquis then said with a sly smile, "But this is a matter that can be solved easily. As long as you're willing to offer some compensation, then I'm willing to drop this matter."

As expected, he was here to exploit me for something.

Though I had no idea what he really wanted.

Seeing that I still didn't say anything, the marquis revealed a displeased look as he said, "What are you doing? Bring out the dwarves and the ores. As long as you give me these things, I will forgive you for this matter."

Hmm, it seemed that he was here for these, but was he doing this alone or was he sent by someone?

The first thought that I had was that he wasn't dumb enough to do something like this on his own. There was no doubt that he was working with someone to do this, there was even the possibility that he was working with the kingdoms that declared war on us.

I could also see that the fourth prince had a look of thought on his face as he looked at this Marquis Marchchamp.

Seeing that I still wasn't saying anything, the marquis raised his sword and said, "What do you think you're doing? Do you think that I won't cut you down here and now?"

I deeply knitted my brows when I heard this, but I raised a hand to stop Cecilia from charging at the marquis and his men.

After that, I looked at the marquis and said, "Why would I do that?"

The marquis was taken aback when he heard this.

It was clear that he thought that he would be able to bully me into doing what he wanted me to do, but now I was acting differently.

So he couldn't help being taken aback.

After taking a moment to come back to his senses, the marquis said with a sigh, "Don't you know that this is for your own good? Don't you know what is happening with this kingdom right now?"

I slowly shook my head to show that I didn't know what he was talking about.

Seeing this, the marquis said, "We're at war. Because the kingdom has signed a cooperation agreement with the Dwarven Kingdom, the surrounding kingdoms have declared war on us. In this situation, we all need to do our part."

Then his eyes lit up and he said with an arrogant smile, "As long as you turn the dwarves and the ores over, I'll be sure to mention your name when I present them to his majesty. When the time comes, there won't be a lack of glory for you."

An idiot, an actual idiot.

That was my impression of this Marquis Marchchamp.

It seemed like I wasn't the only one that thought this as I could see this same look from the fourth prince.

That was the only way to describe him.

It was clear now that he wasn't working with anyone, he was just a rash idiot that was trying to claim glory for himself by taking the dwarves and the ore to present to the kingdom. He wanted to use his status to pressure me into giving the things that he wanted to him.

He didn't have a single idea of what the real situation was and just acted on his own.

In the end, all I could do was shake my head and give a sigh.

I could also hear a sigh coming from behind me.

I didn't need to turn around to look to know that it was coming from the fourth prince.

Seeing that I was acting this way, the marquis suddenly pointed his finger at me and said, "What is the meaning of this?"

He didn't know what I was doing, but it was clear that he didn't like it.

I didn't bother answering as I took a step back.

When I did, the fourth prince suddenly stepped forward.

Both of us knew that it was easier for him to take care of this matter.



When the marquis saw the fourth prince coming forward, he couldn't help narrowing his eyes since he felt that this person was familiar.

However, his men didn't recognize the fourth prince and they started insulting him.

"Who do you think you are to stand so boldly in front of the marquis!"

"People with no status should bow in front of the marquis!"

"How bold, let me teach you a lesson!"

But the marquis' expression suddenly changed into a look of shock as he said, "You, you, you are!"

Chapter 563 You are a disgrace

The subordinates of the marquis could feel that something was off, so they immediately shut their mouths and even fell back a bit.

The fourth prince narrowed his eyes to look at the marquis before saying, "You were saying that you were from the prestigious family of the Marchchamps and that you were the famous Marquis Marchchamp, right? Then does that mean that I should show my respect to the great Marquis Marchchamp?"

When the marquis heard this, he couldn't help feeling a chill run down his spine.

Even if his men couldn't recognize this person, there was no way that he would mistake this person.

After all, he was a marquis who often went to the capital.

With his high status, naturally he had been able to come in contact with some of the higher ups of this kingdom.

That included royalty.

For nobles like this, royalty were the ones that were far above them that they couldn't reach no matter what.

Any noble that could form a relationship with royalty would without a doubt ascend to become a phoenix.

He naturally also wanted that, so he had remembered all of the faces of the members of the royal family.

That included the person in front of him.

After a moment of being stunned, the marquis finally realized the mistake that he was currently committing, so he jumped off his horse. Or rather, it could be said that he fell off his horse in his haste to get off.

But he didn't care at all, he didn't even try to pat off the dust that had gathered on his body after his fall to the ground.

Instead, all he did was fall to one knee in front of the fourth prince and said, "Your highness, I never thought that you would be in a place like this."

The moment that he said this, it was clear to everyone who this person was.

After all, there were only a handful of people that could be addressed as such by the marquis.

"Your highness."

That was a special address that could only be used for royals.

So this person in front of them had to be a royal.

He was most likely one of the princes of their kingdom.

As soon as this realization hit them, the subordinates of the marquis didn't hesitate to jump off their horses as well. However, instead of falling on one knee like the marquis did, they fell to both knees and deeply bowed their heads.

When one looked closely, they could even see that they were trembling.

There was an awkward silence that hung in the air as everyone looked at the fourth prince in shock.

The members of my town that had gathered to see the commotion now looked at the fourth prince in shock.

Anyone who wasn't a fool would be able to see who the marquis was bowing to and anyone would be able to figure out who the fourth prince was based on context clues.

So they all wanted to see what the fourth prince would do next.

The fourth prince narrowed his eyes to look at the marquis who was on one knee in front of him and said, "So you think that you can do whatever you want just because you have the title of marquis?"

The marquis couldn't help trembling when he heard this and immediately shook his head to say, "Your highness, of course not. I was only thinking of our kingdom. You should know that we are currently at war and any resource that we can obtain will help our kingdom."

At this point, he was no longer acting arrogant.

In front of the royal, he could only put down his arrogance and try to act as humble as he could to appease him.

Seeing him act this way, the citizens of the town couldn't help looking at him in disdain.

This kind of man, it was clear what kind of personality he had.

The fourth prince was of course not fooled by this as he gave a snort and asked the same thing that the marquis had asked before, but with a twist.

He pointed at me and asked, "Who do you think he is?"

The marquis couldn't help revealing a confused and surprised look, but then he said, "This is Count Zwein, the newly titled count of this land."

"Wrong." The fourth prince immediately said in response to this.

The marquis had a confused look on his face as he repeated, "Wrong?"

He just couldn't understand what the fourth prince was saying.

After all, as far as he knew, this Count Zwein didn't have any special identities.

In fact, this marquis only had a high title and didn't really have any close connections to the important ministers. So while he was able to receive the news of the war from the other high ranking nobles, he didn't actually know anything about this Count Zwein.

He just knew that he was the one that had connected with the dwarves and brokered the cooperation agreement between their two kingdoms.

Beyond that, he didn't know anything about this Count Zwein.

Such as the fact that he was in Shadow Garden.

If he knew, he definitely wouldn't have tried to do this.

That was just how powerful Shadow Garden was.

The fourth prince continued by saying, "Not only is he a newly titled count, he is also the new fiance of my big sister.

"Big sister?" The marquis couldn't help deeply knitting his brows before a look of realization slowly appeared on his face.

"The princess!" The marquis suddenly shouted out.

When he looked closely, he found that the princess was actually standing there with Count Zwein.

His heart sank the moment that he saw this.

After all, he knew that the princess wouldn't be here for no reason.

The fourth prince didn't hold back at all as he said, "Trying to rob other nobles of their property with your title, you truly are a disgrace of a noble."

Chapter 564 Take him away

?The marquis had a shocked look on his face when he heard this, but he didn't dare say anything to refute it.

Instead, if one looked closely, they would be able to see his hands were tightly clenched.

Then the marquis lowered his head and tightly gritted his teeth as if he was filled with rage over this situation.

But after a long moment of silence, the marquis raised his head and said, "Yes, your highness. You are correct. I was too impulsive and made a rash decision that I shouldn't have made."

He had to take a deep breath before he turned to me to say, "Count Zwein, I apologize for any offense that I have committed before. I hope that you can find it in your generous heart to forgive me for these offenses."

If one listened carefully, they could hear the faint unwilling tone that was in his voice when he said this.

But the look on his face would have fooled anyone.

There was a look of true sincerity that was on his face when he said this, as if he deeply meant these words.

Of course, I wasn't fooled.

This marquis was without a doubt shameless enough that he was able to change his face this quickly.

One moment he was making an outrageous demand that we handed over the dwarves and ores that were in our territory, the next he was apologizing as if everything was nothing more than a misunderstanding.

Even the way that he said this, it seemed as if it was only natural that I would forgive him for a simple mistake.

Of course, the fourth prince also wasn't fooled by this.

Regardless of how shameless the marquis was, that didn't have any effect on the fourth prince.

He revealed a serious look as he said, "This kind of behaviour is not something that a noble should commit and is something that is serious enough to warrant an investigation. After all, what would you have a need for all those ores and dwarves for?"

A trace of panic appeared in the eyes of the marquis.

The way that the fourth prince said this, it was clear what he was trying to imply.

If these accusations were placed on him, then there was no path in the future for him.

But there was something that he was confident in.

He was confident in his title of marquis.

He didn't believe that if he offered some benefits, the fourth prince would choose to side with this count over him, the prestigious marquis.

The marquis lowered his head once more as he turned back to look at the fourth prince.

In a deeply remorseful voice, he said, "Your highness is correct. It was shameful for me to act in this manner, so I wish to make amends for this matter. I will offer half of the soldiers under me to fight on the frontlines and offer supplies to help the rest of the troops."

The marquis had a confident look in his eyes after saying this since he didn't believe that this was a small amount.

There was no doubt that the war would be putting pressure on the royal family, so any form of support that they could get was like coal being sent in winter.

Let alone support from a powerful noble like him.

Just half the soldiers under him were already more than all of the soldiers that some barons and viscounts had.

The subordinates of the marquis on the other hand had ugly looks on their faces.

After all, they knew that the marquis was sacrificing them to save himself.

Even though he wasn't sacrificing all of them and just half of them, it was still a sacrifice that was hard for them to swallow.

The fourth prince narrowed his eyes to look at the marquis for a bit before saying, "You're saying this like this is something to be proud of. All you're doing is your minimum duty to the country and its people."

The marquis suddenly looked up with a shocked look on his face when he heard this.

He looked at the fourth prince in disbelief, as if he couldn't believe what was happening.

He was already making such a large concession and yet the fourth prince was treating it like it was nothing.

Half of his troops were already much more than what most of the other nobles would send. Most of them wouldn't even send a quarter of their troops.

The only ones that would fully support the royal family were those loyalists, the rest of the fence sitters would only do the bare minimum to make it seem like they were doing something.

Yet it was all being downplayed by the fourth prince.

The marquis finally had enough as he looked up and said, "Your highness, are you certain of this? Do you really want to let this play out this way?"

The tone in his voice was a bit dangerous.

There was no mistaking what he was implying.



But the fourth prince just had a calm look on his face as he said, "I should ask the same of you. Are you sure that you want to do this?"

The marquis couldn't help revealing a confused and surprised look as he heard this, but then he said, "Don't blame me for not showing you courtesy. You forced my hand."

He turned to his subordinates to say, "Men, we fight our way out!"

The subordinates revealed surprised looks when they heard this before suddenly revealing determined looks. They all pulled out their weapons as if they were prepared to fight.

Cecilia and her troops also pulled out their weapons as if they were prepared to resist.

But the fourth prince suddenly raised his hand as if to stop them before saying, "You heard him. Men, take him away."

As soon as he said this, a large group of the marquis' subordinates suddenly fell as ten cloaked figures suddenly appeared.

Chapter 565 A true idiot

?The remaining subordinates of the marquis that were still standing looked at these cloaked figures in shock.

However, not a single one of them dared to fight against them.

This was a group that had suddenly appeared without them noticing, so there was no doubt there was a large difference in power between the two sides. If they tried to fight, they would just end up like the ones on the ground.

It was unknown if the ones on the ground were even still alive after what happened.

They didn't want to risk becoming the next ones on the ground to find out if this was the case.

So without any hesitation, they all tried to jump on their horses to run. There was no loyalty for the lord that they served, but then again...that lord had just tried to sacrifice half of them to save himself.

It was just too bad that they didn't stand a chance at all against these elite guards that the fourth prince had brought with him.

Before any of them could even get on their horses, they found that they had been flipped. When they were able to react, they saw the sky above them as their consciousness started to fade.

Just like this, the remaining few subordinates of the marquis who had been left were knocked out as well.

The marquis had been silently watching all of this with a bit of hope in his eyes. If his men were able to take down the fourth prince's elite guards, then there was a chance to negotiate.

But that faint trace of hope quickly disappeared from his face.

His men were handled like children as they were beaten up by the fourth prince's elite guards. There was no trepidation at all as they were handled in a matter of seconds.

So the marquis gave up this faint hope...but that didn't mean that he would resign himself to his fate.

In the eyes of the marquis, there was a look of thought. It was as if he was trying to figure out a way to get out of this still.

Gritting his teeth and with an unwilling look, he said, "Your highness, I'm willing to offer half of my estate to solve this matter today!"

Half, that was his bottom line.

But this was a marquis family that had been in this kingdom for generations.

Half was already an astronomical amount that normal people wouldn't even dare think about.

It was just that the fourth prince was not interested.

He calmly looked at the marquis and said, "Do you think that will be enough to make up for your crimes?"

The marquis' expression turned ugly.

He never thought that he would kick the steel plate that was the fourth prince today. At the same time, he never thought that the fourth prince would want to go this far.

Though he wasn't one of the loyalists of the royal family, he still thought that he did enough that they wouldn't bother him. But now for this newly titled count, the fourth prince was going all out against him.

The marquis once again gritted his teeth and pulled out his weapon.

At this point, he was so desperate that he couldn't think properly.

The only thing that he wanted to do now was reach the fourth prince.

That was because he wanted to grab the fourth prince and use him as a hostage.

At this point, he gave up on trying to fight his way out or even threaten his way out. He was just going to use the fourth prince as a hostage so they would let him leave.

As for what came after...well he hadn't thought about it yet.

When the elite guards saw the marquis moving towards the fourth prince, they immediately started to move.

With their speed, it seemed like they would reach the fourth prince before the marquis would. However, they suddenly stopped while they were running towards the fourth prince.

It was as if there was something that told them to stop heading towards the fourth prince.

Though the marquis was coming at him with his weapon raised, the fourth prince didn't seem worried at all.

When the marquis approached and tried to get around the fourth prince, the fourth prince only took a single step forward.

With this single step, he was able to get into the personal space of the marquis.

The marquis was completely caught off guard by this step from the fourth prince and wasn't able to react in time. He wanted to go around, but he found that he wasn't able to as the fourth prince raised a hand towards him.

So the marquis wanted to take a step back to create some space with the fourth prince.

But before he could do that, the fourth prince's outstretched hand had grabbed the hilt of the marquis' sword.

The marquis was caught off guard and said, "What are you trying to do?"

However, since the fourth prince didn't say anything, the marquis just tried to pull the sword away from the fourth prince.

He found that he wasn't able to move a single inch.

No matter how hard he tried pulling the sword, he found that it just wouldn't leave the fourth prince's grip. It was like there was an iron vice that was around the hand that was holding the sword.

So the marquis had no choice but to try and point the sword at the fourth prince in an attempt to scare him.

But he found that before he could do anything, there was a fist that was already coming right at his face.

The marquis was shocked by this fist that suddenly hit him in the face and knocked him down.

The punch was even so strong that his eyes couldn't help rolling back in their sockets as he lost consciousness.

As the fourth prince stood over the unconscious marquis, he said, "What a true idiot."

Chapter 566 Another surprise

After the marquis was knocked out, the fourth prince gave a nod to the cloaked figures.

The cloaked figures didn't miss a beat as they came forward to grab the marquis, but then they came over to where Cecilia was.

Cecilia couldn't help revealing a wary look when she saw this.

Though she knew that these cloaked figures listened to the fourth prince, she couldn't help being nervous since she had seen that these cloaked figures...were actually stronger than her.

It wasn't just one or two of them that were stronger, but all of them that were stronger.

The way that they had knocked out the subordinates of the marquis, even she was barely able to see their movements, though she was able to see their movements in the end.

She knew that in terms of speed, she wouldn't be able to match them if they wanted to do something.

However, all the cloaked figures did was ask, "Where's the dungeon? We need a place to keep this traitor of the kingdom."

Cecilia couldn't help revealing a surprised look when she heard this.

Then she slowly turned to look at me as if she was asking for my permission.

It was only when I gave a simple nod that she finally led the way for the cloaked figures.

Of course, not all of the cloaked figures went with Cecilia.

Only two of them went with her since it only took two of them to bring the unconscious marquis to the dungeon. The rest of them all remained here with the knocked out subordinates of the marquis.

There were also two of them who moved over to where the fourth prince was, standing near him as if they were protecting him.

The fourth prince ignored all of this and waved his hand at me to come over.

I was surprised to see this, but I slowly walked over to where the fourth prince was.

When I did, the fourth prince looked at me and asked, "Brother, have you set up the knight order that you were allowed to set up yet?"

I was even more caught off guard when I heard this, but I didn't give an answer.

After all, I didn't really know about this.

I turned to look at Rose and she gave a nod in response.

I had left this matter to Rose to take care of, so she would know the situation much better than me.

It seemed that she had been busy and had already finished setting up this knight order while I had been away.

So I turned back to give a nod to the fourth prince.

The fourth prince gave a nod as well before turning to look at the subordinates of the marquis.

He gave a nod to the cloaked figures that were standing around these subordinates.

When they received this nod, the cloaked figures didn't hold back at all as they suddenly slapped the unconscious subordinates on the ground.

The moment that they were slapped, they immediately awakened from their slumber.

They immediately held their faces with looks of pain on their faces, but they also slowly remembered what had happened and raised their guards. Seeing the cloaked figures that were standing in front of them, they didn't dare resist at all as they waited to see what would happen next.

Only when all of them were awakened did the fourth prince suddenly say, "I will offer you two choices now, make your decision wisely."

The subordinates were taken aback when they heard this.

However, they could also see that the marquis was missing, so they could already guess what had happened.

They just waited to see what the options the fourth prince gave them were.

"Submit or death."

It was three simple words, but it sent a chill down their spine.

All of the subordinates looked at the fourth prince as if they were wondering if he was joking, but the fourth prince had a very serious look on his face. It was clear that he wasn't joking with the serious look that he had.

After a moment of silence, one of the subordinates couldn't help asking, "Your highness, what do you mean by submit?"

It wasn't that they were against this, but they had to have more information.

They wanted to know what the situation was, or else if they were forced into slavery by submitting, perhaps death would have been the better option.

The fourth prince wasn't offended when he heard this, he even had a look of praise in his eyes after this was asked of him.

The fourth prince then gave a nod and said, "It's very simple. From now on, you will commit yourself to the knight order of Count Zwein. You will serve him with pride as proud knights of his order."

The subordinates were all shocked when they heard this.

Knight order, that was not as simple as it seemed.

A knight order was only established by those that received a coat of arms, something that could only be received when one had the recognition of the king and had performed great merit to the kingdom. Anyone that could receive a coat of arms definitely was not a normal person.

As such, anyone that would be able to join a knight order would be someone that would be respected by all.



And that was why they were shocked.

After all, this seemed more like a reward than a punishment.

Being a member of the knight order was far beyond just serving a marquis.

So they couldn't believe that they were given this opportunity.

At the same time, I couldn't help being taken aback when I heard this.

There was a part of me that did want them, but at the same time, there was a part of me that didn't want them.

After all, at one point, they had served the idiot marquis.

There was no knowing what kind of things that they had done under the marquis.

It was just that with the fourth prince taking the reins here, it was hard for me to say anything against this.

Chapter 567 Other Solution (1)

I couldn't help turning to look at Rose and I saw that she was giving me a certain look.

It was as if she was telling me to accept this...

But I couldn't just accept them since they were men of the marquis and there was an element of danger to them..

So I turned to Haley.

If Rose didn't work, then I would try Haley.

After all, if there wasn't enough money to hire them, then there was no way that we would be able to keep them.

However...it was the same with her.

She also looked at me like she wanted me to accept them. She even gave a thumbs up to show that it wouldn't be a problem at all when it came to money.

These two, they really were something else.

Since they already agreed and I couldn't just deny the fourth prince, I gave up on thinking too much about it and said, "Alright, they can join my knight order."

The fourth prince revealed a satisfied smile and gave a nod of agreement before turning to the marquis' subordinates to say, "Well, you heard him. Go back and bring your families, as well as the rest of the marquis' men. You're all a part of the knight order under my brother now."

The subordinates all revealed shocked looks when they heard this.

It wasn't because of what he said that they were shocked, but because of what the fourth prince had said in the end.

He had called Count Zwein 'brother'.

They just never would have imagined that the fourth prince would call someone 'brother'.

It was very clear that the relationship between them wasn't normal...

Since the fourth prince had already said all of this, I looked at Jessica and said, "Take care of this."

She looked at me with a bitter smile before giving a nod.

Jessica was the one that had been appointed as the leader of this knight order.

One might think that it would be Cecilia, but she turned it down since she wanted to stay closer to me. So Cecilia was still the captain of the guards in our town instead of becoming the prestigious leader of this knight order.

She took Jessica under her wings and was now teaching her how to become a proper knight order leader.

Jessica came over to the one that had spoken for the subordinates and said, "From now on, you are all a part of our Rose Knights. I hope that you will not disappoint me and make my lord and his highness regret giving you a second choice."

The subordinates looked at her with dazed looks before suddenly revealing firm and determined looks.

It was slowly sinking in that from now on, they would be members of a knight order.

This was a status that was far above their status from before.

After a long silence, the representative of these subordinates gave a nod and said in a strong voice, "We will not let you down."

Jessica gave a casual nod before saying, "Alright, follow me. Let's get everything set up."

The fourth prince gave a nod to the cloaked figures who hesitated for a moment before four of them followed behind Jessica.

It was as if they were going along to make sure that the subordinates of the marquis behaved properly.

After that was taken care of, I said to the fourth prince, "Should we head back and finish discussing what we were talking about?"

The fourth prince gave a simple nod before we headed back into the town hall.

As we did, I could see the awkward look that was on Rose's face.

That was because of the name I had given the knight order.

The Order of the Rose Knights, that was the official name of the knight order that we had established.

Rose had wanted to go against this name, but I had made sure to keep this name since I wanted Rose's name on this. In a way, it was my way of doing a big gesture to show my love.

Though it was clear that Rose didn't seem like she liked it that much.

It was clear that she found this embarrassing.

But unfortunately for her, I found it cute, so I didn't change the name and insisted on it.

When we came back into the room, the fourth prince was the first to speak.

"We were talking about other ways of getting the supplies that we needed. What other ways were you thinking of?"

It seemed that the fourth prince was more anxious to talk about this than I was.

However, there was someone that we needed to call before we could discuss this.

I had Nicole take care of this and it didn't take long before the person that we called arrived.

When Elsa came in, she asked in a confused voice, "What did you need me for?"

I just gestured for her to sit down before explaining the situation to her.

When I finished, Elsa still had a confused look on her face, though there was a look of worry in her eyes as she asked, "It doesn't seem like there's anything I can do about this matter. So is there a reason why you called me here?"

She was right, on the surface it didn't seem like there was anything that she could do, but...there was something that I needed from the Dwarven Kingdom regarding this and she was the best person to ask as the Dwarven Kingdom's ambassador.

"Do you have trades with these kingdoms that are declaring war on our kingdom?"

Elsa knitted her brows when she heard this as she looked at me with a careful look.

Slowly, she said, "There are no official trades, but there are unofficial trades."

She didn't deny this since it was an open secret.

After all, it was impossible for the country to govern everything that citizens did and if they wanted to do some small trading, then the country couldn't stop them.

But why would he ask her this?

I gave a nod before saying, "Is it possible for us to buy weapons from the dwarven kingdom in the same manner?"

Chapter 568 Other solution (2)

?As soon as I said this, there was a silence that filled the room.

Everyone had a serious look on their face after hearing this, but it was clear that everyone was just waiting for Elsa's answer.

However, Elsa had a very serious look of thought on her face after she heard this and didn't say anything in response.

After a long silence, she finally said with a sigh, "While we can't officially comment on this, it is possible for us to introduce you to a few private merchants. If they're willing to sell to you, then that is their discretion and not the stance of the kingdom."

The fourth prince's eyes lit up the moment that he heard this.

Though she had said it in a long winded fashion, Elsa was basically saying that she would do what she could.

The private merchants that they would introduce to us would be affiliated to the Dwarven King, so it would be easy for him to convince them to sell to us.

She just couldn't officially declare that they would help since she was the official ambassador to the Dwarven Kingdom.

Though we were engaged now, that was a separate matter since what she said would determine the future of the Dwarven Kingdom.

So she couldn't bring personal matters into official matters.

But there was something else that I wanted to add.

"Um, also about the merchants that are privately selling to the other kingdoms, is it possible for them to be investigated?" I said in a calm voice, but the words that I said were like a large rock that fell into a pond, creating large ripples.

Elsa immediately narrowed her eyes to look at me, as if she was trying to figure out if I was serious or not.

Seeing the look in my face, Elsa gave a sigh and said, "It's possible to do that, but you should know the consequences of doing something like this."

I just said with a calm smile on my face, "For those that trade with humans in the first place, there are always skeletons in the closet. I'm sure that you'll be able to find something to use to investigate them."

Elsa looked at me with a surprised look when she heard this.

After a long time, she said with a sigh, "I never knew that you were such a bad person."

With the same calm look, I said, "For people that don't deserve it, there's no need for me to treat them with kindness. The people that are important to me, I'll treat them properly."

Elsa looked at me a bit longer before slowly giving a nod of agreement.

It wasn't a logical decision to give this nod, but rather an emotional decision.

After all, she had seen my kindness first hand when I had helped her against her ex husband.

The fourth prince had been silently listening from the side, but he chose this time to say, "Is there anything else that we can do about this?"

I looked at him with a strange look.

Even all of this wasn't something that he was satisfied with.

At the very least, this was the part of him that was consistent with the fourth prince in the game. Both of them had a greed that was normal for him in his position as the fourth prince.

But this time, the greed that he had was understandable.

After all, this time, he was doing all that he could to help the people of this kingdom.

We were about to be invaded and war was about to start, so of course we needed to do all that we could to tip the scales in our favour.

After a long silence, I turned to Elsa and said, "Can you take control of the merchant groups after you investigate them?"

Elsa was surprised by this question, but she slowly gave a nod before saying, "As long as we don't do anything too drastic, it should be possible."

I took a deep breath before speaking this time since what I was about to say was a bit hard for me. I knew that this was a big request, so I was hesitant in saying it.

But if it wasn't for the fact that my home, the people that I cared about, and this kingdom was in danger, then I wouldn't have asked this.

After taking that deep breath, I said, "Can you send them shoddy goods with those merchant groups after you take control of them?"

Elsa knitted her brows right away.

I didn't blame her since this was a big ask for her.

This would without a doubt hurt the prestige of the Dwarven Kingdom, as well as hurting their pride as craftsmen.



I could see the look of struggle that was in Elsa's eyes, but in the end, she slowly said with a nod, "It's doable. However, the price is too big for us to do this as a favour. For this, we need some form of proper compensation."

I gave a nod since what she said was reasonable, but I was scared of what she was going to ask for.

This was basically asking them to interfere in the war of another country, even if they were doing it indirectly. This would without a doubt cause lasting consequences for the Dwarven Kingdom.

Elsa looked at me and took a deep breath to say, "Five runes. That is the minimum that I'm willing to accept. If you can't at least give us that, then it is too risky for us to do this."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look before suddenly smiling.

I had thought that it would be much worse than it actually was, but it was just five runes.

Even if it was ten runes, I would still be fine giving it to them as long as they were willing to do this.

In fact, sometimes being generous was the best option.

So I just simply said, "Ten runes, I won't take a single rune less."

Elsa looked at me with a shocked look before saying, "Deal, you can't take back your word now!"

Chapter 569 Exempt?

?Seeing her act this excited, I couldn't help finding her a bit cute.

Still, this was a serious discussion, so I wouldn't let it show on my face.

Instead, I turned to the fourth prince and asked, "Brother, what do you think of this?"

The fourth prince didn't hold back at all as he raised his hand and gave me a thumbs up as he said, "Brother, good job!"

I didn't know where he learned this from, but seeing the dreaded fourth prince acting like this really was a surreal feeling. It was as if I just couldn't see the fourth prince from the game overlapping with this fourth prince in front of me.

There must be some kind of traumatic event that happened in the progression of the game that I didn't know about...

Was it some kind of hidden event that no player had found before or was it some kind of hidden lore item that no one paid attention to?

I had no way of figuring this out since I was no longer in my old world.

But I cast these thoughts out of my mind in the end.

For now, the fourth prince was a friend of mine and had even become a relative through marriage. For now, it seemed like he was treating me as a genuine friend, so there was no need to be on guard against him.

It could even be said that it was at that moment that I truly trusted the fourth prince.

Though it was only a bit of trust.

Since this matter with Elsa was settled, all that was left was to wait.

I didn't have any other ideas, so there was nothing else for me to really do.

But before this meeting ended, there was one more thing that the fourth prince had to say.

"Brother, I'm sure that you are aware that in times of war, nobles have the obligation to gather their armies and fight in the war." The fourth prince slowly said this while carefully looking at me, as if he was trying to gauge my reaction.

I gave a nod to show that I did know this, but I didn't say anything as I wanted to see what the fourth prince had in mind when he mentioned this.

Seeing this nod, the fourth prince said, "With the merit that you've performed and as long as you keep forging equipment for us, it's possible for you to receive an exemption from this duty."

When he said this, the eyes of all the girls lit up.

They turned to look at me with excited looks, but they were surprised to find that I didn't seem that excited about this.

Rather, I had deeply knitted my brows when I heard the fourth prince say this.

The fourth prince also revealed a confused look when he saw this, but he didn't say anything as he waited to see what I would have to say.

After a long silence, I said, "I wish to exchange that merit for something else."

Everyone looked at me with shocked looks when they heard this.

Then the one that reacted first was Rose.

She stood up and came over to grab me by the shoulder as she said, "What do you think you're doing? This isn't the time to be playing around. Do you know just how precious of a chance this is?"

After this outburst from Rose, the others also came over to try and persuade me out of this.

However, I just had a calm look on my face as I looked at the fourth prince.

The fourth prince had been looking at me with a look like he was judging me, but then he said with a sigh, "How about we let Brother Zwein say what he wants to say. I'm sure that he's not a rash person who makes decisions like this without any thought."

The others fell silent when they heard this, but they looked at me with aggrieved looks like I had wronged them.

In a sense, I did wrong them since I was saying that to me, gaining glory on the battlefield or whatever I was choosing to do was more important to them.

But this was something that I couldn't yield on.

"I wish to exchange this merit for a position of commander in the army. As long as I'm in a position that is able to control a large number of forces, that will be enough for me."

The fourth prince deeply knitted his brows this time as he looked at me.

After a long silence, he simply asked, "Why?"

I could feel the pressure that was coming from him when he asked this. .c(o)m

This was the aura that the fourth prince should, the aura that I was familiar with.

This was the aura that he had as a royal, one that sets him apart from the others.

I just calmly looked at him and said, "I too feel the responsibility to defend my home."

The fourth prince kept looking at me with narrowed eyes after I said this, as if he didn't believe what I was saying.

So with a sigh, I said, "I have a few cards that I can still play, but I need to be on the battlefield to play them. I need to be there in person to use them effectively."

The fourth prince kept looking at me with narrowed eyes, but eventually he also gave a sigh and said, "Fine, I can accept that. However, I still have to say to take care of yourself, not just for my sister, but also for me since I care for you as a brother."

I gave a touched nod as I said, "I know, I still have people that I want to protect and come back to. I won't take any unnecessary risks."

The girls all looked at me with strange looks, but they resigned themselves in the end.

When men make a decision, their wives should just follow them without a word sometimes.

#### Chapter 570 To The Dungeon

The fourth prince took a while to calm himself before suddenly saying, "I can let you become a general in the army that I command. However, I have to tell you that it will be hard for you to get them to follow you since you have no experience or fame in the military."

I gave a nod since I already expected this, but I had to do this since there was knowledge that I had that would certainly help change the tide of the war.

This was the knowledge that I had brought to this world from the game that this world was based on.

The game that this world was based on was very detailed, with many different random events hidden all over the world. These random events would range from finding items to encountering enemies to even encountering traps in the middle of nowhere.

As an avid gamer who had played this game to completion countless times, I basically had an encyclopedia of these events in my head.

I knew exactly where many of these events were and how to trigger them.

There were many such events that were scattered all around the border between this kingdom and the surrounding kingdom.

And that was my plan.

These events ranged from safe to very dangerous, so I was planning on leading the enemy armies into these dangerous events. I wanted them to trigger them so that they would kill themselves, saving our troops from becoming casualties.

So that was why I needed to become a commander and have enough troops to affect the battlefield.

Only then would I be able to lead the enemies into these traps that I had prepared for them.

As for whether they would follow me or not, I didn't need them to do much.

I just needed them to act as bait, so I was certain that I would at least be able to get them to follow these simple orders.

The fourth prince gave another sigh when he saw me respond with just a simple nod.

He then shook his head and said, "Alright, if that's what you really want."

While the fourth prince didn't know what this brother of his was up to, this brother of his had given him enough pleasant surprises that he would trust him even if there was no proof that he should trust him.

Otherwise, since this brother of his was the one that his big sister loved, he would try his best to keep him safe.

Since he was young, he had already promised that he would try his best to keep his big sister and the people that she loved safe.

One might call that a sister complex, but the fourth prince didn't care.

After this matter was settled, the fourth prince suddenly stood up and said, "Alright, let's go and see the marquis."

I couldn't help revealing a surprised look when I heard this before looking at the fourth prince with a strange look as if I was trying to figure out what he was doing.

When the fourth prince came to the door, he turned to look at me.

Seeing that I was still sitting there without moving, he said, "What are you doing? Let's go and see the marquis. We still need to take care of him before ending this matter."

The fourth prince said it like it was something natural, but I still looked at him with a strange look.

At the same time, I couldn't help wondering just what he meant when he said that we would be taking care of him.

Just what was the fourth prince planning to do to the marquis?

So I stood up and followed the fourth prince out to see what he was up to.

The fourth prince followed Nicole who led us to the dungeon in the town hall where the marquis was being kept.

As we went down, we passed by Cecilia and the cloaked figures that had gone with her to take the marquis away.

The cloaked figures immediately moved over to the fourth prince's side as if they were worried about him while Cecilia came to my side and asked, "What's going on?"

I didn't get a chance to respond as the fourth prince said, "Follow me, we're going to see the marquis."

Cecilia raised a brow to look at me, but I just shook my head to show that I didn't know what was happening either.

As for the cloaked figures, they followed the fourth prince without any hesitation.

It almost seemed as if there was a spring in their steps, as if they were happy that the fourth prince was allowing them to follow him.

It seemed that the fourth prince's people really were loyal to him. In fact, it almost seemed like they worshipped him...which probably wasn't a healthy thing.

This time, it changed to Cecilia leading the way since she was the one that put him in the dungeon in the first place. She would know exactly where to find the marquis.

Well, the cloaked figures that went with her would also know where to find the marquis, but they seemed more content following the fourth prince.

It really didn't seem healthy, that relationship that they had.

When we came into the dungeon, I was surprised by how few people there were in here.

Cecilia saw this and said with a faint smile, "We have good security and people aren't unhappy, so there isn't as much crime."

I turned to Rose with a look of pride.

I knew that I couldn't take responsibility for this since it was Rose who mainly took care of the town.



Rose couldn't help revealing a shy look when she saw me looking at her like this.

The fourth prince didn't wait as he walked forward, looking from cell to cell as he looked for the marquis.

When he finally found him, he stood there in front of the cell.

The marquis who had woken up sat there chained to the wall, looking up at the fourth prince.