

Shota 611

Chapter 611 Chimera Ants (7)

General Risen had been silently waiting for his troops to come back with the good news.

There wasn't a single moment where he had doubts that his troops would fail against those fools of an enemy from the Kite Kingdom.

They completely outnumbered them and they were clearly superior to the enemy soldiers, so it was impossible for them to lose even if they tried to lose.

In the end, he never expected to see his soldiers leaving the cave completely covered in wounds.

Even the commander that he had sent to watch over them was missing an arm.

When he saw the way that they were running out, General Risen immediately said, "Battle formation! Protect our allies and rout the enemies!"

This was just his military professionalism.

Even though he had no idea what the situation was, he didn't let his guard down for a minute and gave orders in an instant.

The soldiers that were gathered quickly formed ranks and went forward to support the commander's group.

But before they could reach the commander's group, there were these creatures that came out of the cave.

When they looked closely at these creatures, they saw that they were...giant ants.

Though they were soldiers with military discipline drilled into them, they still weren't able to react to this situation. After all, no normal person would have been able to expect all of these giant ants to run out all of a sudden.

But it was a good thing that there was a fair bit of distance between them and the ants.

With this distance, they were able to react to the ants and form defensive lines to save the commander's group.

It was just that they didn't know what to expect with the ants, so there were a few holes that were created in their lines. Their shields were cut through by the sharp fangs of the ants.

Then the ants started pulling soldiers out of the line to bring them into their lines.

Before the soldiers could do anything, there were a few of them that were abducted.

Once they were behind their allies, the commander ignored his injuries and turned around to say, "Don't attack them head on, they only have sharp fangs! If you attack them from the side, they won't be able to break through the shields! Target their joints, it's their weakness!"

The soldiers were caught off guard by the sudden advice from the commander, but they quickly reacted and followed his orders.

When they did, they found that it was much easier for them to take down the ants.

Though there was still the problem that there were just too many ants. The ants were able to use their numbers to push them back since they were quite strong for ants.

At the same time, it was worrying how there were more and more ants that were pouring out of the cave.

At this rate, it really seemed like they would be swallowed by the ants.

General Risen came down from his vantage point to where the commander was and said, "What happened? Where did all of these giant ants come from?"

The commander revealed a bitter look on his face that also had a trace of hatred as he told the general everything that happened in the cave.

As General Risen listened to his story, his expression became uglier and he clenched his fists.

When it was over, he said through gritted teeth, "Damn! It was a trap!"

The commander didn't say anything, but the look on his face made it clear what he was thinking.

General Risen didn't care about this and turned to look at the ants before saying, "Is there really no way to confirm that he is dead? I want to tear his body apart for what he's done."

The commander said with a look of hatred, "I do too, but now is not the time. We must retreat as soon as possible and hold a perimeter around this cave until the ants are gone. Or else we will have to deal with these ants when we take this territory." After a pause, the commander said, "I suggest we gather tinder afterwards and burn down this cave."

General Risen gave a nod of agreement, but he didn't have time to give the order to retreat as voices came from the ant lines.

"Save me! Please save me!"

"I don't want to die! I don't want to die!"

These were the voices of the soldiers that had just been taken by the ants.

As soon as these voices rang out, there were groups of soldiers that decided to attempt a rescue mission. After all, these voices weren't that far away and they would have the backup of the shield line if anything went wrong.

They didn't think that there would be anything that went wrong if they went to save them.

But the commander said, "Don't! It's a trap! The ants can steal our voices if they eat us!"

It was already too late for that as many groups were suddenly surrounded by ants when he said this. The ants suddenly surged forward and cut those groups off from the rest of the Vikal Kingdom army.

In no time at all, the soldiers that had gone out disappeared without a trace before their voices also came from the ants.

The soldiers that had heard what the commander said immediately felt a chill run down their spine.

After all, not a single one of them had ever met a monster like this that could steal their voices from eating them.

They all wanted to run, but in the end, it wasn't military discipline that stopped them from running.

Rather, it was the fact that they would have been killed by the ants if they broke their lines and ran, so that was what motivated them to stay.

General Risen had a very ugly expression on his face as he was about to give the order to retreat.

But once again, something else happened.

Arrows suddenly rained down from the sky from behind them.

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On the other side, General Killock had been silently watching the Vikal Kingdom army the entire time.

That was because before Count Zwein left, he had given instructions to General Killock.

General Killock had been leading the army to follow behind the Vikal Kingdom army the entire time. They had been so focused on chasing down Count Zwein's group that they never noticed General Killock's group.

But even when they reached this cave and General Killock had already surrounded the Vikal Kingdom army, they had never made a move.

That was because Count Zwein had given him the order to remain in place until he saw movement from inside of the cave.

So it was only when the ants started pouring out that General Killock started moving his men. However, he didn't let his men attack the Vikal Kingdom army right as the ants came out.

After following Count Zwein for some time now, he knew that none of his moves were simple.

Since the ants were facing the Vikal Kingdom army, then it was very likely that something similar to the Rising Land Plains would happen again here. So he knew that it was better to wait for the right chance to strike instead of attacking right away.

That was why the arrows only fell down when the ants had shown what they were capable of.

General Killock knew what General Risen would be thinking at this time as a fellow general, so of course he wouldn't be giving him that chance. The moment that General Risen wanted to retreat, there were arrows that rained down on the Vikal Kingdom army.

At the same time, General Killock gave the order, "Everyone, stand and fire!"

There were more archers that appeared all of a sudden and fired a second volley.

General Killock knew that in situations like this, it was best to have multiple lines firing continuously to create pressure on the enemy.

But he didn't attack them right after the first volley since he had wanted to throw them into chaos before that.

This plan worked perfectly as the Vikal Kingdom soldiers were completely thrown into a panic at this.

There were many soldiers that didn't know which way to turn as they were being attacked from two different directions. So there were many soldiers that were just spinning their shields around.

These soldiers were stabbed in the back either by arrows or by the pincers of the ants attacking them.

In an instant, there were many Vikal Kingdom soldiers that fell.

General Killock knew that there was no need for him to give any more orders since his men knew what to do, so he picked up a bow and arrow as well.

As a general, he naturally knew how to use bows as well as fight with swords and spears.

His target was...General Risen.

As a general who had served in the military for many years, he had naturally faced the various generals of the surrounding kingdom.

This General Risen was one of the ones that he actually had a rivalry with because of something that happened in the past.

General Risen had been the cause of one of his most embarrassing defeats, so it was impossible for him to forget this General Risen.

Today, he would take his revenge.

He could even thank Count Zwein for giving him this chance to take this revenge.

Taking a deep breath, General Killock fired an arrow that went straight and true for General Risen.

However, General Risen was not a pushover.

There was a reason why he had defeated General Killock on the battlefield before.

At the very last second, General Risen turned and slashed the arrow out of the air with a single swing of his sword.

That arrow was cut in half and fell to the ground beside him, but General Risen didn't stop as his eyes turned to look at General Killock standing above him.

Just like how General Killock recognized General Risen, it was the same for General Risen.

After all, he had met this General Killock for many years on the battlefield.

After a long silence, General Risen said, "Work with us to take care of these ants! I'm sure that you wouldn't want this in your kingdom, right?!"

General Killock just gave a cold laugh before saying, "You think that we can't deal with them?"

General Risen slightly knitted his brows when he heard this, but then he said, "Your general is still inside of the cave, do you not care about what happens to him? If you help us, we will help you get him."

General Killock didn't waver at all as he said, "You can say what you want, but you won't be able to escape this place today. You will fall under our arrows or under the jaws of these ants."

General Risen's expression became very ugly after hearing this before he said, "You will regret this! You cannot control these ants, you will all die under their pincers at this rate!"

The only response that General Killock gave was to raise his bow again to point at General Risen.

General Risen's expression became uglier, but there was nothing that he could do about this.

After all, it was clear who had the advantage here.

General Killock fired his arrow as he said, "Keep up the waves of arrows and don't give them even a second of respite."

In response to this, the archers just kept firing in sequence.

General Risen cut down the arrow that came his way again before saying, "Group up and break out! Don't worry about the ants, we're just focusing on retreating!"

The two sides did what they could, but it was very clear what the results would be.

As time passed, more and more of the Vikal Kingdom soldiers started to fall under the arrows and the pincers of the ants.

But as this happened, there was something that General Killock was worried about.

There were still many ants that were left...

Chapter 613 Chimera Ants (9)

Inside of the cave.

After the Chimera Ants chased the Vikal Kingdom soldiers away, I led my group over to the closest hole in the ground in front of us.

They all had worried looks as we stood there in front of the whole, as if they were afraid that we would be ambushed by more Chimera Ants.

But I just calmly poked my head out and looked down into the hole.

As I looked down, I saw that it wasn't that deep like I had expected and that it would be easy to jump down.

So without any hesitation, I went forward to jump into the hole.

Or at least that was what I had been planning on doing, but there were two people that stepped forward that suddenly grabbed me.

It was Shaka and Cecilia.

Naturally they had also come with me on this mission, but they had been silently watching since they trusted me.

Still that was a completely different matter from me jumping down the hole.

The two of them held my arms and just lifted me off the ground, not letting me go any further forward.

While holding me like this, Cecilia asked, "What are you doing?"

Though Shaka didn't say anything, it was clear by the way that he looked at me that he was thinking of asking the same thing.

I just looked at them and said with a calm look, "I'm going down to find the queen of the Chimera Ants."

It wasn't just the two of them, almost all of my subordinates suddenly looked at me like I was a crazy person.

Though if I was in their shoes and someone said the same thing to me, I would have thought the same. They had just witnessed the scene of the Chimera Ants slaughtering the entire Vikal Kingdom army troop, so it wouldn't be strange if they were terrified of these Chimera Ants.

I just shook my head with a faint smile before saying, "We can't leave anyway and if we just leave them here, the Chimera Ants will eventually hurt the innocent. We should at least take care of this before leaving, right?"

Though I said this, my real goal was to get the treasure that came from clearing this dungeon.

The Vikal Kingdom army had already cleared out most of this place, so of course I would reap the benefits that they left behind.

They all looked at me with strange looks, but it didn't seem like they disagreed with what I said.

It was only Cecilia and Shaka who looked at me with gazes like they were questioning me before Cecilia asked, "Is it dangerous?"

I thought about it before saying, "It's a little dangerous, but as long as I'm here, it should be fine."

There was a moment of silence before they slowly let me down.

I let out a sigh of relief seeing this before turning back to the hole to gauge the jump down. However, what I didn't expect was that Cecilia and Shaka jumped down before I could even do anything.

Both of them didn't seem to have any fear as they jumped right down, which made me reveal an awkward look.

I never thought that the two of them would trust me this much.

They didn't fall that far down and landed without any problems. They were still close enough that I was able to see them without any problems.

However, the two of them didn't continue further down the tunnel that they had landed in as they turned around to look up at me. Then the two of them raised their arms as if they were waiting to catch something.

It took me a few seconds to understand what was happening.

They had turned around to wait for me to jump down so they could catch me.

I couldn't help revealing an even more awkward look, but I still jumped down on the end into their waiting arms.

After landing, I ignored the rest of them as they struggled on whether to come down or not and started looking on the ground. I was looking for the tracks that had been left behind by the Chimera Ants.

These were their tunnels, so of course there would be tracks left behind.

As for the other subordinates, they eventually jumped down after a large amount of internal struggle. Though they didn't get the same treatment as me, so many of them misjudged their jump because of how dark it was and they landed on their butts or faces.

After a while, I suddenly stood up and turned in a direction before saying, "This way."

There were two ways for us to go since this was a tunnel, but I figured out which way to go from the tracks of the ants.

It was to go in the reverse direction since that would be where their nest was.

The others looked at me with a strange look, but they still followed me. This time, they followed with much less resistance than before.

After all, we were already down here, so there was nowhere else for them to go. Their only choice was to follow me since I was the only one that seemed to know what I was doing.

We eventually came to a crossroad where there were several different paths for us to take.

However, I just looked carefully on the ground for tracks before choosing one of the paths.

This was the path that had the most ant tracks, so this was the one that they all took to reach their nest.

After passing several crossroads, I finally raised my hand for the rest of our group to stop.

All of them had serious looks on their faces since they could hear the same thing as me.

There were the sounds of ant feet skittering that were coming from in front of us.

It was clear that we had arrived at the nest of these Chimera Ants.

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As soon as we arrived at this nest, I had the others put out a few torches.

Though I knew that it wouldn't really help since the ants would be using chemosense in the first place, it would at least make the others a bit more relieved since they didn't know that.

As we reached the end of this tunnel, I had them stay back while I peeked my head into the room in front of us.

This was a room that was quite large and filled with strange columns, but what caught my attention was the large nest that was right in the center of the room. On top of that nest was an ant that was clearly different from the rest.

First was the size of this ant.

It was more than three times larger than the other ants.

Second was the strange thing that was on the head of this ant.

There was this thing that seemed like a crown that was on the head of this ant, but it didn't seem like it was an accessory that was made of something else. It seemed like this was some kind of growth that was coming out of the head of this ant.

This was clearly the queen ant since I could even see that she was still laying more eggs.

After identifying the queen ant, I quickly looked around the room to see just how many ants were in here.

As expected, there were only a few ants that were wandering around this place.

With the people that I had brought, it was enough to take care of these ants.

So after scouting out the room, I turned back to the others to lay out my plan.

When I was done, they all looked at me as if they thought that I was crazy.

All I did was give a nod as if I was confirming that this was indeed the plan that we were going to use.

They really didn't know what to say, but Cecilia asked, "Are you certain that you'll be able to take care of the queen ant on your own?"

I gave a strong nod as I said, "I have a secret way of handling the queen ant as long as I can get to her. Once I take care of that, it will be easy for us to take care of the remaining ants."

There were many looks of doubt that were aimed in my direction, so I added, "If we don't do this, what do you think will happen once the ants finish off the Vikal Kingdom army?"

The looks of doubt on their faces turned ugly when they heard this.

Right, once those ants finished taking care of the enemy, wouldn't they come back here?

There was no way out for us unless we did something about the ants that were outside. Once they finished off the Vikal Kingdom army, then they would come back to where the queen ant was.

They would come back here and finish us off.

So the only path forward was to follow my lead.

But there were some looks of blame that were aimed in my direction because of this.

After all, if it wasn't for me, would that ants have even been stirred in the first place?

No, I was the one that had led the Vikal Kingdom army here for them to be slaughtered by these ants.

Still...

"If you have time to blame me, then you have time to think about your survival. Think of how you will defeat these ants here and make your way out of here."

I just said in a calm voice, without a single care for the looks that they gave me.

Their expressions slowly changed before settling on determined looks that were much better than the looks that they had before. At the very least, they were determined to make it out of this place alive.

With that, we were ready.

Cecilia and Shaka were the ones that took the lead, forming two different groups.

As soon as they entered the room, they split off in two different directions.

They didn't head straight forward, but rather slightly to the side. It was as if they were cutting the diagonal to reach the sides of the room. But even then, they didn't go all the way as they stopped in the middle.

Once they stopped, they formed two different lines on either side of the center of this cave.

With the way that they were positioned, it seemed like they were creating a path.

Well, it was a path.

They were creating a path for me to reach the queen ant.

Since we had appeared in the room so suddenly, the ants weren't able to react in time to stop us.

It was only after we had formed this line that the ants finally reacted.

It was also during this time that I made a mad dash at the queen ant that was sitting atop the hive.

The queen ant looked like it was panicking as it turned its head back and forth, almost as if it was trying to command the ants around it to protect it. However, the line did its job and prevented the ants from reaching the queen.

The main line that was around the ant queen was led by Shaka and even without the help of others, Shaka was able to push back most of the ants alone.

However, it was clear that this wouldn't last long since I could see the green glow that was around him.

Shaka did not hold back at all as he used all of his power to block the ants.

He was doing this because he believed in me and that I would have a solution to get us out of this.

So I ran even faster at the queen ant.

The queen ant could see that there were no soldier ants that could help it, so it started to move as if it wanted to run.

It was just too bad that the queen ant was too heavy to move properly.

In the end, I was able to reach the queen ant and stand right in front of her.

Chapter 615 Chimera Ants (11)

When the queen ant saw me standing there, she started to squirm as if she was trying to do something to fight back.

But her physique didn't let her.

She was three times as big as a normal Chimera Ant, but she was also three times as fat. No, it was more like five times and that was still being generous.

However, one couldn't blame her since she was clearly still carrying more eggs in her.

That was what I was aiming for in the first place.

There was something that no one knew about the queen ant that only I knew.

It was that the queen ant carried a special fetus inside of her.

Unlike the rest of the soldier and worker ants that were born from eggs, there was one special ant that wasn't born from eggs like the rest. This was a child that she would only give birth to at the end of her life cycle.

It was the fetus for a new queen ant, the one that would take over once the queen ant died.

That was also my goal for this entire trip.

After all, I had a special method of controlling that queen ant fetus.

As long as I could control that queen ant fetus, then it would be possible for me to make sure of the Chimera Ants in the future.

I just calmly pulled out a sword as I faced this queen ant.

For once, I didn't use Durand since it would be dangerous to use Durand against this queen ant. There was no knowing what kind of effects Durand would have on the queen ant if I used it on the queen ant.

I couldn't take that risk.

There was another thing about this queen ant that I knew that others didn't know.

It didn't have any fighting capabilities.

Though it was trying to act tough right now by pretending to put up resistance, I knew from my experience in the game that this queen ant wasn't really capable of anything. Chimera Ants had their own roles and this queen ant's role was to give birth to new members of the colony.

Only the soldier ants which were the ones that were fighting my group actually had the ability to fight.

Even the worker ants couldn't do anything as I could see them cowering from the corner of my eyes.

I came right up in front of the queen ant and she raised one of her feet to attack me, but it was too easy for me to dodge. With how fat she was, she could barely even move it 45 degrees, so it was no problem for me to dodge out of the way.

Once I stepped out of the way, I just simply stabbed my sword right under the jaw of the queen ant.

This was more knowledge from the game.

I knew that unlike the other ants, the queen was so fat that her exoskeleton actually cut off the rest of her joints. There was no place to attack other than this one spot under her jaw that had to remain open for her mouth.

So it was easy to stab right up into the head of the queen and stab her brain.

The light in the eyes of the queen ant dimmed after its head was stabbed like this.

In her final moments, she looked at me as if she was saying, "Why?"

However, there wasn't an answer that I could give her.

This was just how nature was, it was survival of the fittest and in this case, we were the ones that were more fit.

After the ant queen died, the ants suddenly stalled for a second.

However, I knew that this was just a fake, so I said, "Don't let your guards down! Hold them back a bit longer!"

Everyone was surprised to hear this, but they quickly understood why I said this.

That was because the ants...suddenly went crazy.

They completely lost their mind and just started attacking without a single care about their own safety. But all that did was make it easier for our soldiers to take them down since it was easy for them to bait these ants while they were in a frenzy.

At the same time, this gave me a chance to interact with the queen ant corpse without anyone seeing anything since they were too focused on taking care of the surrounding ants.

I ignored the head of the queen ant and went lower, heading to its gaster.

Once I was there, I reached my sword down to where its butt was and then quickly inserted my sword in.

From the very beginning, I had no plans of bringing this sword back, so I didn't hesitate to stab it into the queen ant.

As for why I was doing this, it wasn't some kind of strange fetish.

Rather, it was because I couldn't cut through the queen ant unless I did this.

Her body was hard on the outside and soft on the inside, so I was only able to cut her open by doing this.

I made sure to cut the gaster of the queen ant open and there were a bunch of eggs that fell out. However, these eggs were not the things that I was interested in.

I dug through the eggs until I found a single ant fetus that was lying among the eggs.

This ant fetus didn't seem to be moving, but I knew that it was still alive, so I pulled out a potion that I poured over the ant fetus. When the potion fell onto the ant fetus, there was movement that came from it.

Seeing this, I pulled out another potion that I poured over the ant fetus.

This time, the potion was quickly absorbed by the ant fetus and it started to change.

In no time at all, the ant fetus started to grow until it was around a quarter of the size of the normal ants.

Seeing this, I gave a satisfied nod as I put the small ant down.

After that, I took out a leaf that I held in front of the ant.

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There was no movement at first from the ant, but then it suddenly opened its mouth and swallowed the leaf that I was holding up in front of it.

As soon as it swallowed this leaf, it suddenly opened its eyes.

I made sure that I had been right in front of it when it opened its eyes, so the first thing that this ant saw was me.

After seeing me, the ant paused for a second before suddenly coming forward to nuzzle up against me.

This leaf was a rare leaf that had a special effect on insect monsters. As long as this leaf was fed to an insect monster, then it would create an imprinting effect where they would follow the first living creature that they saw.

It was only because I had this that I felt confident enough to take care of these Chimera Ants.

I really had to thank the second prince and the fourth prince for giving this thing to me.

This was in the treasures of the second prince that the fourth prince gave me.

After getting this ant to imprint on me, I immediately cut off a small part of my flesh for it to eat. It was only a small part of my arm that was only the top part of the skin, so it didn't bleed that much.

Though to say that it didn't hurt would have been a complete lie.

The little ant looked worried about me at first, but I just offered it my flesh as I said, "I'm fine."

The little ant still looked at me with that worried look for a bit, but in the end, it still ate the flesh that I offered it.

I waited for it to finish eating my flesh before asking, "Do you understand me now?"

The little ant slowly gave a nod, though there was a bit of a confused look on its face.

That wasn't strange since one moment, it didn't really understand what I was saying and then the next, it started understanding the words that were coming out of my mouth.

This was a queen ant that was just born a few minutes ago, so it wasn't as if it knew about its abilities just yet.

Even if the Chimera Ants could grow faster than other species, this was still a queen ant that had the mentality of a child while being forced to grow up by me.

But there was no time for this queen ant to slowly grow.

Though I did have to think of a way to address it.

"Queeny, I want you to..."

The queen ant listened to what I had to say, but it had a confused look during this.

It was as if it couldn't understand what I was saying at first.

But it seemed like eventually it was able to figure it out.

With the way that it looked down at its feet, it was like it was slowly figuring out just what it was capable of.

When it was done, it just gave a nod and turned to face the other ants that were in this room.

...

"Hold!"

Cecilia called out as she faced these ants that were charging at them without any care for their own lives.

Once the queen ant had been taken down, the ants had gone crazy and started attacking without a single care for their own lives.

Though this did make it easier for them since the ants could easily be baited into bad positions, it didn't mean that it was completely easy. It took a lot more concentration to deal with the ants now that they were fighting without a single moment of hesitation.

They didn't care if they lost their lives, so they had to make sure not to fall into the clutches of the ants.

That meant that they had to pay more attention to dodge out of the way.

But this extra attention meant that it was a strain on their mental capacity.

At this rate, they would be exhausted just from focusing on the ants and keeping up with them.

However, Cecilia believed in her man.

He was the one that had killed the queen ant and he was the one that said that he would be able to take care of these ants as long as he was given some time.

This was a man that had surprised her again and again, so the only thing that was left in her heart was trust for this man.

But...

There was a soldier that had slipped and was about to be stabbed by the pincers of the ant that he was facing.

With how sharp those pincers were, there was no doubt that he would be pierced through by them.

Without hesitation, Cecilia ran forward with her sword raised as if she was planning to block it herself. But at the last second, she was able to find an opening on this ant and she was able to stab it in the abdomen, cutting it in half.

For a second, she let her guard down and that was all that it took.

"Watch out!"

When she heard this, she turned to see another ant coming right at her with its pincers opened as if it was about to snap them onto her body.

Cecilia knew that it was already too late, so all she could do was raise her sword to block it and brace herself for the pain. She hoped that she would be able to take it with her well trained body and her armour.

But before it could reach her, there was a seam that appeared in the center of the ant.

Then that seam split and the ant was cut in half, falling to the sides in front of her.

She then felt a strong arm take her into its embrace and when she looked up, she saw a familiar face.

I looked down at her and said with a smile, "Who told you to be so reckless? You almost gave me a heart attack."

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I really did almost have a heart attack when I saw Cecilia acting this way.

I had thought that I would be able to trust her with this, but it seemed like I had been too negligent.

At the very least, I should have given her something that would have kept her safe even if the others were hurt.

No, that was the wrong way to think...

I was only thinking that way since I was scared of the fact that I had almost lost her. It was making me think in ways that I shouldn't be thinking.

But when I saw that ant almost pierce her with its pincers, my heart almost jumped out of my chest.

Cecilia had been in a daze the whole time as I held her before she lowered her head to say, "I'm sorry, I was being reckless."

However, she didn't stay like that for long as she remembered that they were still surrounded by the ants. She didn't have time to remain idle as the ants could attack at any moment.

So Cecilia pushed her way out of his embrace and prepared to fight.

It was just that there were no more enemies for her to fight.

The ants were no longer attacking them, but rather they were attacking each other.

It was as if they had gone completely crazy as the ants were attacking each other with their pincers, ripping each other apart. But when one looked closely, they could see the hesitation that was in the ants.

It was clear that they didn't want to do this, but it was as if there was something forcing them to do this.

Though as for what could force these powerful Chimera Ants into doing this, they had no idea. They couldn't even begin to imagine just what would compel them into doing this.

I just ignored the ants as they killed each other and gathered everyone around.

It seemed that most of us had only suffered minor injuries in this fight, though our group really was exhausted because of the intense fighting.

Shaka was the one that had it the worst since he was the one that had used all of his trump cards to push back the ants as much as he could. It seemed like he was barely able to move, but he was still pushing himself forward.

Once I made sure that they were still able to move, I said, "Let's go outside, we still have more enemies to take care of."

All of them except Cecilia and Shaka looked at me with bitter looks when they heard this before one of them asked, "How? There are still a bunch of ants and enemy soldiers outside."

"I'm the one that caused the ants to act that way. They won't attack us as long as they are like that and they will only focus on attacking the enemies." I said in a calm voice.

They all looked at me with shocked looks, including Cecilia and Shaka.

Even if they had already expected this, hearing me say it out loud was completely different.

But they were able to quickly accept it.

Simply put, it was because they were slowly adapting to all of the things that I had been doing. I had shown that anything that I did was far beyond common sense, so they had to accept it or else they would go crazy.

If anything, humans were adaptable.

So we didn't care about the rest of the ants and followed the marks that we had made back to the same hole as before.

Since this hole wasn't that large, it was easy for us to climb back up through it and come out to the same room as before. Then following the same path as before, we made our way out of the cave.

It was just that when we came out of the cave, we found that the fight was already basically over.

General Killock had followed my instructions and brought the army with him to take care of the remnants of the Vikal Kingdom army, so there was nothing left for us to do.

The only concern was what the remaining Chimera Ants would do after the Vikal Kingdom army was finished, which was why General Killock had been keeping his men back still.

They seemed like they were ready to fight the Chimera Ants when it came down to it.

But with me here, there was no need for that.

Since the Vikal Kingdom army wasn't able to do anything anymore, I just confidently strode out of the cave.

The others were too focused on the fight that they hadn't been able to stop me.

So in the end, they had no choice but to follow me out.

The moment that we came out, we were noticed by both sides.

General Risen had managed to gather the few troops that he had left with him to form a defensive line, but it didn't seem like it would last long. However, the moment that he saw my group coming out of the cave, he no longer cared about that.

At this point, he knew that he would be dead, so there was only one thing that he needed to do.

Leading the charge, General Risen shouted, "Charge with me and kill him!"

The soldiers had been surprised, but they also started charging with looks of rage on their faces.

It seemed like they also couldn't hold back their anger towards me since I was the one that had forced them into this situation.

With the way that they were charging, it seemed like they were going to do a suicidal charge and with the way that the ants cut them down from the sides, it seemed like this was the case.

General Killock looked at me and wanted to lead his men to help, but I just raised my hand for him to stay back.

Seeing General Risen charging at me like this, I just revealed a confident smile.

Chapter 618 Chimera Ants (14)

The ones that were behind me revealed anxious looks and Cecilia even wanted to come in front of me.

Shaka would have done the same if he had been able to move, but he was just too exhausted from the fight in the cave.

However, I just raised my hand for Cecilia to stop.

She looked at me with a confused look, but I shook my head with a confident smile and said, "It'll be fine."

Though there was still a trace of doubt in her eyes, she trusted me in the end and moved back.

As General Risen led his troops, he personally cut down all of the ants that were in his way. With each Chimera Ant that he cut down, the morale of his troops surged as they followed him forward.

With how fast they were going, it didn't seem like there was anything that would be able to slow them down.

It seemed like a matter of time before they would reach us and cut us down.

After all, there were more people in General Risen's group than there were in my group.

We were only a small group of around a hundred that had baited them. General Risen had brought an entire army and even after the slaughter with the Chimera Ants, he still had up to two thousand troops with him.

As long as they could reach us, it would surely be a one sided slaughter.

So naturally my move was to stop them from reaching us.

Though it seemed like that was unlikely to happen.

That was until I suddenly raised my hand and the ants started to move.

No one noticed this at first since the ants only reacted slightly. There wasn't much movement from the ants that would attract much attention from anyone.

But then all of a sudden, the ants suddenly started charging at General Risen's group. This was much more than just a few ants charging at them, it was a complete frenzy as all of the ants charged at them at once.

Even if the fight had been going on for a while, there were still over five thousand ants that were here.

With these numbers, General Risen's group had no choice but to slow down in the end. Even if they wanted to keep pushing, they were stopped by the waves of ants that came at them.

As soon as General Risen cut down one ant, there were three more that took this ant's place. So even if he could cut them down, he wasn't able to move forward anymore.

In no time at all, they were completely surrounded by these ants.

There was a look of despair that appeared on General Risen's face, but he wasn't a fool.

He knew that there had to be a sudden reason for the change in the behaviour of the ants.

Before this, the ants had only attacked in scattered groups and didn't seem to work together. But now, it was clear that the ants were following the orders of a commander and were working together to surround them.

With the numbers disadvantage and the natural physical advantages of the ants, it was clear that they wouldn't be able to face them like this.

So in short, they were completely trapped.

The ants had only started acting this way when Count Zwein came out of the cave.

So General Risen looked right at Count Zwein and asked, "What did you do?"

His voice wasn't too loud or soft, but it could be heard clearly.

When I heard this, I didn't hide it at all as I said, "What do you think I did?"

The taunting tone of my voice made everything clear.

There were very ugly and hostile looks that appeared on the faces of the Vikal Kingdom soldiers.

If looks could kill, I would have been slaughtered by all the dirty looks that I was receiving.

They wanted nothing more than to tear me to pieces with their bare hands.

It was just too bad that they would never get that chance.

After a moment of silence, General Risen asked, "Is it possible to surrender still? I do not wish to waste any more lives."

The way that he said this, it was clear that he cared deeply for his men. They seemed very touched when they heard him say this.

However, I could see from his eyes that his real goal was...to save his own life.

No matter how great a general was, it was impossible for him not to care about his own life.

But it was too bad that I wasn't planning on taking prisoners in the first place.

First, it was because my army wasn't equipped to take prisoners in the first place. We could take them, but we would have to eventually drop them off in a garrison to be held.

The closest garrison was Vayne City.

That was the second reason why I didn't want to take prisoners.

There was no knowing what Duke Yuletide would do with these prisoners once he received them.

He was still a duke of the kingdom regardless of what he had done previously. So if he wanted to do something with these prisoners, he had his full rights to do so as the duke and commander of this city.

It was only when a royal decree came that he would be forced to hand over the prisoners to the capital.

But before the decree came, there were many things that the duke could do.

So if the prisoners of war were to suddenly die...no one would be able to prove anything if they suddenly went missing.

As long as Duke Yuletide was in charge of Vayne City, then there was no way that I could allow this to happen.

It really was true that sometimes bad allies were more terrifying than powerful enemies.

So I just shook my head and said, "Unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to take prisoners right now."

As I said this, there was a bit of a hostile tone in my voice.

That was related to the third reason.

They were invaders of our kingdom, of our home.

I didn't want to let them off easy in the first place.

Chapter 619 Chimera Ants (15)

General Risen didn't seem surprised at all when he heard this.

The look on his face made it clear that he was already expecting this answer, but he still had to ask for his men.

"Then we'll fight to the end." General Risen said in a calm voice before suddenly raising his voice to shout, "It was an honour serving with you all! Now we fight to the death!"

The soldiers behind him had no hesitation at all as they shouted, "Yes, general!"

It was a simple response, but it was all that was needed.

Once their voices fell, they went all out in trying to push away the Chimera Ants. They weren't trying to kill the Chimera Ants, they were just trying to push them back so they could create a path for themselves.

It seemed that they had given up on fighting the Chimera Ants.

It wasn't that they couldn't defeat the Chimera Ants.

They knew how to fight the Chimera Ants and had already slaughtered quite a few of these Chimera Ants.

Instead, they were targeting something else.

They were targeting me.

General Risen wasn't a fool, he had been able to figure out from the performance that I was the one that was controlling the Chimera Ants. But that also meant that as long as I was taken care of, there would be no one left to hold the Chimera Ants.

Before this, the Chimera Ants had rampaged freely, attacking whatever they wanted to attack.

That was why General Killock had kept his forces back in the first place and had only fired arrows down at the Vikal Kingdom army to deter them. He didn't want to risk his men approaching the Chimera Ants and being injured by them.

That meant that as long as I was killed as the one controlling them, the Chimera Ant would revert back to their previous ways.

They would be free to attack whatever they wanted to attack without a single care.

That would mean that General Killock and his army would have to deal with them before they started hurting the people in the surrounding villages.

As such, they would at least be able to hurt General Killock and his men with the Chimera Ants.

At the same time, they would be able to take revenge on the person who had put them in this dire situation in the first place.

This was their last attempt at doing something meaningful with their lives.

That all depended on being able to reach me and taking me out.

But the ants were just too strong for them.

If they were scattered like before, the Vikal Kingdom soldiers might have been able to do something. But since they were working together, that meant that they could also do things like bait them.

It seemed like the Vikal Kingdom soldiers would be able to break free of the encirclement of the ants at first, but then it turned out that they were just being lured in.

The ants had allowed them to move forward so that they could trap them.

Once they had put most of their forces in the front, the ants had wrapped around the back to attack them from behind.

Since they were doing a suicidal attack, it was inevitable that those that were injured and weakened would fall behind the others that were charging at full force. Those were the ones that the ants targeted.

But they thought that they would be able to make it through the ants, so they used them as a sacrifice.

It was just that this turned out to be useless in the end.

The ants that had been pushed back suddenly turned around and formed a complete line in front of them.

This line was completely different from the mess that they were in before.

This line was a proper line that utilized their individual strength as a total, which made them much stronger than before. So no matter how the Vikal Kingdom soldiers pushed, they couldn't move forward a single inch.

It was like facing a steel wall.

When General Risen realized this, he knew that he had been completely seen through.

But what shocked him even more was the fact that the ants could work together like this in the first place.

Even if the ants could be controlled, he never thought that the control would be so precise to pull off intricate strategies like this.

When the facts were in front of him, he had no choice but to accept this.

"Monster." General Risen said as he looked at Count Zwein.

The voice that he had said it in wasn't that loud or soft, but I had been able to hear it across this noisy battlefield.

It was as if it had rung out through the battlefield and had reached me.

I just looked down at General Risen who was surrounded by the Chimera Ants and he stared up at me.

Perhaps I was considered a monster since I had information about this world that no one else had.

Perhaps I could be considered a freak since I had the ability to do things that no one else in this world could do, but I wasn't afraid of that anymore.

I had things that were important to me in this world, so I would do what I needed to do to protect them. So regardless of what happens because of it, I was already prepared.

That was why I was using all of these events that I knew about around this world to take care of my enemies.

In no time at all, the Vikal Kingdom soldiers were completely swallowed by the Chimera Ants.

They tried to fight back as much as they could, but there was nothing that they could do against the sheer number of ants that were around them. Especially since they were already injured from fighting the ants before.

When it was over, there were only ants left.

But that also made General Killock and his men uneasy.

Chapter 620 Cleaning Up

However, regardless of how uneasy they felt, the ants didn't do anything.

Once they had taken care of the Vikal Kingdom army, they just stood there as if they were in a daze.

They didn't seem like they were about to do anything with the way that they just stood there.

But just them standing there made General Killock and the rest of his men nervous.

In the end, General Killock went over to Count Zwein and asked, "General, is it true that you can control these ants?"

When I saw him come over, I finally snapped out of my thoughts. Before this, I had been staring at the Vikal Kingdom troops as if I was deeply lost in thought.

After snapping out of my thoughts, I turned to look at General Killock and said with a nod, "That's right. I can control them."

As soon as he heard this, General Killock looked at me with a strange look.

This was clearly the look that one gave someone that they couldn't understand. This was the look that one gave someone that was a complete monster.

Just like how General Risen had looked at me earlier.

But I wasn't bothered by this at all.

Rather, I felt that it even seemed like this would be the norm for now on.

After a long silence, General Killock asked, "What should we do with them now? Are we going to take them back with us?"

He had already seen the terrifying power that these Chimera Ants had, so that was the last thing that he wanted to do. In fact, there was a part of him that wanted to massacre these ants so that they would never appear in this world again.

But he couldn't do that since these ants belonged to Count Zwein.

While General Killock didn't know what method Count Zwein had used to make these ants obey his command, he could see how easily Count Zwein controlled them. It was almost as if he was controlling them like they were his puppets.

With how powerful these ants were, General Killock didn't think that Count Zwein would be willing to destroy them.

These ants would surely be a powerful force controlled by Count Zwein in the future.

This would not be something that he would want to destroy.

Or at least that was what General Killock thought.

However, the truth was completely different from what he thought the truth was.

I just looked at the ants with a calm look on my face and said, "These things are too dangerous to leave here. I think that we should destroy them before they can do any harm to anyone."

General Killock looked at me with a surprised look when he heard this before slowly asking, "General, are you sure about this?"

There were of course other things that he wanted to say, but it seemed that he held himself back when it came to this.

I just simply gave a nod before saying, "There's no need to keep them alive anymore if they are just going to hurt the people of our kingdom if left unchecked. It is better to dig out the roots than to leave them be for the future generation to suffer."

General Killock looked at me with an even more surprised look before revealing a firm look.

It was clear that he agreed with what I said.

I could even see the trace of admiration that was in his eyes, as if he was in awe of my decision.

But what he didn't know was that I actually wanted these ants to die as well.

I could control them with the queen ant, but that didn't mean that they were loyal to me or her. These ants were the ants that had been born to the queen ant that I had killed, so they would still follow her.

Instead of leaving them to be betrayed by them in the future, it was better to take care of them all now.

My queen ant would be able to give me much more loyal and stronger ants for the future.

Once that decision was made, General Killock said, "I'll go and get the men to take care of it. As long as you can restrain the ants for us, we'll be able to take care of them."

But before he could leave, I raised a hand and said, "No, there's no need for that. They'll take care of themselves."

General Killock revealed a confused look when he heard this, but he didn't get a chance to ask anything.

That was because the ants gave him his answer.

All of a sudden, there was an ant that attacked another ant.

This was the catalyst for the full scale chaos that followed.

After that first ant attacked another ant, the other ants also started attacking each other.

There were more and more ants that joined in until all of the ants were killing each other. They didn't seem to hold anything back as they attacked each other, only aiming to kill..

But if one looked closely, they would be able to see the unwilling look in the eyes of these ants. It was clear that they didn't want to do this, but it was as if they had no other choice.

Seeing this, I gave a simple nod before turning to leave.

Though before leaving, I turned back to say to General Killock, "Feel free to watch over them to ensure that they all kill each other."

General Killock felt a chill run down his spine when he heard this.

There was a part of him that already knew this, but seeing the cold side of Count Zwein from time to time really was something else.

He already knew that Count Zwein was a coldhearted individual since he could mastermind the slaughter of the Rising Land Plains.

But now he couldn't help feeling even more afraid of him after seeing this.

I just walked off without knowing what was happening in General Killock's mind.