

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 781 Then it's your own fault - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 781 Then it's your own fault

Chapter 781 Then it's your own fault

"Si!" There was a cold breath that rang out through the crowd when they heard this.

At the same time, there were looks of despair that appeared on the faces of Duke Yuletide, his wife, and his daughter at the same time. It was clear that all three of them immediately understood what the fourth prince was implying with this.

However, there were some people in the crowd who didn't understand.

Those people started asking the people around them and soon they quickly understood what the fourth prince was planning to do.

He was planning to leave them here in the pillory without any supervision, that meant that he was giving his implicit permission to do whatever they wanted with the wife and daughter of Duke Yuletide.

They were free to do whatever they wanted to do, that would all be left up to the citizens of Vayne City in the crowd.

As soon as they understood, there were some people that started looking in the direction of the duke's wife and daughter with unsavory eyes.

There was no doubt that the wife and daughter of the duke were beautiful, which just made those eyes turn even more unsavory. It was clear that there were things that they wanted to do with the wife and daughter of the duke.

When the duke's wife and daughter felt the gazes that were cast on them, they both had terrified looks on their faces as they began begging for mercy again. It was just too bad that their words fell onto deaf ears.

They slowly realized that there was no use in begging the fourth prince for mercy, so instead...they quickly turned to look at Duke Yuletide.

"Tell him what he wants to know already!"

"Papa, please, I don't want this! Just tell him what he wants to know!"

Duke Yuletide deeply knitted his brows when he heard this, but he remained silent.

He could see the fourth prince turning to look at him, as if he was waiting to see what he would do.

But Duke Yuletide didn't say a single thing even though his wife and daughter were begging for him to do something.

The fourth prince narrowed his eyes when he saw Duke Yuletide like this.

There was a long silence that hung in the air, even the crowd fell silent as they felt that something was off, so they didn't dare make too much noise.

After that long silence, the fourth prince said with a sigh, "Fine, don't blame me for what's about to happen. It's your own fault that this is about to happen."

Duke Yuletide knitted his brows even more when he heard this, but it didn't seem like the fourth prince cared.

The fourth prince just turned back to face everyone as he said, "We will now put the criminals in the pillory. Once that is over, we'll leave them here to serve out their seven days of punishment."

Both the wife and the daughter of the duke trembled when they heard this, but they realized something.

There was only one pillory that was on the stage right now.

Did that mean...?

Both of them looked at each other in that moment and they could see what the other was thinking. Both of them immediately looked at each other with hostility as soon as they realized this.

It was clear that the fourth prince was only planning on putting one of them in to serve as an example, so that meant...

Both of them immediately started denouncing each other.

They both started to scream out crimes that the other person had done, in an effort to make themselves seem less guilty.

However, that was all in vain as the guards brought out another pillory.

When the two of them saw this, they both had looks like they were about to die on their faces.

They weren't fools, so they knew that the fourth prince had completely tricked them.

He had only put one pillory on the stage to make them think this and to turn them against each other. In truth, he was planning on putting both of them on the stage from the beginning and he was just using this chance to torture them even more.

Both of them were filled with shame at the fact that they had fallen for the fourth prince's trap and turned on each other like that. Neither of them could even look at each other after what had just happened...

But there was still something that they had to do.

If they didn't do anything, there was no telling what would happen to them...

So they both started urging Duke Yuletide to give the fourth prince what he wanted.

Only this time, they weren't as kind as before.

"You decrepit old man! Just tell him what he wants to know already!"

"You useless father! How dare you bring me down with you like this!"

It had reached the point where they were even cursing out Duke Yuletide for his insistence on keeping silent.

Once the second pillory was placed, the fourth prince gave a nod to the guards and said, "Make them more comfortable."

Both the wife and the daughter of the duke trembled when they heard this.

They clearly didn't like what this meant, so they looked at the guards with eyes filled with fear.

One guard went behind each of them to hold their hands, making sure that they couldn't do anything. Another guard came in front of them with a sword pulled out and they grabbed their clothes, almost as if...

The eyes of the two opened wide in fear, but they didn't get a chance to say anything as the guards had also muffled them.

They could only look on in absolute terror at what was about to happen.

Duke Yuletide had been gritting his teeth so hard that it even seemed like his teeth were about to crack.

But he finally did break as he said, "Enough! I'll tell you what you want!"

Chapter 782 Real fourth prince

The fourth prince raised his hand when he heard this.

He didn't tell the guards to move away, but he did stop them from doing what they had been about to do. Though the guards had stopped, that didn't mean that they let go of the duke's wife and daughter.

They were still restraining them and even had the swords still pointed at them, as if they would do what they had been planning to do at any moment.

Everything would depend on what Duke Yuletide would say next.

Duke Yuletide had a very ugly look on his face as he looked at the fourth prince, but he still said, "I'll tell you what you want to know."

The fourth prince gave a nod before moving forward, as if he was giving Duke Yuletide a chance to say what he wanted to say.

However, Duke Yuletide tried to move even closer to the fourth prince before being restrained by the guards. He wasn't allowed to move any closer to the fourth prince than this by the guards.

They were watching him carefully, as if they were expecting him to play a trick at any moment.

But to the surprise of the guards, the fourth prince suddenly raised his hand and said, "It's fine."

The guards wanted to say something to stop the fourth prince, but the fourth prince just ignored them as he stepped forward. He moved in close to Duke Yuletide and whispered something that made Duke Yuletide's eyes tremble.

But in the end, Duke Yuletide gave a nod and revealed a defeated look.

With a sigh, he started saying some things that only the fourth prince could hear. He didn't attempt to try and hurt the fourth prince at all, he just kept talking the whole time as if he was confessing everything.

That just went to show how defeated Duke Yuletide really was.

Everyone was shocked when they saw this, even his wife and daughter were shocked as they had never seen him like this.

But there was a person that wasn't shocked to see all of this.

I was just staring at the fourth prince the entire time with a complicated look.

I didn't look at Duke Yuletide since I already knew that this would be the result. I knew that as long as the fourth prince was like this, this was the only way that this could end.

That was because this was who the fourth prince was.

This was the true fourth prince.

This was the fourth prince from the game.

Cold, efficient, and terrifying.

The things that he did could be considered inhumane, but there was no doubting the efficiency of what he did. He was someone who accurately found the weaknesses of those that he was targeting and exploited those weaknesses to get what he wanted.

He didn't care if they were considered cruel or vindictive, he just did what he wanted.

That was how terrifying the real fourth prince was.

That was why he was considered the final villain of the noble quest line.

Though in this world, I had seen less of this side of him and more of the silly side of him. However, that didn't mean that this terrifying side of him didn't exist anymore.

He was still there hidden under the surface, able to come out at any time.

I knew the circumstances that the fourth prince suffered from, so I didn't want to let this side of him out unless it was absolutely necessary.

It seemed that I wasn't able to stop him this time...

After Duke Yuletide finished saying what he had to say, he gave a deep sigh before letting his shoulders sink like he was defeated.

He looked like he was completely defeated now, like there wasn't a single trace of hope left for him.

But the fourth prince didn't seem satisfied with this yet, so he said, "As expected, it seems like we've already taken care of all of the hideouts that there were. It seems like there's no need to do anything else."

Duke Yuletide had already looked like he was numb to everything and didn't seem like he would react, but he couldn't help reacting the moment that he heard this.

He looked up at the fourth prince in shock and disbelief.

The disbelief remained on his face for a bit before suddenly disappearing.

It seemed like he firmly believed what the fourth prince said, but that made sense when one thought about it.

At this point, what did the fourth prince gain from lying to him like this?

Duke Yuletide was already a broken man who had given up everything that he had, so there was no reason for him to lie to him.

The only reason that he would even tell him this was to throw him into further despair.

Duke Yuletide slowly looked like he had absolutely nothing left and looked like he was completely burnt out. He looked like he was about to turn into ashes at any moment with how completely burnt out he was.

The only thing left that could be done to him was...

But the fourth prince didn't go that far.

He had already accomplished what he wanted to do and he had no reason to take it any further.

So he just said to the guards, "Take them away."

The guards nodded in agreement before putting away their swords and leading the wife and daughter of the duke away. Both of them had looks of relief on their faces, but they also had looks of absolute shame.

It seemed like they had already lost everything and this fact was deeply sinking in now that they were being taken away.

The fourth prince took one last look at Duke Yuletide and said, "These are the consequences of your own actions."

Without saying anything else, he waved his hand at the guards holding Duke Yuletide and said, "Take him away."

Duke Yuletide didn't resist at all when he was being taken away.

That was just how broken he was.

Chapter 783 Biggest trial of the century

Since the fourth prince had already achieved everything that he wanted, there was no longer a reason for us to remain in Vayne City anymore.

The next day, we were already heading back to the capital.

With the way that he was going, it almost seemed like he was in a rush to go back.

When we reached the capital, I understood why.

There were many different criminals that were being escorted to the capital from all over when we arrived. It didn't seem like there would be an end to it as more and more people were brought into the capital and it seemed like all of them were bound up in some form.

It seemed that there were quite a few people that had been captured by the fourth prince during this time.

Of course, it wasn't as if they were captured for no reason.

After leaving Duke Yuletide, his family, and the others that we had captured in Vayne City to the guards, we headed to the castle.

We didn't even get to the castle before finding a sea of people.

There were all kinds of people here and it seemed like they wanted an audience with the king. Most of them were nobles, but there were also knights and influential merchants that were here.

If I had to guess who they were...

They were most likely related to the ones that had been captured in some way or form.

They must be here to plead innocent for their relatives.

When they saw us coming, there were many of them that suddenly changed their target to us.

Or rather, they changed targets to the fourth prince.

They knew that the fourth prince was related to this matter, so they wanted to appeal to the fourth prince for leniency.

It was just that they didn't get a chance at all as the fourth prince's elite guards quickly created a path for our horse carriage to go through.

If we took the wyverns, then we could have directly landed in the castle courtyard and gone in, but we couldn't do that right now. They needed to at least put on the appearance that the wyverns were separated from the royal family to a certain extent

and that there was order in the capital, so wyverns were only allowed in the edges of the capital near the gate.

Once we reached the castle, there was no delay at all as we were brought up to the king's study.

As we made our way through the castle though, we could see that this place wasn't any less quiet than outside the castle. There were many people who were running around like they were very busy with something.

As for what that something was...it was naturally the trials that would be held soon for the criminals.

This was something that was now public since the fourth prince had spared no effort in spreading this information all throughout the kingdom. They also knew that my previous sentencing was fake and that I was still close to the royal family.

The way that the fourth prince spread this almost seemed like he wanted to make sure that everyone still knew this.

It was as if he cared very much that everyone knew that we were still close.

I would have been fine with this information being spread slowly since I had already sent a messenger back home that told Rose and the others everything. They wouldn't be worried since they knew that all of this was fake.

When we arrived at the king's study, we could see that he was also busy.

He didn't look up at first, but when he did, he immediately waved his hand at the two of us.

Both of us revealed bitter smiles when we saw this since we could see the mountain of paperwork that was on the table, but we still went over since we were technically the cause of all this work.

Without any ceremony, the king just handed us each a stack of paperwork and went back to what he was doing.

He had just thrown this work to us without any hesitation, showing how much he trusted us.

But I knew that it was more than he had no choice.

Instead of being completely overwhelmed by this, it was better for him to throw this to us.

So the fourth prince and I shared another bitter smile before diving into paperwork that we had been handed.

As I read what was given to me, I couldn't help slightly knitting my brows.

As I read more and more, the more I knitted my brows.

I looked up at the fourth prince and found that he was completely focused on reading the paperwork that he had been given, so I gave a cough to get his attention.

When he looked up, I asked him, "Aren't there too many of them?"

The fourth prince just calmly shook his head before saying, "This is necessary. This is the most we can purge without any lasting damage to our kingdom, so we should make the most of this. After all, if we were to try anything like this again, there is no doubt that it won't work as well since they are aware of our tricks."

I raised one brow in doubt as I looked at him and asked, "Are you sure about this?"

The fourth prince just gave a simple nod with a confident look on his face without saying anything else.

I was still feeling doubtful, but the king said, "Stop chatting and get back to work already!"

The fourth prince and I shared another bitter smile before he went back to reading his paperwork.

But there was still a part of me that was worried about all of this.

That was because we really were purging too many nobles from our kingdom.

It was supposed to be a fourth, but now it turned out to be a third of all the nobles in the kingdom...

This had turned into the biggest trial of the century...or rather the biggest trials since there were enough to last a full seven days.

Would the kingdom really be alright after this?

Chapter 784 Filled with corruption

The first day of the trials, the stands were completely filled with people.

In order to make sure as many people could watch the trials as possible, the fourth prince had decided to hold the trials in the square of the capital.

This was the largest square in the entire kingdom and could fit over ten thousand people.

But even then, there were many who couldn't get into the square since it had been completely filled.

Of course, it wasn't as if the square was emptied so people could come in. Half of the square was occupied by things that would be necessary in the trials, so there was only half the square open to people who wanted to watch.

But five thousand wasn't a small amount either.

They were all excited to watch because this was the first time that nobles were being held responsible for their actions. So for the first time, the citizens would get to see the nobles that treated them like dirt being punished.

There wasn't a single person who wanted to miss that.

The first day was just for all of the small offenders.

There were simply too many of them that it would be impossible to take care of them after the major trials, so it was decided that they would be taken care of first. That way, there would be no need to worry about them in the future.

After all, most of them only had minor crimes to account for, so it would be simple to pass a verdict on them.

The problem was the sheer volume of people that needed to be tried.

There were just too many of them that had committed these minor crimes.

There were crimes such as embezzlement, oppressing the commoners, smuggling, and other small crimes.

Of course, these were small crimes compared to the crimes that the other criminals had committed.

These were still crimes that were big enough for us to strip away their titles and reclaim their land.

The only reason for these trials was to show the people that even those who were in power would be held responsible for their actions.

This was something that had been proposed by the fourth prince.

The king had been shocked by this, but for someone like me who came from a more modern society...it was much easier for me to accept. After all, this kind of thing was common in modern society where politicians were much more susceptible to scandals.

Though that was in an era where everything was public because of the ease of communicating with each other.

At the same time, it was much easier to find information because of digital traces on computers and the internet.

But there were still many that tried to fight against this by bringing in their relatives.

These were knights and merchants of repute that had some influence.

What they didn't know was that they were also on the list that the fourth prince had created for judging who would be brought in. They were on the list of those that didn't commit crimes that were great enough, but they had also committed crimes of corruption.

In short, this kingdom really was just too filled with corruption, but that was from my viewpoint of someone from a modern society. If one thought about it from the viewpoint of a medieval society that this game world was based on, then it was perfectly normal for these people to do this, even if there were laws in place.

So it could be said that the fourth prince's ideas really were progressive for their time.

But that stemmed mainly from his desire to protect the citizens.

This was not something that anyone else in this era would think of.

In the end, most of the nobles that went up on trial were found guilty by the judge and jury.

That was because the fourth prince had played some of his tricks.

The people that were chosen as the judge and jury might seem like normal people, but if one dug deeper, they could see that they were always related to these nobles in some way. So even if the noble somehow made themselves seem innocent, the judge and jury wouldn't care.

From the very beginning, the trials had been rigged against them so that they would never be found innocent no matter what they did. So in the end, all of them were found guilty by the judge and jury.

Though not a single person was able to make this connection and realize that the trials were rigged.

Only the fourth prince knew this and he had told me before the trials started so that I would understand what was happening. It could be said that he trusted me quite a bit to tell me this secret, but it made me more scared of him.

After all, this showed that the true fourth prince was always lurking under the surface...

Though I also had to admire the amount of work that he put into this.

It certainly wasn't easy to find these connections between these people and the nobles since these were very minor connections that no one would have figured out. It would take a lot of digging just to find these connections and then it would take a lot to gather them all.

After all, even if the judges only changed every couple of trials, the jury changed with every trial.

So that meant that the fourth prince had found all of these people just to try these people.

It must have been an incredible amount of work, but these were just for the ones that had minor crimes.

"Just what has he prepared for the bigger criminals?" That was all I could ask myself when I realized all of this.

It also made me even more terrified of the fourth prince and I made sure to never become his enemy in the future.

Just like this, all of the ones that went to trial were found guilty and they were punished.

Chapter 785 The first major trial

It took two days for all the minor trials to be taken care of, a day longer than what the fourth prince had planned.

But that was just because there was too much corruption in the kingdom.

Though by the old standards, it wouldn't be considered corruption.

It was only considered this because of the new laws that the fourth prince had passed in the past few years.

It could even be said that he had been preparing for this for a long time.

When these minor trials were over, on the third day, it was time for the first major trial.

This was to be one of the biggest criminal trials in the entire country since it involved the Snake Syndicate, which was the biggest crime organization in the kingdom.

The number of defendants alone was in the thousands, showing just how many leaders there were in this Snake Syndicate. But this was an organization that made use of this disorganized system to evade the law for so long.

If it wasn't for the fact that I had the guide to taking down the Snake Syndicate in my mind, then it wouldn't have happened.

That was also what the fourth prince had compared the information that he received from Duke Yuletide to. I had already told him the locations of all the Snake Syndicate hideouts that he needed to destroy, so that was why he said that we had gotten them all.

Of course, it was impossible to try them all at once, so there were a few representatives that were chosen.

This was usually the case when one took down an organization, they would have those that were at the top be the representative for the organization.

The one that was leading them was the head that I had encountered.

I later learned that his name was Viper, which was a bit on the nose...

Still, he was the one that had been running the Snake Syndicate for Duke Yuletide, so there was no one that knew the Snake Syndicate better than him. At the same time, he was the one that would take all of the blame as the head of the Snake Syndicate.

Though knowing the fourth prince, I was certain that he wouldn't let any of them off.

"What is the meaning of all of this? We were captured all of a sudden without any explanation and then brought here. If you look at our papers, you can see that we are a legitimate business." That was the argument that Viper made when he was allowed to present his case.

He wasn't lying about this since this was one of the ways that the Snake Syndicate used to protect themselves.

There were loopholes that could be used and with this loophole, they were able to register the assets of the Snake Syndicate as assets of a legitimate business. So unless there was a reason for seizing them, it would be considered an unlawful seizure.

He was trying to present the case as a case of a merchant being abused by the government, which would incite the other merchants to protect them even if they didn't

want to. After all, if this case was allowed to pass, then it would set a precedent that would be dangerous for merchants.

If the government could seize their properties whenever they wanted without proper justification, it would mean that the merchants would have to fear this in the future.

But the fourth prince immediately shut that down.

The prosecutor that the fourth prince sent immediately submitted documents that showed that the loophole that they used was closed and that they were not an officially registered business. That meant that all of the things that were seized were from the criminal organization Snake Syndicate.

There was nothing that they could claim was actual property of their business since their business simply didn't exist.

Viper had an ugly look on his face when he heard this since he clearly didn't expect this, but he didn't give up as he had prepared many other arguments.

It was just that not a single one of these worked.

It seemed that no matter what kind of argument he made, the prosecutor that the fourth prince sent was already prepared.

The prosecutor would always have surprise evidence that he submitted to the court and would always give a statement that would shut down whatever Viper had prepared.

It was almost as if the fourth prince had already expected everything that Viper would use and had prepared everything to shut it all down.

This just went to show how terrifying the fourth prince was when he was focused on one thing.

After a long trial, Viper sunk in his chair looking very defeated.

That was because there wasn't a single thing that he presented that worked.

When he was completely shut down like this, it would be strange if he wasn't defeated.

But it didn't seem like he was completely dead yet as there was a look of hesitation in his eyes. It was as if there was something that he still held onto in hopes of saving himself.

When the judge was about to make his verdict, Viper suddenly said, "I have one more thing that I want to present."

The judge narrowed his eyes to look at Viper when he heard this, but then he looked at the prosecutor as if he was asking him if he would allow this.

The prosecutor...turned to look at the fourth prince.

With the way that this went, it was almost as if the fourth prince controlled everything.

Though if that really was the case, I wouldn't be surprised.

The fourth prince thought about it before giving a nod to the prosecutor who passed it on to the judge.

When the judge received this, he allowed Viper to present what he wanted to present.

"This is a secret that isn't known by many, but I am actually a member of the Tide Empire's royal family! If you do this, do you think that they'll just accept it?"

Chapter 786 Tide Empire

There was only silence that followed after Viper said this.

I could see the brows of the fourth prince beside me knitting as he stared at Viper, but I could understand why he was acting this way.

It was completely because of what Viper had just said.

The Tide Empire that he mentioned was just that meaningful.

There were many kingdoms on the continent, but there were only a total of four empires that were out there. The reason for that was because there were only four countries that had the power to be named empires.

The other kingdoms only survived because the empires didn't invade them.

That was because the four empires kept each other in check.

But if they were to attack one or two kingdoms, it wasn't as if the other empires would care.

Which was why this was a problem.

If Viper really was related to the Tide Empire, then it would be troublesome.

The Tide Empire was one of the four empires and the only one that was located near the coast.

That was because as the name of the empire implied, they were an empire that relied on the power of the tides. It was said that the special forces of the Tide Empire had the capability to breathe underwater, which was how they were able to sneak into the territory of their enemies and attack from behind.

After all, rivers were the lifeblood of any kingdom and it was impossible for a kingdom not to have any rivers.

Kingdoms relied on rivers not just as a source of water for farming, but also as a valuable method of transportation.

So any kingdom would be filled with rivers that could be taken advantage of by the special forces of the Tide Empire.

In addition to this, the Tide Empire was a major source of transportation since they had the power to control water as well.

It was said that one of the biggest lakes on the continent was once a dukedom that had offended the Tide Empire.

In the end, the Tide Empire sent a large flood to destroy that dukedom, which was what had created that lake.

So there were very few people that dared to provoke the Tide Empire.

Of course, this was all common knowledge.

For me who had come from the world where this world had just been a game, I naturally knew a lot more about the Tide Empire than normal people did. That was because there was a quest line that was tied with the Tide Empire in the game, so I had learned quite a bit about the Tide Empire.

That quest line was the mermaid quest line.

In this world, there was an empire under the sea known as the Merman Empire.

This was an empire that had been formed by the merfolk who were born under the sea and had taken over the undersea world. However, they were a group that didn't want to associate with humans since they didn't trust them.

Or rather, it would be better to say that they didn't care about the humans at all.

That was just their pride as the rulers of the sea.

However, there was one connection that they had to the land since they knew that they couldn't just completely ignore the land and the humans who lived there.

It was the Tide Empire.

The Tide Empire was founded by a son in law of the Merman Empire.

There was a mermaid who had saved a human pirate and they fell in love.

As such, the mermaid gave up her voice to come live on land with human legs.

The human pirate and the mermaid loved each other deeply and working together, they created the Tide Empire.

That was how the special forces of the Tide Empire were able to breathe underwater.

They had the blood of the merfolk in them.

It wasn't that the mermaid had cheated on the human, but rather they had many children who went off on their own paths. As such, the merfolk blood was spread all over the area of the Tide Empire, so that the merfolk blood could even be found in the common people.

Of course, those that went off were struck from the records of the royal family.

So even if they were very distantly related, the commoners that had merfolk blood were still regarded as commoners.

Like this, an entire empire filled with those that had the merfolk blood was born.

Since they had the merfolk blood in them, the royals of the Merman Empire were willing to form a connection with the Tide Empire.

This made them the only connection on land to the Merman Empire.

As such, one had to learn about the Tide Empire if they wanted to complete the mermaid quest line.

But even for me who knew all those things about the Tide Empire, I had never heard of a quest like this.

He could be lying, but there was also the chance that he might be telling the truth.

He could just be a commoner that was struck from the records of the royal family, or...he might actually be related to the royal family. It was hard to tell since it was impossible to access the records of the Tide Empire's royal family.

Or at least, we weren't allowed to access it even if we had the power of the Kite Kingdom behind us.

The fourth prince looked at me as if he was asking for my opinion, but all I could do was shake my head and say, "I don't know. I really don't know anything about this."

After all, I had never heard of this person in the side quest to expose the Yuletide Family.

This was one of the downsides of bringing knowledge from the game to this world.

The game didn't go deeply into these things since it wouldn't be fun for the players, so they solved all of this for the players.

The players would never have to think about the consequences of their actions...

Chapter 787 Dissatisfied with the ending

The fourth prince looked like he wasn't happy with this response, but he didn't say anything in the end.

I also didn't say a word since there really wasn't any information that I could give him even if I wanted to.

The game didn't give me any information on this, so there wasn't anything that I could tell him.

In the end, the fourth prince just gave a simple nod before saying, "Then what should we do about him?"

I knitted my brows in thought for a bit before saying, "Well, there is one thing that we can test before anything else. If this test works, then we might have to consider what we will do with this person."

The fourth prince was surprised to hear this, but he gave another simple nod without saying anything.

It seemed that the fourth prince trusted me to the point where he wouldn't ask what I was planning. He would just accept that I had a plan and go along with it.

"We'll need..."

...

An hour later, there was a large tub of water that was rolled into the square.

This tub was a large water storage tub that was used to store water for the city. This was one of the emergency tubs that was used around the city just in case there was ever a drought, so this was a tub that could hold a large amount of water.

As for why it was brought here...

When Viper saw this tub being rolled in, he was certainly surprised. However, that surprise didn't last long as he could already guess why it had been rolled into this place.

After he confessed that he was from the Tide Empire's royal family, there was only reason that it could be brought here. Though he had to admit that he was surprised by the fact that the people of this kingdom seemed to know about the history of the Tide Empire.

Once the tub was rolled in, the guards lifted Viper over and threw him into the tub.

They didn't even bother releasing the cuffs that were holding his hands, so he wasn't even able to swim since they inhibited his hands. As soon as he touched the water, Viper started to sink because of the weight of the cuffs on his hands.

However, Viper didn't seem to panic at all as he sank under the water.

He didn't even bother taking a deep breath as if he was planning to hold his breath.

After sinking into the water, Viper just calmly stood there at the bottom of the tub with a relaxed look on his face.

The only way that he could be doing something like this was if he was able to breathe under the water.

When one looked closely, they could see that there were flaps that had appeared on the side of his neck. It seemed that those flaps had only appeared when he sunk into the water, almost as if it was a reaction to being soaked in water like this.

Viper just calmly stood there in the water for a while before saying, "Is this enough for you?"

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

After all, this was more than enough to prove at the very least that Viper had the merfolk bloodline. While it wasn't certain if he was related to the Tide Empire's royal family, it still meant that he was from the Tide Empire since he had merfolk blood.

The fact that he was able to breathe underwater showed that the concentration of merfolk blood in his veins was quite thick.

While this didn't prove his claims, it meant that his claims weren't baseless.

That meant that at the very least, we couldn't do what we wanted with Viper.

He was the only one that had to be treated differently.

The fourth prince was silent for a bit before giving a nod to the guards.

The guards pulled Viper out of the water and they didn't even bother drying him as they pulled him away.

The fourth prince personally went over to the judge and whispered a few things in his ear.

The judge had a visible look of surprise on his face when he heard what the fourth prince had to say. After he finished speaking, the judge even looked at him as if he was questioning if he was being serious or not.

Seeing that the fourth prince's expression didn't change at all, the judge had no choice but to accept that the fourth prince wasn't joking.

The judge then slammed his gavel and said, "Because of indecisive evidence, the trial for the criminal Viper has been delayed. He will be tried at a later time when all the evidence has been gathered."

While he hadn't been freed, Viper was at the very least not sentenced at the moment and given a delay of trial.

That meant that there might be a change in the future depending on the situation.

So in a sense, it was his victory.

The rest of the Snake Syndicate would be tried as normal since this was a revelation that only affected Viper.

They all tried to complain about how unfair this was, but the fourth prince just ordered the guards to gag them. It seemed like he wasn't playing around anymore as he completely took away their right to resist.

It was almost as if he had lost his patience and wanted to end this as soon as possible.

Though the trial was already over and they would have been sentenced anyway even if he left them alone.

It didn't seem like something that the fourth prince would do, but I understood why he did this.

It was because he was dissatisfied with this ending.

He had planned everything and then there was this unknown variable that had suddenly thrown a wrench in his plans, ruining all of his hard work.

Anyone that encountered this situation would be unhappy with how it ended, not just the fourth prince.

So I just remained silent and let him pout.

Chapter 788 You need to calm down

The trial ended as one would expect.

All of the members of the Snake Syndicate received the death sentence for their crimes.

From the very beginning, the fourth prince hadn't been planning on letting any of them live. The only reason that he went through with this sham of a trial was because he wanted to show the people of the kingdom that he would not tolerate criminals like this.

He wanted to use this trial as a message for all those that were still out there that there was someone to protect the people of this kingdom.

He wanted to use this trial to instill fear into the other criminal organizations that were in the kingdom.

Of course, this wasn't the only thing that he had planned for them, but that was another matter.

It would have been perfect if it wasn't for the final blemish at the end. Though this blemish was only a small one that wouldn't really affect the overall message that the fourth prince was planning to send.

At the same time, even if it was something that might involve the Tide Empire, it was something that was easy for the fourth prince to cover up. With his influence in the kingdom, it was easy for him to make news like this disappear as he pleased.

The only problem was that this was a blow to the ego of the fourth prince.

He thought that he had planned everything perfectly and now there was something that he hadn't been able to predict.

So for the fourth prince who wanted to do everything perfectly, the first thing that he did was...

He threw himself into his work.

As soon as we returned to the castle after the trial, the fourth prince immediately went into the king's study and started going over the details of the future trials.

Even when it was time for dinner, it didn't seem like he was going to respond.

Though I wanted to go and see what the fourth prince was up to, the king stopped me.

He just simply said, "Let him do what he wants. I know that child and I know that he needs time to unwind, so just leave him be."

I had a look on my face that didn't seem as certain about this, but the king was the fourth prince's father after all...

Still I couldn't hold myself back in the end as I went up to the study after dinner.

I found that the floor was completely covered in papers and the fourth prince was scouring over them like he was a madman. It was as if he was obsessed with what was written on them and he wouldn't calm down unless he found every single thing that he was looking for.

The way that he was going over these pieces of paper, it was clear that it wasn't healthy.

It was clear that the fourth prince was pushing himself too far as seen by his appearance.

If he didn't stop, he might even run himself ragged.

Of course, it wasn't as if this was just the result of him pouring over these papers.

This was the result of his several weeks of stress.

Ever since he had learned about the Yuletide Family's intention to rebel against the kingdom, the fourth prince had been preparing for this. This was why everything had been planned and there wasn't a single thing that escaped the fourth prince's plans.

But that naturally took a toll on the fourth prince since doing something like this clearly wasn't easy.

The fourth prince looked like he could collapse at any moment.

I just couldn't let him keep going like this.

So I stepped forward and said, "That's enough."

The fourth prince didn't seem to hear me at first, so I stepped forward and pulled him up.

The fourth prince quickly turned around to look at who it was that was disturbing him. The way that he even looked at me was almost as if he wanted to forcefully pull himself away from me.

But when he saw that it was me that was holding him, that look disappeared from his face.

Still, he didn't stop as he said, "No, I need to keep going. I need to make sure that nothing goes wrong."

I shook my head and said with a sigh, "What if you collapse? Isn't that considered something going wrong? You need to calm down and see the bigger picture."

The fourth prince was about to say something, but when he saw the way that I looked at him, he stopped himself.

After a long silence, he said with a nod, "You're right, I was wrong."

The king who had been watching from the door had a shocked look on his face.

After all, he had never seen his son acting this way in all this time that he's known him.

The only person that had ever tried to stop the fourth prince like this was still in the dungeon...that was why he had come along in the first place. He had been planning to help Zwein if anything happened.

I gave a satisfied nod after hearing this and said, "Come and eat. You need to rest up for tomorrow."

The fourth prince just gave a simple nod before following me out the room.

As we walked past the king, I could see that he was looking at me with a strange look.

As for why he was looking at me with this strange look...

It was because he realized just how much trust the fourth prince had in Zwein.

He had been worried about his son because it had seemed like he would never trust anyone in his life. He had always kept his true feelings to himself and even if he worked with others, it was always him dominating them.

But now...it seemed like he had formed his first real connection.

As a father, the king was naturally happy about this.

As a king, he was even happier since he knew that the future of the kingdom were in the hands of these two.

Chapter 789 These idiots...

Other than the problem with that one trial, the rest of the trials went as planned.

These were nobles of their kingdom, so it wasn't as if there was anything that they could hide.

The fourth prince found everything there was to find about these nobles in the first place, so it wasn't as if there was anywhere for them to run or anything for them to hide.

So there were no surprises that came during the trial like with the Snake Syndicate trial.

All of the nobles were sentenced properly.

They were stripped of their titles, had all of their property confiscated, and they were sentenced to death like the fourth prince had planned.

Without these nobles making a mess of the kingdom, it would be a much better and safer place.

That was what the fourth prince had planned since the beginning.

After all of these trials, there was only a single trial left.

It was the trial that had been left to the end since it was the most important trial.

It was the trial for Duke Yuletide and the Yuletide Family.

They were the ones that had caused this purge in the first place, so it could be said that everything that happened was their fault.

Of course, the fourth prince would have eventually done something similar later on in the game, but that was because of his own plot line. It was unrelated to the Yuletide Family which was another quest line.

When Duke Yuletide was brought out, he looked completely defeated.

He had already seen the trial for the Snake Syndicate and all of the people that had been dragged in from the Snake Syndicate. The fourth prince had made sure that this happened because he wanted Duke Yuletide to see this.

He wanted Duke Yuletide to see all of the people that had been brought in from the Snake Syndicate so he could crush his hopes.

That was why the duke looked completely defeated when he was brought in.

The trial went on like normal...that is until.

"Boom!"

There was a large explosion that came from the back of the square, on the opposite side of the square where the trial was being held.

This was the place where there were many citizens gathered since they were here to watch the trial.

As soon as this happened, the fourth prince sent his people to make sure that the citizens were alright.

However, before they could do anything, there were a bunch of people that ran through the crowd. These people all had weapons raised, which forced the citizens to move out of the way for them.

At the same time, all of them were wearing dark clothes and had masks on their faces even though it was the middle of the day. It seemed like they were trying to hide their identities, but really it made them stand out more.

It was basically them wearing the wrong outfits to hide themselves.

Like wearing camouflage in the middle of the city.

They all made a mad dash for Duke Yuletide who was being detained in the defendant's position.

Duke Yuletide had a surprised look on his face that made it seem like he didn't expect this at all and that was because...he really didn't expect this at all.

Duke Yuletide had no idea who these people were and why they wanted to rescue him, but he could tell that they didn't have any good intentions. There was a part of him that didn't want them to rescue him, but there was a part of him that wanted to see where this was going to go.

But it wasn't as if he could come forward to go with these people since there were guards around him that were restraining him.

So Duke Yuletide could only watch as everything unfolded.

And things...didn't go his way.

The fourth prince knitted his brows when these people appeared, but he didn't show a single trace of worry seeing them. Instead, he waited for a bit for them to approach and to see if there were any more of them.

When it was clear that this was all that was here, he gave a snap of his fingers.

The moment that the fourth prince snapped his fingers, there were several dark cloaked figures that appeared.

However, these dark cloaked figures were different from the ones that came to save Duke Yuletide. Unlike those people who ran through the crowd and caused a large commotion, they had appeared out of nowhere and suddenly rushed at those people causing a commotion.

With the speed that they went at, it took them no time at all to restrain the ones closest to Duke Yuletide.

The others saw this and revealed looks of fear.

But when they turned around to run, they found that they were completely surrounded by the fourth prince's people.

They tried to fight their way out, but there was a reason why these cloaked figures were the fourth prince's elite guards. They weren't able to do a single thing before they were incapacitated by the fourth prince's elite guards.

They were all disarmed and then brought away for the trial to continue.

Duke Yuletide had a disappointed look, but it didn't seem like he was affected that much.

After all, he had already come to terms with his situation and it wouldn't make him have second doubts now.

Once they were all taken care of, the fourth prince stood up and looked at me.

I gave a nod and went off with him, without caring about how the trial would end since we already both knew how this trial would end.

When we came to the room where the assailants were held, the elite guards suddenly pulled off the masks of these people.

The fourth prince was surprised because...he didn't recognize a single one of them.

He honestly had no idea who these people were until one of the elite guards gave him a piece of paper.

Reading it, the fourth prince knitted his brows before saying, "These idiots..."

Chapter 790 Connections

The reason why the fourth prince was so angry after reading this was...

These people didn't have a real reason for saving Duke Yuletide.

These people were nothing more than people who had wanted to seize this opportunity to gain more power and to gain favour with Duke Yuletide, which was why they thought that they could take this risk and try to save him.

In truth, they were nothing more than idiots who thought that they could take advantage of this situation.

They were idiots who had nothing but optimism...

So they were not people that should be taken seriously.

The fourth prince had thought that this was some kind of deeper plot that involved multiple organizations, but it turned out that this wasn't it at all. It turned out that this was just a bunch of idiots that were trying to take advantage of the situation.

They had no plans at all, they were just acting first and thinking later.

It even made the fourth prince a bit embarrassed since he had taken these people seriously.

Shaking his head, the fourth prince said with a sigh, "Perhaps I really was thinking too much. It seems that no matter how much you think about it, you really can't prevent everything from happening."

I gave an approving nod when I heard this.

The one problem with the fourth prince was that he took things too far sometimes.

He had a thing about wanting to control everything so that he could feel assured about everything that's happening. But sometimes, one needed to accept that they couldn't control every single little thing.

There was no predicting all the things that could happen in this world since there were many things that could happen.

Sometimes, it was just best to deal with these things as they came.

Sometimes, it was best to just roll with the punches.

After coming to this revelation, the fourth prince calmed down and said to me, "What do we do now?"

I knew exactly what he was talking about.

He wasn't referring to the trials anymore, but rather to another problem that had occurred.

The Tide Empire.

He wanted to find some preemptive way to deal with this matter rather than just wait for them to come looking for us. But I felt the same way as him since being passive in situations like this was usually the wrong way to go about it.

If we just remained passive, there was no telling what would happen when they finally came.

Being caught off guard like this would be the worst thing that could happen, especially since the other side was much stronger than us.

But this was something that involved one of the taboos of the other side, so it wasn't easy to do something about this.

Or else the fourth prince wouldn't be asking me this.

With the powers that the fourth prince had, if he knew what to do, he wouldn't have wasted any time thinking about this and would have already made some moves. It was only because he didn't have any ideas that he was like this.

I didn't say anything at first since there was a part of me that was hesitating over this matter.

There was a part of me that didn't want to actually do anything since this would mean taking an unnecessary risk...

But I knew that it would be impossible to avoid this in the end, so I took a deep breath before saying, "There might be something that we can do."

The fourth prince was surprised since he didn't expect this, but there was also a part of him that seemed like he did expect this. After all, there was a reason why he was asking me this in the first place.

There was a reason why he kept turning to me when it came to matters like this.

It was because I had always been able to give him some kind of surprise.

Just like in the war and just like with the wyverns.

He never expected anything, but I always managed to find a way to surprise him.

So he was hoping that I could surprise him once more.

The fourth prince immediately revealed a serious look as he said, "What is it?"

He didn't waste any words at all, he just wanted to know as soon as possible.

It was just too bad that I was still hesitating.

After a long silence, I said with a sigh, "I might have some connections that we can investigate."

To call them connections was a bit too much since I had never actually contacted those people before. Even if I were to tell them my name, it wasn't as if they would know who I was.

But there was a reason why I could rely on these places.

That was because of my knowledge from the game.

The places that I was thinking about reaching out to were places to obtain information in the game. These were places where one could obtain information as long as they had the money for it, so it wasn't as if they needed to know who I was.

As long as we had enough money, then we would be able to find the information that we were looking for.

The fourth prince narrowed his eyes to look at me, as if there was a hint of doubt in his eyes.

But in the end, he just gave a simple nod and said, "Alright, I'll leave this matter to you."

I shook my head and said, "Actually, it's better if you handle it."

The fourth prince was surprised to hear this, but he still gave a nod in the end.

While he didn't know what I meant by this, this was still enough to show that he had faith in me that he was willing to listen to what I said.

There was a part of me that wondered if this really was the right thing to do since there was no doubt that it would be harder to use these connections in the future if I were to use them now.

At the same time, using these connections might draw the attention of certain people...