

Reincarnated With The Strongest System

Chapter 161: Wendy's Secret Place

William sighed for the umpteenth time as he gazed out the window of his dormitory room. Kenneth, who was seated on top of his bed, frowned as he observed the sighing boy--who seemed to be feeling downhearted.

'Just what happened inside the Dean's Office?' Kenneth thought. 'Does it have something to do with what happened inside the dungeon?'

Kenneth was very curious, but he also respected William's privacy. In the end, he decided to remind the sighing boy that it was almost time for dinner.

"Will, let's have dinner," Kenneth said as he patted William's shoulder.

William simply nodded his head and stood up from his chair. Ella decided to stay inside the room because she had already eaten.

As the two made their way towards the Dining Hall, William felt a prickling gaze aimed in his direction.

When William turned his head to see who it was, he noticed Spencer glaring at him from behind his back.

If William hadn't heard Celine's tale, he might have already thought of a plan on how to make Spencer suffer. However, right now, he wasn't in the mood to deal with him. He unconsciously touched the collar on his neck and flinched.

"The collar you wear on your neck right now was dyed with her own tears, blood, and suffering." Simon's voice echoed inside William's head.

As William continued to walk to their destination, another image appeared inside his head. It was the time when Celine was about to place the collar on his neck and William was lying on the floor, paralyzed.

"S-Still, isn't this unfair?" William tried to use reason.

"Since when did life become fair?" Celine asked. Her expression gradually became cold as she looked down at the boy on the floor. "Little Will, you have no idea what fairness is. Life has never been fair. There are people who have to beg in order to live, and there are those that were born with a silver spoon on their mouth.

"Both are people, but their circumstances are like Heaven and Earth. William, the only one who gets to decide what is fair or not, is the one with the bigger fist."

Celine's soft and delicate hand caressed William's cheek. "Right now, I have the bigger fist. Because I am stronger than you, I can bully you. This is the law of the strong."

"Celeste," William muttered the name of Celine's twin. The one who was favored by the Elven Race, and showered by their love and affection. 'Both of them were people, but their circumstances were like Heaven and Earth.'

William finally understood Celine's hate-filled ramblings that day. She was looking at William, as if she was looking at her eight-years-old self.

Because the Elven Race was stronger than her, they could bully her. That was the law of the strong.

The red-headed boy sighed and thought about the days of his training. This continued until he and Kenneth passed through the doors of the Dining Hall

William sat on his usual dining table and started to eat. However, for some reason, the food that used to taste delicious, became plain and almost tasteless. Even so, William forced himself to eat. For he knew that he wouldn't be able to think straight with a hungry stomach.

He chewed the food properly and ate two servings of vegetables. When he felt that he was half full, he excused himself and left the Dining Hall to take a stroll outside the premises of the Martial Division.

William walked without any destination in mind. His mind was preoccupied with many things, and his feet moved as they pleased. As he wandered around aimlessly, a pair of soft hands suddenly covered his eyes from behind.

"Make a guess." a teasing voice whispered in his ears.

"The most beautiful girl in the Royal Academy," William replied.

"S-Since you already know who I am, there's no need for me to do this," the girl stuttered as she removed the hands that covered William's eyes.

The red-headed boy wasn't able to stop himself from grinning when he heard the familiar stuttering voice behind him. He then turned his head to look at the pretty young lady who was only half a head shorter than him.

"Sir William, what are you doing here inside the Magic Division?" Wendy inquired.

"Um?" William blinked and scanned his surroundings. He found himself in an unfamiliar place. If what Wendy said was true then he had somehow gotten past through the guards that were guarding the gates of the Magic Division.

What William didn't know was that Est had specifically ordered the guards to allow William and Kenneth to enter the premises of the Magic Division Class.

When the guards saw William walking towards the Magic Division Class, they thought that he had an appointment with Est, so they didn't bar his entry.

Wendy observed the confused Half-Elf and a mischievous smile appeared on her lips.

"Did Sir William come to check on how I'm faring?" Wendy asked. She was hoping that this was the reason for his visit. "Don't worry. I'm perfectly healthy. The clerics in the infirmary have already healed the minor bruises that I received from the dungeon."

"I-I see," William said with a stiff smile. "I'm glad that you're doing well."

Wendy lowered her gaze as a blush crept up on her face.

The two didn't notice that a few people were gathering around them. They recognized who William was because they had seen his performance during the "exchange of pointers" in the Coliseum.

Some girls even took the initiative to greet him, which made the atmosphere very lively.

"Head Prefect, did you come here to visit me?"

"Duh! Why would he visit you? Head Prefect William came here to visit me. Isn't that right, Sir William?"

The two girls were looking at William with star-struck gazes, which made Wendy feel irritated.

"Actually, I came here to visit Wendy," William said as he held Wendy's hand. "The two of us planned to exchange pointers and learn from each other. Isn't that right, Wendy?"

"Y-Yes," Wendy stuttered. "Sir William wanted to give me private lessons and train my body-- I mean, teach me some techniques in order to fine-tune my magic power."

"Unfair!"

"That's unfair, Sir William!"

"Please, train us too! We can do it in my room if you like."

"Sorry, but my hands are already full with Wendy," William apologized while trying to pry his hand away from the two girls who had grabbed his arm.

"Awww."

"If you ever get tired of teaching Wendy, feel free to find us!"

Before William and the girls could interact more, Wendy decided to drag the popular Half-Elf away from the scene. She didn't understand why she felt uncomfortable when the two pretty girls were trying to cling to William.

William, on the other hand, was very thankful for Wendy's actions. He didn't know that he had already trespassed on another Division's premises and wanted to get away from the crowd.

Wendy brought William to the back garden of the Magic Division. Not many people came here at night, so they were safe from the prying eyes of the public.

The young lady took William to her secret place in the garden. It was a place that could be accessed by moving the hand of the statue that was blocking its entrance.

The two walked for a few minutes after they entered the secret passage. William didn't know where Wendy was taking him, but he could tell that the young lady didn't have any malicious intentions. Not long after, the two emerged from the passage. The red-headed boy's eyes widened when he saw the scene in front of him.

William saw an amazing sight. Instead of a sea of flowers, he saw a still lake where an aurora borealis floated above its surface.

Several crystal butterflies fluttered above the lake's surface as their wings reflected the different colors that passed through the transparent water.

If William were to describe this place in one word, it would definitely be the word "surreal".

A sweet smile appeared on Wendy's face when she saw William's reaction. She had discovered this place by accident, and no one else knew about this secret. William was the first person she had brought to this place and seeing his amazed expression made her maiden heart skip a beat.

Chapter 162: William's Story [Part 1]

The sloshing of water could be heard as William swam in the lake. The water was so clear, and clean, that William could see the colorful glowing crystals lying at its bottom. Although the water was slightly cold, William didn't mind it.

He needed to cooldown because the thoughts whirling inside his head were giving him a headache. After swimming freely for fifteen minutes, he relaxed his body and allowed himself to float on the water's surface.

This was the first time he had felt so relaxed and at peace after he entered the Hellan Royal Academy. The red-headed boy felt so comfortable that he fell asleep while floating on the water.

Wendy, who was looking at him from the Lake shore, didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this development. She brought William to her "secret place" so that she could spend quality time with him. However, the boy was more interested in swimming in the water than talking to a pretty girl, such as herself.

"This is the first time I've seen someone sleep while floating on a lake," Wendy muttered in disbelief. 'Oh, no! He might accidentally drown if I don't do something!'

Wendy was torn. On one hand, she didn't want to disturb William's sleep, on the other, she was worried that her idol might drown if she let things continue as they were.

In the end, she gritted her teeth and decided to use her second ability.

Wendy lightly waved her hand, and the water around William rippled. Soon, the Half-Elf was slowly, but surely, being dragged to shore. Wendy was a dual affinity magician. Her strongest forte was the manipulation of metal, and the other was the control over wind.

Ironically, her Wind Affinity only allowed her to use Magic up to the First Circle. The most she could do was create wind blades and manipulate the wind to do simple tasks... like bringing a handsome Half-Elf, who was half naked, back to the shore.

William's body was quite lean and toned for his age. He didn't have any ripped muscles, but his body exuded strength and power. One could even see the outline of his abs as he floated a meter away from Wendy.

Fortunately, the boy was still wearing pants, or else, Wendy might have fainted due to embarrassment. Seeing that her idol was out of harm's way, Wendy decided to place a blanket where she sat and waited for William to wake up from his slumber.

An hour passed, and soon, William finally opened his eyes. The first thing he noticed was a slight ache on his left shoulder. When he turned his head to the side to see what was causing the discomfort, the first thing he saw was a patch of blonde hair.

He was still half-asleep, so it took him some time to realize what it was. Wendy laid beside him and her hands were clinging onto his arm. She was sleeping soundly and a smile hung on her sleeping face.

William's body immediately stiffened when he saw this scene. All his drowsiness was swept away by dread as he hurriedly inspected his body.

'My pants are still on,' William thought as he looked at his body. He then looked at Wendy. 'She still has her clothes on. Which means that nothing has happened.'

The red-headed boy patted his chest with his right hand in relief. The last thing he remembered was swimming on the lake and feeling comfortable and at peace. He also remembered that he felt drowsy while he was floating on the water.

The shepherd didn't remember anything past that point, so he assumed that Wendy decided to bring him back to shore for his own safety.

'I was careless,' William thought as he looked at the defenseless lady by his side.

Wendy was only fifteen-years-old, and yet, her body was developing in the right places. If not for the fact that William had been around his beautiful Master, Celine, for four years, he might have already ogled the sleeping beauty beside him.

William sighed as he nagged at Wendy inside his heart. The girl was so trusting of other people that he worried about her safety. If it were other boys, instead of William, Wendy might have already suffered losses due to her carelessness.

'I better remind her not to be so trusting of people, especially those of the opposite sex,' William thought as he shook his head helplessly. He then gently pried the soft hands that were holding his arm away, so that he could wear some appropriate clothes.

Wendy frowned, the moment she lost contact with William's arm, but her eyes remained closed and her breathing steady.

Right at the moment when William finished putting on his clothes, Wendy started to stir.

The pretty blonde girl raised her head and looked around her in a daze. William smiled and crouched down to look her in the eye.

"Good morning, sleeping beauty."

"Good morning, Sir William."

Wendy yawned then raised her hands to do some light stretches. She was in the middle of stretching when she realized something important.

"H-Head Prefect!" Wendy stuttered as she hurried to stand up. Due to her actions, her legs gave way and it made her fall backwards.

Fortunately, William was a step faster and supported her body to keep it from falling.

"Sorry, my bad." William apologized. "Did I scare you?"

"N-No. I was just surprised, Sir William," Wendy replied as she placed a hand over her chest in an attempt to calm the heart that was beating wildly within her body.

"Can you stand?" William inquired.

"N-No," Wendy answered. "My legs still feel weak and shaky."

"It can't be helped. Let's sit down first."

"Okay."

When both of them were properly seated, William properly thanked Wendy for bringing him back to shore. He also admitted that he did something stupid and praised her for being quick-witted.

Wendy listened to Williams' gratitude and praise with a smile on her face. She had managed to calm down and decided to use this opportunity to get to know this mysterious Half-Elf who made her heart skip a beat.

"Sir William, can you tell me more about yourself?" Wendy asked. "Are you really a shepherd? What is the name of your hometown? Do you have brothers and sisters? Do you already have a lover?"

Wendy asked a barrage of questions. She even added the question that she was most curious about at the end.

William organized his thoughts, as he prepared his answers to Wendy's inquiry. He had already noticed that Wendy was quite different from her Big Brother, Spencer.

Spencer was someone who was calm and collected, and most of his thoughts lay buried inside his chest. He would often show a face of calmness and only react when he was dealing with Drake or anything related to his twin sister.

Wendy, on the other hand, was a very straightforward person. She wore her emotions on her face and it was very easy to read what she was thinking. Even so, William didn't dislike this kind of person. He looked at her bright blue eyes that were filled with anticipation and a tinge of anxiety.

Instead of answering her question, William began to tell her about his hometown, Lont.

"I grew up in the town of Lont which is located at the farthest edge of the Western Part of the Hellan Kingdom," William said with a smile. "The life there is crude which is very typical for those who live in the countryside. Even so, it is a place that is very dear in my heart."

William paused as he looked at the aurora that was dancing on top of the lake.

"Throughout my childhood, I was always under the care of my Mama Ella, Aunt Anna, Uncle Mordred, Grandpa James, and Auntie Helen. My father is... well, it's complicated, and my mother is in a far away place."

William didn't know why he was telling Wendy these things. It was as if he was venting and letting the feelings, that had been bottling inside his chest, rise up to the surface.

"When I was a year old, my Grandpa James wrote a letter to his friend and decided to play matchmaker," William said in a helpless tone. "Surprisingly, his friend agreed to his proposal and betrothed his granddaughter, who is a year older, to me."

Wendy felt a sudden ache in her chest as her hands unconsciously clenched into fists. William didn't see this, because he didn't need to see it. The young lady sitting beside him was a straightforward person who wore her feelings on her face.

William was a hopeless romantic in his past life. He didn't take any chances, and had the courage to pursue his love until it was too late. Because of this, he was sensitive to the feelings of others to a certain extent when it came to love.

It was quite easy for him to notice that the young girl seemed to have developed a crush on him, but William was someone who had lived two lifetimes. He still hadn't gotten over his first love, Belle, and the feelings of guilt towards his Master were preventing him from taking Wendy's feelings for him seriously.

Chapter 163: William's Story [Part 2]

"Time passed by, as I lived the life of a shepherd. Although I'm very fond of sheep, I prefer the company of goats," William continued his tale. "Of course, this is due to the fact that I was raised by one, so I'm more biased towards goats compared to the other animals that we cared for. Then it happened..."

"When I was ten years old, my Fiance, along with her Mother, and Master visited Lont to see me. My fiance is very cute. She was like a little fairy who had come out of a picture book in order to spread happiness to the world. Sadly, her visit was not a joyous one."

William snorted as he picked up a pebble beside him and threw it at the lake. The surface of the lake rippled as the pebble sank to its bottom. Soon, the lake became still again as if nothing had happened.

Seeing that William was lost in his thoughts, Wendy decided to wait for him to continue his tale. She wanted to know more about William's fiance. She wanted to know who she was. She wanted to know it so badly!

Only two minutes passed, but for Wendy, it felt like eternity. William ended his silence with a sigh and continued his tale.

"The reason for their visit was to see me and also to break the engagement," William said casually. "Personally, I didn't really care about the marriage agreement because I know that these kinds of agreements usually have a bad ending. In fact, I was ready to cancel it anytime if my partner wished to do so."

"However, my Fiance's mother couldn't wait to do it and decided to take matters into her own hands. And that was the day when my Fiance, the so-called genius, who is only seen every two hundred years, appeared in my life. Her name is Rebecca Fae Griffith. The only daughter of the current Duke of Griffith."

"Rebecca?!" Wendy gasped. "Your fiance is Rebecca?!"

"Do you know her?" William asked.

"She's a good friend of mine," Wendy answered with a downcast expression. "Our lands border each other's and our families have a very good relationship."

Wendy felt depressed. Rebecca was her good friend, and the two treated each other like sisters. Knowing that William was her friend's fiance, Wendy felt that her world had lost all its colors. If William had been engaged to a different girl then Wendy wouldn't think much about it.

However, Rebecca was different. Wendy had looked up to her because Rebecca was beautiful and talented. If the two of them were to stand side by side, Rebecca would be like the sun, and Wendy would only be the moon in the background. Forever overshadowed by her friend's radiance and not being able to contest Rebecca's might.

As Wendy was feeling helpless, William continued his tale whether she was listening or not.

"Our meeting should have been a happy one, but like I said, it wasn't a joyous occasion," William stated. "The reason for their visit was to cancel the marriage agreement."

"Huh?!" Wendy raised her head and looked at William in disbelief. "They wanted to cancel the agreement?"

"Yes." William nodded his head. "Apparently, Rebecca's mother, Lady Agatha, and her Master, an elder of the Misty Sect, Lady Eleanor, didn't want Rebecca to marry a poor and dirty shepherd."

William closed his eyes as he remembered the scene that happened many years ago. "In the end, I decided to agree to the cancellation of the marriage. Like I said, I'm not really fond of arranged marriages and my fiance seemed to not have any interest in me as well.

"I even think that it was for the best that both of us parted ways. Although, now, she is only my fiance in name, I don't want her to suffer her whole life just because of a forced marriage."

William then gazed at Wendy with an arrogant look. "Tell me, do I look like someone who will find it hard to find a wife?"

Wendy shook her head. "Someone as amazing as Sir William will definitely not have any problem finding a wife. I even think that it would not be impossible for Sir William to have many wives..."

William smiled and nodded his head. "This is the truth. Someone as handsome and awesome as me will not find it hard to find a wife. Since that is the case, why should I allow myself to be bound by an arranged marriage? Also, I am too good and too handsome to become Rebecca's husband. If I marry her, the one losing out would be me!"

William said it in a very dignified manner that Wendy found it very funny. She wasn't able to stop herself from giggling when she saw William's dignified expression.

"And so our marriage agreement came to an end... or so I thought."

"Eh? It didn't end there?"

"Well, it's a bit complicated," William frowned as he explained. "After the nobles, and the army, repelled the Monster Tide that ravaged the Western Part of the Kingdom, Rebecca's grandfather, Lawrence Fox Griffith, visited Lont dragging his granddaughter, Lady Agatha, Lady Eleanor, and a group of disciples from the Misty Sect along.

"His aim was to 'fix' the misunderstanding that had happened and to convince Rebecca and I to push through with the marriage agreement."

"Oh, no!" Wendy voiced her thoughts out loud. When she realized what she did, she hurriedly covered her mouth with both hands.

William chuckled when he saw the pretty girl act this way and found it very cute. "Right, it was an 'Oh, no!' moment."

Wendy pouted and pounded William's chest to hide her embarrassment.

William only smiled as he caught her hands and shook his head with a smile. He then resumed his tale while feeling light-hearted.

"Although I can't say it for certain, during that time, Rebecca and I unanimously agreed to end the marriage agreement that was made when we were still practically babies. For the two of us, it was an unfair deal. However, we still needed to give both of our grandparents some face, so we decided to be more civil during the meeting.

"In the end, the old fox, I mean, Sir Lawrence decided to compromise and gave us a condition. He said that Rebecca and I were going to have a duel in seven years, and the winner can demand anything from the loser. The battle will take place at the peak of the Misty Sect."

William shook his head helplessly. "Perhaps, the old fox didn't want Rebecca to be used as a political tool by her parents while she was still young, so he decided to use me and the duel to give her time to become strong enough to make her own decisions.

"I, on the other hand, wanted to give my Gramps some face, since he was the one who made the proposal to make Rebecca my fiancée. If I remember correctly, the Misty Sect here in the Hellan Kingdom is only a branch sect. The Main Sect is located in the Central Continent. That means that in three more years, I will need to fight Rebecca on her home turf."

Wendy felt conflicted as she looked at William's expression.

"Will you go?"

"I need to go. I must personally end the thing that my Grandfather started."

"You said that the winner can order the loser to do anything, right?" Wendy inquired. "If you win, what kind of order will you give to Rebecca?"

"I haven't really thought that far," William admitted. "Because there are still three years before our fateful battle, I'll just cross that bridge once I get there."

"Do you plan to make her your wife?"

"No."

William answered firmly and resolutely. "What's the point in making her my wife if she is unwilling? Also, I don't want to force anyone to become my wife. This goes against my principles."

A carefree smile appeared on the shepherd's face which proved that he wasn't lying.

"Does this mean I still have a chance?" Wendy asked.

William's smile stiffened. He didn't know that Wendy was this determined to pursue him. This was the first time that someone confessed to him in both his lifetimes and it made him feel complicated.

On one hand, Wendy was a very pretty girl. Although she wasn't as beautiful as Rebecca, she wasn't that far off. Also, her personality was something that William couldn't hate. Straightforward and true to her feelings. William could feel the girl's determination as she gazed straight into his eyes.

"H-How about we start as friends first?" William felt that he wasn't really ready to accept her feelings. He didn't want to be irresponsible and say "Yes" when he still had lingering attachments to Belle. William felt that it would be unfair to Wendy if he went about their relationship halfheartedly.

'I'm sorry,' William said inside his heart. 'I don't want to hurt you due to my indecisiveness.'

He hoped that Wendy would give up on him, but he really had underestimated the girl's resolve.

Wendy smiled and nodded her head. "I think that starting as friends is good, too."

"Will," William said as he stretched out his hand for a handshake. "Just call me Will. If you want me to be your friend, stop calling me Sir William. Or, do you really not want me to be your friend?"

"Please stop teasing me, Sir... I mean, Will."

"Mmm. That's better."

Ironically, both of them giggled at the same time. They felt that what they were doing was quite childish and yet, both of them felt relief. It was as if a stone had dropped down from their hearts and they could finally breathe normally again.

William was about to say something, however, he heard the familiar sound of the system's notification. Immediately he checked his status page and almost spat blood when he read the contents of the message.

< Ding! >

< Congratulations! You have acquired a Special Title! >

< Title Name: Friendzoned >

< Friendzoned >

"I came, I saw, got Friendzoned!"

-- Increase Vitality +5

-- Increase the attack power of your friends by 20%

-- When you equip this title, all the ladies within 100 meters of you will treat you as a "Friend".

-- This title has no effect on men.

Chapter 164: Can't Friends Hold Hands?

William cursed internally and hurriedly called out the system for an explanation.

'System! What is the meaning of this?!'

< Host, I don't understand your question. Can you please clarify? >

'I'm talking about this new title I acquired!' William's face darkened as he talked to the system. 'What's the meaning of this Friendzoned?!'

< ... Host, do you not understand something as simple as this? You just got Friendzoned. >

'@%#\$%#&^#*&!' William cursed at the system. 'Excuse me? I didn't get Friendzoned! I was the one confessed to and the one who told her to become friends! Are you blind?!'

< Then host, tell me, what is your relationship with Wendy right now? >

'We're friends!'

< See? You just got Friendzoned. >

'What kind of logic is this?!' William roared. 'Hello? I demand a title revision! Change the title. At least change it to something more fitting!'

< Sorry. I am unable to process the Host's request. It is not within my authority to bypass the awarding of Special Titles. >

'T-Then who should I talk to? I can't accept this!'

< Just give it up host. A special title is not easy to acquire. You should be happy to acquire such a rare and powerful title. If you equip this title, the power of friendship will multiply!'

'Fck you and the power of friendship!' William's body was shaking out of anger and shame.

Wendy thought that she had said something wrong because William was acting strangely. She then became teary-eyed thinking that it was her fault.

< Host! Hold your temper! You are scaring the young lady! >

'I'll deal with you later. You'd better wash your neck!'

William took a few deep breaths in order to calm himself. When he regained his calm, he looked at Wendy apologetically.

"I'm sorry, I have an ailment that appears from time to time," William explained as he coaxed the teary-eyed girl. "It's not your fault. It is something that has followed me since I was born."

"A congenital illness?"

"Yes. something like that. I'm sorry, did I scare you?"

"A little bit." Wendy wasn't the type to lie so she said her feelings upfront.

"Then how about I make it up to you?" William smiled. "You can order me to do one thing. However, this order mustn't harm anyone physically, emotionally, and spiritually. As long as it is within my ability, I will do it.'

"Really? I can give you any order?"

"Yes. as long as you don't command me to hurt other people, and it is within my ability, I will do it."

"Okay," Wendy smiled. "T-Tomorrow, let's have lunch together."

"Deal." William nodded his head.

"Then, I'll wait for you at the gates of the Magic Division Class."

"Don't worry, I'll be there. Ah, can I also bring Mama Ella with me?"

"Of course," Wendy agreed.

The two left the secret place holding hand in hand because Wendy didn't want to let go of William's hand.

As the two walked towards the gate of the Magic Division, three figures appeared to block their way.

"It seems that Head Prefect William likes to sneak around the Magic Division," Est said with a smile. However, his eyes were locked on Wendy's hand that was holding onto William's.

Seeing Est's gaze, Wendy immediately let go of William's hand in embarrassment. A blush appeared on her face as she hid behind William like a child that had done something wrong.

"Hoh~ what's this?" Ian asked. "Is Head Prefect William planning to 'poach' the talents of our Magic Division? You sure have guts."

William lightly coughed as he looked at Est and Ian who seemed like they wanted to want to eat him alive.

"Um, about this, I can explain," William replied. "I was randomly walking without a destination in mind and suddenly found myself inside the Magic Division. Wendy saw me and she decided to take me for a stroll inside the Magic Division."

"I see, a stroll." Est nodded his head. "Then where did the two of you go? I was immediately notified when you came to the Magic Division, but when I came to find you, you were nowhere to be found."

Ian wasn't willing to let the matter drop either, so he fanned the flames while sneering at William. "We asked around, but none of the students had seen you and Wendy. Where did the two of you go? Are you perhaps doing something 'inappropriate' inside our Magic Division?"

William frowned. He could tell that Est and Ian were upset, and he assumed that it was due to the fact that they didn't find him when they came out to look for him. The red-headed boy knew that he couldn't tell them about Wendy's secret place, so he decided to speak half truths.

"Wendy and I went to the garden to talk," William explained. "I told her about Lont and the things that happened during my childhood."

"Is that so?" Est narrowed his eyes. "Then why were the two of you holding hands?"

"Can't friends hold hands?" William chuckled as he moved forward and held Est's hand. "See, if you want, I can hold your hand anytime you want."

Est looked at the boy's hand, holding his own, and his anger subsided a bit. Even so, he felt that something wasn't right, so he didn't let him go completely. He gave an eye signal to Ian and the latter nodded his head in understanding.

"Wendy, as officers of the Magic Division, it is our duty to ensure the safety of our members," Ian stated. "Although Head Prefect William is our friend, he is still from the Martial Class Division. Can you tell us what the two of you talked about? Did he perhaps inquire about the secrets of our Magic Division Class?"

"No! Will didn't ask me anything related to the Magic Division Class," Wendy answered. "It was me who asked him questions and not the other way around."

"Will?" Ian gave William a side-long glance. "Since when did the two of you get close?"

Ian wasn't stupid. He clearly remembered that Wendy referred to William as Head Prefect William or Sir William. The sudden intimacy between the two alarmed him.

Est also frowned when he heard Wendy's words. He looked at William as if he was looking at his husband whom he personally caught cheating on him.

William sighed as he scratched his head. "What's wrong with that? Didn't I also ask you guys to call me Will? Even though I already told you to call me by that name, you still call me William. This makes me very sad."

William was getting confused because Est and Ian were really acting quite strangely. He didn't want to make things difficult for Wendy so he decided to leave before things escalated any further.

"I'll be going now," William announced. "Wendy, I'm looking forward to having lunch with you tomorrow."

"Un! See you tomorrow, Will," Wendy waved her hand.

"See you tomorrow," William waved back and left the Magic Division in haste. He felt that if he stayed a minute longer, something terrible would happen.

After William disappeared from their sights, Est and Ian decided to have a "friendly" talk with Wendy and make her spill the beans.

"Where did you go?" Kenneth asked the moment William entered their dormitory room. He then sniffed the air and gave William a weird look. "Did you meet up with a girl?"

"Yes," William replied as he sat down on his bed and hugged his Mama Ella. "I somehow ended up in the Magic Division and met Wendy."

"I see." Kenneth didn't inquire any further and lay on the bed to sleep. "Goodnight."

"Goodnight." William kissed the side of Ella's face before laying down on the bed. The Angorian Goat also laid down beside William and closed her eyes to sleep.

She didn't need to question her baby where he went or who he met. For her it wasn't important. What was important was that William was safe and he was by her side.

It didn't take long for William to fall asleep. His heart to heart talk with Wendy had helped him get over the haze that had clouded his mind. Although he was

still feeling guilty in regards to his Master, Celine, this was a matter that he couldn't do anything about at this point in time.

William had vowed to have a heart to heart talk with Celine and apologize for the ill feelings that he had kept inside his heart during the first weeks of his training. He was not a Saint. He felt betrayed when Celine forced him to become her slave without his consent.

Even though it worked out in the end, the lingering negative feelings had buried themselves deep within his heart. Although William had buried these feelings until the time came that he could pay her back, these feelings had resurfaced to connect to the new feelings he felt when he heard Celine's tale from Simon.

He knew that he and Celine needed to sit down and have a talk. As Master and Disciple, some things must be made clear with each other. William firmly believed this and he hoped that he, and his Master, Celine, would be able to form a "True" Master and Disciple relationship that would stand the test of time.

Chapter 165: State Of Emergency

That night, in different places in the Hellan Kingdom, several groups of men infiltrated many Low to High-Grade dungeons. They purposefully chose the dungeons that were close to villages and towns.

No one knew their motive, nor what organization they belonged to. They used the darkness to hide their tracks and slipped away under the light of starlight.

When William arrived at the meeting place with his Mama Ella, he was surprised to find Est, Ian, and Isaac, waiting for him along with Wendy. The red-headed boy didn't think much about it because all that were present were his friends, except the snot-nosed-pansy Ian.

"Well then, shall we go?" Wendy smiled and grabbed hold of William's hand. She then led the way to the picnic area with a smile on her face.

Est and Ian frowned, but they didn't say anything and followed behind the pair who were chatting happily in front of them.

When they arrived at the location, Wendy summoned a blanket and laid it on the ground. The spot she had chosen was a clearing beside a river where one could admire the natural beauty around them.

William sighed and thought that the Magic Division had so many good things, compared to his own Martial Division. Isaac set down the basket he was carrying and took out the sandwiches that he had prepared for their "lunch picnic".

Wendy had also been holding a basket and inside it was roasted chicken, sandwiches, fruits, salads, and ham, that she had taken from the Dining Kitchen.

It was a pretty unusual combination of foods, but William wasn't a picky eater. He happily ate a little bit of everything, even the roasted chicken and ham. After the meal, Est decided to ask William if he had any plans for the rest of the week.

"My plans?" William crossed his arms over his chest as he pondered for a while. "I don't have any particular plans this week, aside from training the First Years. Why? Do you need me to accompany you somewhere?"

"Actually, I planned to ask you about our next dungeon expedition," Est said with a serious expression. "Since the Goblin Crypt is currently under investigation, it would be best to find a different dungeon to go to. Do you have any recommendations?"

"No. I'll leave the decision in your hands."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes." William nodded his head. The only reason why he chose the Goblin Crypt was to investigate the differences between his version and the real one. Although he wasn't able to make a full comparison, the circumstances couldn't be helped.

"Okay. I'll pick a good dungeon to resu---" Est wasn't able to finish his sentence because the emblem on his uniform started to send out an alarm.

The emblem pinned on William's uniform did the same and the two Head Prefects exchanged a glance with a serious expression.

"Let's put off our talk for now," William said as he stood up. "The Dean of the Academy is calling for us. Est and I have to go."

"Ian, Isaac, help Wendy tidy up this place and wait for me in our dormitory room," Est ordered. "Will, let's go."

William nodded his head and sprinted with Est towards the Academy's Conference Room. This was the place where matters of great importance were discussed by the Dean and the student body of the academy.

When Est and William arrived at their destination, the other Head Prefects--along with their Vice-Prefects--were already waiting outside the Conference Room.

Priscilla had arrived earlier and was only waiting for William to appear. She immediately walked towards William and stood behind him, as per her rank as Vice-Prefect.

Naturally, the Vice-Prefect of the First Year Magic Division, Edward, who lost to Priscilla in their duel, was also there and stood behind Est.

When the last officers of each grade arrived, the door to the Conference Room finally opened.

Inside, the Dean and the instructors of the academy were all seated in their designated places. Simon had a serious expression on his face which meant that something big had happened. The Dean asked the students to take their seats in order to start the meeting.

"Thank you everyone for coming on such short notice," Simon said. "What I am about to tell you is of grave importance and the sooner the student body mobilizes, the sooner we can assist the Kingdom in facing a threat that has caught us unprepared."

Simon waved his hand and a projection of the territory of the Hellan Kingdom floated in the center of the conference room.

There were red dots blinking on the map and there were more than twenty of them. William came from the countryside, so he wasn't familiar with the places where the red dots were blinking.

However, those who did recognize them kept their mouth shut and waited for Simon to continue his explanation.

"For some unknown reason, all of these dungeons have shown signs of being corrupted. Miasma is leaking out of their entrances which means that a drastic change is happening inside the dungeons.

"According to the Kingdom's investigators, and our own investigators, the level of miasma that is being released from the dungeon is a sign that a Dungeon Outbreak is about to happen."

'A dungeon outbreak? System, do you know what a dungeon outbreak is?' William inquired.

< To answer the host's question, a dungeon outbreak is when a dungeon reaches a point where it spawns monsters at an alarming rate. This makes it impossible for the dungeon to shelter these monsters and forces them to go outside of the dungeon in order to find other places to live. >

'So, it is similar to a Beast Tide?'

< In essence, yes. However, there is a big difference between the two. Once a dungeon outbreak occurs, the dungeon won't stop reproducing monsters until the dungeon cores are destroyed. Unlike a Beast Tide, where the number of monsters is finite. The monsters that the Dungeon Outbreak spawns are infinite. If left unchecked, an army of more than a million can easily be produced in less than two weeks. >

After William understood the severity of the Dungeon Outbreak, he focused his attention on listening to Simon's explanation.

"Currently, the kingdom is still recovering from the effects of the Beast Tide," Simon said with a grim expression. "There is not enough manpower to handle the dungeons that are about to unleash a horde of dungeon monsters into the kingdom's populated areas.

"Because of this, the king has declared a State of Emergency and ordered the various training institutions in the Kingdom to send their students to help form a defensive line to help protect, and evacuate the citizens. Also, if there is a chance, they can also help with subjugating the dungeon using force."

Simon paused for a while before continuing his explanation.

"The King had already issued the Kingdom's army to go to the various affected areas to perform the clearing and rescue operations. We have been tasked to handle the four dungeons that are within the range of our teleport gates and keep the populace safe from harm.

"Naturally, all the dungeons have different threat levels, so we are going to assign each grade to protect a territory according to its rank."

Simon pointed at the map and one of the places where a red dot was blinking zoomed in.

"The First Years will handle the Roaring Quarters, which is situated in Dawsbury. The Second Years will be going to the Tranquil Crypt that is found in Westwend," Simon stated. "The Third Years will go to the Forsaken Catacombs at Rotherham. As for the Fourth Years... they will go to the Lair of the Ancient Queen in Aberdeen.

"This is an emergency commission from the King of the Hellan Kingdom. All students that are currently inside the academy must participate. There are no exceptions! Don't worry. Your professors will also come with you to protect all of you to the best of their abilities."

Simon scanned the room and looked at the faces of the children who were looking back at him with grim expressions. The Dean of the Academy sighed because he knew that this was the King's last resort in order to handle the latest threat that had fallen upon their kingdom.

"No matter what happens, you must prioritize your safety," Simon said in a firm manner. "If the situation cannot be resolved, all of you must immediately make a tactical retreat. If possible, it is my hope that we will not suffer any casualties in this deployment, but our manpower is stretched thin. I can only ask all of you to do your best and return to the academy alive."

Simon sat on his chair, feeling tired and exhausted, but he needed to issue his final orders in order to ensure that everyone understood the severity of the situation.

"Instructors, make sure to stockpile potions, healing salves, and elixirs. The warehouse of the academy will be opened for all of you. I hope that you will do your duties and lead the children to the best of your abilities. You may all go and prepare the necessary items that you will be needing to complete your mission. Make sure that all of you return alive!"

"Yes, Sir!"

William, along with Priscilla, immediately headed towards the Solaris Dormitory to tell everyone about the emergency mission assigned to them. William had already faced two Beast Tides in his lifetime.

Although he didn't have his powers right now, he was confident that he could retreat safely if need be. However, right now, he was the Head Prefect of the First Year Martial Class. He couldn't run away and leave the students behind.

William understood that the possibility of dying on this mission was very high. Fortunately, before the meeting ended, Simon said that if there were students who didn't want to participate in the mission, they could just stay inside the academy for their own safety.

William vowed that he would do his best to ensure that none of his wards died in this battle. He remembered when his herd of fifty goats faced-off against hundreds of Dire-Wolves. Out of the fifty goats that he had raised with love, only thirteen remained.

Although many years had passed since that incident, William could still remember that day very clearly. He didn't want the same thing to happen to the students under his command, and for that, he needed to make his own preparations.

After he had relayed the news to the others, he left the students under Priscilla's care and disappeared from the Solaris Dormitory.

When he reappeared in the Martial Division, it was morning and everyone was already waiting for him to lead them into the teleport gates bound for the Roaring Quarters, situated in the town called Dawsbury.

Chapter 166: Dungeon Outbreak [Part 1]

"This is terrible," one of the First Years muttered as they looked at the devastation around them. The walls of the small town were barely standing and many of the local people were badly injured.

The members of the Spirit and Magic Divisions, who excelled in healing magic, went to attend the injured people. Those who specialized in Earth Magic hurriedly repaired and reinforced the town walls.

The captain of the guards that were guarding Dawsbury, was currently talking to Grent, Layla, and a woman with reddish brown hair, who seemed to be the Head Instructor of the First Year Spirit Division.

According to the captain, they barely managed to repel the first wave of the Dungeon Outbreak. Only Class E and Class D monsters had emerged from the dungeon, but their numbers were staggering.

(A/N: A quick recap on the classes of the High-Tier Beasts. Centennial Beasts (Class S), Millennial Beasts (Class SS), Myriad Beasts (Class SSR), and the final class is Calamity Class Beasts. Calamities are just a step away or already in the stage of a Demigod.)

Grent, Layla, and the woman with reddish brown hair, Miranda, nodded their heads in understanding. This was a common phase during a Dungeon Outbreak and veterans already knew what to expect.

Usually, during an outbreak, the people in the towns would immediately be evacuated while the Kingdom's army would be dispatched to subjugate the dungeon and destroy its core. However, the Hellan Kingdom was still recovering from the Beast Tide that happened four years ago.

Many strong fighters had died to protect the kingdom and four years was not enough to fill their ranks again. Although many new recruits had joined the kingdom's army after the Beast Tide, they were still lacking in battle experience.

These new recruits were the same people that were dispatched to protect the town of Dawsbury from the Dungeon Outbreak.

"I estimate that the next wave will happen in four hours, perhaps even sooner," the captain reported. "How do we proceed from here?"

The captain had already been briefed that reinforcements from the Royal Academy would be sent to assist them. However, he was disappointed when he saw that the ones who came to support them were only First Year Students and their instructors.

The three heads of the different divisions could easily read the captain's thoughts through his body language. But, they pretended not to notice. This was not the time for internal conflict and the most important matter was to decide on their next course of action.

"We will resist the second wave while using the town's defenses," Grent stated. "After that, the instructors will head inside the dungeon in order to destroy the Dungeon Core. How many floors does this dungeon have?"

"Twenty Floors," the Guard Captain replied. "Most of the monsters inside it are a combination of dog and flying type monsters. However, there is one big problem. The monsters we fought earlier have a bit of miasma inside them. I'm afraid that, in the next wave, the miasma inside their bodies will be more potent than the last wave.

The expressions of the three instructors immediately became serious. Miasma was a poisonous mist that was usually found in the forbidden areas of the continent. According to the scholars, long exposure to miasma would create negative side effects in the body.

Depending on its level of toxicity, miasma was known to corrupt the minds of people and bring out their powerful negative emotions. Once these emotions took hold of their body, they would enter a state similar to the berserked state where they wouldn't be able to differentiate between friend and foe.

In this state, they would be more like feral beasts whose only purpose was to destroy until they breathed their last breath. Corruption from miasma could be treated in the early stages, however, if treatment was not administered in time, the will of the infected person or beast would corrode.

This would continue until they lost their former selves and became mindless beasts.

"This is bad, the children may not be able to handle miasma poisoning," Layla frowned. "What should we do?"

"Spirit users are more resistant to miasma. However, long exposure to it will still corrode our minds," Miranda commented. "Although I have students who can cure miasma poisoning, they won't be enough to tend to all the First Years before they run out of Spirit Power."

Grent crossed his arms over his chest as he pondered their next course of action. After an hour of brainstorming, a plan was finally formulated.

All the children would stay inside the town and help resist the Dungeon Outbreak from the safety of its walls. The magicians, archers, and spirit users, would use long range attacks to whittle down their numbers.

If any monsters managed to get past their bombardment, the martial classes would defend the walls and repel the advancing monsters. The magicians and spirit users would then play the role of support from behind.

Those who were starting to feel faint from miasma poisoning would immediately be taken to the rear of the defenders where the healers would tend to the miasma that had invaded their bodies.

All the students were briefed of the plan and immediately went to their designated positions. William, and the archers of the Martial Class, stood on the town's walls and looked in the direction where a black mist was rising up into the air.

According to the captain, that was where the Roaring Quarters dungeon was located.

Est stood beside him along with the bulk of the Magic Division Classes. A quarter of the Spirit Division was in the rear responsible for healing, and the rest were on top of the walls looking in the direction of the dungeon with bated breaths.

The students numbered less than a thousand, and the professors that came along with them only numbered in the thirties. If you added the kingdom's army that had been dispatched to the scene, their combined forces amounted to less than 1,400 people.

"This is like the calm before the storm," Est said as he looked in the distance. "You told me in the past that Lont had experienced two Beast Tides. You were also present in both of them. Based on what you have experienced, what are our chances against a Beast Tide with our current forces?"

The other students who heard Est's question were shocked when they heard that William participated in a battle against the Beast Tide. The majority of them didn't believe Est's claim and looked at William in disdain.

The Beast Tide happened four years ago, and William was only fourteen years old. That meant that during the monster tide, he was only ten years old. How could a ten year old possibly participate in a battle of that magnitude?

William wasn't aware of their malicious looks filled with disdain because he was busy reminiscing about the past. He didn't know how strong the instructors were, but he liked to believe that the majority of them were capable of facing off against Class B and Class A Beasts on their own.

Because if they were unable to do that then their chances of surviving this battle were close to zero.

"This force may be enough to contend against a Beast Tide," William replied after careful consideration. This was on the condition that the students were only going to fight against the small fries, and let the instructors fight against the stronger opponents.

If the instructors were not strong enough to turn the tide of battle then the end game would result in their complete annihilation.

"However, we are not facing a Beast Tide, but a Dungeon Outbreak." William made sure that he made this point across. "This is my first time participating in this kind of battle, so I can't compare the magnitude of the enemy's forces with what I have experienced in the past. Also, we are dealing with monsters infected with miasma. This will definitely not be an easy battle."

Est nodded his head in understanding. To be honest, Est felt safer when he was standing beside William than standing beside any of the instructors. For some reason, he thought that everything would be fine if William was around.

This kind of mentality had been born inside the Trial of Courage where he fought side by side with the red-headed-boy and defeated an enemy whom he had deemed impossible to kill.

Most of the students were feeling anxious, but he was not. Est glanced at the young boy who had created a miracle for him, and prayed that he would be safe in the battle against the upcoming Dungeon Outbreak.

"Meeeeeeeeeeh!" Ella bleated as her ears perked up.

"Everyone get ready," William said as he nocked an arrow to his bow. "The monsters are on their way. Archers load your arrows!"

"Magicians, start chanting your spells!" Est ordered.

The archers under William followed their Head Prefect without a question, while the magicians reluctantly chanted their spells. The Spirit Division Class didn't do anything because they couldn't see anything from their vantage point.

The Head Prefect and Vice-Prefect of the Spirit Division thought that William was only joking with them, so they decided to ignore his words and didn't instruct those under them to prepare their long range spells.

They were waiting for William to make a fool of himself and see the consequences of his stupidity.

It was at that moment when they felt the ground tremble as if a minor earthquake was happening. From the mouth of the dungeon, a black tide burst forth en masse. Roars of beasts and the shrieks of flying beasts reverberated in the air as they charged towards the town of Dawsbury with the intention of trampling it to the ground.

"Start chanting your long range spells!" the Head Prefect of the Spirit Division Class cried out in panic.

"Archers, take aim!" William ordered as he pulled the string of his bow to the fullest. He watched and waited until the monsters reached their strike range. The moment the first wave had passed the mark, William immediately ordered them to attack.

"Open Fire!" William roared as his arrow flew straight and true towards the head of a two-meter tall dog-type monster.

The sound of the wind whistling echoed above the town's wall as hundreds of arrows rained on the monsters. Not long after, the long range magic attacks of the magicians joined the downpour and decimated all the creatures in their path.

This was how the battle began and no one knew what the ending would be.

Chapter 167: Dungeon Outbreak [Part 2]

When the archers were almost out of arrows, and the magicians were almost out of magic power, William and Est immediately ordered for the next teams to take their place.

The archers who had run out of arrows, immediately went to the rear to restock on ammunition, while the magicians retreated in order to drink potions to replenish their magic power. William and Est made several teams to alternate between attack and retreat because they knew that they couldn't afford to exhaust all their manpower through continuous fighting.

The only problem was the Spirit Division. The Head Prefect and the Vice-Prefect were inexperienced in large-scale battles and pooled all of their fighting power together. They didn't think about forming teams to alternate between attack and recovery because they thought that they could wipe out the enemies with their superior fire power.

Although their initial offensive barrage was impressive in the first few minutes, they ran out of juice just past the ten-minute mark. This sudden lull in the attack created a gap for the monsters to break through the bombardment of ranged attacks from the defenders.

"Shift to close combat fighting!" William ordered as he took away his bow and summoned his staff. The monsters had now reached the Town Walls and some of them had already started to scale it.

The archers backed down and allowed the experts in close combat to defend the town walls together with William. However, they didn't run away completely.

Earlier, the Earth Element Magicians had created watchtowers at the back of the town walls that the archers could use in the case that the town walls had been breached. William had assigned Priscilla to take full command of the archers once they initiated Plan B.

The red-headed-boy knew that his Vice-Prefect wouldn't let him down, so he focused his attention on defending the walls from being overrun by the dungeon monsters.

< Exp Gained: 1 >

< Exp Gained: 1 >

< Exp Gained: 1 >

< Exp Gained: 1 >

< Exp Gained: 1 >

A series of notifications flooded William's status screen as the battle raged on. The system had explained earlier the reason why he was getting very low experience points after killing a monster.

It was all due to the miasma. In order to prevent the miasma from affecting William's body, the system decided to "purify" the experience points, which led to William being immune from the miasma even though he was killing the monsters at close quarters.

Unfortunately, the same couldn't be said for the rest of the Martial Class.

William had assigned the system to monitor the students within 200 meters of him. This was the maximum limit that the system could observe under such dire conditions. When signs of miasma poisoning were detected, William would immediately order that person to return to the rear to receive treatment from the Clerics.

The same could be said for the Magicians. Since William was fighting side by side with Est, the red-headed boy would report to his friend the members of the Magic Division that were currently affected by miasma poisoning.

The creatures that came out from the dungeon were a combination of Class E, D, and C monsters.

William had used his appraisal skill earlier and identified the enemies that they were facing.

< Mornteeth >

-- Corrupted Dungeon Creature

-- Threat Level: E

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- A Black Dog that has been thoroughly corrupted by miasma and only seeks to end the life of others.

< Ashteeth >

-- Corrupted Dungeon Creature

-- Threat Level: D

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- This Gray Dog is the next form of Mornteeth. It is very agile and capable of jumping as high as six meters in the air. Its fangs contain a paralyzing poison that would render its victim helpless once bitten.

< Jagged Hunter >

-- Corrupted Flying Dungeon Creature

-- Threat Level: D

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- A Bird of Prey that has a wingspan of 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) and is capable of performing complex aerial maneuvers when hunting for food. Its sharp talons and beak are its most deadly weapons.

< Spiteseeker >

-- Corrupted Flying Dungeon Creature

-- Threat Level: C

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- A Bird of Prey that is capable of using Wind Magic to decimate its enemy from high above the ground. It has a wingspan of 3 meters (9.8 feet) that is able to create gusts of wind to blow away the enemies that block its way.

The instructors of the Magic and Spirit Divisions were busy fighting against the flying creatures that were trying to scatter their formation from above.

There were over two dozen Spite Seekers that were circling above the skies of Dawsbury, and the instructors were making sure that none of their attacks landed on the children.

The Martial Class Instructors, on the other hand, were helping the students on the wall resist the monsters who were trying to climb up the walls in order to overwhelm the defenders.

With every minute that passed, more and more students were forced to leave the walls in order to be treated from miasma poisoning. The clerics on the rear were working non-stop to remove the effect of the miasma that had seeped inside the bodies of the defenders.

Those who had finished their treatment would immediately rejoin their comrades in order to resist the Dungeon Outbreak.

"Gaaaaah!" a martial student cried out in pain as an Ashteeth bit his arm and injected a paralyzing poison in his body. It was about to finish off the boy when an Angorian Goat charged in and sent it flying off the walls with blood gushing out of its sides.

"Meeeeh!" Ella roared a warcry as it charged at three Morntheeth who had successfully jumped over the wall while using their comrades' bodies as leverage. Three howls of pain followed as these three beasts were killed by Ella, one after another.

William had ordered her to assist the students on the wall and help them if needed be. Although she was reluctant to leave her baby's side, she still followed his orders.

The red-headed boy swung his wooden staff and smashed the heads of the two Mornteeth in front of him in rapid succession.

William then stepped aside, to allow Est's sword to pierce through the skull of the monster that tried to attack him from the side. The two boys once again stood back to back as they defended their position on the wall, killing the beasts that had managed to bypass the defenses.

"Est, go back," William said in a serious tone. "You had[have] been soaking in miasma since the walls were breached. Go get treated, now."

Est slashed at another Mornteeth before giving his reply. "If I leave, you will not be able to hold this position for long."

"Don't worry, I can manage until you return." William swung his staff at an Ashteeth sending it flying outside the town wall. "Go. hurry! The more time you waste, the more dangerous your situation will be."

Est gritted his teeth, but he still nodded his head in acknowledgement. He was starting to feel light-headed, and he knew that it was a sign that his body was nearing its limit in resisting the miasma inside his body.

"Don't die until I return!" Est shouted as he ran towards the rear of the town where the clerics and the injured students were located.

"I'm too young and too handsome to die," William replied without turning his head. "I'll be here when you return."

Hearing William's narcissistic reply, Est felt more assured in leaving him alone to defend their position.

When Est arrived at the make-shift infirmary, most of the clerics and spirit healers had pale faces. Most of them had reached their limits as they squeezed out every bit of their magic to tend to everyone's injuries.

Some of the students received serious injuries because the flying Birds of Prey that flew above the town had sneak attacked them from the sky. Fortunately, they were yet to have any casualties on their side, which made Est feel a little better about their condition.

He patiently waited to be treated while worrying about William who was defending their position on his own.

'Will, please, stay strong,' Est prayed inside his heart. 'I'll return as soon as I can!'

William gritted his teeth as he swung his wooden staff left and right. He didn't know how long he had been fighting, but his arms were already starting to get sore. As he gazed at the sea of monsters outside the town walls who seemed to have no end in sight, he finally realized how deadly a Dungeon Outbreak could be.

Chapter 168: Don't Worry. I'll Keep Your Little Prince Safe

A beautiful lady with purple hair sipped her coffee as she lazily gazed outside her window. Her gold-rimmed glasses were there to prevent others from getting charmed by her light-purple eyes, that would send any man to his knees to grovel at her feet.

"Mistress, the organization had made their move," Oliver reported.

"Is that so?" Celine's beautiful eyes looked at the scenery outside her window as if she didn't care for anything in the world. "I wonder... will our Little Will be dragged into this mess?"

"According to the report I gathered, the Royal Academy was forced to send its students to help defend the towns near its territory," Oliver reported. "Ezio has also sent a notice that William was sent to take part in the defense of the town of Dawsbury."

"Mmm." Celine hummed as she placed her coffee cup on top of the table. She then went to the couch and laid down in a lazy manner.

"Oliver, what do you think of my disciple?"

"William? I think he's too narcissistic for his age."

Celine giggled when she heard the Parrot Monkey's reply. She then closed her eyes and the image of the handsome Half-Elf boy appeared inside her head. The beautiful sorceress had taken William as her disciple because of a bet.

At first, she wasn't planning to teach him seriously, but she changed her mind after the battle with the Golden-Scaled-Crocodile. She intended to torture William to vent out her frustration for losing her rare ingredients, but the boy was more resilient than she imagined.

Although the torture he received for the past four years was nothing compared to the suffering she had endured during her own training, she had grown fond of the boy.

She really treated him as a slave. William cooked for her, cleaned the house for her, did the laundry for her, and catered to her every whim and need.

Celine knew well that, in the deepest part of William's heart, he resented her. How could she not understand his feelings? She had suffered the same Fate

when she was younger. Forced to wear the collar of enslavement, and forced to experience unimaginable pain and suffering... it was impossible not to feel resentful.

Even now, Celine still resented the people who had tossed her aside as if she was a dirty thing that they didn't even want to touch, nor see in their presence.

'Someday, I will return. When that day comes, all of you will kneel and beg for my forgiveness.'

Due to her strong desire to enact her revenge, Celine endured. She endured for years, until she met an organization that wanted to bring the world to ruin. At that time, the beautiful sorceress wanted the whole world to burn, so she secretly joined their ranks and even helped them out in achieving their goal.

The ingredients she received were the payment for her services. Even now, she was still in contact with the organization. The members of the organization had made a binding oath that gave its members freedom to do what they wanted.

They were free to share information, exchange resources, and collaborate with each other. However, the organization couldn't force their members to participate in something that they didn't want to do.

This may sound absurd for an organization whose goal was to bring the world to ruin, but they really didn't care whether a member participated in their activities or not.

In exchange for this freedom, the organization only asked for its members not to betray it. They were also not allowed to interfere with each other, nor attack each other. This non-aggression treaty was included in the oath that they had taken when they joined the organization.

"It's really ironic." Celine sighed as she looked up at the ceiling. "The potions I made to propagate Miasma are now being used to bring this kingdom to its knees. I wonder, if William knew this, would he feel disgusted with me? Would he be disappointed? What do you think, Oliver?"

"Knowing William, he will definitely demand an explanation," Oliver replied. "In addition, knowing how thick skinned and shameless he is, he will also demand compensation."

Celine chuckled because she could already imagine William's coy expression, as he tried to convince her to give him hush money to hide this secret.Â

"Such a silly boy...", Celine muttered. "Well, I guess it is only fitting for a silly woman to have a silly disciple."

"Master... should I go there to help William?" Oliver inquired. Although he acted calm on the surface, he was very worried about the boy. He was there when Celine created the potion that propagated miasma.

The Parrot Monkey knew how sinister it was. However, what he didn't anticipate was that the organization would be bold enough to use it to corrupt dungeon cores to trigger Dungeon Outbreaks.

Even Celine didn't expect that her potion would be used in such a manner. However, what was done was done. She had already received the payment for her potions, and the organization had paid her handsomely for her services.

Frankly, Celine really didn't care if the Hellan Kingdom really fell to ruin. She had no attachment to the Kingdom. However, she cared about the people of Lont.

Perhaps, due to this, the organization didn't choose to corrupt a dungeon near her territory. Celine may not care for the Kingdom, but she did care for William. After all, the handsome Half-Elf was her only disciple.

Because of this, Celine felt conflicted. Oliver waited patiently for his Mistress to give an order, but Celine kept her silence.

Ten minutes later, a sigh escaped her beautiful lips as she turned her head to look at the loyal retainer who had stayed with her all these years.

"Oliver, flowers grown inside a greenhouse couldn't compare to those that were born in the wild," Celine said. "I believe in William. He will survive this because he is strong."

Although her words were firm, it was as if she was trying to convince herself that William would be fine even if she didn't send Oliver to help him.

Oliver sighed internally, but he didn't say anything else. He only prayed in his heart that the Gods would keep William safe.

While the Parrot Monkey was deep in his thoughts, Celine stood up from the couch and opened the window. She then turned towards Oliver with a smile on her face.

"Oliver, you have been cooped up inside the house for a long time," Celine said with a sweet smile. "That's no good. You should exercise your body from time to time. I order you to go sightseeing for a few days. Just make sure to return as soon as possible."

Celine then started to walk towards the stairs. "Ah, before I forget, make sure to bring back some souvenirs."

"As you command, My Lady." Oliver bowed and flapped his wings. He flew out of the window and soared towards the sky. His destination, a certain place where a certain narcissistic Half-Elf had been deployed.

A smirk appeared on Oliver's monkey face as he increased his speed.

'Mistress, you look really cute when you act like a kuudere,' Oliver mused as he turned his head to look at the town of Lont that was gradually getting farther away. 'Don't worry. I'll keep your Little Prince safe. After all, I still need to ensure that he will pick you as his bride when he grows up. I won't hand him over to Celeste.'

(A/N: Kuudere are those who are often cold, blunt, and cynical. They may seem very emotionless and stoic on the outside, but on the inside they're very caring, at least when it comes to the ones they love. Thank you, google senpai!)

With another flap of his wings, a sonic boom echoed in the air. Oliver's speed drastically increased as he traveled at the speed of sound.

Half an hour later, the town of Dawsbury finally appeared on the horizon. Oliver arrived just in time to see the little Half-Elf get struck by a lightning bolt that sent him flying a few meters away from where he stood.

Chapter 169: Creatures Of Myths And Legends [Part 1]

Half an hour before Oliver arrived in the skies of Dawsbury...

'This is hopeless,' William thought as he forced himself to swing the wooden staff in his hands to end the life of the monster in front of him.

As the battle progressed, William felt that the staff in his hands were getting heavier. It was mostly due to his arms aching, and reaching their limit. It was at that time when he barely avoided a sneak attack by one of the Class C Beasts, Spiteseeker, from the sky.

This lapse in his concentration allowed the dog-like creature in front of him to use that opportunity to tackle him and pin him down to the ground. Sharp fangs bared themselves as the Ashteeth tried to bite William's neck.

However, the shepherd was able to use his staff to block the dog's teeth and prevented himself from getting bitten. A battle of strength ensued as the Ashteeth forced its jaw closer to William's face.

The stench of rotting flesh assailed William's nose as he gritted his teeth to resist the wolf's assault.

"Will!"

A familiar voice shouted and not long after, a steel spike embedded itself in the Ashteeth's forehead.

William forcefully kicked the dead monster to the side as he propped himself to stand. A young lady with blonde hair and blue eyes ran in his direction and supported his body.

"Are you alright?" Wendy asked. Her voice was laced with concern.

"I'm fine," William replied. "But, why are you here? What happened to the spot you were defending?"

Wendy shook her head as he dragged William away from the town's wall. "The walls have been breached. It is no longer safe to defend it."

As if waiting for that cue. A bugle horn sounded across the town which signaled the order to retreat to the second line of defense.

The second line of defense was where the watchtowers were located. The majority of mages, who didn't specialize in close combat, had already

retreated to the watchtowers and were firing spells to help the defenders on the town's wall to evacuate.

William was still holding the staff in his hand, but he didn't have the strength to lift it. After the adrenaline had passed, he was left exhausted.

Wendy took William's arm and placed it over her shoulder to better support his body while they made their escape.

Several of the monsters ran after them, but they were shot down by Andy who was standing on the roof of a house and paying close attention to the evacuating students. The martial class instructors held the front, which gave the students sufficient time to retreat.

Those who had lost their strength were carried away by their comrades as they ran for their lives.

Andy sighed in relief when he saw that William was safe and sound. He shot arrows one after the other. He needed to buy as much time as possible for his students to reach safety.

When William and Wendy arrived at the second line of defense, a worried Ella immediately appeared by his side. The Angorian Goat had been carrying the wounded students from the walls to the infirmary during the battle and had lost sight of how William was doing.

Seeing that William was safe, the Angorian Goat went back to his side in order to protect him from further harm.

"Thank you," William said as Wendy supported him to sit on the ground.

"You're welcome, Will," Wendy replied and sat down beside him.

William sighed internally because his body was as heavy as lead. Since the battle started, he hadn't left the town wall and continued to defend his position for more than an hour. The loss of defenders due to miasma poisoning had placed him under great pressure. This in turn forced him to surpass his limits in fending off dozens of monsters at the same time.

The red-headed-boy was feeling drowsy as exhaustion washed over his body. He tried to fight it off, but his body was not cooperating with him. He nodded off several times, until he finally closed his eyes to sleep.

When he was about to let himself be taken by sleep's embrace, something sweet and cold assaulted his tongue.

He forcefully opened his eyes and saw Wendy gently feeding him a rejuvenation potion. He opened his mouth wider to allow more of the rich liquid in to help him recover. When the potion was all used up, William felt a quarter of his strength returned to his body.

It wasn't much, but it was enough to keep him awake and function at this crucial time.

"Thank you," William said with a smile. "Rejuvenation potions are expensive. How about I repay you by cooking for you for a week? My Master said that I'm a very good cook."

"Really?" Wendy asked with a hint of amusement.

"Mmm. Just don't blame me if you get addicted to my cooking."

"My standards, when it comes to food, are really high. Let's see if Sir William can back his words with his cooking."

The two stared at each other before chuckling at the same time. Both of them were trying to ease each other's tension. They knew that they didn't have long to rest before another round of battle would commence once the town wall had been breached completely.

William was about to say something when a powerful explosion reverberated from the town's wall. The two children glanced at each other before hurrying to climb one of the watchtowers to see what was going on.

"W-What is that?!" a mage shakily pointed at the center of the monster formation.

A giant black dog that was at least six meters tall, stared at them with glowing blue eyes. There were blue streaks of fur on its body that resembled lightning bolts as tendrils of electricity snaked around its body.

In the air, a deafening cry was heard as a giant, black-winged serpent made its presence known. Its body was made up of dark scales and its glowing blue eyes eerily gazed at the people who were defending Dawsbury as if to mock their futile attempts to stop the inevitable.

The wind started to pick up and dark clouds covered the horizon. A peal of thunder resounded in the heavens as flashes of lightning illuminated the black clouds that blocked the light of the sun.

Soon the entire town of Dawsbury was enshrouded in darkness, and yet, the countless glowing eyes from the Dungeon Monsters, who were almost upon them, didn't fade in the slightest.

William gulped as he used his appraisal skill to identify the two giant beasts that seemed to be the Masterminds that commanded the monster horde. Just a glance was enough to tell him that both of them were pretty bad news.

< Xolotl >

-- Underworld Dog

-- Corrupted Guardian

-- Threat Level: S (Low)

-- Centennial Beast

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- This Mythical Beast was said to wield the power of lightning, fire, and death. A cursed creature that was so diabolical that not many dared to fight against it. According to legend, Xolotl guarded the sun as it set into the underworld every night. Ironically, this creature is hailed both as a destroyer and a savior at the same time. He who fights this myth should be weary, for it places a curse on anyone that defies it.

< Quetzalcoatl >

-- Winged Serpent

-- Corrupted Guardian

-- Threat Level: S (Low)

-- Centennial Beast

-- Cannot be added to the Herd

-- This Mythical Beast wields the power of wind and rain. Sometimes hailed as the "Lord of the Dawn", this creature can create powerful storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes that can destroy anything in their path. According to legend, this creature witnessed the creation of the world and even helped mankind during its time of need.

William gritted his teeth as he stared at the two Mythical Beasts in front of him. He was about to shout and warn the instructors that they had to retreat at all costs when Xolotl roared and shot a lightning bolt, that was as big as a bus, towards William, Ella, and Wendy who were standing at the center of the defensive formation.

The red-headed-boy immediately pushed Ella, and Wendy, out of the way as the lightning bolt engulfed him and dyed his vision white.

Chapter 170: Creatures Of Myths And Legends [Part 2]

'It hurts... please, help us...'

'We can't hold out for much longer, please, save us...'

Two pleading voices echoed inside William's mind as the lightning bolt engulfed his entire body. His student uniform was made from a special material that could withstand magic attacks up to the First Circle. However, against an attack from a Centennial, it offered no form of resistance whatsoever and immediately turned to ashes.

Time seemed to slow down as William entered a trance like state. In that white world, William saw two orbs of light. One was yellow, the other red. The lights of these two orbs gradually dimmed as they pleaded for William to help them.

When the world regained its color, the red-headed-boy laid on the ground unmoving. His wooden staff lay on the ground a few meters away from him as tendrils of electricity snaked around his body.

If not for the pants that his Aunty Helen made specially, that he wore under his uniform, he would have been completely naked the moment his student robe was destroyed.

"Meeeeeeeh!" Ella bleated as he hurried by William's side. She nudged the side of his face in an attempt to wake him up.

While Ella was trying to awaken the fallen Half-Elf, the lightning currents that snaked around William's body gathered towards the black-rose-tattoo on William's chest and were absorbed completely.

"Will!" Wendy shouted as she ran to his side. She then checked William's body for any injuries and was surprised that his body was still intact with only minor bruises.

William raised his hand and caressed Ella's neck to assure her that he was fine. He then slowly opened his eyes to look at the side where Wendy was looking down on him with a worried expression.

The watchtower where they had been standing had collapsed due to the intensity of the attack and several students received injuries, some of them were seriously injured. William had taken the brunt of the damage and mitigated it to the best of his abilities, but it was still an attack from a Centennial Beast, so it was impossible to block completely.

When the attack happened, the system made an arbitrary decision and forcefully changed William's Subclass to Prince of Thunder. Because of this, the lightning bolt didn't cause much damage to his body and helped him resist the attack that could have easily claimed his life.

The instructors were in the process of taking the injured students and transporting them to the infirmary. Andy appeared beside William and was about to carry him off when the shepherd shook his head in response.

"Instructor, I'm fine," William said as he stood up from the ground. He even brushed off the dirt that had accumulated on his body to indicate that he was perfectly fine.

Andy eyed the boy and made sure that he was indeed still capable of fighting before going to another student who had lost consciousness not far away from their location. Although he wanted to ask William questions, now was not the time for it.

It was not only Andy, but several students and instructors, who had witnessed the event, looked at William in surprise. From every angle, he looked fine and healthy. His lean and toned body radiated youthful strength and his eyes were

still bright and clear. Although he had some bruises here and there, they were only a minor concern for warriors in the battlefield.

"Um, aren't you going to wear anything?" Wendy asked as she looked at William's face. She was doing her best not to look down because William's body was visually attractive. Although they were in the midst of battle, Wendy couldn't keep herself from being charmed by her idol.

"In a while," William said as he retrieved his wooden staff.

Thunder roared in the heavens and lightning flashed like dragons in the sky as Xolotl manipulated the elements to follow its bidding. Quetzalcoatl wasn't being idle either and flapped its mighty wings causing gusts of wind that blew the students off the ground.

Wendy was almost blown away, but William firmly held her waist in place. The shepherd looked at these two creatures while thinking of his next plan of action.

'Help us...'

'Please, save us...'

Two words echoed inside his mind, and this time, he knew that they were real and not made up by his imagination. He could also tell that the voices were not coming from the two Mythical Beasts that were about to annihilate all of them.

No. They came from the direction of the dungeon and they were pleading for him to help them. William tapped the ground with his staff, as he summoned a helper to fight by his side.

"Eternal Guardian who guards the forest, help me in my time of need!" William shouted. "Come forth, Spire!"

A white portal appeared behind William's back as the Guardian of the White-Tailed Deer Tribe walked out of it. Its majestic body glowed in radiant light and served as a beacon to illuminate the darkness.

Right now, the Spire was only a Class B (Mid) Beast. It was impossible for it to fight off against Centennial Beasts who were labeled as Class S Threats. Even so, Spire looked at these two beasts fearlessly.

It had regained a boost in its ranks after William gave it the 'rewards' that he promised during the Battle for the position of Head Prefect in the Enchanted Forest.

The students who had watched the competition for the Head Prefect of the Martial Class were quite familiar with this noble creature. They just never expected that it would appear in this battle against the Dungeon Outbreak.

Behind it, forty Long-Horned Enchanted Deer emerged from the portal and stood in a row facing off against the dungeon monsters, who stopped their advance a few hundred meters away from the watchtowers.

These Long-Horned Enchanted Deer were Class C (Mid) Beasts and were more than capable of dealing with the small fries.

Although reinforcements had arrived, no one believed that they would be able to win against the Dungeon Outbreak with their current numbers.

"Please, honor your promise and help us this once!" William pleaded. "Come forth, Diabolical Hell Ape!"

Another portal appeared behind William's back, but this time, it was bigger than the one that Spire had come from. A giant ape, with two protruding horns on its head, came out of the portal. Its serpent tail hissed as it raised its head to look at the two mythical beasts in front of it.

'Are you sure you want to waste this one favor in dealing with these small fries, boy?' the Diabolical Hell Ape asked through telepathy. Everyone in the battlefield heard its voice inside their head.

The dungeon monsters shuddered unconsciously because they felt a presence that was way beyond their league. Even the two Mythical Beasts were affected by the overpowering presence of the Giant Ape who was in a realm above theirs.

The instructors of the academy were surprised because they recognized the towering beast that appeared on the battlefield. It was none other than the Sovereign who ruled the forest just outside the Hellan Royal Academy. A creature that was at the peak of Class SS Beasts.

It was so powerful that even the Dean of the Academy had to be respectful to it. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that summoning the Diabolical Hell Ape to fight against the Dungeon Outbreak was overkill.

"Indeed it is a waste for me to summon you to such a small scale battlefield... is what I'd like to say, but this is only true in the eyes of creatures as powerful as yourself, Your Excellency," William replied in a respectful tone. "However, no matter how weak and short-lived humans are. Every life is precious. If I can prevent even a single student of the Royal Academy from dying then it is not a waste to ask for your help.

"I would not be able to sleep peacefully at night if I turned a blind eye and allowed the students to sacrifice their lives if it could be prevented. Although this favor is a one time offer, I have no regrets."

The Spire nodded its head in appreciation to William's words. It was a noble and righteous creature, and it liked how the red-headed-boy denied that he wasted the favor given to him by the Diabolical Hell Ape.

The students, and instructors who heard William felt conflicted. Some of them were quite thankful for William for calling the Diabolical Hell Ape to help them in battle, while others felt ashamed that the shepherd had to resort to using his "Trump Card" because all of them were too weak to fight against the monsters in front of them.

'I will honor our agreement and help you once,' the Diabolical Hell Ape said as it stood in front of the defenders. It lived in a world where the law of the jungle was supreme. Although he understood William's words, he still felt that the young boy was pitiful for having no choice but to summon him.

Several portals appeared behind him, as the rulers of the forest joined their Sovereign to battle. Ironically, Psoglav, was also there who gave William the middle finger before facing the Dungeon Monster Army in front of it.

'With this, the incident of Psoglav will no longer be brought up in the future as per our agreement. Do you understand?' the Diabolical Hell Ape glanced at the red-headed-boy beside its feet.

"Yes," William answered firmly. "We have no more debts between us."

Psoglav who was listening to the conversation only snorted, but didn't say anything else since he was in the presence of his Sovereign.

'As it should be.' the Diabolical Hell Ape nodded its head. 'So, which one should I deal with?'

"Please take care of the Xolotl."

'Okay. It's too troublesome to fight against flying creatures. I'll handle this overgrown dog for you. But, who will face off against that Winged Serpent?'

"My Second Master will," William replied with a grin. "Second Master, please, take care of the Quetzalcoatl. It is way out of my league."

The corner of Oliver's lips twitched as he heard William's shameless request from his hiding place. The Parrot Monkey had hidden himself within the dark clouds in the sky, while observing the situation on the ground, but somehow, William was still able to find him.

What Oliver didn't know was that the system had already detected his presence when he entered the skies of the battlefield. It was very easy for it to locate his position since all the "allies" were highlighted on the map of the territory.

'Fine.' Oliver's voice echoed inside William's head. 'You owe me one, Little Will.'

'Thank you, Second Master,' Will replied in his heart.

Inside the dark clouds, Oliver looked at the Giant Winged Serpent with a mischievous grin as if it was looking at a new toy.

'A fake centennial beast that is forcefully upgraded by Miasma can't compare to the real deal.' Oliver chuckled. 'Mistress asked for a souvenir. This snake will do quite nicely.'

Oliver was just like a little puppy facing off against an elephant, but he didn't even see the Quetzalcoatl as a threat. For him, the oversized winged serpent was only a little snake that he could easily trample under his talons without breaking a sweat.

"Wendy, stand at the rear," William said as he patted her head. "I will handle this."

Wendy nodded her head and immediately retreated to a safe place. Although she was worried about William, she didn't want to get in the way of this battle.

"Mama, let's go."

"Meeeeh!"

Ella transformed into an Angorian War Ibex and allowed William to ride on her back. He then ordered the system to change his Subclass to the Cavalier Job Class. He then equipped the Golden-Scaled-Light-Armor from the Ring of Conquest.

This armor was made from the scales of the Golden-Scaled-Crocodile that Celine had defeated four years ago. It boasted great physical and magical defense, and was custom made to change its size to fit William perfectly.

When William donned his armor, he looked like a young prince that had come to save the princess from the Evil Dragon. He wasn't wearing a visor, but a winged circlet that highlighted his natural beauty.

Instead of the wooden staff that he usually used to do battle. He summoned a spear that was made from the fangs of the Thunder-Horned Wolf and the teeth of the Golden-Scaled-Crocodile.

The spear was two-meters-long and its design was similar to the Stormcaller. The only difference was that it was made with barbed edges that would bring its victims a world of pain the moment it grazed them.

Barbatus was quite happy with his creation and named it Triam, The Executioner of Giants.

All the girls who saw him couldn't stop themselves from sighing in admiration. Wendy, who had retreated to a safe distance, also looked at William with a reddened face. She looked at her Prince in shining armor as her heart beat wildly inside her chest.

Est, and Ian, who stood at the center of the Defenders, wanted to roll their eyes in annoyance.

'Showoff.'

'Stupid, William.'

Even though the two boys resented William for taking the spotlight and stealing the heart of the ladies around them, they were still pinning their hopes on him. They believed that, as long as William was around, everything was going to be alright.

This belief was deeply ingrained in their hearts, and would continue to believe them through the years to come.

The two sides faced off against each other as everyone readied themselves for the decisive battle. It was at that very moment that the Diabolical Hell Ape thumped its chest and issued a deafening roar. It then charged towards the Xolotl while coating its body in fire.

'Wait for me. I will save the two of you soon,' William said inside his heart and hoped that the two voices that were calling out to the dungeon could hear him.

He then pointed his spear forward and issued the order to attack. "Charge!"

Ella bleated and issued a warcry to raise the stats of the Deers who were accompanying them to battle. Spire, on the other hand, used its ability "Call to Arms" which further enhanced everyone's stats by 50%

It then followed behind William along with the Long-Horned-Enchanted Deer that flanked his sides.

"Charge forward!" Grent ordered and the rest of the Defenders followed his orders. "Show them the power of the Hellan Royal Academy!"

The students cheered in unison and joined the fray. William's show of strength had made their blood boil and they were raring to fight by his side. They didn't want to admit it, but in their eyes, William became the flag of hope that fluttered in the darkness. A flag that was about to lead them to victory.

This was how the second round of the battle began and the land trembled in their wake.