

Chapter 1527: Into The Fortress We go

Listening to the many wise sage words from those around her, Lucy frowned.

So there might still be many more hidden passages inside the city they were unaware of?

"If that's the case, why would the Caravan bring the ladies not use the hidden path in the town? Even the wagon carrying food provisions. Why? Why risk moving out in the open?"

"Because most of these exit/entry points are used by the superiors and their right-hand forces closest to them."

Ohhh~

"I see," Lucy noted, thinking it was similar to the royal escape passages in their Baymardian palace.

For safety reasons, only a few knew these passages.

'So it should probably be the same, right?' She inwardly retorted while running her fingers across her hair.

She hated unknown factors the most!

She had to admit she was still inwardly nervous, seeing as this was her first big mission in a long, long, very long time.

Her, Queen Lucy, was now in charge of everyone's life here.

The responsibility made her double-check every little thing down to the tee.

So how could she not feel inwardly panicked?

You look at me; I look at you.

Everyone tactfully didn't mention her fidgeting. Though her majesty, the Queen acted like a mother hen worrying about her chicks, she still did a good and thorough job. And if she didn't know, she would ask for their opinions.

But of course, they couldn't wait here forever. They had to rush to the Capital to meet his Majesty Landon.

So tonight, they will strike!

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Like so, the gang rounded up any last-minute changes and quickly went out to reconfirm the plan with their squads.

1, 2, 3...

3 and a half hours had gone by in a flash. And now, it was already 7:49 P.M.

Raymond, Ivanka, and the other leaders stood on Lucy's left and right-hand sides.

Everyone was now gathered with straightened backs and chests raised to the heavens!!"

"Listen Up!!!... I assume everyone is well fed and ready for action!"

There was absolute silence.

The brave soldiers and marines didn't make a sound.

They couldn't afford to yell all at once so loudly.

Their silence was their tactful agreement.

Good...

Raymond nodded, giving the chance for her majesty to show her vigor.

And sure enough. She didn't disappoint him and the other leaders. Only when with them would she reveal her nervousness.

Out on the battlefield, she was cold and stern, making many see the resemblance between her and her husband.

With hands firmly placed behind her back and body fawned in full camouflage attire, Lucy stood with her feet apart and her boots facing front.

"Before we begin, I expect you all to have worn the latest flexible bulletproof vest technology, as well as your arm guard shield."

The vest technology has changed and improved since its original 5 and a half years ago.

Today's own was light enough and flexible enough to be worn underneath their clothes.

Additionally, one could attack it with their arm-guard shields.

A word to the wise was enough. Lucy wouldn't dwell on their safety anymore.

It was time to move on to today's main agenda

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"Team Alpha, Beta, Omega, Gama, Delta, Zee, Hechi, and Burner... What are your duties?"

"Surround the enemy and give them hell!!!"

"Correct! All 8 teams will focus on surrounding the Fortress from all directions, raining terror to the many enemies on the fortress's walls."

Right!

Those in these teams nodded, knowing they were to forcibly infiltrate the fortress out in the open.

The enemy would be forced to focus their attention on them, sending more and more people out of the strange underground base.

"Good!" Lucy squinted her eyes in satisfaction.

"Teams Dasher, Prancer, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Rudolf... What are your duties!"

"Cover the roads and perimeters around the city and around the fortress! Be the eyes and ears to take down any potential fleeing enemies!"

"Hmmm... Sagittarius, Aquarius, Capricorn, Aries, Libra, Virgi, Scorpio, Taurus, Pisces, Gemini, and LEO... I ASK... What are your duties?"

"To infiltrate the fortress through all hidden tunnels known."

In particular, a few of them had to stop the caravan and sneak in a few of the female soldiers to go well ahead of them.

"Ladies, be careful and don't act tough."

They were 'kidnapped victims' and had to play their parts well.

Lucy licked her dried lips. "Air force units, I'm sure you know your tasks, correct?"

"Affirmative." They responded in a low but firm tone.

What were their primary duties?

To keep a lookout below, provide battle assistance, descend when necessary, or rain hell when instructed."

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Grrr~~~

Don't forget about us!

The dogs were all obedient, as though listening to Lucy's words.

They sat calmly, like prized dogs, not even letting out a single bark.

Yes!

They too would be joining in on the fun.

The hidden fortress looked too complex, making room for enemy surprises.

Thus, they needed all the help they could get.

"Drones up! Explosives on lock... Though we are in the enemy's ballroom, technology will be our main key to success!"

Yes! Yes! Yes!

The soldiers raised their chests proudly, knowing their gadgets were their true ace in this deadly deck of cards.

Tick-Tock. Tick-Tock.

The bringing was over.

And now, it was 8:46 P.M on the dot.

"Go. Go. Go. Go. Go!"

In a flash, everyone was rushed away like crazy.

Many boarded the vehicles, leaving their camp and storming into the night.

Vrmmmmm!!!!

The distance that should've taken well over a week to complete by horseback was covered in little to no time by vehicle.

The many groups were to reach a safe and close enough range to drop off and engage.

Bam!

They jumped off with hunched backs, hands on their weapons, and eagle eyes always moving about maniacally.

Several people raised their fingers, giving hand signals.

All clear!

The air force units had long been overhead, communicating with those inside the vehicles, showing them the way.

Titarian's landscape was already a confusing death trap on its own.

The air force units led the ground teams fervently, with some air force units also readying their baskets to descend.

Why? Because some people would have to take a leap of faith along the high rocky cliffs.

With the leading Chrompo dog running beside her, Lucy led her team towards the pathway the Caravan was to take.

And sure enough, they reached right on time.

Lucy's eyes flashed dangerously, seeing the lonely pack of caravans making their way past the road.

Good.

It was time to go in!

Read I'm the King Of Technology Chapter 1528: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

Chapter 1528: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

Gallop. Gallop. Gallop.~

The thick-legged stallions slowly descended a hilly forest path in the dead of night.

Up, down, up, down...

They had been moving across the many hilly paths and strange terrain all too familiar.

The Caravans, accompanied by no more than 60 guards on horseback, traveled across the path, still keeping their vigilance high.

Look left; look right.

Look up, look sideways...

The men held onto their reigns tightly.

Everyone looked around except one of the pale-toned burly men with a long scar slashed across his face.

"Archers stay on guard. We've long entered the deep forest zones."

This means their worries won't necessarily come from humans but wild forest beasts.

Yes!

For the many days, months, and even years they had moved along this road too deep into the forest, they hardly, if not ever, ran into people other than those from the Society.

The path was very confusing, as well as very illusionary if one had never stumbled on it before.

This again was thanks to a few hills around these regions that move every now and then, revealing the path for only a brief while as though it were a secret cave of wonders.

It's strange to say that most of the time, the path's starting point gets covered with a deep stream of water rushing adjacent to it.

And during calculated periods, the water vanishes, revealing the path's starting point.

The location was too perfect, making it hard for many to stumble upon this road.

What's more, during the times that the path was inaccessible, they, the T.O.E.P, would lure deadly beasts toward these regions in case some enemy or passerby happened to stumble upon the place.

But this wasn't all.

They, the T.O.E.P, had also spread crazy rumors about the deep forest regions, keeping the people out of sight at all times.

And over time, the rumors were believable since those who did venture never returned.

Like so, the years had passed, and their hidden fortress remained unknown to the masses.

So of course, after traveling on this road for so long, they had long been accustomed to looking out only for beast attacks.

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The leader's words echoed out.

And everyone squinted their eyes, cautiously looking about with their arrows at hand and swords already unsheathed.

Nothing.

They had been traveling for some time now with just a few creatures daring to attack their large group all at once.

60 highly skilled T.O.E.P guards on horseback and 12 other guards driving the 6 caravans.

They were indeed a lot. And any creature daring to attack them would only have to do so in large groups.

Having only one bear or one beast come at them would be suicide for itself.

Hmmm...

So far, so good.

"Silence!!"

The imprisoned ladies in the caravans quickly forced themselves to stop crying the further the gang advanced.

Each caravan was designed similar to a beast cage with large tents placed over it to hide the prisoners' beauty to keep them away from the sun and rains.

Each caged caravan would carry up to 20 women, all packed and smudged together like sardines in a can.

Several chains were wrapped around the caravan's cage-barred doors, locking the women indefinitely lest they tried to escape.

Some women were still crying, while others were silent, with solemn faces.

What was the point of crying when knowing they had already been caught?

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The silent women leave their heads on the barred walls, already knowing they would never escape from whatever prison these monsters were sending them in.

They looked upwards, with no one knowing what they thought.

But one thing was for sure.

Though they looked tough, a deep brooding turbulence was already underway in their hearts.

With moistened but closed eyes, they started at the tent roofs with trembling bodies.

'Is this really to be my fate?... Goddess... Please... Come to the aid of your children.'

Many made silent prayers in their hearts, with some hoping their families would be alright wherever they were.

But as for other ladies, though forced into captivity, they quickly adjusted themselves, planning to climb to the top while riding on the many men they would soon meet.

"You!!!!~... What are you doing?" One of the ladies exclaimed, seeing the shameless actions of these few.

"And so? What I do is my problem and not yours. So what's your attitude?... Hmph! I think you're just jealous, not wanting me to shine brighter than I already am!"

"..."

These women spoke back to those calling them shameless while rearranging their entire look.

First, they bit their lips to make them redder than they already were.

And following that, they also pushed their hair back and even tugged some of the loose fabric under their rope belts, making their tires shorter than they already were.

Of course, some women had long skirts with short-sleeved cropped tops that showed their bellies, while others had on a single see-through shown thigh-length.

What's even more shocking was that these women who acted this way were secretly happy about their kidnap.

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As ordinary peasants who love money and nobility, this might be their chance to live the good life. So why not make use of this opportunity to the best of their capabilities?

Though the chance was slim, if they could use their bodies to control the most powerful men wherever they were going, they might end up living like princesses in such places, exclusively belonging to that said powerful man.

Yes!

These women didn't even want to be rescued.

And would be the first to betray the other captive if they tried playing any fast ones on the guards.

These women all stared at the others in their caravans, trying to find out which people were more beautiful than them.

They secretly decided that after reaching their destinations, they would either eliminate or somehow disfigure them.

A fierce light flashed in their eyes as they secretly made calculations.

But suddenly, the many caravans stopped.

Bam!

The women crashed into one another, moaning in pain with panic fleeting in their eyes.

What?... What was going on outside?

Chapter 1529: Phase 1 Completed!

Creek. Creek!

The nightcrawlers sang, and the burly leader calmly tightened his grip on his horse's reins.

Hee-he-he-hee~

--Silence--

Except for the sounds from the horses and that from nature, the atmosphere was now filled with a burdening silence that slowly crept up on one.

With swords at hand and bows strung tightly, the gang of highly trained members peered at their surroundings from the corners of their eyes.

And soon, they heard it.

Grrrrr!!!!~~

Loud, gritting noises echoed from within the forests all around them.

Wolves in a pack?

Or some other beast moving in a group?

The burly leader kept an expressionless face, with his head still facing the same direction he did when they stopped earlier.

"How many?"

"At least 80." A skinny but fearsome man replied.

And many nodded in agreement.

The air was solemn, and their senses were heightened.

They couldn't see the eyes of these beasts yet. But the gruff sounds and several other aspects gave much more information than for skilled persons like themselves.

At least 80? That means there could be 100 or more.

The enemy dared to come out because they knew they had the advantage of numbers over them.

But even at this, they, highly trained T.O.E.P men, would never panic in the face of danger.

The burly man's eyes glistened with a dangerous light.

For now, it's still early to tell who will fall and who will stand victorious.

"Be prepared."

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Rustle. Rustle.~

The trees and greenery began rustling naturally, making it hard to guess whether it was nature's doing or the many beasts slowly advancing toward them.

Their hearts tightened for only a brief no net, and their bodies hinged, ready for battle.

Barely a second had time by, yet the entire time was already tense!

RUSTLE. RUSTLE. RUSTLE!~

Over there!!!

A certain bush began shaking madly, making them subconsciously hold their breaths.

What? A one-buck-toothed rabbit?

1, 2, 3...

It's a trap!!

Many inwardly screamed.

But it was already too late. The enemy appeared before them, sending their force claws and teeth at them.

"Dogs?!!!!!"

Everyone was only momentarily shocked, coming to terms with the reality before them.

In this world, there wasn't too much of a difference between dogs and wolves.

Though a dog was more trainable, a majority were still fierce lone beasts who wondered about the towns, cities, and forest zones too.

Some were forest dogs, growing up their entire lives in the jungle, and some were city, town, and village dogs, always in the company of people.

Again, some dogs, just like some humans in this world, didn't care about what flesh they targeted.

So they would readily eat human flesh without qualms.

It was just that when compared to wolves that had a strong defensive back, dogs obviously fell short.

So to see them showcase their intelligence and work as one team, similar to wolves, they only felt their brains buzz for a second.

At the same time, they also saw how skilled these beasts were and how disadvantageous their situation was.

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Whoosh!

The massive Chrompo dog jumped back, avoiding the burly leader's sweeping sword.

Up, down, roll, slide... The dog maneuvered fiercely around the leader's horse like a star killer.

It was a battle worthy of its big status.

On the horse, the burly leader twisted in several directions, trying to hit the giant dog that moved underneath the horse, finally biting a chunk of the burly man's shin.

Gahhhh~

The man's face trembled and turned slightly red. But no matter how much pain he endured, his lips remained shut, making no agonizing sounds.

'Damn you, beast!'

Swish!!

The blade cut through the air, murderously aiming for its prey.

But just when it was about to land its hit, something jaw-dropping happened right before the burly man's face.

What???!

The burly man was flabbergasted, seeing the giant dog not only backflip high in the sky but also send one of its hind legs to deliver a fierce kick at his face.

Pah!!!!

The burly man had his entire jaw trend to the side by that punch.

Blood shot out of his mouth, and his teeth instantly became loose.

If he hadn't been quick to stabilize himself, he would've definitely fallen off his horse.

Holding onto the reins, his entire body trembled in disbelief.

This... This... This...

What are its paws made of? Stone?

How can they be this hard?

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Grrrrr!!!~~

The chrompo dog landed proudly, seeing how distraught its enemy was.

Its eyes glowed yellow, its teeth as fierce as that of wolves, and its retractable claws moving in for the kill.

At this point, even the burly leader had to admit that the dog was one hell of a formidable foe.

But things can't keep going on like this.

Dammit!

The burly man's face immediately darkened.

"Beast! Enough fun!"

Bam!

The burly man landed on his feet, finally ditching his horse to fight.

But it wasn't just him but several others that also realized the horrors of these flesh-eating dogs.

No! They couldn't continue taking them like regular dogs, but wolves out to have a taste of their flesh.

Today, they were bound to have dog meat at their disposal to eat for the next few days to come.

Whoosh! They twirled their weapons and strung their bows again, taking several close-up shots at their opponents.

Grrrrr~~...

Perfect!

The dogs had a gleeful glimmer flash past their eyes as their strategy was now commencing just as planned.

And with a little action, they slowly shifted the battle away from the caravans.

Though the distance wasn't great, the whistling sounds only they could hear affirmed they were in the right position.

Good!

Their tasks were to keep the enemy engaged until they got yet another whistling order.

And sure enough, within the surroundings, several people moved stealthily towards the 12 guards/drivers.

In the bushes, Lucy jerked her body, ready for action.

Alright.

Phase 1 completed... Now, it was time for phase 2!

Chapter 1530: Move In!!!!

With a firm expression, Lucy gave several hand signals, and the snipers quickly took the shots.

Thup! Thup! Thup!

Lucy glanced at the time on her arms-shield guard, inwardly doing a countdown in her mind.

The special tranquilizer had a fast reaction time, as well as a fast recovery time.

At most 10 minutes after sleeping, the guards would regain consciousness.

This was why it was called the 'blink.'

Those hit would hardly notice anything out of place.

Lucy thinned her lips, looking at the guards protecting the caravans.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1...

Bam!

The guards fell like flies while surrounded by several dogs pretending to bite them hard.

From a distance, it truly looked like the dogs were ripping these men apart without delay, seemingly enjoying the taste of 'human flesh.'

How brutal.

The burly man and others, all distorted faces, seeing the cruel fate of their comrades.

Of course, their attention no longer focused on these men, already taking them as dead.

No... It can be seen that their focus was now on the many dogs around them that increased in number, thanks to many others appearing out from the woods and joining in in the battle.

Dammit!

Left, right, up, down...

The dogs jumped at them in all directions, making it hard for them to keep watch of the caravans.

On the edge of one of the caravans, Lucy and several others resumed crawling position while having the many dogs cover them.

Those glancing from afar would only think the dogs were biting off chunks of meat from those sleeping guards.

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Roll!!

Lucy rolled under the caravan, reaching the other side.

The caravans were chained in 2 positions by several long chains pinned together with several metal hooks.

Seeing this, Lucy and several others quickly went to work, acting like bomb specialists in some spy movie.

'First, remove the spiral latch... Then, remove the T-shaped latch... Followed by the O-shaped one.'

Damn her trembling hands.

Lucy felt she was on fire, feeling a thick layer of sweat cover her.

Her emotions were turbulent as she went over the instructions severally.

Make no mistake!

Though the invention of the Padlock was slow forthcoming in this world, these ancients still had their ways of keeping things on a tight lock.

The chain and latch locking mechanism required one to follow a particular sequence when unlocking the barred doors.

Moreover, the latches could only be undone by a particular shaped metal mainly carried around by those guarding the caravans.

How to say it?

Just as every screwdriver had particular nails they focused on, these metal sticks were shaped and carved to only unlatch these particular hooks.

Again, one can't carry wooden twigs or stick objects of lighter weight to move these heavy latches around.

But what is also amazing is that though the latches can only be opened with a particularly shaped head, one must also pay attention to the order in which they're opened.

Sure enough, the ancients were a scary group.

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Lucy took deep breaths, working on unlocking the many latches before her.

The mechanisms were similar to pulley systems that only had to operate in particular sequences.

Lucy held out each metal head, going over which fitted what.

All metal heads were placed in far circular keychains.

The task was daunting, seeing as time was no longer on their side.

They had to hurry things up before the caravan's delayed arrival caused the enemy to send others to check things out. They too were working on a time limit, not wanting to drag things any further than need be.

7 minutes more...

The gang was now on their last latch.

~Chang!

Success!

The gang carefully unwrapped the many layers of chains away.

And with a fearsome tap on the horses, as well as a little bit of assistance, the horses shook fiercely, swaying the now opened barred doors.

And sure enough, even though some women were scared, one should know that the battle outside had already echoed in their ears.

So in this case, should they stay out and wait for death?

Some felt they should sit silently, while others felt their lives were on the line, and they had to make a break for it.

Additionally, the horses shook so much, forcefully sending the sardine-packed ladies flying out of the caravans before they could react.

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The caravan!!!

Those battling the dogs all trained their heads in rage, already thinking that these women should have stolen the metal heads from the dead guards, managing to free themselves.

Obviously, dogs can't undo these many latches. So it must be these women.

The burly man's face free grim, seeing the women run off in several directions.

"Finish off these beastly dogs can't and grab the women!!"

If the women escape, this secret path might one day no longer be a secret anymore.

Dammit!

The burly man swung his sword viciously, wanting to end things fast.

But back in the forest, the Baymardians were quick to tranquilize several running women, carrying them away as fast as they could.

Lucy touched the necks of several fallen women.

"Gone... Warrant Officer Mia, you'll be taking her place... You know what to do."

"Affirmative!"

With that, the female soldier took in a deep breath and began running about crazily too.

She looked weak, pitiful, helpless, and dressed similarly to these women.

These were the common harlot attorney dawned in Titarian.

She also covered her face with dirt and grass and used small stones and twigs to create uneven tension on her fabric, making her appearance look all the more convincing.

She already knew the drill.

After getting captured, she and the other Baymardians would attest to taking the keychains and unlocking the latches.

No matter what, the enemy wouldn't kill or overly torture them since they were now taken in as 'commodities.'

The plan was good, seeing as the captured women had skin tones ranging from blue to dark-skinned and pale-skinned.

So all they had to do was replace the pale skimmed women in the bunch... Not all, but just some.

As for the women they tranquilize, they should sleep for no less than 10 hours.

By then, shouldn't the entire battle be done and over with?

Holding the red whistle, Lucy blew it 4 times in sequence.

Fhee-fhee-fhee-fhee~

The dogs knew exactly what that meant.

Phase 2 was completed.

Time for them to pretentiously lose and flee the scene!!