

# **The Strongest Assassin Reincarnates in Another World**

## **Chapter 21 - 21: Buying the dagger**

"Won't be long, won't be long. How is this not long, it's been one hour since we started climbing, can't they put some sort of teleportation to go to the top," Aiden complained, as he had been doing for the past 30 minutes.

At the start, he didn't mind it as he was looking around and enjoying the scenery, but as they continued to go up, the body of Aiden started to have difficulty keeping, after all, he wasn't in good shape.

"Don't worry, we'll soon arrive at the floor where we will buy your weapon," Maelis said, as she had been saying to Aiden for the past 30 minutes, but this time it was actually the truth.

The worst thing about climbing those stairs was that Aiden could see many floors with different but each time they were too expensive. The way their store worked was that the most important people wouldn't have to go up much to buy their weapons, and the ones who were poor would have to work for it.

'Why are the poor people always the ones who have to do more?' Aiden thought, exasperated.

As he thought that, Maelis started shouting right beside him.

"We're here!"

"Why are you shouting? Couldn't you just tell me normally?" Aiden said, getting annoyed quickly because of his lack of sleep.

He didn't even sleep since he had taken over this body, and he could feel the effects now more than ever. He felt as if he would crumble from the smallest push.

Aiden not wanting to waste time and start falling asleep right there, started walking inside the floor. There were not many here, they were actually the only ones who had gone up here, everything inside this place seemed to be complete scrap. The hallway, from the start, was nowhere to be seen. It looked like a storage room for useless equipment.

"Why did you bring me here? Everything seems to be complete trash. Please don't tell me I climbed all the way up here for absolutely nothing," Aiden said as he continued to look around himself, exasperated.

Aiden was thinking that she had lied to him again. His trust was quite fragile at the moment.

"You're completely wrong. I thought you would have an eye for this sort of thing, but it seems like I was wrong. The weapons that can be found in this place are all made by apprentice blacksmiths of the Ravenwood family, even if they are not the best. They are still making quality equipment, don't worry."

"Okay, sure, they make good equipment, but how the hell are we going to find the weapon I want inside this place," Aiden said, looking at all the weapons on the ground that seemed to have been dropped here.

"Just use the system by picking the daggers on the ground. He'll give you information on the weapon or piece of equipment you picked up."

As she said that, Aiden picked up a sword on the ground, and sure enough, a panel from the system appeared.

[Sunfire Sword]

[Rank: Intermediate]

[Restriction: Can only be used by Swordsman or a Special Class related to swords.]

[Skill: The sword can be enveloped by fire for 30 seconds. While on fire, the damage from the sword is doubled.]

[Description: A sword crafted skillfully by a blacksmith who is in quest of experience. Overall, it is a good sword to use, and it has a skill attached to it.]

Not wanting a sword, he dropped it. But he was surprised to see that even items could have skills. After all, the weapons didn't have a system, but maybe weapons are connected to the system because when crafting equipment, blacksmiths use the cores of monsters.

Wanting to know more about how weapons acquire skills, he decided to ask his system to know more about it.

'System, what weapons or equipment, in general, come with skills?' Aiden said in his mind to the system.

Beep!

[Skill appears randomly on weapons, but the more skillfully they are made, the more chances there are that a skill will appear on it. Basically, the higher their rank, the more chances they have to have a skill.]

After learning about the skills of weapons and how they appeared on them, Aiden decided to pick up another weapon, this time a dagger.

The dagger was black, with some lines of red running through it. It looked like lines of blood were on the dagger, and it caught the eyes of Aiden.

The system panel for the items once again appeared in front of him.

[Shadow Strike Dagger]

[Rank: Intermediate]

[Restrictions: Can only be used by Assassin or a Special Class related to assassination.]

[Skill (Shadow Strike): A strike which cannot be seen by the enemy except when the enemy has a higher Charm. It costs three Mana Points to activate.]

[Description: A dagger made for assassins, it was made skillfully by a talented apprentice blacksmith who was able to pass on some of the emotions he was feeling when crafting it. The skill of the weapon complements the type of user who can use it.]

Before calling Maelis over he decided to try and equip the weapon to see if he was able to use it.

This time, no error message appeared. It seemed he could use all types of weapons without any problem.

"Maelis, come here. I think I found a good dagger," Aiden said, calling Maelis over to him.

"How much does it cost? Did you check? Normally, weapons made by apprentices don't cost much, but if they are special, they might cost more," Maelis said as she started to go over to Aiden.

"No, I'll check," Aiden answered, as he started looking at the price of the dagger which was attached to it.

"Bad news, it's 1500 Credits. It seems like I can't buy it," Aiden said, sad that he was not able to get this dagger because he really liked the skill that was attached to it.

"Calm down; if you really want this dagger, then I'll give you the 500 Credits you're missing. It's not much for someone like me, and you don't need to give it back. Let's just say you owe me one," Maelis said, trying to get a favor out of him.

Aiden thought about it and wasn't sure if that was the best deal he could get.

"What sort of favor? Wait, don't answer if I consider it too big. I'll refuse it, is that clear?"

Maelis nodded as she understood the reasons for him to say that.

"Then let's go buy it," Aiden said, even if he didn't want to owe her one. He really liked the dagger and the skill that was on it, and he wanted it.

"Alright, I know you won't like it, but to buy it, we need to go back down, and we have to take the stairs once again."

"No, no, no, please, is there nothing to help us around here to help us get back to the first floor," Aiden said, remembering the hell he suffered climbing those stairs.

Not having a choice, Maelis and Aiden made their way down to the first floor.

One hour later, they had finally arrived on the ground floor, and Aiden went to buy the dagger.

"Finally, I can leave this damn place," He said as he went to the counter and bought the dagger.

It could finally leave Ravenwood's shop after two hours of walking up and down stairs. He decided that if he ever came back there, he would have a lot of money because he didn't want to climb those stairs again.

Those two hours of exercises wouldn't have been much with his past body but with this weak one, it had put a toll on his body.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 22 - 22: Everheart's Manor**

After buying the dagger for Aiden, they decided to leave the shop. Aiden now wanted to leave right away and sleep in the place he called, but he didn't even know how to go back to the slums.

"So, um, how can I leave this place?" Aiden asked, looking around, not seeing any exits.

"Oh well, it's simple. You just need to find an exit door, which can be found almost everywhere around here, and you will be teleported back to the place where you entered the Otherworld Underground Shop," Maelis said, looking as if she wanted to ask something.

"Like a wooden door?"

"Yeah, you'll see they're easy to spot."

Then, after a moment of silence, Maelis once again opened her mouth.

"Hmm... Aiden, when is your next trial?"

"In about two days, why?"

"Well, I was thinking about some things today, and I decided that I wanted to invite you to visit my family manor. If you like our infrastructure and our family, I thought that we could try to recruit you. What do you say?" Maelis asked, nervous as to what Aiden would respond.

"If I go over there and think about joining it, will it count as the favor I owe you?"

Aiden wanted to get rid of that favor as soon as possible because he didn't want Maelis to ask anything too important from him.

"Sure, if that's what it takes," Maelis muttered. She looked desperate for him to come to try and convince him.

She wanted him to come because if she was able to recruit him, maybe he could help her family become even stronger with the appearance of a special class, which was what she thought he was.

Maelis was convinced Aiden had a special class, but she hadn't asked him yet. She decided to wait until he came to their mansion to ask.

One thing to know was that if she ever learned about his connection with the Nightshade family, she would never try to poach Aiden even a little, scared of the reaction of the Nightshade.

"Then, where's your family manor located, and how do I go there?"

"Don't worry about it. We'll find you and pick you up. How does 10 in the morning sound like?" Maelis asked back.

"Sure, I'll be ready by then."

After exchanging their goodbyes, Aiden was now in search of an exit door that would allow him to go back to the slums, wanting to find his bed as quickly as possible.

Maelis, on the other hand, didn't have the luxury of relaxing. She needed to prepare everything for the next day so that everything would be perfect. She also needed to find where Aiden lived in the slums. To find out where he lived, she hurried to the information center where she had met Aiden and quickly asked an elf to find all the information possible on Aiden.

Meanwhile, after a couple of minutes, Aiden finally found an exit door and quickly opened it wanting to be teleported back.

A message from the system appeared once again, telling him he was going to get teleported.

[You are being teleported to the Slums Otherworld Underground Entrance.]

After returning to the slums, Aiden went back to his home and slept like he never did before. His eyes closed by themselves, and he slept instantly. It seemed that all the actions he had gone through recently were hard on him and that he at least needed some rest.

However, before going to bed, he quickly checked how much time was left until he would get summoned to his second trial.

[You will be summoned to the Otherworld in one day.]

The next day, Aiden woke up because he started hearing the sounds of someone knocking on his half-broken door.

Knock! Knock!

Walking up to the door, he kinda knew who was on the other side, and it was exactly what he had thought.

There was someone wearing all black that resembled an elf knocking on his door. She was probably here to take him to Everheart's family.

"Are you ready to go?" The elf asked as she showed the black limousine behind her.

"One second, I'll go change. It won't take long," Aiden said as he quickly went back to his room and changed clothes.

He came back and was now ready to leave.

He followed the elf dressed in black and entered the black limousine that was parked in front of his shed. The luxurious car being parked outside of his house was weird when looking at the environment that was surrounded by people who had barely enough to survive.

Twenty minutes later, Aiden finally arrived at the manor of the Everheart where all their operations seemed to take place.

At the entrance gate of the manor, were two maids, one on each side of the gate, that looked exactly like Emily. The maid, however, clearly didn't have the same power as Emily. That was probably normal since they were not one of the founding families and only a medium-level one.

"Welcome to the Everheart Manor," both of the maids said at the entrance gate while bowing toward him.

It was now time for Aiden to enter the manor and he got greeted like he was an important guest for the first time in his life, the maids acted as if he was already their master, treating him with more respect than Emily ever did.

It felt good being respected for the first time. His mentor never once truly respected him and only used Aiden for his own goal.

His mentor complimented him after finishing his missions but he never respected him one bit, the proof of this was him when he felt that Aiden was becoming too powerful and that he would soon surpass him.

Not wanting to remember anything else about his mentor, he quickly dismissed those thoughts.

He entered the manor and it was beautiful, he had never seen a building that was this luxurious, he was in a place where they liked to show their wealth, to say the least, with their furniture that seemed to be made out of gold. Everyone inside the manor seemed to be wearing armor that cost at least twenty times the value of his dagger.

'Can I get equipment like this if I join this family?' Aiden thought.

The equipment he was seeing was really tempting and was clearly tilting positively the chances of accepting the deal that Maelis would propose to him later.

'Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to live here?' He thought, looking at the interior of the manor.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 23 - 23: Training Ground

Interrupting his thoughts about joining the Everheart Family, Maelis was going down the stairs that were right in front of Aiden, welcoming him.

"Aiden, you're here!" Maelis exclaimed, happy that he was finally here after she had prepared all night for his arrival.

She took care of everything, and it was all part of her plan; the two maids in front of the manor were her plan to show him that he could have one of those maids just by joining her family. She also asked for the highest-ranked members to come to the lobby at around 10 in the morning to impress him and to show him their equipment and wealth.

"Hey, now that I'm here what should we be doing? What did you want to show me?" Aiden asked, wanting to know more about what she had prepared for him.

"Well, what do you say that we start with a tour of this place? I'll show you our training grounds, storage room, sparring grounds, and many other things."

"Alright then, I'll follow you," Aiden said, as he indicated to her that he was going to follow right behind her.

The maids from the entrance also followed right behind them, making sure that Aiden had everything he needed.

As they were walking, Maelis started talking about the history of her family and how it formed.

"Well, I don't know if you have noticed, but most of the people that live here are actually elves. That's because the person who founded the family at the start was an elf, and he only recruited elves into the family, which caused a large number of elves to be part of this family."

"Are you a descendant of the one who created this family?" Aiden asked, curious about what she would say.

"Yes, I am. That's why I'm currently the matriarch of the family. But that's not the only reason. I'm also the strongest if we take into account all the members of the family," Maelis said, making sure that he knew she was the best in her family.

"Then, does your family have any type of specialty for techniques like the founding families?"



"Well, the technique we use is one for archers and long-ranges classes, which probably doesn't correspond to you since you bought a dagger for assassins yesterday. But don't worry about the technique we use, as it is not even a high-tier one and won't have much impact if you decide to join this family."

This was actually a lie. Practicing even the lowest-tier technique given to you is important and helps you develop yourself and get stronger faster.

Because a technique is stronger than a skill since it doesn't require any mana points to activate. Also, a technique has a wide range of abilities, so it is basically a combination of many skills which is why it makes it so strong, it also doesn't count in the limited skill slots.

"Are techniques not important? Because when you were talking about medium-level families and higher ranked ones, the main point you pointed out was the techniques they possessed and the difference in strength they had," Aiden said, doubting the information Maelis had just told him.

Hearing this question, Maelis knew she couldn't lie, but she still tried to hide some elements from him.

"I mean, they are important, but you would still be able to be strong even without one."

"Hmm... Sure, I guess." He responded.

He knew that she answered his question to make it seem like he didn't need a technique, but what she just said meant that not having one would decelerate his growth. Basically, having good techniques was better than having good skills.

After walking for some time, they finally arrived at the training grounds.

"Alright, here we are. This is the training ground. As you can see, members of the guild practice here every day to improve their skills," Maelis said as she showed the training ground to Aiden.

The training ground was quite big, and it wasn't anything like Aiden had expected. There seemed to be small challenges that focused on certain stats like agility, strength, dexterity, and other stats all around the training ground with a ranking written right beside it, which indicated who was the best at those challenges.

Seeing those challenges, Aiden decided to ask Maelis if he could try one.

"Can I try one of the challenges?"

"Of course, you can even try them all," Maelis answered, pleased that she was finally going to see the strength of Aiden, she was starting to get excited.

As he obtained the right to do the challenges, Aiden decided to do the trial that seemed to be a little parkour which interested him.

The parkour seemed to be composed of five platforms that were each different from one another separated from each other which would force Aiden to jump from one another, also the ground under the platforms was riddled with little spikes that would surely hurt if he did fall.

Before doing it, he checked the rankings right beside it, and some names and times were written on it.

[Rankings - Parkour]

[1st: Emma Everheart (1:32)]

[2nd: Benjamin Everheart (1:43)]

[3rd: Matthew Walker (2:01)]

Looking at it, he noticed that the person who was first had quite the advantage over the second, and the second had an even bigger gap with the third.

He found it weird that Maelis wasn't on the rankings.

"Why are you not on here?"

"Well, the rankings for the challenges in the training grounds are reserved for awakeners that have not completed their fifth trial yet, which means I can't put my name up there," Maelis explained to Aiden.

"Oh, and I almost forgot, but when doing the challenges, all of your stats are limited to one; it was decided like this because we train our basics in those challenges."

Learning that his stats would be limited to one didn't affect much Aiden since he knew that his movement techniques were already much better than what others would use.

He was sure that would absolutely destroy the rankings placing first. If he didn't, it would be disappointing for Aiden since he takes pride in his movement.

[You are entering a zone with a stat restriction.]

[All of your stats are being limited to one.]

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 24 - 24: Parkour Challenge

As he stepped toward the parkour challenge, two messages from the system appeared in front of him.

[You are entering a zone with a stat restriction.]

[All of your stats are being limited to one.]

Instantly after receiving those two messages, strength seemed to leave Aiden's body; he was back to how he had first started, which was a weird feeling.

All the power he had accumulated didn't seem like much, but when it left his body, he could feel the difference pretty well, so he started moving his arms and feet to get used to that feeling.

"How does it feel?" Maelis asked, seeing Aiden move his arms and legs.

She knew it was quite weird to experience having your stats restricted the first time since she, too, acted similarly the first time her stats were suppressed.

"It's strange. How did you limit my stats? Is that some type of item from the Otherworld?"

"Yes, it's an item that can be obtained in the rewards of the 10th trial, but you have to be quite lucky to get it. It's rare and costs a fortune to buy. I think we bought this stat limiter for 350 000 credits, but even then, it's on the lower end, and this one can be considered cheap."

"350 000 Credits?" Aiden repeated, not believing what he had just heard if he continued completing his trials in the same fashion as the first one, then it wouldn't take long for him to have a fortune.

"Yes, it's quite expensive, but it's great for training, which is why most families use it. So, are you used to having your stats restricted now?" Maelis asked, wanting to see Aiden perform.

"I think so," Aiden answered as he was doing quick jumps, trying to make sure he was used to it before starting the challenge.

After confirming that he was ready, Aiden advanced toward the starting line. Close to it, a big chronometer was on his right and would show the time he would take to complete the challenge in real time.

The system also had its own chronometer that only appeared for Aiden, which indicated at the moment 00:00.

Now that Aiden was close to the platforms, he could see all sorts of obstacles in his way that would make it difficult for him. And just like he had seen from far away, little spikes could be seen under the platforms, which was probably used to motivate the members to give them all so they didn't fall on them and hurt themselves.

Five platforms were there too, but on them were different types of obstacles. He could see bullets being shot consistently on a platform, on the other one, there was lava in some spots, another had two big walls and no ground, the other was plain with nothing on it, which was weird.

The parkour he would have to do looked a bit like what he did in his previous life. But the one with his mentor was even more dangerous, which technically gave Aiden the advantage of finishing first because he already had a bit of experience.

It was now time for Aiden to beat the fastest time that the members of the Everheart family had achieved and show Maelis just how strong he actually was when giving his all.

He had adjusted himself to the stats he now had and was ready to do the impossible and beat the record on his first try without any practice whatsoever.

In an instant, he started running on the first platform, which didn't contain any traps, and quickly approached the second one.

The second looked exactly like the first one. There was nothing on it, which Aiden found weird.

'Is this a running challenge or what?' thought Aiden, but he knew the other platforms had traps as he had seen them even before starting the challenge.

But suddenly, as he was running on the second platform, he felt something under his feet open wide, and sensing it, he quickly jumped up to dodge whatever was happening.

As he was in the air because of his jump, he saw that right under him was a hole in the platform, but Aiden was sure that there wasn't one before. It seemed like the trap on this platform was the ground, which could open and make him fall toward the little spikes.

But this trap wasn't really dangerous for Aiden, and he quickly jumped whenever he felt a platform open.

'All I need to do is jump when I feel the ground is going to open. This is way too easy,' thought Aiden, not knowing that what he was doing was actually really hard or even impossible for others.

On the other hand, Maelis was shocked to see Aiden jumping around.

'How the hell is he able to jump in reaction to the ground opening? Emma learned the pattern and where they would open, but she's not able to do whatever he is doing right now. Just who are you, Aiden?' She thought, watching him continue to dodge the trap as if it were nothing.

He quickly arrived at the end of the second platform by executing the same jumps over and over again. To reach the next platform, which was the one with rock and lava surrounding it, he only needed to make one last jump.

And his jump landed. He was now on the third platform, with little rocks in front of him. Not wasting any time, he jumped on the rocks without even doubting that he would lose his balance and fall into the lava.

The heart of Aiden was calm while doing those actions because he had performed far worse with his past mentor. He knew that he was able to jump from one rock to another without any problem, and the most important thing to note was that while jumping, he wasn't making any noises. He was completely silent. If someone was close to him, he would not even be able to hear him move.

The fact that he was silent while doing all of this was unknown to Maelis, but that was already enough to impress her. Imagine if she knew about this ability of his. She had already noticed how silent he was while walking, but that was only while walking normally. How could she know that he was able to do so in every situation possible?

After crossing the third platform, only two of them were left, which were the two hardest, and even Aiden would have to be careful with them.

The time on the chronometer shown by the system was 00:47, if he wanted to beat Emma Everheart, he would need to complete the rest of the challenge in under 45 seconds, it would be a close one.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 25 - 25: First?**

After jumping on the rocks surrounded by lava, Aiden jumped onto the fourth platform, which was a bit different from the others he had faced before.

On the fourth platform, there was no ground, only two walls, one on each side. To reach the other side, Aiden would have to jump between the two walls at a speed that would prevent him from falling to the ground.

Meanwhile, Maelis had her sight locked onto Aiden, impressed with what she had seen so far.

'He arrived at the fourth platform. It's the place where most people stop, unable to complete it. Let's see if he will be able to pull it off in a single try,' thought Maelis, kind of expecting him to succeed.

Maelis had no doubt in her mind that Aiden wouldn't be able to do such a thing when she saw the fashion in which he passed the second platform with the jumps he was performing there.

Aiden, seeing those two walls, didn't even question what he would have to do and immediately jumped onto one of the walls, knowing he only had 42 seconds left to beat the record of this challenge.

He wasn't typically that competitive, normally getting first place wouldn't have much importance to him but it seemed that this challenge had awakened something in him: the sense of competition.

He wanted to beat the person who was in the first place, to prove to himself that he was good at this and that even the best in this place couldn't rival him in terms of movement and agility.

He activated his skill [Mind of an Assassin] to calm his mind and focus on the task ahead. He also wanted to be able to see the best way to complete the challenge, and a red aura started emitting from him, which was noticed immediately by Maelis.

'He already has an aura, but how? He only completed the first trial; just what did he accomplish on the first trial for him to have one?' thought Maelis, shock in her eyes as she saw some sort of power coming out of Aiden.

With his skill, Aiden saw an image of himself running in front of him, not even jumping to the other wall. It seemed like the most efficient way to pass this trial was to run on the wall and not jump, but would it really work?

Not questioning the image he was seeing, he followed it just like he did when he killed the boss monster. He knew he was going to succeed if he did everything that his image showed him.

'Why isn't he jumping from one wall to another? Wait, is he actually running on the wall?' thought Maelis, once again shocked by the actions of Aiden.

"Come see this!"

"How is he doing this?"

This action of Aiden attracted people who were training in the training grounds. The fact that the matriarch was even watching made them realize that the person who was doing this was important or would become important.

The people watching were even more shocked when they saw the time on the chronometer, which indicated that only 57 seconds had passed since he started the challenge.

"Is he really going to beat Emma?"

"Don't be ridiculous. She's the most talented awakened in the history of the Everheart family."

"Right, she even has a special class. Someone like him probably won't be able to beat her time."

"But why is the matriarch watching him?"

"Are you dumb? She obviously wants to recruit him into the family."

Discussion about the identity of the young man doing the challenge and why the matriarch was also there watching started happening all around the training grounds.

But Aiden, in his current situation, didn't hear a thing and was completely focused on finishing this challenge.

His mind was completely void of distractions because of the skill he had activated; the only thing he could feel was the beating of his heart, which was steady.

He ran on the wall without falling down and reached the other side. He quickly jumped onto the last platform, and he now had 25 seconds to finish the last platform, which was considered by many to be the hardest, with deadly projectiles being thrown at him that he needed to dodge.

The thing was that the projectiles thrown were almost impossible to see with the naked eye, especially when the stats were limited to one.

But with his skill, it wouldn't be much of a problem. He simply followed the trail shown by his clone and saw bullets passing on his right and left, never being close to hitting him.

"How is he able to see the bullets? Does he have some power that allows him to see into the future?" One of the people watching him exclaimed.

'Is his class related to seeing the future, agility, or maybe even sight? I can't even tell because he is good at too many things. It's like the system gave him the opportunity to do anything he wanted,' thought Maelis.

Aiden continued advancing forward, once again not even hearing the reactions from the public that had gathered to watch him finish the challenge.

All of them were amazed by how he advanced from each platform. It wasn't anything like what the others did.

Usually, when arriving at the last part of the challenge, the participants would have memorized the pattern of the bullets to be able to dodge them, but that wasn't even the case with Aiden, who seemed to be doing it purely on instinct.

Arriving at the finish line, Aiden gave a quick glance at the chronometer that his system was showing him and saw the number [01:22].

He had done it; he got first place on his first try.

"1 minute and 22 seconds in a single try. Imagine if he does it again?" said one of the people watching him.

'He was able to beat Emma, and without any practice at that. How the hell are you this talented?' Maelis thought, unsure as to how Aiden had pulled this off.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 26 - 26: No Class?**

"Wow, how did he do it?"

"He was like woosh woosh," someone said, making signs with his hands, "and dodged every projectile coming at him."

Aiden was happy hearing the praise of those watching him. After all, he had never heard much praise in his life, and he had to admit that it felt great. He understood why people were pursuing fame, and being adored by many could become addicting fast.



Aiden got down and went back to the start of the challenge, heading toward Maelis, ignoring the others who were close and had seen him complete the challenge.

Aiden could see that Maelis seemed shocked by what he had just done, fixated on him like never before. He could see that she appeared agitated or excited; he couldn't tell just from the expression on her face.

"Should we go somewhere, um, a little bit more private?" Aiden asked, not wanting to attract too much attention.

"Ye-yes, follow me," said Maelis, quickly leaving the training grounds and going to her office, where she would discuss some things with Aiden.

On the way to her office, complete silence reigned between the two of them. Maelis wasn't talking to calm herself, and Aiden saw that she didn't want to talk yet, so he respected her decision and waited until they arrived at the office.

The truth was that her mind was full of thoughts, trying to find an offer that could be good enough to attract the young man in front of her. The truth was that she had prepared one for him, a good one at that, but seeing what he was able to do, she knew it wasn't enough and that he deserved much more.

However, for her to give him an offer, she would need to learn more about his class, the level he had reached, and the skills he possessed. Knowing this type of information when recruiting someone was common and usually didn't cause any problems.

She knew that having someone with the talent he had in her medium-level family could probably propel them to the high tier in a few years as he continued to develop. She had no choice but to go all in with her offer to please him as best as possible.

Arriving at her office, Aiden was surprised that it didn't look that fancy compared to the rest of the building. Inside the office were only the necessities needed: a desk, a chair, and not much else. There wasn't much decoration; it was simply bland and empty.

Maelis quickly went to the other side of the desk and sat down on her chair, which was the only one in the room that seemed to cost quite a bit because it was really big, fitting of an important person.

The chair looked like some sort of throne with some gold attached to it. It truly was the only thing that stood out because everything else inside the room didn't look all that great.

"You can sit down," said Maelis, pointing at the small chair that wasn't like the one she was sitting on.

"Alright, before we discuss the benefits and the contract you would have to sign to join the family, I'll need to know your level, skills, and your class. Is that good for you?"

"I'm level 10. For skills, I have two. One is called [Mind of the Assassin]; it helps me calm my mind and find the best way out of a situation. The other one I got as a reward for completing the first trial, and it's a skill called Regeneration, which, as its name suggests, helps me regenerate," said Aiden, not wanting to reveal his passive skills.

He also decided to reveal his skill [Mind of the Assassin] because she had seen him use it and saw his red aura during the challenge.

"What about your class?" Maelis finally asked, thinking that maybe he had forgotten about it.

"My class is nothing," said Aiden, not wanting to hide it from her since he knew she didn't seem like the type to reveal this type of information.

"What do you mean it's nothing?" asked Maelis, confused about his answer because she was sure he was going to announce to her that he had a special class.

"Well, I don't have an actual class."

"So, you aren't a special class holder? Then how the hell were you able to do all that in the parkour?" asked Maelis, not understanding anything anymore.

"Special class holder? What the hell is that?" asked Aiden, not even comprehending the words that came out of her mouth.

"It's not important; don't worry about it. Even if you don't have a special class, you should still have a class. Do you really not have one?"

Maelis was disappointed to learn that he wasn't a special class holder because that would have helped the family gain even more power. They already had one in the family, Emma Everheart, whom Aiden had beaten in the parkour challenge. If they could have gotten two, then their potential for becoming a higher-ranked family would have increased significantly.

"Yeah, I really don't have one. Believe me, I wish I had one."

"Alright, what about the dagger we bought yesterday? Wasn't it restricted to Assassins or a special class related to assassins?"

"Oh, item restrictions don't affect me. That's why I bought it and can equip it."

"You can bypass the restrictions set up by the system? How?"

"I have no idea. I tried to equip an item with a restriction, and the system let me do it."

"Wait, is it the same thing for skills? Can you learn any type of skills?" said Maelis, excited about the possibility of him being able to do so.

"Actually, I haven't tried yet because, as you know, I don't have enough money to buy different skills."

'Maybe he is special after all,' thought Maelis.

"Come with me. We'll go try it right now," said Maelis, with newfound energy contained in her voice as she stood up.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 27 - 27: Selecting a New Skill**

Maelis stood up and told Aiden to follow her. She looked determined to test if the restrictions on skills were also lifted.

If that were the case, Aiden could be anything and wouldn't have to focus on a single path like all the others; he would become a Jack of all trades capable of pulling the move needed at the moment.

Maelis was currently going toward their storage room which had some skill books that were not used by the family members. The skills in the storage room were there for two reasons; the first one is that the members couldn't learn them because of the restrictions or the skill wasn't worth learning.

After two minutes of walking quickly, Maelis stopped and took a right turn, and in front of her was a tall door that seemed to be made of a special material that seemed solid.

Maelis started touching random spots on the door and a clicking sound could be heard, she had opened the door.

'Is it a special code for entering?' Aiden thought.

"Alright Aiden, this is our storage room, I know it looks good, but that's not what's important. Choose a skill that you like here that can normally be used by a certain class to try to learn it."

The storage had fifteen or twenty skill books on a bookshelf. It was crazy to think that they possessed that many unused skill books. Most of them probably weren't great, but it was still impressive. There was also equipment that was left there, like swords, daggers, bows, and more. All of those weapons looked great.

"I can choose whatever skill book that I want in here?" He repeated, making sure he had heard her correctly.

Having a new skill was perfect for Aiden, especially before his second trial which was not even in an hour.

"Yes, fast. We don't have all day since you are going to be summoned to the Otherworld soon, right?"

Aiden, hearing her say that, made him check how much time left he had.

"You're right. I only have one hour before being summoned."

"Go, we need to find out before you leave. Don't you know the second trial is a lot harder than the first one and will take at least a couple of days to complete? I can't wait to find out if someone like you who can ignore the system restrictions exists."

Hearing her excitement in finding out, Aiden quickly checked the details of the skill books in front of him.

There were all types of them. Three were for mages, one for healers, two for swordmen, and many others.

But after getting through all of them, Aiden had made his selection of three skills for him to choose from.

Selecting a skill was very important and he couldn't rush this decision since he already had used one chance out of his five to learn a skill book. Knowing this, he took his time calming down, not getting influenced by the emotions Maelis was projecting onto him.

It was now time for him to choose between those three skills, all of them were Green rated, it seemed blue rated skills were rare if even they didn't have one at their disposal.

"Maybe they already used them all." He thought, noticing that the only ranks of skill books they had were green and gray.

[Iron Fortress]

[Rank: Green]

[Restriction: User has to be of the Shieldbearer class.]

[Description: It is a great defensive skill that will make you into a literal iron fortress, your skill will become hard as metal. It will be much harder to penetrate it and harm you.]

[Cost: 4 Mana Points]

[Duration: 30 seconds]

[Cooldown: 15 minutes]

---

[Phantom Parry]

[Rank: Green]

[Restriction: User has to be of the Assassin class.]

[Description: Use it for counter-attacking. The Phantom Parry is a skill that will make you able to block any type of attack, even the ones you cannot see. The Phantom Parry efficiency depends on the agility stats, the higher it is the better, it will work.]

[Cost: 1 Mana Point]

[Cooldown: 2 minutes]

---

[Swift Evasion]

[Rank: Green]

[Restriction: User needs to have at least five points in agility to perform the skill.]

[Description: Use the skill for evading and trying to flee, it is not a skill used to attack others. It will make you incredibly fast, making you able to flee. It can only be activated when fleeing from enemies.]

[Duration: 15 seconds]

[Cost: 3 Mana Points]

[Cooldown: 10 minutes]

---

Aiden had chosen three skills that were defense-oriented because he didn't want to have to stress about not being able to kill an opponent in a single strike and get hurt because of that. He wanted to make sure he had at least a way to defend himself.

Looking at the three options he had chosen, he decided to discard [Swift Evasion] because it wasn't in his style to flee. He liked it more to fight opponents head to head.

After eliminating one of the skills, he only needed to choose between the [Phantom Parry] or the [Iron Fortress].

He started weighing which skills would make more sense to him.

The skill [Iron Fortress] was great because it could be used by Aiden to block some of the attacks coming at him for a whole 30 seconds, which was quite long, but the thing that he didn't like about the skill was the cost and the cooldown that were quite high.

On the other hand, [Phantom Parry] had a low cost of Mana Points to use, and it had a really short cooldown. However, the skill by itself wasn't as strong as [Iron Fortress].

Comparing the two of them, it was time for Aiden to make his final choice, and he decided to take the skill [Phantom Parry].

Picking it up in his hands, it was now time to see if he would be able to learn it or not.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 28 - 28: Unable to Learn the Skill

[Learn the skill Phantom Parry?]

Hearing the question from the system, Aiden immediately responded yes, wanting to see what was going to happen.

Maelis was also watching the situation unfold with interest, wanting to know if he was going to be able to learn that skill or not.

"Yes, I want to learn Phantom Parry."

Beep!

[Error detected: User does not have permission to learn the skill.]

It didn't continue making errors, it quickly stopped unlike last time when it continued for a while, it seemed like he couldn't learn any type of skill.

"I don't think it's working. I got an error message."

"Can't you try again to make sure it isn't working?"

The face of Maelis was one that showed disappointment because he wasn't able to learn all types of skills that could have revolutionized the world they were living in, but she still had some hope that he would be able to learn it if he tried again.

'If only it worked, we could have become a high-tier family with the strength he would have developed,' thought Maelis.

Aiden was also disappointed, but not as much as Maelis because he didn't understand the importance of being able to learn skills from different classes. He didn't think much of it because ever since he had arrived, he hadn't depended that much on skills in general and much more on his experience in fighting as an assassin.

However, deciding to listen to Maelis he tried once again to learn the skill book.

[Learn the skill Phantom Parry?]

"Yes, I want to learn Phantom Parry."

[Error detected: User does not currently have permission to learn the skill.]

Seeing the error message, it seemed that the situation was once again repeated with no success.

"It's not working. It's showing the same error message from earlier," said Aiden.

But taking a closer look at the error message he saw that a word had been added, he didn't currently have permission to learn the skill.

"Wa-wait, a word changed. It says that I don't currently have permission to learn the skill. I might be able to earn permission from the system," exclaimed Aiden, happy with himself that he had read the error message and not simply glanced over it.

"Doesn't that mean, you'll be able to have access to learning the skill at some point?" questioned Maelis, who was as clueless as Aiden since it was the first time she was experiencing this type of stuff.

"I'll ask the system what I have to do, just a second."

"System, what do I have to do to be able to learn [Phantom Parry]?" asked Aiden, opening his ears as wide as possible to not lose a single detail coming out of the system.

[To be able to learn [Phantom Parry] or any other type of skill that is related to the Assassin class, you will have to complete the second trial alone and kill the boss monster alone. Know that completing a trial and killing the boss monster alone has never been done before and is extremely hard.]

"What do you mean by alone? Aren't we always a team when facing trials?" asked Aiden to the system.

[Normally, that is the case, but since your situation is different from others, we have given you the opportunity to face the second trial by yourself. The reward for doing so is to gain access to learning Assassin class skills.]

[Do you accept?]

"What is it saying?" asked Maelis, wanting to know more as she couldn't hear what the system was telling Aiden.

"It says that I can gain access to Assassins class skills by completing the second trial alone."

"Completing the second trial alone? But that's impossible."

"Not only the trial it also wants me to kill the boss monster of the trial."

"That's even more impossible; I don't know what the system is thinking. You don't need to accept it we'll find another way for you to have skills. I'll try to find the best skills without any restrictions once you join the family, don't worry."

Seeing your talent in the parkour challenge, I don't think you will need to depend on skills that much," said Maelis, not even thinking about the possibility of Aiden accepting the offer.

However, the next words that came out of the mouth of Aiden weren't the ones she was expecting.

"I accept to do the second trial alone," said Aiden, completely ignoring the words that came out of Maelis's mouth.

"Wh-what are you doing? If you die in the second trial, you will lose all your skills, and you will lose the levels you got on the first trial," said Maelis, trying to convince Aiden not to accept the proposition, but it looked like it was too late to do so.



A message from the system appeared.

[You will be summoned by yourself to the Otherworld in 5 minutes.]

It seemed like the system had reduced the time before his summoning to five minutes, not giving a lot of time to Aiden.

"It's fine, don't worry I'm sure I'll be able to do it, after all, I experienced far worse," said Aiden, murmuring the last words which were not heard by Maelis.

"You're saying that because you didn't experience the second trial like me. It's not as simple as the first one. It's not about defending a city or killing monsters. The task given is much harder and extremely hard especially if you are alone, you will incarnate a new person and will have a new role that you will need to accomplish."

"It doesn't matter. I'm sure I'll be able to do it, as it already happened to me."

"Even if I don't know much, I know you'll have a lot of trouble beating alone, even if you are really strong."

"Well, it doesn't matter what you think, I'm going to be summoned in a couple of seconds. Let's talk about the condition of me joining your family when I get back," said Aiden as he started disappearing in particles.

"Let's hope you don't die over there I guess," said Maelis after Aiden had completely disappeared from her eyes, hoping that he would not lose the skills and levels he had gotten in the first trial.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 29 - 29: Start of the Second Trial**

[Welcome to the waiting room!]

He was now back in the white room he had first appeared in, where he had met his teammates for the trial ahead of him, but this time, there was no one with him. He was alone and he would try to complete it without the help of anyone.

Before he left, he heard Maelis say to him that he would incarnate the role of someone in the Otherworld. This information actually put his mind at ease since he even had experience in that domain and was now used to it.

[Since you have been summoned to unlock access to the assassin-type skills, the trial you will go under will be similar.]

[You will be summoned into the second trial in 30 seconds because you have no teammates to discuss with and present yourself to.]

[A description of where and who you are will appear at the start of the trial.]

Seeing this message from the system, he started getting excited at the prospect of doing his second trial, which was supposed to be harder. He wanted to see what the trial he would have to accomplish would be.

30 seconds later, he was being summoned.

[You are summoned into the second trial.]

[Trial Description: You are being transported into a world that is at war, two emperors are fighting against each other because they want more power and are greedy for it. In this world, you take over the body of the king's assassin of the Avaloria Empire, your role will be to listen to the king's commands and complete them perfectly. If you fail to do so, you will fail the trial.

Keep in mind that you won't take over his body and simply replace him, but the inhabitants will not be able to notice it.]

[Reward: Gain access to learning skill books related to the class <Assassin>.]

[Failure: Death]

"Wait, what is this?" Aiden said, looking at what would happen if he failed the trial, "It's written death as in real death. I won't have another chance. Didn't they tell me that you couldn't actually die in these trials?"

Aiden was shocked to learn that he could die if he failed the trial, but he didn't have much time to think about it as he started appearing in a room where a meeting seemed to occur.

Inside the room was a big round table with twelve people around it excluding Aiden, it looked like they were all the generals of the troops or important persons at least.

The chairs that they sat on were different than the chair which was on the end of the table, that chair couldn't be called a chair, it would be better to call it a throne. A throne where a king would be sitting.

"As you all know, we are currently in a war against the Epsilon Empire, and we need to do something to try and get the advantage over them," the person who was most likely the king said because he had a crown on his head.

Suddenly pointing toward Aiden's direction, the king continued speaking, "Aiden, as you all know, is the best assassin of our empire, and I want to trust him and give him a really important mission. I will tell him in private because we never know if the information might leak."

Some complaints could be heard around the table, saying that they were loyal to the king and all of that, but it didn't change what the king had in mind.

"You may leave, Aiden will stay, and I will tell him about it," the king said, finishing his talk and commanding Aiden to stay.

It seemed Aiden arrived in the middle of a conversation and had no idea of what they were discussing apart from the war with the Upsilon Empire which was information he already knew about since the system had told him about it.

"What is the special mission you have for me, my king," Aiden asked with as much respect as possible, not wanting trouble with the king or else he would surely die.

"Why are you calling me like that? Didn't I tell you to call me Victor when we're alone?" The king answered in a lighthearted tone.

He didn't know how to respond to that because he simply didn't know that they were close.

"Victor? Yeah, right; sorry, it's just a habit. Well, what is the special mission, Victor?"

"That's better, aha," Victor said as he patted the shoulders of Aiden.

Seeing how the king treated Aiden, they seemed to have a good relationship from the point of view of Aiden, he couldn't imagine doing this with anyone.

"So, the special mission I have for you isn't an easy one, but I believe that with your talent, you will be able to succeed.

Also, hearing the word special mission coming out of the mouth of the king, Aiden was all ears and wanted to learn more about the trial he would have to do because all the information he got from the system was to listen to the king's orders.

"What is it going to be?" He asked.

"The special mission I have for you is to assassinate the four generals of the enemy's troops by infiltrating them."

Hearing the difficulty of the mission the king had for Aiden kind of shocked him, but he still remained stoic, not showing a reaction befitting of being an assassin. He was used to getting hard missions and always completed them in his life, and he would make sure to do the same again in this trial.

[Trial objective: Kill all the generals from the Upsilon Empire. (0/4)]

[The boss of this trial will be revealed when completing the <Trial Objective>. For your information, it is not necessarily a monster. It can be a human.]

"How much time do I have?" Aiden asked, wanting to know if he needed to rush into the enemy camp.

"No, I will give you the entire week, and during our surprise attack, you will infiltrate the enemy camp."

"So, the goal of the surprise attack is for me to infiltrate the enemy camp," he asked, to make sure about the king's plan.

Victor once again confirmed it and then dismissed Aiden.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 30 - 30: The Shapeshifter**

As Aiden left the king, he was relieved when he heard the content of the mission he would have to do. It was a classic mission for an assassin and he had done one that resembled what he was asked many times in his past life.

Infiltration was one of the tasks he preferred because it was the one where he was the best at. He had done many of them, which at some point gave him the title of the Reaper betraying his teammates when they least expected it, but he decided not to have this killer nature in the world he had transmigrated, not wanting to live the same life as before, one of loneliness.

He wanted to make friends in this world as he did with Maelis.

Thinking about the trial and the infiltration into the other camp, Aiden didn't want to waste any time and already wanted to leave this city to take as little time as possible doing this trial before coming back to the real world.

After leaving the room with the king, Aiden saw the twelve people who were around the table looking at him weirdly, almost with desire.

The twelve people who were around the table were outside waiting, probably wanting to interrogate Aiden to find out what the king asked of him.

They all wanted to know his task because maybe they could replace him and do it in his place, everyone wanted to gain a favor from the king, and this could be a way to get it. They all wanted that favor at all costs, even if it meant killing Aiden to get it, so they approached him.

However, Aiden wasn't dumb, he knew that some of them were approaching him with bad intentions wanting to learn about what he needed to do. He also didn't know if there was a spy in the spies of the Avaloria Empire, which he was part of. Not wanting to reveal any type of information, he started leaving, not even speaking a single word.

Seeing him act like this angered some of the generals who were greedy, but they didn't do anything because they knew that the king's assassin was almost impossible to beat in a one versus one.

Aiden was lucky that the person he had taken over was a renowned assassin who was very strong because he had just saved him from trouble.

However, that didn't mean that the other generals wouldn't try anything as a group, thinking that they may have a chance.

As Aiden was leaving the place where the meeting had taken place, he started looking around him, and it seemed that he was currently in a place where not much technology had been invented because, looking at the walls and the architecture, it seemed like he was currently in the Middles Ages where knights and army were formed.

'Am I in a castle?' Aiden asked to himself, almost sure he was because the walls were made of rocks.

He was happy that he wasn't summoned to some sort of strange place like the first trial.

To Aiden's knowledge, there was no monster, no weird races. There were only humans like him, which made him comfortable not having to deal with the appearance of strange people.

While Aiden was thinking about what kind of place he had been summoned, one person out of the twelve who were around the table was currently talking to someone, or a better word for it might be a monster.

It seemed Aiden was wrong about the world he was currently in having no monster because the creature that the general named Oliver was talking to didn't look anything like a monster. In fact, the creature kept changing its appearance as it spoke.

"I need you to learn more about the task that the king has given to the king's assassin, find him and seduce him by taking a beautiful appearance here," said Oliver, one of the generals to the ever-changing monster throwing to him a dead body, the one of a woman.

"Master, thank you for this opportunity," the monster, with some difficulty talking, said, looking at the dead body.

"Master, where is that person which you are talking about?" The monster asked, which now had the appearance of a beautiful young woman capable of seducing anyone.

"He should be around the exit of the castle as we speak. Try to get to him before he leaves for his mission and bring him back to me," Oliver said as he started giving the monster all the details about the current situation that was unfolding.

Without saying another word, the monster, who had the appearance of a beautiful woman, left in the direction of the castle's exit.

Oliver, on the other hand, hadn't finished what he wanted to do and quickly got out of a weird type of device, which looked like a mirror.

By pressing some places on the mirror, a face appeared on it that anyone from the Avaloria Empire could recognize in an instant. It was the Uplison Emperor's face right there in the mirror.

"My king, I have some important news to give you," Oliver said, not wasting any time.

"Which is?" The king asked, not even acknowledging Oliver for a single second.

"The Avaloria king's assassin is on the move and has been given a secret mission by the king, but no one knows anything about it."

"Did you really use the communication mirror just to tell me this?" The king asked, not sounding worried in the least.

"But, this assassin is dangerous. Didn't you hear the rumors about him, my king? It is said that he has abilities that defy those of this world."

"How is this any relevant information to me? It's not like a single person can defeat our empire; that's simply impossible," the Upsilon Emperor replied.

"I only wanted to let you know, sorry to have bothered..."

"Why can't you take care of him? Aren't you a general of my army?" The Upsilon Emperor asked, interrupting the salutations Oliver.

"I'm trying. I sent the shapeshifter. I will soon know if it has succeeded since I ordered it to capture him and bring him back to me as soon as possible."

"That's good, just make sure that you aren't discovered. If you die or get discovered, we will lose the biggest advantage that we have over the Avaloria Empire."

After saying that, the Upsilon Emperor and Oliver, one of the generals that Aiden needed to kill to complete his trial, said their goodbyes, and Oliver started going in the direction of the castle's exit where the shapeshifter had left.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 31 - 31: Why Is She Bothering Me?**

As Aiden was coming out of the castle, he was blinded by the light of the sun, which went directly into his eyes.

A couple of seconds later, after adjusting to the light of the world he was now in, Aiden saw that he was currently on the top of a mountain where a castle was actually built.

Because he was currently pretty high in altitude, he got a pretty bird-eye vision of the city of Avaloria, and he caught the sight of a bustling market square where merchants and villagers seemed to trade with each other.

Moving his eyes around, trying to observe everything from his point of view, he was amazed at the city's many inhabitants and how well-developed it was, with a big market that seemed to be bustling with sellers and buyers.

Aiden didn't know why, but he kept having this feeling that he was being observed by someone around him, but as he kept looking around, he couldn't find anyone or anything really.

However, the instinct of Aiden was correct there really was someone watching him, it was the monster that Oliver had sent after him, it was observing its every move. It

seemed to be analyzing Aiden, trying to find the best way to interact with him, but it didn't reveal its position yet, waiting for the perfect time.

As he kept looking around, not finding anything, Aiden decided it was time for him to visit the pub.

He decided to go down this massive mountain using the stairs that were right beside him, which were leading to the city he was currently looking at.

As he started walking down the stairs, the beautiful woman who was watching him started doing the same thing as him.

After 5 minutes of going down the mountain, Aiden finally arrived in the city.

It looked even bigger from up close; Aiden didn't want to waste time and kept asking himself where he could find as much information as possible.

He started looking in front of him, he could see the little shops made by merchants who were selling their products which didn't interest him much. After looking at the shop, he continued looking around trying to find something that wasn't created by a merchant.

And that's when he saw someone entering some type of building that looked like a pub, the man who he had seen entering didn't seem to be the type of guy who would go into a pub for no reason. Because of that, Aiden thought that maybe something was special about that place, maybe it was a place where soldiers would regroup to talk about the war against the Upsilon Empire.

Not wasting another second, he went toward the pub to see if his instincts were right about that place.

But just before he could leave, he heard the voice of a woman.

"Young man, young man, I'm sorry, but could I ask you something?" the beautiful woman asked.

Aiden, not thinking the woman was talking to him, continued going forward, not caring about the voice that was right behind him.

"Why are you ignoring me?" the woman asked.

"Oh, are you talking to me?" Aiden replied as he turned around, pointing at himself.

"Yes, who do you think I'm talking to?"



"It's not that I don't want to hear what you want to say to me... But I don't have time to listen to what you have to say," Aiden said, not wanting to be delayed by some random conversation.

"Wait, wait, I have something important to tell you."

"Can't you just tell while we're walking toward that pub over there," Aiden said, pointing at the pub.

"Sure," the woman said as she started walking with Aiden toward the pub.

"So what I wanted to talk to you about is about the Upsilon Empire, didn't you hear that we are preparing some sort of attack on them? I saw you leave the castle, so I thought you might know a little about it."

"I don't know anything about it. Can you leave now?" Aiden said, wanting to concentrate on his mission and try to complete it as fast as possible since he only had a week to do so.

The beautiful woman or the shapeshifter was annoyed by how Aiden was acting like nothing mattered, only concentrating on what was ahead of him, never looking at her. Not even a quick look.

'Why does she keep wanting to talk to me? Does she know me, or was she sent by one of those guys from earlier?' Aiden thought, talking about the twelve persons from earlier.

"You really are coldhearted," the woman said as she kept walking side by side with Aiden.

"What?" Aiden exclaimed, not understanding why she would say that.

"You're coldhearted."

"I understood you the first time. How the hell am I coldhearted? I am listening to you, aren't I?" Aiden said, getting kind of angry with the woman who kept bothering him. He had enough, he just wanted to complete this mission alone and be done with it.

"If you continue to be rude to me, I will have no other choice but to..." the beautiful woman said, as her voice kept changing tone weirdly.

"What is happening to you?" Aiden asked, seeing the woman in front of him starting to change appearance over and over again.

Suddenly, the ever-changing thing that was in front of Aiden stopped transforming and got into her initial appearance.

"Sorry about that. It happens sometimes when I'm angry."

"Now that you've seen this part of me, I guess I have no other choice," the monster murmured, who was in front of Aiden.

Suddenly, the woman attacked Aiden out of nowhere with her fist, but Aiden was ready for it, anticipating that she was going to try something like this.

He blocked it with his dagger easily because he was expecting it.

But shock could be seen in the eyes of Aiden as he saw the appearance of what seemed to be a woman change once again.

It had turned into him.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 32 - 32: Captured?**

'How the hell can she do that?' He thought looking at the woman that was changing into him.

The appearance of the once beautiful woman was now exactly how Aiden was looking.

"Just what are you?" Aiden shouted as he started walking away from that monster.

"Kekekeke, who knows? I can be what I want to be," the monster said, who now had the same voice as Aiden.

The monster was laughing, almost as if he had been waiting for that moment to happen.

Seeing that monster, a question popped into the mind of Aiden.

'Is it able to copy my abilities?' Aiden thought, scared that it would be able to do such a thing.

He was scared because if he was able to access his strength and abilities, then wouldn't the monster be as strong as him?

"What are you looking like that for? Kekeke!" The monster said, giggling in a weird manner.

"Do you want me to force you to come with me or are you going to come back with me peacefully?" the monster asked, losing all playfulness in his voice, he was serious.

Seeing those words coming out of his mouth, Aiden didn't understand much. Where would he have to go back to? He knew that the task given by the king would attract some attention to him, be it positive or negative.

'Just who sent this thing after me?' Aiden thought, wondering about the possibilities.

The most obvious ones were the twelve people who were in the room with Aiden when the king announced that he would be getting a special. Actually, they were the only suspects because Aiden hadn't even met anybody else since he had come here. But he didn't have a single clue about which one it might be since they all pretty much acted the same. None of them were different in terms of personality.

"Come back with you; why the hell would I do that? I can just beat you up and make you tell me all the information you have," Aiden said, preparing himself to attack that monster, wanting to know who his master was.

He dashed toward the monster at a speed that the monster couldn't even react and did a quick slash to its legs.

The monster, not having enough time to react, didn't have much choice but to get hit by this attack.

Both legs of the Aiden look-a-like were chopped up, but no blood could be seen coming out of them, in fact, there was no liquid coming out of the legs of the monster.

The inside of his leg was a void without anything inside of it.

"Now, you will answer me, who sent you?" Aiden asked, looking at the monster who suddenly interrupted him.

"Why are they always attacking when I ask politely?" the monster interrupted calmly, seemingly not feeling that he had lost his legs.

"Every time I say that, they always attack me for no reason. Why...why do I need to hurt you too? I only want you to come back with me," the monster said, starting to lose reason.

Losing his mind, the monster picked up the two legs that were right beside him and put them where they had been cut off.

'What is that thing doing? Putting your legs there won't do any...' Aiden thought, but he stopped talking as he saw something impossible happen right in front of his very eyes.

The legs, which Aiden had clearly cut off, were starting to reassemble with his body. But Aiden had no idea how they were reattaching the monster's body because he couldn't see its bones or anything. The interior of its body looked empty.

'Just what is he or she made of?' He thought, thinking back to how he had reacted when his legs had gotten cut off. In fact, he was more angry than hurt.

Aiden didn't want the monster to be able to reattach himself, so he quickly slashed his legs once again. Not wanting it to be able to fight back.

"Now, you will tell me. Who sent you after me? What is their goal?"

"I won't tell you. You won't be able to make me talk, kekeke. I can't even feel pain, and I can't reveal any information about him, or I will simply disintegrate," the monster said, laughing once again, not caring about what Aiden would be doing to him.

Aiden repeated the question once again, but he was met once again with laughter from the monster.

This reaction that the monster had, angered Aiden because it told him that the monster didn't care about his presence.

This made Aiden think about a technique that he had promised himself not to use ever again because of how badly it hurt when it had been used against him. A torture technique that had made Aiden unable to think normally for days, a technique that was shown through practice and applied directly to his body.

"We'll see if you won't talk to me," Aiden murmured dangerously.

But before deciding to do the torture technique needed to find a private place, not close to the public. He didn't even notice that while both of them were fighting, nobody had tried interrupting them.

'Are we invisible or something?'

Deciding to test that theory of his, Aiden shouted loudly to see if any of the merchants or inhabitants of the city were hearing them. But, no reaction could be seen from the merchants or anyone really.

"What have you done?" Aiden shouted, this time truly angered.

"Kekeke! Who knows when you will be able to get out of this place?"

"What is this?" Aiden asked, looking at the monster menacingly.

"Don't worry about it. My master will soon come to visit you."

"Visit me? I'll just leave this place before he comes," Aiden said as he started walking away.

But as he reached 20 meters of distance from the monster, he seemed to be stopped in his tracks, a big wall made out of energy was stopping him from leaving.

Not believing that he had actually got trapped in here, he took his dagger and started slashing at the wall, over and over again, without stopping, that is... until he saw that he was making no progress.

He was trapped and had no idea how to escape.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 33 - 33: Oliver Arrives**

Realizing that he was trapped in some weird type of dome that had invisible walls that were made out of energy.

Aiden, at first, tried to destroy what was surrounding him with his dagger but it didn't work at all, he was still stuck inside of it, not able to get out.

Then, he sat on the ground, trying to think about a way to get out of this.

The monster, seeing Aiden sit down, took advantage of that opportunity and immediately ridiculed Aiden.

"Already giving up? I told you the only way for you to get out is to wait for my master to come and get you, kekeke!" The monster said, always starting laughing after finishing a sentence, which deeply annoyed Aiden.

Seeing that the monster was talking again, Aiden tried to talk to him again about that master of his, wanting more information on him.

"Do I know this master of yours?" Aiden asked, his voice filled with intrigue.

The monster's eyes gleamed with a mix of amusement and cunning. It relished the opportunity to toy with Aiden's curiosity.

"Maybe... maybe not? Who knows?" the monster replied, its voice dripping with mischief.

Aiden's brows furrowed, his mind racing to uncover any clues or connections that could lead him to the identity of the mysterious master. He needed more information, but he had to tread carefully.

"You really are a good little slave," Aiden remarked, a hint of slyness in his tone, hoping to goad the monster into revealing more.

The monster's eyes narrowed, a flicker of anger dancing within them. It struggled to maintain its composure, fighting against the instinct of wanting to please its master.

"Yes, yes, yes, I am. Right? Right? Right?" the monster muttered, its voice growing increasingly erratic.

Aiden realized he had struck a nerve. He needed to exploit this vulnerability, gently prodding for more details without triggering a complete meltdown.

"Why do you like your master that much?" Aiden asked, his voice softening slightly, attempting to appeal to the monster's need for validation.

The monster's frenzied demeanor momentarily subsided, replaced by a contemplative expression. It seemed caught off guard by Aiden's question, as if it hadn't considered the reason behind its blind loyalty before.

"I don't know," the monster admitted, a hint of confusion creeping into its voice. "He's just perfect. He's like me, kekeke! Able to trick everyone, he's great."

Aiden's curiosity deepened. The mention of trickery intrigued him, as it hinted at the master's manipulative nature. It was a piece of the puzzle he couldn't ignore.

"Trick everyone, how is he doing it?" Aiden pressed, hoping to uncover the master's methods and gain insight into their true intentions.

The monster hesitated for a moment as if weighing the consequences of sharing more information. A sinister smile curled on its lips, an eerie blend of pride and fear.

"I guess it doesn't matter if I tell you more about him, kekeke! He will soon be here because of the signal I activated the moment I captured you," the monster said, revealing that his master would soon be coming.

"He's just the best, kekeke! He's able to trick everyone in this place into believing that he is one of yours. When actually he is not."

Hearing the words that were coming out of the monster's mouth, Aiden was trying to make sense of those with the little information he had of this world.

He started thinking about all the information he had collected until now, the two Empires, the fight between them, and the king's request. Thinking about those things made something click inside his mind of Aiden, connecting the dots from the different pieces of information.

He was able to discern some information with almost certainty, his master was a spy from the Upsilon Empire and a spy which from the way the monster had described him is, currently, in a high position.

To confirm his thoughts Aiden decided to ask the monster, "Is your master an enemy of the Avaloria Empire?"

"Of course, kekeke! Why do you think he told me to come and capture you? When he learned the king had given you a mission, he immediately went to see me," the monster said, confirming that his master had heard the king talking about the special mission for Aiden.

"What does he want from me?" Aiden said, his eyes locking onto the monster, wanting to learn more.

The monster grinned, "Oh, he has plans for you. Actually, maybe he only has one. Death! Kekeke!" The monster said, starting to laugh out loud.

"Yeah, death, that's the only outcome for you, kekeke."

Aiden, hearing this, wasn't that worried because he knew that he was strong for a being in the second trial, which meant that he was probably going to be stronger than this master of his. After all, he had dealt with the monster without even struggling. His master surely wasn't going to be that strong if he even used a monster to approach him.

He also wasn't the king's assassin but Aiden Nightshade. He was probably stronger than some being from the second trial.

If his master was confident, he would have come here by himself and fought Aiden to his death, but he didn't, which made Aiden think that he was probably scared or something similar to that.

"Then why is your master still not here? Is he scared of me?" Aiden asked, making fun of the monster.

The monster gritted his teeth, "Master, scared... never, it's impossible... he is the strongest I know," the monster continued saying.

Suddenly, the monster turned his head toward one of the sides of the dome and started shouting.

"He has arrived, kekeke! You are done! He will kill you in a single strike. Wait I need a better angle to see the splendour of my master," the monster said completely losing it, his god had finally arrived.

Aiden started to feel some vibration from the dome, and there he saw a man entering the dome wearing a helmet and some armor; he looked prepared to finish Aiden at all costs.

It was Oliver. However, he looked preoccupied.

"For this fight, I will need your help; he's strong," Oliver said, talking to the shapeshifter.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 34 - 34: Aiden vs Oliver**

"Are you serious, master?" the shapeshifter asked, not understanding why his master was saying such a thing.

"Yes, come fast," Oliver shouted, knowing that he couldn't waste too much time fighting Aiden in here as the special formation that was currently restricting them would soon disappear.

If the merchants and inhabitants of the city were to see Oliver and Aiden fight, they would surely have loads of questions, and the king would probably take the side of Aiden, knowing their relationship, which was quite close.

The shapeshifter, not losing any time, quickly went right beside his master.

"Did you try to change into him?" Oliver asked.

"Yeah, but it doesn't work as it normally does. I can't use his power."

Normally, the shapeshifter, when transforming appearance into another person, was able to get his stats, but it wasn't the case with Aiden for unknown reasons.

"What, are you sure?" Oliver asked, not believing what he had just heard.

"Yes, master, should I change into you so that I can help you?"



"Yes quickly, with the two of us, we should be able to defeat him."

Aiden was watching them have a little conversation, noticing that they were even looking at him. Using this opportunity, he dashed close to the shapeshifter, who was now looking exactly like Oliver and the real Oliver.

The way for Aiden to discern them was that one of them had a lot of equipment, an armor that seemed to cost quite a lot, a sword, and other things like that.

The other one was almost naked, only having normal clothes on him.

As Aiden dashed forward, the shapeshifter stepped forward, wanting to take on the hit since he basically couldn't die from normal attacks.

Seeing the shapeshifter taking on the attack, Oliver went behind him, preparing an attack for Aiden.

Aiden slashed the shapeshifter without much problem because it wasn't really resistant as he had seen earlier.

As Oliver predicted, Aiden had successfully slashed the shapeshifter but wasn't prepared to receive another attack.

Oliver with his sword starting his attack as he put his sword over his head, ready to slash down at Aiden.

Seeing Oliver charge his attack, Aiden started trying to go back to dodge it, but he wasn't fast enough.

Slash!

Blood could be seen coming out of the abdomen of Aiden, who had been slightly hit by the sword of Oliver.

However, instantly after getting hurt, Aiden decided to activate the skill he had obtained in the first trial [Regeneration], and in only five seconds the blood had stopped coming out. It was like he had never been hurt before.

Noticing that his attack didn't do much damage frustrated Oliver, who had given his all to the attack.

"Why are you not hurt anymore? What sort of magic did you use?"

"Who knows?" Aiden replied, not talking much as he concentrated on his fight once again.

He didn't reveal the skill he had because he didn't have any reason to do so. It was better to keep it hidden.

After saying that, Aiden dashed once again toward Oliver, who didn't have the shapeshifter to protect him this time as he was currently reassembling his body on the ground as fast as possible.

Slash!

Aiden did a quick movement with his dagger aiming directly for the neck of his victim, not wanting to prolong the fight too much as he would get tired quickly fighting two opponents at the same time.

Seeing the attack coming his way, Oliver brought his sword close to his neck as fast as he could, but he wasn't fast enough and only deflected the attack into one of his eyes, losing sight from one eye.

Having lost the use of one of his eyes completely complicated the task of defeating Aiden even more.

At first, he had thought that he might have a good chance with the shapeshifter's help, but seeing how Aiden had dealt with him at the start of the fight, it was clear that he wouldn't have much impact.

Now without his complete sight, it was far easier for Aiden to find the blindspots of his opponent.

Not relenting in his attacks, he continued attacking him on his right since he had lost vision on that side, making it difficult for Oliver to defend against Aiden.

Oliver was starting to bleed from everywhere on his body, realizing that he was going to lose. He tried to get Aiden to stop attacking by talking.

"St-stop, I have information for you..." Oliver said, out of breath, close to losing consciousness.

"What type of information?" Aiden asked, slowing down his attacks, only holding his dagger at the neck of Oliver.

"I-I can tell you everything you want, I know everything about the Upsilon Empire," Oliver said in a hurried manner as he was scared that he was going to die any second now.

"How? How do you know so much about it," Aiden asked, wanting to confirm what the shapeshifter had said earlier.

"I'm a spy sent from over there, I was born and raised here ever since a young age. However, don't get fooled. My loyalty still lies with the Upsilon Empire."

This totally confirmed what Aiden was thinking, there really was a spy in the most important members of the Empire.

'Who knows how much he told the other side about my arrival there?'

'He probably told them that I had a special mission, but they don't have any idea of what it is.' thought Aiden, quickly thinking about what the enemy camp could know about him.

Wanting to know more about what he had told them, Aiden asked one question.

"Do they know about my mission?"

"No, of course not. It's actually the reason I am here fighting you. I wanted to get information to alert them, but as you can see, it didn't work."

The answer from Oliver relieved Aiden since he was stressed about the enemy knowing of his arrival.

"Actually, that was my only question. Then, I guess this is goodbye," Aiden said as he slashed the neck of Oliver.

[You have killed a general from the Upsilon Empire.]

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 35 - 35: The Pub**

[You have killed a general from the Upsilon Empire (1/4).]

[You have gained 1000 XP.]

[You have levelled up.]

[You have levelled up.]

[You have no gained points from the kill since you are alone.]

Seeing all those notifications, Aiden was surprised to know that he had gained almost as much experience as in his first trial total.

But this time it looked like it would take a lot more experience to level up even by one level.

After slashing the head of Oliver, the shapeshifter who had been on the ground trying to reattach himself was starting to disappear into particles.

[You have killed a shapeshifter.]

[You have gained 200 XP.]

[You need 1200 XP to level up.]

The sort of dome that covered their fight was now gone, revealing the dead body of Oliver on the main street.

It didn't seem to vanish like all the beings he had killed before.

'Am I really in another world like for real?' Aiden thought when he saw that he had maybe killed a real person.

'Just where the hell am I? And how does the Otherworld have access to all of those worlds?' He thought, suddenly having even more questions than before.

'Will I be able to go back to Earth?'

Aiden knew that if he were to go back to Earth, he might be able to get back at his organization.

Either way, he needed to complete his task to go back to Maelis and Nova, the universe in which he now lived, Earth didn't matter that much to him in the first place since all he did there was being stuck in a room and completing missions.

While he was thinking, he heard the cries of multiple people in the street.

"AH!!!! A dead body."

"Where? What happened?"

"Wait isn't that Oliver, one of the generals of the army?"

"You're right, how did he die in the middle of this place."

"Fast alert the guards, the killer must be close. He couldn't have gotten quite far."

Aiden hearing the words pronounced by some of the civilians watching this scene, he quickly left the scene and went toward the pub which was originally his objective before getting stopped by that monster.

A few seconds later, he was casually entering the pub acting like nothing had happened, as soon as he entered. The place became dead silent and they all turned to look at him.

Aiden who was ignoring their looks casually walked toward the bar, just like how you see in movies.

"What can I get you?" the barman asked.

"A water," Aiden said not knowing what he could get in a pub since he had never been.

Laughs could be heard as he said those words.

"Who is that guy?"

"Is he serious? A water...really?" One of the guys said while laughing.

The barman serving him asked him, "You're not from around here, huh?"

"Haha...is it that obvious? I was just wondering if I could get some information about something."

"Information? Wait... never mind that, you look like someone I know," the barman said as he started looking at Aiden from top to bottom, analyzing him.

"Hm...same I'm pretty sure I know him from somewhere, but I can't put my finger on it." One of the guys exclaimed.

Aiden looked at them, wondering if he had to tell them who he was but then the barman continued like nothing had happened.

"So, what sort of information did you come here looking for?"

Aiden glanced around himself as if he was scared of saying his words. He knew the Upsilon Empire was a touchy subject.

"Actually, I don't really need information... I'm here for a guide," Aiden said, knowing that having someone guide him to the Upsilon Empire wouldn't be bad.

"Where do you want to go?" One of the girls sitting at one of the tables asked.

Aiden turned around, wondering who had just spoken to him out of nowhere.

It was a girl with blonde hair and green eyes. Aiden could feel right away that there was a strange kind of sharpness behind her eyes.

"I want to go to the Upsilon Empire. Can you guide me there?"

"The Upsilon Empire, huh? A little ballsy, are you?" The barman interrupted.

However, before the barman uttered another word, the blonde-haired girl spoke up. She looked interested in Aiden.

"You want to infiltrate the Upsilon Empire?" the same girl asked, once again.

"Yes, well yeah. I just need to get in, I don't really care how I get there."

She nodded a few times in response as she tapped on the seat next to her.

"Then come sit here, I'm sure we can make a deal. I know a way to get in without getting noticed by anyone," the girl said, as she pointed toward the chair right in front of her.

'I knew that girl was special,' Aiden thought as he walked in the direction of her table.

The Pub was completely silent as Aiden started walking in her direction. A few people were whispering but Aiden wasn't able to understand the slightest thing coming out of her mouth.

But then as he sat down, everyone went back to their earlier discussions completely forgetting about what had just happened.

"So, when do you want to leave?"

The girl sitting across from Aiden didn't look all that strong, but as Aiden had previously there was something special about her. He didn't know what it was yet, but it was only a question of time. She had small arms and legs but one thing which she didn't lack was the two mountains on her chest that moved each time she started speaking.

"As soon as possible" Aiden replied, who once again didn't want to waste any more time in this place.

"How's tonight sounding?"

"That sounds perfect," Aiden replied, as he started getting up, thinking that their conversation was done already.

"Wait, don't leave so fast. We haven't finished talking."

"What more is there to say?"

"Can you protect us if we get into a fight? Are you strong enough?" the girl asked, knowing that she wasn't going to be able to survive if a group of bandits attacked them.

"Protect you?" Aiden smirked. "Of course, I can protect you."

The girl for some reason trusted Aiden at face value, not even questioning whether he really was strong enough.

"Alright then see you tonight, we'll talk about the payment when we meet tonight," the girl said as she made signs that meant that Aiden could now leave.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 36 - 36: Conversation with the King**

Aiden had gotten back from the pub and was now in the castle checking that everything was going to be ready when he knocked on his door.

Knock!

Knock!

Knock!

Hearing those knocks, he quickly went to open the door, still making sure that the person on the other side of it wasn't an enemy of his.

However, he was shocked when he saw who was knocking at his door...

It was the king in the flesh and blood who had come to talk to him, but what the hell did he want to talk about?

After opening the door, the king entered making himself comfortable by sitting on the couch which was in the middle of his room.

He started by looking Aiden in his eyes for about five seconds and then he started talking, "Did you hear about Oliver's death?"

Aiden thought a bit before answering the king... 'Should I tell him the truth? Would he believe me?'

But then he had to answer or else it would seem suspicious, not talking for a second or two. After all, hesitation could have been felt if he waited too long. Not having too much time, he went with his instinct which was to lie to the king.

"Yeah, I heard that it was horrible," Aiden said, deciding to play the innocent not wanting to deal with the king since he needed to join the girl from the pub soon.

"Yeah, yeah, I'm sure it was."

"Was that all? Did you come all this way just to tell me this?" Aiden asked when he noticed that the king wasn't saying anything else. He was just staring at him.

"Aiden, I'm not sure if you know but people saw you on the scene of the crime a few testimonies saw you over his body right after he died."

'Fuck!' Aiden gritted his teeth. 'Am I fucked...can I even tell him the truth now?'

However, Aiden kept his composure. He couldn't show the king that he was panicking.

"Oh really now."

"Yes, many people saw you, do you have anything to say about that?"

Hearing that he was sure of his sources, Aiden realized that he needed to tell the truth or else...problems would come rushing his way.

"I guess I have no choice, huh?" Aiden shrugged his shoulders. "Just don't panic alright. There's an explanation for everything... It was me who killed him," Aiden said revealing everything.

"Why? Why did you kill him? I told you I needed you to defeat the Upsilon Empire. Why would you do such a thing? Why would you betray me?" the king uttered, his emotions taking over him.

Anger started showing in his expression and even reached his tone. He was mad, very mad.

"I just told you. There's a good explanation for everything. I would have never done something like this without evidence against him," Aiden affirmed. He was preparing himself to answer the king, slowly taking his time.

"Go ahead, I'm listening," the king said calming down, realizing that maybe Aiden had good reasons to kill him.



After all, the king had always trusted Aiden, when he heard the news that Aiden might have killed Oliver he was shocked and he didn't understand why he would've done such a thing.

"The reason that I killed Oliver is because he's an assassin," Aiden said as he looked up, waiting to see the king's reaction.

But there wasn't any reaction from the king, he didn't move one inch, and no words were coming out of his mouth. It was like he had just heard something that shocked him to his core.

Aiden noticing that the king wouldn't talk or move decided to continue with his explanations, "When you gave me your mission, I decided to go into the city and get some information from my known contacts. But that's when I noticed that I was being followed by a girl..."

As the words were coming out of Aiden's mouth, the king still wasn't moving, shock had taken over his body.

But, when Aiden thought that the king was frozen in place, he opened his mouth...and started talking to himself. "How was he a spy? I raised him here since he was ten. Hell, I saw him all alone in the middle of a street and battered up. Was that all fake?!"

It seemed the king was rambling by himself not remembering that Aiden was right beside him.

Realizing that Aiden was listening to what he was saying, he apologized for rambling about some distant memories.

But what he had just heard from Aiden, completely shocked him. Oliver was a spy. Someone who had arrived in the Empire when he was only a little boy was a spy. It was a shock.

Not wanting Aiden to see him like this, he decided to leave the room and leave him to whatever he was preparing to do.

After the king left, Aiden realized that it was 8 PM and that the blonde-haired girl was probably waiting for him. So, he decided to hurry up. He only had a week to kill the remaining generals.

Five minutes later, he arrived at the pub. The blonde girl patiently waited for him at the same table as earlier. Her two mountains practically touched the wooden table.

They were so big that they could also probably count as a person.

"Oh you're here," the girl said as she noticed Aiden entering. "Are you ready to leave?"

"Yeah, sure but before we go... I think we should talk about the payment," he said, worrying about what she was going to say since he didn't have any money to give her.

"That's fine, we'll talk about it when we arrive at the Upsilon Empire. After all, I need to stay alive to use whatever you'll be giving me."

With the words she had just used, it was clear that the road ahead of them would be a tedious one filled with danger.

"Yeah, I guess you're right about that one," Aiden said while giggling a little bit, reassured he didn't have to give her anything yet.

"Alright, enough chatting! Follow me. I'll show you how we'll travel. Oh, and by the way my name's Mia," she said, as she stood up from her table leaving the pub.

"Oh, I'm Aiden. It's nice to meet you!" Aiden exclaimed as he started following Mia.

A few minutes later, Aiden saw two animals in front of him and he couldn't believe they would be traveling with this...

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 37 - 37: Leaving for the Upsilon Empire**

"So, you want us to leave with...that?" Aiden asked as he looked at the state of both of the horses.

They didn't even look healthy.

"You don't like them? I even made an effort for you," Mia said while shrugging. She couldn't understand what was wrong, she always went around with horses.

Realizing that she was serious, Aiden had no choice but to accept that he was going to travel with her using those two horses. After all, she was her guide, Aiden needed her right now.

"Sure! Looks great!" Aiden exclaimed as he forced a smile to appear on his face.

The truth was that Aiden had never ridden a horse since on Earth cars had replaced them a long time ago. That was the main reason why Aiden was acting like this.

"Hmm, actually can I tell you something?"

"Sure, what is it?" Mia asked as she jumped on the back of the horse not wasting time.

"Well... the truth is, I never have ridden a horse."

Hearing this, Mia was extremely confused. How could someone have never ridden a horse before? Wasn't it basic knowledge for anyone in this world?

"You can tell me the truth... Are you playing with me, right now?" Mia asked, already on the back of the horse.

"I really am telling the truth, so can you please show me how to ride a horse? Don't worry, I'm a quick learner," Aiden said as he winked in the direction of Mia.

"Sure, I'll show you. But we can't waste time too much time here," Mia said, as she got off her horse and went to Aiden wanting to help get on the horse.

Helping him, she put both of her hands on his abdomen and pushed him upward.

'Wow, I didn't think he would have abs.' Mia thought as she started blushing. She felt Aiden's rock-solid abs.

It was normal of her to think that Aiden wouldn't have abs since his muscles weren't really showing. He was more lean than muscular.

After some time, Aiden was finally on the back of his horse and it was now time for Mia to tell him what he needed to do.

"Alright, now hold the reins, and simply put your weight forward. The horse will start moving forward," she explained quickly.

He did exactly as he was told and followed her instructions and it worked the horse started moving forward.

He had a little trouble finding his balance, almost falling off, but he didn't as he continued moving in circles around Mia.

And he had done it. Aiden had learned how to ride a horse, it actually wasn't that hard. Well, for someone with Aiden's talent who was pretty good at using his body.

"Alright, ready?" Mia asked, as she got back on her horse and got ready to leave.

"Yeah, let's go," Aiden said as he waited for Mia to get him in front of him so that he would follow her.

Two minutes later, the two horses started going into the forest known as Aurora, a forest known to have many monsters inside of it.

This information was unknown to Aiden and Mia didn't think that she had to tell Aiden since everyone knew about it...well everyone from this world.

As they were on the road, Mia and Aiden started to learn about each other because if they stayed silent all the time, it would have been one hell of a boring ride.

"So, who are you? You have a strange vibe surrounding you," Mia asked, trying to learn more about Aiden.

"What about you? Do you take on those tasks often?" Aiden asked, completely ignoring her question.

"Not really. Actually, this is my first time. I only took it because you looked interesting. However, I do go to the Upsilon Empire often, so no need to worry about that. Also, since you can fight, you'll be useful," Mia uttered as she glanced at her own body.

"You don't look that bad," Aiden answered as he looked at her from head to toe, profiting from those moments to admire her beauty.

Seeing the look that Aiden was giving Mia, she blushed. She often got those looks from other people but she didn't find any of them attractive, but the man in front of her looked quite good, his face especially was beautiful to look at.

Realizing that she was also staring at him, she quickly looked away not wanting to be noticed by Aiden.

But unknowingly to her, Aiden had seen her blushing and turning away. He found it cute.

'I wonder if I will be able to see her again after the trial,' he thought, knowing that after he completed his mission, he would probably be going back to his original world.

"So, uh... how much time will it take us to arrive at the Upsilon Empire?" Aiden asked, ignoring this little situation between them as he wanted to stay concentrated on the task ahead.

"Probably a day or two, it depends on how much time we take to rest."

Hearing this, Aiden knew that he wouldn't have much time to finish his quest, he would only have five days or so to complete it. If he didn't complete it in five days, he wasn't sure if it meant that he would fail the trial.

"It would be best to arrive in one day," Aiden said returning to his usual attitude, not getting distracted by the physique of the person guiding him.

After all, what truly mattered here was completing the quest, so that he would have access to the assassin-type skills. Women could always appear later, it's not like he wanted one right now. He never had one, and he didn't think it was necessary.

"Then we should continue going in this direction for a couple of hours. We don't want to take too much time to rest," Mia said as she was also concentrating back on the task that was ahead of her.

Five hours later, they decided to stop and rest a little. Aiden was currently taking guard, but he didn't understand why he needed to do so. Was there something dangerous in this forest?

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 38 - 38: Monsters Attacking**

As Aiden was guarding the tent that they had set up, he started questioning why he needed to do so.

'Are there monsters in this forest? If so, why didn't she tell me?' Aiden thought.

As Aiden was thinking about whether there were monsters or not in this forest, he started hearing animal noises nearby.

But thinking that it was only normal animals, Aiden quickly dismissed them and went back to waiting.

'Should I go to sleep? I'm sure there won't be any problem either way,' he thought as his eyes were starting to close by themselves.

Fatigue overwhelmed him and he fell asleep right outside of the tent with monsters nearby who were ready to pounce on him at any moment.

Was he going to wake him in time, or would he get woken up as he is being eaten by a monster?

A few moments after Aiden had fallen asleep, a little green monster was entering the camp they had just made.

It was a goblin, he felt that the presence who was guarding this place had suddenly disappeared and he decided to use this opportunity to attack them and steal some of their items.

The goblin was armed with a little sword that corresponded to his small green body. He approached discretely Aiden who was on the ground, face first, he really did fall asleep.

As it was getting closer and closer to Aiden, he started moving his dagger closer to the neck of Aiden.

Aiden who was a trained assassin had obviously woken up long ago, feeling the presence creeping up on him.

After all, this was part of his basic training as an assassin always be ready for any sort of attack even if you don't expect it.

Aiden had let the small creature enter the camp to see what it would do first and he felt that it was coming toward him, he already knew what it would try to do.

Aiden gripped his dagger while still faking his sleep, when the goblin got close enough Aiden slashed behind a speed which was extremely fast and decapitated the goblin in a single strike.

[You have killed a goblin.]

[You have gained 40 XP.]

After killing the goblin, it seemed that some sort of signal was sent because a lot more of the growling from earlier was starting to be heard and it was getting closer from all around them.

Noticing Aiden decided to wake up Mia to let her know that they were being attacked.

"Mia! We're being attacked, wake up!" Aiden shouted as loud as he could still trying to make sure that she would be waking up.

After all, he didn't want her to die in her sleep by a monster that had slipped from his hands.

Mia, hearing a shout, opened her eyes not sure what was happening.

She didn't understand what Aiden had just shouted, she only had woken because of the noise created by it.

As she opened the tent, she saw a horrible scene, goblins, animals, and different types of monsters were all on the ground dead but that wasn't all. Because as she turned her

head to the left, she could see Aiden who was still fighting against at least five monsters at the same time.

A random thought popped up in her mind.

'Doesn't he look hot right now?' She started blushing because of what she had just thought of.

It was just because of how fierce his expression looked. That expression could make any girl fall in love with Aiden, and Mia wasn't an exception. Still, this wasn't the time nor the place to be thinking of this.

She quickly changed her mind and went straight out of the tent wanting to help Aiden who, in reality, wasn't having much difficulty fighting those monsters. If he got hurt then he could regenerate his injury. His weapon was also excellent, only needing a single attack per monster.

It was different from the first trial where his weapon was so dull that he needed multiple strikes to kill even one zombie.

It felt great to Aiden to have that feeling once again of being a Reaper, decapitating his enemy in a single strike. He had missed it even if he didn't want to admit it.

He was so immersed in killing those beasts that he didn't even notice Mia who was approaching him.

He didn't notice her presence since she didn't have the objective of hurting Aiden.

Any monster in the facility who wanted to hurt Aiden would be felt by his incredible senses.

Shortly after entering that trance of his, he had killed every monster who was around him with Mia who had not been able to do anything because of how fast Aiden was at killing those monsters.

It was so impressive that the same thought as earlier popped up in her mind. She could only admire how beautiful-looking he was right now, a small amount of blood covering his face.

'He looks like a Reaper, ready to kill anyone who approaches him,' Mia thought, having absolutely no idea of how close her statement was to reality.

Suddenly, Aiden looked to his right and finally noticed that Mia had been watching him all this time.

"So, how was it? Was I able to protect you? Haha!" Aiden said as he started laughing, trying to calm the tension in the atmosphere.

"Y-Yeah, it was fine, you were great," Mia admitted, having difficulty speaking as she turned around and went back into the tent.

"Wait! Isn't it my turn to sleep?" Aiden said, now really sleepy after defeating all those monsters.

Mia looked back at him, wondering if he was serious. A bunch of monsters had just attacked him. Of course, he needed to keep guarding the tent.

"Oh and don't worry about being attacked by monsters, I'm quite sensitive to noise while sleeping."

"Sure, you can sleep but let me reorganize the inside of the tent, first. I didn't plan for us two to sleep at the same time," she replied as she started going into the tent. She made sure there was a wall of cushions between the two of them so that they wouldn't touch each other at all. For some reason, she seemed scared that something might happen between the two of them.

After she was done, she called Aiden into the tent and they both slept well. This time, not being distracted by any monster.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 39 - 39: Arriving at the Fort**

The next day, Aiden and Mia were preparing themselves to continue their travel toward the Upsilon Empire.

Nothing happened during the night since they were well separated by the wall made of cushions made by Mia.

"Alright, so in about an hour or two... we will arrive at the Fort built by our empire. There shouldn't be any problems," she said, explaining where they would be going for the day.

This was all new information for Aiden but he still acted as if he already had this information, "Oh right the Empire's Fort," Aiden replied with a voice that contained a certain uncertainty which was immediately noticed by Mia.



"You've never been there? Well, I guess that's why you need my help," Mia said, realizing Aiden really didn't know much about the world that surrounded them.

She found it weird that he was so oblivious to the current situation but she still didn't emphasize it, thinking that he probably didn't leave the empire much.

"When we arrive there, just let me speak. They'll let us through, don't worry," Mia said. She was used to going through the Fort that she had met some people over the years.

Aiden understood what he needed to do and continued going forward on the back of his malnourished horse.

While they were on the way to the Fort, they continued talking to each other to pass the time.

"What was that yesterday? You seemed completely different than right now as if the only thing on your mind was killing what surrounded you," she asked, curious about what she had seen last night.

Aiden who heard her ask this didn't know how to respond because the person she had seen yesterday was the Reaper, the one who would kill all of his targets in a single strike to the head. The one who was renowned as an assassin.

Not wanting to reveal where he came from he told her whatever excuse came to his mind, "I don't know...I just feel myself transforming into a different person every time I fight someone," Aiden said while laughing to decrease the tension in the air.

"I guess that's what it was, you looked... free," Mia said, thinking about the right word to describe him. "It was as if nothing was holding you back anymore."

"I guess so," Aiden replied not knowing how to answer.

Noticing that Aiden didn't want to talk about this subject, Mia decided to change the subject.

"By the way, after we pass through the Fort we will be entering into the territory of the Upsilon Empire, so we will have to be a bit more discreet than we are right now."

"How are we going to be more discreet?" Aiden asked, not sure how they were going to hide with the two horses who were making loads of noise.

"What I want to say... is that we will have to travel by foot, leaving the horses by the Fort and I'll take them back with me when I get back," Mia explained to Aiden.

"Won't that take too long?" Aiden asked since he had a bit of a time restraint to respect which made him worry if he would have enough time to kill the rest of the generals.

"Don't worry, the Fort is really close to the Upsilon Empire, it should take probably 5-6 hours by foot."

"That's not what I call really close," Aiden murmured, remembering the stairs he had to climb to buy his dagger and the pain he felt in his legs at the end.

"I promise you it's not that bad, I mean if you want we can keep the horse," Mia said realizing that Aiden wasn't so pleased that he would have to use his legs.

Hearing this, Aiden was happy but at the same time he knew that he had no other choice but to walk on foot because he needed to infiltrate the territory without anyone finding him.

"No it's fine we'll go the horses," he said with his heart aching.

One hour and a half later, they finally arrived at what seemed to be the Fort that Mia had talked about. It almost looked like a castle but it was much smaller and was in the form of a big observation tower.

You could probably be able to see everything that surrounded the Fort when a person was at the top. However, with all the trees blocking their vision, it wasn't that easy.

In front of the wall, there seemed to be a big wall that served as some sort of defense against invaders.

Seeing this, Aiden and Mia decided to direct themselves to the gate which could be found on the giant wall to be able to enter the Fort and finally enter the territory of the Upsilon Empire.

Guards spotted them approaching and decided to act with precaution, "What is your purpose for coming here?"

"Oh...Mia, it's you!" The guard uttered when he recognized Mia.

The guards quickly stood aside and let them in without any problems.

"It's always nice to see you around," one of the guards said as he stared at Mia's melons.

Mia looked annoyed as she quickly walked inside the Fort and left the horses. She didn't even answer him or look his way. It seemed she was used to this sort of action.

Aiden didn't like seeing her that way, so he tapped on her shoulder and whispered, "Do you want me to do something about this?"

Mia looked surprised that he had caught on to what that guard was doing. However, she quickly said shook her head. She knew that it would only be attracting problems their way.

'Still, if I ever come back here. I'll show them what I think of this," Aiden thought, clearly angry with how they had looked at Mia. They had looked at her as if she was a mere piece of meat, which wasn't something that Aiden liked.

Everyone deserves respect. It doesn't matter if you're in a position of authority, you need to respect others still.

Now, all that was left was to infiltrate the Upsilon Empire and kill the general which was easy to say but complicated to do.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 40 - 40: Arriving in Enemy Territory**

After they got through the Fort and left the horses behind, it was time for Mia and Aiden to walk until they arrived at the Upsilon Empire.

Aiden wasn't motivated at all but he had no choice. So, they started walking but they didn't go on the nice path which was clean and easy to follow.

They decided to walk close to the path but in the forest so that no one would spot them which was the point of why Aiden was having someone with him.

She needed to show him the path to enter discreetly which was why Aiden had hired a guide.

"Alright since we won't be on the main path anymore we'll have to be on the lookout for monsters," Mia said.

"Yeah, we don't want a repeat of last night, haha!" Aiden said as he laughed at the end.

After saying that, they started walking in the direction of the Upsilon Empire.

This time they didn't talk all that much as they had already talked about anything they could find.

After all, it had been one day since they had been spending all day with each other.

Suddenly, they were both walking silently which for Aiden was as easy as breathing. They heard big stomps close to them.

Boom

Boom

Boom

He could feel vibrations in the ground every time the stomps were being made. It was difficult for both Mia and Aiden to keep their balance.

"What is happening?" Aiden asked as he tried his best not to fall on the ground.

"I-I think it's a minotaur," Mia said, who was scared just by hearing the sound of those steps on the ground.

Aiden who didn't know what a minotaur was... didn't understand why Mia was trembling out of pure fear.

"We-we should hide quickly, even you won't be able to kill such a thing. I'm telling you... it's terrifying," she said, as she started trembling once again it seemed she didn't have good memories of the Minotaur.

"Is it really that dangerous?" He asked as he went to hide behind a tree with Mia on his lap.

"Y-Yes, you don't understand how strong it is... m-my friends once tried to fight one, and..." Mia said as she didn't have the strength to finish her words as she started crying.

Aiden didn't quite understand what was happening why did she start crying in his arms, what did he need to do?

After all, he never had any contact with a woman in his entire life, and he was even oblivious to how others projected their emotions being raised as an assassin.

The only emotion that Aiden knew how to emit was anger because of the betrayal of his master.

Aiden, who had no idea of what to do, decided to give small awkward pats on her head.

"It's gonna be alright, don't worry," Aiden said, trying to comfort her.

'What is happening?' thought Mia, not understanding why he was giving her a pat on her head as if she were an animal, but she kept crying in his arms without saying a single word. As weird as it was, it made her feel good.

"T-thank you," Mia said, as she started calming down. Her heart rate which had been beating scared her to relax from the touch of Aiden. Her tears which had been coming out of her eyes also stopped from the simplest touch of Aiden.

'What is happening to me? Is he able to control my emotions? Why am I so calm when he touches me?' She thought, not understanding why she liked Aiden touching her so much.

Aiden, on the other hand, was confused when he saw messages appear in from of him, the system was once again sending him messages.

[You have created a skill.]

'Again?! What the hell did I do?' Aiden thought, not sure how this happened.

[You have created the skill <Gentle Touch>.]

[Gentle Touch]

[Rank: Blue(Unique)]

[Description: A skill created by a person who doesn't know how to deal with emotions. Because of his indifference toward others when they show emotions, he has developed a touch capable of calming down others instantly not wanting to deal with them.]

[Cost: 0 MP]

[No Cooldown]

'What the hell is that skill?' He thought as he read the description not comprehending how he had created it.

He knew that he wasn't the best when it came to dealing with emotions but he didn't think that it would be so bad that even the system would offer him the skill to deal with others.

'It's even Blue Ranked?!' Aiden wondered, completely shocked when he saw that. After all, the skills he had currently were all of Green Ranked.

Wanting to test the skill, Aiden continued patting her head but this time with the skill in use. The effects were instant, Mia stopped crying and her melons which were going up and down slowly got under a normal rhythm. It seemed like she really was calming down instantly.

One or two minutes later, the stomps on the ground started decreasing, it seemed like the minotaur had gotten away. He probably got bored when he didn't find what he was looking for.

Mia got off Aiden's lap when she stopped hearing the Minotaur and his stomps. Then, she looked him in the eyes not knowing what just happened.

"How did you do that?"

"Did what?"

"You know, when you started to pat me on the head," Mia said not talking about the part where she liked it and regaining her composure because of it.

"Hmm, I just didn't know what to do when you started crying and all so I just... I don't know," Aiden said, unsure if there was a problem with what he did.

"It's fine you don't need to explain yourself, it's not that I disliked it or anything. It even helped me," Mia said, as she played with her thumbs blushing a little bit.

"Did it?" Aiden asked acting like he didn't know why it would do such a thing.

"Yeah, I don't why... I'm not usually that comfortable around strangers but you... you're different."

"Uh...thanks?" Aiden responded not knowing how to respond to that since it was the skill's fault that she had suddenly calmed down.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.