

Vile 861

[Chapter 861 Eradicating Sienna's Group](#)

"Haah! Your act was flawless, Shali. It's just that I had the unfair advantage of seeing the trap from miles away because it was initiated by you."

Shalen was still subjected to Eren's Ability when he pierced and destroyed her heart. As a result, she couldn't even contact the joint force and inform them of her dire situation.

The assassin was most shocked by Eren's way of addressing her. Reva Rain sometimes refers to her as Shali. She didn't think even most members of the Escalon guild would know about the fact.

Eren read her emotions and smiled mildly. He wiped her dagger on her floral dress and tainted the floral pattern over it with her blood before commenting.

"Don't worry. Soon, I'll send all those who are involved with you your way. So that you have some company. And when the time comes, I'll even send your mentor to accompany you. So that you can carry on with your training in the afterlife.

Is that enough? Lights out then!"

Eren let his injected mana turn into ice shards and pierce Shalen's internal organs. At the same time, he healed Shalen's wound using a healing potion and closed it for good.

Shalen died with her eyes wide open.

With no signs of injury on her body. No mangling of organs. No chopping off limbs. Just a simple and relatively peaceful death. She died with such serenity that her mana circuits were still active and alive. Her body was passively trying to heal the damaged organs even though there was no soul left in the body anymore.

"Kiyeeh!"

Argo reappeared on Eren's bed and let out a joyful eagle cry. He flapped his wings and was about to yank Shalen's eyes out when he was stopped by Eren.

"Don't. We have some use for her. Alephee, are you free?"

Eren called out to Alephee. And the latter appeared in the room a moment afterward. The butcher knew what she was working on. So he decided to test the brand-new spell she had added to her grimoire.

Under the guise of an isolation array, various groups of the joint force silently followed the caravan. By this point, they had been following Eren for well over an hour.

"Why is she taking this long? Is she doing her job or enjoying herself?"

Sienna commented as she watched the spectral display that showed the caravan traversing the forest at a rapid pace. She felt irritated that she had to do this kind of menial work to please Sebastian Slughorn.

Furthermore, there was no update from Shalen after she had been invited inside the caravan by Eren. It was almost like she had forgotten about the mission after getting in.

Regan was about to say something to Sienna when he saw that the caravan was coming to a halt on the spectral screen floating in front of him. He coordinated with the rest of the members of the joint force and confirmed that Shalen hadn't contacted any of them regarding the update.

"Hm? She got out?"

Regan raised his eyebrows when he saw Shalen and Eren coming out of the caravan. He saw that Shalen got hugged by Eren the next moment. He then planted a peck on her cheek and said a few things to her before boarding the caravan once again.

"What the fuck is going on? Why is she coming out? The plan was to injure him in the caravan and then attack him along with the entire caravan?"

Sienna registered her complaint about Shalen's abrupt plan change. Regan had a frown on his face as well. However, he decided to figure things out before passing judgment. And since he was nearer to Shalen than the other groups, he decided to approach and get things straight from the horse's mouth.

The caravan sped away. Regan waited for a few more moments before breaking the isolation barrier and approaching Shalen.

"Miss Shalen, what happened? We were waiting for you to give us a sign.."

As he walked towards Shalen, Regan complained to her. Shalen turned towards him and looked at him with deadpan expressions and lifeless eyes.

Regan's first thought was that Shalen had heard something very grim from Eren that made her reconsider attacking him. Maybe she had learned about the security detail he was carrying and wanted to call off the attack on Eren.

However, in the next moment, he felt two distinct mana pulses getting spread at the same time. Two spells were executed in tandem at that time. One belonged to Shalen and the other had a mysterious origin.

Regan processed this information subconsciously in his head. But his tactical brain was slow to catch up. And he was about to pay the price for letting his guard down around Shalen just because she was supposed to be his ally.

Swoosh. Zoom. Pierce.

Regan found his vision obstructed because Shalen suddenly appeared in front of him. Then he noticed a sharp pain in his chest. He didn't understand what had transpired. So he looked below him where his heart was and found out that it had been pierced by Shalen's dagger.

Another distinct mana pulse spread as Shalen's dead body cast another assassination-related spell. Her hand blurred and the weapon she was holding turned into smoke.

"You..."

Regan couldn't even register the shock and horror he felt at the time. Shalen's agile attack severed his head from his body before he could do so.

Regan was killed by Shalen's corpse just like that. This was the second prominent casualty the joint force had among its members.

Shalen didn't stop there. She had already disappeared from her position before Regan's chopped head fell to the ground.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

"Why..."

"Heeeeeeeek"

As Shalen chopped the members of House Slughorn, cries erupted around Sienna. The assassin killed everyone she came into contact with using her assassination skills and spells. She didn't care about the attacks she received in the process.

"What... what the fuck is happening?"

Sienna mumbled to herself grimly as the rankers around her started dropping on the floor like flies. She turned around and saw a fountain of blood everywhere.

[Chapter 862 Corpse Dance](#)

The plan was to flush out Eren and his security detail from the caravan.

Instead, what came out was a nightmare nobody was expecting. At least not Sienna who hadn't seen anyone fight this seriously on the battlefield before.

"Aaaaaaaaah!"

Sienna cried in horror when she saw the rankers under her control getting butchered by Shalen. But her cries were halted midway and she turned silent. In the next moment, her vision darkened and she lost consciousness.

The butcher had appeared at the crime scene. He raised his arm and grabbed Sienna's shoulder before she could drop to the ground.

"Who let this bitch on the battlefield? Are they trying to get rid of her?"

Eren said as he manifested Rigor Mortis in his free hand. He also felt that it was downright insulting for him to battle someone like Sienna who was nothing but a mass of everything that was wrong with rankers' society. One could say that he was lowkey trying to get better rankers for his own ambush.

Eren charged lightning-element Shamshir with his mana before swinging it in front of him. Some more blood work ensued as the sword cut through flesh and bones without any resistance. Like a hot knife cutting through butter.

The butcher chopped off Sienna's limbs casually. He overwhelmed her panicked and horrified consciousness with his soul sense and forced her to lose consciousness once again. The lightning mana also cauterized the wounds right away.

"Why not set her free from the world of the living?"

Alephee appeared beside Eren and asked. The latter pointed at the tattoo below her neck on her back. Alephee raised her eyebrows before nodding her head.

By the time a limbless Sienna was taken hostage by Eren, Shalen had killed the rest of the rankers from House Slughorn. She had done this with extreme precision and minimal mess.

Eren smirked when Shalen's corpse stood in front of him and Alephee. It was as if the dead assassin was waiting for her next command. She was injured a bit by the Slughorn rankers' retaliation. But overall she was fine.

Eren threw another healing potion toward Shalen and let the vial burst before it could hit her. The healing potion was administered to the corpse in spray form, allowing the dead body to recover from the wounds it had received.

"You have made a perfect killing machine with your new spell, Alephee."

Eren looked at Shalen's corpse standing in front of him like a mindless android and commented. The homunculus wasn't too happy with the results she had gotten on her first try though.

"Hmm. Corpse Dance is still not as effective as I wanted it to be for my vessel's current rank. You can tell something's wrong with her by looking at her face.

I tried rewinding time to see her expressions when she smiled or felt stressed. But such minute actions were taxing on my consciousness to perform while operating on her body. So I had to let go of controlling her facial expressions."

Alephee commented before controlling her human doll using her grimoire. In the next moment, Shalen channeled her mana and got rid of the blood on her weapon and her body.

Corpse Dance was Alephee's time-element spell that allowed her to take control of the corpse that had just died. It allowed her to rewind and replay the actions the person had performed in their life at least once.

The corpse was able to perform any action it had previously performed at least once while it was alive. This spell's action rewind had its limitations, however. And the limitations would increase over time after the corpse's death. But nobody cared about a corpse's well-being anyway.

Shalen had performed a lot of assassinations in her life. Thus, Alephee was able to use her corpse for their work. She wasn't completely satisfied with the results she had obtained. But for now, she gave herself a passing grade.

Alephee's spell only worked so well because of Eren's way of killing Shalen. Most of her body was preserved, and the homunculus was able to perform pre-spell work on it.

The butcher let Sienna fall to the ground when he realized that the Slughorn group was done for. He then gestured at Alephee without saying a word.

The homunculus understood her assignment right away. She bent down and placed her hand over the tattoo Sienna had on her back. She then woke the potioner up and forcefully controlled her consciousness to activate the tattoo.

In the next moment, the isolation array around the surrounding region was manifested once again. The ethereal dome masked the view, mana signatures, mana fluctuations, and even the smell of blood in the surrounding area. The outsider couldn't see, smell, or feel anything from outside the isolation array. Nothing but an unobstructed view of the surroundings greeted potential onlookers.

The butcher had used the joint force's tools against them. He covered up the crime scene with little effort. All so that he could make more of them with greater ease.

"Something is wrong. I can't contact Shalen, Sienna, or Regan."

Oslo told the members of his team. The Escalon guild members were also following his lead in Shalen's absence.

The Escalon guild members looked at each other before shrugging their shoulders. They just kept following Oslo who was now approaching Regan's group from a different direction. The moving caravan could always be followed afterward. So he wasn't too worried about Eren getting away from their trap.

Just when Oslo thought of reorganizing the entire joint force in one place and deciding the next course of action, he saw Shalen standing in the middle of nowhere. She was all by herself.

Oslo decided to quickly approach the assassin to find out what was going on at the time.

"Shalen, can you tell me what's wrong? Why aren't you answering your voice communication? Regan and Sienna have also dropped off the grid. We don't even know where they are anymore."

Oslo asked in a concerned voice. He wore serious expressions and a vigilant gaze as he asked the question. However, all he received in response was a life-threatening attack aimed at him. That too by some from the same team as him.

[Chapter 863 Making An Owl Out Of Oslo](#)

"You fucking wh..."

Oslo tried to get away from Shalen as soon as he felt a threat coming from her. Unlike Regan who was old and Sienna who was inexperienced, the masked man was a veteran ranker. His response time to the threats was on another level.

However, Shalen's assassination skills weren't just for the show. She quickly morphed a crossbow into existence and loaded it with a bunch of elemental arrows.

Raise. Aim. Shoot.

The assassin fired a volley of arrows with no arrowheads. Using his movement spell and partially deployed defense shield, the masked man dodged them. However, he was still shot by elemental arrows that duplicated themselves in the air.

The arrows without arrowheads were thin and had significant piercing potential. Shalen had targeted Oslo's vulnerable points with her mid-range attacks. As a result, most of the arrows targeted his face, heart, groin, and other things.

The arrows aimed at Oslo's face were deflected by the metallic mask he was wearing. But some arrows managed to get around it.

"Aaaaargh!"

Oslo screamed in pain when one of Shalen's elemental arrows hit his ear. It had penetrated past the mana defense layer and attacked the inside of the ear canal. Oslo's ear started bleeding right away and his hearing was affected.

The assassin also targeted members of the Escalon guild with her arrows. She also sent shrapnel attacks using her weapon arts, keeping the members from approaching her and Oslo.

Shalen managed to kill some of the Ace-ranked members right away. There were only two newly entered Adept rank holders apart from her and Oslo in this group. They all managed to stay alive from her unrelenting attacks.

Shalen fought and attacked like she didn't want to live past today. Escalon members got in the way while following Oslo. Slowly but surely, she began to kill and injure many rankers of the Escalon guild and Demonimir's faction.

She also received various serious wounds in return. But the assassin fought like the undead, using her opponent's attacks as self-sabotaging launching pads for her counters.

Shalen's nose was chopped off. Her entire right cheek was shaved off, exposing her white denture for all to see. She also lost her left breast in one of the attacks and her right leg was pierced with arrows and bullet-like shrapnel.

Yet, Shalen was not done with her onslaught. Her image blurred as she appeared right behind the escaping Oslo. She got into striking distance and attacked Oslo without any fear for her safety.

"I'll fucking kill you."

Oslo was angered by Shalen's persistent attacks without any explanation. Using his pair of short swords, he tackled the dagger pointed at his neck. She swung around and tried to sever Oslo's liver with her next jab. However, Oslo managed to parry that attack too.

Swoosh. Zoom. Chop.

The masked man chopped Shalen's finger by changing his attack pattern all of a sudden. Shalen's grip on the dagger was lost because there were no fingers for her to grip the dagger's hilt with. However, instead of showing any sign of pain and misery, the assassin used the same hand to defend Oslo's next attack.

Her hand was then severed from her wrist. However, Oslo received another shock when he found out that his kidney was pierced from behind him.

Shalen managed to use the dropped dagger by holding it between the first and second toes of her right leg.

She held the dagger by its blade. Due to her inability to control her mana defense layer, she was injured by her dagger. The wound made her right leg sputter blood. However, when she swung her feet and managed to hit Oslo, the dagger pierced his defense layer and damaged his kidney.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Oslo was horrified behind his mask. The pain overwhelmed him. He hadn't even managed to deploy any of his spells in peace. Nobody in his team had managed to do so. And yet, they were all either injured or killed.

Shalen's image blurred once again. She appeared behind Oslo once again. The latter used his spell to bind her remaining limbs using elemental chains. But Shalen managed to hurt him by gripping the lodged dagger in her mouth. She used her legs and a movement spell to jump high after gripping the dagger in her mouth. In doing so, she tore through Oslo's back with her vertical wound.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Shalen finally pushed away from Oslo when an adept ranker from his team managed to cast his spell in peace. He created wind-element fists using his spell and sent Shalen flying away from Oslo. The barrage of fists was so intense that they created a boom effect every time they hit their target.

"Lord Oslo, are you alright?"

Two Adepts appeared beside Oslo. They wore grim expressions on their faces as they processed the mayhem Shalen had caused for them. Her sudden attacks had taken everyone by surprise, resulting in heavy casualties.

Shalen landed a few meters away from the trio, looking at them with the same deadpan expression. Even the heavy blood loss she was experiencing at the time wasn't enough to slow her down. Her attacks had become less effective because of her injuries. But she made up for them with her kamikaze attitude.

"Worry about my well-being later. Give me that healing potion, quick."

He demanded that his team members hand him Ice Fairy's Kiss, which they had bought only a few days before. One of the rankers who was standing beside him nodded his head and took out a White Raven healing potion.

Shalen had kept quiet for some reason after she stopped her campaign against Oslo. She stood at a weird angle and tightened her jaw grip on the dagger. It was as if she was waiting for something.

Oslo didn't want to find out what Shalen was waiting for. He decided to act and was about to gulp the healing potion down when his vision changed 180 degrees all of a sudden.

Oslo's head was turned at an unnatural angle by someone who had appeared behind him like a ghost.

Chapter 864 "In The End, We Only Regret The Chances We Didn't Take"

Oslo's head was turned at an unnatural angle by someone who had appeared behind him like a ghost.

Oslo saw that the young man had shoulder-length voluminous black hair. His green eyes stared at him pensively. As if he was thinking about what he would have for dinner tonight.

"You..."

Oslo exclaimed. Due to his twisted vocal cords, his voice sounded odd and unusual. His eyes had become red because of the blood flow trying to burst his head.

"Yes. Me."

Eren replied nonchalantly before turning Oslo's head in a clockwise direction again, completing a 360-degree round motion. The skin of Oslo's neck tore because it was strained to such a degree. His neck got smaller because of the twist and started looking like he had been choked by a harness.

Oslo closed his eyes forever when he got to see Shalen once again. He could only process the fact that he had been killed by his target.

Eren took hold of the Ice Fairy's Kiss from Oslo's hand before pushing his dead body to the ground. He shook the contents of the vial gently and observed its shade before commenting to himself.

'Oh! They managed to get my premium-grade products for their use. Heh! They wanted to battle me using my products, it seems. Bite the hand that feeds you, won't you?'

Eren chuckled at the thought of facing the repercussions of his potions' commercialization. He watched as Oslo's body fell flat on his face.

"Aaaaaah! Lord Oslo!"

Aqua Blades!

Eren used a water-element Adept-ranked sword to launch a series of flying slashes at the remaining two rankers. One of them managed to get away in time. But the other ranker had to deal with Eren's powerful water-element attacks tearing through the air at breakneck speeds. They landed on his torso all at once and injured him severely.

The injured Adept ranker didn't even stand a chance to put up a defensive front against Eren's attacks. It was like the chasm between his Adept rank and Eren's Adept rank was so big that no defensive measure could put up a front. His life was cut short by a series of surprise attacks coupled with Eren's profound elemental attainment.

The last remaining Adept ranker watched as Oslo's entire team was destroyed in less than a minute. He was too stunned to speak and felt fear. He just wanted to get away from the carnage that unfolded all around him. He wished he could start his day over without this quest.

'Maybe I should have asked her out.'

That's what the last ranker thought before Shalen closed in on him and launched her attack from behind. One had to say he died relatively peacefully as he didn't put up resistance and his head was chopped clean off by Shalen's dagger.

"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take."

Eren sighed as he watched the ranker's body drop to the ground. He scrunched his nose before looking at Shalen.

"She's damaged goods, isn't she?"

Alephee appeared beside Eren and nodded at his judgment.

"She can still be helpful if you use that thing on her. Meanwhile, I'll get the replacement doll ready for the Corpse Dance."

Alephee pointed at the vial of Ice Fairy's Kiss Eren was holding before approaching Oslo's corpse. She stood over the masked man's body and started chanting something inaudibly from her grimoire. It appeared she was trying to use Oslo's body in the same way she used Shalen's.

It looked like she was about to have some difficulties maintaining Corpse Dance for two Adept rankers. However, things were still manageable since Shalen wouldn't hold out for long.

Oslo's body was not ideal for Corpse Dance since it looked like Eren had damaged it too severely. And Alephee could understand why. Eren didn't underestimate Oslo even when he was in complete control of the situation.

A prominent ranker in Demonmir's faction certainly had some tricks up his sleeves. He died easily because he was caught off guard. Thus, Alephee didn't criticize Eren's way of prioritizing safety over getting a better human doll.

Eren threw the vial of Ice Fairy's Kiss at Shalen, who caught it in her partially exposed denture. She lifted her neck and let the contents of the vial enter her body.

Alephee was done with her ritual of making a human doll. Then she made Oslo use his array tattoo to erect an isolation barrier over a second crime scene.

'Goro, how far away are you from Oslo's team?'

Goro heard a voice through his voice communication channel. He knew it belonged to Nico Chains— the condor-type demon beast owner from Demonmir's faction.

Nico was waiting at a distance from Goro and the other teams at the time. If and when Eren used his demon beast to fly through the journey, Nico was supposed to intercept him using his mount. As such he wasn't involved in the groups that were assigned to attack Eren.

'Hmm? Not that far, Sir Nico. We are all following the caravan at a set distance from each other. What happened? Did Eren make his move?'

Goro asked Nico while traversing through the forest using his movement spell, maintaining a safe distance from the caravan's current location.

'I am not sure about Eren making his move. But I have lost contact with Oslo's team. The isolation array tattoo we are using for this job is not that reliable. Especially when it comes to maintaining voice communication.

Plus, Oslo is not well versed in maintaining arrays.'

Goro understood what Nico was getting at and replied to him right away.

'I'll check on Oslo right away, Sir Nico. Even if Eren has attacked, I refuse to believe that we couldn't even hear a peep from any of the groups that have dropped off the grid. So a malfunction of the isolation array would be the most likely scenario.

However, it is better to be safe than sorry. I'll keep you posted. Prepare to come here if and when I call you.'

Goro said as he marched towards Oslo's group. Unaware of the fact that Eren had managed to pull off the exact thing he deemed impossible in his eyes.

[Chapter 865 Discarding A Human Doll With RDX](#)

Goro thought it odd that Oslo was standing outside the isolation barrier. As if he was waiting for him.

"Oslo, why are you stopping here instead of approaching the caravan?"

As Goro watched his surroundings, he asked Oslo. He felt and sensed something odd about the situation. He just couldn't put a finger on what.

Meanwhile, the female ranker that was part of Goro's team led the rest of the rankers behind Goro. She approached a pensive-looking Shalen with a gloating expression on her face.

"It seems you bit off more than you could chew with Adept Eren and changed your plans. Were you too scared of attacking him all by yourself?"

This female was also a member of the Escalon guild. Her name was Tia Tarheel. She was the one who kept Goro company during those nine days and suggested he stay put.

Tia looked to be in her early 20s. Turquoise hair, off-red eyes, and slightly chubby cheeks. Tia was an elf and as such had beautiful feminine features.

Tia wore a skimpy dress that didn't have a hint of defensiveness. Her defense lay on the fact that she was a ranger and liked to keep a distance from her foes.

Unlike Shalen, she was the official member of the guild. She was in charge of rankers from her guild as well as that of House Remus that had come with Goro Jaan Remus.

Shalen was staring down at her feet when Tia approached her. The former looked up and looked into the elf's eyes before casting her spell.

Warning signals sounded off in Goro's head as he felt Shalen making her move. Being a necromancer, he could now tell that Shalen was nothing but a corpse with active mana circuits at this point. Someone else was making her body do things under their orders.

"Tia... no.... Keep the fuck away from her."

Goro tried to warn Tia. However, after Oslo made his move, he became preoccupied with his fight. The masked man drew his two short swords and sent wind-element attacks his way before blocking his retreat with the wind blades approaching from behind Goro.

Tia didn't understand what was going on at first. Goro's scream actually threw her off her pace instead of making her aware of her situation. Shalen managed to close in on her quickly before attacking her with her daggers.

"This bitch!"

Tia Taheel immediately ordered the rankers that were with her to attack Shalen without worrying about the consequences. The girl was an eyesore for her anyway because she wanted to have Reva Rain as her mentor by taking Shalen's place. Of course, Tia was yet to be made aware of the fact that Shalen was already dead.

Shalen managed to hurt Tia even after the latter defended herself with her spear and water-element defense spells. Only now did Tia understand why Reva preferred mentoring Shalen over her. The assassin was very proficient in her class.

However, Tia wasn't to be underestimated either. Especially when she had the number advantage.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Shalen was hit with various types of elemental spells and flying weapon attacks all at once. The assassin tried to defend herself with her movement spell. But she wasn't as agile as she was before the fight began.

Tia watched in shock as Shalen kept on following her even after being bombarded with so many attacks. She lost some of her flesh, her waist was nearly chopped off, and her heart had been pierced. But Shalen didn't even utter a word as she kept on launching flying slashes at the escaping Tia Tarheel.

"What is wrong with this fucking..."

Just when Tia felt befuddled by Shalen's behavior, she heard Goro's voice coming from a distance.

"She's dead. Oslo is also dead. Somebody's controlling the corpses. Stay on guard and watch for any sneak moves."

Tia was stunned when she heard Goro's explanation. She could have never guessed that Eren's team would also have someone with necromancy-like spells.

Tia's movement spell was impeccable. She managed to keep Shalen away from herself. Meanwhile, she coordinated with her team and launched a systematic attack on Shalen who seemed to be running on fumes.

Eren was looking at the fight unfolding in front of him using an array disk that showed the scene on a spectral screen, providing an eagle-eye view of the battlefield. It was the same array disk Eren had taken from Oslo.

He could lip-read Goro and Tia's speech and understood that they were both made aware of his trick of hunting the joint force.

"So they know that both Oslo and Shalen are dead. They are not trying to test the waters or get close to them. I guess every act has an expiration date."

Eren wasn't too bothered by the fact that his jig was up. He successfully eliminated two groups of rankers using the same trick. It just so happened that Goro managed to see through things because of his necromancer class.

"Hmm. Time to discard a doll."

Alephee who stood beside Eren gave him a suggestion. The latter nodded and gave her a go. The homunculus closed her eyes and operated on the corpse named Shalen using her Corpse Dance.

In the next moment, Shalen started her suicide attack.

Tia watched with a smirk as Shalen's body was getting destroyed by the moment. She kept on following her and trying to confront any ranker that came her way. She had injured and killed a few rankers. But they were all Novice-ranked members who Tia didn't value as much anyway.

Tia decided to use herself as bait to pin Shalen and finish her for good. Shalen's actions told her that the human doll was programmed to prioritize her as the target of her attacks. So Tia decided to use that against Shalen and the one who was controlling her.

Tia wanted to get rid of Shalen anyway. And the fact that she had been killed by the enemy and used as a human doll gave her a valid excuse to do so. She was sure that Reva Rain wouldn't be angry with her for offering eternal peace to Shalen's body.

"Let's get close and finish her off."

Tia and her team encircled Shalen and approached her. Unfortunately for them, Alephee activated the RDX hidden inside Shalen's body at the same time.

[Chapter 866 Ever-Prosperous Domain Of Death](#)

Boom!

A brilliant detonation took place.

In the ensuing darkness, the explosion lit up the atmosphere and diverted it away from the battlefield. Shalen detonated the RDX hidden inside her body.

Tia Taheel and her group of rankers were caught in the blast because of the suddenness of the attack. They thought that they were finishing off Shalen when it was the other way around.

"Aaaargh!"

Tia managed to escape the blast somehow. In the moment of life and death, she used the ranker beside her as a meat shield. She let the Adept-ranked ranker from her guild die to escape the sudden death sentence she was subjected to.

Even Goro was stunned as he felt the blast behind him. He was buying his time fighting because he didn't want to fight all out against a human doll. After all, he didn't want to fall prey to the follow-up attacks of the masterminds behind this thing.

However, he looked at Oslo's body with vigilance when Shalen detonated herself. He estimated that Eren and his team could use the same trick to get to him as well.

It was already too late to save Tia and the others. Goro knew that his retreat from Oslo could be used against him. So he focused on Oslo and decided to use his main spells.

Oslo had been using various artifacts against Goro to gain an edge. He could tell that Oslo's battle prowess had been compromised. But his corpse made up for it using various alchemy items that enhanced his speed, agility, attacking powers, and spell potency.

It was also to be noted that Goro was very skilled at handling his chained sword even though he was a full-fledged summoner. The guy wasn't a glass cannon like most summoners get tagged with. He could handle himself mana-e-mano against anyone of his rank without using his summoning spells.

Goro wanted to play it safe. But the blast of RDX changed things for him. He crouched and touched the ground with both his palms before casting his summoning spell.

Army of the dead!

Goro cast his summoning spell before fleeing from the approaching Oslo. As Goro's spell took effect, a distinct death-like mana pulse spread throughout the area.

A death miasma was summoned into existence. The sounds of the ground cracking at various places and bone breaking could be heard. Oslo was soon surrounded by the newly formed skeletons of humanoids and mana beasts.

Skreeeee!

The undead attacked Oslo as soon as they were summoned. Some even started attacking him while the white bones that served as their mortal shells were still manifesting. The bones creaked and the sounds of twig snappings could be heard as one form of undead fought with another form of undead chasing him in a group.

Goro stopped running when he had established a sufficient distance from Oslo. He raised his hands to operate on his summoned creatures. Some of them started attacking the human doll with fire-element spells. Some skeletons launched wind-element attacks at him.

Goro was merely the medium for the creatures' spells. His necromancer class allowed him to summon the dead rankers' mortal forms.

Some of the skeletons he had summoned belonged to the rankers he had chosen for himself and saved their mana signatures in his collection. And some skeletons belonged to rankers and mana beasts who had died in the vicinity.

The bones and dead flesh over the skeletons were formed into existence using Goro's necromancer mana. Depending on when the summoned creature died, the quality of its summoned form will vary. The more recent the death, the better the resurrected creature's quality will be.

Most of the summoned creatures were recently deceased members of Goro's team. The detonation of the RDX had got them good. But it looked like their job wasn't over.

Goro did not have any remorse for using his members as his summoned creatures. He felt that they should feel honored because he was punishing the reason for their death using their summoned forms.

Of course, Goro could not summon the forms of Shalen and Oslo even when they had technically died. He figured that was because of something their handler had done to them.

Goro was excited. Fighting a summoner was already rare. He felt even more confident about the possibility of fighting a necromancer. The guy assumed that the things Alephee had done to Shalen and Oslo's bodies were a form of necromancy. Even if she was not a summoner and belonged to a different class of necromancy, Goro was looking forward to her arrival on the battlefield.

Necromancy wasn't a very popular subject on the continent of Anfang. It was considered a cultist path by most establishments and as such there were severe restrictions on its use.

Of course, the normal rules didn't apply to a prominent organization like that of House Remus. Still, it was very difficult for Goro to acquire knowledge regarding necromancy and train himself in it. If it wasn't for his mentor, he would have given up on pursuing the path.

Goro kept on progressing his knowledge as a necromancer by mixing himself with cultist organizations and studying old paths of magic in the shadows. He mostly kept to himself and rarely left his clan's estate. House Remus would only use him when they wanted to launch purging missions against a group of people it found uncomfortable to deal with using normal methods.

Goro acted as the clan's cleaner. In return, he was provided with security and resources by his clan. After attaining the Adept rank, he truly started to see the limitless potential of his class. It looked like he could cast any elemental spell if he managed to summon the right undead.

The most remarkable thing about his class was the fact that no matter which side was subjected to casualties, he could use it to increase his battle potential. Recent deaths on the battlefield gave him a huge boost.

The more carnage on the battlefield, the more prosperous Goro's domain of death would be.

[Chapter 867 "Being A Little Cocky Is A Form Of Self-Confidence"](#)

Swoosh. Zoom. Boom.

Oslo tried to defend himself against the undead that had encircled him. But there was only so much a human doll could do when it was faced with so many attacks simultaneously. Despite his defensive measures, he was attacked multiple times.

These attacks managed to harm Oslo's body in such a way that by the time Oslo managed to get out of the trap, his body was bleeding and mangled in various places. Goro watched as his opponent got beaten by his summons in the distance.

The necromancer figured out that the operators behind the human doll would show themselves soon.

Tia let the Adept-ranked ranker from her guild die to escape the sudden death sentence she was subjected to. However, she wasn't totally unscathed from the sudden attack launched on her and her entire group by Shalen blowing herself up.

As a result, the ranger elf was angry at Eren and his supposed security detail. She was angry at herself as well for letting her guard down. A ranger like her shouldn't have tried to handle things on a personal level in the first place, no matter how the situation influenced her to do so.

Tia created a distance from ground zero of the explosion. The flames had stopped expanding. However, there was still a strong cloud of flames in the area, ensuring that those who had died in the explosion would be cremated completely.

There were a few people other than Tia who had managed to get out of the RDX trap Eren and Alephee had placed for them. In addition to being severely injured, they also suffered various burns all over their bodies.

RDX detonation didn't just affect rankers. The elemental fusion involved in the detonation also affected the surroundings, making it difficult for rankers to cast any spell related to fire or light for some time. Only rankers with sufficient elemental attainment could cast such spells normally without getting impacted by the turmoil caused by the surrounding mana.

Tia and her team members looked at each other and decided to group together. They knew that their problems didn't vanish because Shalen Craft was blasted away. The main players behind the detonation were about to show up.

Things were bound to get even more difficult for them because of their injuries. So Tia and her team members started to go towards Goro who was also almost done with his opponent.

Goro didn't make any rash decisions. But Tia and her team created a slight loophole in their defense by collectively deciding to join Goro. The butcher would never pass up an opportunity like that.

All of a sudden, warning bells rang in Tia's head as she sensed someone had appeared behind her out of thin air. She executed her movement spell right away while using the defensive artifact on her. The space-element ring she was wearing tried to alter the space around her to save her from imminent attacks.

Eren appeared behind Tia in the blink of an eye. He attacked her using Rigor Mortis. But since space was twisted around her, his attack landed on the back of her right thigh instead of her neck.

A huge chunk of meat was severed from Tia's right leg when Eren attacked her from behind. A huge scream filled with pain resounded in the distance as Tia vanished from her spot and appeared at a distance from Eren.

The space around Eren was twisted and Alephee appeared beside him. The Perfect Paradox had allowed her to copy all of Eren's spells after all.

"Eren Idril!"

Tia spoke Eren's name in a voice coated in hatefulness and agony when her eyes landed on him. She acted like it was his fault for not retaliating against their ambush.

"That's me. Flesh and soul."

Eren said this as he was removing blood stains from his sword with the help of his lightning mana. After the blood evaporated, the sword was good as new and could be used right away for more chopping and killing.

Eren smiled subtly at Tia before speaking up.

"I would have said, "nice to meet you". But I don't think you would reciprocate my feelings, even if they are superficial on both sides. And I refuse to invest in something that gives me zero return. So I'll just greet you by waving my hand like this."

Eren waved his free hand at Tia with a sophisticated smile on his face. There was a look on the butcher's face as if he was greeting an acquaintance after a long time.

Tia felt extreme pain because of the injuries inflicted on her body. The burn wounds from the RDX detonation hadn't healed completely. After the sword slash Eren inflicted on her, she suffered even more. It cauterized the wound partially while ensuring that it bled at a consistent pace. It made her suffer from a foreign mana invasion. And the surprise attack made her more apprehensive about Eren's sudden presence.

"Don't... don't get cocky Eren Idril. You and your forces will soon meet a just end. I have already informed the other groups. It's only a matter of time before they all arrive here and..."

Tia attempted to motivate herself by giving Eren unfounded threats. Too bad the latter wasn't in the mood to entertain her on that front.

Blink!

Swoosh. Zoom. Chop.

Eren chopped Tia vertically while she was trying to intimidate him. She was still looking at Eren's previous position when Eren's vertical chop landed on her.

Tia was still using a defensive artifact on her. Thus, Eren's random attack turned into a vertical chop before it managed to break free from spatial restrictions and split her into two. The two chopped pieces of Tia's body were uneven in nature because the attack was jagged in the middle.

"It's fine to get a little cocky, Miss. It's a form of self-confidence. You just have to earn the right to get cocky about it."

Eren said a few words to Tia's body nonchalantly. The elf's body spilled guts, kidneys, and other internal organs onto the ground as well as blood. Her good-looking body was no longer good-looking.

Eren turned around to find that Alephee had moved on to taking care of the rest of the injured rankers. He looked at the scene with impartial vision before commenting.

"Heh! Done already? This is why I love bombing people.

A huge mess, but with instant results. I should try carpet bombing next time."

The terrorist decided to terrorize his potential victims even more in the future by stepping up his bombing game.

[Chapter 868 Making A Habit Out Of Using Human Dolls As Suicide Bombers](#)

Eren was very impressed with the effects of RDX.

He had faced fewer troubles dealing with Goro's team because of the detonation. All it needed was for him to finish the job. And that's what he did after appearing at the scene.

What Eren detonated was not a commercially available product but something he had hidden from market exposure. It packed twice the destructive power at the cost of making manufacturing more difficult.

Alephee took care of the last ranker in the vicinity before appearing beside Eren. She pointed toward where Goro was fighting Oslo and commented.

"Hmm. Everyone's done for here except one. That Adept managed to run off."

Eren raised his eyebrows at Alephee's comment and got confused. That's because he saw nobody in the vicinity.

He then used his soul sense to realize that a ranker in his early 40s was employing a unique artifact to make himself invisible to the naked eyes and mana sense. He used the artifact on himself as soon as the RDX detonation took place and stayed away from the conflict.

Eren had to say that most of the rankers from the ambush teams had come equipped with a lot of unique and useful resources. Having a strong backer behind them really served them well.

Initially, the invisible man planned to sneak attack Eren with his artifact. But he changed his mind as soon as he saw what Eren had done to Tia. He immediately ran at full speed towards Goro, trying to seek shelter in the necromancer's presence.

"Sir Goro... wiped out. Our entire team is wiped out."

The invisible man made himself visible after seeing Goro in his vision. Since Goro was keeping tabs on the whole scene, he didn't need the man's report anyway. But the man didn't get a cue from Goro's deadpan expressions. It could be said that the man was really intimidated by Eren's presence.

Oslo was badly beaten after fighting Goro's summons. The human doll was about to be destroyed when it spotted an invisible man coming toward Goro after abandoning his invisibility. In the next moment, Oslo disappeared from his place only to appear behind the man with an invisibility-granting artifact.

The human doll used whatever remained of its arms and legs to lock onto the panicked man. It then used the same strategy as Shalen and blew itself up.

Once Eren discovered what Alephee's spell could do, he thought of using human dolls as a way to target opponents.

This way, attacks would be precise and rarely fail.

And since the human dolls didn't have normal consciousness and only worked on tactical logic, they were loyal to his bombing cause.

The terrorist had found a convenient way to deliver his patented brand of detonation right at his enemy's doorsteps.

An eye-catching cloud of flames was birthed into existence once again as Oslo activated the RDX stored inside his body. It packed the same amount of punch as Shalen's detonation, sending waves of heat and brilliance into the surroundings.

All this happened while Goro watched from a distance. He didn't try to save the man. Goro did not try to run away or approach Eren and Alephee carelessly either. He had seen what Eren's Blink could do.

Goro stood quietly in his place as his eyes reflected the cloud of flames that was driving out the darkness. Since Oslo's body was destroyed in the detonation, the isolation barrier was lifted and he saw the carnage Eren had unleashed earlier on Oslo's team.

Goro's expression turned grim when he saw Oslo's team or what remained of it. He realized that Eren was screwing up the entire ambush team one by one. And that, too, in such a thorough manner that the remaining forces didn't even hear a word of it.

'This... This is the work of a cold-blooded killer. And he has been getting his hands bloody personally.'

Our intel was wrong. There's no security detail on him. He doesn't need one.'

Goro narrowed his eyes as he thought to himself. He immediately discarded the assumption that Eren was being protected by his security detail. One look at his crime scene and keeping tabs on Tia's situation earlier was enough for him to know how Eren must have done the job.

'Sir Nico. Change of plans. I don't think Eren plans to run away from the ambush.'

Get here at my location. Everybody's dead except Rehaal's team. Your man Oslo also died just now.'

Goro immediately contacted Nico Chains and asked him to come to his location. The necromancer liked fighting stronger people. But he liked to have a cushion to fall back on in case things start to take turn for the worse.

Goro immediately understood the threat Eren posed to him. He kept Nico in the loop of the events so that the condor-owning beast tamer would be on his way here. Meanwhile, Nico could try to bring Eren down all by himself. In case Eren becomes too much for him to handle alone, he could rely on Nico by sticking to prolonging the fight.

Eren appeared at a distance from Goro by the time the latter was done explaining things to Nico. The necromancer also expected Nico to contact Rehaal's team which was still chasing after the caravan. This is why Goro was not too worried about Eren's appearance even after realizing his potential as a ranker.

Eren and Goro entered a staring contest as soon as their eyes met. The butcher could tell that Goro had stopped moving randomly to counter his Blink. He was surrounded by loads of summoned creatures just waiting to get erupted from the ground. As such, Eren didn't try to use the same trick on the necromancer as he was doing in his earlier fights.

Goro looked at Eren and Alehee intently before commenting.

"A lightning and fire element Adept who uses Blink like a proficient space-element ranker. And there are no records of him using Blink in any of his previous fights. That means he learned the spell recently.

A close combat expert who became a dreadful assassin overnight just with the use of a single spell. Then he uses a necromancer and blows things up like he is getting paid for it.

What kind of ranker can pull off something like this?"

[Chapter 869 Eren Vs Goro P1](#)

"What kind of ranker can pull off something like this?"

Goro asked as he cast his domain spell once again. Immediately, the summoned undead that he had used earlier was dispersed. And new ones emerged from the ground to replace them.

One could see that the newly emerged undead were significantly better than the ones Goro had summoned earlier. It was clear that he was not planning to hold anything back against Eren.

The summoned undead also included Tia and the rest of the rankers that had died with her at Alephee's hands. The undeads were especially angry at the opponents in front of them. As if the hate they carried in their hearts while they were alive was passed onto them.

'One more summoner! And a necromancer at that. Just what I ordered. I see House Remus is providing expedited delivery services.'

Eren licked his lips as he thought to himself. He was excited to claim Goro's achievements for himself. And his excitement was getting reflected in the aura that was manifesting around him.

Eren smirked before answering Goro's question.

"I am responding to your aggression in the way I see fit. You can't blame me if my way turns out to be like this. I never claim to commit to a particular role. Consider all of this as my free-hand drawing. A way for me to express my freedom."

Eren looked around himself as he said. In his eyes were images of two explosions, mangled bodies, chopped-off limbs, spilled-out internal body parts, and Goro's undead creatures that had the same form as the rankers who had died because of him.

Goro had goosebumps on his skin when he felt Eren's presence. He felt like the brutality Eren had caused at the scene was just a trailer for what he had done in the past or what he would do in the future.

Goro smiled when he felt the stress of fighting a stronger opponent. With Nico and Rehaal on their way to back him up, he had nothing to fear. He could truly enjoy his fight against someone of Eren's caliber without worrying about the feasibility of the mission.

"Oh? Do you have a backup?"

Eren raised his eyebrows as he read what Goro had on his mind. The latter was shocked to the core by the fact that Eren read him like an open book. As he considered the possibility, his eyes widened.

"You... soul sense!"

Goro quickly took out a potion and drank the contents. He found it unbelievable that an Adept ranker had an awakened soul sense. But that didn't stop him from taking preventive measures against it.

Only now did Goro realize why he was being intimidated by Eren. It could also explain the ease with which he had killed the ambush team members simply by overwhelming their consciousness for a brief period.

"You are more than you let on."

Goro took a long breath and spoke. The potion strengthened his slumbering soul. It would not be affected by anyone's soul sense for hours on end. He smiled wickedly at Eren before commenting.

"That's right, Eren Idril. We have an Expert ranker on Rehaal's team. And a C-Rank demon beast tamer from Demonmir's faction is also coming this way. Plus, you have me. I don't want to brag but I am a C-ranker. I can take you and that necromancer on at the same time using my summons."

Goro narrowed his eyes at Eren and Alephee. He kept summoning more undead creatures in the meantime, making it seemingly harder for Eren to stand any chance against him.

Alephee had displeasure written on her face. Eren looked at her and chuckled before responding to Goro.

"First of all, she is not a necromancer. She says Anfang's class-based ranking status doesn't apply to her. Second, your reinforcements don't matter."

Eren then looked at Alephee before saying.

"Alephee, intercept that bastard Rehaal for me. I had told him to find another way to get to Rodrick. The numbnuts took that face down ass-backwards. Don't kill them though. I have some plans regarding them."

Alephée looked at Eren before nodding. She disappeared from her position and started approaching Rehaal's team which was approaching from the northwest. Meanwhile, Argo appeared in front of Eren in his regular hybrid form. The demon beast was summoned for a reason.

"You burn some fat and hold off that bird and his tamer from coming here. I'll cut your allowance if you can't finish them before me. And reward you with some premium Har Jahar meat if you do."

Eren said casually to Argo. The latter flapped his wings and released a domineering eagle cry before responding.

"Bitches gon get stitches! Argo out."

The hybrid demon beast started approaching Nico Chains who was coming from the northeast. It was sufficient to say that the half-animal half-bird liked red meat in his diet.

With Argo's departure, the butcher ensured that he would have an uninterrupted time with Goro.

Goro's face was stressed as he saw how Eren tried to keep his reinforcements out of the game. He wasn't sure about Alephée's and Argo's powers. But the fact that Eren could kill most of the ambush so easily made him believe that they would at least be able to hold Rehaal's team and Nico Chains out.

"I don't understand where you got the confidence to offend so many people all at once. Even if you survive this ordeal, more opponents will follow. They will be better than us.

Now that it has come to this, those in the big leagues will get to you sooner or later. Why not give up and surrender to your fate? Less troubling that way."

Eren chuckled when he heard Goro's way of testing his resolve. He looked at him amusingly before responding.

"Why would I create a city from nothing if I wanted to avoid trouble?"

Meh! Never mind. I would have talked more. But it's a waste of time for both of us. So let's just get this over with."

[Chapter 870 Eren Vs Goro P2](#)

Eren decided that no further talk was necessary.

He began transforming in front of Goro. The latter started looking at him with wide eyes as Eren's presence started changing along with his appearance. His hair turned white and his eyes turned icy blue.

Eren started giving off completely different vibes than before. It was as if he had switched from his close combat expert class in a fraction of a second.

"You... you are THAT summoner? How... the fuck..."

Goro was tongue-tied after witnessing Eren's transformation. He couldn't wrap his head around the idea that a ranker could change his class mid-battle.

Eren looked at Goro with amusement. He then raised his free hand and brought his summons to life.

First to get summoned were Wind-Fire flying snakes. These creatures were born into existence after Eren had mastered his elemental fusion. The mana bodies of the boa snakes were formed first before they were given wings made of wind and fire. They took flight as soon as they were summoned, showing their fiery fangs at Goro and his undead summons.

The second type of summons was a herd of red bulls. These bulls were empowered with spell integrations, which granted them powers over various lightning-element spells mastered by Eren.

The third type of Eren's summons caused Goro to tremble. He watched with a grim expression as the woodland creatures were summoned by Eren.

These woodland creatures were the same type as what Rey Remus used to control using his summoning spells. Furthermore, Eren's woodland summons felt like they were the same ones summoned by Rey. It was almost like Eren had the same form of elemental attainment and mastery over his summoning spells as Rey.

"How can you summon these woodland creatures? What the fuck did you do Rey?"

Eren smirked at Rey. "You talk when I can just show you?"

Eren's summoned creatures had gathered all around him. Some stayed with him while others launched a joint campaign against Goro's creations.

The flying snakes started breathing fire down on the undead as they flew over them. Lightning-clad bulls attacked the undead head-on. The woodland creatures started using their wood-element spells on their enemies before destroying them.

Goro started taking hold of his summons only after he slapped himself and got over the shock he was feeling at the time. Most of his summons were confused by Goro's shocked state of mind. As a result, they couldn't properly defend themselves.

The undead would have been killed instantly if Goro was of an Adept rank. Eren's summoning spells and his skills as a summoner couldn't be taken lightly anymore. Goro gulped empty air as he took control of his undead.

He had come to realize that Eren had managed to bridge the ranking status gap between them using his elemental fusion, aspect fusion, and diversity in summoning spells.

Both summoners continued to summon more summons as the existing ones were destroyed. They both entered a stalemate when their summoned creatures couldn't register a definitive victory over each other.

Both summoners needed to personally get involved in the fight. Goro took out his chained sword and started imbuing it with his unique death-element mana. His sword started looking like it had been corroded by the test of time all of a sudden.

He pulled out his two blades, Rigor Mortis and Anduril. He imbued them with lightning and fire-element mana before casting his movement spell.

Clang!

The two summoners clashed with each other in the middle of the battlefield. The summoned creatures parted ways and left the two summoners alone. Both rankers had come to a silent agreement that they would fight each other mano-e-mano.

Eren parried Goro's attacks with some difficulty. The latter's body stats were way higher than his because of his Expert rank. As a result, Eren couldn't make use of his close combat skills to their fullest extent.

Goro's natural defense barely weakened every time the butcher's attack landed right. As Goro's body was able to quickly recover from the light injuries he suffered due to Eren's attacks, the foreign mana invasion he experienced was not difficult to deal with.

Eren's situation was becoming completely the opposite of this. The attacks that landed on his body were able to hurt Eren more deeply. And Goro's C-Rank mana became difficult for Eren to tackle.

Eren's elemental fusion-based attacks were still able to hurt the summoner though. Plus, his undead creatures were losing ground against fire-element birds and woodland creatures over time. It appeared that he was just getting started.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The more Goro fought with Eren, the more he realized that Eren was better than him in every other field other than ranking status. Eren's weapon handling was so precise and lethal that nobody would mistake him for a summoner. And his summoned creatures had gotten so powerful over time that nobody would take him for a close combat expert.

Eren's very existence was an enigma to the rankers of Anfang. Goro watched as his own body started getting injured by an Adept ranker's attacks. And even after getting injured in the process himself, Eren kept on increasing the intensity of his offense by a notch with each passing moment.

The woodland creatures started dominating the battlefield when Eren injected them with wrath mana. They tore through the undead and destroyed their bodies to the extent that they would not dare to be turned into undead any longer.

Scree!

The undead kept screaming. But the woodland creatures' sharp noises overshadowed their screams and destroyed the army of the undead to a large extent.

Goro felt like he had been taught wrong about the limitations the rankers had on themselves. He watched with low-key panic setting inside his head as Eren's woodland creatures soon took care of all of his summoned creatures.

All this while, Goro couldn't sense any reinforcements heading his way. It meant Eren's side had effectively managed to take care of Rehaal's team and Nico Chains.

'This guy was waiting for someone like me. He's influencing House Remus into sending more summoners his way. So that he can claim their powers for his.'

