

## Village Head 551

### Chapter 551 The Irresistible Bounty

Sensing the powerful magical energy that had emerged out of Flintor, King Garnet couldn't help but blink several times to ensure he wasn't seeing things.

Crystal Sage Rank?

No, the magical energy emanating from him seemed even more potent, suggesting he might be at the Crystal King Rank. However, King Garnet had already confirmed that the Princess's personal guard was at the Crystal Luminary Rank.

Thus, the idea of Flintor being at the Crystal Sage Rank was something he found incredibly hard to believe—impossible, even!

Of course, the Four Major Clans witnessed this scene and were even more shocked by it.

Olivia couldn't help but mutter under her breath, "Is this the true strength of the Princess's personal guard?" She knew that the position of the Princess's personal guard was unique.

When she first heard about the appointment, the news was spread throughout the kingdom to the extent that the Princess's personal guard could be considered part of the royal family. However, even without that, his strength had never been revealed to the public.

Olivia had no idea about how strong he truly was. She had even wondered if he was at the tenth tier Crystal Luminary Rank, just like Princess Crystalia after her strength was unveiled during the Gemheart' Clans attack. However, looking at the personal guard before her, she realized she was absolutely wrong!

In fact, it should be obvious that the Princess's Personal guard should be at least someone stronger than her. If Princess Crystalia's strength was at the Tenth tier Crystal Luminary Rank, then that meant that the personal guard demonstrating an immense amount of magical energy that even she was not able to sense was—

Olivia gulped down a mouthful of saliva. For some reason, this situation reminded her of exactly how her last encounter with Orion had ended.

Instantly, her mind raced, searching for a way to leave the Gemheart Clan Manor with the rest of her family because, whatever it was, she was sure the results wouldn't be pleasant.

Just as another group of guards was about to jump in and attack again, King Garnet immediately shouted at the top of his lungs.

"STOPP!!"

The guards instantly halted their steps and returned to their previous positions.

Seeing this, King Garnet focused his attention back towards Flintor.

"Do you have any idea what you are doing?" King Garnet asked.

Flintor merely looked at him.

Instead of responding, he said, "I have thought about many ways that I want to kill you. However, as the king, I'll be willing to give you a choice," he asked, "How do you want to die, King Garnet?"

King Garnet immediately gritted his teeth in anger.

He snapped his head to the side, focusing on the guests present. "As you can all see, the Crystalforge clan has decided to retaliate once again, even after their defeat. However, it would be too shameful for one of the Four Major Clans to throw their fists against an already fallen clan."

He then focused his attention back on Flintor.

"So, I will give you one last chance to surrender. Otherwise, not only will I label you and the Crystalforge clan as traitors, but I will also place a bounty on the Crystalforge Clan. Whoever successfully wipes out the Crystalforge Clan will be joined with the Four Major Clans, restoring its numbers to the Five Major Clans," he said.

He still had to confirm in detail about the Princess's Personal guard's current strength before taking any action he might regret.

As King Garnet's voice reverberated through the air, the whole area couldn't help but become absolutely silent.

Crystala's eyes immediately widened after listening to King Garnet's words.

Becoming one of the Five Major Clans—what does that mean?

Forget about their current position; for them to be here, within the main engagement hall, meant they obviously held considerable power within the Prismarian kingdom.

However, when compared to the Four Major Clans, their authority might as well be like comparing a toothpick to that of a tree.

It was incomparable!

So, the moment King Garnet's words ended, the eyes of all the smaller clans and families burned with determination.

"The Glimmerskin Clan has heard the King's words and would gladly soil its hands in taking care of the Crystalforge Clan."

A voice soon sounded out, and a middle-aged man with deep blue skin and white hair locks stepped forward.

Although the Glimmerskin Clan was part of the vassals under the Crystalforge Clan, helping them control some crucial areas in the kingdom, now that the Crystalforge clan had fallen and their authority had been seized by the Gemheart Clan, other clans and families had been slowly eating up their business and authority. This compelled them to look for an alternative way to restore their previous position of power.

That's why they chose to attend the engagement of the Crowned Prince and the former Princess of the Prismarian kingdom, aiming to befriend the Gemheart Clan and prove their capabilities.

However, now that they not only had the chance to do so but could also climb up the ladders and instantly ascend into the position of becoming one of the Five Major Clans, even if it meant becoming one of the weakest Major Clans, how could they resist such an offer?

Nevertheless, he wasn't the only one who found such an offer irresistible, as several other voices rang loudly.

"The Jedefall family has heard the King's words and would gladly extend its hands in exterminating the Gemheart Clan."

"The Moonstone Clan has heard the King's words and would personally want to take care of wiping out the Crystalforge Clan themselves."

Another voice sounded out, and in just under a few minutes, about six Clans and ten Families spoke and stepped forward.

Witnessing all of this, Crystalia couldn't help but grit her teeth in anger and frustration. Yes, she understood that although some of the clans and families that had stood up to face them were once loyal to the Crystalforge Clan, it was all about power and survival at the end of the day.

The Crystalforge Clan had already lost its power and was now clinging to its last thread of survival. So, after King Garnet had made such an offer to everyone present, Crystalia understood that after today, the Crystalforge Clan would be... no more.

## Chapter 552 Orion's Grand Arrival

She looked down at Elysia, who was watching the scene with a dazed expression on her face, before shifting her gaze to her father, who had fallen unconscious under the rubble from the caved-in roof.

Gritting her teeth, she immediately helped Elysia stand up to her feet, with her arms over her shoulders, before she went towards Flintor's position and placed her on the ground the moment she arrived. She immediately walked out and freed her father from the debris before dragging his unconscious body to their position. Although all of this happened under everyone's gaze, none stopped her.

They were thinking about how they should attack and who should make the first move. Besides, after witnessing the Princess's Personal guard's strength, they had already called for reinforcement and were waiting for them to arrive.

Crystalia then turned her attention towards Flintor, "If you carry Father, I can carry Elysia, and then we can run out of here as quickly as we can," she said.

Flintor stared at her and shook his head in response.

"Don't worry, Princess, we will handle this," he responded.

"We?" Crystalia blurted out, staring at him wide-eyed.

Did he also bring some of the Crystalforge Warriors? Or perhaps he had found out where those who had completed the trial were and brought them here to attack the Gemheart Clan's manor and seize control of the Prismarian Kingdom.

Crystalia wanted to understand what Flintor's words meant; however, before she could ask her question, Flintor had shifted his attention towards the guests.

Immediately, the door at the hall's entrance burst open, and about sixty individuals rushed into the main engagement hall before another fifty more.

They formed a barricade around them, blocking all of their escape routes.

Flintor stared at them as they armed their weapons against him.

"Are you sure that you want to do this? Because I can promise you that if you do, if the Gemheart Clan falls, then you are falling with them," he said, gritting his teeth in anger as he could recognize some clans and families planning to betray them.

The Jedefall Family Head snorted in response, "The Crystalforge Clan has already fallen, and we are only doing the favour of getting rid of you and ending your sufferings quickly," he responded with a light smirk laced across his lips.

Flintor nodded before he shifted his attention to the side, "Is he speaking for all of you?" He asked as he looked across at the other sixteen individuals before him.

The rest of the smaller clans and families snorted in response.

"He is speaking for himself; however, the one sentiment that I share with him is that the Crystallforge Clan is going to be permanently eradicated today," the Clan Head of the Glimmerskin clan responded as he stared at Flintor fiercely.

Flintor's gaze turned sharper as he nodded in response, "Okay, then you will all follow him to his death," he responded, his gaze fixed on King Garnet, who was behind them and watching the scene with a stern expression.

"Although you have surprised us with the strength you displayed, do you think it would be more than enough to take care of all of us?" one of the clan heads asked with a smile.

"Yes, I alone am capable of taking care of all of you," Flintor responded with a nod. "However, it would be way easier if I allowed them to handle it for me."

Although Flintor knew he could take down everyone in the room, as no one present could match his current strength, he still felt the intense magical energy raging through his body. Since he had no idea how long he would last and was sure that the other Five Major Clans present wouldn't underestimate him any longer and hold back their strengths, he decided not to take any risks.

Besides, he had no reason to worry about anything, as they already had a plan upon arrival.

The Clan Head and Family Heads all frowned at his words.

Even King Garnet frowned deeply as he could tell that something was wrong.

"What are you talking about? Who are the 'them'?" One of the Family Heads asked, putting his senses on high alert as he could also understand that there was some meaning to Flintor's words.

Flintor smiled. "They will be here soon," he said, raising his head and staring outside the gaping hole of the broken roof.

With a deep frown on their faces, everyone raised their heads and looked outside the gaping hole of the broken roof.

Their expressions froze as they stared at the scene before their eyes.

Up above them was a giant sphere of water, gradually engaging them within it like a massive wall. And just when their eyes met the scene, the firmness of the water had fully set.

At that moment,

CRRACCCKLLEEE! CCRACCCKLLLEE!!

A rumbling, rolling sound echoed loudly and resonated deeply within their ears.

In their gaze, they watched as the giant sphere of water was instantly surrounded by a wave of bluish lightning racing like slithering venomous beasts, filling every single part of the massive sphere of lightning in the blink of an eye.

Seeing the familiar vibrant bluish spark of lightning, Zephyrion and the Prismaflow twins felt a familiar shiver flow down their spines.

Owen Luminous, who had been silently watching the scene, stood up from his seat with a deep frown on his face as he stared at the scene in front of his eyes.

Elara and Olivia couldn't help but curse under their breath.

However, Olivia lamented that she hadn't left earlier as she could already figure out the source of that bright bluish lightning before her.

After all, she had witnessed its strength firsthand from an extremely close position beforehand.

CRACCKKLLEE!!

Meanwhile, Crystalia couldn't help but feel her eyes become slightly moist at the scene before her.

And it only got wetter as she noticed a figure descending from the sky, heading straight towards her position.

BAANNNGG!! BOOOMM!!!

The figure landed in front of them.

As the dust and debris that had flown into the air upon landing began to settle down, the figure slowly became visible.

Crystalia stared wide-eyed at the figure with a mixture of shock and disbelief. In front of her stood a young man whom she recognized and had always dreamt about in her dreams.

#### Chapter 553 Facing Intimidation

However, unlike in her dreams, his familiar toned body was visible for all to see, just like the first day she had rescued him from the bloodthirsty god.

The only material he wore was a comfortable-looking piece of cloth that rested gently around his waist, covering his sack of balls.

But that wasn't all.

The familiar fierce bluish force of lightning flickered brightly on both of his arms until it slowly vanished into thin air.

"Orion," Crystalia said, her eyes leaking like a broken dam as she watched the figure slowly turn his head to the side and look at her with a peaceful, comforting smile that made her heart beat fiercely as even more tears raced from her eyes.

"Are you okay, Crystalia?"

Crystalia nodded in response. She raised her hands and wiped away the tears from her eyes, allowing her to speak. "Yes... I'm okay."

Orion nodded in relief. "Good, it seems like I arrived on time," he responded.

With the same smile, he shifted his attention below toward the injured Elysia, who appeared seriously hurt.

"And what about you, Elysia? Are you okay?" he asked, staring at her lovingly with a heartfelt expression.

Elysia, still injured and weakened, felt her eyes become wet as she wiped away the tears.

She then shook her head swiftly. "No... I'm not okay, Orion," she responded.

Orion frowned, taking notice of Elysia's injured left leg.

Immediately, he nodded in response, "Don't worry, I will solve this quickly and get you out of here soon," he responded.

The moment he finished speaking, two loud resounding noises echoed beside him with a "BANG!! BOOM!!" as two more figures landed near him from above.

As the dust began to settle, a muscularly fit man with short hair, similar to Orion's appeared by his right. He was also wearing the same attire but was holding a cutlass.

On his left stood a woman with waist-length black hair, equally fit as him, clad in a different attire—a piece of cloth tied around her waist and another scantily wrapped around her chest. She wielded a long-curved bladed spear in her right hand.

The man focused his gaze on them briefly, causing a cold shiver down their spines before he turned his head forward, focusing seriously on the group of people in front of him.

"Are they the ones we're meant to deal with?" Seth asked, raising a brow.

Apart from the weird buildings and houses, which somehow reminded him of the four-eared beings and their strange contraptions that always wanted to trade with the village for some fruits, he couldn't help but admit that the tulga of the individuals before him was even weirder.

Nevertheless, as Orion had already explained that their way of life was different, with the only thing connecting them being their devotion to Naka, he didn't give it too much thought.

Orion nodded silently.

From a distance, King Garnet's face darkened as he watched the scene.

"Who are they?" he asked, shifting his attention towards Orion. He felt an intense shiver running across his body just by looking at their similar attire, already guessing who they were, but he still wanted to confirm by hearing it from Orion's mouth.

"They are warriors from my village. I brought them along to help take care of the problem in the Prismerian kingdom," Orion responded.

A pin-drop silence spread across the room.

Orion's words resounded in their ears, causing them to take in a deep gulp.

Upon seeing the fierce bluish lightning, those present during the Young Heirs' banquet could already guess the source. Some, especially those who had surrounded the former royal family, stepped back, contemplating ways to escape the Gemheart Clan manor when they witnessed Orion falling from the sky.

However, they instantly abandoned that idea as they realized they were trapped.

Their minds were racing, thinking about the best action for their current situation. Regardless, when they heard Orion's words, their brains immediately came to a halt.

Warriors from his village!

Having witnessed Orion's strength during the Prismerian Young Heirs banquet and fueled by rumours about his abilities rivalling the queen's, who held a mid-tier Crystal King Rank, they concluded that the young man was a formidable force, one none of them could handle without incurring significant losses.

This assessment stood, even without witnessing his full strength.

They had also pondered the strength of the other foreigners from Orion's place, hoping he was an exception and not indicative of their overall strength.

However, sensing the fierce aura emanating from the two individuals beside him, they didn't need to witness their strength to understand they were... powerful.

As such, Orion's words sent another shiver down their spines, compelling them to take several steps back again.

King Garnet's face fell for a few seconds, a fleeting expression of frustration crossing his features before he swiftly regained control of his emotions, recomposing himself. "Mr Orion, I understand that the former royal family welcomed you upon your first arrival in the Prismerian Kingdom, and you would go so far as to return the favour," he said.

Shifting his attention toward the defeated former royal members, he recalled that Orion had intervened to thwart the assassination attempt.

"However, don't you think you are going too far by interfering in our kingdom's affairs?" he added, narrowing his eyes at Orion.

Immediately grasping King Garnet's attempt to manipulate the situation, several voices rang out, predominantly from the Clans and Families vying for a spot among the Five Major Clans.

"Yes! This is our kingdom; you have no right to interfere here!"

"Is this how you choose to repay the kingdom that welcomed you with open arms?"

"While you may have a close relationship with the Crystalforge Clan, your ties with the Prismarian Kingdom are not as strong. If you decide to fight us here, be prepared to face the entire might of the Prismarian Kingdom!"

Elara and Olivia witnessed the scene, feeling the veins on their foreheads bulge to the point of almost bursting.

Are they insane?

#### Chapter 554 Facing Intimidation (2)

Of course, they could already recognise that they stood no chance in defeating the two warriors alongside Orion, even if they all attacked together. Nonetheless, they also understood what Garnet was doing, which was that just because they couldn't launch an offensive didn't mean they couldn't go on the defensive.

With every important figure currently within the Gemheart clan manor, each holding significant influence in the Prismarian Kingdom, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that if Orion and the warriors he brought with him decided to fight and slaughter everyone in this room and the Gemheart Clan Manor, they would undoubtedly face the entire Prismarian Kingdom.

The citizens wouldn't sit idly by and bow their heads to an outsider, especially a foreigner who had slain one of their own.

This would indirectly affect the Crystalforge Clan, bringing even greater shame and humiliation for using external support to harm one of their own and attempt to regain their previous position of power.

Of course, all this wouldn't have been a problem if they were not a race imprisoned in a mountain for about 7,000 years, having only known themselves. For a society unaware of the outside world, unless Orion or the Crystalforge had plans to become dictators and eliminate every opposition, it was obviously a bad idea.

For Olivia, the uncertainty of not knowing what the people in front of them were capable of was a source of fear. As for Elara, the mystery of Orion's survival, considering his disappearance within the Divine lake essence, raised questions.

If Orion and the warriors he brought had followed him from outside the mountain, did that mean the Crystalforge clan's warriors had succeeded in defeating White Flame and were the ones who called for help?

If that were the case, weren't they the ones being insane for being unable to properly understand their current situation and the character of the people before them before taking such action?

Nevertheless, the deed had already been done, and what remained was how Orion and the other warriors besides him would respond.

Meanwhile, Orion raised his eyes at the individuals before him.

"Is the Prismerian Kingdom ready to make the necessary sacrifice to stop me from interfering?" he asked.

The various clan and family heads gritted their teeth in anger and frustration.

Elara and Olivia couldn't help but feel their hearts almost leap from their chests upon hearing Orion's words.

"Do you want an answer to that question?" Owen responded, his teeth gritting against one another as he stared at Orion, his dense magical energy filling the air around him.

Without waiting for Orion's response, he instantly vanished from his spot, appearing beside Orion and the others.

Elemental Amplification!

A burst of raging flames mixed with blinding light emanated from Owen's fist as he threw it towards Orion's head with enough force to cause him to fall unconscious.

He could have used 'Radiant Fusion,' which was a much higher form of 'Elemental Amplification.' However, he didn't want to kill Orion; he only planned to knock him out with enough force to capture him.

This way, they could use him to deal with the rest of the foreigners and also find out the location of his daughters.

However,

"BAANGG!!"

A firm feminine hand tightened around his fist, stopping the attack and dispersing the flames, halting him in his tracks.

Owen's eyes widened. He immediately tried to free himself and protect against the impending blow, but...

It was too late!

"BAMM!!"

A foot crashed into his chest like a boulder, causing him to tear away the rocks and crystals coating the ground, somersaulting through the air four times before coming to a stop with a "BANNGG!" as he landed on the floor, imprinting himself on it and shattering it to the extent that several inches long cracks formed around him.

"FATHER!!"

"HUSBAND!!"

"CLAN HEAD!!!"

Several figures, including his youngest daughter and his wife, rushed forward hysterically to check on his condition. Once they arrived, their faces immediately paled, as they could see that his chest was now bare, revealing the gruesome sight of several broken bones and numerous internal and external injuries.

Even as they tried their best to heal a part of his injuries, they could all tell that it was only because the Clan Head was someone at mid-tier Crystal Sage Rank that he was able to still grasp onto a sliver of his life even after such an attack, because if he wasn't—

They felt every hair on their body stand as an uncontrollable shiver passed through their spine.

"Good work, Gemma," Orion nodded in approval at the quick response of the woman beside him.

Gemma was one of the warriors in his Orion's sky. Fifi was busy holding up the massive water lightning sphere to ensure nobody escaped the Gemheart Clan manor. At the same time, the rest were busy securing the castle. Alongside the Prismarian kingdom, with the help of Iris and the other Crystalforge clan warriors, she and Seth were the ones he had chosen to accompany him in dealing with the Gemheart Clan.

Of course, it wasn't that he trusted Seth or needed his help, as Gemma's assistance was already enough. However, he didn't want Seth to be anywhere else except within arm's reach, where he could monitor his actions until they returned to the village.

Meanwhile, everyone else in the room couldn't help but take a deep breath at what they had just witnessed. Not only had the Luminaris Clan Head's ferocious attack been completely blocked and dispersed by a single hand, but... One kick!

All it took was one kick from one of the warriors accompanying Orion to injure the Luminaris Clan Head, sending him flying backwards and injuring him to the point that some sections of his bones were completely shattered.

He looked like he was barely grasping onto the last remaining threads of his life.

King Garnet's eyes had shrunk to the size of a needle as he felt his heart race several times faster.

## Chapter 555 Facing Intimidation (3)

Orion focused his attention on the injured Luminaris Clan Head before shifting his gaze back to King Garnet.

"You still haven't answered my question. Is the Prismarian Kingdom ready to make the necessary sacrifices to stop me from interfering?" he said.

King Garnet felt his cheeks flush with anger as he gritted his teeth together. "ATTACK HIM!" he ordered. However, contrary to his expectations, they all stood still, afraid of making a move.

And even if they weren't, who were they kidding?

After what they had just witnessed, even if they were presented with the opportunity to become the next royal family of the Prismarian Kingdom, there was no way they would risk their lives and fight against Orion and the two warriors beside him, who were capable of taking down one of the Four Major Clan Heads with just a kick.

Witnessing this scene, King Garnet fumed even more in anger, barely able to hold himself back as he turned his attention towards the Gemheart Clan guards.

"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? KILL THEM!" he roared, pointing a finger at Orion and the others.

He would rather fight to his last breath than lose everything he had worked so hard for, even if it meant going against opponents he had no chance of defeating. He had done it with the same Queen and won, so he was sure he could go against the odds and win again, no matter the cost.

The guards hesitated, not knowing what to do before burying their fear deep within their hearts and immediately charging forward.

Seeing this, Orion smiled. Although he had already considered another way to deal with this situation, it would be a shame if all he had to do was talk it out with them.

After all, given everything he had heard and seen, he wasn't planning on being peaceful until he had given them a piece of his mind.

"Don't worry, stay back and protect them. I can handle this," Orion said to Seth and Gemma, who were about to take a step forward.

He instantly released his Vylkr energy from both containers and charged forward, straight towards the charging guards.

CRACCKLLEEE!!

He activated his gift as he met one of the soldiers head-on, wielding a sword toward him. The moment his lightning-coated fist came in contact with the guard's head...

BAAMM!! POPP!!

Before he could react, his head exploded into a gruesome pile of blood and various torched chunks of flesh.

Even before his body could hit the ground, Orion immediately dashed towards the next guard. He used his right arm to clench the guard's arm, charring and ripping it off before he ran his lightning-coated fist towards his head, causing it to explode and burst into another gruesome charred chunk of flesh and blood. Before he quickly went towards his next victim.

Within three breaths, four of the eleven guards had been killed by Orion with a single attack, without even having the chance to react, without much effort.

Meanwhile, the crowds all looked dumbfounded, their eyes not missing the scene as the guards dropped dead heedlessly to the ground within a few breaths.

They immediately cursed under their breaths before turning around and heading towards the door. As long as they got out of there first, they could think of a way to deal with the massive water lightning barrier.

Even King Garnet knew this wasn't a battle he could win alone, so he instantly turned around, using the opportunity behind him to escape from this mess and figure out how to deal with it later.

"COVER ME!!" He roared at the rest of the guards around him to protect him as he channelled all of his magical energy and raced towards the door.

Orion saw this after he had just beheaded all eleven guards. He was about to order Seth and Gemma to handle the situation before he noticed two figures rush past him. In the next moment, several

chilling bone-cracking sounds rang deeply within the ears of everyone present, before various screams began resonating loudly in the air.

"AHH! MY LEGS!!!"

"HELP ME!! I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!!!"

Every single person who had attempted to escape lay on the floor with one of their legs broken, screaming out in pain, experiencing a level of agony they had never felt since they had ascended.

King Garnet was among those unable to move, barely holding in his guttural screams before he immediately felt a tight grip around his neck, causing his eyes to widen in fear as he saw the owner of the hand who slowly dragged him upwards.

Seeing this scene, everyone held their breath as their screams immediately ceased, afraid of suddenly becoming the centre of attention.

"It seems that the Prismarian Kingdom isn't ready to make the necessary sacrifice to stop me," Orion said, tightening his grip as he narrowed his eyes at King Garnet.

King Garnet's eyes widened, "... Don't kill me! If you kill me, I promise you that you..." Before he could even complete his sentence, the grip around his throat tightened, causing him to choke out the rest of his words.

Deciding not to waste any more time, Orion used a fraction of his strength and slammed it into King Garnet's gut. King Garnet took a sharp breath, still choking as Orion held onto his throat.

However, before he could even begin to plea for his life, another punch slammed straight into his gut, causing a mouthful of blood to pour out of his mouth.

A few more punches followed, causing him to almost fall unconscious before slipping back into consciousness.

Although Orion could have ended his life here and now, he still felt it wouldn't be satisfying enough, which he instantly understood was only because of their vast disparity in strength.

Staring at the half-lidded eyes of the weakened and battered King Garnet, Orion shifted his attention to the rest of the guests whose legs had been broken, causing them to flinch backwards in fright.

Then he shifted his attention toward the others, who directed their eyes to the side, some even staring downward, not daring to make eye contact, except for the Luminaris Clan, who were all staring daggers at him.

## Chapter 556 Say It Like You Believe It

Even if the Luminaris Clan had an Intermediate clan specialty that they could use to heal themselves, with the Clan Head's current situation, he could not fully activate it without expending some of his magical energy, which he was using to keep his health stable.

Nonetheless, now that Orion and the warriors beside him had blocked and trapped them within the Gemheart Clan's manor, they could only wait and see what he was planning to do.

The only thing they feared was going through the same experience that King Garnet was enduring.

Orion withdrew his gaze and dragged King Garnet back to his previous position by the neck. Once he arrived, he threw him by the side, allowing him to catch his breath before focusing on the rest of the crowds, frozen in their spots.

"I will ask this one last time, so answer me: Is there anyone willing to make the necessary sacrifice to stop me from interfering in the Prismarian Kingdom's affairs?" Orion's voice penetrated through the dense stench of blood and charred flesh in the air, reverberating deeply within their ears.

This time, no one responded.

They all faced downwards, gripping their fists tightly in anger and frustration. So what if they decided to turn the citizens of the Prismarian Kingdom against them? Wouldn't that seal the doom of their fate?

After all, with the strength and viciousness they had just witnessed, every attack aimed at dealing devastating injuries, who is to say they wouldn't eliminate the entire Prismerian Kingdom if they attempted to resist with their numbers?

After all, they were outsiders and foreigners, from beyond the mountain, wielding strength far surpassing even their most powerful warriors. And, Orion's confirmation of more of their kind outside the mountain, accompanied by the two formidable warriors with him, shattered any idea that they should fear the Prismerion race, let alone the Prismerian Kingdom.

To believe they were the world revolved around them, while not entirely their fault, was undeniably —

Naive!

Olivia observed the scene, silently releasing a sigh.

'So, it's going to be like this,' she thought, contemplating their fate and whether there would even be a 'Four Major Clans' in the future.

"Since there is no one willing to make the sacrifices to stop me from interfering in the affairs of the Prismerian Kingdom, I'd like to make one thing clear first," Orion said, locking eyes with all the important figures in the Prismerian Kingdom.

They remained muted, not daring to interrupt him while waiting for him to finish speaking.

"I made a deal with the Crystalforge Clan to assist them in defeating White Flame, ensuring the Prismerian race breaks free from the curse they brought upon themselves, and emerges from this mountain to the outside world," Orion continued, his words exploding through the ears of everyone present.

Some of the Major Clans, along with smaller clans and families who had already deciphered the Crystalforge Clan's intentions, couldn't help but frown at his revelation.

Meanwhile, those who hadn't been present during the Prismerian Young Heirs' banquet, and thus were unaware of the information due to their absence, listened patiently for Orion to carry on.

Orion sighed, shaking his head with a deep melancholy undertone in his words. "But first, I knew I needed help to defeat White Flame. So, my initial decision was to seek assistance from outside the mountain," Orion explained.

"The Crystalforge Clan had already planned to recruit warriors from various clans and families, regardless of their size, so when I eventually made my way outside the mountain and brought help, they could participate in such an event and eliminate White Flame for good. However, are you aware of what happened next?" Orion's words carried a hint of anger as he swept his gaze across everyone in the room.

"The royal family was suddenly ambushed, almost assassinated, resulting in the Queen's strength being sealed by a mysterious artefact. This eliminated the chance of her participation, as she became the same as an ordinary Prismerion. Deciding for a change of plans to prevent the kingdom from falling into chaos, her condition was kept hidden," Orion continued, speaking with a fierce gaze directed at each of them.

"And because of this, I had to make do with what I had left and go up the mountain with the Crystalforge Clan's best Elite Warriors. Fortunately, I found a way to leave the mountain because I am not a Prismerion so the curse couldn't affect me. However, upon my return with the warriors from the Village, aiming to fulfil my agreement with the Crystalforge Clan and assist the Prismerian Kingdom in leaving the mountain, I discovered that over half of the Crystalforge Clan warriors had been killed."

"This reduced the once-great Five Major Clans to the Four Major Clans, the Queen had been sent to the dungeon, the King was now a condemned man, and all of you, every single one, were complicit in the cause, the reason for all of this.." Orion said, grinding his teeth in anger. He bent down, removing Garnet's crown and gripping him by his bangs hair before raising him high into the air.

"AFTER THE CRYSTALFORGE CLAN HAS DONE EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE PRISMERION RACE CAN BREAK FREE OF THEIR CURSE AND LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN, IS THIS HOW YOU REPAY THEM?" Orion roared fiercely at them.

"AND EVEN IF YOU HAD NO IDEA, DID ANY OF YOU TRY TO STAND UP FOR THE CRYSTALFORGE CLAN DURING THE GEMHEART CLAN'S ATTACK, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT THERE IS A FOREIGNER IN THEIR MIDST WHO CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN?"

The Four Major Clans shifted their gazes to the other side, realizing that Orion was explicitly addressing them.

Still, like everyone else, their brains spun rapidly as they processed everything he had just uttered.

"No, you didn't," Orion said, "You all waited, eager to see if the Gemheart Clan would succeed in defeating the Crystalforge and capturing the foreigner who came from outside the mountain. For your own foolish ambitions, you held your pride high, risking everything for more power and authority," Orion turned his head and spat, before refocusing his attention on them, "Now I understand why you were all cursed by Naka to remain here forever."

#### Chapter 557 Relinquishing Control of the Prismarian Kingdom

They all lowered their heads in shame, not daring to look up. No matter how they examined his words, he was right.

Olivia couldn't help but bite her lip as she also lowered her head in embarrassment and shame. She understood that everything Orion had just said was true.

"Anyway, I can't fully blame you all for your actions since all you've known is only within this mountain. So the fact that you thirst for more power and authority, thinking you are the centre of the world, should be understandable. Nonetheless, there's one thing that at least you all got right," Orion said, calming down his rage as he released a sigh and continued, "Which is that the Crystalforge Clan were the only ones who welcomed me upon my arrival, so I would go as far as I can to repay that favour..."

"Mr. Orion..." Elara quickly interrupted before Orion could continue speaking.

After witnessing Orion and the Warrior's gruesome actions, and hearing his last words, she understood that if things continued like this, then forget about finding a way to salvage whatever relationship they have left with him; Orion might as well kill them without fearing the consequences since it was already clear that he obviously had the capabilities to deal with it.

"What is it?" Orion asked as he turned and saw that Elara, the Gemheart Clan mistress, had interrupted him.

Elara understood this was the only chance she had to avoid whatever calamity was about to befall the Gemheart Clan.

"Mr. Orion, we are sorry for our foolish behaviour," Elara said as she took a deep bow towards Orion's direction.

She even stretched her arm and grabbed hold of her stupid son before she pressed her hand on his back and forced him to take a deep bow against his will.

"Bow down," Elara whispered, her voice laced with a threat.

Zephyrion took a deep breath and obeyed his mother, bowing down as he gripped his fist tightly.

Garnet, who could see in his dizzy condition, gritted his bloodied teeth as he stared at his wife, bowing deeply towards Orion, 'That woman...' he cursed under his breath.

Orion furrowed his brows at Elara's words. It was evident that Orion didn't have a good opinion of Elara, considering how their first meeting had ended up, so he narrowed his eyes at her before he could speak; another voice rang out in the air.

"Mr Orion, we sincerely apologize for our foolish behaviour," Olivia said, bowing deeply towards Orion.

She understood this was the only way to avoid their difficult situation and swiftly followed Elara's lead.

However, after she finished speaking, another voice resonated loudly in the air.

"Mr. Orion, please forgive us for our ridiculous actions!"

"Mr. Orion, we humbly request..."

Soon, various other voices joined in, echoing in the main engagement hall as everyone, including the injured, bowed towards Orion's direction.

Observing the situation, the Luminaris Clan, still tending to their Clan Head, found themselves confused and torn about the appropriate course of action.

Their attention shifted to Owen, who maintained a fiery gaze directed at Orion, and they let out resigned sighs, abandoning any thoughts of surrendering.

On the other hand, Anna couldn't help but bite her lip, questioning whether this was the most prudent decision they could make.

Observing the scene, Orion couldn't resist letting out a loud snort at their actions. Nevertheless, this was the intended effect he had hoped to achieve with his speech. He was well aware that he couldn't simply eliminate everyone in the hall due to the inevitable consequences that would ensue.

Turning his attention to the still-dazed Crystalia, who had witnessed the entire event, he spoke audibly, "I will personally deal with the Gemheart Clan. As for the others, how do you want to handle them?" He ensured that his words reached every ear in the room.

Elara swallowed hard upon hearing Orion's words but chose to remain silent.

Crystalia fixed her gaze on Orion's calm demeanour. Quickly recovering from her momentary daze, she nodded with a serious expression.

After ensuring that Elysia was seated comfortably on the ground, she stood up. Her eyes scanned the crowd of people bowing down deeply within the main engagement hall.

Taking a deep breath, she opened her mouth to speak.

"You all should face punishment for the destruction of the Crystalforge Clan and the chaos that has spread throughout the Prismarian Kingdom," Crystalia stated, sending shivers down their spines.

"However, realizing that your deaths would only sow more chaos in the kingdom, I am willing to withhold my revenge if you are prepared to step down from your positions and cede all authority to the Crystalforge Clan."

The announcement left everyone wide-eyed and astonished, from the Major Clans down to the smaller families.

Wasn't relinquishing their hard-earned positions and authority, the same as killing them?

"Princess... I th—," a voice began from one of the smaller clans, a group that had once sought to eliminate the previous royal family, only to be swiftly interrupted.

"What? Do you find the terms I've made in exchange for your lives too burdensome?" Crystalia responded, narrowing her eyes and fixing a fierce gaze upon the Glimmerskin Clan Head. "Or perhaps, I've misjudged, and you'd prefer death over surrendering everything you own."

"No, my Princess. We... We are grateful for your understanding and compassionate heart," the Glimmerskin Clan Head gritted his teeth and spoke loudly, "The Glimmerskin Clan at this moment relinquishes its position of power and authority to the Crystalforge Clan."

Although he never wanted to utter such a word, the moment those words escaped his lips, he immediately felt a huge burden lifted from his shoulders, causing him to exhale in relief silently.

Suddenly, a loud, familiar voice rang out in the air.

"The Gemheart Clan at this moment steps down from their position of power and relinquishes everything they possess, including their authority, to the Crystalforge Clan," Elara declared, her words causing everyone in the room to become dumbfounded immediately.

## Chapter 558 Relinquishing Control of the Prismerian Kingdom (2)

Of course, they all understood that the Four Major Clans would follow suit and surrender their position and authority to the Crystalforge Clan. It was apparent they couldn't handle this situation themselves, or else they would have done so already.

However, upon hearing the Gemheart Clan Mistress relinquishing everything they owned, even with Orion stating that he would deal with them, and sensing a hidden intent, it wasn't hard for them to speculate the kind of judgment the Gemheart Clan was about to face. Despite this, they found it somewhat challenging to believe that the Gemheart Clan Mistress would willingly swallow her pride and utter such a sentence without hesitation.

They wouldn't doubt her reasons if they were aware of the punishment the Gemheart Clan Mistress had endured under the Gemheart Clan Head. However, since she managed to conceal her scars whenever she left the Castle to avoid arousing suspicion, it was understandable that they couldn't.

Crystalia snorted disdainfully at Elara's words, dismissing them without consideration. With Orion taking charge of the Gemheart Clan's fate, she had no intention of intervening or showing any mercy. If the Gemheart Clan Mistress expected leniency from her, she was sorely mistaken.

However, another familiar voice resounding voice echoed in the air.

"The Prismaflow Clan willingly steps down from its position of power and relinquishes all authority to the Crystalforge Clan," Ralias Prismaflow, the Clan Head, said with a calm and serene expression.

He, along with his family and the attending members of the Prismaflow Clan, bowed their heads toward Orion.

Orion raised his brows slightly, as he hadn't expected the Prismaflow Clan to surrender so easily. He had already heard about their Clan's behaviour and understood that they were usually the only Clan among the other Major Clans who hardly interfered with the affairs of the Prismarian Kingdom, except for the Young Heirs' battle for the throne or any major situations.

Regardless, he hadn't had any bad encounters with the Prismaflow Clan, except for the battle at the Young Heir Banquet, where he had beaten both of their young heirs to a pulp. So, he could only nod in response to Crystalia, who had turned her head towards him for approval, before she sighed and turned her attention back to the crowd.

It was obvious that she was satisfied with the Prismaflow Clan's response.

Immediately after, another voice rang out loudly, surprising the crowds once more.

"The Quartzwraith Clan hereby steps down from their position of power and relinquishes every authority they possess to the Crystalforge Clan," Clan Mistress Olivia Quartzwraith declared loudly.

Her husband, Clan Head Jadues Quartzwraith, frowned deeply at her words. He was about to speak; however, after seeing the unwavering resolution in his wife's eyes and realizing that he could not change her decision, Jadues sighed silently and dropped his head even lower. He understood that from now on, there would no longer be a Four Major Clan, except for one.

The Clan they had all thought would disappear and be replaced could now look down at them from a mountain.

'Maybe this is what they call fate,' Jadues thought internally as he shifted his gaze from the two warriors standing at the door to Orion, a glint passing through his eyes.

Witnessing three of the Four Major Clans willingly surrender without hesitation, the rest followed suit, shouting to the top of their lungs to be heard clearly by everyone in the hall.

After a few minutes, the entire hall fell silent as everyone surrendered their positions and authority to the Crystalforge Clan, except for one.

Crystalia narrowed her eyes at the Luminaris Clan.

Even though the two young heiresses were Orion's partners, she couldn't rule out that they had been one of the primary reasons the Gemheart Clan quickly consolidated their authority within the Prismerian Kingdom.

Before she could attempt to speak, Orion's voice resounded loudly in the air.

"Is the Luminaris Clan unwilling to surrender and bear the consequences of their actions, or would they rather join the Gemheart Clan in suffering the same fate?" Orion asked, a fierce glint in his eyes.

Everyone in the main engagement hall cast a subtle glance towards the Luminaris, muttering silent prayers for the Crystalforge Clan in their hearts.

Despite Owen being Merida's and Maya's father, he was aware that they had snuck out of the Castle during the Gemheart Clan's attack.

Since they hadn't been found or returned to their clans, it meant they didn't support what their father and family had done. Knowing the character of the two girls, who would never go back on their word, he was sure they were waiting in hiding to confirm whether he was dead or alive first.

Nonetheless, even if those two were the only reason he had not killed off the whole Luminaris Clan instantly, Orion understood that he couldn't let them go unpunished for what they had done.

After almost a minute of silence, Orion raised his other hand and activated his gift.

CRACCKKLLEE!! CRACCKKLLEE!!!

Violent strikes of bluish lightning emerged from Orion's arms as he immediately conjured about fifteen lightning-bluish arrows, each with a blunt head. He steadily charged them from his arm, planning to deal a devastating amount of damage to the Luminaris Clan and leave them at death's door without killing them.

Since they could now leave the mountain as they wished, he could have Aunt Greta treat them back to health for their injuries. As for the rest of the Luminaris Clan members, he couldn't let his pregnant wife deal with their problems, so whether they survived or not, was based only on their luck.

Witnessing Orion's movement, the Luminaris Clan members' eyes widened, especially Owen, who was already on death's bed.

Before he could even manage to say a word in fright—

Orion swung his wrist forward.

CRACKKLEEE!!! SWWISSHHH!!

CRACKKLEEE!!! SWWISSHHH!!

CRACKKLEEE!!! SWWISSHHH!!

Over fifteen arrows were shot towards them like a bolt of lightning, accurately striking down fifteen Luminaris Clan members even before they could react.

"ARRGH!!"

"AHHH!!!"

Various screams rang out in the air from the Luminaris Clan position; whether it was men or women, they all writhed on the ground as the lightning charred and electrocuted various parts of their skin.

It seared through what they were wearing, with apparent damage concentrated where the bolts of arrows had landed.

After the screams slowly died down, the rumbling and rolling sound of lightning echoed in the air again.

A drop of sweat gathered around the forehead of everyone in the main engagement hall as they turned their heads toward Orion.

They saw about eighteen arrows around him, each charged once more, ready to strike down the remaining Luminaris Clan members.

Chapter 559 Announcing White Flame's Death

CRACCKLLEEE!! SWWISSSHHH!!

As Orion swung his wrist forward, eighteen blunt, lightning-forged arrows shot forward, striking and electrocuting every last member of the Luminaris Clan, except one.

Anna scrunched her face in pain as she looked at her slightly electrocuted leg. Surprisingly, the blunt lightning arrow had only landed a few inches away from her legs, leaving a barely visible and slightly charred spot.

She then shifted her gaze backwards to observe everyone's current situation, from her mother to the Luminaris Clan members who had attended the main engagement banquet, all lying charred on the ground, writhing and twitching as they gritted their teeth in pain. Her attention then turned to her already injured father, who seemed to have fainted from being hit once more.

If she hadn't been able to feel his pulse, she would have thought that he was dead.

As Anna turned her head forward and locked eyes with Orion's calm gaze, an involuntary shiver ran down her spine.

"As the only one remaining, what decision do you want to make, or do you want me to make it for you?" Orion's voice echoed through the tense silence as he continued to fix his gaze on Maya's and Merida's youngest sister.

She appeared frozen, fear evident in her eyes.

The sole reason he had spared her was that he didn't want to give her severe punishment, considering she seemed to be loved by both of her elder sisters.

Anna turned to look behind her once more, recalling that she was the sole survivor spared from Orion's vicious onslaught. Though she had an idea of why Orion had chosen to spare her life, she recognized that, as the only person left to make a decision, she needed to choose wisely in this pressing moment.

Slowly rising from the floor, disregarding the stinging sensation in her legs, she sighed deeply in her heart, silently apologizing to her father.

"The Luminaris Clan, at this moment, steps down from their position of power and relinquishes every authority they own to the Crystalforge Clan," Anna declared, gritting her teeth in frustration.

She then took a deep breath, understanding that she could do nothing more than ensure that the Luminaris Clan did not suffer the same fate as the Gemheart Clan.

Orion nodded in response.

As Anna realized she was now safe, her legs quickly gave up strength, forcing her to collapse back on the ground.

Orion then shifted his attention back toward Garnet and the rest of the Gemheart Clan, whose foreheads were now filled with sweat beads, before redirecting his gaze to everyone else. "And there's one more thing that I would like to say," Orion said seriously, his words resonating across the room.

All ears in the room, from the royal family to the former Major Clans, down to the smaller clans and families, perked up in uncertainty. The serious expression on Orion's face indicated the importance of what he was about to say, and everyone listened attentively.

Orion drew in a deep breath and spoke audibly, ensuring that every person in the room could hear him clearly.

"White Flame is dead!"

BOOOM!

As Orion's words reverberated, a collective explosion of shock echoed through their minds.

From the battered Garnet to Crystalia, Flintor, Elysia, Zephyrion, Elara, Olivia, Jadues, the Quartzwraith clan heirs, Ralais, Anna, and even the Luminaris Clan members who managed to stay conscious, gritting their teeth in anger upon hearing Anna's words, along with the other members of the former Major Clans and the smaller clans and families, everyone froze.

They stared at Orion with wide eyes, a mix of shock, dumbfoundedness, and disbelief etched across their faces as they processed Orion's statement.

"White Flame is dead!"

"...Mr. Orion, what did you just say?" Ralais Prismaflow's voice trembled as he stared at Orion in shock and disbelief.

"Is... Is White Flame really dead?" His hands shook with excitement as he awaited Orion's response.

If it were any other person delivering such a statement, they wouldn't have entertained the idea and might have punished someone attempting to make a joke out of such a claim. However, considering it was Orion who spoke, they not only dared not to doubt him but also understood that he had no reason to lie, especially in such a tense situation.

Regardless, if Orion wasn't lying, then—

Orion nodded in response, "Yes, I killed him by myself, so I can say without a doubt that White Flame is dead," he affirmed.

"White Flame is dead," Ralias muttered under his breath, repeating it once more.

He strangely felt as though these were the sweetest words he had ever tasted, and curiously, the sensation only intensified with each passing moment as he processed Orion's words.

He and everybody within the main engagement hall were experiencing the same sensation. Some felt their brains were short-circuited, struggling to comprehend the words they had just heard.

It was as if they couldn't come to terms with the fact that the bloodthirsty entity that had loomed over them for longer than even their ancestors could remember, inflicting them with a curse they thought was unbreakable, was now... dead!

Olivia's lips trembled as she opened her mouth and asked, "...How?" posing the current question on everybody's mind.

Even if White Flame was significantly weaker than when he was a god, that didn't change the fact that he was still a god. No matter how strong Orion and the warriors he had brought were, doubts lingered about their ability to easily kill a god, especially considering their ancestors' failed attempts during the 'Three Great Slaughters.'

Understandably, after hearing Orion's words, they all wanted to know how he was able to accomplish the feat of killing White Flame by himself.

Orion immediately summoned the four-meter-long crimson greatsword.

BANGG!

As the four-meter-long crimson greatsword penetrated the ground, it caused spiderwebbed cracks to spread around it. All eyes were directed toward the four-meter-long crimson greatsword that seemed to possess an unnatural sharpness, glistening like a drop of blood with an otherworldly beauty.

## Chapter 560 Madam Seraphina's Appearance!

After a few seconds, he immediately resummoned it back into the small crimson great-sword mark on his arm.

Although they had only seen the sword briefly, those with keen senses couldn't help but widen their eyes in shock and surprise as they sensed the otherworldly aura emanating from the crimson great-sword.

"A Divine artefact!" a voice from within the crowd exclaimed at the top of his lungs.

However, Olivia could only take a deep breath as she could tell that the weapon was not just a divine artefact but a high-level divine artefact.

How in the heavens was he able to obtain a high-level artefact? Adding to their strength alongside the high-level divine artefact that Orion had just revealed, Olivia was happy that she had done the most reasonable thing and surrendered.

The same emotion also rang through Ralias's heart alongside the rest of the crowds within the main engagement hall.

After making a mental note to ensure he learned about the information he was ignorant about, Orion turned his head towards Crystalia, who was currently staring at him with even wider eyes, probably realising where he had gotten the sword from.

Regardless, he understood that the trial and the rewards they had obtained from it should be kept a secret until they had stabilised correctly the Prismerian Kingdom.

"Lead everyone towards the city and announce the Crystalforge Clan's current position of power in the Prismerian Kingdom, and announce the death of White Flame. My warriors and the rest of the Crystalforge Warriors should be waiting outside the barrier and have already gathered every citizen in the Prismerian Kingdom towards one place. They will lead you to it," Orion said seriously.

"Also, prepare for a public execution," he added.

Crystalia nodded in response, realising that there were still more warriors outside the Water Lightning barrier, alongside some of the Crystalforge Warriors whom Elysia had arranged for her to live with before she refused.

"Alright, I will," she replied.

Orion then shifted his gaze towards Elysia and frowned.

If they were somewhere close to the village, he might be able to get Aunt Greta to heal her back health totally; however, considering that they weren't, he had to take both the King and Elysia to the Prismerian Healers Council and see what they could do.

After he had activated his gift and charred off Garnet's bang hairs, leaving him with an injury that he would never be able to recover from, Orion threw his body to the side.

Once he woke up, he was sure he would willingly tell them how to get rid of the artefact he placed on the Queen and the King. He then ordered Gemma to keep an eye on the Gemheart Clan and led them to the place for their execution.

However, just as Orion was about to grab hold of Elysia, a voice immediately pierced through the crowd.

"Wait..."

Orion turned to look to his side only to see Madam Seraphina running towards him with an excited and gentle look in her eyes. Seeing that she was also present, he was a little surprised.

However, as Madam Seraphina restrained herself and approached him, bowing down, Orion chuckled inwardly, understanding that she might be a little shy about making their relationship public in a situation like this.

"Allow me to take them to the Prismerian Healers' sanctuary to take care of them," Madam Seraphina said, feeling a bit of heat rising on her cheeks as her heart raced from the fact that Orion was now alive, alongside everything she had just heard.

White Flame was dead, and the person responsible for it was her partner, her husband. How could she not be happy about it?

Regardless, she decided to express her happiness and emotions in private later on to avoid ruining the current tension around her.

A smile quickly blossomed on her face as she saw Orion agreeing to her words without wasting a single thought.

"Flintor, you can accompany her there. Gemma is enough to protect the Princess and keep an eye on the Gemheart Clan alongside the rest of the warriors waiting outside the barrier. I believe they would be enough to protect the Princess in the meantime," Orion said.

Flintor had already met the other warriors that Orion had brought, along with the Crystalforge Warriors, who were all stronger than him. They would gladly protect the royal family with their lives, especially the Princess. Nevertheless, he wouldn't have argued still, since this concerned the King's life, and from the looks of it, it seemed that Elysia and Orion had a close relationship with each other, so he naturally wanted to get this task done as quickly as possible.

"Alright, I understand," Flintor responded seriously. He bent down and picked up King Brylon carefully, while Madam Seraphina handled Elysia, showcasing her strength.

They quickly left through the door, out of the water lightning barrier, heading towards the Prismarian Healer's sanctuary.

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Deep beneath the Castle, within a cell in the dungeon, former Queen Selene opened her eyes and sighed, raising her head to look at the door.

Today was the engagement between her daughter and the current Crowned Prince Zephyrion, and she couldn't help but wonder if Elara had succeeded in rescuing Crystalia or if the engagement had already taken place.

Another sigh escaped her lips as she contemplated how broken her daughter must be feeling and how she would be treated from now on, especially since she held the status of the Former Princess of the Prismarian Kingdom, who had now become the Crowned Prince's wife.

"I'm sorry I couldn't save you," Selene said, exhaling deeply.

Despite her efforts, she couldn't rescue those around her when they needed it the most, and that realisation stung her heart, sending waves of defeat and acceptance through her body, punctuated by yet another sigh.

At this point, she had grown accustomed to the feelings of defeat and acceptance.

No! Selene shook her head, refusing to succumb to such thoughts.