

## Village Head 611

### Chapter 611 Changing The Course Of The Future

He could quickly tell that Caretaker Shani was doing her best to eliminate everything that could negatively impact her emotions and work as a Caretaker. However, he couldn't allow her to take this route, as he was sure that if she kept getting rid of them one by one, it could strain her relationship with her son.

After all, above everything, her son must hold the most significant bond and memory between her and her husband.

Wait a minute!

Orion's eyes widened as a wave of understanding hit him. Instantly, his gaze became focused as he directed it at Caretaker Shani.

"Caretaker Shani, the girl I saw earlier, how often does she come here to care for your son?" Orion asked.

Caretaker Shani's behaviour suddenly became slightly suspicious as she responded, "She only started coming a few days ago to take care of Rick while I focus my attention on the farm. I need to properly handle the situation with the crops and the conflict between the tree nymphs and the villagers, which should return to the peaceful way it was before, especially now that Saria has returned to the farm."

"Because I've been a little busy attending to the situation on the farm, she arrives early in the morning after I've fed him his breast milk and stored more for him later. She takes care of him throughout the day until I return home," she said.

However, as she continued to speak, Orion could hear her voice getting fainter and fainter, "...by that time, he has already gone to sleep, so I tuck him in and then prepare for tomorrow."

'Shit,' Orion cursed inwardly.

He berated himself for not noticing it earlier.

If things continued like this in the future, he feared that the strain already building on the relationship between Caretaker Shani and her son could turn her into a cold individual with no attachment to anything around her. Such an outcome would be detrimental not only to herself and those around her but also to the Village and the farm, given her role as one of the key figures.

The mere thought of a cold and expressionless Caretaker Shani made Orion's hair stand on end.

No, he couldn't let that happen!

Instantly, Orion's mind raced, searching for a solution to the dilemma before him.

As if picking up on Orion's thoughts through the momentary silence, Caretaker Shani shook her head wearily.

"It's much more valuable to you as a warrior than to me, so there's no need for you to overthink it," Caretaker Shani said.

"Caretaker Shani," Orion said with a firm expression.

"Are you free tomorrow?" he asked.

Caretaker Shani furrowed her brows before shaking her head.

"No. Why are you asking?" Caretaker Shani responded, observing Orion's serious expression.

"Make time tomorrow, because I plan on taking some of my partners to the Village so we can spend some time together before I leave for the mountains the day after that. Although they haven't given birth yet, which would have been good for Rick, as he will also need some company, I don't think it matters much," Orion responded thoughtfully.

Caretaker Shani's eyes widened, finally realizing what Orion was trying to do. She shook her head with a tired exhale escaping her lips, "But... I'm not sure that the Village Chief would be happy to hear that I have left my position on the farm to take a break in the Village," she responded.

"It's simple. Just send him a message through the Village Chief's messenger and let him know that you would like to take a day's break due to the death of your husband. Then, assign someone you trust to properly handle your section of the farm until you return," Orion suggested.

"But... What if he doesn't find that to be a reasonable excuse?" Caretaker Shani responded, her voice low, her fingers fidgeting restlessly as she held them on her knees together.

Orion knew that the Village Chief would never deny Caretaker Shani a break, especially after the news of her husband's death, but he still snorted in response.

"If he refuses, tell him that Anara advised you to take a break and that you'll join my family in the Village. If he still has any problems, I might decide to look at the Rightward Stronghold and see how the situation is," Orion responded.

He remembered the banter between the Village Chief and Stronghold Leader Zogar in the meeting and couldn't help but feel a little confident as he had finally succeeded in attaining the status he wanted within the Village and now only needed enough strength to back it up.

Caretaker Shani's eyes widened upon hearing Orion's words.

However, she quickly regained her composure, remembering that Orion's status within the Village had risen, possibly even reaching that of the key figures. The only thing he needed now was a seat to solidify his position further.

Realizing there was no way to refuse his request, she nodded. "Alright, tomorrow I will prepare so we can follow you to the Village."

Orion nodded with a smile. "Okay, it's settled," he said, shifting his attention to the bowl of breast milk in front of him.

Slowly bringing it to his lips, he sipped it, enjoying the taste. He couldn't help but think it would pair well with a Kalna fruit.

Nevertheless, within a minute, Orion finished the breast milk from the bowl.

Witnessing this, Caretaker Shani instantly chuckled.

"If you're like this, I don't think your partners would have to worry about wasting breast milk at home," she teased.

Trying to hold back her laughter, she added, "Hold on, let me help you refill it," before stretching her hand to collect the bowl from Orion and bringing it closer to her breast to refill it.

As she did, Caretaker Shani proceeded to recount everything that had taken place in her life since she got back with her son up until now.

Orion listened and conversed with her until it was about time for him to head home.

#### Chapter 612 A Well-Deserved Day Off

"So, who is coming along with you?" Celeste asked as she looked at Orion. Yesterday, when Orion returned home, he informed them about the conversation that had taken place between him and Caretaker Shani.

After listening to his plan, they all readily accepted it and were happy.

After staying on the farm for so long, they all wanted to return to the Village to take a stroll and see how it was doing.

However, they knew that they could not leave to avoid attracting too much attention.

Orion understood that, too, and thought about who he wanted to bring along. He took this as an opportunity to spend time with his wives before he left for the mountain again. He looked at all his partners, some of whom were waking up from their sleep, and some of whom were already awake.

Orion made his decision after a few moments.

"Reena, Sura, Ayla, Fiona, Gina, and Grandma Derry, you six can follow me to the Village," Orion said as he looked at each woman he had chosen to accompany Caretaker Shani and him to the Village.

Reena shook her head in response, "Although I would have loved to head back to the Village and see how it's doing, I, Mom, Grandma Celia, and Ingrid are heading back to Anara's side of the farm today to see how Grace is doing," she said, glancing at her mother and the others who had fainted yesterday before shifting her attention back to Orion.

Orion nodded his head in understanding. "Alright, I'm sure Anara would be happy to see you guys," he said.

He had noticed how much calmer the women looked this morning and understood that Aunt Greta and the others had succeeded in talking some sense into them yesterday.

"Okay then, who wants to accompany us to the Village?" Orion asked.

He had chosen Sura because she had just gotten pregnant, and he wanted to give her some attention before he left for the mountain. He also wanted to spend more time with Ayla and Fiona since they hadn't done that in a while, while Gina and, especially, Grandma Derry had been acting grumpy since yesterday.

He wanted to see if a change of scenery in the Village would improve their mood so that they wouldn't do something they would decide to do something impulsive that they might regret.

"Not me; I'll be following Reena and the others to see Grace," Lyra responded.

"Meldra, Vivian, and I will prepare the medicines for everyone so I can leave early and see a patient. So you guys can leave without us," Aunt Greta responded as she stood up from her mat and walked towards the kitchen.

Seeing that they all had something to do today, Orion shifted his attention towards Ursa, who was rubbing the sleep from her eyes and seemed to have overheard the conversation.

She nodded, indicating she had nothing to do today and would like to come along.

Orion nodded in response. "Everyone should take their baths, then let's go," he said.

Some women stood up to take care of some chores at home, while others prepared two sacks, filling them with Kalna fruits and handing them to Orion.

After they were all done bathing, they left toward the farm's gate and waited for Caretaker Shani to join them before heading to the Village.

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"I still can't believe that you hadn't bothered coming to the Village Square even though you had lost your memory and didn't remember anything about it," Caretaker Shani said as she walked forward with Rick in her arms.

She already knew about Orion's memory loss; however, after learning that he didn't care or bother to take a look at the Village Square—one of the more important locations in the Village, almost equal to the farm, and the two strongholds—she was a bit surprised and didn't know what to say.

Caretaker Shani was about to open her mouth and ask him what he had been doing; however, she quickly sealed her mouth shut as she remembered how hectic his life had been.

Orion, however, merely smiled at Caretaker Shani's question as he walked forward, holding Sura's hand in one hand and the two sacks over his back with the other.

Although he had passed by the Village Square a few times during the warrior's training and had even gotten the chance to see it from above when they released the children back to the Village before Stronghold Leader Drakar used it to run away, his mother used to sell her clay pots at the Village Square. She had recounted all of her stories about it.

So, even without physically being there, he already knew everything concerning the Village Square.

"We are here," Ayla announced.

Orion raised his head and took in the scene before him. Past the large wooden gate, a wide area unfolded with various small stalls and fabric canopies providing shade from the sun. In these stalls, men and women, old and young, had gathered, waking up early to sell their products or handmade items.

The entire place buzzed with activity as villagers searched for their desired items and bartered with Kalna fruits or other materials. Given that this was the primary marketplace in the Village, aside

from the farm and the two strongholds, it wasn't surprising that it was already bustling with people this early in the morning. They could only hope to find something interesting.

"Well, let's go?" Orion said with a vibrant smile as he walked forward past the massive wooden gate, holding Sura's hand, while the rest followed behind him.

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Once the afternoon sun cast its warm glow, they decided to leave the Village Square. Orion effortlessly carried several sacks within his arms and on his back as they made their way home.

His strength made it easy for him to handle the sacks, which contained new tulgas, beautiful handmade sculptures, colourful fabrics, and various other items. The limited options for recreational purchases in the Village Square drove their early return to the farm. Everything available there was geared toward survival, not entertainment.

Despite this, they managed to find a spot where they could squeeze Lipry fruits together to make delicious fruit juice. However, due to its cost and a desire not to waste the Kalna fruits they had brought, they shared a few cups.

Also, they came across a stall selling breast milk with small sliced Lipry fruits, but none of them were unsurprisingly interested in it, including Orion.

## Chapter 613 Sura's Family Affair

This time around, he had the opportunity to see the massive well in the Village Square. When he saw the long line and the buzzing atmosphere in its area, with people eager to get their water, pay, and return to their huts, he finally understood why the Village Chief was adamant about having Fifi resume her position at the well.

He would probably do the same if put in such a situation.

Although he had no idea about the difficulty of building a well in the Village—since the Village only had two, one of which could only be operated by Fifi, while the farm had plenty, which were all regulated—he could guess that it still had something to do with the Vylkr vines.

He decided to place this thought at the back of his mind and learn more about it, as he was sure such information would come in handy when they began building the settlement for the Prismeron race.

Nonetheless, due to the lack of available goods to buy in the Village square, Orion began to consider the idea of creating products just for fun and testing how much profit it could bring in. He might assign this task to one of his partners, thinking about building a family business for the sake of it.

He had nothing to lose, except for a small amount of wealth, which he could make back within a few weeks.

"Sura!" Suddenly, a voice sounded behind them, causing them to halt their steps.

They turned back and saw a middle-aged man and woman running towards them.

Orion raised his brow in surprise, as he could tell from the woman's long black hair and the man's deep brown eyes that they were related to Sura. He didn't have to guess much, as the resemblance was evident for anyone with eyes to see correctly.

Orion turned his head to look at Sura and frowned, noting the expression on her face. He remembered discussing with Sura when Ursa and Lyra had come to the hut about visiting her family.

She had informed him that she had already seen them and that there was no need for another visit. Despite suggesting she could send fruits to them from their wealth anytime she wanted, things seemed different from what they were.

The moment they arrived before them, the woman hugged Sura and began to sob, "Where have you been? Why didn't you tell your father or me anything before you left? We thought that you had abandoned us to work on the farm," she said tearfully.

"Who are you?" the man asked cautiously, eyeing the fabrics and several sacks carried by the individuals before him. He recognized the materials and assumed they were wealthy.

However, he couldn't fathom why they were with his daughter.



Before Orion could respond, Sura quickly pushed herself away from her mother and said, "They are my sisters, and he is my husband," pointing firmly at Orion as she faced her mother, as though trying to make a point.

Immediately, the woman's eyes opened wide in surprise alongside the man, who looked too stunned to utter a word.

"Is... is that why you didn't bother returning home, because you have found a partner?" The woman asked, her expression suddenly filled with realization.

Even the man beside her couldn't help but sigh as though he understood what was happening.

Sura nodded in response, "Yes," she affirmed, "I don't see why you should care, though, since you didn't believe I would get a partner."

The woman sighed immediately. "I only said that to get your mind off it because I was angry about how docile you had become and how you were always worried about whether or not you were going to have a partner even before your graduation ceremony."

"I thought maybe you would focus more on accumulating enough wealth to afford Kushi and live a good life; however, it seemed I was wrong. I'm sorry; I shouldn't have said that in the beginning. Will you forgive me, Sura?" the woman asked with a pleading look towards Sura, sparing only a nod at Orion before her full attention was focused on him.

"Humph! It's too late..." Sura wanted to say, but Orion immediately interrupted her.

"I've been wanting to speak with Sura's parents, and since you are already here, why don't we talk privately in your hut?" Orion said with a warm smile.

Although he understood that Sura's mother was at fault for saying such a thing to her, he also realized that it was unhealthy to overlook such a situation in the future and the potential consequences it might bring to Sura and his unborn child.

The man nearby immediately sighed in relief.

Before his wife could say anything, he promptly said, "Thank you. Let me lead the way to our hut."

Orion nodded in response. He turned to Ursa, gesturing for her to hold the bags since she was the strongest in the group. Orion then distributed the other bags to the rest of the women to carry so they could quickly head back to the farm and enjoy the rest of their day. This was especially true for Caretaker Shani, whom he didn't want to drag into this since she had taken a day off.

After watching the women return to the farm, leaving only him and Sura, Orion turned his attention to Sura's parents.

"Let's go," Orion said.

The man immediately nodded, grabbed his wife's hands, and turned around to lead the way forward.

Meanwhile, Sura had a displeased expression as she followed behind Orion. Obviously, she didn't want to go anywhere, but she could only trail alongside him since Orion had already decided.

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"Don't you feel a lot better now?" Orion asked with a warm smile as he looked at Sura, who nodded with several tired sighs escaping her lips.

Sura currently felt as though the conversation that had just taken place between Orion, her, and her parents had lifted a heavy burden off her chest.

## Chapter 614 Meeting Familiar Faces

Slowly, she nodded her head in response to Orion's words. He was right; she did feel a lot better than she did previously.

The door behind them opened again, and Sura's parents came out, causing Orion and Sura to turn around to meet them.

Orion looked at Sura's parents again, Mr. Erik and Mrs. Ava. Mr Erik had a slim athletic build, with a tulga wrapped around his waist, much like every male villager in the Village, and a few shaved full beards around his jaws.

Meanwhile, Mrs Ava had a slim figure, evident for anyone to see as she wore a regular tulga top around her chest and another small piece of cloth tied around her waist, indicating that, unlike Sura, her mother was considered beautiful even in this stage.

He understood why Sura didn't want to go home; after all, with a mother like that telling you that you will never find a partner, no matter how good the intentions were, it was bound to cause some problems. Luckily, they had already settled whatever problems had arisen, and now Sura and her parents were closer than before.

"How about I walk you both up to the farm?" Mr. Erik said as he looked at Orion and his daughter with a warm smile.

He was happy his daughter had gotten an excellent, reasonable, wealthy partner. After all, who wouldn't want the best for their children, especially when the best seemed almost impossible to attain?

Nevertheless, because Orion had tried his best to repair their family relationship, even if Orion wasn't wealthy, Erik would have tried his best to find him something to earn some wealth. Because such a man would surely love his daughter, and he would have failed as a good father-in-law to see them suffer, especially when his daughter was also pregnant.

But thankfully, that wasn't needed.

Orion shook his head in response.

"There's no need to do so, Mr. Erik. We still want to walk around before we return to the farm," Orion responded.

Mr. Erik nodded in understanding. Having seen them coming out of the Village Square with several sacks, he understood they were taking a stroll around the Village before heading back to the farm.

"Can we come to visit you at the farm?" Mrs Ava asked, her eyes focusing down towards the ground as though she was afraid of the response that she would receive.

"Of course, you can. However, if you are coming, don't forget to bring something for the baby, okay?" Sura responded with a smile.

Mrs. Ava nodded her head immediately.

"I will bring something good for my grandchild whenever I come, don't worry," Mrs. Ava responded with a warm smile.

"Whenever you are free and want to meet us, just direct yourselves to Caretaker Shani, and she will lead you towards the direction of our hut, where you can see us," Orion said, describing the woman with the baby they had previously seen as Caretaker Shani. He also kept a thought at the back of their minds to ensure he informed Caretaker Shani about them.

"Alright, we will see you later," Orion added.

He then grabbed Sura's hand, signalling her it was time to leave.

Mr. Erik and Mrs. Ava nodded in understanding with warm smiles and watched as Orion turned around and left with Sura.

On their walk, Sura decided to see the hut and compound that Orion once lived in, to which Orion was more than happy to comply.

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After Orion finished showing Sura where he had lived, alongside his mother, sisters, Grandma Celia, and the others, they walked around the Village for a while, passing through some wealthier areas with slightly wider compounds and a single hut.

"ORION!!" A loud, familiar voice suddenly echoed around them as they made their way forward, causing them to halt their steps immediately.

However, before they could turn around, Orion was hurtled towards the ground as someone ran into him.

Orion winced slightly at the impact before focusing his attention in front of him to see who had run into him and couldn't help but widen his eyes in surprise.

It was Gorg!

Gorg thoroughly scanned Orion's body to check if he was truly looking at the right person before finally concluding that it was Orion.

"It's really you!" Gorg stated.

"Where have you been? I heard from my sister that something bad had happened to you and that you might even be dead," Gorg said as he stared at Orion anxiously.

"Can you get up first?" Orion asked.

Although he could stand up easily with his strength, he could tell from Gorg's strength that he had become a one-star warrior, so he needed Gorg to stand up willingly to avoid unnecessary injuries.

Gorg quickly apologized and helped Orion back to his feet as they stood up.

Meanwhile, Sura shifted her gaze from Orion to the side and observed the other two individuals, each carrying a sack on their backs. She recognized all of them, having seen them during the awakening ceremony.

Moreover, they were the only ones who had awakened enough star potential to become warriors, just like Orion. In fact, Ursa had explained everything about their warrior training during their discussions, making it easy for Sura to recognize all of them at a glance.

Orion also recognized them the moment he stood up.

"Grim, Tala," Orion exclaimed with a look of surprise on his face.

Grim and Tala observed Orion suspiciously, trying to make sure he was the one and not someone with a strange gift.

However, upon seeing the familiar face of Sura beside him, they no longer doubted, immediately recognizing her.

"Where are you guys headed to?" Orion asked, surprised to see them together. He was curious about their destination.

"We are going to the forest to train. Warrior Jean said that we can go there to train until we are ready to choose which stronghold we would like to join," Gorg responded, staring at Orion.

## Chapter 615 Showing Off

"And although we have already chosen which Stronghold we would like to join, we still need to train because we will be giving our choice to Warrior Jean in a few days so that we can immediately join the stronghold," Tala replied as she stared at Orion.

She couldn't help but scrutinize his whole figure; after all, she had received several updates about what he had been up to from her father, who had told her to keep it confidential. Thus, she had available information about what Orion had been up to, unlike Gorg and Grim.

Orion nodded in response. He had been too busy with several issues outside of the Village to be aware of the stages that Tala and the others had to go through in becoming warriors. Nevertheless, he was curious about which stronghold they had all chosen to go to.

"Alright, now answer, where have you been? Is all the news that we have been hearing true? Were you really kidnapped..." Gorg immediately asked again, his voice slowing down as he whispered, "...by the Rightward Stronghold Leader?" He looked at Orion, awaiting his response.

Orion thought for a moment before nodding his head. "It's true. But fortunately, I did my best and survived long enough to return home safely."

Gorg's eyes widened as he stared at Orion with eyes full of disbelief.

From what his sister had told him, the Rightward Stronghold Leader kidnapped Orion and a tree nymph because Stronghold Leader Drakar wanted to somehow take Orion's six-star potential for

himself. As such, Stronghold Leader Drakar had been branded a traitor for kidnapping, attempting to kill a tree nymph and Orion, and fleeing the Village.

However, seeing Orion here, it was clear that not only was Stronghold Leader unsuccessful, but Orion and the tree nymph had also managed to escape his grasp successfully.

Witnessing that Gorg was momentarily stunned, Orion immediately said, "Since you guys are going to the forest to train, how about we join and watch you guys."

Gorg shook his head as though he wanted to ask more questions and forgo his training; however, Grim immediately interrupted, "Alright. We have been fighting by ourselves, so I haven't had the chance to show off in a while. Maybe now I might have the chance to do so," he said.

Tala nodded in agreement.

Gorg's eyes immediately shone as he understood he could use this opportunity to discover how strong Orion had grown. After all, although he didn't know what Orion had done, if he was strong enough to escape from the Rightward Stronghold Leader, Orion must also be stronger than he had been since they had last met.

He could use this opportunity to gauge Orion's strength against his own.

Seeing as they were all in agreement, Orion turned his head towards Sura and asked, "Do you want me to escort you back to the farm, or follow me to the forest?" Sura had just settled an important matter with her parents; he had to make sure if she wanted to go back home and rest or follow to watch Gorg and the rest train.

"I'll also come along to watch; I don't feel tired that much," Sura responded.

Although she had watched Ursa and Fifi practice and had even practised with the two of them, they didn't really use excessive or lethal force against each other as they were afraid of the other person getting injured. So, she was curious about what an actual warrior combat looked like.

Orion nodded and gestured for Gorg and the rest to lead the way.

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After an hour of trekking from the Village to the forest and another half navigating through it, they finally reached a border ravaged by Vylkr vines. Gorg, Grim, and Tala dropped their bags, stretching their hands to retrieve their weapons.

While Tala and Grim unsheathed cutlasses, Grog took out a long piece of cloth, tightly gripping it with a cutlass in his other hand.

Orion observed curiously, wondering if it was related to Gorg's unique gift, as he hadn't fully grasped its nature since the last time he witnessed its use.

"Alright, who's going first?" Tala asked, her gaze fixed on Gorg and Grim.

"I'll go first," Gorg promptly replied. He was very eager to showcase his skills before Orion.

Nonetheless, Tala nodded in response.

"Don't lose so badly this time around, okay?" she joked, smirking.

She turned around and walked forward.

"Don't get too ahead of yourself. I'm always holding back to avoid seriously injuring someone, or else you would have been the one losing badly," Gorg retorted with a snort as he followed her.

The two only stopped when they were at a safe distance from the others, ensuring they wouldn't be harmed or disturbed by the aftermath of their battle.

"No cheating," Tala said, pointing the blade of her cutlass at Gorg with a serious expression.

"It's not really cheating if I'm using my gift, is it?" Gorg responded with a crafty smile.

From a distance, Orion's sharp ears easily picked up on the audible voices and the silence around them.



He shifted his attention towards Grim and asked, "What are they talking about?"

Grim smiled. "Don't worry, you'll understand when they start fighting," he responded.

"Besides, who do you think will win?" he added, looking at Orion.

Orion furrowed his brows.

Although he wanted to choose Tala because of her ferocious green flames, which must have gotten stronger during this period, he was also aware that Gorg must have also become significantly stronger in his absence.

He honestly didn't know who to pick.

"Come on, go ahead," Grim urged, his smile widening as he noticed Orion's hesitation.

Orion nodded decisively and made his choice. "I pick Gorg," he said.

Grim's eyes immediately widened in surprise before narrowing with suspicion. "Did you pick him because he's your best friend?" he asked with a hint of suspicion.

"It's just a hunch," Orion responded, shaking his head.

Although he had initially wanted to pick Tala because of her green flames, he chose Gorg to avoid hurting his feelings, considering it was the first time they had met in an extended period.

## Chapter 616 Tala vs Gorg

Grim nodded with a hint of suspicion in his eyes. Shifting his gaze, he focused on the battle about to unfold.

Suddenly, an orange glow enveloped Gorg's hands. The long cloth he held started separating into numerous threads, hovering before him.

Orion and Sura were taken aback as the countless threads pierced the ground, disappearing deep into the soil.

Observing this scene, Tala's expression turned solemn. She tightly gripped her cutlass and ignited her gift, causing a vibrant green flame to erupt from her legs, scorching everything in its vicinity.

The air around her sizzled due to the intense heat of the green flames.

"I'm coming," Gorg declared with a smile as he firmly gripped his cutlass and adjusted his stance to charge forward. Instead of a direct charge, he utilized his gift, manipulating the threads that had descended into the soil.

The threads suddenly sprang from the ground, entwining around Tala's arms and legs, attempting to anchor her down.

And in that crucial moment...

SWOOOSSH!

Gorg's body surged forward.

From a distance, Orion observed the scene with surprise. Gorg's clever use of his gift surpassed his expectations. Orion couldn't help but think about the various applications of Gorg's gift as he thought about its potential.

Although he considered the possibility of Gorg amassing wealth effortlessly through crafting textiles and materials, as he looked at the determination in Gorg's eyes as he charged towards Tala in the distance, Orion dismissed such thoughts.

It was obvious that Gorg had committed to the path of a warrior and wouldn't trade it for anything else.

Meanwhile, Sura's eyes widened in amazement as she witnessed the intense battle before her. While she anticipated the intensity of a warrior battle, the current scene exceeded her expectations. Her

gaze remained fixed on the unfolding clash, determined not to miss a moment. After all, she could learn a few things and have something to share with the others at home.

At this moment, time seemed to slow down for Tala abruptly.

As Gorg advanced with the clear intent of striking her, Tala swiftly drew more Vylkr energy from her Vylkr container.

BOOOOMM!

A sizzling wall of green flames erupted between Tala and Gorg.

Gorg immediately halted his steps, using the opportunity to shift his position to her side before surging forward again. Without turning her head, Tala snorted in response and summoned another sizzling wall of green flames beside her, directed at Gorg.

"I thought you were going to wrap it around yourself like before," Gorg asked with a raised brow.

He recalled when Warrior Jean had left them to confront the Vylkr vines for an extended period, pushing them to their limits to explore their capabilities.

During that intense moment, Tala had inadvertently covered the surrounding area with scorching green flames, reducing the Vylkr vines to smithereens and pushing herself to the limit.

Unfortunately, this effort left her unconscious for a few hours until her father sought the services of healers. They managed to revive her consciousness before calling upon the village healer, Greta, to complete the healing process.

"Humph! So you were planning to show off too," Gorg added, glancing at Orion and Saria before refocusing on Tala.

Tala observed the tiny wisps of green flames spreading from under her feet to the walls of flame.

As a one-star warrior, though still grappling with control over her gift, she could now summon the flames without unnecessary movements. She could only continue pushing herself to see how far she

could advance in this stage before the transformation of her gift after she had advanced to become a two-star warrior.

"So what? You're not the only one who wants to show how far they have improved," Tala responded with a smirk.

Orion had started at the same level as all of them. Though she had witnessed his capabilities and battle prowess during their warrior training, coupled with everything her father had told her, Tala understood that even with his six-star potential, Orion had worked hard to reach his current level of strength.

Compared to them, it would be a shame if they still displayed the same level of strength as before without any improvement.

So, just like Gorg, Tala planned on giving it her all.

"It's my turn this time. Prepare yourself," Tala added, the walls of flames gradually dying out of existence.

With a smirk, Gorg responded, "Don't waste your time..."

BOOOOM!!

A thick green flame erupted from under Tala's feet, propelling her forward and allowing her to appear before Gorg within moments.

Her left leg shot forward with vibrant green flames acting like thrusters under her sole, aimed directly at Gorg's body.

Gorg cursed under his breath at Tala's augmented speed due to her gift. He quickly raised his hand, covering it with several thick threads before catching her leg.

Bam!!

Bang!!

Cracks appeared on the ground below Gorg's foot.

As Gorg attempted to launch a strike towards her stomach, Tala instantly noticed his movement and countered back with her right leg, sweeping forward and generating a scorching wave of green flames towards Gorg.

Unable to block the attack, Gorg tilted his body backwards, narrowly avoiding the scorching wave of green flames by a few inches.

Tala's smile widened, and without hesitation, she sent her fist downward, ferociously slamming it into Gorg's guts, sending his body hurtling toward the ground.

Bam!

Without waiting for him to recover, she immediately reignited the flames beneath her feet and kicked her legs forward, propelling Gorg's body even farther.

Bang!

Gorg's figure hurtled into the air, rising and tumbling several times before abruptly stopping on the ground.

"Ahh!" Gorg moaned slightly in pain as he struggled to regain his senses quickly.

"Heh! You should have created your first Vylkr container in your brain. That way, you would see my attacks from a mile away and react quickly. You've lost," Tala said with a triumphant smile.

"Who said that I'm done yet?" Gorg said with a weak smile as he activated his gift again, attempting to call back some of his threads.

His expression soon changed to a frown as he noticed that none of them were available, meaning that all of them had been burnt to ashes by Tala.

## Chapter 617 Tala vs Gorg (2)

Seeing the orange glow on Gorg's hands and the expression on his face, Tala raised a brow toward him.

"It's much better for you to surrender willingly, you know. There's no shame in it. Besides, you are all out of threads," Tala said.

Gorg turned his attention toward Tala, gritting his teeth before activating his gift once more.

"Who says I'm out of threads yet?" he retorted.

Tala felt her tulga abruptly tightening, causing her to frown and jump backwards to get out of Gorg's range of control, immediately understanding what was going on.

However, it was too late!

"Urgh!" Tala felt her body immediately slamming into the ground.

Bang!

Her senses were immediately disoriented. She tried her best to regain her senses; however, she instantly felt something tightening around her body, restricting her movements.

"Cheater!" Tala exclaimed loudly.

"Hehe! I won," Gorg chuckled as he used Tala's tulga to tie her up, making it difficult for her to move as he hooked the thread's edges deep within the soil.

Witnessing this scene, Grim shook his head with a deep exhale escaping his mouth, "I have to go stop them before they do something stupid," he said.

Orion nodded in response as he watched Grim's body immediately surge toward their direction.

His eyes widened in surprise as he witnessed Grim activate his gift, transforming into a 15-meter-long serpent with black and silver scales and two brightly rainbow coloured wings on the upper side of his body.

Orion could tell that Grim's transformation not only became longer after reaching one-star warrior rank, but his body also seemed to have become slightly bigger.

Meanwhile, Sura's eyes shone with stars as she continued to observe the scene before her.

The punches! Kicks!! Impacts!!

It only made her blood boil more and more to the extent that she wished she could switch places with them.

However, the moment she remembered that she wasn't a warrior and that there was no way she could ever become one, a tinge of disappointment washed over her.

On the other side, realizing she couldn't free herself, Tala did the only reasonable thing at the moment and immediately activated her gift, allowing her green flames to burn off her tulga.

Before she could entirely free herself, a heavy gust of wind swept over her, halting her movements.

Observing Grim's giant shapeshifting figure, Tala lay lazily on the ground, understanding that the battle was over.

Gorg also witnessed Grim's shapeshifting figure and slumped backwards on his butt before he wearily laid down on the ground as well.

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After the battle, Gorg used his gift to recreate Tala's tulga from the remaining parts that had yet to be destroyed.

"The next time you destroy my tulga again, I will make sure I set your body on fire as payback," Tala responded with a glare as she grabbed the top of her tulga from Gorg's hands and put it back on.

Gorg smiled wryly at her words.

He was already grateful that Tala didn't ask to pay for her tulga, so he said nothing.

As Orion thoughtfully observed this scene, he couldn't help but focus on Gorg.

"Can you use your gift to create any type of tulga?" Orion asked curiously.

Gorg furrowed his brows thoughtfully at Orion's question before responding, "Although I haven't tested it much due to not having enough materials, and my sister wouldn't allow me to use her tulga to test my gift, I think I can. But it depends on the kind of material I am working with and if I understand what I am trying to make."

Orion's eyes immediately lit up.

He hadn't paid much attention to Gorg's gift because Gorg hadn't fully mastered how to utilize it and because of the numerous situations he had to solve. However, hearing Gorg's words, now his mind couldn't help but race as he thought about the various things Gorg could help him create.

With his help, 'family roleplay' would become even more magnificent than it was before.

He had a friend who could utilize such an ability and hadn't even paid much attention to it until now. Thinking about this, Orion shook his head, reprimanding himself.

Gorg noticed Orion's strange behaviour and was about to speak when Orion suddenly interrupted.

"Okay, I have some things that I would like you to help me with later," Orion responded.

"Oh, what do you want to make?" Gorg immediately asked, his eyes shining as he stared at Orion.



After all, this was the first time since Orion had lost his memories that he was asking him for something. And since this was something that he was very much capable of doing, how could he not be enthusiastic about it, especially since this meant that their friendship was already being repaired?

"Not now; just tell me anytime you are free, so I'll show them to you," Orion replied.

As if getting Orion's message, Gorg nodded cautiously with a smile.

He didn't ask another question; instead, he said, "I'm free anytime, even today. So we can immediately start working on it after this."

Hearing Gorg's response, Orion furrowed his brows thoughtfully before nodding.

"Alright. After this, you can follow us back to the farm so we can make them," Orion replied.

There were still several hours before sunset, so he decided to make full use of the day, knowing that he would be very busy from tomorrow onwards.

Gorg nodded immediately soon after. "Okay," he responded.

As Sura, who was nearby, couldn't help but be curious about what kind of tulga Orion wanted to make since he could buy better ones from the farm, a throat-clearing voice interrupted her thoughts.

"It seems that your hunch wasn't right. Since neither Gorg nor Tala won, it's a draw," Grim said, focusing his gaze on Orion.

"Also, since Gorg and Tala don't seem to have the energy for another round, why don't we have our own battle?" Grim added with a smile.

Without even needing to think about it, Orion immediately nodded in response.

Although he knew he was already stronger than all of them, from the battle he had just witnessed, it was obvious that they had all figured out several ways to use their gifts, giving them an edge over one another.

He couldn't help but be curious about what Grim had up his sleeve, especially after witnessing his shapeshifting transformation.

## Chapter 618 Grim vs Orion

Seeing Orion agreeing without hesitation, Grim smiled and began walking forward to his position so the battle could start quickly.

Orion also walked forward and stopped when he arrived at his position opposite Grim.

"Get ready," Grim warned, preparing himself to attack.

At first, Orion thought Grim would test the waters and transform into his golden eagle form. However, as he witnessed Grim shapeshifting into his giant serpent form, he immediately understood that Grim took this seriously and wanted to end the battle as quickly as he could.

The beast's jaws widened to roar; however, all that came out were loud, menacing hisses before Grim suddenly launched himself towards Orion without hesitation.

Grim had already assessed his current level of strength and wasn't planning on holding back his strength. Seeing the massive serpent with enormous wings that cast a gigantic shadow before him, Orion didn't activate his gift. Instead, he released his Vylkr energy, allowing it to flow throughout his body.

He planned on facing Grim with a body that currently rivalled that of a two-star warrior.

Orion thrust his fist towards the serpent's body.

**BANG!!**

Unsurprisingly, Grim's massive figure was sent flying backwards when Orion's fist slammed into his scales.

Grim's figure caused nearby trees to collapse; some were even uprooted due to the impact. He recovered his composure, quickly stabilized himself, and relaunched his massive body at Orion.

However, this time around, instead of closing the distance within minutes and launching straight at him, Grim suddenly halted at a distance.

Orion furrowed his brows in confusion, wondering what Grim was planning.

Nonetheless, his eyes immediately widened once he witnessed what was happening. Suddenly, several large bumps appeared on Grim's shapeshifting serpent form. The bumps grew bigger until they unexpectedly detached themselves from Grim's body and transformed into several small, winged serpents, each only as long as an arm.

The surprising thing was that this didn't stop until they completely filled up the surroundings, numbering close to a hundred!

Meanwhile, Grim's size was reduced to about 10-meters (33 ft) less than his previous 15-meter (49 ft) form.

At a distance, Gorg furrowed his brows as he observed Grim using one of his best abilities. "Do you think this would be a difficult match for Orion?" Gorg couldn't help but ask, his words directed at Tala.

Although he didn't doubt that Orion was stronger than them, that didn't change the fact that Orion was still a one-star warrior at the same level as Grim.

No matter how carefully he had honed his skills, it didn't change the fact that since Grim was already in his strongest form, if Orion wanted to win, he would have to give it his all and not underestimate Grim.

"He'll win," Sura, whose eyes had never left the battle before her, as this was the first time she had ever had the chance to witness Orion fight, couldn't help but say.

She turned her head towards Gorg with a serious expression on her face. "It doesn't matter how strong Grim is because Orion is stronger," Sura responded.

Though she didn't know what came over her, even after seeing Grim's gift, she didn't doubt that Orion would lose but was curious about how he would win.

Gorg wanted to respond, already knowing that Orion was going to win. However, having fought Grim, he understood how difficult of an opponent Grim was, and he considered mentioning that it wouldn't be an easy win. Yet, he quickly sealed his mouth shut and berated himself.

How could he doubt his best friend so much?

Remembering that Orion had escaped from Stronghold Leader Drakar, a three-star warrior, Gorg could feel his body firing up as he observed Grim's and Orion's battle in the distance.

Tala, however, agreed with Gorg's previous words that this would be a difficult battle for Orion to win unless he decided to go all out and give it his all.

Meanwhile, Orion observed as the jaws of every winged serpent figure opened, and a red misty gas came out of their mouths, immediately filling the air around him like fumes of smoke.

Orion gradually felt his mind becoming dizzy. He fought off the dizziness before immediately circulating his Vylkr energy from his two Vylkr containers around his body to completely suppress the dizziness caused by the strange red gas.

Suddenly, Orion's instincts flared, causing him to move to the side. When he shifted, a small, winged serpent figure flashed past his previous position.

Again, his heightened senses sensed the wind rustling beside him, prompting him to dodge the attack and carefully move his body to another position, mindful of where he placed his legs.

Nonetheless, Orion couldn't help but frown, as what Grim had just demonstrated exceeded his expectations, much like Grim and Tala.

Seeing that it would be a little troublesome for him to win this battle without using his gift, the moment Orion's instincts flared, sensing at least two attacks launching straight towards him, he stretched both of his hands and immediately caught them.

The two winged serpents within Orion's grasp opened their mouths, wanting to spit out more reddish gas.

However, before they could release anything, Orion immediately activated his gift.

CRACKLE!!!

Fierce bluish lightning surged from his fingers, stunning and electrifying the two winged serpents within his grasp until they fell unconscious.

Suddenly, several loud, painful hissing sounds resounded around him, allowing Orion to understand that Grim and the other smaller shapeshifting forms shared the same senses. This meant that whatever harm he inflicted on one of them would spread to others without hesitation.

Orion couldn't help but smile as he had figured out one of Grim's weaknesses. Although he didn't know how much stronger Grim's gift would transform in the future, he was sure it would easily become formidable, just like the Village Chief's shapeshifting gift.

Orion grinned, impressed by how much Gorg, Tala, and Grim had all grown. Orion sensed several attacks quickly heading towards him and immediately controlled his lightning to create a lightning cage net around him.

CRACKLLEE!!! CRACKLEEE!!!

The winged serpents collided with the lightning-chained net and were immediately electrified.

## Chapter 619 Grim vs Orion (2)

Several loud hissing sounds resounded in the air as the pain from the aftermath spread through every one of them. However, with no need to worry about their attacks anymore, Orion decided to walk forward and look for Grim.

"HISS!"

CRACKLE!! CRACKLE!!

"HISS!"

The winged serpents continued colliding with the lightning cage net, looking for a way to get in; however, they were all electrified and fell unconscious.

Suddenly, Orion noticed a huge figure up ahead, almost blocking the sun from passing through, and immediately realized it was Grim.

Without hesitation, he transformed his lightning cage net into a three-meter lightning-forged fist and sent it forward.

Immediately noticing Orion's presence, Grim also charged forward to attack. However, before he could move an inch closer, his body was immediately struck by Orion's lightning-forged fist.

Bang!!

His body was knocked off balance, as the lightning-forged fist stunned and electrified him. His senses immediately became distorted as his body tingled painfully, covered in lightning, causing him to hiss out loudly in pain.

Fortunately for Grim, his tough black and silver scales had reduced some of the impact, allowing him to recover his body within seconds.

However, for Orion, this was more than enough.

Orion formed another three-meter lightning-forged fist, and this time, the moment his lightning slammed into the winged serpent, electrifying it, Grim immediately hurtled backwards and collapsed on the ground unconscious before slowly reverting to his normal form.

The red misty gas surrounding him also dissipated into thin air as he did.

Meanwhile, the rest of the smaller winged serpents puffed into a black and silver hue cloud and immediately returned, seeping back into his unconscious body.

From afar, Tala saw this scene and immediately understood that Orion had won the battle and did so easily.

'He's stronger than I had imagined,' Tala thought.

Though she had previously agreed with Gorg's words that this would be a tough battle, witnessing how Orion had easily won against Grim made her sigh deeply at that thought.

With this kind of strength, it's no wonder he managed to handle things on his own with Stronghold Leader Drakar until he was saved and brought back to the Village.

...

"That was a tough battle; fortunately, I hadn't underestimated you and had gone all out in the beginning," Grim said, staring at Orion tiredly.

"Also, you were lucky that I didn't have the chance to bite you, or else you wouldn't have stood a chance," he added.

After the battle had ended, they had to wait until Grim woke up to prepare and head back home.

Orion raised a brow at Grim's words.

"What would have happened if you had bitten me?" Orion asked curiously.

Grim merely smirked.

"It would have been a very dangerous situation," Grim responded.

Understanding that Grim didn't want to reveal more about what his gift could do, Orion merely nodded his head in response.

"Alright, I will be sure to keep an eye on it during our next battle," Orion responded.

"Since we are done, I'll see you guys later; there are some things that I need to take care of," Orion said, shifting his gaze towards Gorg.

Gorg nodded as though he understood the silent message that Orion was passing to him.

"Alright then, we'll meet later. Hopefully, we get to see each other on the borders or even get the chance to be on the same team and work together," Grim responded.

He couldn't pass up the opportunity to be on the same team as Orion since it raised their chances of survival on the borders.

Orion nodded in response. He was sure that from tomorrow onwards, he wouldn't be handling the Vylkr vines on the borders like Gorg, but there was no need to say that, as even Grim might have guessed that already from the events with Stronghold Leader Drakar, or else he wouldn't have made such a statement.

Everyone soon packed their things and prepared to leave. They spent half an hour traversing through the forest until they returned to the road that led back to the Village. Orion, Sura, and Gorg headed towards the farm.

Meanwhile, Tala and Grim returned to the Village to rest and relax, preparing themselves for tomorrow's training.

"See you later, Orion," Grim said, waving his hand at Orion, "You too, Sura. And don't be late for training tomorrow, Gorg."

Tala also nodded, bidding them goodbye. However, her gaze lingered, especially on Orion, before they turned around and focused their eyes on the path before them.

.....

Caretaker Shani held her baby in her arms while managing her duties, directing the people before her on what they should do next and inspecting their harvested crops.



Although Orion had suggested she take a break, Caretaker Shani felt compelled to ensure everything was for the day.

Nonetheless, she no longer experienced the same discomfort as before and could now happily hold her son even while working.

Just as she finished her inspection and prepared to move to the next section, a familiar voice interrupted her.

"Caretaker Shani?"

Caretaker Shani quickly turned her head around and was immediately surprised when she recognized the person.

"Village Chieftess," Caretaker Shani greeted, bowing slightly before raising her head.

The Village Chieftess nodded, scrutinizing Caretaker Shani's entire figure.

"I received a message from Thak that you would be taking a day off to mourn your husband's death. What are you doing here?" The Village Chieftess asked seriously, narrowing her eyes and awaiting Caretaker Shani's response.

Caretaker Shani, however, wore a wry smile. "I did take a day off and went to the Village Square today with Orion and his partners, but I returned to make sure everything on the farm went well before my mind could be at ease," she responded.

Although they had returned early due to encountering Sura's parents, there was no need to mention that.

Hearing Orion's name, the Village Chieftess's expression suddenly changed into a deep frown.

"Was he the one who told you to take a day off?" The Village Chieftess asked, her eyes still narrowed at Caretaker Shani as a sudden suspicion in her heart grew stronger.

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Author's Note: Would Orion have won the battle if he had fought with only one Vylkr container, or would it have been a draw?

## Chapter 620 The Village Chieftess's Struggle

Caretaker Shani raised a brow at the Village Chieftess's words.

"I don't understand what you mean, Chieftess. Are you suggesting that I need someone's permission before deciding to take a break to mourn the death of my husband?" she asked, a frown suddenly appearing on her face.

Although the person talking to her was the Village Chieftess, she was also a Caretaker, one of the key figures. It wasn't right for the Village Chieftess to express such blatant disrespect towards her when she had shown her nothing but absolute respect.

The Village Chieftess quickly understood her mistake and shook her head tiredly.

"I'm sorry I didn't phrase my words correctly. I meant to say, can you show me your palms and allow me to use my gift on you?" The Village Chieftess said.

Caretaker Shani furrowed her brows, initially hesitating as she understood the implications of the Village Chieftess's request. She knew the Village Chieftess's gift and why she wanted to see her palms.

At first, Caretaker Shani considered refusing, but observing the determination in the Village Chieftess's expression, she shook those thoughts out of her head and released a sigh. She couldn't deny her own curiosity about what the future held, and since the Village Chieftess had suggested using her gift, Caretaker Shani found no reason to refuse.

She nodded in understanding, held Rick with one hand and stretched out her other hand.

The Village Chieftess inwardly exhaled, relieved that Caretaker Shani agreed to let her use her gift. After their previous conversation, she knew that forcing it on Caretaker Shani would not be an option, especially considering Caretaker Shani's status as a key figure herself.

The Village Chieftess extended her hand, gently grabbing Caretaker Shani's hand and holding it between her palms as she activated her gift.

Suddenly, a soothing milky white light spread out from her palms, covering Caretaker Shani's hand before pulsing softly.

After a few minutes, the Village Chieftess withdrew her hands, holding her chest as she breathed heavily.

"What did you see, Chieftess?" Caretaker Shani asked with curiosity, realizing that she hadn't seen anything this time.

The Village Chieftess gazed at Caretaker Shani, stabilizing her breath and quickly regaining her composure. Like Orion, her husband, and everyone around him, their future was shrouded in a thick veil of darkness, rendering it indescribable.

However, no matter how she wanted to phrase it, how could she tell Caretaker Shani that her gift was now useless and unable to read the future.

"I wasn't able to show you anything properly because I am currently tired; all I can advise you is that you need to rest and not overwhelm yourself with work," the Village Chieftess responded, choosing to play it safe.

'Maybe it's time I stop relying on my gift and listen to my husband,' the Village Chieftess thought.

The stronger Orion's influence became, the less potent her gift grew, slowly rendering it useless. It could only work on those who had never communicated with Orion or had only been near him for a very short time.

Taking the Village Chieftess's advice seriously, Caretaker Shani nodded earnestly. "Okay, Chieftess, I'll make sure to rest and take care of my health," she responded.

After hearing the Village Chieftess's words, the urge to thoroughly check everything on the farm before returning to her hut disappeared. She understood that compromising her health would only lead to more harm, and there was no need to subject herself to such a terrible situation.

The Village Chieftess nodded in response, watching as Caretaker Shani turned around and called for a nearby farmer, giving him a few instructions. She then turned and began to walk back towards her hut.

After Caretaker Shani had left, the Village Chieftess suddenly shook her head and sighed tiredly. She turned around and began to stroll around the farm, wanting to confirm whether Saria's arrival had quelled the tree nymphs' violent behaviour.

Along the way, her mind was slightly occupied as she pondered a way to judge a person's nature without relying on her gift, which she had been dependent on since awakening it during her awakening ceremony.

'Even if it's difficult, I should start working on it,' the Village Chieftess muttered to herself. She nodded at the farmers and workers who had paused their activities, their heads bowed respectfully in greeting.

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"Are you sure this is what you want me to make?" Gorg said, looking at the three strange tulgas before him with a raised brow.

"Yes, they are perfect," Orion responded, nodding his head.

As he observed the three attires, he couldn't help but nod in approval. While he would have liked to get more materials for Gorg to make additional pieces, their hut lacked sufficient materials, and he couldn't approach his partners to request the materials they acquired at the Village Square today.

There was no need to burden them with such a request, especially since he had gotten it for them.

Gorg nodded in response, sighing tiredly. Although it took several trials and errors to successfully make one, and the other two still posed a bit of difficulty, if Orion said it was perfect, Gorg was content that his gift had helped him.

"The sky is already beginning to set, and I have to get home, or else my parents and sister will start looking for me," Gorg mentioned, his gaze focused on the darkening sky.

Orion nodded, saying, "Hold on, let me put this inside, and I'll escort you out of the farm."

However, he noticed a sudden change in Gorg's behaviour.

"What is it?" Orion asked, raising a brow.

Gorg cleared his throat and replied, "Ahem! I want to take this opportunity to see someone before leaving the farm."

As Gorg uttered those words, a sudden shyness overcame him, and Orion instantly understood the meaning behind his words; it was obvious.

Nonetheless, instead of addressing it directly, Orion feigned ignorance, "Who is it that you want to meet?" Orion asked with a tinge of curiosity in his voice.

Gorg appeared hesitant before responding, "It's actually a girl I met on my way back from the forest once after training."