

THE VILLAIN'S POV

#Chapter 11 11: The Senate Council (2) - Read THE VILLAIN'S POV Chapter 11 11: The Senate Council (2)

-Frey starlight POV -

"Nothing."

A single word echoed in everyone's minds...

Frey Starlight had, without a doubt, just mocked Leonidas Starlight, the first elder of the family.

Before their eyes, an ant had dared to challenge a mighty dragon...

The atmosphere inside the hall was on the verge of exploding, especially under the terrifying glow emanating from Leonidas's eyes.

'I think I acted too hastily...'

Maybe I shouldn't have provoked him. After all, what's the point if he loses his mind and kills me now?

"Pffffffttt"

"Hahahahaha!"

Suddenly, the sound of laughter echoed.

I followed the voice and saw a woman seated to Leonidas's right... She was laughing uncontrollably, her chest rising and falling with each chuckle.

'Ah, she's exactly as I imagined...'

I smiled as I looked at the woman. She appeared to be in her mid-twenties, with silver-gray hair and deep, black eyes. She was the very definition of an alluring woman...

Of course, one must not forget the fact that she was an elder who had maintained her youthful appearance until now.

"What do you find so amusing, Carmen?"

Leonidas exhaled sharply, restraining himself as Carmen's laughter lingered. Thanks to her, the suffocating tension in the room had dissipated.

Carmen Starlight... perhaps the only person who could laugh in Leonidas's face. After all, she was on the same level as him.

"Sorry, sorry, old man. I was just so bored that I couldn't help myself after hearing that! Hahaha!"

Leonidas clenched the armrest of his grand chair so tightly that it crumbled to dust. Then, in a commanding voice, he spoke.

"Compose yourself, Carmen. Do not forget your place."

"Alright, alright, my apologies~" Carmen finally stopped laughing, realizing she had crossed the line. With that, the attention shifted back to me.

"Frey Starlight, are you mocking this council... and me?"

At his question, I stepped forward.

"I would never mock you, sir. I meant every word—I have nothing to offer this family."

I took a deep breath before continuing.

"Because I will not be the next lord."

Leonidas raised an eyebrow, and the hall erupted in murmurs as people whispered among themselves.

"He won't be the next lord?"

"What does he mean by that?"

I sighed internally.

'Why did they have to bring such a large audience? They're going to comment on every single word I say... How annoying.'

Leonidas silenced the crowd before speaking again.

"What do you mean, Frey Starlight? Didn't you come here to claim the title of lord?"

I nodded.

"Correct... but not for myself"

Turning around, I extended my arm toward my sister.

"I am relinquishing my position and everything that comes with it to my sister, Ada Starlight—because she is the one most deserving of it."

Ada stepped forward, standing beside me.

The hall exploded into even louder chaos than before, and even the council members began discussing among themselves.

Leonides kept his eyes on me until the very last moment. I had no idea what he was thinking.

"I expected a dull meeting, but look at this... Things are getting interesting." Carmen laughed as she stretched out in her chair, enjoying the spectacle.

I braced myself for what was coming next.

"Stop this nonsense... Frey Starlight."

And there it was.

Leonides rose from his chair, standing before the rest of the elders.

"I don't understand... Why would you relinquish the title? As far as I know, you were desperate to obtain it."

"Then, sir, you do not know me. With all due respect, I never desired the position of lord, nor am I worthy of it."

"On the contrary, I took it from its rightful owner—Ada Starlight."

"Tell me, Elder Leonides, is there anyone in this family more deserving than her?"

I posed the question and looked around the hall. At first, many heads were raised, but they were quickly suppressed—including Emund, whom I had met just the day before.

Leonidas stroked his beard as he gazed at Ada. She was weak for her age, but that was not the measure of her worth. After all, her achievements spoke for themselves. Even better... if she became the lord, the despised Frey would not.

I took advantage of his silence to continue.

"She is the youngest person in history to manage the family's affairs and achieve such success. Her accomplishments speak for themselves. No one her age has accomplished even half of what she has. In fact, aside from the elders, I doubt anyone here has the courage to challenge her."

"She has dedicated her life to working for this family. And in comparison... what am I?"

I shrugged with a self-deprecating smile.

"As I said before... nothing."

"She is the one who should be lord."

I stepped back, waiting for their response.

In truth, I wasn't worried. I was confident they wouldn't refuse. After all, I was giving them exactly what they wanted...

"Frey."

I felt a tug from behind—it was Ada.

"Yes? What is it?"

"Didn't you exaggerate?"

"exaggerate? If anything, I don't think I said enough... Maybe you should have stepped forward and spoken for yourself."

"Mmm..." Ada lowered her head, her expression unreadable.

'What's this? Is she bad at handling praise? Or is she just happy to get the position?'

Well, that didn't matter. The important part was still ahead.

"Step forward, Frey Starlight."

Leonides called out to me once again. As expected, they didn't take long.

I had given them what they wanted. Now, it was time for them to give me what I wanted.

"Frey Starlight, I must ask you one last time—are you certain of your decision? By doing this, you are going against the wishes of your father, Abraham, who wanted you to be this family's lord."

"I am certain of my decision."

I had no interest in Abraham's wishes. He was Frey's father—not mine.

"Since this is your final decision, I am pleased to inform you that we have accepted your request. But tell me, what do you intend to do after relinquishing your title? Will you live under your sister's shadow for the rest of your life?"

I smiled.

"That doesn't sound too bad... living under my dear sister's protection."

"But unfortunately, I already have other plans."

"Oh? Let's hear them, then."

I couldn't afford to mess this up.

"After giving up my position, I wish to focus on my swordsmanship. I have realized that I am far too weak, so I intend to embark on a training journey. For that, I seek your approval, sir."

"A training journey?"

"Yes... I want to go to the Eastern Nightmare Lands."

A flicker of surprise crossed Leonidas's otherwise calm face, and even Ada frowned at my words. Understandable—after all, I had never told her my destination.

"Frey Starlight... Did I hear you correctly? You said you want to go to the Eastern Nightmare Lands?"

"That's correct," I nodded.

Laughter erupted from the audience. They were probably starting to think I was insane...

"Do you even know what awaits you there?"

"I'm well aware of the dangers of the Nightmare Lands, but I'm still determined to go."

Leonides fell silent, trying to process the situation. He exchanged a meaningful glance with the elders seated beside him.

The gears turned in the old man's mind—perhaps this was the best way to get rid of Frey, who had been a thorn in his side for years.

Ironically, it seemed Frey intended to kill himself without any external intervention.

If it were up to him, he would have sent him off to the Nightmare Lands immediately. But first, he needed to hear everyone's opinions... and confirm Frey's true intentions.

"Frey Starlight, why do you want to go to the Eastern Nightmare Lands of all places? If it's training you seek, our family is more than capable. So why choose such a dangerous place?"

Tsk... You old hypocrite.

Was he trying to act considerate? I knew he wanted me dead, so he might as well just admit it.

"The place I'm aiming for was once known as China. I've heard of powerful combat techniques there... and the Nightmare Lands provide an ideal environment for training."

I was starting to hate myself for all the nonsense I was spouting. I probably looked like a fool right now.

The spectators couldn't hold back their laughter—I heard chuckles from all around.

It made sense. I was a mere F-rank Awakener, a nobody, claiming I wanted to train in a land swarming with creatures beyond S-rank. It was ridiculous.

"Frey, what the hell are you—"

"Ada, be quiet. Your part is over."

I met Ada's gaze with cold eyes, making her flinch involuntarily.

I didn't care about the laughter. All I needed was for those rusted tin cans sitting up top to agree.

"Let me get this straight... You want to go to the Eastern Nightmare Lands—to what you called China—and you want our help to make that happen?"

"That's right. I can't cross the Oklas Mountains and the distance beyond on my own. I need the council to transport me to my destination—after that, I'll handle the rest myself."

I was certain at least one person in the family could get me there effortlessly... This was the Starlight family, after all.

"Is that your only request?"

"Actually... no."

"Before I leave for the Nightmare Lands, I want to claim two of the skills the family has collected."

Leonides raised an eyebrow as the laughter abruptly ceased.

"On what grounds do you demand these skills?"

What a stupid question.

"Simple."

I raised one finger.

"First, I am entitled to the skill granted upon reaching adulthood, just like any other member of the main family."

I raised a second finger.

"Second, based on an agreement between me and Ada, my sister will transfer her right—as the heir—to choose a skill, to me."

"And that makes it two skills."

I clasped my hands behind my back and smiled at the council before me. But at that moment—

"How ridiculous."

Another man rose from his seat and leaped off the platform.

He accelerated as he descended, landing with a thud on the hall's floor.

When I got a better look at him, I saw a man in his fifties—an older version of Emond.

It wasn't surprising. His white hair and black eyes matched perfectly.

"Uncle Jiyon," Ada muttered beside me, confirming my suspicion.

But the real question was—what did he want?

"Jiyon," Leonides called out.

But Jiion ignored him, taking a few steps toward me.

"Forgive me, Leonides, but I refuse to participate in this childish farce any longer."

A farce?

My mind raced—I hadn't expected this, nor did I know what this man wanted.

"Nephew."

"Did you know... I've always been bothered by the fact that you're still alive?"

"And it seems you, too, have realized it. That's why you're here, spouting nonsense about going to the Nightmare Lands."

"Even I can't roam freely there despite being an S-rank. Yet here you are, an insignificant F-rank, declaring your desire to go. So, I see—you want to die."

Jiion unsheathed a long sword from his waist.

"Jiyon!"

"Don't stop me, Leonides !."

"I understand that you wish to die. But to take two of our family's valuable skills with you?"

"Why waste time? Instead of letting some random monster kill you... let me do it here and now."

"No!"

Ada tried to step in, but she was swiftly suppressed.

"Stay out of this."

I instinctively took a few steps back as well.

Where the hell did this bastard come from?

His strides didn't slow. I could see concentrated energy shimmering around his blade.

White flames, condensed into a salt-like substance—it was the Stardust technique.

If he unleashed that aura on me, I wouldn't just die; I'd be erased.

"Are you kidding me?"

I glanced up at the elders—Leonidas still stood there, hands clasped behind his back.

I turned toward the audience—everyone averted their eyes.

No one was going to step in.

He was really going to kill me.

Wait...

Was this the plan all along?

Was Frey Starlight destined to die here from the start?

A cold sweat ran down my back.

I was wrong... I was arrogant...

I thought I knew everything because I was the author.

Jiyon stood before me, sword raised.

"Goodbye, disgrace of the family—Frey Starlight."

I was going to die.

I hadn't even lasted a month inside my own story.

Pathetic.

Jiyon's attack was too fast for me to track. I could only wait for the moment my body was obliterated.

But nothing happened.

Or rather—something did happen.

I didn't know when, but in an instant, a woman appeared before me.

Everything occurred in a single moment.

The strike I couldn't even see was stopped—by Carmen, who caught the blade of Stardust with her bare hand.

Without hesitation, she twisted elegantly, delivering a devastating kick that sent Jiyon flying, burying him into the hall's wall.

It all happened so fast that I stood there, speechless.

Jiyon's sword remained in Carmen's grip. I saw the veins in her slender hand bulge as she clenched her fist, shattering the blade completely.

"Look at yourself, Leonides... playing tricks on a mere weak child."

Carmen took two steps forward and stretched her body.

"You all know I don't care about this family's politics. I don't care who's on top or who's at the bottom, as long as I get a good fight."

"Isn't this pathetic? A whale-sized fish trying to swim with a tiny worm. Don't you agree, Jyion?"

Jyion crawled out of the crater in the wall, veins bulging on his forehead.

"Carmen..."

"Listen well... If this kid wants to die, let him do it on his own terms. Everyone here has the right to decide their fate—no more, no less."

"One moment, he was about to be this family's lord, and now you want to kill him? Don't make me laugh."

"If anyone wants to take another step forward, they'll have to face me. That includes you too, old man."

Carmen unleashed an oppressive S+ rank aura, freezing everyone in fear.

Silver gauntlets materialized out of nowhere, covering her arms—she was ready for war.

Meanwhile, Jyion stepped forward again, manifesting a sword of pure energy. His aura was strong, but far weaker than Carmen's.

But then—the balance shifted once again.

The Immortal Lion, Leonides, descended into the hall.

Jyion smirked in satisfaction.

And for the first time—Carmen's expression darkened.

"Come forth."

"You got it, you old whore... Bllaarghh!"

Suddenly, Jyion vomited a bucketful of blood, the result of Leonidas' treacherous attack.

"Huh?" Carmen hadn't expected that.

Jyion collapsed to the ground, his head crushed mercilessly under Leonidas' foot, his expression remaining empty until the very end.

Finally, the Immortal Lion lifted Jiyon's lifeless body and turned to face the entire audience.

"My apologies. It seems Jyion still couldn't restrain himself, displaying behavior unbecoming of the council... Forgive him."

With that, Leonides tossed aside the body of the man who was supposed to be his peer, then stepped toward me.

But Carmen quickly blocked his path.

"No need. He will get what he wants... He can go to the Nightmare Lands, or any other land, and die as he pleases."

Carmen narrowed her eyes at the old man before her.

"I'll never understand what you're after, Leonides."

She sighed, then turned toward me—only to flinch the moment she met my gaze.

I stood there like a statue, my stare never wavering from Leonidas and the people around him.

'You bastards...'

My nails dug deep into the flesh of my palm.

'You better pray... Pray that I succeed and return to my world.'

'Because if I don't... I'll be the one burying your damned asses.'

Carmen chuckled.

"Do those really look like the eyes of a man seeking death?"