

W. Secret 971

Chapter 971: The White Rajah 1

Merlin was already a fourth-form shifter. This time, he was entering the Nourishment Pond merely to boost himself to the peak of the fourth-form.

A Host had to rely upon a Nourishment Pond to progress. Therefore, with the Nourishment Pond formulae and materials the Princess Royal had given him, enhancing his capabilities to the peak of the fourth-form was not an issue. It was just that it required a longer duration.

One day, two days, three days...

Only after ten days did Merlin walked out of the laboratory. There was no longer any point in him using the Nourishment Pond as he had reached a bottleneck. If he wanted to break through to the next level, he would have to become a full-shifter.

Regarding full-shifting, Merlin's understanding was too limited. If he wanted to learn more, he could only rely upon experiments and some luck.

Of course, Merlin also highly valued the treasure map that Count Altadin had given him. Nonetheless, now was not the time to leave Holy Dragon City, so he could only put the plan aside for now.

"I'll take a look at the Illusory World and see its progress."

Merlin had not paid attention to the Illusory World for a long time and did not know how its recovery was going on. When he immersed himself in the Illusory World in his Awareness, he saw that the Illusory World's barrier was much sturdier.

Moreover, although the entire Illusory World was not bursting with life nor had it produced any civilizations, if Merlin willed it, he could produce a civilization.

"Titus, what happened?"

Merlin's voice resounded throughout the Illusory World.

"Swoosh."

Soon, Titus appeared. When he saw Merlin, he broke out into a smile. "Merlin, I've found the key, the crucial point. Haha, perhaps you haven't even thought of this."

"Key? What key?"

Merlin's heart leaped. He had always felt that Titus' discoveries were very significant to him, even essential.

"The world's barrier! I've observed this closely. Merlin, when you upgrade from a third-form shifter to your current peak of the fourth-form, the Illusory World's barrier was continuously strengthened. I suppose you also know what this indicates?"

Titus spoke excitedly.

Merlin's heart trembled. Before this, he only had his suspicions. Now, Titus' words had undoubtedly confirmed that the Illusory World's barrier was linked to his body's strength.

The stronger his physique, the more powerful the Illusory World's barrier. Ever since Merlin's Illusory World became highly accomplished, other than expansion, there was no other way to strengthen the Illusory World.

However, now, the Illusory World's barrier was augmented. This would enhance the Illusory World's strength. Although Merlin did not know if this was directly connected to the possibility of the Illusory World to be materialized as reality, there was no doubt that the strengthening of the world's barrier would bring plenty of benefits.

"Body, so the body has this function as well. Back then, Aruba had relied on his overwhelming strength to crush the Latitude Cosmo he had inhabited in one move. From then on, he escaped the Latitude Cosmo and became a Latitude traveler, able to freely enter any Latitude Cosmo and stand apart from all living beings. However, I walk the path of Mind Power and thought myself entirely different from Aruba. As I wanted to materialize illusions as reality, I didn't

have to crush a Latitude Cosmo as I only had to control one. Thus, I've neglected my body. Unexpectedly, a stroke of good luck came out of this disaster and I've learned the importance of the body."

Merlin did not know what connection there was between the mind and the body. It seemed as if with powerful Mind Power, one did not need the physical body. Likewise, a powerful body could do without powerful Mind Power.

Both attributes complement each other. Merlin's past decision to abandon his physical body in the Void Zone was a wrong move.

"Then I'll see if I'll have the chance to materialize the Illusory World as reality when I've become a sacred-level almighty beast of this world."

This plan solidified in Merlin's heart. Initially, he had merged with the almighty beast's will and became a Host simply to protect himself without thinking that there was much use to this world's almighty beast power. He was still waiting for the Illusory World to recover when it could even contend against the will of the Almighty Beast World. At that point, of course, he would be stronger than any almighty beast.

Nevertheless, Merlin now changed his mind. He wanted to grow stronger, understanding the almighty beast's power completely. It would be best if he could attain the legendary strength of sacred-level almighty beasts in this Almighty Beast World, which was the peak power in this world.

Perhaps at that point, this would be a greater help to his Illusory World.

"Alright, Titus, this Almighty Beast World still hides large secrets. Now, it's difficult for me to even protect myself. The Illusory World can't help me much for now. Keep an eye on the Illusory World for me. If there are any changes, let me know at once."

Titus nodded, following which Merlin withdrew his consciousness from the Illusory World and returned to the laboratory once more.

"It's time to leave."

Merlin glanced at the Nourishment Ponds behind him. These Nourishment Ponds were no longer useful for his breakthrough. By now, he had already reached the peak of the fourth-form and could only focus all his efforts into studying full-shifting.

“Honorable Count.”

The butler bowed toward Merlin. Merlin was now a bona fide count, the legitimate master of the entire manor.

“Prepare a carriage for me.”

Merlin commanded.

Soon, the carriage arrived. After boarding the carriage, Merlin immediately hurried toward Phantom Headquarters. As the Deputy Team Leader of the Combat Team, Merlin could not disappear for so many days.

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“Boom.”

The well-built middle-aged man was knocked to the ground by Iza in one blow. Her elusive speed was quite a headache to the rest. This was the daily training drill for Iza and the rest of the Combat Team.

Of course, they were fourth-form shifters. This training was merely to hone some techniques. In truth, it did not serve many purposes.

“Deputy Team Leader, you’re finally back.”

When Iza saw Merlin who was outside, her eyes brightened. After Merlin had joined the Combat Team, he could not be said to be weak. Even the Nightmare Deathstalker and Tolman were immediately slain. The strange thing was, the Team Leader and the Minister did not even get involved at all. This caused everyone in the Combat Team to respect this Deputy Team Leader greatly.

Any provocation thoughts were immediately quelled. Everyone knew that this new Deputy Team Leader was not just formidable. He was ruthless as well. His hands were stained by the blood of an unknown number of contenders.

Just look at Orsato, Blackbat, and the Nightmare Deathstalker and Tolman – these people, no matter where they were placed, would rule the area. Even so, they died at Merlin's hands. Only Iza did not seem fearful of Merlin, even appearing rather friendly.

"Iza, what's the matter?"

Merlin saw that Iza wore an enthusiastic look, different from her previous vicious expression. In the Combat Team, Iza was feared by all who saw her. Beneath that beautiful appearance was a bloodthirsty, cruel, and violent face.

"Of course, there's something. Team Leader has given a mission to our squad. Moreover, we were to let you know when we see you that you're personally leading the team to complete this mission. Once completed, leader, you'll have five hundred contribution points while the rest of use members get three hundred contribution points. This is a huge mission."

Iza mentioned this huge mission to Merlin. There were no fewer than five hundred contribution points. This not only meant a handsome reward but also a high risk at the same time. This was not an easy mission.

"What's the mission?"

Merlin asked softly.

"Of course, it's an assassination mission. There's only ever been one mission for our Combat Team and that is to kill!"

Iza's beautiful face was still steeped in a smile as if killing people was a daily occurrence to her.

"I suppose our target isn't that simple."

“A rebel army leader with a peak mid-tier almighty beast bloodline – the White Rajah! A fourth-form shifter.”

Merlin frowned. A rebel army leader with a mid-tier almighty beast bloodline who was a fourth-form shifter – why would there be so many contribution points? After all, just Merlin alone would get five hundred contribution points.

“Hehe, Deputy Team Leader, you don’t know the White Rajah’s identity? We’ve already checked this with someone from the Investigation Team. The White Rajah is the First General under Doomsday.”

“Doomsday!”

Merlin’s heart trembled. Doomsday could be considered the strongest force among the rebel armies of the Holy Dragon Empire. He had occupied nearly a tenth of the empire. Among his subordinates, full-shifters alone numbered no less than five, let alone subordinates who were fourth-form shifters like the White Rajah.

Moreover, Doomsday was a peak full-shifting contender with a mid-tier almighty beast bloodline. Even the Team Leader of the Combat Team, Hert the Ursus King, dared not claim that he could defeat Doomsday.

With such a well-known being keeping watch, killing the White Rajah was high-risk indeed. If they offended Doomsday, they would be in huge trouble.

“What did the White Rajah do to offend Phantom? Or in other words, the royal family?”

Merlin responded. Phantom was controlled by the royal family. The White Rajah must have angered the royal family or controlled something they feared for them to give the order to kill.

“I’ve heard that the White Rajah had obtained something he shouldn’t have. Nonetheless, I’ll let the Team Leader give you the specific details of the mission. Come on, Deputy Team Leader, the Team Leader has been waiting for you for quite a while.”

Merlin nodded and followed behind Iza, harboring some doubts. He sensed that this mission would have huge implications. The White Rajah was a small fry but Doomsday behind him was a massive character.

Iza brought Merlin to a secret chamber and knocked lightly on the door. Thereafter, a deep voice boomed from behind the door. “Come in!”

Iza stood outside the door, indicating for Merlin to go in. Hert’s briefing of the mission was not something she could listen to.

Merlin calmed his emotions and stepped into the secret chamber.

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In the secret chamber, Hert the Ursus King glanced at Merlin. For some reason, Merlin had always felt that his glance seemed to hold other meanings.

“Deputy Team Leader Leon, I believe Iza has briefly explained to you the mission this time?”

Hert asked calmly.

“She has but there are still many areas I’m unclear about. For instance, what is it about the White Rajah that leaves us no choice but to kill him?”

Merlin questioned. He believed that even if he did not ask, Hert would tell him anyway.

“It’s simple. The White Rajah has taken something he shouldn’t have. He has killed a descendant of the royal family who possessed a key that was cast in gold. It’s very eye-catching. You just have to retrieve that key from the White Rajah. You can pick four team members – how’s that?”

“Key?”

Merlin saw that Hert was unwilling to explain further. This was linked to the royal family’s secrets.

There were many descendants of the royal family but the important ones were all in Holy Dragon City. The descendant killed by the White Rajah was someone the royal family did not

care much about but he had possessed something important. There was something fishy about the key's origins but it was vital to the royal family, so they hatched this assassination plot.

“No problem, Team Leader.”

Merlin agreed breezily. This mission was not something he could easily turn down. Moreover, five hundred contribution points was not a small amount. If he was cautious, he should be able to kill the White Rajah.

“If and I’m saying if, Doomsday is alerted, then destroy the gold key. Don’t let it fall into Doomsday’s hands, got it? Otherwise, not just you but even I’ll be punished!”

Hert’s tone was very solemn. His voice revealed a trace of fear toward the royal family’s punishment. The royal family was not as simple as they appeared. Otherwise, why would such a powerful existence, a lofty mid-tier almighty beast shifter like Hert be afraid of the royal family’s punishment?

“I can pick any member from the Combat Team?”

Merlin posed another question.

“That’s right, you may pick four members.”

Merlin nodded. “When do we leave?”

“As soon as possible.”

Following that, Merlin left the secret chamber. Outside, Iza wore an anticipated look.

“How was it? Is the Team Leader letting you pick your members? If so, you must take me along. Three hundred contribution points – who knows how long it’ll take to earn that.”

It looked like Iza would treasure the three hundred contribution points. Not just Iza but also the other members of the Combat Team would value three hundred contribution points. In ordinary missions, even dangerous ones, at best there would be a few dozen contribution

points. Those with more than a hundred contribution points were rare, let alone three hundred contribution points at once.

Merlin looked at Iza. He knew Iza's ability was to recover quickly. Even he would have to first locate her weakness to kill her. Otherwise, Iza would recover swiftly as she had a robust life force. A member with such an ability would be advantageous as well, acting as a human shield at critical moments.

"Alright, you're one. I'm not familiar with the Combat Team. This time, the Team Leader only allowed me to bring four members. Who do you think I should pick?"

In the Combat Team, Merlin seemed only more familiar with Iza. He did not know who to choose at all. If he were to get to know them one by one, it would be too troublesome and waste too much time.

"Haha, Deputy Team Leader, leave this to me. If you trust me, I'll surely satisfy your requirements."

Iza thumped her chest as she spoke. Although she was small in stature, she had a ravishing figure. The two mounds before her chest were ridiculously magnificent in particular.

As if she had noticed Merlin's gaze, Iza purposefully puffed up her chest, looking self-satisfied.

Merlin simply shook his head, then said, "You'd better bring me along to pick them. This way, I can learn about the Combat Team as well."

Merlin expressed great interest in the Combat Team. After all, he was entrusted by the Princess Royal with the heavy task of establishing a faction within Phantom. If he was gone all day and was cut off from the rest of the Combat Team, how would he do that?

This mission was an opportunity. If they succeeded, the bonds forged under the trials and tribulations between life and death would be more reliable than any relationship. They could become his first batch of reliable subordinates, forming a part of the faction.

This was one of the most significant reasons Merlin did not hesitate in agreeing to accept this mission from Hert.

“Heh heh, that’s good as well. Deputy Team Leader, we’ll go and look for the first member then. We can miss out on anyone but not her.”

“Oh? Who could be so important?”

Merlin became more interested. In the Combat Team, other than him and Hert, no one was a full-shifter. Iza said that this person was indispensable – this was rare indeed.

“Deputy Team Leader, you’ll know when we’re there.”

With a mysterious look, Iza turned to leave. Merlin could only follow behind her helplessly.

They passed through layers of dusky corridors. Phantom Headquarters was immense. The underground passages were like a dense spider web. Not even Merlin could figure out how many passages there were, let alone an outsider.

After walking for around seven minutes, the path ahead began to widen. There emerged an underground pool from which bubbling water spilled out. It was somewhat surprising that Phantom Headquarters would have such a place.

“What kind of person lives here? It’s rather elegant.”

Merlin mumbled softly.

As soon as they passed a wooden bridge, they heard a voice from the cabin. “That’s Iza, right? Oh, and the new Deputy Team Leader, Sir Leon. Please come in.”

“Huh? They know who we are at such a great distance?”

Merlin was rather astonished. This voice from a cabin was far ahead, which meant the other party had noticed Iza and Merlin from such a distance.

If Merlin had Mind Power, this bit of distance was nothing special but he knew that this world had no Mind Power. Everything was based on one’s acute senses.

If this was a sensory power, the owner of the cabin had terrifying perceptivity.

“Deputy Team Leader, don’t be so surprised. This is Sister Shiya’s unique skill.”

Iza led Merlin directly into the cabin in front.

In the cabin, there was a fragrance that rejuvenated one’s spirits. Nonetheless, Merlin instantly noticed the woman in the room. She wore a veil and was dressed in black mesh, projecting a dreamy beauty.

“Sister Shiya, this time, Deputy Team Leader and I have come to invite you to join a mission where you can earn three hundred contribution points.”

“Three hundred contribution points? Who is the target this time?”

Shiya’s voice sounded very calm.

“The White Rajah!”

“Doomsday’s subordinate. It’s not surprising that they offered so many contribution points. Still, the White Rajah isn’t difficult to kill. Alright, I’ll join this mission!”

Three hundred contribution points were something this woman called Shiya could not refuse.

Still, Merlin frowned and stared at Shiya. He did not discern anything special about her. Why would Iza revere her so much?

“Hehe, Deputy Team Leader, Sister Shiya’s almighty beast bloodline is the rarely seen Wisteria Beast! Therefore, Sister Shiya’s perceptivity is astounding. She can foresee danger. Even with just this ability, would you still think that she’s not suitable?”

“Wisteria Beast?”

Merlin was somewhat taken aback. This was a rare almighty beast bloodline of the legends. It had such a strange name because the Wisteria Beast had no fighting abilities yet it could control plants, using them as its eyes and ears to foresee danger and gather information. The Wisteria Beast was very suitable.

With Shiya joining, the risks of this mission were greatly reduced.

“That’s right. Welcome to the team!”

Merlin’s mouth stretched into a smirk. Next, they had to look for two more members. At this point, Shiya suggested, “For the remaining two, go for Monty and Cerberus.”

Iza knitted her brow. “Cerberus? Sister Shiya, I loathe that guy. Cerberus is too treacherous. Sometimes, he even sold out his teammates. A person like that as our teammate? I won’t dare turn my back on him.”

“Cerberus’ tracking abilities are topnotch. With him, it doesn’t matter where the White Rajah flees to. As for his treachery, with the honorable Deputy Team Leader around, I believe he won’t dare to misbehave. Isn’t that right, Deputy Team Leader?”

Shiya wore a black veil, so her appearance was unknown but in Merlin’s impression, she must be gorgeous.

“I’ll deal with Cerberus. As for Monty, is he the big fella with incredible strength?”

“Haha, that’s right. Monty has the White Rajah bloodline too, so he understands the White Rajah’s weakness.”

Merlin nodded. All four of them were very unique. This time, the four he had picked to form the team were an elite squad that was very valiant.

A squad like this was not common in the Combat Team unless there were many contribution points like this time. Otherwise, the four of them would not form a team so easily.

“Alright. Let’s look for Monty and Cerberus then.”

Merlin was about to leave when he turned around abruptly, staring at Shiya with shining eyes. “Miss Shiya, I’m very curious about the face you hide behind the veil. I wonder if you can satisfy my curiosity?”

Shiya was silent for a moment. “You’re the Deputy Team Leader. In the Combat Team, the words of the stronger member are a command. Still, I think you’ll be disappointed.”

With that, Shiya lifted her veil. Instantly, Merlin’s eyes trembled as his pupils shrank. He, who was so worldly, could not help but draw in a breath.

This was not because she was too beautiful but because she was too ugly. That face crisscrossed with lines was like old tree bark, one which had been scarred viciously and repeatedly by someone.

If an ordinary person saw this face, they would truly have nightmares.

“I’m sorry.”

Merlin apologized softly and did not turn back, leading them two swiftly toward Monty’s residence. He did not know why a woman like Shiya who had such a svelte figure would grow such an ugly face but he did not incline to inquire further.

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Monty was a massive guy at two meters tall. That muscular body was like a barbarian’s. According to what Iza had said, Monty was of barbarian lineage.

Monty did not seem to waste much effort. He looked dimwitted but followed whatever Iza said. Iza was so established in the Combat Team and had become a fearsome person. Other than her special abilities, it was due to her close friendship with Monty, who had such terrifying fighting strength.

“The last one – Cerberus!”

Merlin glanced at Iza, who seemed to loathe Cerberus. Almost everyone in the Combat Team hated Cerberus. As a member of the Combat Team, he had betrayed his teammates and escaped alone in the past.

Although no one knew why, the Team Leader did not investigate Cerberus' role in this. Nonetheless, in the Combat Team, Cerberus had become an unwelcome character. Almost no one was willing to form a team with him.

Merlin went to Cerberus' residence but did not see him. When they were at the Combat Team's training ground, they found Cerberus training by himself.

Cerberus was a rather skinny guy, sporting a loose afro. Furthermore, he had used some unknown dyes to color his hair in various hues, so it looked quite gaudy.

This was Cerberus, who looked like he belonged to the "alternative culture" of Merlin's past life. Still, on closer observation, one could discern a malicious glint in his eyes. This was someone treacherous, crafty, and self-serving to the extreme. It was not surprising that the Combat Team did not like him, practically treating him as a "public enemy".

"All of you wait here. I'll handle Cerberus."

Merlin sauntered forward and stood behind Cerberus before asking coldly, "Are you Cerberus?"

"Hmm? Indeed, that's me!"

After seeing Merlin, Cerberus' eyes narrowed. He had vaguely guessed Merlin's identity. After all, the Deputy Team Leader of the Combat Team was not a nobody. Many people would be eager to learn all they could about Merlin.

"Boom."

Merlin did not say anything else but unleashed his fourth-form at once. His peak fourth-form appearance was displayed before the crowd for the first time. Other than his head, the rest of his body was covered in ropes of muscles and scales.

The pair of wings at his back was sharp as a blade, filled with explosive strength.

“Bang.”

Merlin stepped forward suddenly and hurtled toward Cerberus at once.

“Deputy Team Leader!”

Cerberus let out a roar. He immediately unleashed his shifted form as well, which was a black Three-headed Dog. His six eyes twinkled with a cunning and treacherous light.

However, faced with Merlin, he had no power to retaliate at all. He was smacked down by Merlin’s claws – his three heads crashing heavily into the ground.

It was not over yet. Merlin’s tail whipped forward mercilessly, and the Three-headed Dog’s colossal body was sent flying, landing loudly on the ground. Merlin raised one foot and stamped it ruthlessly. Cerberus let out a burst of whimpers as he was beaten by Merlin without any power to retaliate.

At this point, the entire training ground was shaken. Many members of the Combat Team who were training were rather flabbergasted upon seeing this violent battle. In particular, the formidable fighting powers Merlin exhibited had caused them to feel apprehensive.

When they saw that the target of Merlin’s stamping was Cerberus, they burst out in carefree laughter.

“Haha, it’s Cerberus. That despicable, shameless, treacherous scum. He’s offended the Deputy Team Leader and deserves what’s coming to him.”

“Cerberus should’ve been sorted out like this long ago. Who’s this Deputy Team Leader? Someone whom even the Team Leader appreciates, personally picked by the Minister to be our Combat Team’s Deputy Team Leader. Plus, the rebel armies’ Orsato and Blackbat died at his hands. This person’s a savage. Cerberus had provoked him. It’ll make a good show.”

“Based on how Cerberus looks, if he doesn’t plead forgiveness, he’ll be beaten to death. However, if that happens, it serves him right.”

These members of the Combat Team looked as if they were enjoying a good show, feeling no sympathy toward Cerberus.

After Merlin had heard their words, he shook his head helplessly. It looked like Cerberus' reputation in the Combat Team was not just bad – it was atrocious. Not a single person felt sorry for him.

Cerberus was dazed by the blows. He did not know how he had offended Merlin. Initially, he was enraged but as he was unable to retaliate at all, he was viciously beaten up by Merlin. Furthermore, Merlin was exuding a faintly discernible intent to kill. This alarmed Cerberus, who felt as if he was facing death.

“Deputy Team Leader, I don't know how I've offended you. I'm willing to make amends, and will agree to any conditions.”

Cerberus yelped hurriedly.

“Bang.”[Read more chapter on our vipnovel.com](#)

Merlin's foot immediately pressed down upon Cerberus' three heads. Compared to Merlin's gigantic bulk, the Three-headed Dog was not worth a look. The Blood-eye Dragon's bloodline was mighty indeed. High-tier almighty beast – this was not a hollow label but a real representation of strength. At the same level, it would completely suppress mid-tier almighty beast bloodlines.

Nonetheless, this was not the Blood-eye Dragon's strongest form. Only the final full-shift could activate the Blood-eye Dragon's Blood-eye, which contained the Blood-eye Dragon's most terrifying Supreme Talent. Therefore, Merlin was eagerly anticipating the Blood-eye Dragon's power at full-shifting.

“Cerberus, I need you to cooperate for a mission. In this mission, I'm sure you know how to behave? I don't hope for the past to be repeated. Otherwise, you'll die for sure!”

Merlin's voice was calm but in Cerberus' ears, it chilled him to the bone. He dared not doubt the veracity of Merlin's words at all. Had he not witnessed how Tolman and the Nightmare Deathstalker ended up? Both of them ranked above Cerberus in terms of strength but they

were immediately killed by Merlin in the Combat Team because they had “offended” the Deputy Team Leader.

News of this had spread to the entire Combat Team. Everyone seemed hesitant to talk about this mysterious Deputy Team Leader’s fearsomeness and did not dare to investigate deeper.

“I won’t dare to, I won’t. Whatever mission Deputy Team Leader has for me, I’ll cooperate to the fullest!”

Cerberus let out pleading sounds. This was no joke. If he did not plead, he would die. Although he was the Three-headed Dog, he did not have three lives by having three heads. Once he was dead, he was dead. Furthermore, being beaten to death for no reason was an injustice.

When Merlin saw that Cerberus was pleading, he reversed his shifted form and glared coldly at Cerberus who had a battered face that nonetheless wore a look of respect.

“Cerberus, listen well to these words today. Go back and prepare at once. We’re starting out tomorrow!”

Merlin said icily.

“Yes, yes, Deputy Team Leader. I wonder what our mission is this time?”

“To kill the White Rajah!”

Cerberus’ expression changed swiftly. The White Rajah was a general under Doomsday. He finally understood why Merlin would look for him – to track down the White Rajah. Surely they must kill him or they would have no use for tracking.

After understanding the danger of this mission, Cerberus still dared not refuse. This is no laughing matter. Staring at Merlin’s cold, fierce face, if Cerberus rejected the mission now, was that not asking for death?

“Alright, all of you head back and prepare as well. After all, this is no ordinary mission.”

Merlin gathered everyone and gave them a solemn warning, asking them to go back and get ready. Moreover, Merlin also had to return and prepare himself.

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“Butler, I might not return for the next few days.”

Merlin said to the manor’s butler.

Although the butler was somewhat astonished, Merlin was the manor’s current owner, the honorable count. The butler could only nod. “Honorable Count, please be rest assured. I’ll take good care of the manor.”

“That’s good. If Count Altadin or someone from the royal family comes, tell this to them. I’ll be back after some time.”

After giving his instructions, Merlin directly left the manor. This time, he did not board a carriage but immediately went to a corner in Holy Dragon City. There, four figures were already waiting long ago. It was Iza and the rest.

“Everyone’s here? Good, let’s go then.”

The group of five did not exchange many words, swiftly vanishing into the crowd.

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On a small, winding road, two carriages were slowly moving along the path.

In the carriage, there was a young lady with a coiled braid, along with two tall, muscular men flanking her. They seemed to be protecting her.

Other than these three, two others wore black robes, appearing to exude a sinister force.

“Leon, why don’t you speak?”

The opposite young woman asked, mystified, as she blinked her large, pretty eyes.

These two black-robed men were Merlin and Cerberus. Merlin was relatively taciturn in the first place. In addition, Cerberus by his side was even gloomier, a strange grin stretching the corners of his mouth. One would feel that he was harboring malicious intentions.

Therefore, the lady and her two companions seemed to be on guard against Merlin and Cerberus.

Leon forced a smile and asked, “Ririya, where are you heading to?”

This young woman was named Ririya. She looked very lively.

They had met halfway on their journey and it was Ririya who had invited Merlin and the rest onto the carriage. However, after boarding the carriage, Merlin still did not know where Ririya was going, only sensing that Ririya’s identity was not as easy as it seemed. The two men by her side were some sort of bodyguards. They were extremely opposed to Ririya inviting Merlin and the rest but Ririya who was restless and enthusiastic by nature had paid no mind to their objections, inviting Merlin and the rest on board.

Both of these men had immense strength. They must be at least third-form shifters or higher, perhaps even fourth-form shifters.

As Cerberus stared at the sensual, beautiful Ririya, a lewd, nefarious glint occasionally flashed in his eyes. Cerberus had always been rapacious and lascivious. Who knew how many women he had wronged before?

If it were not for Merlin’s suppression, Ririya would have been in danger. Even if she had her bodyguards’ protection, to an elite member of the Combat Team like Cerberus, they could not even be called a threat.

“I’m heading to White Rajah City. What about you?”

Ririya did not seem to be up to anything as she spoke plainly.

“Miss, Sir has asked you to be more cautious when you’re outside.”

The two bodyguards saw that Ririya was not on her guard at all and revealed helpless expressions. This was not the first time she had acted this way but they still had to gently remind Ririya that this was the incomparably chaotic outside world.

“I’ve got it. Leon, where are you heading to?”

A strange look crossed Merlin’s eyes and he smiled. “What a coincidence. We’re heading to White Rajah City as well.”

Upon hearing that Merlin was going to White Rajah City too, the two bodyguards tensed up, their sharp gazes piercing Merlin. “What are you going to White Rajah City for?”

Seeing that these two bodyguards were so tense, Merlin’s heart shifted. Could it be that Ririya possessed a high status in White Rajah City? Perhaps she was even linked to the White Rajah.

With this in mind, Merlin thought for a moment, then said, “We’re heading to White Rajah City to join the White Rajah’s side! We’ve killed an aristocrat in a territory. The Holy Dragon Empire’s aristocratic parliament and royal family won’t let us go. I’ve heard that the White Rajah is the greatest faction nearby, so we thought of trying our luck.”

“Haha, if you wish to join the White Rajah, you’ll have to ask me. With one word from me to my father, you can easily join the White Rajah Army.”

Ririya could not help but answered, pleased with herself.

The two bodyguards looked particularly powerless. Ririya truly could not keep anything to herself. Did her words not just exposed her identity?

Merlin and Cerberus exchanged a glance and Merlin asked in a somewhat “surprised” tone, “Ririya, the White Rajah is your father?”

“Of course!”

Ririya answered proudly, admiring her father very much.

“Don’t worry. As long as you’re sincerely here to join my father, he’ll surely agree. How about this – follow me into White Rajah City. I’ll bring you directly to my father.”

Ririya’s words made Merlin’s heart leap with delight. Initially, he was still thinking about how to get near the White Rajah. Now, it appeared like this problem was resolved. With Ririya, meeting the White Rajah was not an issue at all.

“Miss Ririya, in that case, we’re truly thankful.”

Merlin cast a cold glance at Cerberus, whose heart leaped in fear. Currently, Cerberus was afraid of Merlin the most. After all, he had nearly died at Merlin’s hands, and his strength had been suppressed.

Therefore, Cerberus and Merlin both expressed their “thanks” to Ririya simultaneously.

“Now, the plan will change. It seems like it’ll be easier than I imagined. Our luck is good for us to meet the White Rajah’s daughter.”

Merlin squinted slightly as he listened to Ririya excitedly describing everything in White Rajah City. Ririya had a naïve heart indeed and she was a very friendly girl. It was just a shame that they were bound to kill the White Rajah and she was bound to lose her greatest support.

“Perhaps she might hate me!”

A pitiful look flashed across Merlin’s eyes. He felt that Ririya was somewhat similar to his younger sister, Macy, back in Blackwater City, thus feeling rather close to her.

Time passed by slowly. In the jolting carriage, Ririya almost never stopped talking, chirping and chattering constantly. Sometimes, Merlin got in a few words, wearing an expression of utmost interest.

Soon, they had reached White Rajah City. The towering city walls seemed to exude an ancient presence. After all, White Rajah City's history was very extensive, already existing even before the Holy Dragon Empire was founded. It was also an extremely important city in the empire, and there was a fortress in the city.

However, now, it had been seized by General White Rajah, a subordinate of Doomsday. Of course, it was not called White Rajah City before this. It was White Rajah who had changed the name.

"We're finally here in White Rajah City. It feels good to be home. Leon, you guys follow me. Don't worry, Father will surely take you in."

Ririya lifted the carriage's curtains. Upon seeing White Rajah City, her face revealed her elation.

Merlin looked out of the carriage. The guards at the city gates, when they noticed Ririya's token, all appeared very respectful. They entered the city without any issues.

As for the rest, the inspection was very strict. If they had not met Ririya, Merlin and the rest would have to spend some effort to enter the city.

As the carriage gradually moved deeper into the city, the crowds grew as well. Voices bubbled all around them as if the threat of war had not caused White Rajah City's decline.

However, in the city, the most striking thing was a gigantic White Rajah statue. One could see that massive stone sculpture, no matter from which corner of the city.

This was what the White Rajah had ordered the people to build after taking over White Rajah City. The White Rajah himself lived beside this colossal statue. There was a faint, unusual force that had been assuredly stored within the White Rajah statue.

It seemed that this statue was not merely just a simple statue!

Chapter 975: The White Rajah 5

“Miss, these people are of unknown origin. Bringing them home just like this is rather inappropriate.”

As soon as they disembarked from the carriage, the bodyguards accompanying Ririya summoned the courage to remind her.

Nonetheless, Ririya appeared completely unconcerned, saying evenly, “Could they be of any threat to Father? Other than those full-shifting formidable existences, who else can threaten Father? Please be rest assured, I’ve met these people on the journey here. They look up to Father and wish to join the White Rajah Army. I only want to introduce them to Father and let him decide if they should go or stay.”

Ririya seemed to feel a sort of blind adoration toward her father. She did not know that her father did not enjoy such a good reputation in the outside world.

Seeing that Ririya had set her heart on this, the bodyguards could do nothing. The White Rajah was extremely doting toward Ririya because she was his only daughter. Almost everything went according to how she wanted it. These bodyguards could only go along with Ririya’s arrangement.

“Alright, bring them to Sir himself and let him decide.”

The bodyguards simply did not wish to bear any responsibility. It did not necessarily mean they were devoted to the White Rajah.

Thus, Ririya returned to the carriage and said to Merlin and the rest, “All of you, come down then. Have a good look and tour around our White Rajah City. Later, when you’ve joined the White Rajah Army, you’d be under strict discipline and won’t have much chance to enjoy the city.”

Merlin nodded and exchanged a look with Cerberus, then said calmly, “Let Shiya, Iza, and Monty come over.”

Cerberus shot him a respectful look and shrank his body, vanishing noiselessly. The two bodyguards who were protecting Ririya changed their expressions.

Initially, they had thought that with their strength, they could deal with Merlin and the rest. However, now, they discovered that they had overestimated their abilities. Fortunately, they were already in White Rajah City. If anything happened, the White Rajah could hurry over instantly.

“Shiya, have you detected the White Rajah?”

Merlin asked Shiya, who could control flora. In terms of searching and tracking, even Merlin could not compare to her. After all, Shiya’s almighty beast had a very different specialty.

Shiya lightly shut her eyes and sensed things for a moment. “The White Rajah is in White Rajah City but there’s a problem. He has a visitor.”

“A visitor?”

Naturally, Merlin knew that the visitor Shiya spoke of was certainly not ordinary. Otherwise, Shiya would not have mentioned it at this moment. This visitor must be a hindrance to their mission.

“It’s the Tyrian Rhino King!”

Shiya declared somberly.

Merlin frowned slightly. The Tyrian Rhino King was like the White Rajah, both generals under Doomsday. They each managed a city and their capability was more or less on par of each other, infinitely close to a full-shifter.

One White Rajah was difficult to handle, much less two. Therefore, Shiya and the rest were somewhat worried that this mission would not be completed smoothly.

“With the addition of the Tyrian Rhino King, although the variables are altered, it shouldn’t be a big change.”

After Merlin had contemplated for a moment, he felt that even though the Tyrian Rhino King’s presence was an additional variable, Merlin should still be able to handle it. They did not have to change their current mission.

The rest nodded. This mission was led by Merlin. Furthermore, having witnessed Merlin's formidability, of course, they would not distrust Merlin's decision.

"Follow behind Ririya and don't talk."

After Merlin spoke, he quickly strode forward and followed behind Ririya.

White Rajah City was massive. Ririya brought Merlin and the rest on a trip throughout the city center, explaining the works to Merlin in high spirits. Nevertheless, Merlin was not in the mood to listen to her sharing. He was always observing the surrounding situation. He only relaxed when he saw that the White Rajah truly did not know of their identities.

At first, the plan was to stealthily infiltrate White Rajah City and patiently look for a chance to deal with the White Rajah. Now, with Ririya's appearance and her "assistance", Merlin and the rest could immediately meet the White Rajah. Naturally, they did not have to go through so much trouble.

Still, there was a certain risk. Once their identities were exposed, this might turn out to be a trap. Therefore, Merlin appeared to be cautious.

"Leon, let's go. We've seen almost everything in the city. I'll bring you to meet Father."

Ririya had finally completed the tour around White Rajah City. Merlin saw that she was still in high spirits. What an innocent and unaffected girl. However, a girl like this in this chaotic world, was nothing but a tragedy.

Once she lost a powerful support like the White Rajah, Ririya would end up being miserable. Although Merlin felt somewhat sorry for her, he would not give up on killing the White Rajah because of this.

Thus, with Ririya leading the way, Merlin and the rest quickly came to a gigantic ancient castle. Its interior appeared to be empty but Merlin could sense that some contenders were hiding in a few concealed corners. The White Rajah's safety was important too.

"Haha, Tyrian Rhino King, you've lost again."

As soon as they walked into the castle, they heard candid laughter. Soon, a huge elephant and a rhinoceros seemed to emerge in the sky, engaged in a tussle. From the looks of it, the elephant was gaining the upper hand.

“The White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King are exchanging pointers.”

Shiya closed her eyes and sensed for a moment. As long as it was a place with plants, one could not hide anything from Shiya.

Merlin stared at the almighty beasts' apparitions in the sky. They were powerful indeed but there was still a gap between them and true full-shifters. They were similar to Orsato. Even if they had special tricks, they would not be very much stronger.

Having learned about the exact capability of the White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King, Merlin felt much more relaxed, secretly warning Cerberus and the rest to not act rashly.

The only one who could contend against the White Rajah was Monty. Even so, Monty could only just about take on the White Rajah head-on.

“That must be Uncle Tyrian Rhino King. He's Father's best friend and often comes here to swap pointers with Father. However, he'll lose every time.”

When Ririya saw the two apparitions of the almighty beasts in the sky, she spoke with a smile and wore a proud look. Since young, the White Rajah had always been Ririya's pride. It was to the point that her father, the White Rajah, was the greatest person alive in her heart.

“Follow our initial plan. The four of you restrain the Tyrian Rhino King. As for the White Rajah, I'll deal with him myself!”

Merlin used a special method to communicate with Cerberus and the rest. Ririya did not hear him at all. The Tyrian Rhino King was not worth anything, simply being an obstacle that they must pin down.

As for the White Rajah, he had the gold key that the royal family required. Merlin was also interested as to what this key was used for, and what secrets it hid, so he wanted to deal with the White Rajah himself.

Cerberus and the rest furtively nodded. With Ririya leading the way, Merlin and the rest came to a field behind the castle. Currently, the field was in a mess, with holes all over the ground. A huge battle had just taken place.

Standing on the field was a man who exuded a mighty presence. This was Merlin's target – the White Rajah!

Chapter 976: White Rajah 6

The White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King had just fought on this field. White Rajah's force was especially mighty. He was far stronger than Orsato, perhaps only slightly inferior to the full-shifting Blackbat. It was not surprising that he held such an important position under Doomsday.

"Ririya, you've returned."

When the White Rajah saw Ririya, he immediately withdrew his force and a benevolent smile grew over his face. Perhaps the White Rajah was bloodthirsty and cold in the eyes of outsiders, having killed countless people. However, in front of Ririya, the White Rajah was a very genial father.

"Father, during this trip outside, I've met some people who sincerely wish to join your side. Leon, come quickly and meet Father."

Ririya said happily to the White Rajah.

"Leon?"

The White Rajah's gaze followed where Ririya was pointing and he saw Merlin and the rest at once. He was not like Ririya nor was he those mere third-form shifters. He was at the peak of the fourth-form, infinitely close to a full-shifting contender.

Therefore, the power of the force coming off Merlin and the rest could not be concealed from the White Rajah's eyes.

"Who are you?"

The White Rajah snorted coldly and waved his hand, making Ririya stand back. Thereafter, the Tyrian Rhino King also came to the White Rajah's side, wearing a serious look. He had also noticed something out of the ordinary with Merlin and the rest.

"Those who have come to kill you!"

By this point, Merlin no longer had to hide his identity and waved his hand slightly. Monty instantly turned into his shifted fourth-form and a massive white elephant of unrivaled size appeared on the field.

"The White Rajah bloodline?"

The White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King were shocked, never expecting that this large fellow to have the White Rajah bloodline. Plus, based on his presence, he was not much weaker than the White Rajah himself.

On the other hand, Cerberus was a small sinister man, who instantly transformed into a three-headed giant black dog, exuding an eerie, grim, wicked force. According to rumors, this Three-headed Dog was the vicious dog of the underworld, known as the three-headed hound of hell, in charge of death and misfortune. Anywhere that this three-headed hound of hell had passed by would suffer from endless deaths, accompanied by endless ill-fortune.

Besides Monty and Cerberus, Iza had swiftly turned into a white rabbit, only there was nothing cute about this white rabbit. Conversely, it appeared rather sinister and terrifying, like a colossal ball of flesh that hurtled toward the White Rajah.

"Tyrian Rhino King, I don't care who they are. Attack and kill them!"

The White Rajah roared furiously and shapeshifted into a massive elephant. He was even one size bigger than Monty's elephant. That gigantic bulk of earth-shattering proportions ruthlessly rushed toward Monty.

“Bang.”

Both of them collided heavily, resulting in Monty’s body being sent flying. The difference could be seen in just one blow. They both had the same White Rajah bloodline but Monty was no match for the White Rajah by far.

As for the Tyrian Rhino King, he was busy dealing with Iza and Cerberus. In terms of pure strength, Iza and Cerberus could not compare to the Tyrian Rhino King. There was even a large disparity. After all, both of their almighty beasts were not strength-type ones.

Nonetheless, Iza’s recovery was astonishing. She was unafraid of the Tyrian Rhino King’s attacks at all. After she had restrained the Tyrian Rhino King, Cerberus waited by one side for his chance to attack. He could hide very well, appearing and disappearing like a spirit. The Tyrian Rhino King was set back a good many times, unable to defeat the two.

“Haha, the same White Rajah bloodline but you’re still lacking by a level.”

The White Rajah laughed heartily. He was too powerful. Monty could not even withstand one blow from him. No one who could stop him at all. Just as the White Rajah was stepping forward to kill Monty, he suddenly noticed that the surrounding flora had suddenly grown up wildly. Strings of rattan, like tentacles, restricted the White Rajah.

“The Wisteria Beast?”

The White Rajah’s gaze turned to Shiya. This seemingly weak woman had turned into a Wisteria Beast. It was her who had controlled the plants, which had looked so tender at first but was now equipped with fearsome killing power.

Shiya had tied up the White Rajah and Monty leaped up from the ground, roaring ferociously. He dashed toward the White Rajah once more. With Shiya’s binding, the White Rajah was caught in a dangerous situation at once.

“Roar...”

Suddenly, the White Rajah unleashed an enraged cry. At the same time, that statue of the massive elephant in White Rajah City suddenly emitted a dim light that shrouded the entire castle.

From this light, the White Rajah absorbed more strength and his body expanded by an additional size. His body's force was extremely frightening and his overwhelming strength instantly struggled out of Shiya's restraints, snapping the rattan. That colossal bulk once more barreled toward Monty.

"Boom."

This was a genuine crushing force. Monty was not a match for the current White Rajah and was sent flying at once. Moreover, this time, he was grievously injured. Most bones in his body were shattered. Even though his body was tough, he would need a longer recuperation period.

The White Rajah's strength, even in one single blow, was extremely terrifying.

"There's something fishy about that statue indeed!"

Merlin had still not yet moved. He could sense the oddity of that statue. It looked like the White Rajah must have unleashed some special technique where it enhanced the White Rajah's strength.

Currently, the White Rajah's strength had been boosted. Even with Monty and Shiya joining forces, they were no match for him.

"Swoosh."

The White Rajah's gaze turned toward Merlin. Although Merlin had not attacked, the White Rajah could see that Merlin was the leader in this group of intruders. Furthermore, the White Rajah could sense a formidable, dangerous force from Merlin as if he was a fatal threat to the White Rajah.

"No matter who you are, you've offended my dignity and must die!"

The White Rajah thundered toward Merlin immediately, his massive body filled with immense pressure. The wind battered Merlin's face. Even before the White Rajah had reached Merlin, Merlin could already feel the tremendous pressure coming off him.

Merlin lightly shut his eyes and said softly, "Blood-eye Dragon, shapeshift!"

"Rumble."

Instantly, a valiant force surged up to the sky. Merlin's body expanded swiftly and an enormous bulk emerged, bursting with explosive, suppressive strength. In particular, the pair of wings at his back spread out at once, filled with a repressive aura.

"Let's see if your White Rajah bloodline or my Blood-eye Dragon is stronger!"

Merlin's voice boomed like thunder, echoing throughout the castle. He stepped forward heavily and a huge crack split the ground, causing the entire castle to quake.

"Swoosh."

Merlin rushed forward suddenly, meeting the White Rajah head-on. The Blood-eye Dragon's will deep in his consciousness was snarling excitedly. A high-tier almighty beast's dignity could not tolerate any blasphemy. Any blasphemers must pay a disastrous price!

"Roar!"

A furious snarl, just like a dragon's cry, erupted from Merlin's mouth. Waves of energy rolled forward. Before the two almighty beasts had collided, their surroundings were already reduced to a mess.

"Bang."

Finally, the two almighty beasts crashed into one another. Dust and dirt soared as an invisible shockwave spread in all directions. Above the ancient castle, there seemed to form two almighty beasts, filled with a dreadful force.

“How powerful!”

At this moment, whether it was the Tyrian Rhino King or Monty and the rest, they were astounded by the terrifying energy they felt from those two. After the White Rajah was enhanced by the statue, he could forcibly be on par with a full-shifting contender in terms of strength.

Therefore, this clash was equivalent to two full-shifting contenders taking on each other head-on!

Chapter 977: Full-Shifter I

“Boom.”

Collisions rang out one after another. It was the first time Merlin had met such a close match. His entire body thrilled as his blood raced. The Blood-eye Dragon’s will in his Awareness roared excitedly.

The Blood-eye Dragon was originally the main predator in the era when the almighty beasts were rampant. It had a bad temper and was cruel and horrible. Once it started, it was bound to tear the enemy to pieces.

Therefore, only by fighting could the Blood-eye Dragon truly be content. Only by fighting could the Blood-eye Dragon’s potential be stimulated. Now, Merlin was currently stuck at the stage between the forth-form and full-shifting. However, with Merlin’s position, he did not lack Nourishment Ponds at all. What he lacked was the spark to evolve into a full-shifter.

Merlin only needed to comprehend and thoroughly stimulate the almighty beast’s will for the evolution to start. Now, after colliding with the evenly matched White Rajah, Merlin’s Blood-eye Dragon’s will was gradually stimulated.

“Bang bang bang.”

Collision after collision, the surroundings were destroyed, and even the castle was crumbling. The destructive power of a battle between two full-shifters was extremely terrifying.

“How frightening. This is the Deputy Team Leader’s real strength? He isn’t just comparable to a full-shifter. He could even suppress some full-shifters!”

“As expected of a high-tier almighty beast bloodline. The Blood-eye Dragon bloodline is indeed extraordinary. The Blood-eye Dragon is an apex predator and an almighty beast with terrifying destructive power. Fighting is its gift. Hehe, the Deputy Team Leader’s momentum is getting stronger. The White Rajah is in danger.”

Cerberus said eerily. Although no one liked him, they knew that what he said was true. It seemed that the White Rajah and Merlin were evenly matched but Merlin was gaining momentum and had not weakened at all. If this continued, the White Rajah would surely lose.

“Roar...”

Merlin roared. In his Awareness, the Blood-eye Dragon’s will seemed to have fully regained consciousness, turning into a huge magical dragon. A sarcoma grew on its forehead and slowly beat like a heart.

“So, this is full-shifting...”

Merlin felt the change of the Blood-eye Dragon’s will after the repeated collisions. Only then did he learn the mystery of full-shifting. It turned out that it was necessary to completely revive the Blood-eye Dragon’s will.

However, the moment when the Blood-eye Dragon regained its consciousness would also be when it was the most powerful. For the Host, it meant that his consciousness could very likely be swallowed up by the Blood-eye Dragon.

Becoming a full-shifter represented the moment a Host was most vulnerable as there was a possibility of death. Therefore, although there were many Hosts, there were very few who had truly achieved full-shifting as the almighty beast’s will was too strong. Once it fully awakened, the Host would be in danger.

However, Merlin was special. He was not afraid of threats from the almighty beast’s will. Therefore, he no longer suppressed the Blood-eye Dragon’s will and completely released it.

Feeling Merlin's strength growing, the White Rajah also felt miserable. He used the statues he had built as a special method to make himself as powerful as a full-shifter while he was in the range of the White Rajah City's statues.

However, the price was heavy and would not last long. If he continued like this, he would only be defeated. There was no way out.

"I can't let his momentum increase any further."

The White Rajah gritted his teeth and a terrifying aura burst out from his body. It seemed to faintly coincide with the shadow on the statue.

"Grand Unity Elephantus, kill!"

The White Gajah roared. It was as if thousands of giant elephants were forming a stampede. As large as a mountain, it charged toward Merlin madly.

"Crack."

The statue closely related to the White Rajah emitted cracking sound and cracks spread out like a spider web. The White Rajah's power had exceeded his limit. He was fighting as if his life depended on it.

"Marvelous!"

Merlin needed a strong opponent to thoroughly stimulate the ferocity of the Blood-eye Dragon's will so he could become a full-shifter. Now, the White Rajah, who was desperately fighting against him, was the perfect opponent.

As a result, Merlin did not step back at all. He growled and his huge body dashed toward the White Rajah.

"Boom."

With another vicious hit, the flesh on Merlin's body tore apart and his entire body flew backward. His insides became an overwhelming mess.

The White Rajah was equally ragged. He seemed to have used a special method to transfer the damage onto the statue. As a result, the cracks on the statue increased as if it would collapse at any time.

"You're the first to have pushed me this far but you'll die today!"

The White Rajah emitted bloodlust. He had always been cruel and bloodthirsty and only looked kind in front of Ririya. However, at this moment, the White Rajah was completely revealing his terrifying true nature.

"Is that so?"

Merlin calmed down at this time. Although he was bleeding and was covered in blood, his eyes were full of smiles.

"Thump."

"Thump."

"Thump."

The strange sound of a beating heart rang in his ears. At this point, a sarcoma also grew on Merlin's forehead, which was suffused with yellow pus and ready to burst at any time.

The sound of the beating heart came from the sarcoma on Merlin's forehead.

"Thump."

Finally, the sarcoma burst and fresh blood spattered. It was like an exceptional beast was born. The terrifying beast's roar rang throughout heaven and earth.

“Boom.”

Merlin’s head was still left. At this moment, it began to change into an ugly dragon’s head. Finally, he started to evolve after his fourth-form shifting.

“Fifth-form shifting!”

“Heavens, the Deputy Team Leader has evolved to the fifth-form. That’s full-shifting! Wouldn’t the high-tier almighty beast devour him?”

“A full-shifter. He became a full-shifter. What a terrifying aura!”

Everyone was shocked. Full-shifters were not rare but most were low-tier almighty beast bloodlines. Since there were many low-tier almighty beast bloodlines, they had the advantage in numbers, so they naturally presented the majority of full-shifters.

Next was mid-tier almighty beast bloodlines but there were very few such full-shifters.

As for high-tier almighty beast bloodlines, even those who possessed high-tier almighty beast bloodlines were pitiful in number, much less those who became full-shifters.

Now, Merlin had evolved into a full-shifter. Although it was only the beginning, if there was enough nutrition, he would quickly undergo a complete evolution.

A high-tier almighty beast full-shifter could influence the entire situation of the Holy Dragon Empire.

“Full-shifting? How could that be? Why didn’t you get devoured by the Blood-eye Dragon’s will?”

The most frightened and shocked person was undoubtedly the White Rajah. He felt Merlin’s terrifying aura, overpowering his own. This was a phenomenon that was caused by an absolute difference in rank.

“No, you mustn’t be allowed to complete your transformation!”

The White Rajah immediately made up his mind and charged toward Merlin again. Rumor had it that a person was their weakest the moment they became a full-shifter. He still had a chance.

“Protect the Deputy Team Leader!”

Iza shouted. She also knew that Merlin would be the weakest when becoming a full-shifter. However, they could not resist the White Rajah at all. At that time, Cerberus hesitated. Read latest chapters at vipnovel.com

“That d*mned three-headed mutt. Just wait until the Deputy Team Leader gets through this crisis. I’ll make sure that you pay.”

Iza said maliciously. She did not hesitate to lunge toward the White Rajah. With her physique that was fearless of attacks, she forcefully resisted the White Rajah’s impact.

However, it was only before the White Rajah that Iza realized how terrifying he was. She could not stop him at all. Trying to forcefully block him would only get herself killed!

At that time, Iza’s expression changed greatly but it was too late. She could not escape anymore...

Chapter 978: Full-Shifter II

Before the threat of death, Iza’s body began to tremble. The White Rajah’s terrifying aura was pressing down on her. As long as she was locked down, she would not be spared.

“Deputy Team Leader...”

Currently, Iza wanted to look back at Merlin but she was locked by the White Rajah’s frightening aura and did not dare to move. Therefore, she could only silently wait for the impact of the White Rajah’s attack.

“Die!”

The White Rajah was like a mountain that was madly crashing into her. Shiya and the others also realized that Iza had most likely met her doom but there was nothing they could do.

“Roar...”

Suddenly, behind Iza, Merlin roared and the terrifying soundwave spread in all directions, stunning even the White Rajah. However, the White Rajah was comparable to a regular full-shifter, so he quickly came back to his senses and continued to charge toward Iza.

“How dare you!”

Merlin growled. Although he was still some distance away from Iza and could not save her at all, his forehead revealed a bloody vertical eye after the ugly sarcoma burst open.

This crimson vertical eye fiercely emitted a beam of red light which immediately enveloped the White Rajah’s huge body. A nasty grin appeared on Merlin’s face.

“This... What’s going on?”

The White Rajah’s body immediately stopped. His face flushed bright red and all his blood vessels protruded out as if they would explode at any time.

Moreover, the feeling of terror caused the White Rajah dread. He looked at Merlin with horror and realized that this was a Supreme Talent. This was the Supreme Talent Merlin had obtained after becoming a full-shifter.

Generally, almighty beast bloodlines had natural abilities. However, these abilities would only awaken when the person had become a full-shifter.

Merlin had just undergone an evolution. Although his body had already fully-shifted, he had yet to replenish nourishment, so he was still far inferior to a true full-shifter. However, his Supreme Talent was not affected in any way.

The Blood-eye Dragon was called the “blood-eye” because of this crimson eye. This was one of the Blood-eye Dragon’s strongest abilities. Its main ability was to control blood.

It could control the blood in the body of any almighty beast. The greater the power difference, the stronger the control. Now, Merlin was already a full-shifter and his Supreme Talent finally awakened, instantly controlling the blood in the White Rajah's body. With this ability, the White Rajah could not resist at all.

"Split!"

Merlin shouted. Immediately, a trace of pain flashed across the White Rajah's face. Then, blood began to bubble on the surface of his body uncontrollably. Soon, the White Rajah became a beast covered with blood as he roared in pain.

Merlin shook his head and continued. "Explode!"

"Bang bang bang."

Waves of popping sounded from the White Rajah's body. At the same time, the tough skin and flesh burst from the inside. Blood splashed everywhere, creating a bloody scene.

The blood in the White Rajah's body exploded under Merlin's control. It was difficult to break the White Rajah's defense from the outside but it was easy from the inside.

The White Rajah's blood vessels burst. No matter how strong he was, after losing so much blood, there was only a dead-end for him. The life force in his body disappeared rapidly but he still cast a glance at Ririya behind him. He seemed to want to say something and opened his mouth but he did not say anything in the end.

"Thump."

The White Rajah's huge body fell. Blood splashed out, suspending in the air, creating a bloody fog. The vertical eye on Merlin's forehead swiftly shot another ray of light like a huge mouth that absorbed the White Rajah's blood.

Soon, the White Rajah's blood was completely absorbed by Merlin. The White Rajah was a peak fourth-form shifter and was infinitely close to becoming a full-shifter. He had relied on the statue to rival other full-shifters.

Therefore, his blood also contained terrifying power. Merlin's Blood-eye could not only control blood but also absorb the powerful energy in the blood. Therefore, it could quickly supplement the energy needed after full-shifting.

Devour. Devour madly!

Merlin did not know how many Nourishment Pond formulae or the amount of time needed to absorb enough energy to support full-shifting if he only used the Nourishment Pond.

However, the Blood-eye Supreme Talent could rapidly break down and refine the energy in the blood. Therefore, Merlin did not even need a Nourishment Pond. This was the terror of the Blood-eye Dragon's Supreme Talent.

Rumor had it that the Blood-eye Dragon was a ferocious monster that represented killing, fear, and bloody events in the era of the almighty beasts. Wherever it went, it left behind a bloody path. Moreover, its fighting capacity was also very persistent and it grew stronger the longer it fought. This might be closely related to its Supreme Talent.

If he was injured, he could immediately recover by devouring some blood and after becoming a full-shifter, he could continue to evolve and grow stronger. Devouring enough almighty beast blood was another way of evolution.

Therefore, the more the Blood-eye Dragon killed, the stronger it became!

Merlin used the Blood-eye to devour the White Rajah's blood, causing the body to dry up rapidly. When the final drop of blood was sucked dry, the life force on Merlin's body became stronger.

However, he had not fully supplemented the energy needed for full-shifting.

"Crack."

At this moment, the statue in White Rajah City that seemed to be closely related to the White Rajah collapsed after his death, frightening the people in White Rajah City.

“The White Rajah’s statue collapsed. Is the White Rajah dead?”

“Even if he isn’t dead, he must’ve met a strong enemy. White Rajah City is going to change again...”

The people in White Rajah City were only alarmed but did not do anything else. After all, they had no positive feelings for the ferocious White Rajah. Even if the White Rajah died, they would be very happy.

“Deputy Team Leader, there’s one more!”

Shiya seemed unable to resist any longer. She was still holding on to the Tyrian Rhino King. The Tyrian Rhino King saw Merlin had become a full-shifter and awaken such a strange and terrible Supreme Talent. Furthermore, the White Rajah was dead, so he had no more will to fight. He struggled frantically in hopes that he could escape but was pinned down by Shiya.

“Swoosh.”

Merlin’s gaze locked onto the Tyrian Rhino King. Merlin’s eyes appeared very calm but it caused the Tyrian Rhino King’s scalp to tingle. A feeling of extreme danger formed in his heart.

“Great full-shifter, I’m willing to follow you and become your most loyal guard. Please don’t kill me...”

Before he finished speaking, he suddenly felt his blood rushing throughout his body and he could no longer speak.

“Explode!”

Merlin did not hesitate at all. He had just become a full-shifter and did not have enough energy. How would he let go of the Tyrian Rhino King, a fourth-form shifter?

“Bang bang bang.”

The Tyrian Rhino King's blood vessels burst instantly and exploded into a bloody mess. Merlin's Blood-eye's light shrouded the Tyrian Rhino King and began to quickly devour his blood. Soon, the Tyrian Rhino King's body also became withered.

Seeing the fates of the White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King, who had been sucked dry and turned into mummies, Iza and the others felt a chill rising from the soles of their feet.

This was especially true for Cerberus. He had been indifferent when he was aware of Merlin's danger. Upon imagining Merlin's ruthlessness, Cerberus felt a chill.

"That's right, I'll capture Ririya. She looks somewhat pretty and chatted amiably with the Deputy Team Leader before. The Deputy Team Leader will surely like her. Maybe he'll forgive my previous sins."

Cerberus was truly afraid of Merlin and thought of a way to make amends. Thus, his figure flashed as he rushed at the shocked Ririya.

Chapter 979: Gold Key I

"Hehe, little beauty, come here."

Cerberus grinned nastily. His three heads glowed sinisterly as he grabbed Ririya.

Several guards were originally protecting Ririya. However, they saw that the tide had turned and even the White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King had died, so they immediately dispersed in confusion and pulled away from Ririya.

Only one guard gritted his teeth and said, "Lady Ririya, run away quickly and go to Doomsday City. It's safest there."

This guard was not weak and had already reached the third-form but he was no match against Cerberus, who was a fourth-form shifter. His neck was bitten off in one go by the Three-headed Dog and blood spurted in an arc.

"Haha, you can't escape!"

Cerberus grabbed Ririya with a flash of lust in his eyes. He had always been lecherous and he also took a liking to Ririya. However, to make up for his previous mistakes, he could only bring Ririya to Merlin.

At this point, Merlin had just finished absorbing the Tyrian Rhino King's blood. His body grew even bigger, becoming a true ancient almighty beast. However, Merlin still had a feeling that this was far from his limit. If he went all out, his body would grow even larger. It might even be larger than a castle or a mountain.

However, he still needed a lot of energy. Even after consuming the blood of the White Rajah and the Tyrian Rhino King, he found that the energy was still not enough. He had reached the full-shift of his Blood-eye Dragon and the energy needed was several times of an ordinary almighty beast bloodline.

“Deputy Team Leader, this is Ririya. I’ve caught her for you. Hehe, you can enjoy her as much as you wish.”

Cerberus showed a flattering expression after seeing Merlin opening his eyes. He had always been like this. He was shameless and repulsive but he had lived to this day.

“Shameless!”

“Cerberus, you didn’t help the Deputy Team Leader before but now you want to fawn over him?”

Shiya and Iza could not tolerate the way Cerberus behaved. If it were not for his usefulness, they would not have suggested Merlin let him join them.

Now, the mission was over but Cerberus had not played any role.

Cerberus did not care about Shiya or Iza at all. They could not do anything to him even if they were disgusted with him but Merlin was different. Now, Merlin had become a full-shifter with his high-tier almighty beast bloodline and might be even stronger than the Team Leader of the Combat Team. He might even be able to challenge the mysterious Minister of Phantom.

For such a terrifying being, Cerberus naturally did his best to fawn over him.

“Whoosh.”

Merlin’s eyes suddenly opened as he looked at Ririya, who was caught by Cerberus. Presently, Ririya expressed horror as she pointed at Merlin, stammering, “You... You killed Father?”

Merlin ignored Ririya and looked calmly at Cerberus instead. “Before, when I was in danger, you hesitated, didn’t you?”

Although Merlin’s tone was calm, Cerberus immediately broke out in cold sweat and fell to his knees. “Deputy Team Leader, I... I hesitated a little. Please forgive me, Deputy Team Leader! To make up for my mistakes, I’ve caught Ririya instead of letting her escape.”

At this point, Cerberus did not care about his dignity anymore. He already saw Merlin’s ruthlessness with his own eyes. Before such a person, he had to admit his mistake voluntarily and not make any excuses.

“Is that so? Capturing Ririya is indeed a merit. Fine, I’ll give you a small punishment.”

Hearing that it would only be a small punishment, Cerberus finally breathed a long sigh of relief and rejoiced in his heart. Fortunately, he saw the opportunity and watched the situation carefully and knew that Merlin favored Ririya. Otherwise, he would have been doomed this time.

“I’ll let you make one last contribution to my full-shifter form!”

As Merlin spoke, the crimson vertical eye on his forehead immediately shot out a beam of light, shrouding Cerberus.

Hearing this, Cerberus was greatly shocked and immediately fell back. He cried, “Deputy Team Leader, have mercy. I won’t dare to do that anymore...”

However, before his words were finished, he was enveloped by a bloody light. His blood vessels burst one after another and he let out mournful cries which even made Iza and Shiya, who always hated Cerberus, to shiver.

“Hum.”

After obtaining the blood energy from Cerberus, Merlin felt “satisfied” for the first time. This also meant that Merlin had completely achieved the state of a full-shifter. He no longer had a weak period nor any need to rely on the Nourishment Pond.

“The Blood-eye Dragon’s will has grown even stronger. It would’ve dominated an ordinary person but in my Illusory World, the Blood-eye Dragon would pose no threat to me even if it were a hundred times stronger than it is now.”

In the depths of his Awareness, Merlin clearly “saw” the enhanced Blood-eye Dragon that had wanted to completely awaken the moment he became a full-shifter. However, it was instantly suppressed by the Illusory World. Now, it shivered in the depths of his Awareness and did not dare to have any other intention at all.

Otherwise, Merlin’s Illusory World would devour the Blood-eye Dragon’s will at any moment. However, the almighty beast’s power in his body still needed to rely on the Blood-eye Dragon, so he did not do anything to the Blood-eye Dragon yet.

“Deputy Team Leader, I’m afraid the movements here attracted the attention of Doomsday City. Even though Doomsday City is very far from here, if we delay any longer, we may end up losing more than we gain. We’ve already completed the mission, after all.”

Shiya said in a low voice.

“Completed the mission? That’s not necessarily true!”

Only Merlin knew that killing the White Rajah did not complete the actual mission at all. His purpose was to get a key from the White Rajah for the royal family.

Merlin grabbed the White Rajah’s withered body and searched carefully. However, he did not find a key. Merlin’s expression soured.

“He didn’t carry it with him. Where would the White Rajah hide such an important item? Perhaps it has already been offered to Doomsday?”

Merlin deeply suspected that Doomsday had already obtained the key. In that case, everything they had done so far was wasted.

“No, Phantom’s intelligence department won’t make any mistakes. The key should still be with the White Rajah. We just don’t know where he hid it.”

Out of the corner of Merlin’s eyes, he saw Ririya’s pale face. She was trembling. Merlin’s brutal killing of Cerberus earlier had shocked her. After all, she was just an ordinary girl who had not even inherited the White Rajah’s almighty beast bloodline.

“Ririya, don’t be afraid, Cerberus is already dead. As for your father, we didn’t know each other personally. We just walked our paths. I had to kill him. How about this? Think carefully about which place the White Rajah cared about the most when he was alive. If you bring me there and I find the item I’m looking for, I’ll release you and let you safely return to Doomsday City.”

Merlin knew that without the White Rajah, Ririya would not be sheltered in Doomsday City if she went there and her life would be very difficult in the future. The best scenario for a young girl like her would be for a big shot to take a fancy to her and become his lover, which would be safer. Otherwise, her fate would be extremely miserable in troubled times.

It was not uncommon for noble ladies and madams to be plundered by robbers and abused and humiliated.

“I won’t tell you anything.”

Ririya gritted her teeth tightly. She looked at Merlin while holding back her terror.

“What a stubborn person...”

Merlin shook his head. It was too easy to deal with an ordinary person.

“Tell me, which place was the White Rajah most concerned about.”

Merlin's little remaining Mind Power did not affect a fourth-form shifter but it was more than enough to "hypnotize" Ririya, an ordinary person.

Under the influence of Merlin's Mind Power, Ririya's eyes glazed and she whispered, "Father's most important place is the underground secret chamber!"

"Take me there."

Ririya obeyed Merlin's order like a puppet. She turned around and started to wobble unsteadily toward the castle.

Chapter 980: Gold Key II

All the people in the castle had run away, leaving it empty.

"All of you, guard the entrance. No one is allowed to enter."

Merlin said to Shiya and the others. He was very curious toward the royal family's key, so he naturally would not allow anyone else to see it.

Although Shiya hesitated, Merlin was the Deputy Team Leader. Furthermore, he had become a full-shifter and even Doomsday might not be his match. She naturally did not dare to go against Merlin's orders and guarded the entrance with Iza and the others.

"Ririya, take me to the White Rajah's secret chamber."

Merlin knew that some aristocrats liked to hide treasures in the secret chamber. If the White Rajah hid the key, it would be in the secret chamber.

Controlled by Merlin's Mind Power, Ririya dazedly took Merlin deep into the castle. They passed by several corridors before finally arriving at a wall, seemingly a dead end.

"Rumble."

The mechanism on the wall activated and a path opened on the ground. Below were stone stairs leading toward an unknown place.

“Looks like the secret chamber is just below here.”

Merlin was not afraid. It was very safe with Ririya leading the way. Besides, with his current strength, no obstacles would pose a problem.

This stone stairway was very long and they walked for half an hour before finally arriving at the secret chamber. Along the way, Merlin discovered several traps but with Ririya's lead, none of the traps were activated.

“No one can open this secret chamber. It was my father who brought me here last time.”

The stone door in front of the secret chamber did not have any mechanisms and could only be opened by the White Rajah. Even Ririya was helpless.

“We're already here. That's not a problem at all.”

Merlin looked at the stone door. With a roar, his body began to shapeshift. However, it was only a portion of his body. A narrow passage like this could not accommodate Merlin's huge body after full-shifting.

“Boom.”

Merlin's morphed arm slammed the stone door. He was now a full-shifter. Even if he only used one-tenth of his strength, he was much stronger than the White Rajah.

Thus, with just one hit, cracks appeared on the stone door like a spider web, rapidly spreading outward.

“Crumble.”

Finally, the stone door collapsed into gravel, falling to the ground and revealing a wide secret chamber.

“Go in.”

Merlin brought Ririya into the secret chamber. The secret chamber appeared spacious, with boxes of precious stones placed around.

“Who would’ve thought that the White Rajah had this hobby?”

Merlin looked at the precious stones curiously. Why would the great White Rajah keep these things?

“Father prepared these for my dowry. He told me before when I get married, he would prepare the largest dowry for me.”

Merlin noticed that Ririya’s expression seemed unstable as if remembering the White Rajah would cause her to awaken from Merlin’s Mind Power’s control at any time.

Merlin shook his head. The White Rajah may be very harsh and even cruel to others but he provided for his daughter as much as he could.

The gemstones in this secret chamber were worthless to Merlin. He was not looking for these sparkling, useless gems but the royal family’s key.

Something that the royal family was looking for would not be simple. Otherwise, they would not specifically ask Merlin to find it.

“It’s not here. There’s no key at all.”

Merlin had searched the entire secret chamber but did not find any trace of a key. Could the White Rajah have given the key to Doomsday?

“If he gave it to Doomsday, then that complicates things.”

Merlin thought about the report regarding Doomsday. When Doomsday first rose to power, the royal family had sent three mid-tier almighty beast full-shifters but none of them returned.

From then on, he climbed to the top of the greatest rebel army and even now, the royal family did not dare to make any move against Doomsday. It showed how terrifying Doomsday was.

Furthermore, the information regarding Doomsday was very vague. Since Doomsday rarely appeared, it was unknown if he had a mid-tier or high-tier almighty beast bloodline or was a Host.

Phantom's Intelligence Team even had a long-term mission to find out details regarding Doomsday. However, up until now, it had not been successful. Furthermore, Merlin was also slightly apprehensive of Doomsday.

"Ririya, have you ever seen the White Rajah obtain a key?"

At this time, Merlin could only ask Ririya. However, he knew that she would not know anything. The White Rajah rarely told Ririya important matters.

"Key? I've never seen one before. However, the last time Father brought me here, he told me that he keeps some of the most important things in a secret place in the chamber."

"Oh? Where is it? Take me there."

Merlin's eyes brightened. He had never thought that Ririya would know something so important. The White Rajah trusted his daughter the most to have told her such important information.

Ririya went to an inconspicuous box and then tapped it nine times.

"Click."

Under the box, a small hole suddenly appeared. It seemed to hide something inside.

Merlin did not hesitate and stepped forward. He searched inside with his hand and quickly found a wooden box as well as some precious materials. Upon closer observation, he found that they were some Nourishment Pond formulae.

Besides that, there was also a letter to Ririya telling her that the White Rajah had hidden a large fortune at a certain place. There were also the materials for a Nourishment Pond and a captured almighty beast's will. If Ririya wanted to have power, she could rely on these things to become a Host.

These were all that the White Rajah had left for Ririya.

"The White Rajah is a good father."

Merlin quietly slotted the letter in Ririya's clothes. He gave the Nourishment Pond formulae a cursory look and memorized them before placing them on Ririya. These were all for Ririya and Merlin had no intention of keeping them.

As for the exquisite wooden box, the White Rajah did not mention it in the letter, proving that it was placed here at the last moment. It should be extremely important.

Thinking of this, Merlin immediately opened the wooden box.

When he opened the box, a dazzling light shot out. Merlin's eyes narrowed. "A gold key?"

In the wooden box was an exquisitely-made gold key.

"A gold key. Could this be what the royal family is looking for?"

Merlin gently picked up the gold key in the wooden box. The key was quite heavy and cold but what surprised Merlin the most was a faint residual aura, which seemed to excite the Blood-eye Dragon's will deep in his Awareness.

"There's more to the gold key that meets the eye!"

Merlin did not know what this key was for but if the royal family was after it, it was not ordinary. He had to study it carefully.

Thus, Merlin kept the gold key and prepared to leave the secret chamber when it suddenly shook.

“Rumble.”

The large sound of an impact above the ground spread to the secret chamber. The secret chamber seemed like it would collapse despite being such a long-distance underground, showing how terrifying the shaking on the surface was.

“Did Domsday personally come?”

Merlin narrowed his eyes. Although he was apprehensive toward Domsday, he was not afraid.

“Let’s go up and see who it is.”

Merlin grabbed Ririya and strode out of the secret chamber.