

Abyssal A 401

Chapter 401 - 401: Numbered Equipment

"How did the duel of the Warrior's Honour go?" The Silver haired man asked while leaning against a rock overlooking the outpost.

"Alice Agnelia didn't do much except struggle. Her senses are sharp but her actual power in combat is limited to deploying a shield every now and then. However, I believe we'll need to update our information on Egil Holgersen and Bo Gunnulf."

"Hou?" The man raised an eyebrow.

"Egil Holgersen has reached a level of physical power where he could break out of Torgeir's confinement at the end of the duel. Bo Gunnulf's speed has increased and he was even able to make last second corrections to avoid the attack. Rather than a duel to see how useful Alice is, it was more a fight between Egil and Bo." The scout explained as the man rubbed his chin.

"Decrease the priority of Alice. Increase the priority on Egil and Bo. Adjust the ambush, we'll attack once command sends the order." He ordered as the scout nodded and left.

Now that Egil had the power to break out of Torgeir's confinement, it might get a little annoying but he was glad that Alice didn't turn out to be the variable that he was expecting. It was simply a case of her having sharper senses than others.

Regardless, it's about time they sped up their preparation for the next attack. On top of the Ambush, he had prepared an Abyss Break into a monster wave.

Curling his lips into a grin, he looked forward to how Torgeir planned on protecting this outpost of his.

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The explanation Alice gave Bo was simplified down since the actual process was far more complex and annoying.

By splitting these fragments into small sand like grains, they lose a lot of their durability.

To compensate for this, whenever Bo landed against a fragment, it created a magnetic type response with the other fragments. This caused them to begin stacking and almost create a springboard that goes back to its original place once Bo jumps off.

The platform that manifests is simply the multiple fragments resonating with each other.

There was no reason for her to expose all of her cards. Simply mix the truth with some lies.

"I see... I look forward to fighting alongside you in the future." Bo smiled.

Nodding her head, Alice shook his hand while watching him leave.

Once Alice was left alone, Torgeir made his way over.

"You've certainly proved your worth. What were you doing before you arrived in the north?" Torgeir asked curiously.

"Just roaming around in the Abyss." Alice chuckled.

'Jumping into the past, getting training from Apostles, killing Lords and foiling the plans of someone who wishes to overthrow the Will of the Abyss. Yeah, just a casual roam.' Alyss added in their mind causing Alice to laugh.

"Is that so? Well regardless, once you join the military it doesn't really matter. What matters is that you do your job." Torgeir shrugged.

"You and your friend should follow me. I'll finish your registration personally since I'm going to make a few adjustments. You're a good asset for Bo's team so I'll be moving you there instead of staying in the beginner squad."

"Hou? Are you sure that's fine? I'm pretty sure a newbie would just disrupt the team dynamic no?" Alice raised her eyebrow in surprise.

She didn't think he would just send her into the deep end like this.

"That's your job to figure out. Weren't you learning how to adapt to new allies without knowing them for a long time?"

Hearing this, Alice realised that Torgeir understood what she was aiming for during the fight.

Sticking out her tongue, Alice glanced over to Selen.

"What about my friend? Is she going to be in the beginner squad?"

"Her situation is... Unique from what she's told me. She'll be joining you. Though I still need to personally verify your abilities for that." Torgeir thought for a moment.

"Are you going to spar with us?"

"What? No. We don't use a barbaric method like that to check abilities. Not everything can be verified through a battle. Some shine elsewhere." Torgeir furrowed his brows, causing Alice's smile to twitch.

'So you don't use a barbaric method to check abilities but you duel to see who's right or wrong???' Alice retorted in her mind, feeling as though their priorities were flipped.

"You'll understand once you follow me."

Guiding Alice and Selen through the barracks, they soon arrived at a rather unsuspecting building with a single floor.

Opening the door, Alice was surprised to see a staircase leading down.

"Since you two are foreigners that come from the Abyss, I should explain to you how we call things in the North. As you know, the word Hunters is replaced with Warriors. Instead of beasts, we call them Spirits.

"Sigils are what we Northerners consider as attuning to the Spirit we kill. And in the north, we have names for the rank of the Warrior that attune to spirits." Torgeir began to explain.

In the north, they place more importance on the individual ranks rather than splitting it into three, unlike the Abyss.

1 Sigil – Beginner

2 Sigil – Proficient

3 Sigil – Expert

4 Sigil – Master

5 Sigil – Advanced Master

6 Sigils – Grandmaster

From the 7th Sigil onwards, they don't have names for them and simply refer to them as the titles granted to them by the Abyss.

Same with the resonance. They keep the same name.

"However, there's been a new ritual conducted in the capital. A baptism for those that reach beyond the sixth rank. To grant them a title belonging to the North.

"Are you familiar with Lord Urigar? The Abyss Lord of Titans." Torgeir asked as there was a glimmer in his eyes.

"I've heard of him before." Alice nodded.

"Rather than calling them Abyss Lords, Her Majesty has begun to baptise them and bestow upon them a new title and rank. 7th rank is Spirit Lord, 8th is Spirit King and finally, the fabled 9th Rank is Spirit Sovereign.

"Lord Urigar will be the first to be baptised by this method so if you get the chance, you should head to the capital and watch the ceremony." Torgeir suggested as they descended into the depths.

"When will this happen?" Alice asked curiously. She wanted to see what kind of 'baptism' this was and if the new titles were purely ceremonial or had some value. If it was the latter, there was a chance that Nyer may dip his hands into the politics of the North considering the fact that he's looking for things to overthrow the Will.

"It should be around two months or so from now. Hopefully, the war settles down during that time so I can go watch the ceremony too." Torgeir laughed.

Seeing this, Alice could clearly see the respect he had towards the Abyss Lord of the North.

"How many Lords are there in the North?" Four that are publicly known. We don't know if there are more. There is Lord Urigar, Abyss Lord of Titans. Lady Frida, Abyss Lord of Winter, Lord Sigurd, Abyss Lord of The Forge and finally, Her Majesty herself. Queen Verona.

"However, for Her Majesty, we don't know her title. We just know she has reached beyond the 6th realm." Torgeir shook his head but Alice's interest was focused on Sigurd.

"What do you mean when you say Lord Sigurd is the Abyss Lord of the Forge?"

"Simply put, he's the greatest blacksmith in all the lands. Even the scrap he creates are considered to be high quality weapons and armour. But his masterpieces are known as the Numbered Equipment.

"They are given a number based on when he forged them and so far, he has created ninety nine masterpieces that he considers to be worthy of a number. If you make a big achievement for the north, you might even be granted a numbered equipment yourself." Torgeir chuckled as they reached a set of metal doors.

"Personally, I got my eyes set on Number 35: Gungnir. One of, if not the best spear that Lord Sigurd has crafted. Though it's just a distant dreamahaha."

Pushing open the doors, he revealed a ritual circle with several strange apparatuses around it.

Flickering orange lights illuminated the room while Torgeir gestured to the people waiting by the side.

"Once you sit in the centre, we'll begin the ritual and it'll record your strengths. These are categorised into six values we used to determine what you're compatible with. Naturally, it's easier for you to experience it yourself first before I explain." He gestured for Alice to step in first.

Hesitating for a moment, Alice nodded and stepped into the circle.

She could sense strands of energy emanating from the circle and slowly entering her body as the lights around her began to fade.

Pain flashed across her body momentarily and faded before she could even flinch. She felt the wind crashing into her, pushing her hair back.

An invisible pressure bore down on her, reminding her of the time she felt into the Waters of the Abyss. The sense of restriction while the sludge attempted to crush her.

She felt a strange familiarity. The sensation of energy coursing through her body.

The exhaustion that comes with fighting a long battle.

And finally, she felt the intent to harm tracing across her body, causing her to furrow her brows in discomfort.

"And we're done." Torgeir's voice rang out with a mild hint of surprise.

Opening her eyes, Alice could see that she was still standing in the centre of the circle and didn't move from her spot.

"That's it?" Alice raised an eyebrow with doubt but Torgeir nodded his head.

Beside him, a man was writing down the report before handing it to Torgeir.

"As I said earlier, this ritual circle helps us determine what you're compatible with and splits it into six values. Power, Speed, Physicality, Spiritual, Endurance and Instincts. And I must say, your results are... rather interesting."

Receiving the report of her statistics, Alice blinked her eyes in surprise.

Chapter 402 - 402: Alice's Stats

The graph was presented in a hexagonal grid with each category taking a point.

Alice Agnelia:

Power – D

Speed – C

Physicality – E

Spiritual – SS

Endurance – A

Instincts – S

"Power is self explanatory same with Speed. Physicality is how strong your physical body is and how well you can control it. The Spiritual category is how efficient you are with the powers of the Abyss. Endurance is stamina and instincts is your sixth sense." Torgeir explained.

Alice's graph was heavily skewed towards the Spiritual side of things, making her an absolute monster with Sigil abilities. Her instincts were also top notch with her endurance coming in third.

However, the rest of her stats were poor.

"The lowest you can get is F rank while the highest is triple S. As for the meaning, a D rank means you have the same power as Warriors with three Spirits. With this in mind, your overall average is around B rank or a five Sigil Hunter. That's even if I include your extremely high Spiritual Stat."

Hearing this, Alice nodded her head as her eyes focused on her Spiritual stat.

Her spiritual stat was in the realm of Lords! Double S!

On the opposite spectrum was her physicality which was the same as a two Sigil Hunter. Even if she wasn't injured, the value probably won't go up by much.

'Seems like I'm a caster type fighter rather than a physical one. Which honestly makes sense since even my Void Flux – Cleave is energy based rather than using raw strength.' Alice thought inwardly.

'Do you think the stats will change if I take over?' Alyss asked curiously. She was interested in what her own stats were.

'Probably. You're better at using your body than I am.' Alice nodded. It was just a guess but she wanted to say that Alyss probably has an S rank in physicality.

"I must say, it's the first time I've seen someone with that high of a Spiritual Stat. While some people can increase their stats with enough training and experience, the Spiritual Stat is one of the hardest to increase. It's based on how compatible you are with the energy of the Abyss after all and how well you can utilise it." Torgeir remarked while looking at the stats.

When they first saw the double S, they thought the ritual ran into an Error. After all, having this stat right now meant Alice was comparable to the esteemed Lords at the top of the food chain!

Yet no matter how they tried to redo the test, it continued to show up as double S.

Next was her instinct. Torgeir wasn't surprised by this as much considering Alice's fast reaction to his killing intent.

The rest of her stats were more in line with someone of her calibre.

"Have you any thoughts on becoming a Shaman or a caster of the royal family? Someone of your Spiritual Stat can easily get accepted." Torgeir asked curiously, wondering what Alice wanted to do with her talents.

"Maybe in the future if I feel like it. Though I'm curious what your stats are like." Alice grinned, wanting to compare herself.

Thinking about it for a moment, Torgeir nodded his head. Since Alice was a rare genius with a double S rank in the Spiritual category, he wanted to show her favour so that she would view the Verona Queendom favourably.

Who knows, if he could scout her into staying in the north, he might be able to get the Numbered Equipment he wanted for so many years.

Watching Torgeir step into the circle, Alice could see the strands of energy linking with his body.

As the ritual began, flashes of colour pulsed through the strands and soon, he opened his eyes.

"It's done???" Pausing in surprise, Alice didn't think the process was that quick. To her, it felt like tens of minutes had passed when in actuality it had only been tens of seconds.

"Yep, it's that fast." Torgeir chuckled as the staff handed him his report.

Power – B

Speed – A

Physicality – A

Spiritual – S

Endurance – A

Instincts – S

"As you can see, your talent in the Spiritual aspect is greater than mine." Torgeir smiled. He had an average of A.

"What about Egil and Bo? Have they done it before?" Alice asked, wondering what their stats were like.

"Of course they have. In fact, you have to go through this before you go to the interview. Occasionally there will be a few who haven't done the stat check and still signed up but we'll go through this process eventually.

"Egil went through this before and if I remember correctly, he had S ranks in both Physicality and Endurance. Though his Spiritual stat was extremely bad and dragged down his average." Torgeir recalled while walking over to the other staff members and searched through the files.

"Ah here it is."

Egil:

Power – A

Speed – A

Physicality – S

Spiritual – E

Endurance – S

Instinct – A

"Jeez..." Alice muttered seeing the absolute monster of a stat line that Egil had. Everything was A or higher across the board except Spiritual.

"It's why he was looked upon as an ideal Warrior. Though if it wasn't for him being a known troublemaker, I would be more than happy to accept him." Torgeir sighed at the wasted potential.

He could only hope that Egil was true to his word and proved himself to be capable of working in a team.

Flipping through the files, he soon found Bo's stat line.

"Here's Bo. As you can expect, he's someone who's entirely focused on speed.

Bo:

Power – C

Speed – S

Physicality – B

Spiritual – C

Endurance – C

Instincts – B

"He's pretty average in everything except his Speed. In a serious contest of speed, there's no one here that can match him. Even if you go the capital, you'll rarely see someone faster than Bo."

Making a mental note of all the stats in her mind, Alice handed the sheets back to Torgeir.

"Right then, sorry for the wait. It's your turn next." Torgeir turned to Selen with a smile.

Nodding her head, Selen entered the circle without saying anything and waited for the process to be over.

After waiting a brief moment, her stats were revealed.

Power – C

Speed – B

Physicality – A

Spiritual – A

Endurance – B

Instincts – B

It was a pretty average and consistent spread across the board with nothing standing out a lot nor any major lacking stats except power that's at a C.

'An all rounder huh?' Torgeir thought to himself while scanning Selen's stats.

Alice, Egil and Bo were all specialist warriors. People who focus on one thing and one thing only while Selen was good at pretty much everything but not excelling.

"Alright. Now that we're done with this, let's get you your new uniforms. Wouldn't want to hit the wrong person on the battlefield after all. After that, it'll be your new schedules and accommodations." Torgeir handed the sheets back to the staff.

Leading the two out of the basement, Torgeir nodded at his staff as they prepared to send Alice's scores to the capital.

This is a rare case of a double S rank, he couldn't let her slip through his fingers.

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Making their way to his office, Torgeir handed them their new uniforms, schedule and keys to their accommodations.

Both Alice and Selen were put into the same room since they were familiar with one another.

Once she was in her room, Alice didn't hesitate to try out the uniform.

A light blue shirt with leather belts, arm cuffs and a skirt. Black pants and boots with a large fur coat.

Giving herself a twirl while looking in the mirror, Alice folded her arms.

"It's pretty cute I guess though not what I would usually wear. What do you think?" Alice asked, glancing at Selen who didn't try the uniform and got into her pyjamas.

"I don't see why the outfit being cute or not matters as long as it can protect you."

"Ehh~ That's a bit boring don't you think? Obviously, I want to look cute when I'm killing someone during a battle. If I make a name for myself and get a statue made, it has to look good. Who wants to look at an ugly statue?" Alice sighed.

"Again, it doesn't really matter to me." Selen shook her head while climbing into her bed.

Before Alice could continue, she could already hear light snoring from Selen.

'F*cking hell she slept fast.' Alice blinked her eyes.

This was the first time she was going to share a room with Selen and the sheer speed of which she could fall asleep was simply remarkable.

A talent even.

Shaking her head, Alice let out a sigh. As long as the uniform looks roughly the same it should be fine for her to make some adjustments.

Grabbing a dagger from her pouch, she began to tear away at her uniform.

If Velouria could see what Alice was doing, she would shed a tear in happiness.

Once she was done with her modifications, Alice looked in the mirror with a happy grin. Her shard acted as a needle once she split it into fragments. For the thread, she used the excess fabric.

Placing her uniform by the side, climbed into the bed and closed her eyes.

Retreating into her mental scape, she looked towards Cayla who struggling in her sleep but showed no signs of waking up.

'Before you ask, no, I don't know when she's going to wake up nor do I know why she's still asleep.' Alyss sighed.

She was also worried for Cayla but all they could do right now was to stay by her side.

Furrowing her brows, Alice nodded and drifted off to sleep. She looked forward to the training tomorrow since she'll be meeting the squad that she'll be part of.

Chapter 403 - 403: Joining Group Training

A light blue shirt with leather belts, arm cuffs and a skirt. Black pants and boots with a large fur coat.

"What in the f*ck?" Selen asked as she blinked her eyes.

The first thing she saw after waking up in the morning was Alice's new modifications to her outfit.

"What do you think? Cute isn't it?" Alice smiled happily and struck a pose.

Compared to the uniform yesterday, her outfit today could be considered... revealing and downright stupid for the weather in the north.

After her modifications, Alice now wore a blue one piece dress, a belt, a pair of long boots and a hooded jacket with fur lined around the hood.

Her pants were torn apart and turned into a pair of gloves connected to the arm cuffs while the rest into decorations around the outfit.

If it wasn't for her jacket, her arms and legs would be completely exposed.

Naturally, a layer of bandages to cover her wounds was beneath the outfit.

Yet despite all of these changes and even taking away the pants to make something else, she still maintained the key parts of the outfit that make it recognisable as part of the uniform.

Letting out a sigh, Selen didn't have nearly enough f*cks to give first thing in the morning and simply ignored it.

Putting on her own uniform, the two went down for breakfast as Alice's attire caused a few of the new recruits to look at her with a mix of confusion and nervousness.

Feeling a little devious, Alice would grin and blow them a kiss while laughing at their reactions.

Selen pretended none of this was happening and ate her breakfast. Once again, she didn't have nearly enough f*cks to give.

Once they finished their breakfast, they made their way to the training centre. Alice had a skip to her step feeling rather happy with her outfit.

"Let's see... If the schedule is right, we should be going to area G for our group." Alice muttered, looking at the schedule.

Looking around the training grounds, she spotted Bo waiting by area G. Upon spotting Alice, he gave her a big wave.

"Over here!" He called out with a laugh.

Jogging over, Alice could see that there were three others who were waiting for them.

"How are your injuries? Feeling better?" Alice asked curiously.

"It's all healed up don't worry. Will you be alright with that uniform though?"

"Fufu~ I adjusted it myself. Cute isn't it?" Alice smiled while Bo scratched his cheek.

"You see... these uniforms are sprayed with beast repellent. There is less being sprayed on the uniforms for the front liners since they need to get the beast's attention. But if you modify yours like this... I'm pretty sure you're now classified as the tank." Bo explained awkwardly as Alice froze up.

*Pft...

Snapping her head to the right, Alice glanced at Selen who revealed a stoic expression.

"Then do I just spray more or..." Alice coughed awkwardly.

"It should be fine if we spray more than usual into your jacket."

In the end, Alice sat by a bench while Bo sprayed her jacket with beast repellent.

While spraying the jacket, Bo explained what they were doing today.

"The situation in the frontline is a little rocky right now so we're getting as many groups ready as soon as possible for deployment. For today, we'll be doing some squad training to see how compatible we are with fighting alongside each other.

"If everything goes well, we could be deployed in two days at the earliest."

"Jeez isn't that a bit fast? We've just met one another for a day. Is a haphazard group like this really suitable?" Alice blinked her eyes in surprise.

"That's just how serious the situation is. But I'm sure you can handle it just fine. You managed to keep up with me with our first cooperation after all." Bo reassured with a laugh.

Once he was done spraying the beast repellent, he clapped his hands and had everyone group up.

Surprised by how fast Selen assembled, Bo cleared his throat.

"Today we'll be going on a patrol around Agar's Canyon. The goal is to find a beast rivalling an Advanced Master rank Warrior. The Mortis Necrothrax. Once you find it, you're expected to hunt it down with efficiency. Improvise with what you have, adapt to one another to find your strengths and overcome your weaknesses.

"I will not be lending a hand for this battle so it'll be up to you to defeat it. Is clear?!" Bo shouted.

""HU RAH!!""

"?!?!" Flinching from the sudden shout from the other three, Alice blinked her eyes as it seemed to be a war cry of sorts. An affirmation that they understood the order.

"Good. Take this time to introduce yourselves to one another. I'll get us a carriage to take us to Agar's Canyon." Bo nodded with a smile and left for the stables, leaving the five alone.

Silence filled the area as Alice scratched her cheek from the awkwardness. Seeing as how everyone was silent, she decided to take the first step.

"Alice Agnelia. I primarily focus on abilities but because my body is wounded, I'm focusing on acting as a support. I'll be blocking attacks and helping you navigate the battlefield. Looking forward to working with all of you. In terms of ranking... I'm a Master rank Warrior with four spirits.

Though I can't access them right nowahaha." Alice smiled and tried to be casual but none of the warriors smiled.

"Selen. Ability focused. I take a damage role with some utility. Advanced Master rank with five Spirits." Selen followed up with a short and direct introduction.

"Bjorn. Bow focused. Damage role with some utility. Advanced Master rank with five Spirits." Bjorn followed up with a similar reply to Selen. He's a tall slim warrior with dark skin. Dark hair that was pulled back into braids with the right side being shaven.

A tattoo could be seen stretching from his arm up to the side of his head.

He wore the standard uniform without any modifications unlike Alice and carried a bow on his back.

However, there wasn't a quiver in sight thus Alice concluded that his abilities were responsible for his arrows.

"Einar. Frontline. Advanced Master rank with five Spirits."

Einar stood taller than any of them and sported a short haircut swept back and shaved around the side and back. A beard and blue tattoos across his body and arms.

Much like Egil, he barely wore any armour as he seemed to be rather confident in his physical body. Wearing only a fur cloak, leather arm guards, leather belt, a pair of pants and boots.

And finally, the only one left was a tall woman who was roughly the same height as Selen.

A rather bulky physique with thick leather padding, a large metal shield on her back and a mace on her waist.

She had long blonde hair tied into a single braid.

"Brynja. Support. Advanced Master rank with five Spirits." She introduced herself while giving Alice a dirty glare.

Blinking her eyes in confusion, Alice wondered why Brynja seemed to dislike her quite a bit. This was their first meeting after all.

But with Brynja's introduction, Alice got a rough understanding of the composition for this party.

Einar acts as a frontliner with Selen to help him. Bo, being the speedy type, would pick off high priority targets. Bjorn supported from range and Alice covered the whole party with her shield.

She wasn't sure what power Brynja has but she seems to be taking a similar role.

'Overall it's a balanced composition. I don't know their stat lines so it's hard to guess what kind of fighter they will be in the midst of battle. The more information she gathers, the more effective she'll be when they fight the beast.

If she could synchronize herself with the party like she did with Bo then their power will increase by roughly 20%.

Spying on the group introducing themselves to one another, Bo let out a sigh as he felt worried about this composition.

In order to balance out their stat lines, they were paired to compensate for each other's weaknesses.

Einar has high Strength, Bjorn has high Endurance, Alice has abnormally high Spiritual stat, Brynja has high Physicality and he has high Speed. Selen acts as an anchor for this group.

However.

This only succeeds if they can work with one another properly. Einar, Bjorn and Brynja look like they have no intentions of playing nice with Alice or Selen since the three of them have been grouping together for a while now.

Massaging his temples, Bo let out another fatigued sigh. He wasn't sure if Torgeir was venting frustrations on him but this composition certainly felt like it.

Regardless, he was given a job and he was going to do it.

At least the Mortis Necrothrax was a compatible beast for this kind of composition. High defence but a weak attack.

It'll give them plenty of time to get used to one another.

Jumping down, he pulled the carriage towards the group.

"Seems like introductions are done. I hope you understand your roles and where you should stand in battle. Protect both Alice and Brynja since they are your supports. Without them, the fight will become much harder. Bjorn, you'll drive the carriage since you know the way." Bo ordered as Bjorn nodded his head and jumped into the driver's seat while the rest climbed onto the back.

Departing from the city, Bo looked at the group once more.

Alice looked at her surroundings with a childish glimmer in her eyes. Selen simply sat in silence without showing any emotion. Brynja who snuck glares at Alice and Einar who focused on his greatsword.

Once again, Bo began to doubt whether or not this party would succeed as they proceeded towards Agar's Canyon.

Chapter 404 - 404: Beast Within The Canyon

Agar's Canyon.

A Canyon named after Lord Agar, the previous Abyss Lord of Titans and one of the founding figures of the Verona Queendom.

During the fight against a Lord of the Extalia Kingdom, he sacrificed his life to release a single devastating slash that forever altered the landscape of the mountain. Even with abilities that conjure earth, Warriors discovered that the terrain could not be altered no matter what they did.

If they tried to fix the Canyon, the earth would crumble apart. If they tried to carve out the mountain, the excavated earth would crumble while the hole would mend itself.

Ignorant of this property, the Verona Queendom had lost a few miners who were tasked with excavating this mountain for important materials.

Riding the shaking carriage, Alice could see the Canyon in the distance. Flanked by two large mountains, a single path and a sheer cliff on the left and a mountainous forest on the right, Alice could feel her hair stand on end.

"Even after all these years, the aura of Lord Agar's strike persists to this day. Those with a high instinct stat like you will sense it clearly while those with lower stats need to be closer." Bo chuckled seeing Alice rubbing her arms while glancing at the Canyon.

"I'm more surprised that the earth refuses to be changed after his strike. Have people ever found out the true cause or is it just because he had that much power to alter the land?" Alice asked curiously.

She's seen the wreckages left by Lords and Apostles alike during her time roaming the Abyss. However, this was the first time she heard that the land refused to be changed.

"It's more to do with Lord Agar's abilities as the Abyss Lord of Titans. If I recall the stories accurately, his strike sealed a portion of the enemy Lord's abilities in the land. This essentially crippled one of the Lords belonging to Extalia while also making it so that his title couldn't be passed on unless he died.

"But you should take that with a grain of salt since I heard it from a Bard's tale. No one dared watch the battle between Lords as it would be a miracle should you survive. They are practically living breathing natural disasters after all." Bo laughed.

While the difference between six Sigils and seven Sigils may be just one Sigil, the gap was practically insurmountable. To attain the acknowledgement of the Abyss and be granted its blessings upgraded your body beyond mortal limits. No matter how much power someone has, without that blessing, no one would be able to reach their full potential.

"We're all familiar with the story of Lord Agar, captain. I don't see why you want to tell her about our history." Brynja grumbled while Bo shook his head.

"If Alice doesn't want to know, she'll verbalise it. I'm merely acting upon the curiosity she displays for our culture. If she wishes to learn more, I don't see why I should stop her." Bo lectured with a frown.

He wasn't sure why Brynja was being this petty towards Alice but he wasn't going to stand for it.

"Urg..." Gritting her teeth, Brynja bit her lip but nodded her head.

Making their way through the Canyon, Bo jumped off the carriage and kneeled next to some tracks.

Furrowing his brows, he placed his hand on top of the footprint. A wave of energy pulsed out from his body for a moment, knocking aside the snow.

"Got him." He muttered, standing up.

"The Mortis Necrothrax is deep inside this forest. From here on out, I'll be observing. Remember, work as a group to cover one another's weaknesses." Bo reminded as he disappeared into the trees.

Alice and Selen nodded at one another as they both jumped off the carriage and pulled out their weapons.

Splitting her shard into several fragments, she had them hover around each member of the party. Einar and Bjorn looked at the shard with doubt while Brynja furrowed her brows in disdain but didn't make a move to swat it away.

Doing so would just cause Bo to be angry with her.

With Einar taking the lead, the group followed behind with Alice creating a grid around them.

The moment anything approaches this grid, she'll notice.

As they walked through the forest, snow began to fall. Trees were blanketed in a layer of white while the tracks behind them were being hidden.

Alice could feel the coldness assaulting her body with the tip of her nose turning red. Forgetting that her resistance to elements had weakened thanks to her injured body, Alice was beginning to regret the action of making her outfit cute.

Just as she thought this, Bjorn halted the party.

Furrowing his brows, he grabbed a dagger and climbed up a tree.

Closing his eyes for a moment, his ears began to twitch.

"It's approaching, fast." He called out as flames condensed between his fingers and turned into an arrow.

"Positions!" Einar shouted. Slamming his hand into the ground, energy condensed around his palm as he pulled out a greatsword almost as tall as he is.

Both Einar and Brynja took a defensive position with their backs to one another without caring for Alice and Selen.

Seeing this, Alice could only roll her eyes and shrug at Selen.

"No matter." Selen ignored it and summoned her staff. Holding her sword by her side, she narrowed her eyes and scanned her surroundings.

Even though the Necrothrax was approaching fast, it still hadn't pierced the boundary that Alice had set up around them.

At that moment, Alice sensed a high speed projectile piercing through her grid.

Widening her eyes, she immediately gathered the shards at a single point and expanded the barrier.

***BANG!!! CRACK!!!**

Shattering the shield in one go, Alice froze up seeing the large bone spike that was sticking out of the shard. Sparks of crimson lashed out from the bone as it began to erode the protective barrier.

Seeing this, Alice dismissed her shield and recalled the fragments.

While she was blocking the surprise attack, Bjorn took this moment to fire an arrow towards the source of the attack but there was no response. The beast had already left its position.

'Fast and it has ranged attacks.' Alice thought to herself with a frown.

If she could still use her energy, she would've sent out a pulse to try and detect the beast. But from the looks of things, Bjorn had already tried that yet it was still out of detection range.

Once more, Alice sensed a rapidly approaching projectile and gathered her shards.

***BOOM!!!**

Before it could collide with the shield, it imploded into an array of violent crimson sparks that tore up the ground around them.

Selen created a barrier to deflect the attack, protecting Alice while Brynja formed a protective dome for Einar.

Bjorn was out of the range so he was safe from the attack.

"It's changing the way it's attacking. This one was clearly prepared for when I try to block it." Alice frowned.

However, it wasn't something they couldn't deal with right now.

"Let me know if it gets within range. You should remember my limit right?" Selen suggested as Alice nodded her head.

Expanding the range of her shards, her main goal was to find where the target was rather than block things. Selen and Brynja had it covered.

***BANG!!! BANG!!!**

Two rapid hits, one from the north and one from the south.

'It's that fast???' Alice thought to herself in disbelief as it was still out of her range yet it was able to fire the second shot despite a small delay.

Gritting her teeth, she spun the shards in a circular motion around them.

This time, since the beast chose speed over power, her shards were able to knock the spikes barely off course as they slammed into the ground beside them, knocking up a wall of snow.

"What are you doing!? You're blinding our vision!" Brynja shouted in frustration as a vein bulged on Alice's neck.

'Ignore it, ignore it.' She chanted to herself in her mind as this was no time to be fighting with her 'allies'. The beast was the main concern.

While she may be able to kill five star beasts usually, this wasn't her usual state. She was vulnerable.

"West! It's preparing to fire again!" Bjorn shouted from the trees.

"Nah, not this time." Einar gritted his teeth.

Twisting his body, his muscles bulged as he slammed his greatsword into the ground and cleaved up.

*CRACK!!!

Erupting from the ground, a wave of destructive energy rushed towards the west while infernal chains flanked its sides.

"Rush it down!" Einar commanded, crouching down and jumping towards the west.

Looking at one another, Alice and Selen nodded. Without giving Alice a chance to prepare herself, Selen threw Alice over her shoulder like a sack of potatoes and jumped after Einar.

"..."

'At least carry me gently or something.' Alice retorted in her mind jokingly while focusing on setting up a new grid with her shards.

Approaching the beast, Selen threw Alice away and planted her staff into the ground.

Activating her Sigil ability, a dome manifested around the beast just before it could escape.

However, it refused to be captured as its body turned into a blur. A flurry of bone spikes rushed towards Selen but Alice countered with her shards.

With the brief moment of safety that Alice bought, Selen was able to complete her skill as the dome collapsed and the strands of energy embedded itself into the beast's body and slowed down its movements.

Soon, its appearance could be seen with clarity.

[Mortis Necrothrax - ♦♦♦♦♦]

Chapter 405 - 405: Mortis Necrothrax

What stood before then was an unholy beast of bone and necrotic energy. Its skull, elongated and coated with jagged edges and a crown of spikes. The hollow sockets of its eyes burned with a demonic crimson light as faint screams could almost be heard from each flicker of its eerie radiance.

Its jaw cracked apart to reveal the needle like fangs, dripping with a disgusting blend of saliva and a thick black liquid that hissed and sizzled upon touching the snow beneath its body.

Each splash of this strange mix would corrode the ground, releasing what Alice only assume to be toxic fumes.

Strands of eroding flesh and malevolent energy clung onto its skeletal structure. The demonic spine that ran down its back was littered with countless bone spikes. The tail slammed against the ground as the tip began to regrow.

Chains and barbed wire fused against the remnants of its flesh and bone. Each movement echoed and hummed with the symphony of anguished torture. Yet despite the chains, it was not an enslaved beast. No, these chains have dug into its flesh since its conception from the pits of the Abyss.

Just its aura corroded the very air that touched it as strands of necrotic energy would overflow from its corpse like body.

Truly a harbinger of doom. A beast representing the mockery of life. An unholy being living beyond death and despair.

A beast thus named the Mortis Necrothrax.

Standing before this behemoth of death, Alice felt a chill down her spine. Never has she seen such a foul beast that dissuaded her from fighting just by existing.

"Stop spacing out!" Selen shouted, breaking Alice out of her trance.

Focusing her mind, she created a pathway of small footholds for Selen.

Rushing towards the beast while her staff was slowing down its movements. She twisted her body and slammed her sword against the neck.

*CLANG!!!

Flinching from the impact, her blade trembled from the hit as she wasn't even able to leave a scratch!

'What kind of durability is this???' Alice widened her eyes. She was very familiar with how much power Selen could exert through her attacks yet she was unable to leave a single mark!

*URAHH!!!!

Attempting to crush Selen between its jaws, the Necrothrax missed its target as Alice managed to drag Selen out of danger using her shards.

Glancing at the others who also broke out of their trance, Alice wanted to make a path for them to attack its body but they ignored it.

A wave of arrows rained down from above, embedding themselves into its body before detonating into a brilliant sea of flames.

Yet no matter how flashy the attack was, the Necrothrax remained unharmed!

"What kind of sturdy defence is this?" Selen asked, massaging her wrist. This was the first time in her life that she felt such a backlash from her attack. Not even the instructors at the Zenia family had this kind of defence.

"There has to be a gap that we can exploit. Thankfully your flag is keeping it slow otherwise it'll be both fast AND durable." Alice sighed, creating an angled shield to push off a claw swipe for Einar.

But rather than showing his gratitude, he showed annoyance as he was fully prepared to parry that by himself.

In exchange for its blistering speed and strong durability, the Necrothrax was lacking immensely in terms of offensive power.

It wasn't a beast that was difficult to hunt. Sure durable to the point where even hitting directly with the power of a five star Hutner may not deal significant damage!

Furrowing her brows, Alice focused on keeping Selen safe and knocking aside any stray hits that may fly towards Einer and Brynja.

Ignoring the fact that Alice was trying to synchronize herself to their fighting style, Einar appeared beneath the beast after dodging a claw swipe and slashed up with his greatsword.

Yet upon landing on his feet, he noticed that the cleave was shattered by the bone armour.

Admittedly, all of them had underestimated the armour but this was still ridiculous. Not even his strength could pierce it!

"Brynja!"

"Don't shout! I'm on it!"

Jumping up, she slammed her shield against the side of the Necrothrax's head.

*BANG!!!

The impact of her slam caused the beast to stumble back as the tail twitched for a moment.

A bad feeling invaded Alice's mind. Without hesitation, she slammed her hand down and created a miniature barrier around herself and Selen.

Raising its tail, it began to twitch and soon, an omnidirectional tsunami of spikes shot out.

Even though she had made the necessary preparations with her shield, the collision still caused her to be sent back from the impact as a splinter of the bone had even made a cut on her arm.

Einar blocked what he could and tanked the rest while Brynja hid behind her shield.

Bjorn, despite being rather far out, had a bone shard pierce his shoulder.

Retreating by himself, he took this time to heal up.

Once the rain of bone spikes stopped, Alice glanced at Selen as she nodded and took a deep breath.

Since she got the signal from Alice, she was going to fight however she wanted! Alice will adapt to her rhythm!

Activating acceleration on herself, she flickered above the beast and pierced down with her blade.

However, her stab failed to penetrate the uppermost layer of the rotting flesh and caused the sword to bend.

Furrowing her brows in annoyance, she twisted her body and kicked herself away using the footholds that appeared where she needed them to be. This allowed her to block a quick stab by the beast as the spines on its back expanded rapidly before returning back to normal.

Stabilizing herself on a set of footholds floating in midair, Selen frowned.

She had a few options right now but the one she didn't want to use was her Resonance. She couldn't predict what else might happen and since she was the only one properly guarding Alice right now, she needed to preserve this trump card!

Summoning a staff, she crouched down and dashed towards the ground.

Realising what Selen was aiming for, Alice created a series of launchers that'll help her place the anchor points down exactly where she wanted them.

While Selen was doing this, Einar continued to tank the beast while Brynja granted him layers upon layers of protection and buffs to help him maintain the one on one.

However, this lack of communication almost caused Einar to drag the beast out of Selen's confinement while Brynja interrupted Selen's dash pathing, causing them to collide.

This collision allowed the beast a moment to breathe as it reared its head back and unleashed a roar that pushed away the snow.

Reacting to its cry, the bone shards that had scattered throughout the battlefield began to vibrate.

Danger!

Immediately using her fragments to protect her and Selen's vitals, Alice managed to react just in time as the shards exploded in mass and transformed into a deadly forest of spikes!

"URG!!!" Blood dripped from the corner of her mouth as Alice gritted her teeth.

The spikes had pierced through her arm, and thigh with one even coming close to taking out her eye but Alice managed to move her head at the last moment.

Her heart pounded against her chest as she struggled to free herself from the prison of spikes.

*CRACK!!!

Slashing down with her sword, Selen had rushed to Alice's side even though she had taken some damage herself. Even though it wasn't fatal, she was still bleeding across the body.

Freeing Alice from the confinement, she helped her pull out the large spikes while handing her a healing vial from her pouch.

She only had two vials after buying some from the supply shop as there was a limited amount to go around. Each person was limited to two vials.

Drinking the vial, Alice could hear her flesh sizzling as it stitched itself together but it was far inferior when compared to her original regeneration. And once again, the healing stopped once the wounds closed up.

Ignoring her anger for now, Alice turned her attention to both Einar and Brynja who took heavy damages from that last attack.

Brynja had a nasty wound on her abdomen while Einar had his forearm pierced by the spike, making it impossible for him to hold his greatsword using two hands.

"What the f*ck are you doing?!?!" Brynja shouted in anger. If it wasn't for the random crap that both Alice and Selen were doing, they wouldn't have shown such a gap to the beast.

"HAH?!?!?" Hearing this, Alice's patience had reached its limit as Brynja had done nothing but blame them since the start of this fight even though neither of them was on the same wavelength.

To her, only Alice and Selen made mistakes while they were perfect as usual.

Holding Alice back from causing a fight, Selen shook her head with a frown.

"We can fight her later, let's focus on the beast for now."

Gritting her teeth, Alice took a deep breath and nodded.

"Any plans?" Alice asked.

Her offensive power was sorely lacking and the best she could do was assist Selen's movement and fend off dangerous attacks.

The fact that they had nothing to penetrate the beast's weakness worried her but there was bound to be a weakness.

"I've noticed that it had some... strange movements while defending against attacks. It seems like there is a specific spot it doesn't want to get hit." Selen hesitated for a moment.

"Why didn't you say so earlier? Where is it? I'll help you reach it." Alice blinked her eyes, urging Selen to speak about this weakness.

Coughing awkwardly, Selen debated for a moment before opening her mouth.

"The base of the tail. Between the legs."

"???" Hearing this, Alice was stunlock.

'Isn't that just its ass??'

Chapter 406 - 406: Killing The Necrothrax

'Isn't that just its ass??' Alice's smile twitched as she couldn't believe Selen had just suggested that they hit the ass of all locations.

"Something wrong?" Selen tilted her head in confusion seeing Alice's hesitance.

"Wouldn't... hitting the ass only piss it off more?" Alice asked while keeping an eye on the Necrothrax. Right now, it was being distracted by both Einar and Brynja so they could have this conversation.

"It's a bit of a gamble. But a lot of energy passes through that location, especially when it fires the tail spikes. If I land a good strike against it, I should be able to cut off its tail." Selen shook her head.

Forcing a smile, Alice realised that Selen didn't understand that she was hinting at the fact they should aim elsewhere.

But seeing as how Selen was determined, Alice couldn't help but sigh as her smile twitched furiously.

"But does it really have to be the ass???" Alice asked, hoping to bargain.

"Are you seriously still stuck on this???"

"Well of course I am! It's the ass for gods sake! The ass!" Alice emphasised. Even if she was shameless, she wasn't this shameless as to target the ass of her enemy mid fight! If she doesn't die from their attacks she'll die from shame!

"Look! It's a life or death situation so just help me target the ass already!" Selen shouted as their hesitation may lead to this opportunity disappearing.

Blushing from embarrassment, Alice let out an exasperated sigh and reluctantly nodded her head.

"I'll make a pathway for you then. Just focus on aiming for it and dodging when you can. Don't worry about missing a foothold, I got you pretty much all figured out." Alice reassured as she flicked her wrist and created several footholds leading towards the beast.

Seeing this, Selen crouched down activating her acceleration and dashed towards the beast.

Noticing Selen's approach, spikes shot out from the forest around them but Selen could see them approaching with ease. Twirling her staff, the space around her started to distort. The spikes that entered this boundary slowed down as she used them as footholds to dash into the air.

The space around the Necrothrax became her playground while both Einar and Brynja were confused as to how Selen was able to move like this.

Meanwhile, Alice hid in the forest of spikes.

With the beast being focused on both Selen and Einar, this was the perfect environment for her to thrive in her current state.

While shards created footholds for Selen, Alice adjusted the terrain around both Einar and Brynja's feet, helping them navigate the beast while they were also distracted.

The sudden shift of the ground beneath them caused their balance to change, helping them narrowly dodge what would be considered a dangerous strike.

However, instead of feeling grateful, both Einar and Brynja threw curses towards Alice, blaming her for making them lose their footing.

'F*ck it, they can die for all I care.' Alice concluded. Even though she would prefer to knock some senses into them herself, she didn't have a chance for that.

*BANG!!!

A claw slammed into Brynja's shield while spikes fired from its shoulders. Piercing into Brynja's torso, she stumbled back.

"What are you doing?! Aren't you a shielder?! F*cking useless b*tch!"

*PUCHI!

She was definitely getting punched after this battle.

Ignoring the useless shouts from Einar and Brynja, Alice created two launch pads for Selen.

Dashing in an arch over the Necrothrax, Selen positioned herself for the final strike as Alice activated the springboard beneath her.

*BANG!!!

Stacking as many acceleration buffs onto herself as she could, Selen's blade hummed with a vibrant blue. Her figure disappeared with a burst of energy.

*ARG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A gut wrenching scream erupted from the beast, blasting away the snow within the vicinity as Alice flinched and turned her eyes away.

Even without staring at the battle, she knew what had happened. That last fraction of a moment where Selen appeared right beneath the beast's rear.

*BANG!!!

The sound of heavy bones slamming against the ground could be heard as Alice glanced up and saw the Necrothrax missing its tail.

Blood poured out from the wound as Selen wasn't done. Adjusting her posture, she unleashed a flurry of slashes and stabs, cleaving a path into the innards of the beast.

Seeing this method of attack, Alice paled, clutching her rear out of instinct. A phantom pain assaulted her mind.

Most would avoid this kind of method since they would be soaked in the blood of an Abyss Beast. However, for Selen who was experimented on by the byproduct of Alice's blood, this was nothing!

With Einar and Brynja staring in disbelief while Bjorn had just finished healing himself, Selen reached the neck and released a crescent slash!

Tearing off the head with one spiral motion, she stood on the stump of a neck and panted heavily.

Blood coated her entire body as the beast slumped against the ground. Blood pooled beneath it while the malevolent energy of the flesh began to fade.

However, before they could bask in the feeling of joy, Alice's pupils shrank.

"SELEN! DUCK!" She roared, gathering all of her shards into one spot as Selen instinctively ducked as Alice had ordered.

*BANG!!!

An extra large bone shard shot out from the forest as Alice's defences were blown apart in an instant.

But she managed to succeed in diverting the attack slightly, knocking it off course and making it so that only some of Selen's hair was shredded by that attack instead of her upper torso.

*CRACK!!!

Watching the shard dig deep into a tree, cold sweat filled Selen's spine as she hadn't expected a second one to appear so fast.

All of them were exhausted right now. Selen didn't think she could attack with the same vigour she had done just now, even if she was to use her Resonance. Einar looked battered and bruised while Brynja wasn't much better.

Even though Bjorn managed to heal his wound, his scouting ability diminished greatly as he wasn't able to detect the second beast.

And finally, for Alice, one fight was her current limit. She could see the exhaustion on Alice's face as recovering her shards drained a great deal of stamina from her.

Thankfully, it didn't seem like they needed to fight a second round.

*BANG!!!

The sound of collision could be heard as the ground trembled from the impact.

Flashes of light flickered in the distance while a familiar burst of energy erupted from the second being.

Recognising it to be Bo, Alice sighed in relief and slumped onto the ground.

After a brief moment, Bo returned covered in the Nercrothrax's blood and held its head in his hand.

Just as Alice was about to greet him, she saw a hint of anger in his eyes and decided to not say anything for now.

"Back to the cart and tend to your wounds!" He shouted.

Everyone could tell that he wasn't happy and followed the order without saying anything back.

Once they were on the carriage, Bo had Bjorn drive them back.

Sitting on the back, the silence was deafening as Bo continuously tapped his heel against the floorboard.

"Care to tell me what that was during the fight? No one giving orders and people throwing blame around. Not caring about the wound sustained by people you don't like, not properly grabbing attention, not notifying your allies of your intentions. A Mortis Necrothrax should be something you can deal with easily, that's why I picked it as our first outing.

"But what happened? Two of you almost died and you were too exhausted to even notice the second one. You didn't even have enough stamina to kill it yourself!" Bo lectured as veins bulged on his neck.

"Reflect on everything that happened today. I want a report once we get back. As group captain, I can't let this go on otherwise you'll die the moment you step onto the battlefield." He spat out in annoyance.

Crossing her leg, Alice rested her chin on her hand while glancing at the passing surroundings.

He wasn't wrong but it's not exactly easy to work with someone who hates you for no reason. Not only that, but no matter what she did, blame was thrown her way.

She tries to help them, she was being a bother.

She doesn't try to help them, she was being useless.

No matter what she did, they weren't satisfied so naturally, Alice wouldn't care if they got hit or not. Might as well focus her attention on Selen who's actually doing something for the team.

Of course, it didn't mean she should leave them to die but saving them left a bitter taste in her mouth.

Seeing the reaction of the group to his order, Bo sighed inwardly. With things as they are, it's going to be impossible for them to cooperate well enough for their deployment in two days.

Unfortunately, the frontline needed reinforcements and the new recruits were the only ones nearby.

'I guess a silver lining is that Alice is very adaptive. As long as her teammates were cooperative to some degree.

He had to admit that if it wasn't for the strange hostility from Brynja, the fight might've gone a bit better since Alice was already covering for them.

If he could solve the issues between them, the power of this group would increase by two fold.

Then there was the case of Selen.

There wasn't much to say about her except that last attack. Just thinking about it cause him to shiver as he shuffled in his seat. From now, just in case he was to meet someone like Selen in the future, he'll reinforce his rear with a bit of energy as a precaution.

After all, surely there wasn't someone with such a sadistic hobby as to target the rear mid fight. Right?

Chapter 407 - 407: Returning From The Canyon

Making their way back to the outpost, Alice could see that most of the other groups had returned and were relatively unharmed.

They had wide smiles on their faces and talked about getting a drink at the tavern.

However, their group was battered and bruised. Bo even had to step in to ensure that they were alive.

"Get something to eat first then we'll talk. I know you're not fond of each other so we'll talk one on one." Bo instructed, making his way to the building where Torgeir was.

Seeing this, Alice sighed as she figured she might as well grab a drink for now.

"Wanna get a drink?" Alice offered Selen but she shook her head.

There were things she needed to reflect upon after this training excursion and she'd rather not use this time to drown herself in alcohol.

Shrugging her shoulders, Alice made her way to the tavern and ordered a few jugs of mead for herself and some snacks.

Looking for a table to sit on, all of the tables within the tavern were taken.

However, hidden away by the side, she spotted a familiar large figure by the window.

Curling her lips into a smile, she hopped over and placed her jugs on the table.

"What's up big guy? Seems like you also had a rough time." Alice laughed as she sat down opposite him and offered a jug.

Raising an eyebrow, Egil didn't think Alice would take the initiative to sit at his table.

But considering that she was the one who helped him get this opportunity, he didn't see why he shouldn't talk. She even brought over a jug of mead to share.

"It's hard to escape the shadow of your past. But I should be able to manage since I have a sturdy body." Egil chuckled, reaching for the jug.

"Hou~ Seems like your group isn't cooperating either. I don't know why but the gal in my group hates me on first meeting ahah. She even started blaming me for all kinds of sh*t during the fight even though I literally saved her life like twice. Well... maybe not that far since she's pretty sturdy but you know what I mean." Alice complained, raising her own jug and knocking it against his.

"Wait what?" Recoiling at the mention of such an incident, confusion filled Egil's mind.

Who would be unhappy that someone saved them in the middle of a battle?

Swinging her head back, Alice gulped down several mouthfuls of mead and began to recount the hunt.

How they ran into the Mortis Necrothrax and how the fight went.

The more he heard, the more his expression faltered.

Truly, the dynamic of her team confused him. He could still remember the passive pressure that Alice was exerting during their duel when Bo was acting as her representative.

If it wasn't for her giving him the freedom of movement that he had, Bo would've been defeated rather quickly. It was only thanks to Alice's quick judgment and pinpoint control that helped Bo push him to the limit.

For someone to not appreciate this kind of help and even call her useless was... baffling to Egil.

"Seems like you had it rougher than me." Egil chuckled.

"Who knows. You still haven't told me what happened on your hunt yet." Alice shrugged.

It was more of a passive annoyance if she was being honest. There were ways for her to deal with it and even now, she was forming new plans for the next day.

"Mostly just people throwing attacks while I'm next to the beast. It doesn't hurt but when I'm not expecting it, it's still surprising." Egil sighed.

Even though he was brief, Alice understood how difficult it must be to reign in his anger if people kept throwing attacks at his back.

He couldn't exactly fight back because of Torgeir keeping an eye on him yet if he keeps taking these hits, he'll reach a limit and will do something he regrets.

"Indeed. Sometimes you just wanna let loose and smack some sense into them but they're so fragile. If I wasn't injured, one hit is all I need." Alice lamented.

It was true, one Void Flux was all she needed to take out most of the Warriors she's seen.

Hell, Void Flux wasn't even needed for some of them! Just her partial Bloodline release would've been enough.

Yet here she was, a body that couldn't handle her power.

Thinking about this, Alice became curious.

If her body couldn't handle it, what if she was to forcefully bring it up to the standard? To consume the blood of someone stronger and raise her Sigil count.

When her thought process reached this stage, Alice sat up.

Her smile twitched as she had an idea of why her body was in this state. The biggest suspect was Kaden's feather! To consume such a concentrated mass of power from an Apostle at that.

'There's no way right?' She laughed but doubt lingered in her mind.

Right now, this was the most likely answer.

'I guess next time don't eat random crap. Kaden did give that feather to protect us rather than for you to eat it.' Alyss rolled her eyes.

'Oh shut up you were pretty impressed when I did it.' Alice scoffed.

Turning her attention back on Egil who was confused by why she was suddenly silent, Alice coughed and cleared her throat.

"I'm sure your group will get better. After all, if they don't, they're just sabotaging themselves. Torgeir won't choose people who'll keep throwing attacks at their allies back, no matter how durable they are. As long as you prove he didn't make a mistake in giving you a chance then it's fine." Alice reassured as Egil nodded his head.

Swinging his head back, he finished his drink in one go.

"Thanks for this by the way. I'll make sure I pay you back." He grinned. However since this was the second time he said it, it sounded less persuasive.

Giving him a small wave, Alice watched as Egil left the tavern to continue his training.

While he may have a strong physique and defensive power, his offensive options were lacking. Or so he claimed. Thus he needed to find ways to channel his power into offensive potential.

Seeing Egil working towards an unknown goal, Alice felt a little inspired.

Now that she had an idea of why her body might be acting this way, it was about time she tried to resolve it.

Of course, she still needed information. No matter how much of a rush she was in, charging in blindly would just destroy her in the process.

Finishing her drink, Alice was about to leave when another jug was placed down in front of her.

"You're the last one left." Bo gestured for her to remain seated.

"I'm guessing the other talks when pretty good if you're here so soon." Alice accepted the mead with a smile.

"Somewhat. They only require small reminders. Bjorn got easily distracted by what's in front of him and was too confident that the attacks won't hit him.

"Einar just need a reminder on how to keep the beast's attention properly. Brynja... Needed a reminder to not bring personal feelings into a battle. Still, she didn't say why she didn't like you only that she'll keep it in mind for the next battle." Bo scratched his hair.

"Selen was fine except she needed to be more open minded and help the others as well. But you? You're probably the one that's giving me the most headache. How do I put it... You've never played a supportive role before have you?" He asked as Alice shook her head.

While she has supported Ria in the past during a battle, it's more as a supportive damage dealer rather than a full on support.

"That's the issue. How do I put it... You're and Brynja are the keys for this team to cooperate with one another. As supports, your job is to bring out the most out of your allies. However, during the fight, you were fighting with far too high of an expectation for them.

"Expectations comes only after experience and trust. But instead, you were so focussed on what was possible, you didn't see what was happening around you. Sometimes it's better to take a step back and assess the situation as a whole before making a move. That way, you can see the full picture."

"I know it's probably impossible to ask you two to work together properly. So instead, I told them to just do their thing and don't antagonize you. It's better for you as well right?" Bo asked as Alice nodded her head with a smile.

"Yep that works perfectly for me. If they fight as per usual, I can study how they move and help them. But if they force themselves to act differently, their choices and habits will begin to conflict."

"If that's how it is then everything should be alright. Just try your best since we'll be heading out early to hunt again tomorrow. Our target this time is a Dreadhorn Ravager. It's the same rank as the Mortis Necrothrax but make no mistake, it's more aggressive so you'll have to take more care than you did today." Bo reminded as he stood up and made his way out.

Finishing her drink, Alice wiped her mouth and leaned back.

'I'll ask Torgeir for some of his blood as emergency next time I see him.' Alice thought to herself as tomorrow was going to be... interesting. Hopefully, Einar and Brynja were more cooperative this time or as Bo said, stop antagonizing her and just do their job.

Chapter 408 - 408: The Old Warrior

After drinking at the tavern, Alice had some time to kill and decided to see if there was a library of sorts at the outpost. Unfortunately, no matter how she roamed, there was no building of this sort in sight.

The closest thing she could find was a bookstore as she recalled meeting Nalem.

However, the selection of books wasn't even close to what she had expected. Forget about information on the Dreadhorn, there wasn't even a compendium on beasts located nearby.

Instead, she was redirected to an old Warrior who'd been placed within this outpost.

'According to the store owner, the old Warrior has been here longer than anyone else. If anyone has information on beasts, it should be him.' Alice thought to herself as she looked at the spot marked down on the map.

The old Warrior resided in a small house located on a hill within the outpost. It gave him a good view over the entire outpost as well as the surrounding areas. Upon arriving, Alice could feel the cold wind blowing against her body, causing her hair to flutter along with her coat.

Taking a deep breath, she was rather taken aback by the view and sensation of standing in this place. Even though it's just a small hill, the people looked tiny by the buildings. The soldiers who still train like Egil, those who play around and those who've retreated for an early night.

Sensing something on the edge of her senses, Alice furrowed her brows and glanced around.

"You have quite the sharp instinct for a young one. What brings you to an old Warrior's house?" A voice rang out beside Alice as she kept her calm and glanced over.

"There wasn't a library here so the bookstore owner told me to come here and find you. Said that you probably had the information I want regarding beasts." Alice replied.

The old Warrior had well kept grey hair swept back and aside to reveal his wrinkled forehead. A large beard with a moustache. His current outfit consisted simply of a rugged set up with a large tattered coat.

For an occupation that gets injured easily and even die, the fact that this man had lived to this age without a single scar was impressive. Not only that, but Alice couldn't see any signs of side effects. Meaning he hasn't consumed that much Abyss Blood.

"Hou? Not many Warriors these days even ask for information. It's a practice that's mostly done in the Abyss since the beasts there are far more ferocious. Which beast do you want to know about?" He asked with a smile while scratching his beard.

"Dreadhorn Ravager."

"Hmm..." Closing his eyes, the old Warrior began to recall the beast as he walked over to a set of chairs and sat down. Gesturing for Alice to sit down as well, he reached into his pouch and pulled out some fruit for them to enjoy.

"It's a pretty nasty beast you've gone and chosen for this hunt." The old Warrior remarked as the Dreadhorn Ravager had another nickname from those who have hunted it before.

The personification of wrath.

A beast of raw unfiltered wrath than kills everything and anything. It's one of if not these most aggressive beasts you have fight if the conditions line up.

"Well it wasn't really my choice. Squad Captain said it's the next beast we're hunting down to improve coordination." Alice shrugged, accepting the fruit as she took a bite.

One bite was all it took for the juice to burst out from the fruit. The sweet flavours and flesh of the fruit melted in Alice's mouth as her eyes blinked in surprise.

"Hahaha, take your time, there are plenty of fruit left." The old Warrior laughed, taking out a handkerchief for Alice.

Thanking the old man, she finished the fruit quickly as he handed her another.

Since it was tasty, there was no reason to reject.

"The Ravager is a nasty beast with a myriad of ways to escape. Despite its nickname, Personification of Wrath, it's a pretty cowardly beast. Shadowmeld and Berserk Regeneration. These two you need to watch out for." The old Warrior began to explain as Alice listened intently.

"Shadowmeld lets it sink into the shadows and lung out when it wants to strike. It can also use it to run away by dashing in between the shadows in its surroundings. However, you can usually tell where it is by the way the shadow moves.

"The Ravager's affinity for shadow while good, can be disrupted pretty easily. Use light. If the 'volume' of the shadow isn't enough, it'll be forcefully expelled."

Hearing this, Alice was reminded of the ways that Kaden fights. How he sinks into the shadow as well. With this in mind, she couldn't help but wonder if one of his Sigils belongs to the Dreadhorn Ravager.

"The second thing is Berserk Regeneration. Once it comes close to death and realises that it can't escape, it'll sacrifice its vitality for a burst of energy and regeneration. All of its wounds will heal and it'll gain a boost to its physical prowess. Tough it out and the beast will be extremely vulnerable to attacks that even someone with three spirits can kill it.

"If you watch out for these two things, the rest should be easy since the Ravager is primarily a physical attacking beast. It'll almost never use casting type abilities. Ah, also keep an eye on its horns. You can think of that as its casting medium. Whenever the horn starts to glow, it'll be preparing to use an attack..."

The more Alice listened, the more she was impressed by the sheer depth of knowledge the old man possessed. The wisdom cultivated by years upon years of combat experience.

From the beast's habits, hunting priority and even where it likes to strike, the old man knew everything.

Time passed and before Alice knew, the sun had already set and the old man finished talking.

"That's everything I know about the beast. It should be rather helpful for your hunt tomorrow." He chuckled.

This was the first time anyone had listened for this long. Seeing her focus, he couldn't help but to continue. After all, who wouldn't want to teach more after seeing an eager student.

"Thank you for this information." Alice stood up and gave him a bow as he dismissed with a wave of his hand.

"It's no matter. Take my words to heart and be careful when you fight it. One moment of weakness and it'll turn its attention to you even if you have beast repellent. That's the kind of beast you're dealing with." The old man smiled while reaching into his pouch.

"I'll keep everything you said today in mind when I fight it tomorrow. Hm?" Blinking her eyes, Alice wondered what the old man wanted to give her as he held out a heavy looking sack.

"Take it. It's filled with the fruit you had earlier. Come back for more if you run out." He laughed with a soft smile.

Seeing her eating fruit while listening to him talk reminded him of his daughter before she passed away. Perhaps if she was still alive, he'll be seeing his grandchildren running around him.

Alas, reality was cruel.

Swallowing her saliva, Alice rummaged through her pouch for some coin but the old man rolled his eyes and threw the sack at her.

"An old man like me have no use for money. Just take it and come back safe tomorrow."

Catching the sack, Alice nodded her head with a smile.

"Okay, I'll definitely come back tomorrow. What's your name old man?" Alice asked, wanting to know the name of her benefactor. Plus, it'll be pretty awkward for her to keep calling him old man.

"Ragnar. And you, young lady?"

"Alice. See you tomorrow!" Alice waved as she ran downhill while grabbing a fruit to eat.

Seeing Alice run away before curfew, Ragnar let out a chuckle while brushing his beard.

He didn't think a recruit would be this sensitive. One step was all it took for her to realise he was there hence why he made the first move. It would be rather awkward if she was the one who found him first.

What's weirder was the state of her body. While they were talking, Ragnar had done a light examination on her. If he was to do a thorough examination, she would've noticed. Just from what he saw, her body was a complete mess.

A storm of opposing energy constantly colliding and fighting one another. It was a miracle she could walk normally like this.

Taking a deep breath, he looked at the city.

"Such turbulent winds..." He muttered.

There had been rats invading his outpost recently. He let them go since it wasn't his job to make a move but they're becoming more daring. Based on the rate they were gathering information from within the outpost, they'll be making their move soon.

He hoped that the bait he threw out was big enough to catch the big fishes. Shaking his head, he pulled out a fruit and took a bite.

He looked forward to what kind of story Alice would give him once she finishes her hunt tomorrow. Since her target was the Dreadhorn Ravager, it should be a rather interesting tale.

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Making her way back to her room, Alice noticed that Selen was preparing to head to bed.

"You're back pretty late."

"Ran into an interesting old man. Told me some information on what we're going to be fighting next and even gave me some fruit." Alice laughed, offering Selen one.

Thinking about it for a moment, she nodded and took a bite before immediately spitting it out.

"BLERG! What the hell is that???" She questioned as Alice tilted her head.

"What do you mean?"

"This is bitter as hell. Is that even fruit??" Selen questioned, giving Alice the fruit back as she didn't want to eat anymore.

"Just go to sleep soon. We're heading out early tomorrow since it's a long trip." Selen shook her head and turned around in her bed.

Looking at the fruit, Alice took a bite and once again, a sweet flavour burst into her mouth.

'Weird.' She shrugged. But if Selen doesn't want any, it was more for her.

Finishing the two fruits, she went to sleep, ready for the hunt tomorrow.

Chapter 409 - 409: Dreadhorn Ravager

The Dreadhorn Ravager was located a little closer to the border than the Mortis Necrothrax.

It was sighted to be approaching the outpost hence why Torgeir wanted it to be dealt with before it even gets close.

Giving her body a stretch on the carriage, Alice could see that Brynja had stopped glaring at her now.

Well, rather than stopping it's more so that she wasn't paying attention to her at all.

'Bo told them they could do whatever they wanted so long as they don't antagonize me. Seems like this battle should go more smoothly with them being like this.' Alice thought to herself while pulling out another fruit.

Similar to mead, she found herself being addicted to the sweet nature of the fruit even though Selen has expressed that it was bitter.

In her words, it tasted like eating worms.

Yet for Alice, it was sweet like candy.

The home of the Dreadhorn Ravager was usually that of a tall mountainous cave where it could use its natural abilities to the fullest degree in darkness. However, with its strange movements of approaching the outpost, its home was now a shallow groove beside a cliff.

Spotting the beast from afar, Bo hid himself in the trees while observing what the party wanted to do.

Now that the beast was in sight, Alice took a deep breath and focused her mind.

She had already made slight profiles of each member of the party based on what she saw yesterday.

Each person needed a different kind of support with Brynja being the hardest to cover.

Einar only needed Alice to disrupt the beast, making it easier for Einar to tank. Bjorn needed her to cover his blind spots. To push him out of the way if danger approaches.

But for Brynja, since she was kind of an all rounder, it was difficult to pinpoint a specific way of helping.

She had her own shield so Alice didn't need to cover for her that much and her own reactions are sufficient. She has support skills and methods to cover yet if Alice completely ignores her, she'll be by deaths door.

In terms of focus priority, it was Einar > Brynja > Bjorn then Selen. Alice was confident in Selen's capabilities of taking care of herself and would only need to interfere if the attacks get too ridiculous or if she needed help to approach the boss.

Hesitating for a moment, Einar conjured his weapon.

"Brynja cover my left. Alice... Cover my right. I'll handle things head on but if it decides to go for a side sweep, I'll be a little slow. Hinder the attacks for a moment will be enough for me to get into position." Einar explained as Alice blinked her eyes before nodding.

Since he was going out of his way to explain his requirements, Alice will make sure she remembers it.

With the other members not having anything to add, Einar gestured for them to follow behind him as he approached the hideout.

Resting by the groove, the body of the beast could be spotted. Its large frame was larger and more muscular than the Necrothrax they fought yesterday with a layer of thick coarse black and silver fur.

The most striking aspect of its appearance was the demonic horns that protruded from its head. Twisted spires of obsidian that shimmered with a deadly light.

Plated armour layered itself across the Ravager's body, covering the shoulder, back, arms, legs and spine leading all the way to the tail.

Watching as its body heaved up and down from its breathing, Einar gestured for Bjorn and Selen to begin the fight with a sneak attack.

Summoning her staff, Selen slammed it into the ground as she framed the beast between her hands.

Her Sigils lit up as a barrier began to manifest, slowing down time.

Not only that, but she added more layers to ensure the first attack was a guaranteed 'critical'.

While Selen was setting up the guaranteed critical, Bjorn jumped back a few steps and grabbed his bow. Energy gathered into his hand as he reached towards his head and flicked his arm out.

A hooded cape manifested behind him as all of his Sigils lit up.

Resonance!

The storm of energy gathered around his body as slammed the bottom of his bow into the ground.

Upon activating his resonance, his weapon grew to be larger than his own body while a quiver appeared beside him.

His entire body was covered by a dark purple energy that gathered together to form a sort of fabric. Leaning his body back, he stomped down as arrows jumped out from the quiver and planted themselves into the ground.

A swirl of violet strands coalesced above his hand as he formed an arrow and nocked the arrow onto the string.

Narrowing his gaze, a spectral arm overlapped his own as it grabbed the string and pulled back as far as the bow would allow. Rather than directly at the beast, he aimed towards the air.

Space began to twist and warp while sparks flickered from the arrow.

*CRACK!!!

Firing the arrow into the air, the ground shattered beneath his feet as the Ravager snapped its eyes open but it was already far too late.

With Selen's barrier in place, the beast could only slowly rear its head as the bright blue sky turned dark. A layer of violet covered the sky while Bjorn pointed his index finger at the beast and flicked it down.

*BANG!!!

A solid pillar of light descended upon Selen's barrier.

Widening her eyes, Alice noticed that it wasn't a solid pillar of energy.

It was in fact, countless attacks landing repeatedly in the same area.

'But it's not enough.' Alice frowned. While it may look impressive, the power it held was lacking. And if she knew one thing about beasts, it was that they wouldn't die from something of this level.

As expected, the shadow near the tree began to flicker.

"It's using Shadowmeld! Throw lights towards it, it'll force the beast out of the shadow!" Alice shouted without hesitation.

Hearing this, Bjorn jumped into action. This was the best time for him to make up for his mistakes yesterday.

Conjuring an arrow of light, he fired it towards the shadow as Alice had explained.

Once the arrow came close to the shadows, a pair of horns could be seen protruding from the ground as the Ravager's body was being forced out.

Its wrath filled eyes glared at Bjorn as it lunged out of the shadow, ready to kill!

*CLANG!!!

Slamming into the beast from the right, Einar narrowed his eyes and threw it back with his greatsword. As it was jumping through the air, Alice had already made a path of footholds for Selen to appear above it.

Twisting her body, she slashed down with her sword but it managed to block it with its tail.

However, this was enough.

Fester!

All of the wounds across the beast's body burst apart as blood splashed out. Helping Selen get back to the group, they observed the wounded beast.

Compared to yesterday's disaster, this was a far better start. The beast was wounded and bleeding from all of its wounds.

Nodding at Brynja, Einar ran towards the beast and grabbed its aggro.

Spinning its body, it tried to slam its tail into Einar from the left but Brynja reacted accordingly. She jumped between the tail and Einar and slowed it down with her shield.

It was long enough for Einar to jump up and slam his greatsword into the beast's head, forcing it to stumble back from the hit.

Shaking its head from the strike, the beast gritted its teeth but two more arrows appeared in front of its eyes.

Just as the Ravager wanted to jump away, shards pinned its legs to the ground, delaying his movement as he was forced to block the arrows with his horns.

But by doing this, it has left itself wide open for Selen.

*KRK!!!!

Releasing another slash, she dug deep into its body and tore out chunks of flesh.

"Don't let it move!" Einar shouted, slamming his shoulder into the beast's chest while chains erupted from the ground, securing it in place.

*URAH!!!!!!!!!!

Letting out a scream, the beast glared at Selen as everyone felt an invisible force restricting their body, stopping them from moving.

Strands of energy flowed from the shadow beneath it as Alice gritted her teeth.

Even though she knew it was wanting to heal, she couldn't do anything about it and could only watch as the shadows melded into its flesh, healing it in the process.

Its figure bulged and the muscles threatened to burst out from beneath its skin. A new set of horns exploded out from its forehead while red markings stretched across its body.

Berserk Regeneration!

Now that it was in this state, according to the advice left by Ragnar, all they needed to do now was to tough it out. In this aspect, it was now Alice's job to cover for everyone!

Watching all of this happen from the trees, Bo was rather impressed by the coordination so far. Bjorn did his job of supporting from afar and dealing large chunks of damage where it could. Selen was doing fine as usual.

Einar was talking and Brynja wasn't going out of her way to annoy Alice.

All that was left was for them to survive the last onslaught of attacks.

However, there was something that was bothering Bo.

The Dreadhorn Ravager they're seeing here was clearly a juvenile from its suspiciously low defences and reaction. Had it been an adult Ravager, the fight wouldn't have gone this smoothly.

This only begs the question... Where did the adult one go?

Chapter 410 - 410: Killing The Ravager

With the Ravager activating its Berserk Regeneration and immobilizing everyone for a moment, the abilities restraining its movement began to falter.

In addition to the weakening of the restrictions, its own power had multiplied and soon...

*SHATTER!!!

Breaking off the chains and the barrier slowing it down, it lunged towards Einar who was slow in recovering.

Just as he was about to get hit, Alice's shards gathered beneath his feet and launched him backwards, narrowly dodging the strike! Cold sweat ran down Einar's back as if it wasn't for Alice, he might have just died then and there!

With its first target escaping, the beast focused on the second.

The woman who had forced it into using Berserk Regeneration in the first place.

*BANG!!!

Jumping from the ground, the Ravager lunged towards Selen who activated acceleration on herself and tried to get out of the way. But now that the beast was in a berserk state and without restrictions, it could easily keep up!

Twisting its body, the beast swiped towards Selen with its tail.

"Damn!" Gritting her teeth, Selen turned her body upside down and launched herself down using Alice's shards and dodged the tail swipe.

However, she wasn't going to dodge without fighting back. Even though the beast had used Berserk Regeneration which should've healed all of its wounds, there were still scars left on its body.

Selen wasn't sure if it was a weak point or not but she released three slashes towards the scars. Unfortunately, these slashes hit empty air as the beast jumped into its shadow.

"BJORN!" Einar shouted while running towards Selen's direction.

"I'm already on it!" Bjorn shouted back, firing a light arrow once more and forcefully dragging the beast out of hiding.

A set of platforms appeared in front of Einar, allowing him to run up and slam the beast on the side of the head!

"!!!" Widening his eyes, Einar was shocked to see the beast not even budge despite him using his full force along with enhancement buffs from Brynja. But he couldn't let his surprise stop his movement.

Taking a deep breath, he let out a loud shout as chains erupted from the ground once more.

Seeing these chains, the beast jumped out of the way and grabbed hold of the cliff face, suspending himself above the ground.

These strange movements and shields that were blocking its attacks. There was only one source!

"Oh sh*t." Alice shivered feeling the beast's wrathful eyes lock onto her.

Jumping down into its shadow, the beast rushed towards Alice while Bjorn fired another light arrow.

Forcing the beast out of hiding, they could see it mid lunge with its claws swiping towards Alice.

Forcing herself to remain calm, Alice created a shield next to her and tried to divert the strike while rolling out of the way. But the beast was ready. No matter what, he had to kill the girl to stop the annoyances!

*CRACK!!!

Slamming its claw against the shield, it dug its nails into the barrier and used it as a platform to launch itself towards Alice.

Dispelling the shield and forcing the beast to lose its footing, Alice managed to buy herself just enough time for Selen to catch up.

Flicking her wrist, she summoned her staff and created a new barrier around the beast.

*URAHHH!!!

Letting out another roar, the beast threw Selen back as the barrier dispelled before it could fully form.

"Over here!" Einar shouted, slamming his blade into the beast's heel. Just as a tail was about to slam into him, Brynja got in the way and tanked the strike.

With Einar and Brynja disrupting the beast, Alice was allowed to escape while Bjorn fired an arrow into the beast's eye.

Fester!

Blood gushed out from the wound as Selen increased the severity of the damage while taking a deep breath. Entering an offensive stance, she aimed her blade towards the beast and charged.

Turning into a blur, cuts appeared across the beast's body while Alice provided Selen platforms to dash around the air.

No matter how the beast thrashed and clawed, it was unable to take anyone out. Selen was kept safe in the air by Alice, Einar was covered by Brynja while Bjorn took the opportunity to strike whenever a weak point showed itself.

They didn't have any large attacks that could fell the beast in one go but this consistent stream of attacks forced the beast back. It was unable to fight back even with its Berserk state and soon, the patterns around its body began to fade as its form started to shrink.

Knowing that its end was near, it let out one last desperate attempt. Focusing all of its power on speed, it became far more aggressive than before! Not caring about the attacks it took so long as it could take out the people trying to hunt it.

Jumping into the shadows, it baited Bjorn into firing another light arrow before jumping out and lunging towards him.

Chains shot out of the ground, wrapping around the beast's ankles in an attempt to drag it back while Selen locked it in a barrier of slowed time.

Even its last desperate lung was neutralised as despair filled the beast's eyes.

Once its Berserk state ran out, it slammed against the ground devoid of strength.

*BANG!!!

Without hesitation, Selen slammed down with her blade and severed the head, bringing the fight to an end.

As its blood seeped into the snow, the group slumped onto the ground while Bjorn jumped into the trees to keep an eye out for any more threats.

Panting heavily while lying down on the snow, Alice swiped the sweat from her brow.

Even with her shield, she was beginning to see how vulnerable she truly was. If Einar and Selen didn't cover for her, she would be a red splatter on the ground.

'F*ck it I'm fixing my body tonight or tomorrow.' Alice thought to herself. She was going to ask Torgeir for a sample of his blood and see if she could forcefully spur the regeneration.

Alternatively, there was also the Ravager.

Narrowing her eyes, Alice forced herself to stand up as she grabbed several vials from her pouch.

Climbing onto the corpse, she harvested the heart blood even though the purity had dropped. Naturally, this didn't bother her since purity never mattered with her physique.

The key was to get the Berserk Regeneration so she could heal her body even if its just for a moment.

Storing three vials of Dreadhorn Ravager blood into her pouch, Alice noticed them staring at her weirdly.

"What? I don't wanna waste the blood." Alice shrugged.

"But isn't that... impure? Wouldn't it be better to get someone to filter some vials back home rather than doing it yourself?" Einar asked as Alice froze up.

'Right...' To others, she was acting abnormal. It's like seeing someone drink pure poison because it had a 1% benefit to the body while the rest killed you.

Even if the purity decreases, by having specialists filter the blood, they could reduce the impact of the side effects.

Scratching her hair, Alice coughed.

"I'm grabbing the heart blood. If I don't seal it now, it'll lose purity. I'll have someone bottle it up properly when we get back." She explained as the others nodded their head, accepting this reason.

If one wanted to get the most out of the heart blood, it was best to seal it early since the purity would drop faster the longer it's exposed to the air.

"What do we do about the corpse?" Selen asked as it was a bit of a waste to leave it out here. Not only was the blood precious but the materials on its body could be used in weapons. Especially the plate and the fangs.

"We're dragging it with us on the back of the carriage. It'll take a little longer to get back but the money you'll get is worth it." Bo smiled, landing near the group.

Looking at the state of the group, he nodded his head in satisfaction.

"See? That wasn't a hard fight now was it? If only you did this on the first day then we wouldn't have needed to talk last night. But good job, I'm satisfied with everything you showed today. When we get back, drinks and food will be on me as a reward." Bo grinned as Einar pumped his fist into the air despite his exhaustion.

"I'll make you regret saying that captain." He laughed while Brynja followed suit.

Once they had a rest, they tied the corpse to the back of their carriage and made their way back.

During this, Alice noticed that Bo was constantly keeping an eye on the surroundings while also examining the wounds on the beast.

"Something bothering you?" Alice asked curiously as he nodded his head.

"Two things though it's probably just me overthinking." Bo shrugged as he leaned back.

Tilting her head, Alice wondered what was bothering him when Selen spoke up.

"It's the wounds right? It's got wounds that was dealt a while ago and wasn't healed by Berserk Regeneration." Selen spoke up as Bo nodded his head.

"It had a fight before fighting you. That's probably why it was approaching the outpost from the border. However, what's bothering me the most is the fact that it's still a juvenile. Regardless, it's not something that you should be worrying about. I'll report it to Torgeir when we get back and he'll make the arrangements." Bo reassured with a smile.

Yet despite these words, the bad feeling in his heart continued to grow without stop and soon, they returned to the outpost.