

Abyssal A 411

Chapter 411 - 411: Missing Beasts

Upon arriving at the outpost, Alice furrowed her brows as she noticed the same situation in the outpost. The ones who hunted the beasts were happy while the captains were concerned.

All of the beasts they hunted already had old wounds across their body. Not only that, but all of them were juvenile beasts.

"Just tell the tavern keeper to bill everything to my name. I'll sort it out later." Bo reminded as he jogged towards the main building with the other captains.

Seeing them whisper to one another, Alice read their lips and noticed that all of them were talking about the beasts.

The common factor for all of this was the fact that every single beast that came from the frontline had old wounds and lacked an adult watching over them.

Had it been just one or two, Bo and the others would've dismissed it as it wasn't uncommon for beasts to lose their parents. Especially near locations where humans frequent.

But all of them at the same time? Not only that but they're also moving towards the outpost? That's too much of a coincidence.

Narrowing her eyes, Alice figured that she probably wouldn't be able to talk to Torgeir anytime soon since he'd be busy dealing with the new information.

"What's your plan with that blood?" Selen whispered over.

She knew of Alice's unique body condition and drinking the blood directly wouldn't cause her any issues. But with her body barely being able to regenerate, forcing it with a new source of blood might be dangerous.

"Depends. But if I have no other alternative, I'll probably give one vial a test and keep the others as an emergency if it goes well. I need my own trump card after all, can't go around wrecking sh*t if all I can do is make a shield or two." Alice chuckled while taking out a fruit from her pouch.

After visiting the tavern, she wanted to go find old man Ragnar and thank him for his information. Without it, the fight would've gone far differently with the beast running away at every possible moment and them not knowing how to deal with that.

"Well, the sooner you recover the better it is for me." Selen shrugged as Alice was stubborn.

Once she set her eyes on something, it was hard to stop her from doing it.

Going their separate ways, Alice skipped to the tavern while buying herself 10 jugs of mead. Spotting Egil sitting by the same table again, Alice jogged over while the staff brought over her mead.

Before he could even greet her, Egil froze up at the sight of the mead. Eyes turned towards them but Alice ignored it and rubbed her hands with eagerness.

"Seems like you had a pretty good hunt today." Egil remarked as Alice nodded her head with a grin.

"Yep, went pretty damn good. Bo had a talk with everyone and people got their sh*t together. Though the beast was a bit weird we still killed it in the end. What about you? I'm hoping they stopped firing random crap at your back now." Alice asked while drinking a jug of mead in one go, shocking the staff.

There was only one thought on the staff's mind.

'How does that tiny body hold all of this mead???'

Regardless, it was not her problem so long as Alice paid for the mead.

"They're a little more careful now but it can't be helped if a stray attack lands on me because of how I fight. But overall, it's definitely an improvement." Egil smiled.

Chatting away while more and more people arrived at the tavern, Alice enjoyed the relaxing conversation after a hunt. It was far more enjoyable to talk to Egil about the hunt than it was with her current teammates except Selen. After all, at least she could talk to him!

Outside of the hunt, neither Einar nor Brynja cared to make small talk with her and that was fine so long as they did their job during a hunt.

After around an hour and a half, Egil went to resume his training while Alice made her way towards the house with old man Ragnar.

In her hands, she held a jug of mead while swaying from side to side.

Thinking about how much mead she drank and how much Bo had to pay, Alice began to giggle to herself.

She was holding back a little these days since she didn't have much gold. But since Bo was paying the bill, she didn't need to tap into her limited supply nor did she need to hold back.

The only thing that could've made today better was if Ria and Luke were here but the two of them were still in the Abyss.

Thinking about her dear friends, Alice couldn't help but let out a sigh as she missed them a lot. She missed the parties they had, the joy when she forced Luke to drink, the arguments and most importantly, their company.

"I wonder how they're doing..." Alice couldn't help but mutter.

'I'm sure they're doing fine. Kaden probably left some instructions for them.' Alyss reassured as Alice nodded her head.

Knowing them, they're probably working towards their next target.

'Do you think Kaden would've told them to take out branches of the Abyss?' Alice asked curiously while Alyss folded her arms.

Knowing Kaden, that was very likely.

'Either way, I'm sure they're having a better time than us.'

'True.' Alice nodded in agreement.

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"F*CK! F*CK! F*CK! F*CK!" Luke shouted while running as fast as he could. He didn't even dare to turn around while Ria's body was thrown past him, causing him to pale.

"Yo~ Where do you think you're running off to." Rosalyn's voice rang out with a devilish grin. A strand of blood grabbed onto Luke's ankle and threw him into the air.

Since Rosalyn worked with blood, her ability to keep people alive was far stronger than Kaden. With that in mind, her training was more torture compared to actual training!

*RUMBLE!!!

Lightning crashed down from the sky as Rosalyn blocked it with her hand.

Smirking towards Ria, she taunted her with her finger.

Just as Ria was about to attack again, a droplet of blood appeared in front of her as Rosalyn's fist slammed into her face.

*BANG!!! CRASH!!!

Slamming into the ground before being kicked away, Ria twitched in the rubble of the wall.

"Weak! Too weak! If you attack the branch now the cardinal will kill you with a snap of their finger! Is that how you want to face things?!" Rosalyn shouted and slammed her heel down as blood droplets surged around her.

"Promotion! DIE!!!" Luke shouted as his chess piece changed into a bishop and took on Alice's appearance.

Void Flux!!!

Energy converged around Alice's fingertip but Rosalyn was a step faster.

Blood spears pierced through the void, stabbing into the bishop's chest before exploding and shattering it into pieces.

"Do you think I'll just let you fire Allura's attack off like that?! Dream on lover boy!" Rosalyn cackled. All of her frustrations from being thrown around by Kaden were relieved at this moment while she 'trained' these two seedlings.

"Damn loli hag!" Luke grumbled as she didn't pull back any of her punches.

With each punch, his ribs would fracture and break but her ability kept them alive.

"Hah? Did I hear you correctly just now?" Rosalyn's voice rang out behind Luke as he felt a chill down his spine.

Grabbing Luke by the back of the neck, she lifted him into the air and twisted her body.

*CRACK!!!

Slamming heels into his back, she heard a pretty nasty crack while helping him heal wounds.

Watching his body ragdoll across the ground before falling limp, Rosalyn dusted her hand while puffing up her modest chest.

Before she could say anything, she felt her hair stand on its end as she immediately turned to Ria who fired off a full powered lightning strike.

*BANG!!!!

Crashing down from above, a torrent of destructive energy rained down from above.

"Is that all?" Rosalyn's voice rang out.

Punching down, the ground fractured and broke Ria's stance.

In that brief moment, Rosalyn grabbed Ria by the face and threw her into the air.

Blood converged towards Ria as Rosalyn clenched her fist.

Blood Explosion!

*BANG!!!!

Looking at the bloody fireworks, Rosalyn let out a youthful cheer as Ria slammed into the ground next to Luke.

Both were completely knocked out as Rosalyn flipped her hair with a smile on her face.

"Fufu~ You know got a long way to go if you want to take out the branches of the Eclipse. You'll have to be close to how strong I was before I ascended to the status of a Lord. Otherwise, you'll be eliminated by the Cardinals that appear." Rosalyn chuckled as Ria's body twitched.

"Urg... Un..der..stood." She squeezed out, feeling sore all over her body.

Even though Rosalyn healed them, it didn't reduce the pain at all. At this point, Ria was confident that she had seen the pearly gates of heaven multiple times already before strands of blood would drag her back into the living.

"Good. I'll give you two an hour of rest before we resume." Rosalyn clapped her hands as Luke pulled out two sets of blankets and pillows.

Catching a set, Ria didn't hesitate to fall asleep as Rosalyn trained them even through the night!

They had to get sleep whenever they could get it! It was truly a hellish experience.

Even if it's to get stronger, she was beginning to reach her limit!

'Grandpa!!! I wanna go home!!!' Ria shed a silent tear as she drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 412 - 412: Ominous Movements

Skipping up the hill, Alice glanced around looking for Ragnar but the old man was nowhere to be found.

Furrowing her brows, she took another drink of her mead and closed her eyes.

After a moment, her lips curled up into a grin as she grabbed a jug from her pouch and handed it behind her.

"Wanna drink~?" She asked, clearly drunk. Ragnar smiled wearily and let out a laugh.

"You're in quite a good mood." Ragnar chuckled, accepting the jug and sat down on his seat.

Blinking her eyes, Alice was confused when the chairs appeared but didn't question it and slumped down in one.

"Yep~ Capt'n said we could buy whatever and it'll be on him tonight~ Hehe~ So I bought all the mead I wanted. It was thisssss much." Alice giggled while spreading out her arms.

"I see, I feel sorry for your captain now." Ragnar shook his head as the stench of alcohol was extremely pungent on Alice. For it to get to this stage, there was no doubt that she drank an absurd amount.

"It'll be fineee~ he said it was on him tonight so he should've thought about this hehe~" Alice waved her hand while taking another drink.

Rummaging around in her pouch, she pulled out a fruit and started to eat.

"Do you have enough fruit? If you don't, I have plenty to spare."

Hearing this, Alice's eyes sparkled with excitement as she nodded her head frantically.

"Yesh please!" She didn't hesitate, causing Ragnar to laugh and nod his head.

Pulling out another large bag of fruit for her, his gaze softened watching Alice grab one out and immediately started to take large bites out of it.

The fruit was by no means small either. Compared to Alice's small stature, by Hunter standards, the fruit was practically half of her head in size.

What's more surprising was that she loved the taste.

The fruit he gave her was known as the Dreamshade Fruit. A fruit that helped with healing wounds and speeding up recovery. However, the taste was absolutely trash. Garbage even for most people.

The only beings that actually enjoy this fruit were Abyss Beasts or humans that have reached the realm of Lord! Only when your affinity for the Abyss reached a certain point would this fruit turn sweet for you.

He had already made sure that she was no beast the moment she ate this fruit yet she wasn't a Lord either. Heck even if she was a beast, she wouldn't have this kind of reaction as most beasts would just think this was a tasteless treat.

'Her affinity for the Abyss is out of this world.' Ragnar thought to himself while watching Alice eat the fruit with a bright smile on her face.

"So how did the hunt go today? I think there should've been more improvements right?" He asked curiously as Alice tried to swallow the fruit in one go but struggled to.

Hitting her chest with her hand while using mead to wash it down, Alice coughed violently before giving a goofy smile and nodding her head.

Recounting the events of the fight, Ragnar listened silently without interrupting her.

"Seems like you fought a juvenile Dreadhorn today."

Hearing this, Alice blinked her eyes in surprise.

"Eh? Old gramps how did you know?"

"If it was an adult, it wouldn't have been this docile. An adult Dreadhorn would've noticed you before you could even see it since it would've set up a parameter with its shadows. It would not let you get a surprise attack when it was at its most vulnerable." Ragnar smiled while brushing his beard.

"I see... But yeah, it was a juvenile. Bo said it was weird since a lot of the other beasts the other groups brought back were also juveniles. No adults got caught and they all had old wounds too." Alice shrugged while grabbing another fruit to enjoy.

Leaning back in his chair, Ragnar contemplated in silence while Alice happily ate her fruit and hummed to herself.

Shaking his head, Ragnar decided to ignore it for now and turned back to Alice.

He glanced at the bandages covering her body and saw that there were no bloodstains today meaning the fruit had taken some effect. Yet her body was still a complete mess despite eating so many.

"What did you do to get this injured?" Ragnar asked curiously.

"I got thrown through the Void and ended up here." Alice replied truthfully as Ragnar's smile faltered.

"You got thrown through the Void and all you got were these wounds? Young lady, you do not know how lucky you are." He remarked, feeling surprised by her survival since she didn't seem like the kind to joke about these things.

If she truly got thrown through the Void and then expelled, she should be dead right now! She wouldn't even have tanked the damage enough for wounds to appear yet here she was, eating her fruit happily. Meaning these weren't the damages caused by the Void.

If it was, it would've looked far more different and violent.

Judging by the wounds, her energy and the state of her body overall, Ragnar concluded that this was probably self-inflicted to some degree. Whether it was through a Ritual or by consuming extremely potent berserk blood, it was clear that this was an issue with Alice's body itself rather than an outside source.

Something must've gone wrong inside.

"So how do you plan on healing it? Or are you going to keep fighting like this?"

Rummaging through her pouch, Alice held out the newly acquired Ravager blood.

"I wanna say the Berserk Regeneration of the Ravager should be good enough to heal me. My friend tried using healing blood but it didn't really work. The healing immediately stopped once it got past a certain point."

"I don't suggest that. The Berserk Regeneration the Ravager uses comes with a steep cost. If a human were to activate it, it'll permanently decrease your defences and even take a portion of your lifespan. That and I don't believe this would be a good solution for your situation.

"It'll just fade away after a little while and your body goes back to what it is now." Ragnar shook his head as he didn't want to see a talented young lady ruin her body further just for a moment of healing.

"Is it that bad?" Alice tilted her head. The side effects didn't bother her but she couldn't say that in front of him. Not only that, but she was unsure how the second half of the side effects would influence her.

"Just keep eating that fruit and your wounds should close up in due time. Though the issue may be somewhere else entirely." Ragnar shook his head, confusing Alice.

But there were two things she learned from his response.

First, he believes that drinking the blood would indeed 'fix' her body but the cost was permanent damage and lifespan.

Second was that the fruit was enough to fix her.

Alice wasn't sure why he was so confident in this but she had to admit that her body felt a little better than yesterday.

If this was yesterday, one movement would've been all it took to reopen her wounds and collapse on the floor, slowly bleeding out. But that wasn't the case. Her body healed enough that she could make the same movements but come out relatively unscathed.

Thinking about it for a moment, Alice decided to keep the blood for now. If the fruit continued to heal her body over the course of a few days then she saw no reason to charge in blindly. This was also going to be her test for the fruit.

Talking for a little longer, Ragnar asked what kind of beast she was going to hunt tomorrow but Alice was unsure.

All Bo said was for them to enjoy the night while he asked Torgeir about what was happening. Nothing on their next target so Alice couldn't even ask for more information from Ragnar.

Talking to Ragnar for a little longer, Alice figured it was time to head back and thanked him for the fruit. After which she stumbled away with uneven steps since she was still drunk.

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Sitting in his office, Torgeir could be seen with pure exhaustion in his eyes. Towers upon towers of documents were placed around him as he looked at the current report.

Since the teams have returned, he has been doing nothing but going through the reports and trying to figure out what exactly has been going on.

When were the beasts sighted? What was their travel path? How long did it take them to get to where they were eventually killed?

Pinning everything on a map using strings and needles, Torgeir could see that most of the beasts targeted the outpost.

It wasn't that they were just running from the frontline no. Some of them made drastic curves to their path towards Kvía.

Leaning back, he let out a deep sigh and massaged his eyelids.

He wasn't sure if they were attracted to something within this outpost or if it was due to someone else's interference. If it was interference, he'll need to reinforce the defences of the outpost.

'I'll reduce the number of teams going out for Hunts and rotate them around. Half of the teams must be on defence at all times.' He concluded.

The frontlines still need their reinforcements so he couldn't stop the training of the new recruits but they also need to increase their defences. Overall, it was a headache situation for Torgeir.

'Maybe I should think about retiring soon.'

Letting out a yawn, Torgeir stretched his body and continued to slave away at his desk while everyone had gone to sleep.

Chapter 413 - 413: Valkoria Bay

"Urg..." Letting out a soft groan, Alice felt as though Allura was letting out a barrage of punches against her cranium.

Blinking her eyes, she noticed Selen glanced down at her from above. She was currently sleeping by their door.

"Did you pass out the moment you stepped through the door?" Selen asked with a frown.

"Hng... Perhaps..." Alice whimpered, wanting to throw up.

"How much did you even drink???"

"A lot..." Flipping her body around, Alice crawled onto her feet as she stunk of alcohol.

Grabbing some water, she began to gulp it down while Selen could only shake her head helplessly.

"Will you even be alright for today? You're a complete mess."

"I'll manage... HNG!!!" Grabbing a bowl by the side, Alice began to throw up as Selen covered her eyes while letting out an exasperated sigh. How much did Alice drink to make her throw up!?

Helping Alice after she threw up, the two made their way to the training grounds.

The moment they stepped into the vicinity, they felt a chill down their spine as a pair of eyes snapped towards their direction.

Seeing the source of the glare was Bo, Alice coughed awkwardly before turning around.

"Maybe I'm not alright. Maybe I need an extra long break to get rid of the hangover." Alice forced a smile while trying to escape.

However, Bo was a step ahead of her. Literally.

*BANG!!!

Dashing from the other side of the training ground, he placed his hand on Alice's shoulder.

Veins bulged across his body as he looked like he was about to explode at any moment.

Taking the hint, Selen took a step back.

"Ahaha~ Captain, seems like you're pretty energetic today."

"It does seem that way, doesn't it? Say, you won't mind telling me how much you drank yesterday right? I'm sure a sensible person like you didn't drink that much." Bo narrowed his eyes.

"Erm... teehee?" Alice stuck out her tongue.

*PUCHI!!!!

Holding back the urge to smack Alice on the head, Bo took several deep breaths to calm his anger.

"First of all, please tell me how a person can drink enough mead that the tavern charges me a WHOLE MONTH'S WORTH OF WAGES!!!" Bo shouted, unable to hold back when he thought about the bill he received this morning.

To see all of that hard earned money disappear into her stomach was a stab to his heart!

In the end, Alice was punished by kneeling on the ground while wearing a sign saying:

[I'm an alcoholic and I drank a month's worth of a captain's wages in one night.]

Naturally, with such a sign around her neck, eyes were turned towards her. They wondered if it was true or not but the moment they saw Bo's expression, they understood it was indeed true.

Which then only begs the question.

HOW?!?!?!?

Blushing from embarrassment, Alice tried her best to ignore the stares but they were getting too much.

Waiting for the rest of the team to arrive, they noticed Alice's... strange predicament and couldn't help but chuckle.

Once Bo made sure everyone had arrived, he cleared his throat and gestured for people to take a seat on a bench while Alice remained on the floor repenting for her sins.

"New orders have come in. Half of the groups will be remaining at the outpost to keep it safe since the beast's movements are weird. The other half will be making their way towards the frontline to act as reinforcement. Guess which group we're in." Bo smiled.

"Are we the reinforcements?" Brynja asked curiously as Bo nodded his head.

"Yep. It's a little earlier than I would like but honestly, your performance is within the upper half of the groups. We'll be going as reinforcement for the frontline to help retake a strategic stronghold. That way, more supply lines should open up for us and reduce the burden of Kvia.

"Valkoria Bay, a port stronghold, unlike Kvia which is next to a lake. If we can retake the port, we'll be able to directly ship supplies from the capital and push back the dogs of Extalia. So far, it's being secured by a Grandmaster ranked Warrior of Extalia which is why we'll be working with other groups.

"All of you lot will be responsible for keeping the small fries from interfering or if they have any nasty rituals being cast. All of the captains will be responsible for taking out the Grandmaster." Bo explained as he pulled out a map and showed them where the port was.

Kvia was to the far south of the Northern Territory while the port was to the southwest. In terms of distance, it wasn't something that could be covered in a day meaning the outpost will lose half of its power for an extended period.

"We'll be going with standard formation. Get some proper weapons from the armoury that fit your fighting style. Yes, that includes you Alice. When we get close to the port, there will be a commanding officer coming to collect you since he'll be responsible for everyone that's not fighting the Grandmaster."

Letting them know when they'll be gathering by the gates, Bo allowed them to get their weapons.

Making her way to the armoury with Selen, Alice could see several groups looking nervous as this would be the first time they were properly standing on a battlefield.

If they weren't careful, they could die before they even saw what hit them. A blink and their life extinguished.

However, this didn't really bother Alice since she's been in situations far worse. Honestly, she would prefer to be on a battlefield like this than to fight against Lords and Gods as she has done before.

One wrong step and her journey would've ended prematurely in the depths of the Inverted World.

Shaking her head, she ignored these nervous warriors and made her way to the section that dealt with bows.

Alice wanted to look for a crossbow rather than a bladed weapon or a standard bow. With her current physique, if she wanted to defend herself, a crossbow was the best option.

On top of the crossbow, she also wanted to grab some poisons for the bolts and a poison-coated dagger. That was the only way for Alice to be able to kill those stronger than her at this moment without being a burden.

'Isn't our blood just the most potent poison right now anyway? One drop and their side effects go haywire. Though I'm not sure how effective it is with your body in this state.' Alyss asked as Alice scratched her chin.

'We can probably test it on the battlefield then. But if we are going with this method, we should kill them in one go. Even if they're enemies, I'd rather not them suffer while being turned into mutated beasts.' Alice sighed as it was a method that Allura hated.

Nodding her head in agreement, Alyss watched as Alice browsed the different assortments of crossbows.

In the end, she chose a standard looking metal crossbow that was light in weight. It could hold two bolts at the same time and she could choose to fire it separately or at the same time.

Naturally, Alice received some weird looks since a crossbow wasn't something that was picked often. After all, a warrior could bring out more power through a bladed weapon or more range through a bow. While the crossbow was in the middle, not especially good at anything.

Ignoring these glances, Alice grabbed the weapon and strapped it to her waist while grabbing some bolts. She took a detour to see if she could buy any poisons but the supplies in the outpost consisted mostly of healing vials, berserk vials and buffing vials.

With no other choice, she waited till no one was looking at her and made three vials of her own blood. With three vials of Dreadhorn Ravager and three vials of her own blood, Alice was as ready as can be for this battle.

Reconvening with the rest of the group, Alice noticed that Selen had chosen a spear of all weapons.

Thinking back to what she did to the poor Necrothrax, Alice couldn't help but shiver and clench her butt instinctively.

Bjorn chose a short bow to keep by his side. Einar picked some armour options and Brynja chose a new shield.

With all of their equipment now checked, Bo nodded his head and brought them to the gate where all of the other teams could be spotted as well.

Alice even spotted Egil, which wasn't hard considering his stature, amongst the crowd of Warriors ready to depart the city.

Once everyone arrived, they did a final head out and began their journey to the port city.

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Watching the large group of warriors leave Kvia, the silver haired man narrowed his gaze.

Based on the direction they were going, there were three potential targets.

Snapping his fingers, a scout landed next to him.

"Notify Valkoria, Ravenfjord and Stormhaven to tighten up their defences for a bit. It's very likely that Kvia is sending strong captains over to retake the land to reinforce the frontlines. Also let the others know to get ready.

Once you notify the three strongholds, we'll set out sights on Kvia and begin the plan." He curled his lips into a menacing grin as the scout nodded his head and disappeared.

The best way cut off the supply line is not to take over Kvia. No, the best way to cut off the supply line was to make it completely uninhabitable through a Abyss Break.

To lure a constant stampede of beasts to the surface. Once that happens, Verona would be pushed back. They either choose to focus more manpower on Kvia and force the frontline to retreat or they focus on the frontline and doom Kvia.

The choice was now theirs.

Chapter 414 - 414: Path To Valkoria

The journey was rather uneventful. Several hours had passed and nothing happened.

Eating her fruit, Alice laid down lazily in the carriage while snow began to fall.

During this time, she focused on getting used to the new weapons that she grabbed from the armoury. The weight of the knife, the recoil of the crossbow and so on.

"Are we there yet~?" Alice asked, playing around with the dagger between her fingers.

"We're not going to be there for another day or so. Stop asking." Selen sighed in annoyance as Alice had been asking this question for a while now.

Kicking her legs in the air out of boredom, Alice glanced at the other party members and saw that they had spent this time sleeping.

Since she got plenty of rest due to her hangover, Alice didn't feel fatigued at all. In fact, she was eager to get into a fight or at least something that gets the adrenaline pumping.

However, nothing happened on their journey.

Setting up camp for the first night, Alice practised throwing her daggers against a tree.

She grabbed four daggers in total. Two of the daggers had wire attached to them while the other two were solely used for throwing.

Flicking her wrist, two daggers thunked against the trunk while Alice followed up with another flick, sending the second wave of daggers.

Even though she was practising this, Alice knew that she wouldn't be using this method when fighting. With her current strength, her daggers would just bounce off the body of her target. This was more of a final desperate gamble when her target ran out of defensive options.

Her main weapon was still going to be the crossbow.

Grabbing the crossbow from her waist, she fired two rapid bolts before reloading. For the time it took to reload the weapon, Alice was rather pleased with the damage it could do.

'It's not enough to kill a beast with four Sigils but it should be suitable for most foot soldiers. At least with this, I won't be completely useless if someone tries to target me.' Alice thought inwardly.

'That's only if most of the soldiers are three Sigils or less. We'll need to run if they're four Sigils.' Alyss spoke up.

People with one to three Sigils are still relatively 'weak' in terms of physical defences. For them, it should be doable.

'Mnm. Want to come out and stretch your limbs a bit? The others are pretty distracted with setting up camp so this should be a good chance.' Alice asked since they haven't been able to switch that often recently.

They were keeping the switch to a minimum since if Alyss stayed out for too long, the body would begin to deteriorate again.

'Sure.'

Closing her eyes, Alice relaxed her body as chains began to manifest around her limbs.

Opening her eyes, Alyss clenched her fist a few times before twisting her body.

***BANG!!!**

Slamming her heel into the tree with a roundhouse kick, Alyss frowned after seeing a small indentation.

Even though their body was in this state, Alyss could exert more power than Alice. The trade-off was that she couldn't sense energy at all.

Grabbing a fruit from the pouch, Alyss jumped up to the tree branch and took a bite. Surprised by its taste, she could see why Alice would be addicted to it but as for her, she preferred to eat something spicy then sweet.

Not wanting to waste the fruit, she finished it quickly and enjoyed the night breeze.

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"AMBUSH!!! AMBUSH!!!"

Woken up by the sudden scream, Alice's eyes snapped open and jumped down from the tree branch.

She could see a cloud of smoke billowing in the distance.

"Sh*t! What the hell?!?!" Alice widened her eyes as she ran towards the camp. Looking up, swarms upon swarms of flying beasts would swoop down and fire off their abilities while a single draconic like beast seemed to be commanding the weaker beasts.

It had a pair of multi-coloured wings that shimmered with a plethora of vibrant colours. Violet, lavender, orange, sky blue and so on. A kaleidoscope of patterns and movements almost feeling as though it was trying to hypnotise the opponent.

Large jagged scales covered its body while blue and green flame would burst out from the gaps.

A crown of horns and a trail of fire burning down its neck and spine.

Even without Cayla, Alice could instinctively sense that this beast was six stars! The sheer power it was radiating despite being this far away sent a chill down her spine.

'It's probably on the verge of becoming a Lord.' Alice frowned.

There was a distinct... strand of energy coiling around the beast. It hasn't quite formed properly yet but it was something she had sensed in all of the Lords she had directly faced. Especially those who liked to show off their power.

A direct connection to the Abyss.

*BANG!!!

A winged beast lunged out from the trees, interrupting Alice's thought process. Twisting her body, she dodged the initial lunge and grabbed it by the base of its wing.

Stabbing a dagger into the flesh, she pried the wing from the socket before raising her foot and jammed her heel against the beast's head.

*CRACK!!!

Twisting her foot to break its jaw, Alice grabbed her crossbow and fired two shots towards its brain.

Once she was sure the beast was dead, Alice recovered the bolts and glanced towards the camp.

She could see several captains fighting off the stronger beasts in the sky. Bo jumped from beast to beast, tearing them to shreds as though the sky was his domain.

Arriving at the camp, Alice paused in shock seeing all of their supplies being set on fire by the beasts while Warriors scrambled to put it out.

"Alice! Duck!" Selen's voice rang out.

Immediately throwing herself to the ground without hesitation, Alice watched as Selen rushed past her from above and slammed her foot into the stomach of a camouflaged beast that was about to strike. Releasing a follow up kick to the jaw, Selen sent the beast into the sky before conjuring a staff.

Slamming the staff into the ground, the beast's body was suspended in the air.

*BANG!!!

Bjorn's arrow pierced into the beast, exploding it from the inside out as blood, guts and bones rained down from above.

"What the hell is going on?" Alice asked, wanting to get a grasp on the situation.

"Camouflaged beasts invaded the camp and burned our supplies. The big one in the sky seems to be commanding them all and it's just watching right now. The Captain has instructed us to reduce their numbers and to leave the big one to them." Selen explained while marking more beasts with her barrier for Bjorn to hit.

On cue, arrows rained down from the sky, killing the beasts in one go.

Looking up at the multi-coloured beast in the sky, doubt filled Alice's mind. She knew roughly how strong Bo was due to the duel she had with Egil.

Based on her gut instincts, he won't be able to kill that beast!

At that moment, the colours of the beast began to shift until it was mostly dominated by a neon yellow. The flames across its body disappeared while crackles of lightning sparked across its scale.

Widening her eyes, Alice scanned her surroundings and found all the members of their party.

Throwing her shard into the sky, she split it into several fragments and expanded a shield above everyone.

***RUMBLE!!! BANG!!!!**

A storm of lightning crashed down from the sky striking each and every warrior!

Those who were weaker and were unprepared were reduced to ashes in an instant while those who noticed something wrong prepared their own defences.

Thanks to her shield, most of the lightning was absorbed but without energy, it couldn't hold itself together.

However, her fast reaction bought Brynja enough time as she ran towards the centre and slammed her shield into the ground.

Resonance!

"FORTIFICATION!!!" Brynja shouted as her body began to shift.

White and gold armour manifested around her body as her shield grew in size. A spectral dome pulsed out from Brynja as she gritted her teeth. The dome expanded until it covered the entire camp, saving those who were about to reach their limit.

*RUMBLE!!! BANG!!!

Lightning assaulted this barrier but it refused to budge.

Collapsing onto one knee, Brynja's armour started to chip away with each consecutive strike of lightning.

"Good job!!!" Bo roared, turning into a blur that rushed towards the draconic beast. Flashes of energy rushed out as Bo was being assisted by the other captains, allowing him to bridge the gap between himself and the beast.

With Bo coming this close, it was unable to maintain the lightning strikes and the colour of its body returned to normal.

Swinging its tail towards Bo, it wanted to knock him to the ground but Bo's form flickered and turned into an illusion.

Seeing this, the beast narrowed its eyes as it snapped its head to the right and cracked open its jaw.

The flames on its back erupted with energy and coalesced in front of its mouth.

*BANG!!!!

Before the fire breath could hit Bo, one of the captains appeared in front of Bo with a shield. An illusionary avatar far bigger than his own body covered him and Bo while deflecting the attack.

Not letting this chance go to waste, the muscles on Bo's arm bulged as he twisted his body and released two slashes at the beast.

Dark red energy gathered on the axe blades and shot out while the colour across the beast's body turned silver.

*KSH!!!!

Deflecting the slashes with its physical body, the beast reared its head back and let out an ear shattering roar!

Sending out a command, the colour on the beast shifted to a dark violet as the space around it started to tremble before cracking apart. The same phenomenon appeared next to the other beasts who were still alive, giving them a path of escape.

Retreating into the Void, the beast gave Bo a taunting glance.

Chapter 415 - 415: Identity Of The Strange Beast

Seeing the beast disappear along with the other beasts, Bo gritted his teeth.

"F*CK!!!" He let out a furious shout as his last attack was completely ignored. Not only that, but the beast had also taunted him!?

Veins bulged on Bo's neck as he jumped down with the other captain who had helped him block that last attack.

If they had more captains with them, they might've been able to kill the beast. But most of the captains were busy protecting the weaker Warriors. A lot of the captains also stayed behind at the outpost so there were more groups than captains on this expedition.

Scratching his hair, Bo saw that his group was heavily injured but no one died.

That last lightning strike had taken out quite a few warriors, trimming down their numbers.

No one saw it coming. Even if they had people on watch, how could they predict the beast would just open a pathway from the Void and ambush them?

It was clear that their target was the supplies all along. With the attack on their supplies, a lot of it had been burned to a crisp. Food, clothing, Abyss Blood and medical supplies have all been reduced by almost half.

"Tend to the wounded! Salvage what you can!" One of the captains shouted, reorganising everyone and reducing panic.

"How many did we lose?" Bo asked with a frown.

"Too many. 15 died at the initial ambush. 30 from the lightning attack." The captain replied with a frown.

When they set off, they had 100 Warriors ready to take back the port. With this single ambush, they almost lost half of their numbers.

"F*ck..." Bo frowned.

"Should we go back?" Another captain asked but the first captain shook his head.

"We can still do it with these numbers. Frankly, as bad as this sounds, it does resolve our issue of missing supplies. It just means we'll need to do a little more before facing the Grandmaster."

Out of the 55 that were left, they had 7 captains. 4 of which were Advanced Masters with 5 Sigils and 3 were also Grandmasters with 6 Sigils.

With this lineup, taking care of the Grandmaster looking after the port should be easy. The difficulty was interference from the rest of the people stationed there.

"Even if we call for reinforcements now, it'll take too long to arrive. We'll switch up our attack plan instead. Since they ambushed us, we'll return the favour in kind."

"We'll attack at night. Make some adjustments to the squads, have our stealthiest Warriors form a group with the Captains. The rest will attack the gates if we are discovered. The best case scenario is that the stealth unit can take out the guards so we don't notify the Grandmaster of our presence." The first captain strategized while Bo frowned.

"And if the beast from earlier was to return? What then?" Bo asked.

"The priority is to take back the port. As long as we succeed in killing the Grandmaster, we'll be able to get reinforcements from the capital. A few casualties are a small price to pay." The first captain shook his head.

Clenching his fist, Bo took a deep breath.

"What if we form another unit with the people we have left? A unit specifically for slowing down the beast if it was to appear." Bo asked as the captain raised his eyebrow.

"You have candidates in mind?"

"Two people that I think are perfect for stalling. We can add more to the unit to increase the odds and give them a healer too." Bo nodded his head.

"Egil and Selen. Egil has the best defence out of everyone if we're purely talking about physical reinforcement. If we stack some buffs on him, he'll be able to keep the beast distracted. Selen has a unique ability of being able to slow time down in a specific zone covered by her barriers. If these two work together with some help, keeping that beast distracted won't be hard." He explained.

He hated the fact that he had to rely on Egil of all people, even if he did acknowledge the fact that he was strong.

But if the trade-off was to lose more Warriors, he could only count on Egil to keep them safe.

"Alright. Bo, form a stalling unit for the beast. Vilken, get those that pass your test for being stealthy. Everyone outside of these two units will be doing the same as before." He ordered as Bo nodded his head.

"Before I do that, can someone tell me what the hell that beast was?" Bo asked as the beast felt like it could do everything

It had multiple elements and could even shrug off attacks with ease. Usually, beasts would have extremely high defence and low attack or high attack and low defence.

But this? It had both high attack and high defence.

"Frida might have a clue but I doubt it."

Nodding his head, Bo made his way towards Frida. She was the captain who was most focused on saving the supplies. If it wasn't for her keeping the beasts away and putting out a lot of the fires, they would've lost far more supplies.

She had long brown hair tied into several braids, a pair of orange eyes and markings across her face.

"Frida." Bo called out as she glanced over.

"Has Olvir given his order? Are we retreating or are we continuing?" Frida asked, throwing some burnt supplies to the side.

"We're continuing." Bo sighed.

"Sh*t. New plans or same crap?"

"New plans. Out of the 55 warriors left, excluding captains, we're making two additional squads. A stalling squad and a stealth squad. Stealth will follow the captains and take out the guards so we don't alert the Grandmaster.

"The stalling squad will be responsible for holding back any large beast like the draconic one just now." Bo explained, causing Frida to frown.

"You know that once we form these two squads, the ones left are basically lambs for slaughter right? Their numbers are far too little to siege a stronghold. To begin with, this plan was already risky even if we had 100 warriors. But now Olvir is telling them to fight with just 55? Isn't that basically telling them to die?"

Letting out a sigh, Bo nodded his head.

"It'll be a small price is what he said. If we can get reinforcements from the capital to the frontlines, it'll be worth it."

"Bullsh*t." Frida shook her head.

She couldn't allow this kind of mission to continue. But seeing as how Bo was here to tell her, it seemed like Olvir had his mind set on this new plan.

"So are you just here to tell me the sh*tty news or do you need something from me?"

"The draconic beast that ignored my attacks. Do you know what it is? If I know what it can do I'll have an easier time forming a stalling squad." Bo asked as Frida folded her arms and closed her eyes.

"Two candidates in mind. Both are very similar so I'm not sure which it is."

"Any information is good. At most, I'll had to account for both of the candidates if I'm going to form this squad." Bo shrugged.

"Alright. First is Twilight Drakorian. Grandmaster level beast. Notable features are an extremely high resistance to energy and elemental based attacks. It can absorb, adapt and even counter. Can channel anything it's experience before and sent it back.

"The more it experiences, the more powerful it becomes. In terms of abilities, I can only remember three. Elemental Breath, Twilight Shroud and Cosmic Judgment. Cosmic Judgment takes on the element that it has absorbed before." Frida began to explain as Bo nodded his head and made a mental note.

"The second is Aetherion Harbinger. It also has a high resistance to energy and elemental based attacks but this primarily lies with the fact that it can shift itself between an aether state and reality. It can't absorb, adapt or counter but with each attack it receives, its resistance grows until they're immune to the caster.

"It gains elements based on the beasts and materials it has eaten before and it's a beast mostly focused on defence. Its main form of defence is tearing apart the Void and escaping when its life is threatened."

Hearing this, Bo furrowed his brows.

One was heavily focused on attack while the other was heavily focused on defence. Neither sounds like an exact match against the beast he fought against. In fact, pieces of their skills almost seem to be merged together into a single being.

"Alright, thank you." Bo nodded. At least this was better than going in blind.

With a basic understanding of what the stalling group could be potentially against, their main goal is to just keep its aggro and take the attacks it throws out. If they attack the beast, it'll either increase the offensive capabilities or defensive ones.

"You're welcome." Hesitating for a moment, Frida wanted to tell Bo not to take too many Warriors into the stalling squad since it'll only cause more casualties for the main group. However, if he was to agree, the stalling squad of some of their finest may die in vain.

A choice between the two and Frida couldn't resolve herself to choose the first option. After all, the if the stalling squad dies, everyone else would follow. Yet if the main squad dies, the stalling squad could still hold on.

All she could do was watch Bo leave while looking for potential candidates for the new group.

Meanwhile, Alice couldn't help but kneel in front of a crater caused by the strange draconic beast.

Chapter 416 - 416: Uncanny Beast

Kneeling in front of the crater, she could still see sparks of lightning crackling across the ground.

She didn't know how to describe this feeling except that it was simply uncanny. Like seeing a beast mimic the look of a human but failing.

A human that won't blink, smiles unnaturally wide or their voice and lip movements don't match up.

A creeping dread inside the chest and the feeling of rejection from your own perception.

That was what Alice was feeling.

She saw what the beast was like, she felt its attacks. Yet now that she was looking at this crater... She wasn't so sure anymore.

But the very thought contradicted itself.

Clearly, the being was a beast. It flew in the air, spewed fire and summoned lightning. It cracked open the Void and commanded the lesser beasts. But she wasn't sure if it was a beast or not?

Scratching her hair, Alice frowned in frustration.

"Something wrong?" Selen asked, walking up to Alice.

"A little. Come here and look at this crater for me. Tell me what you think." Alice gestured.

Even though she found it weird, Selen didn't reject and kneeled down next to her.

"Seems pretty normal to me. Just some residual lightning in the ground no?" Selen tilted her head.

"That's what I thought as well at first. Get a better look at it, try to sense what kind of beast released this attack. Once you've done that, tell me what you think." Alice clarified.

Furrowing her brows, Selen let out a sigh and nodded her head.

She knew that Alice wasn't someone who jokes around for something like this. So her asking for this meant there's something to be found.

Closing her eyes, Selen sensed the crater carefully.

Just as she was about to give the same answer, her expression faltered as her eyes snapped open. Her face paled with confusion and rejection.

"What the f*ck..."

"Seems like you finally noticed it." Alice nodded her head before standing up.

"What the hell is that?" Selen asked, glancing between Alice and the crater.

"No clue. But I have a sneaking suspicion that it's a Zenia family product. The only other possible group is the Eclipse but I don't see them doing this kind of experiment. So there are two choices... no three.

"First, the Zenia family. Second, an unknown group who are doing similar things as the Zenias. And lastly, it could just be an abnormal natural evolution of the beast." Alice shrugged.

The unknown group was Nyer.

If he was able to create her, then it wouldn't be a surprise if he had his hand in 'creating' this strange beast of multiple elements and even the power of the Void.

"Three options huh... Tsk, everywhere we go there's always a sign of the Zenia family." Selen scratched her hair in annoyance.

"That's just how big of a family they are now. Which is to be expected when they created an empire using my body as a foundation for the Abyss Blood they find." Alice shrugged.

She was the perfect subject to act as a foundation. A subject that would always return to a neutral state once time passed. And when paired with her current regeneration, when it worked, she wouldn't even need the collar to keep herself alive.

"If the Zenia's are involved, I'm guessing we might find some at the port stronghold then." Selen narrowed her eyes as killing intent seeped out but she controlled it after a short moment.

"Possibly. We'll have to see when we get there." Alice shrugged.

She would like it if there were indeed Zenias there but even if there is, she still wasn't sure if her poisonous blood worked right now.

Noticing Bo approaching with a frown on his face, both Alice and Selen turned towards him.

"Selen, I'll need you for a moment. We're going to be forming a new group in case that beast shows up again." Bo called out as Selen paused for a moment. She'd rather not leave Alice's side if she could help it since she still needs to repay her debt.

"As expected, we're not retreating huh?" Alice asked, glancing around them.

"As expected?"

"It doesn't look like people are cleaning up to make a retreat. Rather, it looks like we're salvaging what we can and then continuing to the port." Alice shrugged, gesturing at her surroundings.

Since Alice had already deducted that, Bo had no reason to hide things.

"Yeah, we're continuing with what we have left. We'll be forming three groups from the remnants. A stalling group, stealth group and the vanguard."

Explaining the new plan and what Olivr had decided on, Bo also explained the potential identity of the beast that attacked.

Upon hearing about the beast, Alice's suspicions were confirmed as there was a very high chance that both beasts had been fused together to form this unnatural chimaera.

'How the hell did the Zenias even fuse the two together?' Alyss asked in disbelief. With the nature of each beast, high elemental and energy resistance as well as their aggression, it sounded almost impossible to mix the two together without losing a lot of manpower.

And even if they succeed, was it truly worth it?

'I... Might have an idea of how they did it based on everything I've learned so far.' Alice frowned.

'Based on what I know about Selen and the Arachne we killed at the research base, this beast might be a fusion of three. First, Twilight Drakorian. Second, Aetherion Harbinger. And lastly, a human foetus.'

Referring back to the research produced by the lab, by mixing beast blood into the foetus with regular doses while it was still within the mother's womb, it would allow the beast blood to stabilize to a certain extent and even act as the foundation for the child.

Hence the unnatural strength of the Red Thorn Arachne.

Then there was the case of how Selen was able to use the power of a sealed Lord and how she was injected with Alice's blood.

With everything that she had learned on top of her prior knowledge, she had a general idea of how the beast could've been created.

First, they needed the new sample of the blood. After extracting blood from both beasts and using her own blood as a stabilizing agent, it would increase the lethality but produce a more stable result if the experiment survives the initial transplant. Such is the case of Selen.

The key was the fact that her blood can return to a natural state. By tempering the sample of her blood to accept this new product, it'll allow the user to develop a form of natural resistance towards the side effects.

Not only that, but because the beast inherently has the ability to absorb elements and adapt to it, it was perfect for mixing with Alice's blood. All three would form a balanced bridge of power where none of the powers could be stronger than the other.

Of course, finding this delicate balance would be difficult on the Zenia family's side and Alice wouldn't be surprised if the foundation of this research was already used on her.

However, the key fact is that they probably did find it hence this unnatural beast.

The last step was to use the information they gained from the Arachne experiment and plant it inside a mother's womb. Of course, their methods may have changed since the only detail Alice has was what she found in Verten.

But with all of these methods combined, creating a product with the power of two adaptive type beasts was possible!

Once she thought up to this stage, Alice clenched her fist as there was a high chance that the Zenia family was probably nearby. They wouldn't let such a precious product go without observation after all.

Someone must be around to keep it in check.

'They probably have ways to control it too if it tries to run away or fight.' Alice narrowed her eye.

"Selen, we'll need your time slowing abilities along with Egil's defences to keep the beast at bay if it was to appear again. But until it appears, you'll be mixed in with the rest of the group to siege the fort." Bo explained as Selen furrowed her brows.

She understood why Bo would want her in the stalling group but she wasn't sure herself.

"Wouldn't it just adapt to my time slow if we take too long? You saw how strong the beast was. I'd rather not have it also manipulate time on top of everything." Selen questioned.

Regardless of which beast it was, just the thought of having it adapt to Miralith's power was questionable.

Hearing this, Bo realised his mistake as this was indeed a concern he needed to take into account.

Depending on the composition of the stalling team, the final result may have dire consequences instead.

If the beast was allowed to have control over time on top of everything then not even the captains should hope for survival.

"Sh*t..." Bo scratched his hair.

Contemplating it for a moment, he decided to risk it.

"We still need you on the team. Save your time abilities to the last possible moment if you can. It adapts over time so if you keep it to a minimum, it should be alright. As long as we can finish off the Grandmaster protecting the Fort in time, we'll be able to help out with killing the beast.

"Of course, that's only if the beast appears. I can only hope we don't have to resort to this." He sighed, stepping away to inform Egil of the choice.

To properly hold off the beast, the stalling group will need to be filled with people that have high defences and abilities that can interrupt the beast.

Out of the 55 Warriors left, Bo wasn't even sure if he could find 5 that matched the description.

Chapter 417 - 417: Ambush Through The Night

Once the clean up operation was done, Olivr regrouped everyone and did a head count.

Furrowing his brows, veins bulged on his neck as 3 Warriors had deserted during the time it took for them to salvage all the supplies they could still use.

With only 53 Warriors left and only 7 captains, they had to siege and take over a city with just 60 people.

Instructing a captain to track down the traitors and deal with them, Olivr began to adjust the groups with the information given to him by Bo.

18 were pulled to form a stalling group with Egil as the centre and the key to stalling the beast if it was ever to appear.

5 were pulled to form a stealth group with the seven captains leaving only 30 warriors to act as the vanguard.

And as expected, Alice was dragged into the vanguard group since with her current body, she was of no help to either side.

Even though Selen wanted to protest, she knew it was futile and doing so would just cause an unnecessary scene. Hell it might even give the opposite effect and thrust Alice into more danger.

With the groups now sorted, they began their march towards the port as many of the carriages were destroyed in the ambush.

Naturally, there were still a few that could be repaired and used but they were used for transporting the supplies rather than humans.

"Want me to carry you?" Selen offered Alice as she was worried about whether or not Alice could survive the entire journey.

"Oh hell no!" Alice rejected it without an ounce of hesitation. If she was to allow Selen to carry her, knowing how she carries people like a sack of potatoes, Alice would die of embarrassment before she even arrived at the port!

Shrugging her shoulders, Selen left the offer open if Alice ever wanted to take her up on it.

'Seems like I'll be able to let loose a little when we arrive at the port.' Alyss crossed her legs.

With the vanguard only being 30 Warriors and the Captains going to fight the Grandmaster, it meant that no one spared the time to look at Alyss.

If she was to switch out, she'll be able to fight to her hearts content. Of course, there were still limitations to what she could do but it's been too long since she last stretched her body properly.

Doing training and coming out to eat skewers were fine but Alyss felt like she was about to die of boredom.

'Sure. I'll find a corner where you can rampage without anyone watching.' Alice nodded with a smile as she too knew that Alyss had been suffering in silence.

She wasn't able to bring her out as much as she wanted but now that they're going to the port, this was a perfect chance.

Continuing on their journey, they were going to take an extra day since their pace had slowed down with the lack of carriages.

More rests needed to be taken and supplies were dwindling.

There were occasional ambushes on the road but the main beast wasn't in sight. These ambushes served to keep tensions high while giving the group minimal rest.

Even for Alice who wasn't doing much during these fights and only using her crossbow, she was getting exhausted both physically and mentally.

Once they set up camp, people began to pass out immediately from the exhaustion while captains took the initiative to take watch order.

Most of the Warriors didn't have the senses needed to prevent an ambush like last time so it was up to the captains to keep them safe.

Deciding to sleep in the camp this time rather than a random tree branch, Alice closed her eyes.

"AMBUSH!!!"

Jolting up from having slept only a few hours at best, Alice felt groggy as she rushed out from the tent and saw a crack in the sky with several cracks surrounding the camp.

Everyone became alert as they grabbed their weapons and prepared to fight.

However, time passed and the cracks faded away.

Seeing this, Alice's smile twitched furiously as this was a bait all along. There was no ambush merely signs of one to force people awake.

'These motherf*ckers are not letting us sleep.' Alice thought in annoyance.

If they ignored the initial call, there was a chance that it was a real ambush and many of them would lose their lives again. But if they listened to the call, they'd lose precious sleep.

With this being a false alarm, everyone went back to their tents.

Once again, Alice closed her eyes.

"AMBUSH!!!"

Hearing the shout, veins bulged on Alice's forehead as she dashed out of the tent and so did everyone else.

Once again, the cracks in the sky faded away as Alice felt like throwing a table into the Void.

'You motherf*ckers! If you want to fight just fight! Why the hell are you wasting energy opening cracks but not going through them!? "%&^"!%*&^"*^£\$' She shouted in her mind as an impressive string her curses were said.

Even Alyss had to clap her hands in admiration as she didn't know Alice was able to connect such a long line of swears.

Unable to take it anymore, Olivr decided on a new night watch rotation instead.

A third of the Warriors will be on guard. Not to keep an eye out for ambushes but rather to listen to commands. If the Ambush was real, they'll wake the others while stalling for a bit of time.

If the ambush was fake, the others still get their sleep.

They'll keep switching with this rotation until everyone's gotten a decent amount of sleep.

Going back to her tent feeling annoyed as f*ck, Alice closed her eyes hoping that there were no more false alarms like this. If it continued, she might as well not sleep for the entire night.

Thankfully, that wasn't the case this time. Alice's group was part of the last watch and the other two had no incidents.

Stretching her body, Alice let out a tired yawn while rubbing her eyes.

It was still a few hours till daylight and this was going to be the first time Alice got to watch the sunrise. Ever since coming to the surface, she had been enjoying the sunlight that was absent in the Abyss.

In the Abyss, it was perpetual night. The only source of light were strange crystals, beasts, abilities and the moonlight.

But the light produced couldn't be compared to the warmth generated by the sun.

Thinking about this, a smile crept onto Alice's face as she looked forward to the sunrise.

Looking for a good spot to sit down, Alice kicked her legs back and forth while counting the stars in the sky.

Both Selen and Egil had already done their shifts earlier while Alyss was also sleeping. She had no one to talk to during this shift.

Taking out some fruit, Alice enjoyed it in silence.

After the first hour passed, cracks began to form in the sky as she narrowed her eyes.

She could sense strands of energy coiling around the entrance, threatening to tear it apart but didn't go further.

'Seems like it's just another bait.' Alice thought to herself.

They were using enough power so that the realm threatened to burst but not enough to actually burst it apart.

Not only that, but Alice couldn't sense the presence of beasts behind the fake portals. Even if they were to burst open, there was a chance that there was nothing at all.

However, the portals were lingering longer than what Alice had expected. The captains weren't giving their commands so Alice didn't say anything and continued to count the stars.

Another hour passed but nothing happened.

Only the sound of wind could be heard and nothing else. The night was still dark and it didn't seem like the sun rise was happening any time soon.

Furrowing her brows, Alice immediately sat up as she narrowed her eyes at the fractures in space.

Just like before, strands of energy coiled around the entrance but it wasn't enough to tear it open.

Looking around her, Warriors were talking to one another, some were doing patrols while the captains kept an eye out on everything that was happening.

Logically, it should be fine but the feeling ate away at Alice's mind.

Glancing up at the sky, suspicion filled her mind as she raised her crossbow and fired a single shot.

*Ding...

Widening her eyes, she realised the energy from earlier wasn't trying to tear open a portal at all. Instead, it was a node for a barrier!

She had been looking at it the wrong way since the beginning. If she had considered other possibilities, it wouldn't have taken this long to notice.

Jumping down from the platform, she ran to the captains.

"There's a barrier in place!" Alice called out, causing the two captains to glance towards her in confusion.

"What do you mean?" The captain holding a shield asked as Alice didn't waste any time explaining and loaded another shot into her crossbow.

Raising it up, she fired and like earlier, the arrow bounced off.

Seeing this the captains widened their eyes as the shield captain took a deep breath.

"AMBUSH!!!" He roared, Sigils flaring across his body.

Slamming his shield into the ground, a pulse of energy exploded out and formed a three layer defensive barrier around the camp.

The other captain that was on watch slammed her palms together as a earthen spears shot up from the ground.

A spiral of energy rushed behind it as the spears pierced into the barrier.

*SHATTER!!!

Breaking the barrier in one go, they widened their eyes in shock.

The thick malevolent energy of the beasts poured into the camp as chills went down their spine.

The number of beasts were inferior to the first ambush but they could tell there were two more beasts on the level of the strange draconic beast that took out almost half their Warriors.

Chapter 418 - 418: Ambush By Two Experimental Beasts

Swallowing her saliva nervously, Alice could see two figures hovering in the air on the same level as the strange draconic beast. Their auras are once again on the verge of breaking through to Lord.

Had it not been for the barrier hiding their auras, there was no way such pungent energy would be ignored.

The first beast had a sleek serpentine body with dark scales covering its entire body. Shard spikes with red tips lined the sides and back of its body while the underside was akin to flowing magma.

Through the gaps, a deep crimson glow pulsed as its fierce eyes glared at the camp with a hint of mockery and disdain.

The beast didn't have any wings or legs. Only a pair of claws and a tail.

The second beast was heavily built with an imposing muscular frame covered by a strange white marble material with gold highlights and cracks that pulsed with a golden energy. It has an elongated neck and head with exposed teeth, small white eyes, a pair of long muscular arms with blue claws and thick muscular legs.

Its tail waved behind it but the most prominent feature was the array of large crystalline spikes that ran down its spine.

They radiated a vibrant pink and purple glow while purple lightning would crackle across the surface, jumping from one crystal to another.

One beast looked as though it was built for speed while the other looked like it was built for pure destructive force.

Regardless, with Alice's experience at the crater of the first draconic beast's attack, she could sense the same uncanny nature on these beasts and understood that they were manufactured products.

Beasts created by an unknown party, potentially the Zenia family.

With their plan now discovered, the beasts glanced at one another as energy coalesced towards their location.

Realising that they were attempting to break through his defensive barrier, the shield captain activated all of his Sigils.

Resonance!

Activating his resonance, the shield captain manifested a suit of armour around his body while the three layered barrier began to transform.

A spike of energy woke everyone up in the camp as they rushed out to see the swarm of beasts gathering just outside of the barrier.

Little by little, a fortress manifested.

*BANG!!!!

A torrent of lava clashed against the illusionary fortress while the lava began to sear away at the energy.

Without needing to ask about what happened, Olivr took command.

"Warriors! Kill them all! Show the might of Verona!" He roared, activating his Resonance.

*HURAH!!!!

All of the warriors cried out at the same time as they grabbed their weapons and activated their abilities.

Frontliners took a formation, ready to clash with the beasts while the casters began to hurl abilities at the swarm.

Supports began to buff the casters while Alice made sure no one was looking and took out a vial of her own blood.

'The captains have split into teams of three while the shield captain stayed behind to provide a barrier for everyone. They won't have time to check out the weird sh*t that goes on.' Alice thought to herself as she strapped the vial onto her waist so that she could dip the bolts whenever she needed it.

It was the perfect chance for her to put her blood to the test and see if it still retains the poison or if it, like her, has lost a lot of its effectiveness.

Taking aim with her crossbow, Alice narrowed her eyes at a bird like beast that was preparing to swoop down.

*Thunk!

The arrow embedded itself into the beast's cranium and Alice immediately noticed the flesh around the wound begin to bulge.

'Wait already???' She thought in shock as she didn't expect such a fast reaction.

The rest of its body was fine but the head bubbled and boiled.

Letting out screeches of pain, it began to froth from the beak. Its eyes darted around the battlefield and spotted Alice.

*KRKK!!!!

Folding its wings, it swopped towards Alice as she fired a second shot.

This time, the arrow pierced its shoulder. The flesh bubbled and black tendrils burst out from the flesh, ripping away at the wing until the bones were exposed.

'Holy sh*t what the f*ck is wrong with my blood???' Alice cried out inwardly.

She had seen what her blood did to people and beasts alike. The mutations that occur over time and desperation.

But the bird's reaction was completely different to everything that had happened before. The effect was instantaneous despite the small area. Not only that but rather than a mutation, it was more like the hands that Alyss would conjure whenever she activated her ability.

These tendrils tore away at the beast and just before it could reach Alice, arrows and abilities slammed into it, blasting it apart in the air.

Seeing the bird being blasted apart, Alice could see the parts of its body that were beginning to mutate thanks to her blood.

However, she also noticed another risk that she now had to take into account. Her blood.

While it is the source of this damage, there is also the risk of her blood being taken by her allies.

Thankfully, the flames burned away her blood when the beast was killed. But if it was shot by an arrow, her blood could've landed on an ally and the consequences would've been dire.

'You probably need a way to dispose of your blood once you use it.' Alyss suggested.

Burning away the corpse after using her blood would be the best option to clean up the mess.

'How do you think our Sigils will change because of our new blood?' Alice asked with a twitching smile.

Her third Sigil conjured blood that could be used as a source for her flames and Void Flux.

Meaning, it had the same effects as her standard blood even if it's at a lesser potency. Alice didn't know what kind of mutation happened with the blood inside her body but this was clearly different from normal. If she was to summon a wave of her own blood in a fight then...

'I don't think I should fight near people until I figure out what the f*ck is going on with our body.' Alice concluded while Alyss agreed.

The dangers of dragging other people was too high. Just consuming her blood was a death sentence before the mutation even mind now.

Then there was the synergy with her first Sigil.

The Sigil that transformed her blood into a hallucinogenic while also having addictive properties.

Thinking about all of this, Alice realised her blood was basically a war crime now.

One sip and your body will mutate beyond repair, you'll have hallucinations and even become addicted so you can't stop.

Just the thought sent shivers down Alice's spine.

Sealing the bottle, she placed it back into her pouch. Without a proper way of dealing with the aftermath, Alice couldn't use it.

Especially now that she's on the surface. If she was to bleed into a water supply she'll basically doom an entire city.

While the Vanguard's were pushing back the beasts, Alice took the time to glance towards the captains fighting the experimental beasts. She could tell that the experimental beasts weren't taking the fight seriously, only focusing on dodging and firing abilities from afar.

Bo was keeping up with the serpentine beast but lacked the damage to pierce its defence. Captains who tried to attack it would only find their attacks missing since it was simply too fast.

As for the bulky beast with white scales, the captain's attacks were bouncing off its body and failing to do any serious damage. Whenever a big strike was prepared, the crystals on its back would shimmer and reflect it back at the group.

The best they could do was stall unless they decided to burn everything for the sake of killing them. But if they did, they wouldn't be able to take out the fort as planned.

Right when Olivr was about to make the call to focus on killing the beast, the space around them began to fracture.

Seeing this, the crystalline beast reared its head back and let out a roar.

Slamming both of its fists into the ground, an earthquake erupted, causing the Warriors to lose their footing as the beast began to retreat.

Seeing that another beast was about to escape his grasp, Bo gritted his teeth in anger and tried to grab onto the serpentine beast but it managed to dodge and slam its tail into Bo's chest, sending him crashing towards the ground.

Even though they failed to destroy the supplies, they still lost a few Warriors from the attack while their losses were superficial.

It was at this moment that Olivr knew that they had been caught in a trap all along. Even if they retreated, they wouldn't be able to survive the journey back. The beasts will keep ambushing and they'll continuously lose their numbers until no one is left.

With them being this close to the port, there was only one choice.

An all or nothing gamble to take back the port or die trying. The alternative option was to head back and die on the way.

"Gather your stuff! We march!" Olivr shouted as the Warriors couldn't believe his order. However, all they could do was listen and continue on knowing that this was a death march.

To die with honour or die as a coward. For the northerners, this choice was clear but even so, they had hoped it was for something that made a difference rather than something futile.

All of them knew deep down that this march had failed.

Gathering their supplies, the group continued their journey towards the port.

Chapter 419 - 419: Arriving At The Port

The rest of the journey took them three hours and thankfully, the strange monsters didn't continue their ambush.

But even if that was the case, none of the Warriors could relax their nerves. The feeling of knowing you're walking towards hell. To face death head on and understand the futility of your actions.

Many of them began to doubt and wonder if they should just desert. But with the captains looking over them all, it was an impossible act.

If both paths lead to death, should they just take the honourable route? Or should they spit in the face of their tyrants and laugh at the fact they cannot use them as pawns?

Marching with the group, Alice could sense the discontent of the Warriors. She could tell they were now on a tightrope of choices.

To fall and give up or to keep struggling with no end in sight.

'It makes sense. Captain Olivr did just force everyone to keep going without a care for their damages. Not only that but he didn't care if any of the vanguard dies during the charge. If he blatantly shows that he doesn't care, who would follow.' Alyss scoffed.

It was a very predictable outcome.

'Mnm. But we can't desert either. Most of the captains are watching us like hawks. The moment we make a single move, we'll die.' Alice narrowed her gaze.

With this kind of 'ally' who needs enemies? They'll kill you faster than your enemy.

Crossing her legs, Alyss wondered for a moment before curling her lips up into a smile.

'Wanna kill them?'

Hearing this, Alice rolled her eyes.

'Pft just a joke~' Alyss raised her hands.

But Alice knew that part of it was serious. If some of the captains were to survive this ordeal and get back to the outpost, they'd only lead others to their graves.

Olivr's poor choices and dismissal of risks were proof of that.

So if he were to die, it would be doing others a favour.

'Let's keep it low key for now. Can't go around killing people we don't like for no reason.' Alice shrugged.

Alyss couldn't understand her. If something's annoying just get rid of it.

Thinking up to this point, a bitter smile showed up on Alyss's face.

'I guess that's why we both thought I was the product at first huh?' Alyss thought to herself.

Between the two of them, she was the one who acted the most bloodthirsty. The one who was eager to kill and battle. The one that showed up to handle things with violence.

And the one who had her daggers against Alice since the start.

Even though she was supposedly the 'real' Alice, she acted more like Nyer's product than Alice did.

Alice was... More humane.

'Seems like we're here.' Alice smiled as the port finally came into view.

A thick layer of mist had rolled over the city, obscuring the complete view but within this mist, they could see several ships ready to depart at a moment's notice. Tall walls protected the borders but Alice could tell they weren't normal.

Each of the sections had a different rune carved into it, forming a ritual circle of sorts around the stronghold.

But most importantly, they could see countless civilians walking around the city. Trading, laughing, taking their kids around or walking with their partners.

It wasn't just a defensive stronghold taken by the Extalia kingdom, it was also a city.

With so many civilians within, taking it may prove harder than expected with the casualties.

"We'll attack at night." Olivr called out.

"???" Blinking her eyes, Alice glanced at him in disbelief. Rather than looking at the reaction of the Warriors, he straight up took the initiative to order an attack at night.

If battle truly breaks out, the collateral damage was going to go off the charts. Especially if the previous three beasts were to appear.

Glancing around her, Alice could see the doubt and confusion of the Warriors. The hesitation of attacking a civilian stronghold like this. But what could they do? Rebelling against orders now would simply be a suicide act.

Shaking her head with a light sigh, Alice helped set up the camp.

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"Ohya... Seems like they're still planning on attacking..." A girl muttered softly with a pair of tired eyes.

Long light blonde hair that reached down to her waist with strands hanging over her shoulders. She wore a large, wide brimmed white hat adorned with a myriad of flowers of different colours. Her outfit consisted of a simple white dress, gloves and shoes.

"You should've destroyed more of their supplies on the first attack Elowen." Another girl spoke up with a laugh.

She has long dark hair that holds strands of red within. A pair of bright crimson eyes with a wide grin. Her fangs are a little longer than average.

She wore a black and red dress with an off shoulder jacket, a pair of tights and high boots. A black collar with a flower attached to the side and a flower hair clip gifted to her by Elowen.

However, the most distinctive feature of her was the elongated ears that drew eyes wherever she went.

"I had hoped that the first attack would've dissuaded them... Seems like they don't have a good commander." Elowen shook her head with a sigh.

"Who cares, they're on the ropes anyways. Let's just go and finish them off now. I don't even know why we're ordered to play around with them in the first place." The girl folded her arms in annoyance.

"Stop that. You know why we can't do it." A man frowned as he gave the girl a warning glare.

He has short white spiky hair that was swept back with a few strands dangling over his forehead. A pair of violet eyes and a muscular physique.

Instead of the fancy looking outfits of his peers, his attire was extremely simple.

A plain black tight-fitting shirt, a silver necklace and a pair of pants with boots.

Most would assume he was smoking a cigarette but it was just some candy.

"I can just say it's an accident. Can't help it if they're fragile since Elowen took out almost half of them in one go." The girl scoffed with a shrug.

Hearing this, the man frowned as he narrowed his eyes and glared at her.

Noticing this glare, veins bulged on the girl's neck as she glared back.

"You want to fight? Right here right now? Sure, I can go for a fight you dumb f*ck." She grinned, not taking a step back as scales began to form on the edge of her face.

With the girl about to make a move, the man wasn't going to sit there and take it. Crackles of lightning coiled around his arms as white scales began to form on his body.

Energy gathered towards the two as just before they were about to fight, Elowen sighed lightly before closing her eyes.

""!!!""

Both of them froze up in cold sweat as Elowen glared at the two. Her tired eyes were now replaced by draconic pupils with slits down the centre. Her aura shifted entirely and thick killing intent bore down on the two.

"Keira, Troy, stop f*cking around before I send you two six feet under myself. Just because you're successful products doesn't mean you can go around ruining plans and doing whatever the f*ck you want." Elowen warned as there was a low growl hidden in her voice.

Swallowing their saliva nervously, the two nodded their heads and sat back down.

Seeing that the two had finally calmed down, Elowen nodded her head and closed her eyes. Returning back to normal, her threatening aura disappeared as though it was never there.

"If they want to invade let them. It's of no concern to us since we've already fulfilled our tasks. The key is to now get the newly appointed Cardinal of the Moon to join us don't forget that.

"Just don't do anything stupid that gets in the way of this and you'll be alright. If they do attack, just watch and don't act unless orders come down from above." Elowen reminded as Keira nodded her head.

"And you Troy?"

Scratching his hair, Troy nodded his head as well.

"Good." Elowen smiled in satisfaction.

The goal of the Zenia family was to get the new Cardinal to view them in a favourable light. The youngest Cardinal to have ever been appointed. The strongest even. The next contender to be personally trained by an Apostle if he proves himself.

With all of this going for the young Cardinal, some are even theorising that the Church of the Moon was planning on raising him as the new Pope.

But that was just the view of the common folk.

To the Zenia who are in the know and are in an alliance with the Church of the Moon, they know that they're training the young Cardinal into a Lord.

So if they could interfere with that, he'll become another Lord under the Zenia's control without the Moon knowing.

Thinking of this, Elowen's smile curled up softly as she stood up and decided to roam the city for now.

The barbarians of the North won't attack in daylight, not with the threat of three mysterious beasts above their heads.

They'll wait until sunset to attack but that is also when the Cardinal was most active.

The three of them only need to ensure that certain criteria are met. After all, the world isn't quite ready for their appearance just yet.

Who could predict that the Zenias have managed to merge the blood of beasts with humans together to form a new race of beings?

Chapter 420 - 420: Infiltrating The City Part 1

Resting as much as they could, night soon fell without a single ambush by the strange beasts.

Both Alice and Selen were worried about the upcoming operation since there was a high chance that a lot of the Warriors may change their mind halfway through.

Selen noticed that some of the captains were protesting this choice, Bo included but Olivr was firm on his stance. He refused to go back without any results, not when they've already lost so many.

Now that night fell, they began splitting up the groups.

"Are you sure you're going to be alright?" Selen frowned as Alice laughed.

"Don't worry about it, I prioritise my own survival over everything. I won't kill myself over a small battle like this." Alice reassured as Selen had no choice but to nod.

Even though the stalling group and the vanguard was going to entire the port together, the stalling group are not allowed to fight.

They're expected to sit back and let the vanguard do everything until the beasts appear.

With the groups now formed, Olivr went over the plan of attack.

The port stronghold could be split into four main areas. First was the wall. Each section of the wall acted as a node for a ritual that blocks out large scale attacks.

After wall was the watch towers spread along the inner border. Third was the residential circle and finally, the main hub where the Grandmaster ranked Warrior resided.

The plan was for the captains to first sneak through the side and into the ocean while the vanguard prepares to take attention front the front. If at any point a signal flare is shot into the sky, they're expected to charge in and grab as many guards as possible.

"Use the civilians as hostages if you can. See if the guards hesitate since their lovers or family will be among them. Try to cause them to fight one another because of their different values and stall for time. Whatever it is, as long as you get enough time it'll be fine.

You can even burn the buildings since that'll have most of the guards trying to put it out." Olivr explained while everyone had a sombre expression hearing his plan.

Once again, they couldn't say no to it.

After finishing to explain the plan, Olivr planted a node on everyone. If they tried to escape, take it off or even sabotage, he'd kill them with a snap of his finger.

Now that a literal guillotine was above their heads, the Warriors gave up on the thought of survival, and their eyes lost their vigour. Whatever they do, it'll just result in their deaths.

Playing around with this node, Alice wondered if she was allowed to infiltrate the city ahead of time since staying with the main group was practically asking for the enemy to bombard them with a large scale attack.

She wasn't deserting nor was she sabotaging.

However, just in case Olivr misunderstood and randomly decided to try and kill her, Alice shuffled over to Bo.

"Pst, Captain." Alice called out as Bo glanced over.

"Do you think he'll mind if I go into the city ahead of time? Get myself into a more favourable spot ya know?" Alice whispered as Bo raised his eyebrows in confusion.

"Why would you even want to go in early?"

"Do you seriously think I'll be helpful in a head on suicide charge? If I was in top condition sure but right now I'm just gonna get hit by a random fireball and die." Alice rolled her eyes.

"So I want to go in ahead of time and see if I can take out a tower or something." She suggested.

"You realise that to take down the towers you'll have to kill the guards anyway right? How do you plan on doing that?"

Alice's choice was truly baffling to Bo. One moment she's saying she didn't want to die randomly and the next she's saying she wants to enter ahead of time which brings her more harm.

"I don't need to kill people in order to take care of the node holding the barrier together you know that right?" Alice persuaded as Olivr walked over, overhearing the conversation.

Thinking about it for a moment, a smile crept up on his face.

"Sure, I don't see why not. Don't you agree Bo?" Olivr patted his shoulder as Bo furrowed his brows.

"However, I'll only agree if you attack the west tower."

Glancing towards the city, Alice understood what Olivr was planning. The west tower was the furthest tower from the main hub where the Grandmaster was. If she was to f*ck up, all the guards will rush towards her instead.

But she didn't mind that.

"Got any supplies for me then? I only have a crossbow and some daggers after all." Alice shrugged. If he was agreeing on this mission then she might as well ask for some supplies.

"Go find Frida for some explosives and traps. Use those to your advantage to take out the tower or make some noise along the way. I'll keep an eye on you." Olivr laughed, patting Alice's shoulder before walking away.

Looking at Alice in disbelief, Bo couldn't help but sigh and hold back the thought of wanting to smack her across the head.

"Why are you this reckless? Can't you just sit back and wait like everyone else?" Bo asked, unsure as to why Alice even wanted to go on ahead in the first place.

"Like I said, it improves the chances of my survival." Alice laughed.

Everything she did was for the sake of survival. And so far, this was the best option she could think of. Joining the main charge was absolutely off the table.

Plus, there was another reason as to why she suggested this.

Compared to the Zenia prison, the guards here were simply too lax!

Reassuring Bo one last time, Alice looked for the captain called Frida and asked for the supplies. Five explosives, two fire traps and lastly, a set of wires.

On top of everything, Alice asked for some more daggers that she could fit into her pouch. Seeing as how Alice was essentially going on a solo mission, Frida gave her a set of 10 throwing knives.

With everything packed into her pouch, Alice was about to make her way to the port stronghold when Selen stopped her for a moment. She handed Alice a small orb flickering with a blue energy.

"Break if it things get tough. It should give you a cast of my acceleration though the effects might not be great. It's a bit of a gamble since I haven't used it on anyone else nor do I know if you can withstand it or not." Selen explained.

With Alice's current body, she had avoided using her skills on her if possible but with this kind of mission, they needed a trump card or two.

"Thanks." Alice smiled, accepting the orb before making her way to the city.

'So what's the plan then? We can't go through the main gate which is a given and I'm not sure if your body can survive circling around through the ocean.' Alyss asked curiously.

'Well, there's only one choice duh~ We climb.' Alice chuckled.

She was going to scale the walls surrounding the city.

'Or are you getting cold feet?' Alice smirked.

'Hah??? Me? Get cold feet? As if.' Alyss rolled their eyes.

Why would she be getting cold feet from such a loosely guarded place? For every guard they have patrolling, the Zenias would've had 5 or 6 in that same area.

All of the guards worked in groups to keep her contained yet Alice was still able to force her way out at certain moments during her imprisonment.

Of course, the difference was that she was empowered by beast blood back then and fought her way out. However, it didn't change the fact that the Zenia prison was far more guarded than this place so getting in or out should be a piece of cake for Alice.

Reaching into her pouch, she changed her attire into one that could hide her better.

A black hooded jacket with a face mask that covered most of her face except her eyes and a full black attire that covered every inch of her body.

After getting down from the mountains, the snow that covered the ground was mostly melted away, especially near the main road.

Hiding herself behind the trees, Alice observed the guards on rotation and above the wall.

'The best way to go would be to begin climbing up the main gates. They keep scanning along the walls but not along the gate. Though... Seems like they're ready for us.' Alice muttered inwardly.

She could see that none of the guards were taking their job lightly as they would constantly keep an eye out, covering any blind spot they might have.

'It's to be expected. After all, they should've been notified by the Zenia's that we're going to attack.' Alyss shrugged as though it was a matter of fact.

However, that was not the case since the Zenias had no obligation to the city. But that's not something they knew and so, Alice kept her guard up while slowly approaching the city.

The key was to keep on the edge of their peripherals and stop the moment they turn to look towards her. For that, she needed to plan a proper route towards the main gate.

There was a river leading to the city from the side with some trees. There were more guards but the trade off was more hiding spots for Alice.

Curling her lips up into a grin, Alice began her infiltration.