

## Armipotent 1221

### Chapter 1221 Alliance - Part 1

Zhang Mengyao raised her right eyebrow. For the first time, her expression changed. The calm and emotionless mask turned into a surprise and the proposal piqued her interest. An alliance with the First Order Guild was an interesting proposal to hear.

"Your offer is quite interesting, but it seems you don't know the whole situation," Zhang Mengyao met with Herman's gaze. "Let me hear your reason, why do you want to form an alliance with us instead of making an alliance with the World Government."

"Because I know the First Order Guild will be the next World Government's target if the Tang Empire falls. I disagree with the World Government's view, and we will remain independent from any influence. That should be a convincing reason for you to form an alliance with us," Herman voiced his thoughts.

"Make sense, but as I said, you don't understand the whole situation, Guild Leader Herman," Zhang Mengyao shook her head, "Our enemy is not the World Government or The Uprising Guild. This might sound arrogant, but I will be honest with you. We don't care about them, our real enemy is The Divine Church and The Federation of Allurion."

Herman Bonivido, Frans, and Henry looked confused. They did not know yet about the other three factions in this city. Zander seemed to hide that from The First Order Guild, or maybe Herman just pretended not to know anything in front of them.

"They are the factions from the other worlds who participated in this Dimensional Tower, just like us but from another world that's not Earth. We are in a war against them. I will share with you a little bit of information about the two factions. They are the factions that have conquered several worlds, and because of Our Emperor, they seem to be targeting Earth now. They want to conquer Earth and have been trying to find Earth's location for quite some time."

Herman Bonivido had a hard time understanding the whole situation. That was too much information to dump at him. The participants from the other worlds, factions that conquered several worlds, and the real war they would face if they sided with the Tang Empire.

"If you don't understand, let's make it simpler. We are in a war against the factions that have experienced several dimensional towers. Are you sure you want to form an alliance with us?" Zhang Mengyao raised her right brow, "In their terms, we are newbies in this tower while they are the veterans. I am afraid they will be using The World Government and The Uprising Guild to locate the Earth's location."

Herman Bonivido looked at Frans, his trusted aide. The thing was much bigger than he thought, and the scarier part was the fact that the Tang Empire was still intact, missing the Emperor, despite fighting two factions at once. That just showed how formidable the Tang Empire was. However, just as Zhang Mengyao said, it would be different if the war was against another two formidable factions. The First Order Guild did not have enmity against the two mentioned factions, and they did not want to meddle in that muddy water.

Frans shook his head, indicating not to agree at the spot. They lacked so much information. The moment they arrived on the eleventh floor, they thought they caught up with the Tang Empire, and there were no other participants other than the factions from Earth. With the new information, they would make different decisions, including the alliance.

"Let's make an alliance!" Herman Bonivido did not heed his Vice Guild Leader's advice and made the decision on the spot, "I don't know how strong The Federation of Allurion and The Divine Church are, but we have to fight sooner or later if they decide to invade the Earth. I don't plan to join the World Government, and I don't plan to be ruled by factions outside the Earth. I have no choice but to fight, with the Tang Empire or without The Tang Empire."

Zhang Mengyao snapped her finger, "Let's make the alliance and sign the contract right away." The contract did not hold the power to punish the breacher, but it would help to find out if any party broke the contract. The moment the contract was broken, they knew how to act. That was the use of the contract, and Herman agreed to sign the contract.

"Guild Leader..." Frans wanted to persuade Herman to think it over again before making the alliance. He felt like this was too hasty.

Herman raised his right hand, motioning at his Vice Guild Leader to stop talking. He made the decision, and it was final. Kang Xue brought the contract and both sides discussed the terms for the alliance. It was a temporary alliance until they repelled the Federation of Allurion and the Divine Church from Earth if an invasion happened.

"I like talking with a decisive person like you. If you say you will think about it and come back later to propose the same alliance, I will decline your alliance proposal," Zhang Mengyao said after she dropped the blood on the contract.

"I guess I made the right decision then," Herman smiled as he secured the alliance with the Tang Empire, "I will not take your time anymore since you have another guest."

The First Order Guild left the meeting, leaving Zhang Mengyao, Cao Jingyi, Kang Xue, and Marshal Alton in the room. Marshal Alton could not hold back his curiosity anymore, "May I know why we form an alliance with them, Supreme Commander Zhang? I feel like nothing will change whether we form an alliance with them or not."

"Exactly. There's no harm in forming an alliance with them, but we gain a little advantage here," Zhang Mengyao smiled, "We don't have access to their territory, across the sea. We don't know what happened there unless we sent Li Na with her summon there. But we don't need to do that anymore because we have the First Order Guild to watch their area. They can relay some information in case the federation and the church enter the Earth through their area."

"Information. That's why we need information from them so we will be ready if they invade Earth. The First Order Guild will watch their continent while we focus on ours."

Chapter 1222 Alliance - Part 2

After the meeting with the First Order Guild, Zhang Mengyao went to meet Reinart Thamsen in another room. She entered the room and noticed Reinart did not come alone. He came with another three people, and she recognized one of them, Arnor Ollsen.

Zhang Mengyao did not hide her disgust and displeasure for Arnor Ollsen, taking the main seat, looking straight at Reinart Thamsen, "If you are going to talk about the compensation, you better leave. You are wasting my time." She was direct with her words. It is natural for her to guess their purpose like that with Arnor Ollsen with them.

"Oh, no. You misunderstand us, Lady Zhang. We come here to apologize to you," Reinart Thamsen nudged Arnor with his elbow.

Arnor Ollsen stood up from his chair, and bowed his head toward Zhang Mengyao, "I apologize for my rude behavior and disrespect the other day." Then the Duke's descendant returned to his seat.

Zhang Mengyao squinted her eyes, eyeing Arnor Ollsen. It was so obvious the guy was forced to apologize with how reluctant Arnor was. She then glanced at Reinart who was still smiling at her, "I accept the apology. Do you need anything else?"

"Of course, but why don't we talk it slowly, Lady Zhang. I have heard the Tang Empire's situation is quite bad, do you need our assistance?" Reinart started to reveal his intention to meet Zhang Mengyao, "We can help you in this unfair war."

Zhang Mengyao raised her right eyebrow, not expecting the opposite party to offer assistance. However, it did not take her too long to understand why The Giteron Dynasty offered her their help. The balance of the war was about to be broken when the other factions from Earth started to side with The Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion. That was something The Giteron Dynasty did not wish to happen. They reaped the most benefits from the war, and they wanted the war to continue.

"Assistance, huh? What's the Giteron Dynasty want in exchange for the assistance?" Zhang Mengyao wanted to turn down the offer right away. She knew there was an ulterior motive behind that tempting offer, but she wanted to dig into the real motive behind the offer. Knowing what the Giteron Dynasty wanted might be useful in the future.

"It's not just assistance, we are willing to forge an alliance with The Tang Empire. What do you think, Lady Zhang? If we are in alliance, the Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion will cease their offense against The Tang Empire," Reinart Thamsen did not say what the Giteron Dynasty did, keeping it in suspense.

"Hmmm, an interesting offer, but what do you gain from forming an alliance with us? I can't think of anything that will benefit the Giteron Dynasty," Zhang Mengyao maintained her polite smile.

"Of course, it's to keep the balance in this city. If the Tang Empire falls in this war, the Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion will set their eyes on us. They want to monopolize the resources by themselves after getting rid of the Tang Empire, and the Giteron Dynasty is an obstacle for them. That's why we propose the alliance," Reinart Thamsen explained with a charming smile.

The Giteron Dynasty had the same reason as the First Order Guild, but there was no way she would believe them. That was just complete nonsense from a faction that conquered several worlds.

Zhang Mengyao had the urge to roll her eyes, a habit she developed with Tang Shaoyang. Tang Shaoyang often said some nonsense, and she would roll her eyes. However, she managed to hold back. It was so obvious for her to see the nonsense. There was no reason for The Divine Church and the Federation of Allurion to try to get rid of the Giteron Dynasty. From what Tang Shaoyang told her, these people were just the reserve force for their faction. The Dimensional Tower was their training ground to train their force.

"What we want is not a temporary alliance, but a long-lasting alliance and also an alliance with a strong foundation. That's why I propose the marriage alliance between the Tang Empire and the Giteron Dynasty. That will mark the eternal alliance between the two factions!" Reinart Thamsen was so passionate about this marriage alliance, showing real emotion on his face for the first time.

Zhang Mengyao's smile disappeared, replaced with a solemn expression. Deep inside, she was raging. She finally understood the Giteron Dynasty's purpose. What they wanted was not an alliance, but the Tang Empire. The alliance was just nonsense. They wanted to put their person in the core of the Tang Empire and slowly took the Tang Empire from the inside. If Tang Shaoyang was truly no longer in this world and this man offered this nonsense marriage alliance, she would snap Reinart's neck regardless of the consequence.

"We have two candidates for the marriage alliance, you can choose who you want to marry, Lady Zhang," Reinart Thamsen continued, "The first candidate is myself, Reinart Thamsen. The second candidate will be Arnor Ollsen."

The Giteron Dynasty must believe The Tang Empire was being cornered to believe the Tang Empire would accept the alliance. Then the Giteron Dynasty mistakenly assumed that Zhang Mengyao was the new leader of the Tang Empire. Zhang Mengyao clenched her palm into a fist. She had an urge to destroy the table in front of her to vent her anger. However, she controlled her anger, kept it inside her, and did not let the opposite party notice that.

Zhang Mengyao shook her head, "It's unfortunate that our factions are not meant to form an alliance, Sir Thamsen. Also, it seems you are mistaken about my position. I am not the Empress of the Tang Empire. That position is still vacant and will be vacant until our son is ready to fill the vacant position."

There was a slight change of expression on Reinart Thamsen's face, but he kept his smile, "It's indeed unfortunate. However, our offer for the alliance will be up for the Tang Empire. If you change your mind, you know where to find me." Reinart Thamsen stood up from the chair, followed by the other three, "We will take our leave since I know you are busy."

Reinart Thamsen and his group left the room. However, Zhang Mengyao remained in her seat even though the guests had left. She stayed there for over two minutes. When she got up, she slammed the table hard with her palm, breaking the table into two.

Bang!

"I want to hunt some monsters to vent my frustration. I want to hunt monsters!" Zhang Mengyao revealed her frustration and her anger.

Zhang Mengyao's outburst shocked Marshal Alton, Kang Xue, and Cao Jingyi. They never saw this side of Zhang Mengyao. Even though The Supreme Commander was known for her strictness, no

one would relate her to acts of violence like this. This was the first time she destroyed the table. She said nothing, heading out of the room.

Zhang Mengyao just opened the door, but then she halted her steps to go out, turning her head toward Marshal Alton, "What about a spar, Marshal Alton. I need to release some steam, and you might be one of the few who could survive my full power. I do really need to release my pent-up frustration before it gets into my head."

"I will be glad to be your sparring partner, Lady Zhang," Marshal Alton smiled.

#### Chapter 1223 The Time Has Come - Part 1

With more factions from Earth arriving on the eleventh floor, everything they had predicted came true. The World Government and The Uprising Guild brought the army of the Divine Church and The Federation of Allurion into Earth. The Tang Empire Intelligence Division (TEID) spotted The Uprising Guild bringing over a thousand army from the Federation of the Allurion into the Earth region and never left the region. Meanwhile, The World Government brought the two thousand Holy Knights with them.

Three thousand additional forces were not that much compared to their number. However, they suspected the three thousand were at least Epic Rank with the lowest ranks, Elite of the Elites. They must prepare to fight them.

Zhang Mengyao summoned everyone with authority into the meeting to inform them of her decision under Tang Shaoyang's consent, "I have gotten His Majesty's agreement that we will pull back from the Dimensional Tower except for the TEID's members. They will stay here and watch their movement. We need to know the number they send into our world, and we will make sure to kill them all!" She glanced at Viona and Yeon Hee, the temporary head for TEID.

"Yes, Ma'am!" Both replied respectfully.

"We don't surrender, and we haven't lost the War. We just change the battlefield, and this time we will make sure they will know the consequences of opposing the Tang Empire," Zhang Mengyao stood up from the chair, "The meeting is over. Get the things done here and return to our home."

The people dispersed, leaving the room with a heavy atmosphere. It was another war for them, a war that would cost their people's lives, and it was on a bigger scale this time. Because it was not just the two factions, but also the six factions of the World Government and also the Uprising Guild. It would involve hundreds of thousands of lives, the war that would change the Earth forever.

Zhang Mengyao remained in the room with Cao Jingyi, Kang Xue, Wei Xi, Yeon Hee, and Viona. She looked at Viona and Yeon Hee, "Warn the sub-region war is coming for them. We don't need their help, but it will be better for them to join us at Capital. We can protect them from the incoming enemy."

Before Viona and Yeon Hee could respond, Zhang Mengyao waved her hand, "Ah, I will tell them myself. I forget they are part of our factions. I will inform them through the Communication System."

"Do you have any news from His Majesty?" Wei Xi could not hold back anymore and asked. He felt uneasy that they were in a big war without Tang Shaoyang. They had been fighting the zombie, a lot of hordes, losing many people. But he never felt uneasy like this.

Zhang Mengyao nodded, "he is on the fourteenth floor right now, slaughtering his way to the fifteenth floor. He can't return right now because we need him to be strong enough to face the God Ranks. We will fight without him."

"Do we really have to fight? Can we talk with them and resolve things peacefully like before?" Cao Jingyi opened her mouth, looking at Zhang Mengyao with worry in her eyes. The before in her mouth was the time before the Game started, when things could be resolved with a conversation at the table. It did not have to be a war.

Zhang Mengyao turned toward Cao Jingyi, "You speak as if we want war. Do you think I want this war? They believe this is the right time to strike The Tang Empire when His Majesty is dead, so tell me how are you going to persuade them not to attack us? Giving up our territory? Disband a faction and live under their rules?"

"I know you don't like the way he rules. He is ruthless and crude, not hesitate to kill people, you can even say bloodthirsty. But remember the only time he became ruthless and unforgiving is when he tried to protect us, his people, the people who trusted him. He did that for his people, never for his hobby or personal interest. Have you seen what—" Zhang Mengyao stopped midway as Kang Xue held her hand, shaking at her, signaling her not to tell about what happened behind the man that always looked strong on the outside.

"No, Sister Jingyi needs to know. I don't like it when she keeps questioning his decision, even has the nerve to call him cruel," Zhang Mengyao looked at Cao Jingyi. She knew Cao Jingyi never agreed to Tang Shaoyang's method, even calling him a monster along with the other people behind, "You have been one of us from the start. You are one of the founders of this empire. I respect you for everything you have done for the empire, but you call him a monster for executing the people who betrayed us. You call him a monster because he executed the rapist who raped our healers who keep our people's alive. Don't be shocked, Origin hears everything, and I know the people he protected with his life have been calling him a monster, not all, but not little, and you are one of those people."

Wei Xi was shocked to hear that. He did not expect her wife to have been calling the Emperor a monster, and Cao Jingyi was also shocked that Zhang Mengyao found out.

"Did you know that he has been questioning himself, is he a monster for doing all of that? Not just one, but several occasions. Now you know," Zhang Mengyao lost control of her emotions. She was at the edge knowing the Divine Church or the Federation of Allurion might already find the Earth's location so their God Ranks could come. There were so many things in her head right now, "Now you know that he felt guilty for killing those people, but he did it anyway. For your, and the other people who have been calling him a monster."

"Do you know one of his messages that I just received? He said he will be a monster to protect his empire and his people if needed. He is ready to be a monster, throwing away any conscience remaining in him to fight the God Ranks that might invade our home. I guess we will see a real monster once he returns."

## Chapter 1224: The Time Has Come - Part 2

The room went silent, just breathing could be heard in the room after that. Zhang Mengyao then closed her eyes and let out a sigh, "I am sorry. I should not have vented out my frustration on you, Sis Jingyi. Knowing that several God Ranks might come and destroy the home we have rebuilt stressed me out. I have been on the edge these days."

"However, since I did it already, I might as well say my piece. Do you know what he said to himself all this time to convince him that he is doing the right thing? The world has changed, and he has to accept the new change and adapt. That's the only way to survive. That's what he said to himself, and I agree with it. The world has changed, and we have to adapt to the new world. He might be cruel for executing the traitor, but what the traitor did was much worse than what he did. And maybe there are many worse things outside our view that we don't know. We have to adapt if we want to survive, or you don't need to as long as my husband is alive. He adapts to the new world and will protect you and the other people who have been calling him a monster."

"I still respect you for what you have done, but I hope you can stop calling him a monster too. That will give him peace of mind, knowing someone that is close to him understand him. You don't have to call him by his title and any other formality, but you don't have to call him a monster too, the person who tried his best to protect our new home," Zhang Mengyao smiled and stretched out, "It feels good to speak out." She then heard a notification in her head.

"A new message from His Majesty," She then turned toward Viona and Yeon Hee, "He sends your leader back, along with a big reinforcement for our next war. You know what to do, right?"

"Yes, Ma'am!" Viona and Yeon Hee looked delighted when they heard Lu An would return. The work had been hard without Lu An.

"Let's return and defend our home from the invasion!" Zhang Mengyao rose from her seat, leaving the meeting by herself.

That was a shocking revelation that even Kang Xue was shocked. She did not knot and never in her mind would think that Cao Jingyi would call her husband a monster. She thought Cao Jingyi would understand every Tang Shaoyang decision, but she was wrong about it.

"I am sorry.... I don't know he has been enduring the guilt all by himself all this time while I ignorantly called him a monster. I..." Cao Jingyi did not know what to say anymore.

"I understand your perspective. We were living peacefully two years ago, no monster, no zombie, no tower, no system. It is still hard to accept how the world changed. It's even still hard to believe that I have this magical power, and he is also the same as us, a person with feelings and guilt. He looked strong on the outside, but we always remind him to look strong in front of people. If he shows weakness as Emperor, how will people trust him to protect them? That's what we always say to him, but just remember, he is also a person with feelings like us. We can't expect everyone to understand him, but as the people who are close to him, we have to understand him," Kang Xue hugged Cao Jingyi, caressing her back, "Remember what he said to you before? He still needs people who always question his decision so he can reflect on his decision. Don't mind Mengyao, she was on the edge because Tang Shaoyang had been fighting recklessly on the upper floor. She

has been restless after knowing he died once, please understand her. His Majesty still needs you in the court."

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As soon as they returned to Earth, Zhang Mengyao held another meeting. Meeting after meeting to discuss their future move. While they knew the World Government and The Uprising Guild brought the reinforcement, they did not know the exact location of this reinforcement location. The World Government and The Uprising Guild were never a threat to them, but the Federation of Allurion and The Divine Church. They needed to find where these people were before they figured out how to find the Earth's location if they had not figured it out yet.

"We have a sub-region in Europe, and we have set up a portal to their territory. We can send TEID to search where the reinforcement is and kill them all with our finest men," Zhang Mengyao turned toward the Minister of External Affairs who had been managing the diplomacy issue. The World Union, the leading faction in the World Government was in Europe, and the reinforcement might be staying with the World Union.

"We have a problem, Supreme Commander Zhang. You have invited The Belem Guild to come, but they haven't sent any representative yet. I sent my people to check on them, but they haven't returned yet," The Minister of External Affairs was a middle-aged man in his mid-forties, and he was handpicked by Prime Minister Li Shuang.

Bang!

Zhang Mengyao slammed the table hard, but she controlled her power not to break the table, "Why don't you tell me earlier? My invitation to them was three days ago, and we have been in this meeting for three hours. Why didn't you inform me earlier that the people you sent haven't returned?" She raised her voice, furious that she was not informed earlier.

All the sub-regions had received the call and all of them were coming. She thought everyone from the sub-regions had already arrived, no one told her that their sub-region in Europe had not arrived. There were several possibilities. First, The Belem Guild was destroyed by the World Government. Second, The Belem Guild betrayed the Tang Empire.

"The meeting is over for now." Zhang Mengyao then looked up, "Origin! Check the Belem Guild's contract!" Then he turned toward Lu An, "Prepare to depart with me, Lu An. I need to know what happens in Europe's sub-regions!"

## Chapter 1225 The First Clash

Zhang Mengyao rushed toward the portal room, heading straight to Belem Guild's portal. She stood there while waiting for Origin's confirmation about the contract. The Guild Leader and the two Vice Guild Leaders had taken an oath; the chance of the Belem Guild betraying the Tang Empire was small as long as the three important figures were alive.

[I can't find their contracts, Ma'am.]

"What does it mean?" Zhang Mengyao frowned, "Does someone take the contract from our archive? There's a traitor working for us?"

[It could mean two things. One, the person who signed the contract died. Second, they have found a way to cancel the contract.]

"I thought the contract would just lose its power if the person who signed the contract died? We have killed the traitors, and their contract did not disappear," She remembered the traitors, and she remembered the contract that turned red and returned to normal scroll afterward. The contract did not disappear, she especially took note of that specific information.

"Does that mean it's safe to assume that they betray us?" Lu An looked into the portal. He just needed the words, and he would enter the portal and send the punishment for the traitors.

[There's a special case where the contract disappears if the person who signed the contract dies. There's a special item like that.]

The possibility was that the Belem Guild was destroyed and the Guild Leader along with the two Vice Leaders were killed. Or maybe the three leaders were killed and replaced with new ones. In conclusion, this is not a good with the fact the Belem Guild did not report if they had a new guild leader.

"What's the plan now? Should I sneak into the portal and check the situation?" Lu An asked for instructions. If it was him alone, he would jump into the portal already.

"We need a team. I am afraid this is a trap. If we enter the portal, they might try to destroy the portal so we can't return. We have to be more careful as I am afraid the World Government might get involved in this matter," Zhang Mengyao wanted to take care of everything cautiously. The Belem Guild was in Lisbon, Portugal. At the corner of Europe, and if they were trapped there, there would be no reinforcement unless Tang Shaoyang came to help him, and maybe Li Na.

It did not take long to assemble the elite of the elite team, Zhang Mengyao, Lu An, Rosalie, Marshal Alton, Legion Commander Moonsong, The Elven King Virion, Viona, Yeon Hee, Kang Xue, and Wei Xi. That might be the strongest lineup they had right now. Lu An, Viona, and Yeon Hee hid in Zhang Mengyao's shadow, so only seven of them went through the portal physically.

Zhang Mengyao was on alert as soon as her vision returned, inside the hall where the Belem Guild put the portal. Her eyes immediately moved, observing the surroundings. There were four people guarding the portal, and the four guards immediately bowed their heads at them. The guard wore full plate armor with a helmet, covering their faces.

"Where's your guild leader?"

The four guards looked surprised at the question, or maybe not expecting Zhang Mengyao to ask them about their guild leader right after coming out of the portal. Instead of answering Zhang Mengyao, the four guards lifted up their helmets, "It seems the World Union is quite right about their judgment about you all. You are a bunch of arrogant backwoods, coming here knowing this is a trap."

As the helmet fell to the ground, people burst out of the door, entering the big hall, surrounding the seven people. There were around a hundred people in this room.

"Where's...." Zhang Mengyao tapped her forehead with her palm. She forgot something important, it was the fact that the Belem Guild was also a member of the Tang Empire. She could check

whether they were alive or not by checking the member list. Opening the member lists, she typed three names, and their names disappeared. Checking the guild log, no one quit the faction, meaning the three people she checked were indeed dead.

"Ten Primordial Ranks, Twenty-two Myth Ranks, Thirty Ancient Ranks, and thirty-eight Epic Ranks. It will be a hard fight without destroying the portal, Supreme Commander. Should we retreat?" Marshal Alton was not scared of their ranks and number, but the impact might destroy the portal.

Before Zhang Mengyao could respond the hall was engulfed with shadow as everyone heard Lu An's excited voice, "They are mine!"

The shadow could not differentiate between friends and enemies. Everyone, including Zhang Mengyao, lost her vision. She took three steps back, staying as close to the portal as possible. Not because she wanted to escape but to protect the portal from being destroyed, "You guys can fight them. I will protect their portal."

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Everyone was on the move while Zhang Mengyao stayed at the portal with Rosalie, "I have formed a barrier around the portal." The Flame Empress informed Zhang Mengyao. Of course, they came up with a plan before entering the portal. Rosalie would protect the portal if it came for the worst, and it had come for the worst.

Zhang Mengyao had her lance in her right hand and a shield in her left hand, closing her eyes, relying on her talent to judge the situation around her. Insight was the most useful talent when she lost her vision as she could know where the enemy would come from even though he could not see them.

Time passed, but Rosalie and Zhang Mengyao could not hear anything or see what happened around them. The shadow not just took their visions, but also their hearings. Rosalie and Zhang Mengyao could talk because they were standing next to each other, and their shoulders were touching. That was why they could talk. If Rosalie was half a meter away from Zhang Mengyao, she could not have this conversation, "I don't like this. We need to talk to Lu An after this is over, though he won't listen to me."

"I will talk to him later.... Someone is coming, to your left," Zhang Mengyao and Rosalie switched positions as the former thrust the lance to the left. She pulled the lance, and sure enough, there was a person dangling on the lance. The lance pierced through the chest. It was a man in his transformation, similar to a furry creature with a spiral horn. The horn and fur started to disappear as the man breathed out his last breath. The man also lost a chunk of meat on his neck and also an arrow to the thigh and shoulder.

Rosalie could not really use her fire as she did not want to hurt her friend in this blind fight. She really could do nothing with her fire or Gravity field as it might hurt her friends instead of killing her enemies. This was why she did not like being in this shadow.

minutes, he could not kill all the enemy, he should recall the shadow so his friends could fight optimally. In the following five Ten minutes passed, and the fight still continued with the shadow remaining in place, "Lu An! Pull off your shadow! You are wasting our time here!" Zhang Mengyao

had given the time, and if in ten minutes, he could not kill all the enemy, he should recall the shadow so his friends could fight optimally. In the following five seconds, the shadow was pulled off as Lu An stood next to Zhang Mengyao.

The first thing Zhang Mengyao did was to check on her friends, and all ten are alive. Then she checked on her enemy, more than half were dead. Marshal Alton shook the blood off his sword while Virion nocked another arrow on his bow. Kang Xue held the big scythe on her shoulder, blood dripped out of the blade. Moonsong licked the blood on his claw, Wei Xi was still in his stance, looking nervous. Lu An shook off the blood on his sword while Viona and Yeon Hee remained in Zhang Mengyao's shadow.

"There are still five more Primordial Ranks," Marshal Alton informed.

Of a hundred people, only thirty-seven people were still standing with their weapons. All of them were in Bloodline Transformation while none from the Tang Empire used the Bloodline Transformation. They took advantage of the shadow to kill more than half.

Zhang Mengyao glanced at Rosalie, nodding at her. Rosalie smiled at the signal as she activated Gravity Field to the max. All thirty-seven people were not expecting the Gravity Field, which caught them off guard. The thirty-seven people fell flat on the floor. What followed was even crazier as golden fire shot up from the floor. The fire filled the hall, leaving enough space around the portal. The screams could be heard from the fire.

Zhang Mengyao was about to say to leave a few alive for an interrogation, but she was too late. Not expecting how fast Rosalie burned them all, "I was about to say to leave a few of them alive for questioning...."

"Ah...." Rosalie immediately pulled off the fire. The golden fire completely disappeared afterward, and fortunately, there were still a few alive, running around in pain, "There you go, four people are still alive."

Zhang Mengyao glanced at Kang Xue, signaling her to heal the people who were still alive. Kang Xue's light attribute could be used to heal.

The Supreme Commander looked Rosalie in the eyes, "I will also talk with you later, Rosalie. We will talk later after I finish with Lu An." The Flame Empress avoided Zhang Mengyao's eyes, pretending to look somewhere else.

"Take them back with us," Zhang Mengyao turned toward Lu An, "You will be in charge of questioning them. We need to know all the information from them. They must be the people from the Federation of Allurion if they are in Europe."

Moonsong, Alton, Lu An, and Viona each held the prisoner who just got healed by Kang Xue. Then They left Belem Guild, and that was the first clash and also the start of the war between the World Government & The Uprising Guild against the Tang Empire.

## Chapter 1226 Mercenary

Zhang Mengyao immediately ordered tight security on the portal as soon as they returned from Lisbon. Lu An left with the prisoners along with Viona and Yeon Hee while Zhang Mengyao held another meeting. She informed everyone what she encountered on the other side and asked for the other's opinions on how to handle the situation.

"Should we destroy the portal?" Wei Xi was quite hesitant, but he felt like destroying the portal might be the safe choice. That way the other side could not get to them.

"The portal is important. While they can get into our castle, we can also utilize the portal to get into them. No, I think we can use the portal to take over Lisbon. We take Lisbon back from them, and we can use Lisbon as our base to take the initiative to attack them instead of waiting for them to attack us," Virion immediately opposed the idea of destroying the portal. He felt like the portal might be the key to the war.

"I agree with Virion. Taking Lisbon for ourselves then we can take the initiative from there. However, I think we should wait for Lu An before making the decision. We need information to make our next move," Marshal Alton supported Virion's idea.

"Then we will wait for Lu An before we decide what to do with the portal," Zhang Mengyao nodded, "What about their Primordial Rank, Marshal Alton? Are they stronger or are they the same as the ones you killed in the Dimensional Tower?"

"They are about the same, but I don't think they are the main reinforcement from the Divine Church. They are not the Holy Knight, and they are also not part of the Federation of Allurion," Marshal Alton furrowed his brows as he realized something fishy. The people of the federation were a non-human race, either elves or beastmen. However, the one they faced was human, and they were not Holy Knights either.

"They are mercenaries hired by The Federation of Allurion. They smuggled ten thousand mercenaries in disguise, and more mercenaries will come for Earth," Lu An came out of the shadows and told them the information he got from the prisoners.

"What about the World Government's movement? Do the mercenaries know something about their plan? Like how they will fight us?" Zhang Mengyao furrowed her brow, not expecting the people they fought, were mercenaries. If not for Marshal Alton, she would not notice it.

"They will not attack us," Lu An shook his head, "They don't plan on attacking us, but they plan to take the unconquered territories. At least, that's the task of the mercenaries."

"As for the Belem Guild. They are killed in the surprise attack by the mercenary. All fighters were killed by them.

"I see...." Zhang Mengyao let out a sigh, but it was not the time to dwell on the dead. She turned toward Marshal Alton, "Then we should take Lisbon, we will take the initiative instead of letting them take all the territories."

Marshal Alton nodded and agreed with the direction. They did not know why they chose to take all the territories despite the reinforcement they had, but whatever the World Government planned, they needed to disrupt their plan.

"Alright, we will split the force. The Tarrion will focus on China and the surrounding countries while Marshal Alton will lead the Beast Coven and The Elven Kingdom to Lisbon. Lu An will help bring his team to help you gather the information," Zhang Mengyao split the force.

Then She turned toward the sub-region, "What about Korea? Have you taken all territories in your country, General Park Nam Hoon?" Park Nam Hoon, the former guild leader of the Legion Guild, who was now taking up a General position in the Tang Empire was in charge of Korea's territory.

"I apologize, Ma'am. We only take half of the smart base in South Korea, and we haven't touched any territories in the north," Park Nam Hoon bowed his head.

"What's wrong? Do you lack people? Do you need help?" Zhang Mengyao turned toward Lu An, "What about The Lycasian? Are they ready yet? Can we use them to help General Park Nam Hoon?"

Park Nam Hoon was not given a chance to respond, he indeed needed a hand to capture all territories in his country. But there was a drawback with the help, that would take the chance for his people. More people would come, meaning less chance for his people to grow with more people coming in. However, this was a special circumstance, and he could not reject the help.

"Not yet. They have taken the class and talent, but they are still in the advancement trial. It will take another month or even even a few months before they are ready to join the battlefield," Lu An shook his head, "We can use the Fogged Ape though. Wen and Kairu also have returned, we can send them to help General Park Nam Hoon."

Wen was the Jade Eagle and Kairu was The Flaming Lion from the same world as Elinova. The former Black Dragon's subordinates who served Tang Shaoyang after the Black Dragon died from inheriting the bloodline to Tang Shaoyang. They were known as the Wandering Beasts of the Tang Empire and were traveling all over the Earth to get stronger.

"Good, then we will dispatch them to Korea. I don't know why they want the territories, so we will capture as many territories, not just to disrupt their plan but also the first step for us to rule the Earth," Zhang Mengyao then turned toward the two leaders of Asahi Region, Japan. Izuhara Tachibana and Kado Taukai were the leading figures for the Japan, Asahi Region, "What about Japan?"

"We have taken more than half the cities in Japan. We just need time to capture all territories, Ma'am," Izuhara Tachibana responded politely.

Zhang Mengyao continued with the other sub-regions, making sure for them to capture the available territories. This was the last plan when they decided to pull out from the Dimensional Tower, taking over Earth. She was still in the dark about the situation on the America side. She did not touch that side because they were in a temporary alliance with the First Order Guild who were rooted in North America. Out of goodwill, the Tang Empire will not touch that side unless the First Order Guild asked for help which she predicted soon. Saint Guild and Amazon Guild were from the same continent, and with the additional mercenary, the First Order Guild would not be able to hold out against them.

## Chapter 1227 Yeon Hee - Part 1

Lu An led Park Nam Hoon to meet the Fogged Ape Tribe who would come to Korea. The Fogged Ape Tribe stayed in the same park where he met them for the first time. Walking through the fogged park, soon they arrived at the training ground for the Tarrior and also the home for the Fogged Ape.

Pride, the leader of the Fogged Ape, was fighting someone in the training ground. The man was quite big, over two meters in height, fighting close combat with a sparring sword. Of course, the

man was no match against Pride. After dozens of exchanges, the man was slapped away by Pride with the back of his hand, flying to the side, and rolling on the ground.

"Again!" The man immediately stood up again, still holding the blunt sword.

"That's enough for today," Lu An clapped his hand, attracting Pride and the man's attention. The Demonic Ape rushed toward Lu An, motioning with his two big hands at Lu An to fight it. However, Lu An shook his head, "Nope, not today, Pride. I have a task for you. You will bring your people with him to capture the territories in Korea. You can fight me after you finish your task."

Pride looked disappointed, but he still nodded at Lu An before looking at Park Nam Hoon. The Demonic Ape observed Park Nam Hoon for a while before he shook his head, disappointed.

"Let me join too," The man who had been listening from the side, volunteering himself, "Let me follow Pride. This might be good training for me more than just hunting the zombie."

Lu An turned toward the man, Chang Jie. The person who survived the Changxing Island tragedy where the expansion team almost got wiped out by the high-rank zombie. He survived because the leader of the expansion team sacrificed his life to protect Chang Jie. Ever since then, the young man joined the Tang Empire and had been training with the determination to wipe out the zombie.

Lu An furrowed his brows, "You haven't reached Epic Rank yet. I am not going to let you out unless you have Brother Shaoyang's consent."

"Please call his Majesty formally when you are in official business, Sir Lu," Yeon Hee could not help but remind her leader. Lu An was often scolded by Zhang Mengyao for addressing The Emperor casually, especially in front of Park Nam Hoon.

"How am I supposed to reach the Epic Rank if all the zombies around here are low-rank. I need to go out to follow the expansion team or I can follow Pride with his task. I will reach Epic Rank faster that way," Chang Jie complained.

"That way you will die faster too," a woman's voice rang from the other side. A woman in black cloth with her face covered in a veil, approached them with a bow on her back, "Take it slow, Chang Jie. We are quite fast compared to the others who have the same start as us."

"This is not enough, Duan Ya. I need to risk my life to get stronger, this is not enough. What's the use of training if I never use it in a real battle! Let me follow Pride or let me join the Expansion Team!" Chang Jie was adamant about his decision. He wanted to follow Pride or join the expansion team.

Lu An could not make the decision for Chang Jie. If it was up to him, he would let Chang Jie follow Pride, but it was not in his jurisdiction.

"He. Follows. I. Protect," Pride, who had been silent, agreed to let Chang Jie follow him, "He. Ready. Believe."

Lu An clicked his tongue, "Let me ask Br— His Majesty or Supreme Commander Zhang." He sent a message to Tang Shaoyang and received a reply quite fast, meaning Tang Shaoyang was not busy. It was a green light, Tang Shaoyang allowed Chang Jie to follow Pride to Korea.

"His Majesty allowed you to join Pride, but you must listen to Pride's order regardless of the situation, understand? If you disobey Pride's order, this will be the last time you will be trusted with a task!" Lu An was quite stern.

"Fool," Duan Ya let out a sigh, "Let me follow him too."

"Do whatever you want," Lu An waved his hand, and turned toward Pride, "Get your people ready. You will be needed when the war starts." The Demonic Ape bumped his fist into his chest, telling Lu An to be at ease.

Lu An and Yeon Hee left the park, leaving Park Nam Hoon to get familiar with the ape. As they walked out of the park, he stopped and glanced at Yeon Hee, "Do you have something in mind?" he then furrowed his brow, realizing what was in her mind, "Do you want to return to Korea?"

Yeon Hee raised her head, looking up at Lu An with a surprised expression, "I want to, but forget about it. I can't return, I promise His Majesty that I won't return to Korea. I am a prisoner, after all."

Ouch!

Yeon Hee covered her forehead, surprised that Lu An flicked her forehead. That was the last thing she would expect from Lu An.

"Stupid. You are no longer a prisoner," Lu An rolled his eyes, "You are Vice Head of TEID. How could a prisoner hold such a high position in one of the most important divisions in the empire?" Lu An rolled her eyes, "You can have your vacation for a week.... No, three days. You can go back and meet your friends for three days. I still need you for Lisbon."

"Really?" Yeon Hee was surprised, but then she shook her head, "You can't risk your position. What if His Majesty took your position for letting me leave?"

"Just go and meet me in Lisbon in three days," Lu An waved his hand before disappearing into the shadow, giving her no chance to refute him. A few seconds later, Lu An popped out in front of her and said, "This is your vacation leave for this year. Whether you go back to Korea or not, you can't take any more leave for the remaining year." After that, Lu An disappeared again into the shadows.

## Chapter 1228 Yeon Hee - Part 2

So Yeon Hee stood on the city wall where the battle between the Legion Guild and the other guilds happened in the past. It was no longer in ruins as the Legion Guild rebuilt the city. This was her home.

"Are you looking for your friend?" Yu Jin Sang, the former Vice Guild of the Legion Guild, came to her side and asked. There was a little bit of history between the Legion Guild and The Haven, so Yu Jin Sang knew about Yeon Hee a little bit.

Months ago, she and her friend built a strong party, The Haven. But the power made them forget there were people a lot stronger than them and offended Tang Shaoyang. She was taken as a captive while her boyfriend and her friend remained in South Korea.

"Do you know where are they?" That was the reason Yeon Hee returned to her home, not because she missed her homeland, but because of her friend. Ever since Min Hoo tried to take her back by fighting Tang Shaoyang, she never met them again. Mostly because she had been busy with duty and the task.

"They are quite something even without you, so yeah, we always keep an eye on them. We need your help to destroy the zombie kingdom in Gwangju. I can ask my people to tell them to meet you at Jeonju," Yu Jin Sang offered a little help.

Jeonju was close to Gwangju down south, so they did not need to delay their trip if she met her friends at Jeonju.

Yeon Hee let out a sigh, "Yes, please. I need to end the unfinished business with my friends. If they don't want to join the Tang Empire, then I am afraid I will meet them on the battlefield next time."

The Tang Empire launched their last resort plan to conquer the Earth, all territories on Earth. Meaning, people needed to join the Tang Empire if they wanted to stay in the Tang Empire's territory. She believed it would be just a matter of time before The Tang Empire achieved that.

"We have prepared the car. Let's depart," Yu Jin Sang pointed at the bottom of the city wall where a convoy gathered.

"See you at the bottom," Yeon Hee disappeared into her own shadow. Yu Jin Sang shook his head, looking down where Yeon Hee was, standing next to the car, "Guess she has become much stronger than our last meeting." He jumped off the wall.

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Jeonju was the military base for Korea's expansion. The former member of Legion was turned into Tarrion, going through the same training and supervision before getting deployed to the battlefield.

"Where's Yeon Hee? We are about to depart and we need her to be our scout. It's rare to have The Vice Head of TEID help us. We need to utilize her help to the maximum," Park Nam Hoon asked his friend, Yu Jin Sang. He saw Yeon Hee with her friend before they departed for Jeonju.

Yu Jin Sang, "She came here because she is on her vacation from what I heard. Do you want Division Head Lu An to haunt us for making his Vice Head work for us? We will leave without her. Just hope she will come on her own to help us, that's the best scenario."

Yeon Hee finally got to meet her friend and now her ex as well. They sat across from her; five of them. She did not know what to say. This was not even close to the joyful reunion that she pictured in her mind. She thought she would be happy to meet her friends again. Her best friend, Sin Yoon, also sat awkwardly next to her ex-boyfriend. The guilt in her expression could not be hidden.

"Does The Emperor finally free you, Yeon Hee?" The first one who broke the silence was Dae Jung. He was the one who felt the most guilty as he was the one who provoked The Emperor. He was the reason Yeon Hee became a captive, his stupidity almost destroyed The Haven.

Yeon Hee shook her head, "I don't know if I am still a captive or not. I am working for the Tang Empire right now."

"Why do you want to meet us?" Min Soo, her ex-boyfriend, was direct with his words. After they separated, there was no exchange between them. She could use the TEID's connection to find out how The Haven was doing, but she never directly had contact with them.

"War is approaching the Earth. If our prediction is correct, at most, in one year, players from the other worlds would try to invade Earth. The Tang Empire is currently in the process of capturing all territories, and there will be a law in the future that everyone has to join the Tang Empire if they want to stay in the Tang Empire's territory. I want you all to join the Tang Empire right now," Yeon Hee told them the reason she came here.

It was not because the Tang Empire needed The Haven, but might consider joining the Tang Empire." Cocky as always, that was Dae Jung. That was a nostalgic feeling to hear Dae Jung had because of the benefit of joining the Tang Empire now. There was a lot more benefit for the Haven than joining the Tang Empire later. So she wanted them to join to enjoy these benefits. She wanted her friend to enjoy what she enjoyed too, and if it was possible, she wanted to work with her friend again, just like in the past.

"Hah," Dae Jung let out a chuckle, "So the Tang Empire finally needs our help now? If The Emperor comes directly to meet me, then I might consider joining the Tang Empire." Cocky as always, that was Dae Jung. That was a nostalgic feeling to hear Dae Jung had returned back to his old self.

"This might sound rude, but I want you all to join the Tang Empire to protect you all from the war. The players from the other worlds are totally on another different level," Yeon Hee shook her head, "Just yesterday, we fought a group of a hundred mercenaries from the other worlds, and their lowest rank was Epic Rank with more than half of them being Ancient Rank above. In the end, you will be forced to join the Tang Empire or the force from another world."

#### Chapter 1229 Yeon Hee - Part 3

"So you still care about us, huh?" Yeon Hee's ex-boyfriend, Min Soo sneered, "Where have you been all this time? Why do you care about us all of a sudden, Yeon Hee? Are you having fun working with the new people? Do you want to mock us so that you become more successful than us right now?"

Yeon Hee was stunned for a moment, not expecting that would come from the gentle Min Hoo, "You should know why I can't contact or meet you, right? What do you want me to do in that situation? Trying to sneak out of the Tang Empire and get you all killed for nothing? Do you think I want all of this to happen? There's no way you blame me for what happened, right?"

"Huh, don't you enjoy The Emperor's cock? I heard he has many wives, and I guess I understand why you are betraying us. Working dutifully for the faction that separated you from your boyfriend and friends. And now you want us to work for the Tang Empire? His cock must be really amazing, huh?" Min Hoo said with a scornful smirk on his lips.

Yeon Hee was angry at how Min Hoo turned it as if she betrayed them. She sacrificed herself to save them all, thinking she would be the sex slave at that time. But it was seen as her betrayal. Her breathing roughed up, she could not believe that it came from Min Hoo.

Piack!

Sin Yoon, Yeon Hee's best friend, slapped Min Hoo hard, standing up while raising her voice, "You know that's not what happened, right? How could you say that to Yeon Hee? She turned herself in to save our lives, or else we will not be her."

Dae Jung wanted to be a mediator for his friends. This should be a happy reunion, The Haven met again, and the seven members gathered again. He was not expecting it would turn out like this.

To everyone's surprise, Min Hoo pulled Sin Yoon's hand, pulled her onto his lap, and kissed her on the lips. He forcefully kissed her to show Yeon Hee that Sin Yoon was now his new girlfriend. Sin Yoon was shocked for a moment, but then she immediately pushed him away. Then another slap landed on the same cheek, "Min Hoo!"

"What? Isn't it normal for a couple to kiss?" Min Hoo smirked, shrugging as if it was nothing.

Yeon Hee was surprised at first, but then she let out a chuckle, "I am glad that I am not the only one who changes."

"It's not like that, Yeon Hee. We—" Sin Yoon tried to explain the situation, but Min Hoo cut her off, "There's no need to explain it, Yoon. We don't owe her an explanation. I am a single man, and you are a single woman. What's wrong if we become a couple while she works for the person who tore us apart?"

"As he said, Yoon. You don't need to explain it to me. It's totally fine," Yeon Hee smiled, and in fact, she was relieved inside, "I want to meet you just because I want to know how you are doing and also the offer. I am glad you all look like doing well without me. Ah, also the warning for the upcoming war. So, what's your decision, will you join the Tang Empire or continue doing what you are doing."

Silent followed after Yeon's words, no one responding to her. Min Hoo was shocked that his provocation failed while Dae Jung and the other three were considering the offer carefully.

Bam!

"What's to think about?" Min Hoo slammed the table, raising his voice, "If there's really a war coming, then we will join the players from the other worlds. If there's a chance for me to destroy the Tang Empire, then I will jump into that chance without hesitation. I will destroy the Tang Empire and kill The Emperor! That was what I promised you when he took you back then, and I will live to fulfill that promise! Join us, Yeon Hee. Let's destroy the Tang Empire together! This is our chance!" Min Hoo offered his hand to Yeon Hee.

Yeon Hee was caught off guard by Min Soo's crazy idea, staring at her ex-boyfriend's hand. She looked at him, then she shook her head, "You have no chance of killing The Emperor, and I advise you to throw that idea away from your head. It might get you killed, Min Soo. You are just an Ancient Rank. Stop your foolish ideas. You can't kill him or destroy the Tang Empire. We will win this war, and you should join the Tang Empire instead! Believe me, the Tang Empire will not lose this war!"

Did she still resent Tang Shaoyang? Not anymore. Yeon Hee accepted her new life and planned to continue her life for the Tang Empire. The Tang Empire was her new home, and it will always be for the rest of her life.

"And I hope you are not going to follow his crazy idea?" Yeon Hee turned to the other five. She hoped the other five would persuade Min Soo not to do the crazy idea.

Sin Yoon and the other four hesitated, looking back and forth between Yeon Hee and Min Soon. Yeon Hee was their former leader, and Min Soo was their current leader.

"Why are you all hesitating!?" Min Soo raised his voice, "We will kill The Emperor, and we will destroy the Tang Empire. That's our goal, and it will not change just because this bitch asks us to join the Tang Empire!"

"I am not planning to come out, but I have to now," A familiar voice came from Yeon Hee's behind. She was not expecting to hear that voice in this place, turning around and it was the person in her mind, Lu An.

"I am really not planning to come out, but I will not allow the people who threaten His Majesty's life free," Lu An walked past Yeon Hee.

Min Soo took out his spear, without hesitation jumping toward Lu An. The spear hit the empty air as Lu An disappeared into the shadow and appeared again behind Min Soo. The shadow raised, coiling around Min Soo, and caught the man.

Lu An turned toward the other five, "Do you want to surrender or...."

#### Chapter 1230 Yeon Hee - Part 4

"This is a trap!?" Sin Yoon raised her hand, pointing her finger at Yeon Hee. She had a disbelief look on her face as she realized this was the trap set up by Yeon Hee, "You know we will not join the Tang Empire, so you want to catch us!? This.... This is unbelievable, Yeon Hee. This is so low coming from you."

"Come on, girl. I don't need to use a trap like this if I want to catch you," Lu An rolled his eyes, "Your imagination is quite wild to think that you six are worth the time to set up such a trap like this."

"Do you want to surrender peacefully, or do you want to fight? I can't allow people who dare threaten The Emperor's life to roam around freely."

Despite the explanation, Yeon Hee's five friends did not believe it. The look of betrayal on their faces was obvious.

"We will fight even if it means we will die!" Sin Yoon was ready to fight, but Lu An just gave them no chance to fight. His shadow spread out, enveloping the room, swallowing the five people. He then retracted the shadow ten seconds later, and the five people were bound by the shadow just like Min Soo. From the mouth down to their ankles.

Lu An then turned around, meeting with Yeon Hee's eyes who was also shocked to find Lu An following her. That was close to betrayal as Lu An clearly did not believe in her. His words were not true, he did not trust her. That was why he was here, following her to meet her friends.

"It's not like what you think, Yeon Hee," Lu An tried to explain his situation, but then he noticed Min Soo struggling in the shadows harder. The Haven's leader tried to use the Bloodline Transformation to break apart from the shadow, "No, don't do it if you don't want to die. The more you struggle, my shadow will grip you harder, and you might die from it." He did not intend or want to kill these six in front of Yeon Hee.

"Then tell me why are you here? Why are you following me? Tell me your reason?" Yeon Hee snapped out of her shock and questioned Lu An.

"I..." Lu An's dropped his hands loose, letting out a sigh, dropping her shoulder. The reason was simple: he was afraid of losing Yeon Hee. He was afraid that Yeon Hee would return with her friends and leave the Tang Empire. It was a simple reason, but it was hard to say it out loud. He felt like it would lead to another misunderstanding.

"You can't explain it to me?" Yeon Hee pressed, "Does that mean I am right?"

Lu An lowered his head and said in a low voice, "I am afraid." Yeon Hee furrowed her brows, "Afraid of what?"

"Afraid of losing you!" He raised his head and met Yeon Hee's eyes, "I am afraid that you will leave me with your friends. I am afraid. I am really afraid of losing you...." His words trailed off.

"That means I was right, you did not trust me."

"No, it's different, okay? I trust you. I trust you with my heart, but the fear is here," Lu An put his hand on his chest, "What am I supposed to do? I admit it's wrong to follow you, but I can't just shake my fear. What can I do?" He was frustrated as he did not know what to do with the fear inside him.

"What if I decide to go back with them and leave the Tang Empire? What are you going to do? Are you going to kill them?"

Lu An's eyes widened in fury the moment he heard that as the killing intent burst out of him, but then he calmed, drooping his head, "I don't know. Maybe I will kill them, and maybe I will catch them like I just did. And maybe I will just let you go with them. I don't know. I don't know what to do, that's why I am following you.... I don't know what to do. This is the first time I feel like this. I don't know what to do...." He shook his head, repeating the same words "I don't know what to do," three more times.

Yeon Hee let out a chuckle which surprised Lu An. He looked up, and Yeon Hee was smiling at him. She approached him and hugged him before planting her lips on his. Yeon Hee was the girlfriend that Lu An wanted to introduce to Tang Shaoyang. They had been a couple for a few months already.

Lu An's eyes widened in shock as he was overwhelmed with happiness. He thought this would be the end between him and her. The kiss soon turned into a fiery kiss, their tongues intertwine, but Lu An managed to break free first, "There are people here." He was still shy, and Yeon Hee let out a chuckle.

"I will forgive you, but just this once. If you are really worried, you should tell me. You can accompany me to meet them, openly, not following me sneakily in the shadows. That's what you should do, be honest and open to each other," Yeon Hee smiled, but then she turned toward her six friends. Her six friends were surprised by the revelation of Yeon Hee's boyfriend, "What are you going to do with them? Can you set them free?"

Lu An let out a sigh, "This will make me look like a petty boyfriend, but not. I can't set them free after your conversation with them."

Yeon Hee furrowed her brow, asking for more explanation from Lu An.

"It's not because he threatened to kill His Majesty. Even in a thousand years, he has no chance to kill His Majesty, but because of the information. You know right that His Majesty should be "dead"," Lu An made quote and quote motion with his finger when he mentioned dead, "But they know that His Majesty is still alive because of your conversation with them. You speak to them as if His Majesty is alive, not denying that fact when your ex said he will kill His Majesty. I have to jail them until everything is over, or else they will mess up our plan if they relay that information to the other factions."

Yeon Hee then realized her mistake. She forgot that she had to pretend that His Majesty was dead, then her friends now knew that His Majesty was still alive.

"I am sorry, but I can't free them." Lu An shook his head.