

D. of Pride 101

Chapter 101: Scheme (4)

Inside one of the large bamboo houses located at the centre of the hidden village of Forest Spring Spirit Clan, Laris lazily sat on his couch. His face was sour and wrapped in frustration. All his hopes had gone up in smokes. He believed that Dale's team had encountered the girl, but it turned out that wasn't the case.

Laris couldn't tell whether Dale was lying to him or not and more so he couldn't disclose the identity of the girl to the other party. Therefore he had to keep his questioning vague and short.

"If it wasn't Dale's team that fought with the treants then who was it? Is there someone else besides us in this forest?... Could it be the adventurers from Mountmend?" after considering the possibility for a while, Laris shook his head.

"No it can't be. If there were adventurers other than us in this part of the forest, then I would have already gotten a report from the guild".

He massaged his temples as he thought about various other possibilities, but no matter how much he mused, he couldn't find the answer he wanted.

Laris in his sane mind could never have imagined that the one behind the incident was the demon residing inside the dungeon his guild planned to use as their scapegoat all along.

"Tch" He clicked his tongue and glanced at the cellar deep inside the house. It wasn't like that their haul was bad. On the contrary, it was quite the big haul. They had already collected more than eighty spirit orbs from the Forest Spring Spirit. If they include the children that have been enslaved, then the spirit orb they had in their possession would be more than a hundred.

As for the remaining ones that managed to escape, some of them self-destructed their spirit orbs while the rest successfully managed to run towards the Ancient Treants Territory.

In the current timeline where coming in contact with even one spirit orb was extremely rare, one could imagine the kind of storm these many spirit orbs would bring. The Kingdom... No, the whole continent would be shaken to its core.

Hundred of spirit orbs harvested from the Forest Spring Spirits were by no means a small amount in the present world. Spirit orbs that sometimes come up in auction secretly, go for more than eighty million gold each and maybe even more.

The allure that the spirit orb held for the people of this world could only be imagined. After all, every individual in this world wants to raise their bloodline and rise to a higher realm.

Even if Laris brought hundreds of these spirit orbs back to the guild, the guild would have immensely profited and it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that their guild would be amongst the top, even across the whole central continent.

However, Laris wanted more. He wasn't content with only these hundred spirit orbs. If he could get his hands on the Royal Spirit orb, he would immensely contribute to the guild.

His contribution would be so huge that nobody in the guild could outshine his achievement. At that time, ranking among the top seven would become an easy task.

“Do I have no other choice other than to lose the royal spirit orb?” Laris deliberated long and hard and just when he thought he had no other choice, a hurried sound of footsteps could be heard coming near him.

Laris was quite amazed to see that the subordinate didn't even bother to knock on the door before barging in. The subordinate who rushed in while huffing, said with an excited face ” Sir Laris we have found the little girl. You were right, placing sentries in that same place where she disappeared last time was a brilliant move. She came back again and fell right into your traps. We currently await your orders.”

“Wha...?” Laris stood up from his couch, his face was so shaken that he even forgot about the misdemeanour of his subordinate and said with an agitated face.

“Keep a few to watch over the Forest Spring children, order the rest to come with me immediately. I shall personally take action this time and make sure that there are no further blunders”. Fate has given him another chance to make up for his mistake, how could he give up on it that easily.

He had decided this time to personally take action and ensure that the royal spirit cannot escape, this may be his last chance after all. The subordinate bowed his head and immediately left to carry out the orders.

After a few minutes, more than twenty people assembled as per his orders and immediately set out towards the place where the royal spirit was seen. After ten minutes of constantly zipping through the forest, Laris and his team finally reached the place.

He immediately asked the sentry about the whereabouts of the girl. The sentry silently pointed towards the distant huge tree. There amidst the thick foliage of branches and leaves, sat a little girl on top of a tree.

The girl had emerald green hair and two pairs of fairy-like wings that were rather unusual than the common Forest Spring Spirits protruded from her back. She was dressed in bright green clothes and her eyes seem to shine like an unblemished crystal.

Laris couldn't help but marvel at the scene. This was the first time he laid his eyes upon the legendary Forest Spring Royal Spirit that are described in so many ancient books and records.

Forget about him, even the guild master of the Seven Swords guild had never seen one. The Forest Spring Spirits are an extremely rare clan that lives in seclusion, hidden from the outside world. Therefore ninety percent of the population of Althaea had never seen a Forest Spring Spirit in their entire lives much less a Forest Spring Royal Spirit.

“This is it. She is a genuine Forest Spring Royal Spirit. HAHAHA, the heavens are favouring me. Surround and capture her at any cost. Do not let her self-destruct her Royal Spirit orb at any cost, do you understand? The one who messes up, I'll kill them myself.”

With an energetic nod, the group of adventurers covered in black robes immediately sprang into action. They silently crept near the tree where the little girl was sitting on and surrounded her from all directions, cutting off any escape route.

While all this was happening, the girl silently sat on the tree, clueless and unaware of the greedy adventurers creeping near her.

Simon secretly watched the actions of the adventurers as they silently surrounded him. Currently, he had morphed into Cecilia and one could say that he looked exactly like her.

A surreptitious smile crept up to his face as he saw that all of them had unknowingly fallen into his trap. But his work was not done yet. He had to lure as many of them as possible, away from the village. Especially the stronger ones.

Therefore he patiently waited and scouted out the adventurers surrounding him. Using Analysis on everyone, Simon was surprised to find out that there was even a level 311 that got baited. He silently sat on the branch of a huge tree biding as much time as possible.

To the adventurers, Simon looked just like a clueless Forest Spring spirit, unaware of their surroundings.

Chapter 102: Scheme (5)

To the adventurers, Simon looked just like a clueless Forest Spring spirit, unaware of their surroundings.

“They should soon be unable to hold themselves back”. It was as Simon had supposed, the adventurers soon began making small movements.

Laris finally lost all his patience when they were only a few dozen meters away. He signalled with his hands and adventurers immediately sprang up from their hiding places. When the girl finally heard rushed sounds around her and turned to look, it was already too late as she was surrounded from all directions.

Laris smirked and gallantly walked towards the little girl. He threw his head back and laughed wildly “Hahahaha, truly the heavens are favouring me. Not only was I able to get hundreds of Forest Spring Spirits Orbs but now I will also be able to get my hands on an unparalleled treasure. Hehe, little girl, you can’t run anymore quietly give up and surrender”.

Simon had an impassive face all the while he was listening to the man’s rambling. The man carried himself with poise and had an aura that could only be given off by a strong warrior. He was wearing light armour that was made from the hide of some monsters and carried two short swords on his waist belt.

One look was enough for Simon to know that the man was a seasoned warrior and the highest level among the adventurers currently surrounding him.

Simon was already used to facing enemies multiple levels above him. Currently, he was level 289 but even he felt quite the pressure facing him. Although Simon had an impassive face, his eyes were burning with cold fury as the man in front of him kept on talking about the Forest Spring Spirit clan as nothing but objects.

Laris was expecting a distraught look on the little girl but was disappointed to find that she didn't display any emotions even after all his rambling. To prevent her from self-destructing her spirit orb, Laris thought he needed to break her spirit which would ultimately reduce her resistance and allow them to easily capture her.

He couldn't help but click his tongue seeing that his plan had no effect and at the same time felt like something was wrong.

Thinking for a while, he still couldn't put his finger on what exactly was wrong and discarded the thought as nothing but him thinking too much. The top priority for Laris was now to capture the little girl in front of him without allowing her to destroy her spirit orb.

The guild members of the Seven Swords guild surrounding the Forest Spring Royal Spirit made cruel and mocking faces. They looked at her unemotional face and thought that she was so scared that she couldn't even comprehend what was going on.

For these outer members, this mission was also their chance to raise their ranking within the guild. They who were the lowest ranking members of the guild didn't receive many benefits from the guild and are seen as nothing but workforce.

It was only after one starts gathering merits, accumulate contributions and raise their rank does the guild start giving some recognition and benefits to them. Hence this mission became their chance to climb up the ladder.

They purged the Forest Spring Spirit Clan and harvested their spirit orb without any iota of remorse only so that they could increase their contributions towards the guild. They did not see the Forest Spring Spirits as people and on the contrary, they felt quite excited thinking about the number of spirit orbs that they have collected.

Simon stared at all their faces that were filled with greed and excitement and couldn't help but feel revolted. Blinded by their greed, they cruelly massacred a peaceful plan that was doing its all to live in a secluded corner of the world.

They had shattered all the hopes and dreams of a little girl who was no more than five years old and plunged her to a cliff where dying felt better than living. Flames of anger started flaring within him and he even felt repulsed to breathe the same air as them.

However, Simon still restrained himself and controlled his emotions that were starting to take over him. he couldn't lash out at them yet, he must delay them for as long as possible until Irene finishes her task.

Giving a low snort, Simon immediately used his [Super Agility] skill that increases his agility stat by quite a bit and broke out of their encirclement.

Seeing that the girl was trying to run, Laris immediately leapt forward, and at the same time signalled his subordinates to charge at her from behind. The girl easily sidestepped the adventurers, leaving them to only catch her afterimage.

Simon's agility stat was second only to his magic stat and when he used [Super Agility] on top of it, his agility stat easily surpassed his magic stat. Using his high agility, it wasn't difficult for Simon to easily outpace these adventurers.

He utilized his superior agility and opened quite a bit of distance between them. He made sure that the adventurers kept following him and made sure not to pull their distance so far apart that they lost sight of him.

Laris blinked his eyes a few times unable to believe that he caught nothing but the royal spirit's afterimage. He was stunned by the fact that a little girl from the Forest Spring Spirit clan is able to display such high agility. Weren't they a clan unsuitable for combat?

He didn't dwell on his train of thoughts any longer and immediately snapped out of his stupor before snapping at his subordinates who were similarly stunned. "What are you bastard dilly-dallying for, quickly chase after her". Laris said while chasing after the little girl as she delved deeper into the forest.

While Simon lured the adventurers away from the Forest Spring Spirit village, Irene and Cecilia who was riding on top of the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse sneaked into the village. A few days ago prior to coming here, Cecilia made her resolve to return to the village to save her clansmen who were still trapped and enslaved inside the village.

She looked at the devastated state of her village which was once so beautiful and peaceful as her eyes glossed over. But she did not cry this time and made a determined face as they quickly flew over.

Irene who was beside her quietly sighed looking at the state of the village. She scanned her surroundings and swiftly found a dozen or so adventurers still remaining inside the village. She also found the location of twenty or so Forest Spring Spirits enslaved inside one of the bamboo houses and pointed out.

Cecilia looked in the direction where Irene pointed her finger and made a distressed expression. That was because the house the adventurers used to enslave and prison her clansmen was none other than her own house.

She had many memories associated with the bamboo house and most of it still lingered in her memories. A loving and enjoyable atmosphere as the little her was pampered every day by her mother and father.

Scenes of such memories kept flooding her until Irene snapped her out of her stupor.

“Are you alright?” Irene’s beautiful crescent brows made a frown as she asked with concern. Her jade white hands which seemed to be carved by a divine craftsman was gently caressing Cecilia’s emerald hair.

Cecilia nodded but did not cry as her usual self did. She repeatedly convinced herself to be strong for her clansmen and for her late mother and father. Looking at the bamboo house, she said in a clear and determined voice.

“Let’s go and free my clansmen from their pain and suffering”.

Irene looked at her and didn’t say much, she could guess the reason behind her revealing such a distraught face.

Name:- Simon

Race:- Demon Viscount

Titles:- Demon of Pride [Incomplete Fragment 1/5]

Level:- 289

HP:- 42,549

MP:- 57,445

Stats:-

Strength:- 2767

Defence:- 2967

Agility:- 3345

Magic:- 3745

Endurance:- 3056

Luck:- 2078

Skills:- Language Comprehension, Analysis, Flame Magic Mastery, Gale Magic Mastery, Electro Magic Mastery, Thought Processing, Regeneration, High-Speed Flight, Super Strength, Super Agility, Super Endurance, Super Defence, Body Enhancement, Fire Resistance, Wind Resistance, Pain Resistance, Blunt Damage Resistance, Sense Presence, Natural Recovery Demonic Eyes

Amalgamation Skills:- [Flame-Gale Mastery]

Inherent Skills:- Dungeon Creation, Main Menu, Ancestral Symbol Ignition

Chapter 103: Cecilia's Resolve

"Let's go and free my clansmen from their pain and suffering" Cecilia said with a determined look on her face.

Irene looked at her and didn't say much, she could guess the reason behind her initially revealing such a distraught face.

The Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse neighed at Cecilia's request and reared its hindlegs before swiftly flying towards the bamboo house.

"Who is there? Who dares to barge in our territory?" the adventurers who saw the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse flying over from the distance became alert immediately and shouted out.

The voice of the adventurer was very loud and could be heard across the whole place. Shortly after his voice boomed out, ten or so adventurers surrounded the trio of Irene, Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse, and Cecilia as they landed in front of the village square.

The adventurers unsheathed their weapons and threatened "W-Who are you people.... and what motive do you have for barging here at this moment?".

The adventurers were quite wary as they looked at the huge frame of the demonic warhorse. Its three pairs of crimson red eyes and its flaming body was releasing a domineering aura. They were trying to cover the sense of dread that was trying to overwhelm them with their numbers.

But when they gazed upon the alluring and charming figure of Irene, all their wariness disappeared as if it was never there. The woman was so soul stunningly beautiful that she immediately stole all their senses and left them in a daze.

They who had never seen a beauty of this magnitude, immediately became smitten as desire and lust immediately overwhelmed them. The desires of the adventurers were quite blatant and nobody bothered to even conceal it.

Irene's crystal blue eyes frosted over at this display, she didn't even bother to glance at these pests surrounding her. A frosty aura pervaded the entire village of the Forest Spring Spirits. However before she could make her move, one of the adventurers came out of his daze and looked at Cecilia, and pointed out.

“That little girl, isn’t she the one that sir Laris and the others went out after? How come she is here?”

Listening to the person, the other adventurers also snapped out of their daze and stared at Cecilia with wide amazed eyes.

One of them said, “That is true. That little girl is exactly the one that the team that died went after.”

“Then why is she here? Did sir Laris and others lose her again?” another adventurer said.

“She might have slipped out and came here in hopes of saving her clansmen”.

“Hahaha what an idiot. Did she really think that she could just come and save her clansmen as she pleases?”.

Discussion of such rang out among the adventurers as they started to realize that the situation was in their favour and started laughing.

Some even revealed their lust-filled eyes as they stared at Irene. If they could capture them, then they would have made a huge contribution to the guild and their ranking would be raised quite high.

“Capture them. Do not let any one of them escape. If we make sir Laris happy, he might even allow us to indulge ourselves tonight” said one of the adventurers as he drooled looking at Irene’s figure.

The adventurers nodded and revealed ugly smiles. They immediately charged at the group of Irene but before they could even come closer they were impaled by what looked like crimson thorns that protruded out from the ground.

ROOOAARRRR... the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse neighed and thumped its powerful forelegs into the ground shattering it and causing a small earthquake. It was given the mission to protect them by its master therefore it wouldn’t allow anyone to approach near them.

Many of the adventurers couldn’t dodge in time and had their arms or legs impaled by the thorns that out of a sudden appeared from the ground. The crimson thorns were so sharp that the defensive gears that the adventurers wore, was nothing but paper in front of it.

PUFFFFFF... SPLAT

“Ahhhhh w-what is this?”

“My arm, my arm got impaled ahhhh”.

“Gugh... damn it what are these thorns, my legs got impaled I can't move”.

Shrieks of pain rang out among the adventurers, the crimson horns on the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse started shining a bright scarlet as the screams of pain and agony sounding out from the adventurers got even louder.

However, none of the bodies that got impaled died immediately. Since all the adventurers were around level 180—200, they managed to shift their bodies in time and prevented the damage from being lethal.

Nevertheless, at this moment they only thought that they were unfortunate enough to dodge the thorn and felt like dying instantly would have been much more better. One could imagine the kind of pain that was being inflicted upon the adventurers by the crimson thorns for them to reject life.

More than five adventurers were impaled and screamed in agony as peculiar patterns started to appear in the places where the thorns had pierced them. What was unusual about the scene was that even after impaling them, no blood flowed out of their bodies.

The remaining adventurers that were lucky enough to dodge the attack in time, sighed in relief as they watched with dread and trepidation at their fellow teammates who were now crying pathetically in agony.

The adventurers looked at the trio of Irene, Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse, Cecilia and shuddered. They no longer had their carefree and mocking grin on their face and their eyes trembled intensely whenever they looked at the overbearing frame of the demonic warhorse.

In just a moment, the sense of dread that they felt whenever they looked at the demonic warhorse, magnified manifold. Fear gripped their heart and the remaining adventurers started backing out. The

exchange before clearly displayed that they were not its match. If they stayed here any longer, it would be their turn next.

However, they couldn't just run away as that would be akin to death for sure. If they faced the demonic warhorse, they had a chance they could die but if they ran away from here, their death was guaranteed and it would be their own that would reap them.

The only thought going around in the minds of these adventurers was that they must inform their leader Laris who was out in the forest of this situation, and delay the intruders here for as long as they could until he arrives.

But even they knew that it was not going to be easy. The adventurers that were left behind in the village were the weakest ones and were left here as a lookout and also to watch over the enslaved Forest Spring Spirit children.

Those who had higher levels went out with Laris to capture the little girl who mysteriously appeared in front of them. They did not know what was going on?... was the report of the little girl being seen near the sight of the explosion false? what was clear to them was that the situation here didn't look good for them.

Some of the adventurers started sneaking back towards the exit of the village and those that were near the ones that got impaled by the crimson thorns used their weapons to cut the thorns down. The adventurers thought that they could at least save their fellow teammates by cutting the thorns impaling them down.

But to their surprise, they soon realized that the thorns were as tough as steel or maybe even more. No matter how many times they hacked, they couldn't even make a single scratch. Even if they did manage to damage the thorns using their skills, the thorns swiftly recovered as they glowed a peculiar red all the while the screams of the adventurers impaled by it amplified.

After a while, they realised that it was their weapons that had nicks and dint on them.

while all of this was happening, a cold wind bringing along an arctic chill that could even freeze one's bones started slowly blowing across the whole village. The environment became eerily silent as if all the sound were frozen and all the adventurers shivered when the cold wind brushed across them.

Irene's beautiful blue hair that was like a waterfall danced with the wind as she raised her jade white hand. Her hands and fingers were so perfect that one could instantly get mesmerized while looking at them.

An azure light shined across her palms giving her an otherworldly ephemeral look. Those that were trying to sneak back, and those that were impaled by the crimson thorns all looked in the direction of the azure light enthralled by its beauty, and before they could even realize what was going on, a shrill noise piercingly loud rang out.

SHIIIIIIING...

Moments later everything was covered in a layer of ice, the ground, grass, trees, the bamboo houses, and even the adventurers that the trio was facing were frozen solid. Frosty white smoke rose all over the place and amidst them were the ice statues that still held the same expression they had before being frozen solid.

Cecilia's small mouth made an 'o' shape and her eyes were wide open. It was only a few moments ago that she had seen the amazing power displayed by the demonic warhorse she was riding on top of which left her stunned in disbelief.

And before the realization could hit her, she was once again flabbergasted to see Irene's immense power that left the enemies frozen solid. She could never have believed that the absolutely beautiful lady and who had a warm smile just like her mother possessed this much power.

Chapter 104: Cecilia's Resolve (2)

Irene and the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse trodded forth the ice-covered ground towards the only bamboo house that was not covered in ice located at the centre of the village.

She had exercised enough caution so as to not hurt any of the Forest Spring Spirits being held captive inside the house. "Shit...Shit..Shit..Shit... what do I do now? Those useless adventurers can't even delay the enemy long enough. If they take away the Forest Spring Spirit children, then all my hard work for these past few months would be gone. No, it cant be. These are my TREASURES, I was the one who found them. I must take them away and run".

Miser who was inside the bamboo house watched the entire exchange that was happening outside through the cracks between the window.

He couldn't believe his eyes when these strong adventurers that were left behind to guard the enslaved Forest Spring Spirits, getting impaled by what looked like crimson thorns that sprang up from the ground out of nowhere.

But what made him doubt his eyes was that alluring woman who instantly froze a part of the village along with those adventurers with just a lift of her hand. The entire occurrence seemed unbelievable no matter how many times Miser rubbed his eyes.

He even slapped himself once to check whether his brain was playing tricks on him or if it was a dream. His right cheek was currently red and swollen by how hard he hit himself, but the reality still remained the same.

When he first heard the commotion outside, he was stunned to see three intruders bargaining inside nonetheless he was soon elated to see the Royal Spirit girl among the intruders. Those unusual characteristics of her that set her apart from the normal Forest Spring Spirits indicated that even amongst the rare and precious Forest Spring Spirits, she was special.

How could Miser not be elated after all the little girl that the whole Seven Swords guild was searching for had delivered herself right to their doorstep? If they captured her here then the cut he would receive from the share would be quite big.

However, his hopes were immediately shattered when he saw the other two members of the party easily sweeping away the dozen or so adventurers confronting them.

Realising that the situation wasn't looking good, he immediately started hurrying towards the room at the end of the corridor where all the Forest Spring Spirit children were being kept.

"This is bad... very bad. I cannot allow them to take away the Forest Spirits, I must harvest their spirit orbs and escape from this place as fast as possible".

Miser ran down the corridor and was just about to approach the room when a chilling voice sounded out near his ears "What do you think you are trying to do?".

Miser immediately stopped in his tracks and looked around everywhere but couldn't find anyone. Becoming alert, he scanned his surroundings to find the owner of the voice.

Knitting his brows he asked, "Who are you? How did you get inside?".

His question was met with silence before an impassive voice sounded once again and this time from behind him.

“Did you really think you can just go in and plunder the resources of the Seven Swords guild?”

Sweat poured down his face as he realized that the voice sounded very near him and the owner of the voice wasn't one of the intruders but someone from the Seven Swords guild.

Miser gave a smile and said in a friendly tone “So it's one of the good sirs from the Seven swords guild. Haha, the situation outside was looking quite dire therefore I came here to check if anybody snuck inside the house. The Forest Spring Spirits are quite the valuable treasure after all. If we just focus all our attention in front, we might get the mats pulled out under our feet from behind”.

“Snort, did you really think you change the situation around with just your words?. Weren't you trying to harvest the spirit orbs and make a run from here while the intruders hold us from the front?” the voice said.

Miser looked left and right as the voice continuously came from near him. Fear and trepidation were apparent on his face and he tried his best to salvage the situation “N-no t-this esteemed sir misunderstands. This one did not have any such evil intentions and am solely here to check on the Forest spring spirits”.

Miser was aware that there are skills that can erase one's presence and make them disappear from the naked eye. Skills such as [stealth] used by some high-level assassins are one such example.

He knew that the owner of the voice was using a similar skill to juke his senses but what caused him to tremble was that the person was so skilled in stealth that even when he spoke, Miser couldn't detect his position.

One moment he felt like the person was in front, the other moment the voice came from behind him. He was clearly made aware of the gap between their strengths as well as the difference in their skills.

“Hoh is that so? Then was I mistaken when I heard you saying ‘I must harvest the spirit orbs and escape from here as soon as possible?’” Ted said as he circled around Miser while in stealth and looked at him with cold killing intent. He pulled out a dagger and silently stepped near him.

Miser was only a level 215 [Wizard] whose skills could hardly be called average, while he on the other hand was one of the top assassins of the Seven Swords guild. And he believed that if he went all out, there would only be a handful of people who could match him outside of the top seven within their guild.

Not to mention his skills were top tier and given a few more years, Ted believed that he would be able to step on the level 400 threshold. There was no way Ted would take Miser seriously. He would play with him before dealing a lethal blow.

Miser gulped and dropped down all pretence knowing that it was useless to say anything now when the person had already learned about his intention. There was no way he would be able to take on such a person and only needed to bide for time before the intruders come knocking from the front door.

At that time he would be able to take the opportunity amidst the chaos to escape from here. It was a pity that he wouldn't be able to take the spirit orbs but his life was more important right now.

Only when one has their life will they be able to exploit the opportunities and enjoy the treasures of the world.

"It's true that I got blinded by the greed for a moment, but doesn't the esteemed sir think that it is highly unwise to fight among ourselves when the enemy is in front of us?"

Miser needed to bide for time for as long as he could and therefore he asked the question that Ted couldn't ignore. He thought there was no way a highly skilled person such as him was not aware of the situation. Since the person was sent by the Seven Swords guild, naturally he could not ignore the intruders.

But Miser was disappointed to hear an impassive and curt reply "You don't have to worry about the intruders. After I'm done with you, I'll naturally deal with them too". Ted said, his voice was filled with self-confidence and not a single trace of worry could be detected from his tone. Lacing the dagger with killing intent he plunged forward.

Miser felt a sharp killing intent coming from behind him, he immediately rotated around and jumped back. Though he cannot be called strong, he was still an adventurer who had gone through a fair share of his life and death battle.

Clicking his tongue he cast “[Electro Bolt]”, a thin purple bolt of lightning illuminated the corridor and charged towards the place where Miser felt the killing intent from.

BANG...

The electro bolt crashed into the wall lighting it aflame. Miser looked around cautiously, he did not think he would be able to take out his opponent with one attack. Hence he started casting another [Electro Bolt] however before the magic could take shape, he felt a stabbing pain coming from his stomach.

Turning around, Miser was stunned to find that the person was right behind him.

Chapter 105: Cecilia’s Resolve (3)

Turning around, Miser was stunned to find that the person was right behind him.

Puff... blood started coming out from his mouth and his vision started becoming black and hazy. He felt so lightheaded that it became hard for him to remain standing as his legs started to falter and give up. Turning his head, Miser looked at the cold mocking eyes of ted and felt a chill through his whole body.

Bang...

His body fell onto the cold hard floor and his vision became black.

“Snort, that’s one down. Now then let’s take care of those pesky intruders who dared to trespass in the territory of my Seven Swords guild” his tone was laced with bloodlust and before ted’s voice could even fall, his body started blurring and disappeared into thin air.

Outside the house, Cecilia was staring at her home. Memories of her mother, father, and herself happily living inside the house came rushing towards her. The peacefulness and serenity of the place was now all gone, her parents were no longer waiting with a warm smile inside the house for her return.

Instead, the place had a sombre and heavy atmosphere, it no longer felt like her home anymore. It took her a while but she still mustered up her strength and stepped inside the house.

Irene followed closely behind Cecilia while the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse stayed outside the house. Its large frame prevented it from entering inside and it could only remain behind. NEEIIGHH... Although it was frustrated that it couldn't enter the house, the Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse vigilantly guarded the place.

The interior of the house was very simplistic and was dimly lit by the lamps. From the furniture to the decorations adorning the room, was made or woven with hand and reflected the nature of the Forest Spring Spirits. Not only that, it also displayed their culture and simplistic lifestyle.

Or that was how it was supposed to look, but right now the rooms showed signs of being used recently indicating that someone was staying here. The most evident proof was the broken table and utensils littered all around the floor.

Gentle rays of moonlight shone on the corridor leading towards the room at the end where the Cellar was. Irene could sense the presence of multiple Forest Spring Spirits inside the room.

She could see the desperation in Cecilia's eyes which wanted to save her clansmen as soon as possible. However, before they could walk any further down the corridor, the smell of blood assaulted their senses and they found a person lying face down on the ground.

Blood was coming out of his body and made a small puddle around him. GASP... Cecilia suddenly gasped in astonishment as she looked at the person lying down on the floor. Even if she could only see half of his face from her position, she could never forget the figure of the person that had betrayed the trust of their whole clan and had led all those human adventurers inside their village.

He was the first person she ever detested so much in her life and right now that person was lying dead in front of her. Nobody knew what sorts of emotions she was going on currently but one thing was clear that her mind was not calm anymore.

Irene looked at the person lying dead on the ground and squinted her eyes. Turning her head, her icy pupils stared at an empty space and immediately after, the space started freezing at an astonishing rate before a black shadow hurriedly darted out from it.

"Hoh, to think that there was someone capable enough among the intruders to sense my location. Not bad, not bad at all" Ted who was forced out of his [Stealth] commented in appreciation.

Cecilia who was in a daze, snapped out by the sudden voice. Turning around, she saw a man dressed in a pitch-black garb seemingly materialize out of nothing. The man had a chilling and bloodthirsty aura giving her a stifling feeling whenever she looked at him.

Ted had a twisted expression in his eyes as he looked at Cecilia and said in a pleased tone “So you are that Royal Spirit huh? Hehe, it’s good that you had willingly shown yourself, saved us the trouble for looking for you everywhere. It doesn’t matter where you run, you can’t hide from the Seven Swords guild”.

Cecilia’s body trembled and her face quickly became pale when she heard what the person said. But when her spirit was about to falter, Irene’s figure stood in front of her as if protecting her. Looking at Irene, Cecilia for some reason recalled the words that Simon had once said to her.

His determination to save her even while fully knowing that it would get him in trouble too. His courage that did not falter even in the wake of danger made her admire him very much and at the same time, it had also given her hope and strength to resist her fate.

Seeing the unexpected change in Cecilia’s eyes, Ted couldn’t help but knit his brows. He had hoped to break her willpower with his words so as to prevent her from self-destructing her spirit orb.

“It seems that you are quite determined to resist. Is it because of the woman over there? Haha don’t be naïve do you think she can protect you from me?” He sneered and immediately used [Stealth] to disappear from his surrounding. He circled around their back and threw a dagger at their blindspot

‘Let’s see how you protect yourself from this.’ The dagger emitted a cold light as it flew towards Irene, its edges were glowing a peculiar light and it seemed as if the dagger was laced with poison.

However, Ted’s elation didn’t last long as the dagger that was supposed to hit its target was suddenly frozen in midair and fell to the ground even before reaching its target. He looked at the scene with wide eyes and immediately moved from his position as a layer of frost had accumulated in the space he was just moments before.

Coming out of [Stealth], he looked at Irene with increased wariness. He couldn’t believe that not only was she able to find his location twice but she could even stop his attacks that was coming from her blind spot.

He couldn't help but re-evaluate the woman whose beauty seemed so ethereal and otherworldly that even he had difficulty moving his gaze away from her. For an [Assassin] it was crucial that they mask their emotions along with their presence so as to not give their target any trace that they are there. If they failed even that, then they are regarded as third class. Ted couldn't believe that there would come a day where even he wouldn't be able to keep his desires in check.

Before he could reorganize himself, he was assaulted by a rain of frost arrows that was incisive enough to even pierce him if he wasn't careful. Dodging all the frost arrows that materialized from thin air and held enough power to even freeze a mountain, Ted repositioned himself far away from Irene.

He had to change his plans and takedown the woman first before he could reach that little girl. Playing with his dagger, he said "I must admit you are quite skilled but don't think that it is enough to defeat me. I have not used all of my powers yet however, it seems that you are worthy enough for me to go all out".

Chapter 106: Cecilia's Resolve (4)

Ted repositioned himself far away from Irene. He had to change his plans and takedown the woman first before he could reach that little girl. Playing with his dagger, he said "I must admit you are quite skilled but don't think that it is enough to defeat me. I have not used all of my powers yet however, it seems that you are worthy enough for me to go all out".

Irene silently circulated her powers, the air surrounding her started to freeze at a rapid speed and a layer of ice started to appear all around the house. Currently, she was wearing an ice blue phoenix mask and even though she tried to hide her face, her lustrous pink lips that could tug at one's soul were still in full display.

After these past few weeks of continuous levelling, her level had risen to 103, but even though her level had increased by a hundred, most of her powerful skills were still locked. However, it was still enough to overwhelm Ted who according to her analysis was a level 379 [Killer Assassin].

With a frenzied look in his eyes, Ted activated all his skills "Frenzy, Super cutting enhancement, Super agility, Baleful aura, Super Strength, Body enhancement". His body started making cracking sounds and the entire aura around him seemed to have been amplified.

With just a light step, the floor beneath him immediately cracked and his body sprang forth leaving a sonic boom in his wake.

FLASH... FLASH... FLASH... FLASH...

he was so fast that he left many afterimages and it became increasingly hard to spot him for even an instant. “Hahaha, playtime’s over. Now then I wonder if you can keep up,” Ted said in a self-confident tone as he zipped around.

The dagger he was holding onto had a reddish-brown aura laced onto it due to the [Baleful Aura] skill that was applied to it.

He zoomed around Irene and charged towards her from the side. “Gale Magic Mastery:- Howling Wind” Ted cast Gale magic on his dagger and sparks immediately started coming out of them as they slashed through the air.

An attack so sharp that it could even slash Whitesilver in half sped towards Irene. Whitesilver is a type of metal that is said to be ten times stronger than ordinary metal and is used for forging weapons and armours.

Ted was sure that the woman in azure blue clothing wouldn’t be able to take on his attack which was up until now able to take down all his enemies in one shot.

However, the scene that unfolded after was so shocking that even Ted couldn’t have imagined that in his wildest of dreams. The attack that was powerful enough to even slice Whitesilver in half was stopped in its path by a block of thick ice.

CLANG... a sound of metal colliding with metal echoed out as the thick wall of ice easily withstood his attack that had previously been able to take down all of his enemies. Freeze... before he could even organize his thoughts, he was forced to pull back as the dagger stuck to the ice wall was starting to get frozen.

Now standing a good distance away from the woman, Ted looked at his hand which had a layer of frost covering it with disbelief. The attack he was so confident of was stopped in its track by the ice wall, the moment his attack collided with the ice wall it was as if all the power behind the attack mysteriously vanished.

The power contained within that ice wall was so great that it was able to nearly freeze his arm the instant the dagger made contact with it. His mind was in disorder and his self-confident aura was deflated but how could Irene give him enough time to reorganize his thoughts.

Lightly twisting her body, she immediately floated in the air as an azure blue light wrapped around her body, and her jade white hands made a profound seal. An icy cold wind blew across the entire Forest Spring Spirit Village and the temperature around the surrounding sharply plummeted.

Cecilia who was standing behind Irene looked at their confrontation with wide-open eyes. The power displayed by the man was so great that she couldn't even see his movements and his attacks that were so pressuring was easily deflected by Irene.

Not only that but the man was slowly getting pressured instead as he faced Irene and was starting to get cornered.

“Permafrost Magic Mastery:- Eternal Ice Light” Irene’s beautiful voice sounded out. Permafrost Magic is the advanced tier form of the novice tier Ice magic. Similar to infernal magic, Permafrost magic required an immense amount of mana to cast.

Fortunately, in these past few weeks, Irene had levelled up quite a bit and hence can barely sustain the immense consumption of the advanced tier Permafrost magic. The azure light surrounding her became piercingly bright in an instant before she released her magic.

Alarm bells were continuously ringing on Ted’s head as he looked in terror at the logic-defying speed by which the woman was casting an advanced tier magic. Though the advanced tier magic held enough power to flatten a big city in an instant, it took a large amount of time to cast such magic.

Even a master tier [Grand Sage] won't be able to cast magic at this speed. It was precisely because the advanced tier magic required a long period of casting, that it made them vulnerable and opened up opportunities for others to disturb the flow of the magic.

However, he couldn't believe the spectacle in front of his eyes. The advanced tier magic that required a long period of time to cast was being completed at a speed that defied all logic.

The increased sense of danger snapped him out of his daze, he swiftly dashed towards Cecilia as he believed that the woman wouldn't be able to use her advanced tier magic on him if he captured Cecilia.

Nonetheless, he still underestimated Irene’s prowess and skills that were at the pinnacle of this world. The advanced tier permafrost magic was completed, the azure light filled the entirety of the village except for the room where the Forest Spring Spirits were enslaved.

The light was so bright that Cecilia had to cover her eyes and when she opened them back, everything for as far as she could see was covered in a thick layer of ice. A few meters ahead of her was the man completely covered in multiple layers of ice making a grabbing motion towards her.

Seeing that the man was so close to her, Cecilia panicked and tried to step back but her ankle slipped and she fell on the cold floor that was now covered with a thick layer of ice.

“Don’t worry he is completely frozen” Irene helped her get back up and assured. Nodding her head, she looked around the surroundings and seemed to be still in a daze. At this moment a cracking noise came from Ted’s frozen body alerting the both of them.

Irene observed the frozen body carefully before she finally realized that the cracking noise was coming from the object that was in that person’s hand. An unusual white light came out of the object that looked like a small shell.

The white light slowly broke through the ice and mysteriously disappeared. Irene creased her delicate brows, she was aware of what that peculiar light was.

It was a sound transmission sent by the shell that was in the hand of that person. It seemed that during the last moments of his life, the person decided that it was futile to dodge the attack and instead chose to send a sound transmission to someone.

It was exactly as Irene had surmised. Ted knew that he couldn’t dodge the advance tier magic in time and thus decided to send the news back to his guild using the transmission shell given to him by one of the Seven Swords.

He had to make sure that the guild knows about the terrifying prowess of the women and hoped that they could take appropriate measures before things started getting out of control.

Cecilia was surprised when the ice statue started making cracking noises but was relieved to find that there was no further movement. “What was that white light?” she asked as she had also seen the white light cracking out of the ice and disappearing.

Chapter 107: Cecilia’s Resolve (5)

At this moment a cracking noise came from Ted’s frozen body alerting the both of them.

Cecilia was surprised when the ice statue started making cracking noises but was relieved to find that there was no further movement. “Don’t worry he is completely frozen” Irene assured.

Nodding her head, Cecilia observed her surroundings and seemed to be still in a daze. “What was that white light?” she asked as she had also seen the white light cracking out of the ice and disappearing.

“It was a sound transmission,” Irene calmly said, one couldn’t see even a trace of worry in her brilliant crystal blue eyes.

Cecilia made a worried face and asked “A sound transmission? If the word gets spread there will be more trouble...”.

“Don’t worry, most of the content of the sound transmission was destroyed. Even if they received the transmission, they wouldn’t be able to understand the main subject of the transmission” Irene gave her a gentle smile and assured.

“Now let’s hurry and free your clan members” She said as she walked towards the room at the end of the corridor which was the only place that wasn’t frozen.

“Un” Cecilia nodded and strode towards the room where she felt the presence of her brethren. She stopped before the door and took a deep breath, with a determined look on her face she opened the door and entered in. The atmosphere inside the room could only be said as sombre, dark, and gloomy.

The Forest Spring Spirit children had a deadpan look on their faces and it looked like all of them had resolved themselves to their fate. Looking at their miserable and sorry figure, Cecilia’s eyes glossed over, tears threatened to leak out of her eyelids.

All of them had a collar inscribed with complex runes and gems on their necks. In the human world, the collar in someone’s neck represents their position as a slave. Once one gets enslaved by the collar, they lose all their free will and are subjected as an object of their master.

Unless one gets their collars off, they can never betray their master nor can they go against their order. She tightly clenched her small hands and a cold fury started burning within her.

Cecilia looked at all their faces and called out “Maya, Sara, Jarred, Zen... everyone”.

One by one all of them raised their head and looked at Cecilia with wide disbelieving eyes. One of the girls named Maya who appeared to be six or seven years old stood up and hurriedly ran towards her. Hugging her tightly Maya sighed in relief, however, the next moment she asked in a shaken and teary voice “Cecilia what are you doing here? Did those adventurers catch you too?”.

Hearing Maya, many of them dejectedly sighed after all Cecilia showing up here suddenly meant that those hateful adventurers were able to catch her too.

Jarred who was the oldest among the children came up to the two of them and asked: “Cecilia what happened? Did the patriarch and the others fail to escape?”.

Seeing that she became gloomy at the mention of her father, Jarred hurriedly changed the subject. He clenched his hands and said with conviction “Don’t worry Cecilia, it was our parents and patriarch’s wish to let you escape. So even if it costs us our life, we will help you escape from here”. His resolute voice lit a fire inside the other children who had a gloomy and sombre aura. They all agreed with him.

“Yeah we must protect her at any cost”

“I heard my father saying that she was the only hope of her clan”

“Then we must protect her from those evil adventures”

“How do we do that?”

“Those adventurers might be lurking outside... we need a plan”.

Discussion of such started sounding out among the Forest Spring Spirit children. Even while being aware that they might die, none of them backed out. Looking at their determined faces, Cecilia couldn’t help but get emotional. She hurriedly shook her head and said “It is not what you think”.

“Huh? What do you mean?” Jarred asked making a confused face. It was not only them but even the other children and Maya who was a close friend of Cecilia made a similar face.

Maya held Cecilia's hand into hers and asked "What do you mean Cecilia?". Cecilia inhaled a deep breath of air and said in a firm tone "Listen everyone it is not what you think. I haven't been captured by those adventures, I came here to rescue you all".

Maya looked at her in surprise and finally noticed that Cecilia didn't have a slave collar like them.

"What are you saying, Cecilia? If they didn't capture you then why would you come back here on your own accord? Don't you know how dangerous of a place this is?" Jarred pressed for an answer.

"It's true she doesn't have a slave collar," Maya said, joy and relief apparent in her voice.

Hearing Maya many of them finally noticed that Cecilia had no collar but the next moment they became confused once again. If Cecilia wasn't captured by those evil adventurers then what was she doing here, surely she wouldn't be here to save them as she just said right?.

Many of them had such thoughts but they quickly extinguished them as there was no way a Forest Spring Spirit could match those adventurers after all their race wasn't suitable for combat.

She looked at all her friends and said in an unwavering voice "I am here to save you all. Currently, there are no adventurers outside, we must get out of here as soon as possible". Maya, Jarred, and all of them looked at her bewildered at what she was saying.

Maya tightly gripped Cecilia's hands and asked "What do you mean that there are no adventurers outside Cecilia? There should be lots of them stationed outside, they are so strong that even our parents together weren't able to hold them back". She had a distressed and pained expression whenever she recalled those moments.

Observing her best friend, Cecilia understood that she had gone through a similar experience. As if assuring Maya by tightly gripping her hands in return, she directly looked into her eyes and said "Those strong adventurers are currently outside the village and those who remained behind are already dead".

She looked at the wide disbelieving eyes of the other and stated "It is the truth. There are no longer any adventurers outside, so we must run away now. Come with me".

Maya could see hope and pleading in the depths of Cecilia's eyes as she said those words. They were the best of friends and knew the other party very well but she still couldn't bring herself to believe that there were adventurers outside. She asked the question that was on everybody's mind "How is that possible Cecilia? Those strong adventurers... how could they die so easily?".

Cecilia was aware that she sounded ridiculous from their point of view and it was very hard for them to believe her. However, no matter what she couldn't back out now, she must make sure that they get out of this place.

Chapter 108: Demon Noble

Cecilia was aware that she sounded ridiculous from their point of view and it was very hard for them to believe her. However, no matter what, she couldn't back out now. She must make sure that they get out of this place.

At this moment Irene entered the room. The moment she entered, the place became completely silent as all the children looked at her in a daze, charmed by her presence. The Forest Spring Spirits were a race blessed with good looks and pretty appearances and it could even be said that their race was among the top in terms of beauty in this world.

But even from their standards, Irene appeared to be an otherworldly gorgeous beauty. Even with the phoenix mask covering her face, she still radiated an ethereal and alluring presence.

They couldn't help but become enchanted the moment they laid their eyes upon her.

Irene could hear the discussion among the children from outside the room. It looked like it was difficult for Cecilia alone to convince the Forest Spring Spirits and that is why she decided to step up.

"What a beautiful person," Maya said in a daze smitten by Irene's presence. She had spoken the words out of everybody's mouth and all of them agreed with her judgment.

Irene gave a gentle smile which snapped them out of their daze and asked "Are you guys alright? Is anybody hurt?". All of them shook their heads instinctively, even if they were enslaved, none of them were hurt as they were a valuable treasure in the eyes of the adventurers.

“I see, its good that you all are alright. Now then, what little Cecilia is saying is true. There are no adventures outside, I have frozen them all. If you still don’t believe her why don’t you go outside and have a look”.

Jarred who was the eldest of all saw that Cecilia was frantically nodding her head, and hence decided to brave it and have a look outside.

The moment he neared the door, a cold wind blew past his skin making him shudder all over. Looking past the door, he was flabbergasted to find a world of ice. Everywhere he laid his eyes were covered in a thick layer of ice, making it seem like a world encased in ice.

The other children who were waiting for Jarred saw that he had an astonished look in his eyes when he came back. They all became curious as to what happened outside and peaked out. Seeing a world encased in ice, they had the same astonished look as jarred in their eyes.

Cecilia who expected such a reaction couldn’t help but smile in content. Maya was convinced by the looks of her friends that the beautiful lady in front of her was speaking the truth. She looked at Cecilia and Irene before asking “Who are you and why are you helping us?”.

Her words were directed at Irene but also at Cecilia. She must have come here with that beautiful woman and it must be on Cecilia’s behalf that the woman was willing to help them. It was Cecilia who answered the question instead of Irene “She is the mistress of the dungeon master who resides in the eastern part of the forest”.

After that, she repeated the events that led to her meeting with Simon. This time it was Irene’s turn to be shocked, she never thought that Cecilia would view Simon and her in that way and address her as his mistress.

Cecilia was a five-year-old child after all and wouldn’t be able to understand the complicated relationship between them. At most, she did admire his courage and kindness, his determined and stalwart behaviour did make him a likeable person, but it was only that.

A little girl dressed in bright green clothes zipped through the trees as she crisscrossed around them and led those pursuers behind her deeper into the forest. A group of adventurers followed closely behind her as they cast numerous spells and skills to stop the girl in her tracks.

BANG BANG BANG... dozens of spells flew through the air and targeted the girl. But she effortlessly dodged all of them and increased her pace even further.

From the initial twenty or so adventurers who were after her, now only thirteen of them remained. The rest of them were caught up by the monsters and were forced to fight them. They were no longer calm as traces of weariness and exhaustion was starting to overwhelm them.

One of the adventurers couldn't take it anymore as this constant chasing had taken a great toll on him and fired a lethal magic [Fire Pillar] onto the girl. A great flaming pillar dozen of meters in size took shape, the intensity of the flames was so great that it lit the entire surrounding brightly.

Radiating an intense aura the fire pillar flew towards the girl.

"Stop you fool. Are you trying to kill her?" Laris who noticed the casting of the magic a step too late couldn't help but rage out at him. The [Fire Pillar] was one of the strongest magic of the Novice tier fire magic. It had enough firepower to seriously hurt anyone below level 100.

Even a monster above level 100 and boasting high defense, wouldn't come out unscathed after being hit by this spell not to mention a little girl from a race that had far less combat power.

The [Fire Pillar] sped on and quickly engulfed the area where the girl was into flames.

BOOOM.... the ground trembled and a shockwave bringing along an intense heat pushed all the adventurers back. Those adventurers that were near the radius of the blast even suffered some injuries and were forced to flee back.

All of them looked at the one who had fired the magic with hate and fury. It was already decided earlier that they are not to use any lethal skills or magic that could kill the little girl they were chasing but despite the warning, that guy had used a wide area lethal magic and disregarded the order completely.

Finally becoming aware of what he had done, the man became pale white and it seemed like all the blood had rushed out of his body. His body started trembling from fear and horror when the consequences of his doing dawned upon him.

Laris looked at the area where the little girl previously was now covered in intense flames. He tried to spot the silhouette of the girl amidst the flames in hopes that he could salvage her Spirit orb before she died.

However, his hopes were cruelly smashed apart along with his lofty ambitions of becoming the seven swords. The figure of the girl couldn't be seen as the flames consumed everything in a few dozen meters.

Turning to look at the man who fired the magic, he gritted his teeth and his face was so reddened with fury that he could puke blood any moment. Laris gave a venomous stare towards the man and walked towards him. Right now he wanted nothing but to flay this man on fire alive.

Seeing that Laris was coming towards him, strength left his body and he fell on his knees "L-Leader p-please forgive me, it was a mistake please... please...". Without waiting for him to speak further, Laris roared in rage "You bastard, I'll kill youuuu".

Unleashing all his strength, he erupted with storms of punches and kicks at the person. Like a ragdoll, the adventurer was flung around in the air and his body brutally skidded across the ground.

Chapter 109:- Demon Noble (2)

Seeing that Laris was coming towards him, strength left his body and he fell on his knees "L-Leader p-please forgive me, it was a mistake please... please...". Without waiting for him to speak further, Laris roared in rage "You bastard, I'll kill youuuu".

Laris was a level 321 [Dual-Weilder] in contrast to that the man was only around level 250. The difference between their strength was vast and there was no way the person could even dodge one of Laris' attacks.

BANNNG... without holding back even an iota of his strength, he plummeted the man deep into the ground with an axe kick. The appearance of the man could only be said as tragic as his whole body was beaten black and blue while most of his bones were broken and blood leaked out from all of his orifices, but the man was still alive.

The other adventurers looked at the man and felt pity, even those that were caught up in the radius of his magic felt sorry for him. However, nobody sympathised with him as they were all aware of how much importance the leader had given to this mission. They weren't clueless about how relevant that little girl was to their leader and despite his warning, the man went up and used a lethal magic to kill the girl, he had this coming.

All the adventurers looked at their leader who seemed so red with anger and frustration that he could even eat a person whole and gulped as cold sweat drenched their bodies. Now that their target had been swallowed by fire, the mission was already failed.

There was no way a Forest Spring Spirit could survive magic this strong not to mention that the target of the magic was a little girl no more than five years of age.

Surely by now, she must have turned into ashes. All the adventurers thought the same but nobody voiced it out. Who would deliberately put their neck on a lion's open mouth?. They were all waiting for their leader to calm down.

Laris clenched his fists tightly and looked at the area covered in flames with wrath and discontent. All his lofty ambitions had gone up in smokes because of one single mistake.

The heavens had given him a second chance but even then he wasn't able to grab it. To make sure that they catch the Royal Spirit this time, he even came up personally but even then the endeavour resulted in a failure.

The land, the trees everything was consumed into flames. Just when everybody thought that it was all over, the flames started flickering and burning with intense fervour.

Stunned at this sudden change, they all stared at the area covered in flames. No matter how many times they thought, they always concluded that the little Forest Spring Spirit couldn't come out alive from that attack.

However, they still hoped for a miracle. Though these adventurers did not know what a Forest Spring Royal Spirit was but given by the importance placed on her by their leader, they knew that the girl was special even among her clansmen. And such a precious treasure was destroyed right in front of their eyes. They could only imagine the feeling of loss that their leader is going through right now.

The flames flickered intensely and a black shadow rose amidst the flames.

'Could it be that the girl survived the magic?' were the thoughts of the adventurers who were watching the scene with bated breath.

Laris looked at the area covered in flames with elation, if the girl survived that attack then there would be a chance he could harvest her Royal Spirit Orb before the girl ends up dying from the injuries. However, the black shadow that could be seen occasionally amid the flames was unusual, to say the least.

BOOOM... the flames spread apart and a silhouette of a person rose from within.

A lean body compact with muscles was bathed in flames, his pitch-black hair looked like the embodiment of night. Two jagged horns and a devilishly handsome face, protruding from his back were a pair of demonic wings that were more than three meters wide.

When the adventurers laid their eyes upon the entity, they felt their whole body shudder for an instant. Its crimson eyes seemed to be penetrating through your very soul.

The figure of the five-year-old girl was no longer there and instead what appeared amidst the flame was a demon. The way Simon appeared, to the observing adventurers it looked like he was born from the flames.

Laris had a completely gobsmacked face and his mouth was wide open. It was not only him but all the surrounding adventurers were also making a similar face.

The silhouette of a petite little girl had suddenly turned into a tall, lean demon. How could they not be surprised? If somebody right now told them that they were hallucinating, they would have no doubt believed that.

There was no way the adventurers would have believed that they were chasing after a demon who had morphed into a little girl all along.

Simon observed his body which was bathed in flames and couldn't help but knit his brows. He wasn't concerned that his body was bathed in flames after all he had fire resistance skill and wasn't afraid of being hit by a novice tier fire magic.

He was Demon Viscount and along with his high defence stat, there was no way he would be damaged by a single novice tier magic. What he was concerned about was his body reverting to his original form.

“It appears that the minuses of the Elixir of Metamorphosis are the same in this world” Simon surmised. During the times when Simon was developing the game, he had programmed the effects of Elixir of Metamorphosis to be cancelled when the user is attacked or when the user willingly dispels it.

It seemed that when he was hit by the novice tier fire magic, the effect of the elixir was cancelled.

While Simon was still delving in his thoughts, the observing adventurers came back to their senses. They looked at each other and murmured “Hey do you also see a demon standing there or are my eyes playing tricks on me?”.

The other adventurers said, “It seems my eyes are the same they must be playing tricks on me. The girl turned into a demon”.

“What are you saying? how can a little girl turn into a demon?” said the other.

“Then are you saying that you can still see the girl?” the adventurer asked.

“N-no, I see a demon standing there”.

“Did the girl really turn into a demon after being chased by us?”.

“That is ridiculous. How can a Forest Spring Spirit turn into a completely different race?”.

Discussions as such continuously rang among the adventurers. Simon turning back into a demon from a little girl was too much of a shock for the adventurers as they continuously rubbed their eyes and slapped each other’s faces to see if they were hallucinating or not.

One of the adventurers who had enough slaps on his face approached near the demon and asked in a frustrated tone.

“Oi you demon, where the hell did you pop up from?” seeing that he was not getting any kind of response, the adventurer became bold and advanced closer to the demon. “Hey, can’t you hear me? Where did the little girl go? Did you devour that girl... Uggghh”.

Before he could complete his sentence, the adventurer was grabbed by the demon and lifted up. The difference in their height was already quite a bit hence when he was lifted up, his feet left the ground and he was suspended in the air.

All of the surrounding adventurers reacted too late and couldn't foresee what happened next. RUMBLE... flames, and lightning gather between Simon's hand which was holding onto the adventurers, and like watermelon, his head was popped open as the amalgamation magic of flames and electro penetrated through it.

BANG... there was an intense flash of light along with a rumbling sound that assaulted the ears of everybody present. A streak of intense light and heat penetrated through the head of one of the adventurers and passed through the forest and into the sky in a straight line.

Everything in the trajectory of the bolt was blasted apart into smithereens.

Chapter 110: Demon Noble (3)

BANG... there was an intense flash of light along with a rumbling sound that assaulted the ears of everybody present. A streak of intense light and heat penetrated through the head of one of the adventurers and passed through the forest and into the sky in a straight line.

Everything happened in a matter of seconds. Although everyone present here saw it clearly, they couldn't move in time. Silence spread around the surrounding after the attack passed through and disappeared into the horizon.

Plop... the body of the adventurer who was now missing a head dropped onto the floor amidst the stifling silence. The sound of the body hitting the ground snapped all the adventurers from their daze. They immediately brought out their weapons and stood in formation.

There was no way they ignore the demon right in front of him; after all, the humans and demons had been waging wars since ancient times. And now that the other party had already attacked them and killed one of their own, how can they not retaliate?.

The thoughts about the little Forest Spring Spirit was long gone from their mind. Laris ground his teeth with hatred as he looked at the demon who just nonchalantly killed one of his men as if he just swatted a fly.

Laris roared in anger and pointed “Vile demon how dare you kill one of my men? Do you think you can just bully us humans? I shall kill you and make you accompany him in the afterlife”.

Simon looked at Laris who seemed to be the highest level among the adventurers and also their leader. He flashed a mocking smile and said “Humans? I don’t see no humans. All I see are a group of animals wearing human skin”.

“You bastard, you dare to slander us?” the adventurers who had been told they were animals shouted out infuriated.

“The audacity of this demon... you all surround him and make him experience a pain worse than death for slandering us” Laris ordered his team. He was already on the brink of becoming insane after he lost the royal spirit orb and after Simon slandered him, he lost all of his self-control.

The adventurers also wanted to vent their frustration and quickly executed the order. Five adventurers with heavy armour and shields surrounded Simon. He used analysis on them and quickly found that they all belonged to the same [Swordmaster] class and were around level 280 each.

“Ramming Shield” shouting out the name of the skill, one of the swordmaster charged towards him and tried to ram him down with his shield.

Simon swiftly sidestepped and dodged the charge. Flames lighted in his hands and just when he was about to retaliate, another swordmaster rushed out and blocked him. After blocking his offence, the swordmaster jumped back following which rain of magic came dropping down on Simon from the backlines.

[Fireball], [Electrobolt], [Wind Blast], [Earth Pillar]... magic from every basic attribute targeted him. Knowing that he couldn’t handle it with just his resistance, he countered the spells with his own “Gale Magic Mastery- [Hurricane Wind]“.

Fierce wind instantly engulfed the area, making it seem like a place hit with a typhoon. Plants and trees were uprooted and thrown around the surrounding. The winds were strong that it bounced all the magic targeting Simon back towards their caster.

However before the spells could hit the backlines, the five swordmasters used their shield and tanked through all the damage.

BOOOM... all five of them were pushed back, seeing the opportunity Simon tried diving amidst the adventurers but instinctively jumped back when the space beside him distorted and out came a dagger.

Before Simon could organize himself, the space behind him distorted once again but this time instead of dodging, he punched the space with all his strength. BANG... The assassin that was hidden inside spat out a mouthful of blood as his body flew around and smashed into one of the trees.

Just when he thought he could finish off the assassin, a barrage of spells came targeting him and he was forced back once again. Simon clicked his tongue when looked back at the assassin who was being healed and had completely recovered.

The five swordmasters were back on their feet and had surrounded him once again. The situation had turned back to how it was before. Individually the adventurers weren't his match, but things completely change when they cover each other's shortcomings.

Simon can't find the opportunity to dive towards their backlines or deliver a finishing blow. Whenever he forced the swordmaster back, the assassins would target him from behind, if he focuses on the assassins then a barrage of spells would come targeting him and over and over again.

However, it wasn't like he was completely being suppressed. Laris observed the clash between his team and the demon that appeared out of nowhere and squinted his eyes.

He could sense that the demon was not going all out and was constantly vigilant of his movement. He further creased his brows when the result of the analysis came up with ????? when he used it on the demon.

Laris was stunned to find that his analysis was unable to scan the status of the demon which implied that either there was a huge difference in their level or that the demon had a skill that blocked the prying attempts from the analysis.

Till now Laris had only met one person who was able to block the prying attempts of his analysis and that was the guild master of the Seven Swords. At that time he realized the huge difference in their levels just by sensing the aura coming off from their guild master. However, this was different he thought that there was no way that the difference between him and the demon was so great that the analysis couldn't pry through.

Therefore it could only mean that the demon had a skill that was able to block all the prying attempts of the outsiders.

Laris believed that the demon was a low-ranking one, possibly a Demon Baron or a Demon Viscount, or else they would have already been wiped out. From what he knew, skills that could hide your status were incredibly rare and even their guild master didn't possess one.

But now he had met a demon who had one such skill. Since he could not pry the status of the demon, he couldn't figure out how powerful the demon was. His only option was to observe the demon carefully as he clashed with his team.

"Snort, you really think you can just kill one of my men and get away with that little ability of yours?" after observing for a while, Laris realized that the demon was really a low rank and just happened to have a skill that blocked all attempts of analysis.

Simon forced two of the swordmasters back with a punch and blasted the other three with his magic. He swiftly charged towards the backlines, the space behind him distorted and two assassins promptly appeared and plunged their daggers on his back.

Folding his wings, Simon tanked through it all and kept on charging towards the adventurers casting magic on the backlines. He could see that the adventurers behind weren't adept in close combat and needed a defence line to stop anyone from approaching closer to them. He smiled and just when he thought he had them, with a rumbling sound a blue blade covered in lightning came piercing towards his chest.

Twisting his body at the nick of the moment, Simon was able to dodge the attack that came from Laris.

At this moment, blue lightning arched around Laris and his blade was pointed towards Simon. The attack that just flew towards Simon came from him or more precisely from his blades. His twin blades were a [C] tier weapon that was gifted to him by his elder brother Boris.

The blades allow him to manifest intermediate-tier lightning magic and infuse them with his blade skill. His [Dual Wielder] class allows him to wield two swords at once and completely forgo defence to dish out lightning-fast attacks.

Laris smiled at the demon who had managed to dodge his attacks in the nick of time and said “That was quite the fast reaction, but will you still be able to dodge my attacks if I close the distance?”. After saying that, Laris finally moved from his original place disappeared with a flash of lightning.