

Honoured 681

Chapter 681 The Dusk of the Bloody Invasion - Interlude

681 The Dusk of the Bloody Invasion - Interlude

The moment Elvoria prepared to counter against Zhao Tian, a blur of crimson streaked through the air.

Velnorah reappeared at Elvoria's flank with her scythe already in motion, slicing toward her mother's ribcage in a precise arc.

The blade carried a powerful vacuum effect, pulling in the surrounding air and twisting it into a sharp vortex of compressed blood energy.

SWOOSH

Elvoria raised her arms up, blocking the attack with her forearm, but the force of the strike still sent vibrations rippling through her bones.

Sparks of blood energy crackled where the blade met flesh, the pressure leaving a thin, shallow gash along her arm... the first real wound Velnorah had ever inflicted on her mother.

"You've improved, little one."

Before Velnorah could pull back, Elvoria retaliated instantly.

She shifted her weight, her free hand twisting mid-air as her palm glowed with concentrated blood energy, and with a sharp thrust, she drove her fingers straight toward Velnorah's exposed chest.

crack But before the attack could land, a crackling explosion of black lightning cut through the space between them.

Zhao Tian teleported directly behind Elvoria, his sword already coated in a mixture of lightning and space energy.

A single slash aimed at her spine.

Elvoria's crimson gaze flickered, and in a split second, she twisted her body, bending her spine at an impossible angle to dodge the attack.

Zhao Tian's blade whistled through empty air, barely missing her flesh...

But before she could counter, Velnorah capitalized on the opening.

She drove her knee upward, striking Elvoria's abdomen with brutal force, her blood energy flaring around her like a fiery explosion.

"Urghh..." Elvoria grunted, her body jerking slightly from the impact.

But she recovered instantly.

Her hand lashed out, grabbing Velnorah's ankle mid-air, and with inhuman strength, she swung her daughter like a whip, aiming to slam her into the ground...

Only for Zhao Tian to intercept.

He caught Velnorah mid-air, pivoting as he used his momentum to launch her back toward Elvoria like a human projectile.

Velnorah flipped gracefully, and she slashed downward with the scythe.

Elvoria barely dodged in time, but Velnorah had expected that.

The moment her scythe missed, she released the weapon...

And with a flick of her fingers, the blade suddenly extended, bending through the air like liquid, following Elvoria's dodge like a snake.

Elvoria's eyes narrowed and she manifested a shield of blood energy, blocking the attack just in time.

clank The force sent her skidding backward in mid-air, her boots scraping against the ground.

For a moment, she looked at her arm.

The blood shield had absorbed most of the force, but a thin cut had formed on her wrist.

Velnorah landed beside Zhao Tian taking heavy breaths but her grip on her scythe was steady.

They both knew this was their chance.

Without hesitation, they charged together.

Zhao Tian vanished, teleporting directly to Elvoria's left.

Velnorah darted forward, her scythe weaving a deadly arc toward Elvoria's neck.

Elvoria parried the first strike with the edge of her palm, but before she could follow up, Zhao Tian's sword materialized from the space, its blade humming with compressed spatial energy.

She twisted, her arms moving fluidly as her crimson claws blocked his sword just before impact.

clank The shockwave from their clash cracked the air, sending ripples of distorted energy outward.

Velnorah flipped mid-air, reappearing behind her mother as her scythe's blade detached into a chain and wrapped around Elvoria's arm.

But Elvoria reacted immediately.

With one sharp pull, she yanked Velnorah toward her, using her own weapon against her...

Only for Zhao Tian to intercept.

As Velnorah was pulled forward, Zhao Tian grabbed her wrist, pivoting her momentum, and together they spun mid-air, launching her scythe forward in a spiraling slash.

The attack came from both sides at once... Zhao Tian's sword from the right, Velnorah's scythe from the left.

Elvoria grinned.

She parried Zhao Tian's sword with her elbow, while her left palm caught Velnorah's scythe between her fingers.

"Too slow."

She kicked Zhao Tian's knee, forcing him off balance.

At the same time, she pulled on Velnorah's scythe chain, sending her flying over her shoulder... right into Zhao Tian.

Zhao Tian twisted mid-air, stabilizing himself, before teleporting behind Elvoria again.

Elvoria tried to block...

But this time, Zhao Tian anticipated her counter.

He teleported twice in succession, appearing at her blind spot, and drove his blade toward her ribs.

At the same moment, Velnorah reappeared above Elvoria, her scythe descending like a guillotine.

Elvoria clicked her tongue, realizing her disadvantage.

Instead of dodging, she released a sudden explosion of blood mist, blinding both of them for half a second.

But Zhao Tian and Velnorah had already adjusted.

As the mist engulfed them, Zhao Tian extended his Space Domain, sensing every fluctuation in movement.

Velnorah also used her senses to track her mother's pulse through the mist.

The moment Elvoria tried to reposition herself, they both struck at once.

Zhao Tian's sword pierced through her lower back.

Velnorah's scythe cleaved across her chest.

"Grughhhh!" Blood erupted from both wounds.

Elvoria stood there, her fingers tracing the blood trickling from the deep wounds carved into her body.

Zhao Tian's sword had pierced straight through her lower back, the blade humming with spatial distortion, preventing the wound from healing properly.

Velnorah's scythe had sliced across her chest, cutting through flesh and bone, and disrupting her blood essence.

The blood mist dissipated, revealing the ruined battlefield around them.

The sky was still dyed in crimson, the sigils of her shattered domain pulsing erratically.

She lifted her gaze, her lips parting slightly as if she was about to say something...

But Zhao Tian and Velnorah weren't done.

Before she could even attempt to retaliate, they moved together.

The impact sent a violent tremor inside her body as blood and organs gushed out of her body like a paste.

"GRURGHHH!"

Velnorah pivoted mid-air and she raised her scythe high above her head.

"Goodbye, Mother..."

She swung down with all her strength.

SLEESH

The blade cleaved through Elvoria's entire torso, slicing her in half.

A moment of silence followed.

"GUHH!" A sharp, choked gasp escaped Elvoria's lips and her eyes widened, the swirling crimson within her eyes flickering as though a part of her had finally begun to understand...

... that this was the end.

No second chances.

Her upper body separated from the lower half, cleaved so cleanly that for a fraction of a second, her consciousness still clung to existence, her mind struggling to comprehend what had just happened.

Blood erupted from the wound like a torrential spray of deep red...

The raw power of Velnorah's scythe and Zhao Tian's spatial distortion had severed not just her flesh but her very essence, unraveling her from the inside out.

Her severed lower half crumbled first, breaking apart into flakes of blackened mist, dispersing into the wind.

Her upper half remained for a moment longer and her fingers twitched as if trying to reach for something...

A weapon?

A counterattack?

No.

She was reaching for something she could never grasp again.

Her crimson lips parted as if she wanted to say something—to curse, to sneer, to laugh...

But the words never came.

Her body disintegrated into a swirling burst of crimson mist, vanishing into the sky, leaving behind nothing...

Elvoria Di Gardia is dead.

Chapter 682 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [1]

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For some moments, the battlefield was quiet.

The wind blew through the dust, carrying with it the final traces of crimson mist, scattering the last remains of Elvoria's existence into the empty night.

Zhao Tian slowly lowered his sword and his eyes narrowed, expecting one final trick...

But none came.

It was over.

He turned, his gaze falling upon Velnorah, who was standing there gripping her scythe tightly.

Her breath was heavy, her shoulders rising and falling.

She stared at the spot where her mother had stood, but there was no satisfaction in her eyes.

No relief.

Just emptiness.

Zhao Tian took a step forward. "Velnorah...?"

Her gaze trembled as a soft whisper escaped his lips "She never loved me... did she?"

Zhao Tian blinked his eyes and he knew there was no easy answer to that question.

He didn't lie to comfort her.

He didn't offer false words of hope; instead, he stepped forward and gently pulled her into his arms.

For the first time in her life, Velnorah allowed herself to grieve.

Her shoulders shook as a single tear slipped down her cheek, disappearing into the fabric of Zhao Tian's robes.

She had killed the monster that had haunted her nightmares.

And yet...

Why did it still hurt so much?

...

BOOOM

The battle between Yan Zijin and Selena raged on, their clash shaking the skies above the battlefield.

Each impact of Selena's blood-forged sabers against Yan Zijin's bare fists sent shockwaves ripping outward, distorting the air with sheer force.

flick Selena vanished in a blur of red mist, reappearing in front of Yan Zijin in an instant, her blade already descending toward the her.

But before the strike could land...

Yan Zijin twisted her right leg and her foot collided with Selena's wrist, knocking the incoming blade off course, before she spun like a hurricane, her other leg whipping around in a devastating counter-kick.

BANG!

The force sent Selena hurtling backward, her body skidding through the air as the crimson mist swirled violently around her.

"You're quite the brute," she teased with a chuckle.

Without another word, Yan Zijin dashed forward, breaking the sound barrier with sheer speed.

Selena reacted just in time, crossing her sabers in front of her...

BOOM!

Yan Zijin's fist crashed into the blades, the impact sending an earth-shaking tremor through the battlefield.

"Damn it..." Selena gritted her teeth and her arms shook from the sheer force behind the attack.

But she wasn't about to let herself be overpowered.

Her energy surged, and in an instant, her sabers melted into liquid blood, flowing like water up her arms before forming into razor-sharp gauntlets.

Before Yan Zijin could react, Selena lashed out, her newly-formed blood claws tearing through the air.

Yan Zijin grabbed Selena's wrist mid-swing.

With that, she drove her knee into the vampire's stomach, sending her reeling backward.

CRACK!

A shockwave exploded from the impact, tearing apart the clouds above them.

Selena coughed, a mixture of saliva and blood escaping her lips as she regained her footing mid-air.

Selena prepared to launch another attack, but then... something shifted in the air.

A strange emptiness.

Something is missing.

A vague sense of unease settled in her chest and she glanced downward at the battlefield, her eyes narrowing as she scanned the chaos.

And... she saw it.

A distant patch of the battlefield, now eerily silent.

And in the center of it, a single spot where blood mist still lingered, fading into the wind.

Something was wrong.

Very wrong.

Then she saw them, Zhao Tian and Velnorah.

Selena's body stiffened and her chest tightened, a sickening weight settling in her gut.

Her gaze turned to the spot where Elvoria should have been.

But there was nothing.

Not a corpse.

Not a body.

Just empty air.

Just... mist.

It all made sense to her.

Elvoria was... dead.

The thought was so absurd that for a moment, Selena's mind refused to accept it.

A feeling she had not experienced in centuries clawed its way into her chest.

She wanted to deny it, to convince herself that she was misinterpreting what she was seeing.

But she couldn't.

Because she knew.

The Lacrimosa pact between her and Elvoria, the invisible thread that had tied them together for centuries... was gone.

It had been severed the moment Elvoria had died.

A piece of herself had been ripped away, and she hadn't even noticed until now.

Her hands began to tremble and the grip on her gauntlets faltered.

Yan Zijin's eyes narrowed as Selena lowered her arms and the energy around her collapsed as if something inside her had shattered beyond repair.

'What happened?'

At that moment, Selena's killing intent exploded.

WOOSH A pulse of pure bloodlust rippled through the atmosphere and it was so intense that people on both sides of the battle froze mid-fight, their instincts screaming at them to run.

A vampire general standing miles away dropped to his knees, gasping for air, his entire body shaking violently under the sheer weight of Selena's presence.

"Huh?"

Even Yan Zijin had to shift her stance, bracing against the sudden burst of overwhelming malice.

Selena slowly turned her gaze downward.

Her crimson eyes, once filled with amusement and arrogance, were now emotionless.

Her lips parted, and in a voice so eerily calm it sent shivers down the spines of those who heard it...

"Velnorah... you really killed her."

She took a slow step forward.

Then another.

And then...

She vanished.

swoosh A streak of pure blood energy cut through the sky, heading straight for Velnorah and Zhao Tian.

"Not so fast..."

Zhao Tian's eyes squinted, his grip tightening on his blade as he instinctively teleported in front of her, ready to intercept...

But before he could, another force crashed into Selena's path.

BOOM!

The sky shook violently, the impact sending a shockwave so powerful that it split the clouds apart, forcing the factions below to stumble back, shielding their eyes from the intensity.

And standing in the way of Selena's rampage... was Yao Jing.

Eh? Zhao Tian was startled and blinked his eyes in surprise "Master?"

Chapter 683 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [2]

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Zhao Tian was startled to see Yao Jing blocking Selena's attack.

"Master...?"

He had expected Yan Zijin to be the one to step in... but never her.

Selena, still hovering mid-air from the impact, narrowed her eyes at the woman before her.

"And who the hell are you?"

Yao Jing raised an eyebrow and asked "What job do you have with my disciple?"

The ground beneath Yao Jing cracked as she steadied her stance and the flames coiled around her body.

Selena has no time for chit-chat and glanced at Zhao Tian "Velnorah.. since you took my Vryienne..."

swoosh As she dashed toward Zhao Tian, Yao Jing darted forward, intercepting her.

Her right fist ignited as a surge of fire erupted around her arm and she drove it straight toward Selena's face.

The heat warped the air, creating a shimmering distortion that made it hard to gauge the true trajectory of her strike.

Selena, however, was fast.

She tilted her head at the last second, dodging the fiery punch as it shot past her cheek.

With precision, she twisted her body, bringing her knee up toward Yao Jing's stomach.

BANG!

Yao Jing barely managed to cross her arms in time, absorbing the hit, but the sheer impact sent her skidding backward.

Before she could reset her stance—

Selena closed the distance again, slashing out with her clawed fingers aimed directly at Yao Jing's throat.

Yao Jing bent backward, dodging the swipe by mere inches, feeling the sharp tips of the claws graze across her neck.

The moment her back arched fully, she twisted her body mid-motion, planting her left hand onto the ground and spinning into a counter-kick aimed at Selena's temple.

WHAM!

The kick landed solidly, snapping Selena's head to the side.

Selena's blood mist surged, forming solid red tendrils that shot toward Yao Jing like spears.

Yao Jing flipped backward, dodging the first three... but the fourth coiled around her ankle, yanking her mid-air.

SHRRK!

The tendril whipped her sideways, slamming her into the ground, and sending dust and debris into the sky.

Before Yao Jing could recover, Selena was already on her, a blood-formed blade materializing in her hand.

She lunged, driving the blade toward Yao Jing's stomach.

Yao Jing threw her arms up, catching the blade between her palms.

Flames erupted instantly, scorching the blood weapon, but Selena twisted her wrist, causing the blade to shatter into smaller fragments, all of which shot forward toward Yao Jing's face.

But in the next second, someone yanked her robe, pulling her out of it.

Holding her in his arms, Zhao Tian teleported a few steps back "Idiot.."

Yao Jing felt dizzy for a moment because of the distortion and raised her gaze "Tian."

But Selena who already knew about Zhao Tian's teleportation, dashed toward him as she slashed her blood blade towards his neck.

Yao Jing instinctively raised her palm to block the attack but before her, Zhao Tian raised his blade and blocked it.

CLANG

He felt the numbness radiating through his body but in the next second, the force of Selena's exploding blood energy sent Zhao Tian and Yao Jing flying, their bodies crashing through the shattered ground.

Zhao Tian twisted mid-air, gripping Yao Jing tightly as he dug his foot into the terrain, dragging to a halt while skidding backward.

His arm throbbed from the impact as Selena's strength was ridiculous.

Yao Jing coughed, shaking off the dizziness from the teleportation.

"Jing'er..." Zhao Tian muttered, eyes locked onto Selena as she approached through the settling dust, her blood-coated blade still dripping.

"Oh? So now you're getting in my way too?"

Zhao Tian exhaled sharply, lowering Yao Jing to the ground.

Yao Jing's eyes flashed in defiance, but before she could argue, he tightened his grip on his blade and stepped forward, meeting Selena head-on.

Selena's eyes gleamed with anger as she lunged, her blood blade flashing forward in a precise arc, aiming to carve straight through his chest.

Zhao Tian's blade clashed against hers, the collision sparking a burst of red and blue energy, their opposing forces grinding against each other.

Selena's strength pushed forward, forcing him back slightly, but instead of resisting, Zhao Tian twisted his stance, sidestepping as he let her attack slide past him.

And in that same instant...

His knee shot up into her stomach.

BANG!

Selena's body lurched forward slightly, but she reacted unnaturally fast, twisting mid-motion and whipping her blood-coated heel toward his ribs.

Zhao Tian barely managed to raise his forearm, absorbing the hit.

But the moment her foot connected, a sudden detonation of blood energy burst from the impact point.

BOOM!

The shockwave ripped through the ground, sending Zhao Tian crashing backward, his boots skidding against the rocky terrain.

Velnorah gripped the Scythe and glanced at Yao Zijin, who was busy fighting another Vampire General who just entered as Selena left her.

Which meant... this battle was on them.

Velnorah gripped her crimson scythe tightly, her knuckles turning pale as she glanced toward Zhao Tian and Yao Jing.

'I need to join the fight...'

As Selena was about to make her next move, a pillar of fire erupted from the ground beneath her.

Selena's eyes flickered downward, sensing the attack just in time, and she propelled herself backward with a burst of blood mist.

But Yao Jing thrust her palm forward, and the pillar of fire surged into a massive wave, rushing toward Selena like a tidal force of pure destruction.

Selena clicked her tongue "Persistent little insect."

She raised her hand and took on that wave with her bare hand, until...

A shadow flickered behind her.

Velnorah.

Seeing this, Selena's eyes glinted with killing intent as she slashed the sword back at Velnorah.

Velnorah was startled, as she didn't expect Selena to counterattack immediately.

'Shit...!' As the blade came close to her neck, Velnorah's eyes narrowed in horror.

She had already committed to her strike. There was no way to dodge.

'I can't dodge-'

flick In the next instant, Zhao Tian teleported to her and grabbed her wrist tightly.

And he teleported out of there.

"Fuck..."

The scenery blurred, shifting in an instant.

The next thing Velnorah knew... she was standing beside Yao Jing again and her pulse raced in dread.

"Haa..."

sleesh Selena's blade sliced through nothing but air.

Her gaze flickered toward them, "Always in the way, aren't you?"

Zhao Tian's eyes narrowed 'With my space domain, I can barely keep up...'

'And she hasn't even used her Plurret form and Blood domain...'

His eyes flickered to the Wing Masters, who were busy fighting the horde of vampires.

And then he glanced at Yan Zijin, who was thrashing the Vampire General she was fighting.

'We need to stall time till Master arrives...'

Chapter 684 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [3]

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Zhao Tian's grip on his sword tightened, his space domain fluctuating around him.

Selena exhaled slowly, rolling her shoulders, and in the next instant, she vanished.

A fraction of a second later...

Zhao Tian barely raised his sword in time as Selena reappeared in front of him, her crimson blade descending.

CLANG!

The impact sent a shockwave ripping through the air, splitting the ground beneath them.

But before Selena could press forward...

A searing flame erupted beside her, forcing her to leap away.

Yao Jing's palm lashed out as a wave of fire exploded outward in all directions.

Selena clicked her tongue, narrowly avoiding the inferno, but before she could counterattack...

Velnorah struck from above.

Her scythe carved through the air, leaving a blood-red arc trailing behind it.

Selena's eyes narrowed sharply and she twisted her body mid-air, flipping backward as Velnorah's scythe grazed her shoulder.

Selena thrust her hands forward, and the spikes of blood shot outward in all directions, seeking her enemies.

Zhao Tian teleported to the side, barely avoiding one of the lances as it pierced straight through the air where he had just stood.

Velnorah dodged backward, spinning her scythe to deflect the blood lances, but she was still forced on the defensive.

Yao Jing gritted her teeth and clapped her hands together as the fire around her body condensed into a rotating sphere of flame.

The fireball expanded mid-air, devouring Selena's incoming blood attacks.

Selena frowned slightly but remained unfazed.

Velnorah spun her scythe in a wide arc, the crimson blade elongating with blood energy as she launched forward.

Before she could retaliate, a fist streaking with flames tore toward her from the left.

Selena twisted her body, avoiding the fist by mere inches...

Only for Zhao Tian to appear behind her.

His blade was already descending as the space energy and lightning crackled along the edges of the blade. In an instant, she ducked low, the spatial slash grazing past her head, severing several strands of her hair instead of her flesh.

She snapped her foot up in a brutal kick, aiming for Zhao Tian's ribs...

BANG!

He blocked with his forearm, but the sheer force sent him skidding backward.

Velnorah took advantage of the opening, stepping in from the right.

She swung her scythe low, aiming for Selena's legs.

Selena backflipped over the attack, landing with perfect grace-

Only for Yao Jing to intercept her mid-air.

FWOOOSH!

A massive pillar of fire erupted from the ground, engulfing Selena in pure flames.

But before it could consume her entirely...

BOOM!

A shockwave of blood exploded outward, extinguishing the flames instantly.

Selena emerged from the smoke and her gaze flickered to Velnorah

She moved instantly, appearing in front of Velnorah, elbowing her in the stomach.

"Guh—!"

Velnorah choked on air, her body sent flying backward, smashing through a nearby sect building.

"Velnorah!" Zhao Tian's voice rang out, but Selena was already on him.

She whipped her blade forward, aiming for his neck.

Zhao Tian parried with his sword, but the force nearly buckled his stance.

Before he could counter, Selena's foot slammed into his knee.

CRACK!

"Urgh..." Zhao Tian gritted his teeth in pain and staggered two steps back.

Selena grinned sadistically as she twisted her blade for the kill—

But a scorching fist crashed into her face.

BOOM!

SWOOSH Selena was sent flying, tumbling across the battlefield and breaking into some sect buildings.

Yao Jing landed beside Zhao Tian, panting heavily.

"You okay?"

Zhao Tian exhaled sharply, shaking off the pain. "Yeah."

Velnorah pushed herself up from the rubble, gripping her scythe 'She is powerful even for three of us to handle...'

As Selena pushed herself from the rubble, her eyes flickered to the sky. Huh?

A streak of golden energy streaked through the air breaking the sound barrier.

It collided directly with Selena's cheek with such force that her entire body whipped backward, flying hundreds of meters across the battlefield before she crashed into the ground.

THOOOM The impact sent shockwaves rippling through the entire battlefield, forcing vampires and sect disciples alike to pause in shock.

Zhao Tian, Yao Jing, and Velnorah turned toward the source of the attack.

It was Yan Zijin.

After killing that annoying Vampire General, she came here.

"I will take care of her..."

As she spoke, she dashed toward Selena, who had crashed there.

Yao Jing let out a deep breath and turned to Zhao Tian "Tian..."

She couldn't contain the relief that surged through her, and before Zhao Tian could react, she threw her arms around his neck, burying her face into his chest.

Zhao Tian hugged her back as he gently patted her head "It's alright..."

As they pulled back from the hug, Yao Jing's eyes softened, and she pinched his cheek "What are you doing here on the battlefield? I was worried."

Zhao Tian just smiled dryly and at this time, Velnorah approached them "Tian..."

He hugged Velnorah gently and muttered "Master will take care of her.. Let us kill the others."

Velnorah leaned into him, her body relaxing in his arms as she nodded. "Mhm."

Huh? Yao Jing's eyes squinted in confusion looking at their exchange.

Without a second thought, she reached out and grabbed Zhao Tian's collar, pulling him toward her with a sudden force "Tian... What is her relationship with you?"

"You seem too close..."

Zhao Tian shook his head helplessly "Jing'er, now is not the time... there-"

"No."

Yao Jing interrupted, shaking her head furiously as she pressed her face closer to his. "Tell me..."

Sensing the tension, Velnorah hugged his arm and spoke "I am his wife."

Wha-

Yao Jing's eyes widened in disbelief, her jaw hanging open as her mind tried to process what Velnorah had just revealed. "What—?"

FEEENNN

But before any more words could be exchanged, a loud screech sliced through the air, shaking the ground once more.

The distant night sky darkened as several massive black arks emerged, cutting through the sky with terrifying speed.

Huh?

Velnorah's eyes narrowed looking at the arks "This is not vampire's..."

Zhao Tian's gaze squinted "It must be that Evil sect.. The Coven of Black Hearts."

Velnorah's eyes trembled as she finally remembered that the Vampires were in cahoots with the Evil Sect.

Chapter 685 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [4]

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The battlefield was already drenched in chaos.

The clashes between vampires and sect disciples, the destructive aftermath of Yan Zijin and Selena's duel, and the smoldering wreckage of the fallen vampire arks had left the air thick with smoke and the ground uneven with craters and corpses.

But now, a new force entered the fray.

Above, several black arks flickered in the crimson-stained sky.

These vessels were not sleek and sophisticated like the vampire arks, but rather monstrous, jagged constructs of dark stone and metals.

Zhao Tian let out a sigh 'Even more bothersome people...'

From the largest of the black arks, a man draped in black robes stepped forward.

His hood covered most of his features, but as he lifted his chin, his pale, scarred face was revealed and his lips curved into a twisted smirk.

Hei Xu let out an eerie chuckle. "Well, well... I see the Jade Eclipse Sect still stands, despite the vampires' efforts."

He slowly raised a hand, as though addressing an audience rather than standing in the middle of a battlefield. "Let us join in the fun too... all for the glory of our 'Divinity.'"

At his words, the black arks rumbled, and from their depths, thousands of robed cultivators began to pour out, descending onto the battlefield like a flood of darkness.

The Jade Eclipse Sect disciples and vampires, who had been at each other's throats mere moments ago, now turned their attention toward this new arrival.

Some of the sect disciples, already exhausted from the ongoing battle, paled in horror at the sight of the approaching cultivators.

A group of vampires, still locked in combat with sect disciples, momentarily turned their heads toward the incoming arks and their eyes widened in happiness.

"Reinforcements!" one of the vampire warriors shouted.

The first wave of the Coven of Black Hearts forces landed, and all hell broke loose.

11:14

"ARGHHHHH!!!" Their screams of agony filled the battlefield as their life force was drained in mere seconds and their bodies crumbled into dust.

The battle that had been chaotic before... now turned into absolute pandemonium.

...

Amidst this overwhelming despair, just as the Evil Sect's forces seemed to have completely tipped the balance of battle....

A new force intervened.

SHINGGGG!

A deafening, metallic sound ripped through the battlefield.

Out of nowhere, an enormous slash of golden energy cut across the sky like a divine judgment.

A single, overwhelming sword arc split through three of the Coven's arks in an instant, shattering them into pieces.

THOOOM The explosions thundered through the sky as the debris rained down like meteors.

The battlefield froze and all heads turned in unison toward the source of the attack.

And there, standing atop the ruins of the fallen arks, were giant stone figures.

They towered above the battlefield, standing at least thirty meters tall.

Their colossal bodies were carved from jade-infused stone glowing brightly with energy.

Each one gripped massive weapons... some wielding blades, some hammers, and others polearms—as each of the statues radiated an immense aura.

From the Jade Eclipse Sect's most ancient halls, these guardians of the Sect, long sealed away, had risen to face the calamity.

Their movements were slow at first, as though shaking off centuries of slumber.

THOOM But then, one of them leaped from its position, it was a guardian wielding a giant war hammer—and came crashing down into the battlefield, sending hundreds of Coven members flying from the sheer impact.

SLEESH Another one swung its massive jade sword, tearing through the lines of evil cultivators and their bodies shredded apart as if made of paper.

One of the Coven's higher-ranked warlocks, seeing the devastation, raised his hands to attack.

But before he could finish, one of the stone guardians impaled him through the chest with a spear, lifting him off the ground before hurling him into the sky, where he exploded into dust.

The battle shifted once more... but this time, the Jade Eclipse Sect had gods of war fighting on their side.

Floating in the air, Ji Shuang's purple hair tousled in the breeze as she looked down at the ruined battlefield.

Her gaze swept through the surroundings, analyzing the current situation.

Her eyes turned toward Yan Zijin, who was still locked in battle with Selena, their clash shaking the sky. "That one is handled."

As she thought, her gaze flickered to Zhao Tian who seemed alright 'Good...'

Her focus then turned to the Wing Masters, whose overwhelming power had begun to dominate the Vampire Generals.

The battlefield, though chaotic, was leaning in favor of the Jade Eclipse Sect.

However...

She looked up at the sky and saw the red portal burning with energy as 7 people stepped out of it.

Four middle-aged men and three women, all dressed in high-tier ceremonial battle robes, their attires embroidered with golden threads that shimmered under the blood-red glow.

Ji Shuang raised an eyebrow in mild surprise "The whole Elder Council? How rare..."

'It seems like they are desperate for the Brynnhilder after all...'

One of the vampire elders, a man with long silver hair and deep red eyes, chuckled, "Ji Shuang of the Jade Eclipse Sect... I would have preferred to negotiate... but you have forced our hand."

Another, a woman with raven-black hair, sneered. "The way I see it, this sect is still standing only because we have yet to act. But now that the Elder Council has arrived..."

Her lips curled into a bloodthirsty smile. "Let's end this, shall we?"

Ji Shuang exhaled softly, rolling her shoulders as purple lightning began crackling around her fingertips. "You believe seven of you are enough?"

She twisted mid-air, her robes billowing as she narrowly dodged a crimson blade slicing toward her side.

Two.

Her eyes darted upward... one of the female elders was already above her, her pale hands forming a blood sigil in the air.

"Blood Prison."

A dome of thick crimson energy erupted around Ji Shuang, closing in like the jaws of a beast and locking her within.

One of the male elders smirked. "You are already trapped-"

CRACK!

A devastating pulse of purple lightning exploded outward, shattering the Blood Prison as if it were made of glass.

The backlash struck the female elder mid-air, sending her spiraling back "Urghh..."

flick Ji Shuang's figure blurred... and she struck.

Her palm flashed, striking forward with an impact that sent another male elder flying backward, his ribs audibly snapping as he crashed into the battlefield far below.

THOOM

The remaining five didn't hesitate.

"Blood Execution."

From the five different directions, streams of crimson energy shaped like jagged spears shot toward Ji Shuang, each carrying enough force to destroy a mountain.

Ji Shuang's gaze sharpened as the air around her shimmered... and then, in a brilliant explosion of pure violet lightning, a protective barrier erupted around her.

BOOOOOOOM!

The Blood Execution attacks collided violently against her shield, but instead of breaking through... they were absorbed.

The stored power within the barrier discharged, and suddenly five lances of lightning shot outward, each aimed precisely at the five elders still mid-air.

"GURRGHHH!" One was struck directly in the chest, his body convulsing violently before he was blasted into the ground.

Another barely dodged, but the aftershock left a trail of burns across his back.

The rest were forced to retreat, momentarily staggered.

Ji Shuang remained floating, completely unharmed by the attacks.

She tilted her head. "Seven of you, yet this is all you amount to?"

Chapter 686 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [5]

686 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [5]

The battlefield had already descended into chaos... vampires, sect disciples, and the Coven of Black Hearts clashed.

Ji Shuang was battling the Vampire Elder Council, Yan Zijin was fighting Selena, and the massive stone guardians were carving through the enemy ranks.

Velnorah let out a soft sigh "Since Sect Master is already in the field now... everything will be okay."

Yao Jing nodded her head "Sister Shuang can take care of things from here."

Looking at Zhao Tian, Velnorah tugged his hand "Come on, Tian.. we can go and destroy some Vampire spaceships."

Huh? However, Yao Jing hurriedly grasped his hand on the other side "No, Tian'er... come with me, let's fight together..."

—

But then... Something changed.

A new horror unfolded amidst the sect disciples themselves.

Zhao Tian's eyes narrowed as he sensed something off... the battle was already brutal, but now it was growing erratic.

Sect disciples who had been fighting together moments ago suddenly turned against each other—slashing their own comrades down with madness-filled eyes.

"ARGH!"

"GRGHH!!"

"WHAT?"

Screams filled the air as trusted allies betrayed each other, disciples who had fought side by side for years now cutting through their own brethren.

"What the hell is happening!?"

Some disciples gasped in horror, unable to understand why their trusted allies had suddenly turned against them.

Others were too slow to react and cut down before they could even lift their weapons in defense.

The Coven of Black Hearts' hidden traitors finally revealed themselves.

Zhao Tian's eyes widened in shock as he realized "The evil cultivators who mingled with the disciples...."

Hearing this, Velnorah also remembered accepting evil cultivators into her wing "That's..."

Her eyes shook in horror as she realized her blunder.

Zhao Tian gripped his hand and white patterns appeared on his eyes as he saw through everyone's souls.

"Jing'er, Norah... you both go and destroy the ships; I will take care of these evil cultivators."

Hearing this, Yao Jing was dumbfounded "But.. how are you going to differentiate?"

Zhao Tian shook his head "I have a way; now go."

Velnorah clenched her jaw before nodding.

Yao Jing hesitated for a few more seconds but eventually let out a sigh and gave him one final look before turning away.

SWOOSH!

Zhao Tian vanished and before the disciple could even react, a silver arc cut through the air, and his head flew from his shoulders.

Blood sprayed in the air as his lifeless body collapsed to the ground.

Zhao Tian didn't stop.

CRACK!

He grabbed another traitor's wrist, twisting it with enough force that the bone shattered instantly.

Before the man could even scream, Zhao Tian drove his sword through his chest, the tip emerging from his back.

With a flick of his wrist, he threw the corpse aside and charged forward.

"Who—"

Before the words could even leave the man's mouth, Zhao Tian disappeared once more, leaving a flicker of white light.

He reappeared behind the man as he raised his sword.

The man tried to turn and snap his weapon up to defend-

SLEESH But his entire upper body was severed in two, bisected so cleanly that for a brief moment, his eyes still moved in shock before his body collapsed into two separate halves.

A disciple in sect robes dashed forward, his blade already dripping with the blood of his own comrades.

His eyes gleamed with insanity as he lunged at another unsuspecting sect disciple.

But before his sword could even descend, a hand clamped around his face.

CRACK!

Zhao Tian's grip tightened, his fingers digging into the man's skull.

The man screamed, thrashing wildly, his hands clawing at Zhao Tian's wrist, trying to break free...

But Zhao Tian didn't even flinch.

With a single twist of his wrist—SHATTER!—the skull fractured like brittle glass.

Blood and brain matter splattered the ground as Zhao Tian tossed the lifeless body aside, already moving to his next target.

Realizing the danger, one of them tried to flee, but Zhao Tian vanished from where he stood and reappeared right in front of him.

The man barely had time to react-

SHINK!

Zhao Tian's sword sank cleanly into his spine, severing his nervous system instantly.

thud The man collapsed mid-step, his body hitting the dirt before his mind even registered that he was dead.

Zhao Tian ripped his sword free, not even sparing a glance as he moved on. In an instant, he appeared behind a man and his hand snapped forward like a vice as he grabbed the back of the traitor's head.

"GUH!" The man gasped in shock, his entire body jerking forward as his face was yanked down toward the dirt.

09:05

Zhao Tian's fingers tightened like iron shackles, his nails digging into the man's scalp as he lifted him up effortlessly, his feet dangling helplessly above the ground.

A wet, sickening crunch echoed through the battlefield as Zhao Tian's grip crushed his skull like a fruit, splitting bone and brain matter.

thud The body twitched violently and then fell limp, as the life left his eyes before his corpse dropped to the ground like a sack of meat.

Before the next group of disciples could react, a blue glint passed through his eyes and lightning energy coiled violently around his body.

A white-hot arc of electricity erupted from his body, crashing into a group of five traitors who had been attempting to retreat.

The lightning crawled through their bodies, tearing into muscles, bones, and nerves.

"ARGHHHH!!!" Their bodies jerked and convulsed uncontrollably as the currents burned through their organs, frying them alive from the inside out.

One of them came from behind with his dagger coated with poison as he aimed for Zhao Tian's spine.

But just as the blade was about to connect...

Zhao Tian twisted his entire torso and grabbed the assassin's wrist mid-air.

The man's eyes widened in shock, and before he could react—

CRUNCH.

Zhao Tian snapped his arm in the opposite direction, twisting it completely backward and the bones ripped through the skin as a sickening POP echoed through the air.

"GRGHH!!" The man screamed, dropping the dagger instantly.

Still holding onto the man's broken arm, Zhao Tian spun his sword around in his left hand, and then drove it straight through the traitor's throat.

SQUEACH Blood burst out violently, his body collapsing like a ragdoll as Zhao Tian pulled back his blade.

Another one tried to retreat, realizing how outmatched he was.

SHINK.

Zhao Tian's sword shot forward, spinning like a drill, and impaled the traitor through the chest.

SHKKCHH The force of the blow sent the man flying backward, nailing him into a tree.

He gurgled violently, blood spilling from his lips, as he struggled to pull the blade free.

But Zhao Tian had already dashed forward.

Placing a hand against the embedded hilt, he pushed it in deeper, twisting it mercilessly.

"GRAAAARRR!!" The traitor's eyes bulged in pain but Zhao Tian didn't care and twisted the sword, killing him instantly.

His gaze flickered to the remaining evil cultivators and he pulled back his blade from the dead corpse.

thud The body fell down and blood dripped from the edge of his blade.

'Onto next...'

Chapter 687 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [6]

687 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [6]

The sky above the battlefield was thick with smoke, fire, and falling wreckage as the war between the Jade Eclipse Sect and the Vampire forces raged on.

Now, with the sudden arrival of the Coven of Black Hearts, the battlefield had descended into an even greater state of chaos.

But high above where the towering black arks loomed, another battle was about to begin.

Velnorah and Yao Jing flew through the sky, their figures cutting through the wind as they approached the massive arks.

The enemy forces were relentless, and reinforcements would keep pouring in unless they severed the head of the beast

With that, they split up, each heading for a different ark.

As she approached the first ark, Velnorah could feel the dense energy radiating from it.

Velnorah landed on the upper deck of the ark and instantly, an alarm blared as dark-armored vampires rushed out from the vessel's interior.

She spun her crimson scythe as the blade hummed with condensed blood energy and the weapon expanded in size, growing into a massive, curved reaper's blade.

flick Without hesitation, she lunged forward, closing the distance between herself and the enemy in seconds.

SLEESH Her first horizontal slash carved through the nearest vampire's waist, severing his body in half in precision.

"GRGH-!" His upper torso slid off his legs and his severed body collapsed onto the deck in a pool of blood.

A spear-wielding vampire attempted to thrust forward, aiming for her heart, but she twisted her body at the last moment, dodging the attack with ease.

Before he could retract his weapon, she hooked the scythe's blade around the spear's shaft and yanked it forward, pulling the enemy off balance.

THOOM The force of the blow sent him flying backward as his body slammed into the reinforced walls of the ark, leaving a deep dent in the metal before he slumped lifelessly onto the floor.

09:07

In the same motion, she spun and drove her knee into his ribs, shattering them upon impact.

THOOM The force of the blow sent him flying backward as his body slammed into the reinforced walls of the ark, leaving a deep dent in the metal before he slumped lifelessly onto the floor.

One of the vampires raised his hand, summoning a barrage of crimson spears, formed from condensed blood essence, and hurled them toward her.

sleesh Dozens of jagged projectiles tore through the air aiming at her.

However, Velnorah easily slashed through and continued her slaughter.

With the enemies cleared, Velnorah made her way toward the ark's core chamber.

As she approached the chamber doors, she heard some footsteps.

"Do not let her reach the stones!" one of them shouted.

"Is that... Lady Velnorah?"

flick She sprinted forward as she dodged through the defenders with inhuman speed.

FLEESH The first vampire she passed didn't even realize he had been sliced apart until his upper half slid off his legs and fell to the floor.

The next two tried to block her path, but she used the blood of the dead vampires to harden into jagged spikes, which suddenly sprouted from the floor beneath them, impaling them through their stomachs.

SLEESH With the last of the defenders dead, she raised her scythe and brought it down onto the glowing core.

"Time to get out of here."

WHOOSH The ark lurched violently and the warning sirens blared as it began its plummet toward the battlefield below.

...

As Yao Jing landed on the deck of the second ark, she was immediately met with hostility. evil cultivators in pitch-black robes, their bodies covered in blood-red tattoos.

She cracked her knuckles, fire sparking from her fingertips as a smile crept onto her lips. "Tian better praise me after this..."

FWOOM!

A pillar of golden fire erupted beneath her feet, sending out a shockwave of heat as it instantly incinerated the first wave of evil cultivators.

The air boiled, and the deck beneath her began to glow red-hot as the metal warped from the sheer intensity of her flames.

fwish Suddenly some dark lances hurled towards her and sensing this, she stomped the ground, causing an eruption of flames to burst forth, melting the lances mid-flight.

Without missing a beat, she lunged forward and closed the distance in an instant.

The cultivator barely had time to react before-

BANG!

Her fist collided with his gut and the sheer force caved in his ribs, sending him soaring across the deck before he crashed into a wall, his body embedded into the metal.

Another cultivator sashed at her from behind, swinging a mace larger than her entire body.

The weapon howled through the air, evil energy crackling around it.

She exhaled sharply, her eyes flashing with annoyance.

At the last second, she ducked, letting the weapon sail over her head that missed her by mere inches.

As the guy's momentum carried him forward, she pivoted on her heel and—

WHAM!

Her flaming knee shot upward, colliding with his jaw in a brutal uppercut.

The impact sent shockwaves ripping outward and his head snapped back with a sickening crack as molten flames poured into his mouth, roasting him from the inside out.

A cyclone of fire erupted around her, forming an inferno that trapped the incoming cultivators mid-air.

"ARGHHH!!!" They screamed in pain, their bodies roasting alive as they were caught in the rotating vortex of flames.

Some attempted to break free, but Yao Jing clenched her fist, and the cyclone collapsed inward, compressing them into a dense sphere of superheated energy.

With a snap of her fingers, the sphere imploded...

BOOM!

A massive explosion engulfed the upper deck, sending burning debris raining down onto the battlefield below.

She dashed toward the core chamber...

As she burst into the core chamber, she immediately sensed an overwhelming presence.

Hm?

The walls pulsed with evil energy, and at the very center, there was a single guardian, its body composed of metal armor.

Its singular eye glowed, and its massive hands are clenched into crushing fists, large enough to flatten an entire house.

THOOM.

The guardian took a single step forward and the entire ark shook from its sheer weight.

Yao Jing cracked her neck "Alright, big guy. Let's see how well you burn."

The guardian lunged, its huge arm swinging down toward her, creating a whistling pressure wave that shattered nearby pillars from sheer force.

She sidestepped at the last moment, avoiding the devastating strike and the impact cratered the floor, sending shards of metal flying outward like shrapnel.

BOOM!

Using the opening, she ran up the length of its arm, before launching herself toward its head.

BANG!

Her fist collided with its face, sending ripples of fire energy through its massive body.

Instead, the guardian retaliated with a sudden pulse of evil energy, blasting her backward.

Yao Jing flipped mid-air, stabilizing herself with a burst of fire beneath her feet.

The guardian let out a deep growl, preparing to retaliate...

Yao Jing smirked and dashed through the air as she clenched her fist tightly and landed a sturdy punch.

BOOOOOOM!

The sheer impact sent shockwaves through the air and the core chamber trembled as the flames consumed everything in their path.

Yao Jing dashed forward, dodging the guardian's final attempt at an attack, before landing on its collapsing chest.

She raised her fist, condensing all of her fire energy into a single point.

And then... she punched downward.

SHHHHRRRRK!

Her fist pierced straight through its chest and the guardian collapsed down.

She then quickly destroyed the astral stone in the core chamber.

SWOOOSH! The ark lurched violently as its foundations crumbled and its systems failed instantly.

Yao Jing jumped away, soaring out of the ark just as it crashed into the battlefield, exploding in a towering inferno.

Chapter 688 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [7]

688 The Night of the Bloody Invasion [7]

Hm? Ji Shuang who was floating mid air, raised an eyebrow seeing that the Elders are getting in some sort of formation.

Mal'kar raised both arms, and suddenly the entire battlefield darkened.

The air vibrated with power, and from the ground below, enormous rivers of blood surged upward, twisting into jagged monsters, each as large as a mountain.

The sky split open, revealing a massive crimson sigil spanning miles as it pulsed like a second sun.

FWOOM!

From the sigil, thousands of sharp blood spikes rained down and each one capable of piercing through entire mountains easily.

The masters of blood river lunged at Ji Shuang from every direction, their maws wide enough to devour her.

At the same time, Elder Veyrith spread his arms wide as the moon itself dimmed.

The clouds above swirled into a vortex, and from the sky an enormous black sphere descended like a condensed mass of pure annihilation, absorbing all light around it.

The sheer gravitational force distorted space itself and the ground collapsed inward.

Elder Naros let out a whisper, and a mist of crimson fog exploded outward, creeping toward Ji Shuang.

Anything it touched instantly rotted and dissolved and A single breath of this would corrode a cultivator's soul, reducing them to nothing.

From behind, Elder Xyrias vanished, reappearing directly above Ji Shuang as he gripped the blood sword in his hand.

sleesh He slashed downward at blinding speed, intending to cleave Ji Shuang in two.

Ji Shuang didn't even turn and simply raised her forearm, catching the blade with her bare hand.

CLANG!

The impact sent shockwaves through the entire battlefield, but her expression remained cold.

CRACK!

The Abyssal Blood Sword shattered into countless fragments, turning into harmless dust scattered by the wind.

Before Xyrias could react, her knee shot upward, slamming into his ribs. *thud*

"Guh!" His entire chest collapsed inward and he was shot down to the ground as his body hurled downward like a meteor, colliding into the battlefield below with an explosion that sent vampires flying.

THOOOOMMM

And then she moved, a single step.

With just that, a deafening sonic boom tore through the battlefield, ripping apart the air itself.

Ji Shuang vanished, reappearing in the midst of the falling blood spears.

Her hand shot forward, and a shockwave of violet lightning exploded outward, shattering the weapon into fine mist.

swoosh She twisted mid-air, her movements seamlessly graceful as purple lightning crackled around her body, easily shattering all of those massive spears from the sigil.

One after another, the blood spears shattered, turning into harmless crimson dust before they could even reach her.

But she wasn't finished.

BOOOOM!

With a single, brutal stomp in mid-air, Ji Shuang unleashed a shockwave that rippled outward, meeting the oncoming blood monsters.

The moment the pulse struck, their monstrous bodies convulsed violently, their forms twisting and writhing as they collapsed inward, crushed by the sheer force of her presence.

Not a single drop of blood remained as they vanished into nothingness.

CRACK!

But before Ji Shuang could press forward, the black sphere of annihilation finally reached her.

The sheer gravity of the thing warped the sky, pulling chunks of the battlefield, dead bodies, as the very air was being ripped apart by the distortion.

Ji Shuang, hovering in the air, narrowed her eyes.

And then she punched.

A single, casual punch.

But the moment her fist connected with the very air, an explosion of purple lightning and white frost erupted outward, creating a counterforce that pushed the black sphere.

Elder Veyrith eyes narrowed "You think you can resist the Black Sun Eruption? Foolish woman—"

Ji Shuang didn't wait for him to finish and flashed forward at impossible speed, appearing right in front of him.

Veyrith barely had time to react before her knuckles crashed into his gut.

BOOOOOOOM!

His entire chest caved inward, blood and shattered ribs bursting from his back.

"WHA-" His eyes widened in absolute horror as his body was hurled across the battlefield like a shooting star, tearing through multiple vampire troops before finally crashing into a distant mountain.

The black hole, now without its caster's control, began to destabilize.

Ji Shuang twisted her body mid-air and thrust her palm forward.

A thin line of purple lightning shot out, piercing into the black sphere's core.

FWOOOOOOOOOOM!

The sphere shattered apart, its gravitational pull collapsing instantly, causing all of the debris and bodies caught in its field to rain down onto the battlefield.

But before he could process his shock, the crimson mist had already reached Ji Shuang, tendrils of energy trying to wraparound her body.

Elder Naros grinned from below "Die."

But Ji Shuang exhaled sharply and she released her aura.

A brilliant storm of violet lightning and white frost erupted outward, expanding like an unstoppable tidal wave of destruction.

The moment her energy collided with the cursed mist, the deadly fog evaporated, reduced to harmless air in seconds.

Elder Naros' smile vanished as he staggered backward and his body trembled in disbelief.

Ji Shuang was on him before he could blink and slashed her hand at him, which caused a pure energy of astral energy to shot forawd.

The blood clouds, which had been scattered by Ji Shuang's attacks, suddenly converged, forming a massive vortex high above the battlefield.

Deep crimson lines stretched across the sky, spiraling inward, condensing into a singular core of pure destruction.

And then... it expanded.

FWOOOOOOOOOM!

An enormous crimson seal began to carve itself into the skies.

It covered the entire sky, stretching for miles beyond the horizon.

Sect disciples below staggered, their knees buckling under the sheer weight of the technique.

Even the strongest Wing Masters glanced up, their expressions tightening in concern.

"What... is that?" one disciple gasped.

Elder Salix extended both arms toward the seal, "By the decree of the Blood Sovereigns..."

Elder Verisa followed, her eyes glowing with an eerie crimson light as she blood oozed from her palms, allowing the blood to float toward the sigil.

"By the will of the Ancients..."

Elder Mirthal clasped her hands together, her voice growing louder as the sky rumbled with power.

"Let the heavens themselves bear witness—CRIMSON ECLIPSE!"

...

Meanwhile, the Jade Eclipse Sect is in absolute chaos back in the Jade Imperial Palace.

Huh?

Zhou Hanyue's body shuddered in absolute horror as she looked at the corpse that was lying on the floor.

The corpse head has been removed from the body and is embedded on the floor with a spear right through the chest.

Only a single word escaped her lips...

"Father...?"

Chapter 689: The Night of the Bloody Invasion Interlude - Fall of an Emperor [1]

The grand throne room of the Jade Imperial Palace had descended into a scene of absolute carnage.

The walls, adorned with ancient murals of the Jade Dynasty's legendary conquests, were now splattered with fresh blood.

The once-pristine pillars, were cracked and scorched, the lingering scent of smoke and burning flesh filling the air.

The bodies of royal guards and the elders who were loyal to the very end, lay scattered across the jade floors with their weapons still clutched in stiffened fingers.

Some were cut clean in half, others impaled through the chest.

Pools of darkening blood seeped into the tiles.

But none of this was as horrifying as the body that lay at the center of it all.

The corpse of the Jade Emperor.

His head had been removed from his body and the decapitated head sat embedded in the marble floor with a deep crater surrounding it, as if the very impact of its placement had cracked the palace foundation itself.

His torso, still clothed in the imperial robes of jade green and silver embroidery, was impaled by a massive crimson spear, pinning him upright to the golden throne..

A king, seated in death but stripped of all dignity.

Zhou Hanyue stood frozen, her entire body trembling as if the very air had become too heavy to bear.

Her lips parted, but only a single word escaped...

"Father...?"

Lan Shuqin who was standing behind her, closed her mouth in shock and lowered her head, unable to bear such a grotesque scene.

They are not alone in the room.

The throne room is filled with vampires and among them, there were also some high ranking vampires.

And behind him, lined against the golden walls, stood three princes and two princesses of the royal family... the Emperor's remaining children, the nobles of the dynasty.

Yeah, they are her siblings.

But they were not standing by choice.

Each of them was being held in place by the firm grip of vampire warriors, their blades resting just beneath their throats, ready to spill royal blood at a moment's command.

Some were trembling, paralyzed with fear.

Others were trying to muster what little dignity they had left, keeping their heads high despite the hopelessness of their situation.

There is also the Jade Empress who was held on her throat as tears streamed down her cheeks seeing the corpse of her husband.

But what confused Zhou Hanyue was that even though she and Lan Shuqin are standing there, none of these vampires are attacking her.

They are all looking at her... but no one is saying anything or making any move.

'Do they think I am weak...'

Even though she was cursed, that doesn't affect her talent in cultivation.

She is in the third level of the Eternal Paragon Stage.

But more than that... her gaze flickered to the headless corpse sitting on the throne.

She knows how powerful her father is, even though he is not on Yao Jing's level... he is still the strongest in the Dynasty.

For him to fall like this...

"Hoh? Is the cursed princess already here?"

Hearing a voice, she turned her head and looked at the tall, handsome middle-aged man walking through into the throne hall.

He had long black hair and deep crimson eyes and his robes, a deep shade of midnight crimson, were embroidered with intricate symbols, signifying his status as a ruler among vampires.

He was followed by some more vampire elites.

There was another bulky man beside him who seemed to be his right hand man.

A green glint passed through Zhou Hanyue's eyes and wind energy spiraled around her body, condensing into sharp cleaving lines.

Beside her, Lan Shuqin's aura flared, arcs of blue lightning snapping around her body and her grip tightened around the twin daggers at her waist.

Even though the situation was beyond dire, she wasn't about to die quietly.

The man had an indifferent face as he spoke "You don't have to be so tense. You should know that resistance is futile..."

Zhou Hanyue's eyes narrowed but in the next instant, a horrifying pressure engulfed her body.

"Guh..." She gasped in shock, her eyes trembling in pain.

It wasn't just her.

Lan Shuqin, who had been prepared to strike, suddenly froze, her hands trembling as she struggled against the suffocating force. "Lady Hanyue..."

The man raised his hand and muttered "Kaelith, don't hurt her."

The right-hand man of the Blood Sovereign nodded his head and lowered his pressure.

As the pressure disappeared, the man spoke "Forgive him for his impudence."

"I am Rhadamanth Di Gardia, current Patriarch of the vampiric star. Its nice to meet you."

Huh? Zhou Hanyue was startled to see him talking to her casually.

Why are her siblings and mothers at sword point while she seems casual towards her?

What is happening?

Looking at her, Rhadamanth spoke in an indifferent tone "Don't worry, we have received a request to not hurt the princess Zhou hanyue."

Zhou Hanyue's eyes narrowed 'Requested? Buy whom?'

Before she could speak, Rhadamanth simply lifted his hand once more, gesturing toward a woman standing in the shadows.

"Go and clean the throne for the new Emperor."

The woman nodded silently and strode toward the throne, her footsteps echoing through the deathly silent hall.

Reaching the throne, she grabbed the dead corpse of the Jade Emperor and pulled it up, throwing it away.

thud The headless corpse rolled on the floor and reached the Jade Empress' feet.

Looking at this, she screamed, her body thrashing in the vampire's grip as her eyes overflowed with grief.

"Dear!"

The prince and princesses just lowered their gazes.

The Jade Empress gritted her teeth and glanced at Zhou Hanyue "Hanyue.. look at this, look at your father!"

"Because of you... Because of your curse, your father is also dead. HOW MANY LIVES ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE LIKE THIS?"

Zhou Hanyue's eyes trembled and she lowered her gaze as she realized her curse had taken the life of another one.

Rhadamanth just had an indifferent face looking at their emotional breakdown.

'It's so pathetic that they believe something like that she is cursed...'

At this time, another set of footsteps was heard and everyone turned their gaze to the door.

A middle-aged man with black hair casually entered the room and he had a big smile on his face.

Looking at the man, it finally made sense to Zhou Hanyue...

"It's been a while, Hanyue..."

Chapter 690: The Night of the Bloody Invasion Interlude - Fall of an Emperor [2]

Looking at the man walking into the throne room, it made sense to Zhou Hanyue.

Why his Father was easily defeated...

Why did the protective barriers around the palace not activate during the attack.

It was all because of this man.

The traitor.

Zhou Hanyue's eyes trembled in utter shock looking at the man "Unc... le?"

Zhou Shan, the younger brother of the Jade Emperor stood there with a smile on his face as he looked at Zhou Hanyue.

"Yeah, this is your Uncle..."

Her emerald eyes burned with fury, her fists clenched so tightly that her nails drew blood from her palms. "Uncle? Why would you...?"

Her breath came in ragged bursts, and she took a single step forward, her entire body shaking with disbelief. "Why?"

Her voice grew louder. "WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!" as her shout echoed across the bloodstained hall.

Zhou Shan let out a soft chuckle, shaking his head as if she were a child throwing a tantrum.

"Why?" he mused, tilting his head.

"For the throne? Is that what you think?"

Zhou Hanyue gritted her teeth "You betrayed your own brother... for THIS?! Just for a SEAT?!!"

For the first time, Zhou Shan's smile faded.

He sighed softly, as if disappointed that she still didn't understand.

The Jade Empress flinched, the other princes and princesses cowered, and even some of the vampire elites seemed to instinctively brace themselves.

"Do you truly think I would do all this... for a mere throne?"

He raised his hand, gesturing toward the corpse of the Jade Emperor. "My brother sat on that throne for decades, ruling over a Dynasty."

"He was a fool," he let out a sigh.

"He clung to old traditions, refused to expand our reach, and let our dynasty grow weaker with each passing year."

His fingers curled slightly as if grasping something unseen.

"The world is changing, Hanyue."

"While the Jade Emperor sat here, content in his little kingdom, others have been growing stronger, smarter, more ruthless. This dynasty has been rotting from the inside out."

"So I made a deal," Zhou Shan finally admitted, his lips curling into a knowing smile.

"And now, the Jade Dynasty will no longer be ruled by weak men with old ideals."

Zhou Hanyue's fingernails dug into her palms, her entire body trembling with fury.

"A DEAL?!" she screamed.

"WITH MONSTERS?!!" She pointed at the vampires, her voice shaking with anger.

"You betrayed your own people... your own FAMILY... to work with THEM?! YOU LET THEM KILL MY FATHER!!"

Zhou Shan merely smiled "And yet... they haven't touched you, have they?"

Hearing this, Zhou Hanyue was confused "What..."

Zhou Shan leaned forward, bringing his face dangerously close to hers and she hurriedly took a step back.

With a chuckle, he muttered "Do you know why they haven't touched you?"

His voice was soft, almost affectionate, but it made her skin crawl.

As he spoke, he raised his hand to touch her hair and tuck it beneath her ear, but she took another step back.

She glared at him in disgust "What are you trying to do..."

Zhou Shan's smile deepened "They haven't touched you because I requested that."

"And you may ask, why would I do that..."

Zhou Hanyue's breath quickened and a terrible, suffocating dread curled around her throat.

She could feel the weight of his gaze pressing into her, not as an uncle regarding his niece, but as a predator staring at his most prized possession.

Zhou Shan exhaled, as if savoring the moment "It's because... of course, I love you... as a woman."

H-Huh?

Gasps of disbelief rippled through the royal court.

The Jade Empress's face turned deathly pale, her trembling hands gripping the hem of her robes as if she might collapse.

The remaining princes and princesses looked as though their very blood had turned to ice.

Even the vampire elites cast wary glances at each other, unnerved by the twisted revelation.

Zhou Hanyue, however, could barely hear any of them.

Her vision blurred and her ears rang with the deafening sound of her own pulse.

Her lips parted, her voice barely above a whisper.

"...What are you..."

Lan Shuqin was absolutely disgusted by this and looked away.

Zhou Shan merely smiled, his eyes gleaming with the satisfaction of a man who had played his game well.

"That, is the true reason for this coup."

With a deep sigh, he spoke "I can't marry you when you are my Brother's daughter... but with this? No, I am king... who dares to defy me, Huh?"

He raised his voice and uttered "Who will question against me? I rule here."

Stretching his arms, he spoke "I was always attracted to you... You are such a beautiful woman, Hanyue."

Zhou Hanyue took a slow, unsteady step backward.

She wanted to scream, to run, but her body refused to obey.

He took another step forward and his eyes were glinting with possession

It was the look of a man who had been starving for years, now standing before a feast he had finally claimed as his own.

But before he could get any closer—

Shfff!

Lan Shuqin stepped in front of Zhou Hanyue spreading her arms wide in a protective stance.

"Lady Hanyue is already married."

Hearing this, Zhou Shan burst into laughter.

It started as a chuckle, then swelled into a maniacal fit of laughter that echoed through the throne room.

"Do you think that will stop me?" he asked, wiping an imaginary tear from the corner of his eye.

"I just have to kill her Husband.. just like I did to her previous Husbands."

Lan Shuqin's eyes shrank in shock.

"W-What..." Zhou Hanyue's knees threatened to give up upon hearing this.

"What the hell are you saying?"

Zhou Shan shrugged casually "How can I let any other man touch you? So I had to do it... and to stop that idiot brother from marrying you off."

"I even killed your family and all of them close to create a rumor that you are cursed."

"But still some agreed to marry you... I had to kill them all."

His maniac laughter echoed through the hall as Zhou Hanyue stood there like a dead corpse with no emotions in her eyes.