

## **S vs Rebirth 441**

### Chapter 441 Trail

"Where are they?" Paul gritted his teeth. They had been running for an hour, but the trail still kept going.

As they feared, the demons might have gone to the baron's city, causing havoc there. The baron might stay in the city, but he was still useless against a Superior Demon.

Even if they could help them, they probably only tried to evacuate the citizens and inform the Demon Banner Army's headquarters for reinforcement, especially the Demon Hunting Squad's base.

"Hmm?" Rose suddenly narrowed her eyes as if noticing something. "Wait a second..."

"What's wrong, Rose?" Paul asked. They kept running at the current pace, hoping they could catch up soon.

Meanwhile, Rose seemed to have no worry as though there was no trouble to begin with. Rose pointed at the trail and said, "I don't know if you noticed this, but I think the demons aren't going to the town!"

"What do you mean?" Paul frowned, not understanding what she said. The current trail was going to the city. That was what they could currently see.

So, a contradiction like this made them confused. Even the others couldn't see the point Rose was talking about.

Rose pointed at the trail and said, "It might look like they're going to the city, but if you take another look at the detail. They have been gradually moving away from the city's direction.

"For example, if you just move one meter to the side every ten meters, you will deviate from the original course, ultimately not finding the city. I'm not sure how great it is, but from my rough estimate, I don't think the demons will find the city."

Rose explained with a serious expression.

The others felt weird. On the one hand, they didn't doubt Rose's senses. On the other hand, the change wasn't that visible. So, they didn't know whether the deduction was correct or not.

However, there was actually one person who completely believed Rose. It was none other than Noel.

"So, you're saying the demons aren't going to the baron's city?" Noel asked.

"Yes." Rose nodded without hesitation, confirming it. "Unless the demons change their course after this, they won't find the city if I calculate this correctly."

"In that case, where do you think they will go?" Noel frowned.

The others were still listening, trying to understand Rose's points better.

Knowing she had grabbed everyone's attention, Rose added, "I'm not sure, but if they continue in this direction, I'm afraid they're going to reach a city far deeper in the region... I'm not sure which city since I haven't looked at the map again, but yeah, this is what I believe."

Paul looked down, contemplating. Even though it looked like the situation was in their favor. It didn't change the fact the enemies had a Superior Demon to help them.

"Hmm..." Paul hesitated for a moment before asking, "Should we split the group into two? We have to inform a captain eventually, so it's better to start now."

"I don't think that's necessary for now." Rose shook her head.

"Hoh? Why is that?"

"What we need right now is speed and time." Rose raised two fingers. "Right now, our speed should be enough to gradually catch up. The other nests have a lot of demons, so since we haven't found any Low Level Demons yet, it's clear that they have to reduce their pace in order to allow those demons to stick together.

"Then time... If we take another look at their trajectory, it's clear that we'll encounter a city sooner or later. It's better to use a pigeon to pass the message since it'll be faster. And with us confirming its location, we can pinpoint the enemy and have the captain handle it afterward."

"So, during that time, we're going to employ some traps to stop the Superior Demon?" Stella asked.

"Yes." Rose nodded.

"What do you think?" Paul turned to Zion, who would be their messenger.

"I don't mind if you send me ahead right now just to follow the trail." Zion shrugged. "I'll inform the city and send the information to the Demon Hunting Squad's captain right away."

"No. The Demon Hunting Squad is already ahead, so we'll maintain our pace." Paul rejected the idea and chose to believe in Rose.

They didn't realize that Rose and Noel had been working together this whole time. Although, at first, they looked like they were discussing some unimportant stuff, those two had reached an agreement.

Of course, it didn't change the fact that the enemy was a Superior Demon. What Noel and Rose wanted was a direction change since they wanted to make the Count the target.

As long as they didn't find the pack of demons, Noel knew Anna hadn't died. So, he hoped the trail would last as long as possible.

And as they expected, the demons actually passed the city. The baron had prepared the little army he had left to stop the demons, but it seemed they couldn't fight against numerous demons. So, they ended up holding themselves in the city, waiting for reinforcement.

Meanwhile, there was also the regular army in charge of the last nest. They seemed to be making progress, so they didn't bother to go there to check their condition.

Their priority was to catch up with the Demon Hunting Squad and get some information regarding the demon pack.

It took them three hours before they managed to see the back of the Demon Hunting Squad, albeit they were still in the distance.

"Zion!"

"Got it!" Zion raised his Spiritual Energy output to catch up to them, informing their arrival.

As soon as the two groups met, they immediately matched their pace to discuss what had happened.

Unfortunately for them, none of them seemed to be able to find anything. They were wondering why the demons went this way as if they were lured by something.

They didn't know it was actually Anna who had been luring them away. The reason why Rose heard the noise was moving away was due to Anna knowing Rose's ability.

This way, Rose wouldn't bother to check them and she could bring all these demons to the Count.

And a few hours later, it was time for everything to begin.

Chapter 442 Temptation

\*Clink!\*

\*Clink!\*

\*Clink!\*

The sword was clicking either with claws, fangs, or tough skin.

The demons had begun their raid while Anna, who lured the demons to this city, had disappeared.

As soon as the demons saw the city, they immediately changed their direction, so Anna took that chance to escape.

"What is this? How is this happening?" A middle-aged man gritted his teeth while looking at his document. Even though the city was fighting, he was still trying to figure out which documents he had to bring with him before escaping the city.

"Sir!" A butler came to his room with a serious expression. "We don't have much time left."

"I know!" The middle-aged man slammed the table while glaring at him as if telling him to leave him alone for the time being.

The butler indeed left the room for a moment before returning to the room.

"What? Do I need to spell it for you?!" The middle-aged man gritted his teeth.

"No, Sir. It's just we have received information that the Demon Banner Army has made their move!"

"What?" The middle-aged man suddenly stopped what he was doing and looked at the documents before putting them down. "Who are they?"

"They are the Demon Hunting Squad and the Demon Relief Squad's Zero Squads."

"The Zero Squads? Are their captains with them?"

"No, Sir."

"Then, what's the number of our enemies?"

"There are seven Peak Level Demons and a few hundred lower level demons. With the strength of the two Vice-Captains, they might be able to stop these demons."

"You serious?" The guy frowned, not believing his words. He was ready to pack his luggage if he was lying.

But the butler nodded his head. "Yes. According to the information, the two Vice-Captains are Spirit Grandmasters. So, they should be able to handle those Peak Level Demons."

"Good, good, good!" The guy clapped his hands, feeling relieved. He took out a handkerchief to wipe the sweat on his palms and forehead. "So, it means we're safe, right?"

"Yes, Sir. We just have to wait until they finish their job."

The guy nodded in understanding while muttering, "I wonder how delicious a Peak Level Demon's meat can be..."

Yes. The guy was the Count. He was a bit concerned when the baron called the two squads at first, but he never expected that this city would be attacked by demons. Ultimately, the two squads ended up saving him.

The guy thought for a moment and asked, "Prepare a feast for them."

"Understood." The butler politely bowed his head and left.

The Count looked around as if trying to find something to do to calm down.

"Although I couldn't complete the project, I still gained a good amount of data. It's possible to trap the demons by using a nest specifically created for them.

"As long as we have a secluded place, it's possible to increase the demon's strength over a period of time.

"The more the demons grow, the more delicious their meat is. I don't mind—" Before he finished his words, he suddenly stopped because he felt a cold, sharp blade on his neck.

"That is interesting information. And now, you have served your purpose. Give us the research data." A deep voice resounded in his ears.

"Who... are you?" The Count gulped down. He didn't feel a single thing about this guy. Although he wasn't that good of a fighter, he was still a Spirit Practitioner. He had some basic defense.

Yet, he couldn't sense anything about this guy. The person behind him might be a Spirit Wielder or even stronger.

"You don't need to know. All I want is the data. It's fine if you don't want to give it to me, I'll just take it from your corpse."

"That's... We can talk about this." The Count's body started shaking as he was never in this situation before. He didn't want to die, but if he wasn't calm, the enemy might accidentally kill him.

So, he glanced back, trying to see the enemy, but to no avail. The enemy pressed the blade a bit deeper, making his neck bleed.

"!!!" The sharp pain jolted his mind as the Count froze. "I'll give it to you. I'll give it to you!"

The Count hurriedly agreed since he didn't want to die.

He grabbed all the paper on the table and handed it to the mysterious guy behind him. "This is everything... Please let me go."

"You are still useful. If you join us, I'll spare you!"

"Join you?!" The Count was confused because he never piqued an organization's interest, except for the Inquisitor Organization. But that was a different problem.

The Count suddenly got his answer when the guy extended its arm, showing a skeleton skull with two bright red eyes and a sword planted on the skull.

"This... Supreme Devil Organization..." The Count gasped, never thinking an organization like this would visit him.

His research was about making the demons stronger like a farm. Everything was for the sake of the taste that he pursued.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Devil Organization needed this method to increase the number of their army. With more and stronger demons, they would be able to create an army that could fight against the noble's army and the Demon Banner Army.

That was why they targeted the Count.

"So, you don't want to?!" The cold, chilling voice resounded in his ears as a sharp pain jolted the Count's mind.

He felt his back stabbed by another knife, causing another bleeding.

"I..." The Count still hesitated even in the face of death. No matter what, the Supreme Devil Organization was humanity's enemy. If the people knew he was a part of the organization, he would die without a doubt. So, accepting or declining the invitation would result in the same outcome.



However, the guy added, "That's right. If you join us, we'll give you a spot where you can build a huge farm. We'll supply the demons for you to experiment and because the kingdom can't catch us, you don't need to be afraid to get caught. What do you think?!"

"!!!" The Count's body shook, showing how those conditions piqued his interest.

"I..."

#### Chapter 443 Agreement

The Count looked interested in the deal. After all, he would be able to get the resources for his experiment. And considering the one offering this deal was the Supreme Devil Organization, they would most likely try to hide their relationship with him.

After all, it wouldn't be good if he was crushed by the Royal Family because of the allegation.

So, the secret should be leaked anywhere.

However, he was still concerned that the Supreme Devil Organization pulled this trick in order to make the Royal Family crush him. That way, the kingdom would just get weakened.

Even if his research was somehow dangerous, it didn't change the fact that losing a Count wasn't something that could be brushed away easily.

So, the Count tried to think with the little time he had.

He believed the risk was great, but the reward was huge. If he could complete his experiment, he should be able to recreate it and get it only for himself. This way, he would be able to taste the delicacy anytime he wanted.

And he didn't need to call the Demon Banner Army to take down the Peak Level Demons or stronger since the Supreme Devil Organization would cooperate with him.

The Count remembered the letter that the royal family secretly sent to him. They wanted him to take care of Anna, who would come to this place to scheme against him. In exchange, the royal family would exempt tax and increase the Count's rank.

As scheming as he was, the Count gave him a condition. "I need you to do something first."

"You're not in a position where you can negotiate with us!" The guy gritted his teeth and tried to threaten the Count.

But the latter added, "If you can't deal with this problem, then it's impossible for me to take your offer. After all, the target is trying to take me down by investigating the thing that you want me to do."

"!!!" The person from the Supreme Devil Organization suddenly fell silent as if he was considering the possibility thoroughly.

To make it easier for the guy to accept his condition, he released the information. "I want you to take care of Anna Stargaze, an inquisitor that will try to investigate my farm. You shouldn't have a problem dealing with a mere Spirit Wielder, right?"

"And not only that, if I succeed, I have the chance to become an Earl. With that authority, our cooperation will be safer, no? The only condition is that you can't kill Anna or crush her beauty and talent. I have to deliver her to the royal family."

The guy indeed agreed with his opinion. The kingdom wouldn't intervene with an Earl that much. In noble's rank, an Earl wasn't too high and wasn't too low either.

Not many wanted to make trouble on an Earl. So, it was clear that if he got this position, he could hide himself to focus on this experiment.

It was a tempting deal.

He contemplated for a moment, measuring the pros and cons of the agreement.

After a while, the guy finally made his decision. "Fine. I'll take care of that Anna Stargaze for you. You just have to wait for the good news and start preparing for your farm. I'll return to tell you the details later.

"If you trick me this time, I'm going to make sure you are experiencing a nightmare." The guy leaked a bit of his Spiritual Energy.

The Count felt like his heart was grasped by an invisible hand. He had a hard time breathing and his body started shivering. It felt like he was in front of a beast that was ready to pounce on him.

"I know." The Count gritted his teeth, mustering all the energy he had to answer him.

As soon as he agreed, the guy retracted his Spiritual Energy and left the Count alone. His presence vanished into thin air, so when the Count turned around, he couldn't see anyone.

Of course, the agent from the Supreme Devil Organization this time was slightly capable. He was a Martial Master, so he believed Anna wouldn't be able to defeat him.

Without hesitation, he began his preparation to handle Anna.

...

Anna, on the other hand, had been waiting outside the mansion. He wanted to see what the Count's decision was regarding the ruckus outside.

If she knew about the Count's personality correctly, the Count would most likely escape. She planned to ambush him on the way and get all the important things he brought with him.

But to her surprise, she didn't find anyone coming out of the mansion. It was weird, considering they should leave as soon as possible.

"Hmm? Why are they—" Anna was muttering inwardly before stopping when she noticed something weird.

She actually felt a fluctuation of Spiritual Energy from the mansion. It was faint, but her soul was very sensitive to Spiritual Energy due to how high she had achieved in the past.

She measured the fluctuation and was shocked by what she found. "This... is a Spiritual Energy from a Spirit Master? It's faint, but it doesn't seem he's at the intermediate level.

"Every Spirit Rank is divided into four categories: Low, Intermediate, High, and Peak. A Peak Spirit Master is similar to that of a new Grandmaster, whereas a High Level Spirit Master is close to that of a Spirit Grandmaster. They have consolidated their strength and begun learning about the realm of Spirit Grandmaster.

"But the Intermediate Level is only a realm where they have fully consolidated their power. An Intermediate Spirit Wielder, that was Noel's strength before we were separated three months ago, while I'm a High Level Spirit Master now.

"But the one I felt earlier is still a Low Level Spirit Master. Although he has the ability of a Spirit Master, his ability still has some similarities to that of a Peak Spirit Wielder.

"Is this the Count's trump card?" Anna frowned, thinking this guy was the reason why the Count hadn't come out yet. The Count must be thinking about using this man to deal with the Peak Level Demon or at least, buying something for him.

Curious, Anna erased her presence and moved around the mansion to check the origin of that power.

Chapter 444 A Joke

"Hoh?" Anna narrowed her eyes when she saw a figure with black coat coming out of the mansion. She was standing near the wall before this guy jumped over it and began to blend in as if he was just a passerby.

Normal people wouldn't think much about it, but a Spirit Wielder like her could easily find him.

'So, he is the Spirit Master.' Anna thought, tailing the guy.

Anna could completely erase both her Spiritual Energy and presence, so the guy didn't realize he had been tailed.

Despite him wanting to suppress Anna, he didn't realize he had been tailed by the very target.

The guy entered a shabby inn and opened the cover of his face. He could finally get some breathing air for a bit.

"Hmm?" Anna widened her eyes in shock because she actually found a boy that seemed to be slightly older than her.

'What? How old is he? It doesn't seem he is in his twenties, but how does he reach a Spirit Master at that age?' Anna gasped. She didn't enter Noel and herself into the equation because they were completely abnormal with their own secret.

A Spirit Master that young would be famous no matter where he went, so it was quite surprising that the guy was this strong.

However, she was soon shocked by what she found next. Although she couldn't see it clearly due to how small the gap was, the guy's hand seemed to be covered in fur.

'Huh? A fur?' Anna frowned, trying to recall the information about something like this. She soon arrived at a certain place that seemed to experience an attack by someone like this.

'Now that I think about it, I have heard of a town being destroyed by a few people. All of them have great strength and unique power. A part of their body seems to have been merged with the demon, so they couldn't be said to be a human anymore.

'Still, it didn't change the fact that these humans came from an experiment. An experiment to merge the two bloodlines so that they could stay as a human but with the strength of a demon.

'No, wait. If I'm not wrong, Noel will find this incident soon. Ah, I can't remember the details... No, I don't know the details since I haven't read that part.'

Anna scratched the back of her head and changed the question. "Is there some correlation between the Count, the Supreme Devil Organization, and the experiment?"

Anna looked down for a moment before coming to a realization. "Wait a minute... Are you serious?"

Anna had just realized the conspiracy was bigger than she originally thought.

"It seems that the Count truly has a way to make a demon farm. By utilizing this farm, the Supreme Devil Organization can get an endless amount of powerful demons. In the past life, they used this tactic to weaken the Demon Banner Army.

"At the same time, there were also a few cases regarding the fusion between a human and a demon. I had never handled them before, but it seemed their strength was forcefully raised because of the fusion. It was great at first, but the side effects were a different matter."

Anna pinched the bridge of her nose. It turned out the Count provided the farm and the necessary material for the fusion.

"I have been weakening the Supreme Devil Organization to strengthen myself, which is the best way to get stronger. But this time, I'm afraid the situation isn't that simple..."

Anna bit her lips. "Should I let Noel handle him? But seeing his strength and how awkward it would become if Noel suddenly brought back this guy, I couldn't really allow them to get this guy. What should I do then?"

Anna contemplated for a moment. She knew that it was impossible to crush this guy by herself. She was planning to get Noel involved and win the fight, but how would they split the loot, especially this guy's body? It was enough to alarm the Inquisitor Organization and the Demon Banner Army after all.

"I see. It seems I have to take down the Count. He should have been smuggling some money in order to create the farm. I can take all the money away, especially the Demon Crystals to get stronger.

"Meanwhile, I'll take this guy down with Noel's help. Lastly, I'll try to investigate the Count's mansion after everything is over.

"The only problem will be how to involve Noel in this matter, considering he will be under the supervision of his superior.

"I have to find a way to separate Noel while not making myself known since I would be dead if they found out about me."

Anna had a headache thinking about all the possibilities. This was what Noel had been through this whole time when she relied on him to make the battle plan.

Now that she had changed and gained some experience, Anna could see a few plans that could work.

Not only could she get the mysterious guy, but she could also use it to take down the Count. It was a serious crime to even hold a conversation with a member of the Supreme Devil Organization, so this was enough to prosecute the Count.

While deciding on her plan, she noticed that the guy had come out of his room as if planning to do something. She didn't know she was his target this time but kept tailing him.

At the same time, the guy didn't know Anna had been watching him without him noticing. It was a clear gap between their strength despite the guy being stronger.

The guy from the Supreme Devil Organization turned into a soldier by wearing some armor and climbed the wall effortlessly. By posing as a soldier, he could find the situation outside, especially the demons along with the Demon Banner Army.

Seeing how the Demon Banner Army had arrived on the battlefield, he knew he didn't have too much time to complete his mission.

So, he immediately returned back to the ground while holding his blade as if planning to cut Anna down as soon as he found her.

#### Chapter 445 Reaching The City

Outside the city.

"We have spotted them!" Zion shouted while returning to his group.

Paul and the others looked at him, wondering what was going on.

"What's happening right now, Zion? Where are they?"

"They're attacking the city ahead. Currently, the city manages to hold back the demons. And the Demon Hunting Squad has begun their hunt in order to relieve some pressure. After all, the city is not built to hold off the demons."

Paul nodded in agreement. "Indeed. Looking at the city's location, the Demon Hunting Squad and the baron's city are the ones to hold the attack."

"Yes. Luckily, the Count was visiting the city and he brought some soldiers that managed to bolster their defense. So, we should hasten our pace to help the Demon Hunting Squad."

"Hmm..." Rose looked down, contemplating. It seemed that the situation wasn't that bright in her eyes. "What about the Count? Is he leaving the city?"

"I'm not sure. Even the Demon Hunting Squad can't see anything. They told me to bring all of you to sweep the demons in a clockwise direction since this is the best method to handle the situation." Zion shook his head helplessly. He didn't enter the city earlier, so he truly had no idea about the current situation.

"If that's the case, we'll assist the Demon Hunting Squad for the time being. We'll send someone inside to check the situation and report about our arrival." Rose explained her plan.



"Then, who will go there? Zion?" Paul glanced at Zion.

But before Zion nodded his head, Noel raised his hand. "I'll go. Zion will be a good messenger, but the current situation doesn't allow us to delay for too long. In that case, it's better for me to go to the city. I can talk to their captain and bring the message to the Count. I'm the weakest among you and it's only been three months since I joined the squad, so my teamwork is still not as good as all of you."

"If we're talking about the weakest, then I'm the weakest." Rose narrowed her eyes.

"But your ability is essential in a battle like this." Noel shook his head. There was a reason why he wanted to enter the city.

Anna was planning to find a clue about the Count, so he knew he had to play a part here. If he could find the Count and buy some time for her, she would accomplish her mission.

And after some consideration, Paul nodded his head. "Fine. Iadre will go. The rest will handle the demons."

"Understood." Stella and the others accepted it without hesitation. Meanwhile, Jonathan, who was already aware of Iadre's real identity, wondered why Noel suggested this.

Noel was shrewd. He was already aware of that after seeing his performance in the valley and how he orchestrated his death. So, he knew Noel had an ulterior motive.

Unfortunately, there was no way he could see through Noel's plot since he didn't consider Anna in his plan.

In the end, Noel got permission and the group continued heading toward the city.

It took them another thirty minutes before they reached the city.

There were close to one thousand demons surrounding the city. A part of the wall had been destroyed by a few Peak Level Demons. And it seemed the Demon Hunting Squad were doing their best to stop all the rampaging Peak Level Demons.

But it ended up allowing the rest of the demons to attack the wall.

"Let the Demon Hunting Squad take care of the Peak Level Demons. We'll clear up the rest!" Paul shouted.

"Oh!" They nodded with serious faces.

"Will you give me a lift?" Noel shouted at Jonathan.

Jonathan nodded and raised his hand, using his Telekinesis to push Noel to the top of the wall.

"Go!" Jonathan shouted. This time, his gloomy tone changed to a familiar one as if he had known him.

With just that one shout, Noel could feel that Jonathan seemed to have noticed his real identity. Unfortunately, there was no time to talk since he had to handle the situation on top of the wall.

As soon as he landed on the top, the soldiers took steps back. They were startled to see someone coming up.

At first, they wanted to attack him since that was what they had done this whole time, but they stopped after realizing it wasn't a demon.

"Woo—" The soldiers wanted to shout, but Noel shouted first, stating clearly. "I'm ladre from the Demon Banner Army. I need to see your commander. Where is he?!"

It seemed he was lucky since the commander was actually near him.

"I'm the commander!" A deep voice resounded on the wall, getting everyone's attention.

Noel turned around and found a middle-aged man with a long mustache. He said, "I'm ladre from the Demon Relief Squad. I want you to start moving half of your soldiers to the right side as soon as the soldiers see the demons decreasing down there. My squad is clearing everything right now while the Demon Hunting Squad stops the Peak Level Demon!"

"Why should I follow your command? This is our city, I'm the one in control here. Do you think I'm giving my order without any thought in mind?" The commander didn't like it since their squad was late and many of his soldiers had died.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, a demon suddenly climbed the wall and pounced on him.

"Dem—!" The soldiers wanted to shout, but Noel skillfully waved his sword, hitting the demon in the face. The sword didn't seem to cut the demon, but soon, an explosion occurred, blasting the demon into smithereens. And with that kill, Noel said coolly, "I'm the weakest one in the squad."

"..." The commander was dumbstruck when he saw Noel's overwhelming strength. And yet, he claimed he was the weakest. It was clear that the squad was going to kill all the demons in rapid succession.

He changed his opinion in an instant as he turned around, ordering his soldiers, "We're moving the soldier from the right side to the left side."

#### Chapter 446 Persuading The Count

"Tornado Slash." Stella shouted while waving her sword, creating a tornado that expanded horizontally. The tornado engulfed the demons and slashed them. Some died, but some were only slightly injured.

At that time, Zion and Paul appeared, crushing all the remaining demons. Rose showed them the path to cross while the rest supported those three.

Jonathan soon returned to the group, reporting. "I've returned."

"Got it. Support us!" Paul nodded. Since Noel had safely arrived on top of the wall, they didn't have to worry about him anymore. Although ladre didn't seem to be as good as Noel in terms of planning, he still had a solid foundation. Paul didn't realize Noel had been holding back this whole time, so he didn't look like Noel.

...

While the squad continued sweeping the demons, Noel completed delivering the message to the commander.

After that, he asked, "I heard the Count is here. I need to inform him about our two squads and prepare for the worst-case scenario."

The commander was startled. They thought the city would be relieved by the two squads, so he didn't understand why Noel told him they had to prepare for the worst-case scenario.

"I'll tell the Count about it, but for now, please trust our Demon Banner Army. We believe there is a Superior Demon..."

"Superior Demon?" The commander was dumbstruck.

From his reaction alone, Noel knew that the commander hadn't found this Superior Demon. However, Noel didn't know whether the Superior Demon was hiding or it didn't exist.

So, Noel had to confirm it with Anna since she was the one luring all these demons to this place.

Noel nodded. "This is just a suspicion, but for now, I have to meet the Count first to explain the situation. Where is he?"

"The Count should be in his mansion!" The commander pointed at the huge mansion on the left side of the city. "That's the Count's mansion."

"Understood. Thank you for your cooperation. If we're going to retreat due to the Superior Demon, my squad will be informing you and handle the retreat!"

"Y-yes!" The commander completely forgot about their loss, knowing the situation was even more dangerous than he originally thought. He just hoped that the Superior Demon didn't attack them.

Meanwhile, Noel had gone straight to the Count's mansion, wondering how he should meet him.

He also had to meet Anna to check on the situation.

But since he knew Anna would be observing the Count, he prepared to go to the Count first.

"Who are you?!" There were still a few guards standing to protect the mansion. They were holding their blades, stopping Noel.

Noel took out his badge and showed them it was real. "I'm ladre from the Demon Banner Army. I'm here to tell the Count about the current situation, including the possibility of a Superior Demon's existence."

"That's..." The soldiers didn't know what to say. However, Noel shouted, making them hasten their pace. "This is a serious situation. Do you know that delaying this matter will make the situation even more dangerous? We have to act fast!"

"Please follow me!" One of the soldiers shouted and immediately brought Noel inside. But as expected, he didn't allow Noel to go inside the mansion directly. Instead, he waited for him right in front of the wooden door while the soldier informed the staff inside.

Soon, a butler came out with a panicked face.

Noel showed his badge and said, "I'm ladre from the Demon Relief Squad. I'm here to meet the Count to explain the situation. This is an emergency. I have to report to the Count directly! This involves the possibility of a Superior Demon, and we don't have a Captain that can handle that kind of demon right now!"

The butler's face became pale as he hurriedly brought Noel inside. "Please come in."

The butler hurriedly stopped him on the second floor as he knocked on a certain door, informing the situation inside.

The Count instantly gave permission and invited Noel in.

"So, you're saying there's a possibility of a Superior Demon?" The Count narrowed his eyes.

"Yes. When we're dealing with the demon nests from the mission, we've found some clues that can lead to a Superior Demon's existence. Unfortunately, when we got there, the nest was already empty. So, we chased them here."

"But there aren't any Superior Demons outside my city."

"A Superior Demon's intellect can't be underestimated. I have watched a Captain fighting a Superior Demon and I know how they're employing their strength." Noel stated with a serious tone.

The Count still doubted Noel, but the latter had no benefits in lying to him. And it would give him a reason to get compensation from the Demon Banner Army if it turned out to be wrong.

So, the Count nodded his head and said, "Alright. What do you want me to do? Seeing how you're still calm like this, it means we still have some time, right?"

"Yes. We're trying to find the Superior Demon right now. In the meantime, I'd like to ask the Count to evacuate the city. My team is trying to clear the gates, allowing the citizens to leave safely."

The Count frowned. On the one hand, he didn't care about the lives of the commoners. On the other hand, he knew that the commoners could act as a shield when he left this city.

After taking the situation into account, the Count said, "In that case, I'll let my soldiers inform the people about the evacuation. I'll have to ask your squad to clear the gate so that we have a safe passage to leave. What are you planning to do?"

"I have been tasked to secure your safety. Hence, I'll be with you right now and check the situation before sending you off." Noel looked like he would become the Count's pawn, but he had a hidden mission.

With him staying at the Count's side, he could easily influence the Count to move away from his office. And Anna would use that time to find all kinds of proof.

Even if she couldn't find anything, she could ambush the Count, who brought all the important documents with him later.

#### Chapter 447 Ambush

Anna frowned when she saw Noel entering the mansion. At first, she thought Noel would be outside, so she planned to lure the enemy outside, specifically when she ambushed the Count.

However, it seemed that the plan had changed. Looking at the current situation, it was clear that Noel was planning to buy some time for Anna to infiltrate the mansion and get the important documents.

Anna muttered, "So, should I go inside right now? But..."

Anna couldn't enter easily. After all, she was still tailing the mysterious Spirit Master that came out from the Count's mansion.

If she let her guard down even for a second, the enemy would be able to pick up her presence.

But when she looked at the guy, she realized he was observing Noel's movement as well. His identity was clear since he had shown his Demon Banner Army badge.

And there was a reaction from this mysterious guy as if he wanted to kill Noel as well.

'I wonder what I should do right now. I want to infiltrate the Count's mansion right now, but it doesn't seem to be wise to move my eyes away from this guy.' Anna gulped down. Noel must be expecting her to do something. But there was no way to inform Noel about it.

Noel, on the other hand, was walking next to the Count as he went into his bedroom, gathering a few clothes and documents.

Noel didn't say anything this whole time as if he wasn't interested in the Count's matter. The Count also kept glancing at Noel as if he wanted to make sure of Noel's intention.

But it seemed that Noel didn't plan to say anything. This was good since he could easily pack up all the documents and Noel would simply think it was the noble's documents.

With that thought in mind, he gathered all the documents within ten minutes. During that time, the butler informed the other maids and butlers to spread the news.

In that instant, the mansion and the town were lively again. It was clear that the Count was planning to leave together with them.

The Count would have good protection, so this was their chance to leave. Everyone started packing up their luggage, ready to go.

"Are you still here?" The Count asked Noel while walking outside his office, ready to move to his carriage.

"Yes. After you enter your carriage, I'll immediately go to the gate to check the situation. That way, when you arrive, I'll be able to give you the answer." Noel nodded. He looked professional since he completely escorted the Count.

But Noel was actually the Count's judgment. He had already seen a few red marks, starting from how the guards reacted.



The fact that they could easily be pressured by a person from the Demon Banner Army was huge. If he was an assassin, the Count would have been dead by now.

Then, the Count allowed him to follow him everywhere. He might not give any expression away, but it was clear Noel could easily get all the necessary information about the Count.

Last but not least, Noel could escort the Count all the time. It looked like the Count couldn't judge the situation himself and pushed him away when necessary. These three points made Noel understand what he should do next.

While walking toward the carriage, Noel also noticed something wrong. 'Still, has Anna infiltrated the mansion? There won't be many documents left, but it's clear that there are still some important documents. There might be clues here and there.

'After getting that information, she could easily ambush the Count later since she knows where he's going. I don't understand.

'From the looks of it, Anna has improved so much that I don't need to explain the plan all the time. So, she should be aware of my intention to come here. If she hasn't gone to the mansion yet, does that mean...

'No, wait. What if there is actually a problem?' Noel frowned. He knew Anna must be watching somewhere, but the reason why she couldn't come out must be somewhere around him too.

Noel thought for a moment before raising his head, watching the building around. There were some buildings whose roofs were above the mansion's wall. He could also see a few rooms that were higher than the wall.

When he checked the situation, he noticed something.

'Hmm?' Noel narrowed his eyes, focusing all his attention on one of the roofs. He noticed there was a shadow on top of the roof.

And that shadow actually came out of the hands. In that instant, he recognized that hand.

'Anna?'

That was right. It was Anna's hand. Of course, it wasn't that Anna planned to give her position away.

But since Noel had noticed her, Anna was showing her hand and pointing in a certain direction.

And that direction was the lead to her trouble.

'So, there is a problem in that direction. From the looks of it, I should help her.' Noel contemplated, gathering all the clues he had.

After a while, he came up with a plan. The Count seemed to have reached his carriage as well.

"Then, I'll go ahead." Noel politely talked to the Count.

Satisfied with Noel's performance, the Count nodded. "Go."

As soon as he received permission, Noel turned around and ran toward the exit. The Count only knew that his destination was the gate, but Noel had another plan.

As expected, the moment he came out of the Count's mansion, the one that caused trouble for Anna followed him from above.

Noel didn't turn his head the whole time, making his opponent think he hadn't noticed him yet.

'It seems he's heading to the gate.' The mysterious guy thought while following him on top of the roof. He kept focusing on Noel, but more and more people flooded the street since they wanted to escape together with the Count.

And that was when Noel took the opportunity to disappear inside the crowd.

'Huh?' The guy widened his eyes, shocked. He tried to find Noel but to no avail.

Suddenly, Noel climbed the roof while unsheathing his sword.

"Got him."

Chapter 448 Working Together Again

"Got him!"

"!!!" The mysterious guy widened his eyes in shock. He saw Noel having no hesitation in cutting him down.

"Kh!" The guy took out his sword as well, barely stopping Noel's attack.

Still, this guy was a Spirit Master, while Noel was only a Spirit Wielder. As soon as the guy regained his calm, he started overpowering Noel.

"Haaaa!" The guy gritted his teeth and pushed Noel away.

Noel summoned a Chain Bind Rune and controlled all chains to capture this guy.

'What is that?' The guy became even more shocked since this was the first time he had seen a symbol like this. He thought Noel was using his Spirit Ability, but the rune was similar to the Spirit Enchantment.

Because of the weird technique, he ended up moving back to regain some distance.

Suddenly, Noel smiled. "Got him."

"Huh?" The guy was confused for a moment before he suddenly felt chills down his spine. A presence appeared behind him. No, it was more like the presence couldn't be detected because it didn't enter his range this whole time.

Now that the presence was this close, he could feel it.

"Kh!" The guy hurriedly spun his body and struck Anna's blade.

Unfortunately for him, Anna had covered her sword with lightning. The moment the two swords clashed, the lightning was discharged.

\*Bam!\*

"!!!" The guy was hit by the explosion and thrown back to Noel. Using this opportunity, Noel also waved his sword by imbuing the sword with black fire.

'Black Fire?' The guy couldn't understand Noel's strength at all. But more importantly, he recognized the female that almost killed him earlier. She was Anna Stargaze.

That was right. Noel was baiting him this whole time, so Anna could kill him. But as expected from a Spirit Master, he wouldn't die that easily. Even though he barely blocked all their attacks, it didn't change the fact that he was almost unscathed even after the ambush.

\*Clink!\*

He also stopped Noel's sword at the last second and tried to push him away. This was when Noel released his Ignition Sword, causing a big explosion.

\*Boom!\*

The guy was engulfed by the explosion, but the roof was surely destroyed.

"Kyaaaaa!"

"What's happening?"

"Aaaaahhhh!"

\*Bam!\*

The people panicked as they stared at the building where the explosion occurred. Everyone was locking their eyes on the three figures standing on top of the building.

The one in between was actually covering himself with a water bubble, neutralizing Noel's explosion. But Ardagan's Undying Fire wasn't that easy to defeat. The water ended up falling down as if it didn't have any energy left to maintain its form.

"Who are you?!" Noel shouted, alarming everyone. He took out his badge and declared, "I'm ladre from the Demon Banner Army. Why do you follow me when I'm tasked to escort the Count and the citizens? Are you the one causing the demon's outbreak?"

The moment they saw the badge, they were convinced Noel was the real one. The Demon Banner Army was on the people's side, so they instantly trusted Noel and frowned upon the guy in the middle. After all, Anna was also fighting this guy. They thought Anna was a part of the Demon Banner Army as well.

"What's going on?"

"There seems..."

The people were whispering, wondering what had happened. Some were still running away, but half of them actually stayed to understand the situation first.

Since they would become his weakness, Noel hurriedly moved toward the edge of the roof, standing between the enemy and the citizens. He pointed to the gate and shouted, "Go to the gate. I can't protect all of you with an enemy like this."

"!!!" The people snapped. They almost forgot what they had planned to do earlier.

"Aaaahhhh!"

"Run!"

"Hurry up!"

The people began to run away as they realized they would die if the enemies tried to harm them.

At the same time, Anna charged forward, slicing the guy's neck.

"Kh!" The mysterious guy blocked the sword, but Noel hurriedly used the Runes again, boosting their abilities.

Increase Agility Rune.

Strength Blessing Rune.

With these two runes, Anna's raw strength was equal to that of a Spirit Master.

'What? How can she be this strong?' The guy was shocked and soon noticed the trick was the runes earlier. Still, Noel's ability was very versatile, and it astounded him.

He had the ability to bind someone, support his teammate, and release a powerful attack.

Unfortunately, no matter what thought appeared in his mind, Anna would be there to stop him.

"The Count!" Anna suddenly shouted.

Noel didn't know Anna's reason for shouting 'The Count' earlier. After all, Anna wasn't obligated to protect the Count. No, she was actually planning to harm the Count. So, that shout earlier must not be her request to help the Count.

Instead, she was planning to do something to the Count by using that guy.

'Ah?! That guy is connected to the Count? But if he's connected openly, he won't hesitate to state his identity. The fact that he doesn't state his identity means their relationship shouldn't be known.' Noel, once again, saw Anna's improvement. This wasn't something possible before, but because she released that information, Noel had a new plan in his mind.

He glanced to the side, looking for the Count. It didn't take too long for him to find the carriage among the crowd.

And Noel said, "Seven minutes. Let's finish him in seven minutes."

"Talk about a challenge. He's a Spirit Master..." Anna clicked her tongue, but she soon smiled as if getting fired up. She was up to the challenge.

Noel also smirked as he began the offensive.

Meanwhile, the mysterious guy gritted his teeth, never thinking Anna would have an ally in the Demon Banner Army.

He was completely fooled by the Count.

'Did the Count fool me? He wanted to send me to Anna so that he could kill me? Don't tell me... He's already aware of this situation and rejects my proposal... He dares to reject the Supreme Devil Organization?' The guy was angry, not only at the two kids before him but also at the Count.

"I'm going to kill all of you."

Chapter 449 Fighting A Spirit Master

The guy released his black-colored Spiritual Energy.

Both Noel and Anna raised their guards to the maximum, staring at this guy intensely. No matter what, he was still a Spirit Master. It wasn't someone they could defeat easily.

However, it was, by no means, an impossible opponent. Anna knew that this guy was a new Spirit Master, so his strength wasn't that good.

"Be careful, the enemy is a new Spirit Master. We have to make sure he doesn't cause a ruckus and—" Anna looked like she made a blunder because she was reminding the enemy to cause a ruckus.

And the guy from the Supreme Devil Organization was no fool. He instantly picked up what she had to do and turned around, heading straight to the town.

"Hahaha. You're a fool. I'm going to kill those people!" The guy shouted while laughing as he jumped down the building from a different direction, where Noel and Anna didn't stop him.

Noel glanced at this guy with a calm expression while Anna actually smiled. It felt like she wanted the guy to focus on the citizens instead of them.

After all, the moment he turned his back on them, Anna instantly released her Spiritual Energy around her foot. The lightning began to spark as she suddenly disappeared.

"!!!" The guy widened his eyes in shock and realized what Anna had planned earlier. He hurriedly turned around, but Anna was already right before him, slashing her sword.



The guy was too late to block it with his sword, so it tried to flinch so that his body could escape from that slash even if it was just a little.

Knowing it was impossible to block it, the guy decided to sacrifice his left hand.

By covering his left hand with Spiritual Energy, it could withstand Anna's sword for a split second. That split second was used to grab the blade and deflect it in another direction.

"Kh." The guy gritted his teeth because two of his fingers were cut.

However, Anna wasn't the only one who thought of that plan.

As expected of Noel, after seeing Anna's improvement, he knew she would use her fastest speed to take the enemy by surprise.

That was why Noel also jumped down. He might not be faster than Anna, but Noel had prepared a gift for them.

When he was falling, Noel pointed his sword at them. Anna couldn't help but feel dread whenever Noel planned to do something. After all, if she didn't move away, she would end up receiving the same attack.

So, right after she cut two fingers, she slashed to the side, using the force of the swing to push her away.

"!!!" The guy opened his eyes wide because Noel had concentrated his black flame at the tip of his sword. When Anna gave way to him, Noel released that black flame.

The black flame flew in a single line. But unlike Anna, who managed to catch him off guard with her speed, Noel's flame was relatively slow.

The guy had enough time to raise his blade and strike it. The black-colored Spiritual Energy had spread like a mouth as if devouring the black flame.

"As expected from a Spirit Wielder..." The guy regained his confidence when he saw Noel's black flame and was unable to do anything against his flame.

Unfortunately, this was where the black flame finally showed its might.

Ardagan's Undying Fire started to spread around the black energy, burning it down without mercy.

"!!!" The guy realized the black flame was even more terrifying than he thought and hurriedly pulled back his sword. However, the black flame had burned down all his Spiritual Energy and touched the sword.

In that instant, the black flame began to devour the blade. He could see that the blade was starting to melt at the tip. Yet, he was confused because he didn't feel any heat coming from the flame.

He only knew this flame was extremely dangerous.

He hurriedly suppressed it with Spiritual Energy. Although the flame began to waver, the flame also burned down a portion of that Spiritual Energy.

In other words, if he wanted to completely extinguish the flame, he had to exhaust a lot more Spiritual Energy than necessary.

He gritted his teeth. Although it was such a shame to use this much Spiritual Energy, he couldn't afford to lose his sword just yet.

After all, the two kids before him were far more monstrous than he originally thought.

"Kh." The guy glanced at his blade before turning to Noel and Anna, thinking, 'Since when are there two strong kids in this kingdom? Anna Stargaze might be the most talented person in the kingdom, but she is supposed to be only sixteen years old.'

'Even if she is a Spirit Master, there's no way she has accumulated a lot of experience. And there is that guy, I don't know what face is behind that mask, but despite not having a lot of experience, he has an overwhelming black flame.

'The organization hasn't received the information about these two. No, wait. The Demon Relief Squad? Our people were exterminated when they tried to attack the Silica Valley because they ended up meeting the Demon Relief Squad there.

'Don't tell me... The reason why the Demon Relief Squad could achieve victory was due to this guy? But he was only a Spirit Master.

'Either way, this guy is bad news. I have to inform the organization about these two kids. We have to either recruit them or kill them.'

The guy had deemed that his agreement with the count wasn't necessary anymore. It was better to go back to inform the organization than die here.

Hence, the moment he reached the ground, the guy hurriedly turned around to escape.

It seemed Noel and Anna had already seen through his plan.

Before the guy could escape, a lightning dragon approached him from the left while a black flame wall stopped him from the right side.

Noel and Anna had blocked two sides as the two stood in the other two to make sure he didn't escape.

Chapter 450 Got Him

"Kh!" The guy gritted his teeth, knowing it would be hard for him to escape. He had to make some sacrifices.

"Black Wave." He placed his hand on the ground and created a wave of black energy, swallowing everything around it.

Unfortunately, the lightning dragon exploded and the black flame devoured a portion of the wave, causing it to be in disarray.

Meanwhile, Noel and Anna were completely fine just by taking a few steps back.

It seemed the guy had chosen Noel to be the weaker one as he went straight to Noel, planning to create a chance to escape.

'It seems I have been underestimated.' Noel narrowed his eyes and summoned his fire.

Flame Conjuring.

This time, he formed a huge hand on top of his head. This hand was made of black fire, so the opponent would instantly become wary.

As expected, the guy turned around and used all his strength to stomp the ground, gathering all that energy in his lower body to jump into the other side of the street.

Surprisingly, Noel could keep up with him as he followed the same movement. He used the black palm to attack him anyway, the real body still hadn't made its move.

"Annoying!" The guy shouted while smacking Noel with his sword.

Noel blocked this attack, but the guy showed the difference in their strength again by blowing Noel away.

The mysterious person realized he could simply overpower Noel with his raw strength alone. As long as he could avoid the black flame, he would be fine.

Unfortunately for him, the moment the guy charged forward with that thought in mind, Noel activated his Strength Blessing Rune.

"!!!" They exchanged looks as both of them were confident in their strength.

\*Clink!\*

Their swords clicked, creating a small gale. But to their surprise, both of them were holding on.

'How?' The mysterious guy panicked because he didn't expect Noel to be this strong despite being a Spirit Master.

Meanwhile, Noel was quite surprised to see that his Strength Blessing Rune couldn't allow him to overpower this Spirit Master. He believed this was the reason why there was a gap between the Spirit Wielder and the Spirit Master.

If he was fighting this guy alone, it would be dangerous for him.

However, Anna was the original target of this guy.

With him stopping this mysterious person, Anna took advantage of that situation to approach him from behind. She had covered her entire body with the lightning, ready to eliminate the target.

The guy gritted his teeth and turned around, slashing the blade at Anna to push her away.

Unlike Noel's black flame, the black energy from the mysterious guy still managed to deflect Anna's lightning.

Noel obviously didn't plan to just watch from the side. He joined the fight, trying to kill this guy with one single hit to his vital area.

Both Noel and Anna didn't use a big technique yet because it would be bad for the town. At the same time, they prevented their enemies from using one by continuously attacking him.

In just a minute, all of them had fought for thirty rounds. However, none of them actually managed to land a scratch after that.

Knowing they needed a long time to handle this enemy, Noel decided to play a mind trick by saying, "It seems that the Count's information is right. This guy is still someone we can handle. Let's proceed carefully. The Count will reach this place soon."

Anna was surprised that Noel painted the Count in a good light. But there was only one reason for Noel to do it.

She nodded with a smile. "Understood. We shall suppress him."

The Supreme Devil Organization wanted the Count's experiment and his expertise to create an army of a demon. They would go to a great length to get the Count.

But it seemed the latter remained loyal to the kingdom. Although he had underestimated the Supreme Devil Organization just by using two Spirit Wielders, it didn't change the fact their combat prowess could reach him.

That was why the guy was convinced that the Count had betrayed them.

"I'm going to kill all of you!" He was thoroughly angered. The black energy wrapped his body completely.

Anna could see that he was draining his Spiritual Energy by using this technique. However, the power from it was also tremendous.

"Don't kill him yet. We have to torture him!" Noel was fearless, thinking he could still win.

Anna was confused for a moment, but everything was clear when she saw Noel's eyes. She nodded, "Alright."

"Bold of you to assume you're strong enough to defeat me!" The guy pointed his palm at Anna and Noel.

Both arms released a few tentacles.

'The black energy is expanding into a tentacle?' Anna widened her eyes in surprise. She hurriedly jumped back to gain some distance, taking this chance to observe him.

Noel, on the other hand, was fearless as he sent forth his black fire, burning it.

"Aaarrgggghhhh!" The guy looked like he felt a burning sensation. Though, he didn't seem to care as he continued extending the tentacles.

Noel conjured another palm with his fire and tried to smack the tentacles away.

To his surprise, the tentacles actually wrapped the palm and ended up crushing it.

"What?!" Noel was shocked and took a step back. This was the first time someone overpowered his black flame.

Meanwhile, Anna was also striking these tentacles with her lightning sword. She was also dodging since the tentacles kept coming at her.

"He's using too much Spiritual Energy. If we can hold on for a while, he should be exhausted." Anna shouted, warning Noel.

"In that case..." Noel placed his hand on the ground.

This action garnered the guy's attention. It looked like Noel wouldn't be able to dodge properly by making that gesture. But the moment he pounced on him, Noel rolled a few times to avoid him.

That was when the guy landed on the ground Noel touched earlier. Unexpectedly, the ground was so soft that it felt like mud, making him stumble.

"Got him again."