

Seller 311

Chapter 311 On The Eve Of Mark's Departure

"Your Highness." The eunuch bowed to him and then handed a platinum-grade storage ring to Mark, "this contains the compensation of 2 million gold coins, 8 million gold coins worth of money, and 7 million gold coins worth of ether crystals and ores. And His Majesty has also sent a semi-divine grade item as a token of gratitude."

Along with the storage ring, the eunuch also handed a scroll to Mark. It is a formal letter from the Emperor, not something to be paid attention to.

"So, I heard that you are leaving the city for a while? My sister told me." The second prince sat down for a casual talk, knowing that Mark won't be around for the next four weeks.

Mark glanced at Shang Jiao and then nodded, "it's been a while since I have constantly been working and Song Yue was also feeling bored by staying at home all the time. So, I thought it would be better to take a long vacation."

"Both of us and Mr. Black Knight were going on this trip, Brother Wen." Song Yue joined in the conversation to support Mark's statement. In reality, she knew that her fiancé only spoke half-truth. The other half contained his business trip to the Western Moon kingdom and Eastern Sun kingdom with another expert tagging along with them.

However, if she had to be honest, her feelings were rather mixed.

On one hand, she wanted just the two of them to go on the trip without any unwanted third wheel. Lately, she came to love the moments when they were chatting together about normal things.

On the other hand, she was conscious of the fact that she sees Mark as a man, not a sibling or something. Since a proper relationship has yet to be established between them, there was this thin invisible wall between them.

Anyways, back to the conversation, Shang Wen talked about the developments of the new Firearms division that the Imperial army has implemented recently. Hundreds of civilians were recruited from outside the army and were currently being trained in usual physical exercises and tactics.

Mark promised that he can supply the needed ammunition and equipment in time as long as they aren't 9mm caliber. He also made an informal request of procuring huge amounts of plumbum (lead) and brimstone (sulfur) for the increased production of a weakened 9mm version.

Shang Wen was elated upon learning that these new ordinary bullets will only cost 4 silver coins and will even cost much lower if he provides the raw materials. He thought they might be helpful in dealing with ordinary civilian criminals without spending many funds. He nodded, "Whatever you need, send the list to the Imperial Palace. We will provide everything."

Soon, the second prince and the chief eunuch left the store, Mark continued with business as usual.

Slowly, the sun has set in the west, and the closing time arrived. Before the two teenagers leave, he talked to the two of them, informing them of their immediate future linked to the store.

"Shang Jiao, you are free from the punishment and no longer needed to work in the store. As for the training, you can only consult General Shang from now onwards in case you are still interested. I express my gratitude for putting aside your ego and working for our store like a normal person."

As Mark indirectly implied that she needed to get back to her princess life, the latter felt sad that she might not be able to meet her brother on daily basis. She blamed herself for not trying hard enough to get close to her brother. But, she wasn't the type to listen to the orders and say "yes".

"Owner Lu," The princess responded immediately with a request, "if you don't mind, can I still visit the store once in a while and work like before? I kinda liked the feeling of you know, working like a civilian, and also to chat with Sister Yue."

Mark was a little bit taken aback by her request and he pondered on it. But, before he gave his answer, Song Yue agreed on his behalf, "Of course, Xiao Jiao. You are like family. You can come at any time."

Originally, if it is the same Mark as a month ago, he would have winced at Song Yue's remark. He doesn't want to acknowledge that anyone from the Imperial family is a family member to him, but after getting to her better for the past couple of weeks, he doesn't hate her a bit.

At the same time, he didn't want to get too close to her because of his revenge against his parents, or more specifically, his mother who has the power to change any situation in the empire but refuses to do it and even stayed like a civilian for decades.

And now that Song Yue had already spoken, he didn't feel like it would be good to say no. Hence, he agreed in the end, "I don't mind it."

Shang Jiao felt happy and let out a wide smile.

Mark then shifted his attention to the welpire, "Chang Bo, in our absence, you will be the interim manager of the store. Whatever you need, you can find them on either the shelves or in the storage room. If any weapon isn't available, you can take it as an advanced order in case the customer would wait for our return."

He already informed Chang Bo about it a day ago. So, the latter wasn't surprised and nodded firmly, "You can count on me, Boss."

"Good." Mark nodded and gave him the key to the store before sending the two of them away.

Once they were gone, he then instructed the Androids, "Alina, you can work on the restaurant business. I know that a hundred thousand gold coins will be more than enough to buy the store and procure all the necessary ingredients for a whole month but still, make sure to spend it wisely."

"Affirmed, Big Brother." Alina nodded with a smile. She was determined to make her restaurant business, a strong competitor to the leading restaurants in the city.

Mark then looked at the other Android, "Allen, I want you to search for your own hobby, looking for the things you like to do."

"Rozumim, Velky Bratr" Allen saluted, confusing Song Yue a little bit. From time to time, she observed that Allen would speak in a different language using a strange accent, often making her wonder whether it is some sort of ancient language Mark learned from his mysterious friend.

On the other hand, Mark already came to the terms with Allen's obsession with using Czech while he was talking to him. He actually liked to hear his mother tongue from the Android and let him do what he wants.

Anyways, the night passed away and dawn arrived.

In an LMV, Mark sat in the driving seat while Song Yue sat beside him with the golden-furred cat in her arms. Black Knight aka Song Yun shared the backseat with the 8-circle beast king, manticore.

Lin Xue and Shang Jiao, the two of them came to the store early in the morning to send them off. Chang Bo also reported to duty early for the same reason.

Once the vehicle disappeared from their sight, Lin Xue looked at Allen, "shall we begin our sparring?"

Allen nodded, "let's go."

As the both of them walked toward the training ground for the sword fight, Shang Jiao said to the welpire, "Chang Bo, I'll help you with the store until Brother, I mean, Owner Lu returns."

"Thanks a lot." Chang Bo bowed slightly with a smile on his face.

Chapter 312 Soul, The Organization Of Assassins

Around 3:50 p.m., somewhere in the busy street of the slums, located in the outer sector of the Imperial City;

Two men, disguised with masks and hoods, entered a seemingly ordinary-looking inn named "Chengwang".

One of them pinched his nose and expressed his disgust as he looked around the place, "this place is stinking so much. Are you sure we came to the right place?"

The other man nodded, "Please bear for a while, master. We will return soon."

"Fine. But, this needs to be done quickly. If I stay for ten minutes in this disgusting slum, I would get sick." The servant's master couldn't bear the sight of poor hygiene. He might be a rich guy.

Anyways, soon, both of them walked to the reception desk where the manager is sitting. She's a middle-aged woman who is nearly 8.3 ft tall and wider than both of them combined. One of the hooded men flinched when he saw this monster in human skin.

The servant then spoke to the manager, "We are here for the sky-bourning wine. I heard that you sell a genuine one."

The giant woman narrowed her eyes as she heard those words. She asked, "It is quite expensive. Are you sure that you can afford it?"

The servant politely answered, "We are prepared to buy it at any cost."

"Alright. Then, follow me to the underground wine cellar."

The woman was then personally escorted to the underground where wines from centuries away were preserved.

Once she confirmed that no one else is spying, the manager asked the both of them, "Okay, now, you may reveal your identities."

Both of them took off their masks, revealing their identities. It is the crown prince and his loyal bodyguard.

While Shang Zexi is indeed a high-profile person, the manager was calm as she addressed the both of them, "alright. Before going to them, I will have to warn both of you to not negotiate the prices or speak in a condescending tone. Or else, you might not make it back."

Shang Zexi furrowed his brows in displeasure. He was the crown prince. How dare this woman talk to him this way? The woman might look big but she isn't even a Spirit Warrior. With his 6-circle realm cultivation, he can kill her in the blink of an eye. So, shouldn't she mind her tone?

He felt insulted and clenched his fist but the servant caught his arm, indicating him to stay silent.

Shang Zexi forced himself to calm down and simply nodded.

"Good."

The woman then walked to one of the walls with the mark of a large hand engraved on it. She placed her hand on it and it glowed for a couple of seconds before the wall door slid to the right, revealing a staircase that leads down to somewhere.

"Follow me."

As the three of them entered the dark space, the door closed, and they continued to walk down the stairs.

It took them five minutes to reach the floor with dim-lit surroundings. Then, they started walking. The place looked like an underground maze with several tunnels leading to either somewhere or a dead end.

Eventually, after another ten minutes of walking, they entered a stone chamber where a mysterious hooded figure sitting behind a desk. There was nothing else in the room.

Neither Shang Zexi nor his servant felt the presence of ether from this stranger but the fact that the place appeared quite mysterious made the crown prince adhere to the warnings and controlled his tongue.

The hooded figure gestured for the woman to leave. The manager bowed and stood outside of the chamber and closed the door.

The hooded figure then spoke to the clients in a raspy voice, "Speak of the target name and basic information."

Shang Zexi answered, "Shang Wen, the second prince. I believe that is enough."

The hooded figure nodded and then asked, "How do you want his death to be, and what is the time limit?"

Shang Zexi took a deep breath and answered, "I need you to kill him in 4 days of time and handover me the corpse. How he dies is not of concern to me. But, all of his body parts should stay intact."

"2 million gold coins," replied the hooded figure, taking the crown prince by surprise.

"Are you kidding us?" Shang Zexi flared up in anger, right away. He was prepared to pay any amount but even then, he couldn't accept such a high figure. He felt like they were scamming him by being all mysterious. "He is just an Exalt realm Spirit Warrior, not a Supreme Being. Don't dare to mess with me. Do you know who I am?"

The hooded figure raised his head, revealing his stitched blind eyes and a frail-looking face with freckles. It looks a bit frightening but what follows that turned even more frightening for the prince.

Metal spikes came out of nowhere and pierced the bodies of the crown prince and his servant without hurting their vitals but completely paralyzing them.

"I know who you are, Prince Zexi."

Not only the crown prince was paralyzed but even his ether energy stopped circulating in his body. It was as if his cultivation was sealed.

There was a sharp pain all over his body due to the abrupt piercings from the metal spikes but the word couldn't escape his mouth. It was the same case for his servant too.

The public, friends, allies, or even close relatives only knows this guy as a peak-6-circle realm Spirit Warrior. Only Shang Zexi and his mother, the Empress, were aware that he is actually at an intermediate stage of the 7-circle realm, not strong as Bai Xun but powerful enough to keep the crown prince from any kind of danger.

But, now, even he was helpless against the blind fellow sitting before them. He wanted to apologize and beg for mercy but he couldn't move his mouth either.

Thankfully, for them, the hooded figure retracted his power in just ten seconds while warning them not to scream.

Both of them wanted to scream out loud in pain as the spikes are out but held the pain as the hooded figure explained the reasoning behind the exorbitant amount of fee, "First of all, the second prince isn't a simple Exalt realm Spirit Warrior. He has awakened the Phoenix Bloodline. To finish him cleanly, we will employ a legendary realm expert of atleast advanced stage. Secondly, he possessed the fire seed of high quality. If you don't want our assassin to loot his storage ring, then, you must pay 2 million gold coins. We don't need any advance payment and will only take it after the job is done."

Shang Zexi fell silent. Now that he experienced the power of this blind expert, he developed more confidence in this hidden organization. In the end, after much thinking, he then asked as politely as possible, "If I want Shang Wei, the third prince, also to die in the meantime, how much more it will cost?"

"If you want us to assassinate him after you acquire the fire seed, then, it will be a hundred thousand gold coins," replied the hooded figure before he took a three-second pause to think and then said, "But, before that, it will cost 5 million gold coins. According to our information, his path to the throne will become clear after awakening the Phoenix Bloodline."

"So much of difference, huh? But then again, it is reasonable." After being taught a lesson, Shang Zexi appeared to be more understanding toward this member of the organization named "Soul". He then asked as an afterthought, "what about Lu Zhen? You must have known about him."

In response to that question, the hooded figure rejected it right away, "No one in our organization will take that assignment even if you offer 100 million."

Shang Zexi heard about Mark's acquaintance, a peak-stage Supreme realm expert. Hence, he wanted to probe into the strength of the organization. As the blind fellow said that the organization lacks the capability to take out Mark, he wondered whether he should put aside his ego and befriend the weapon seller.

Putting away his thoughts, the crown prince said, "I guess we will talk again after this job is done."

"In four days, you will hear the news of Shang Wen's death," replied the hooded figure.

Soon, the crown prince and his servant left the inn, returning to the Imperial palace by taking a roundabout way to hide their tracks.

Chapter 313 Mark's First Stop - The City Of Lunaris

Kunyu Mountain Range;

The light multirole vehicle was slowly and steadily moving through the mountain trails and came to stop at the foot of Lan Mountain's Violet peak.

Looking at the trail ahead, Mark mumbled, "Just like I expected, I guess it is no longer possible for the vehicle to go. Plan B."

He glanced to his side. Song Yue was sleeping with her head resting on the window glass.

She looks damn beautiful from the side angle. For a while, he just stared at her in silence. Unknowingly, a smile appeared on his face.

However, it didn't last long as he heard a couple of knocks from behind. Mark turned his head but he couldn't see the Black Knight because of the monitor and all the other wirings in the middle.

Mark slowly opened the door without disturbing Song Yue and got outside. He opened the door and looked at the sleeping manticore and the Black Knight.

He first spoke to the Black Knight in a low tone, "We will wait here."

The Black Knight replied through his usual writing in the air with ether energy, "Alright."

Mark then woke up the beast king, giving it some real work for the first time. Since its loyalty toward him is still 38%, he had to talk with it beforehand.

And the manticore understood as soon as it woke up.

Mark pointed at the top of the peak, "He is there."

Baltrow got out of the vehicle and flapped its wings to the graveyard located above at the peak of the mountain, carrying Mark's message to Zheng.

Before the zheng beast left his place, he also talked about this trip but didn't tell the time as he wasn't sure whether the second prince will visit the store after three days or seven days.

Whatever the case, the beast emperor has already agreed to his plan, and the moment he met with the Baltrow, Lan Ju understood that it is time and he didn't even bother to ask the manticore about its identity. Lan Ju scanned the surroundings and found Mark's position immediately.

After saying goodbye to the graves, he followed the manticore back to the vehicle.

The five-seater vehicle's strange appearance surprised Lan Ju at first but the latter also knew that there was nothing ordinary about Mark. So, he tried adjusting to the situation and went on with the flow, "So, where are we headed first, Lu Zhen?"

Mark answered, "We'll go to Lunaris City to meet King Shen Niu. From there, we'll sail in the ship."

"Ship?" Lan Ju was curious to know what Mark is planning but he wasn't the type to dig into the details just to satisfy his curiosity anyway. "Okay." As he nodded, Mark asked the manticore to shift to the 5th seat behind the left backseat. As for the space behind the right backseat, it was allocated to the storage chamber.

As Lan Ju entered the vehicle and took his seat, he became more confused about the wirings, control systems, and the monitor that is displaying the outside world. He felt fascinated yet confused at the same time. Nevertheless, he didn't question anything and just said hello to the other passenger beside him.

Song Yun was already uncomfortable with a legendary-realm beast king sitting beside him. And now, there was even a stronger expert sitting beside him.

When he heard the news of a mysterious Supreme realm expert who helped Mark in defeating the lava golem, a few days ago, Song Yun thought that this guy might be the same.

But, what is he doing at the Lan Sect of the places? Song Yun has no idea but he knew that he isn't in a position to ask something. So, he kept his thoughts to himself and stayed quiet. Meanwhile, the manticore was staring at the back of Lan Ju's head and it looked a bit confused. Lan Ju looked like a human from head to toe but he smells like a mighty beast to it. But, at the same time, due to Lan Ju's contract with Mark, the manticore didn't sense any threat from the stranger either. If anything, it felt that Lan Ju is an ally.

Mark got back into his seat and started the engine. Taking a deep breath, he thought, "Okay, adding with the suit and the new skills, I have enough protection now. Let's think about the next breakthrough, a month later. I don't need to be in a rush. Alina will take care of Feng Wu's matter. I just need to spend these 30 days wisely."

Opening the stat panel, he proceeded to click on the upgrade.

*Ding! The system will be upgraded from level-3 to level-6 and needs 30 days of time. During this time, all the system's functions will be turned off. Proceed?

"Yes"

*Ding! The system upgrade has started.

With the required things stored in his platinum-grade storage ring, which was earlier given by the second prince, Mark doesn't feel like he would miss the inventory function. So, the impact this upgrade would fall on him will be negligible. Or so he thought as he reversed the vehicle and then continued his journey to his first destination.

He drove for a few hours and then set up a tent with a bonfire nearby a river in the Western Moon kingdom before having dinner and resting until the morning.

Of course, Mark and Song Yue didn't sleep together in one tent. Song Yue slept alone with the beast king guarding her. Song Yun accompanied the manticore while Mark and Lan Ju took a rest in the bunker bed, located in the back chamber of the howitzer.

As for the LMV, it was just parked on the side since people can only sleep in the sitting position inside this vehicle. Fortunately, everyone in this party of five had the experience of sleeping in the wild. Hence, no one has a troubling sleep.

The next day, at 3 o'clock in the morning, they packed up and continued their journey.

In three hours, they reached the city and entered a prestigious inn named after the moon goddess, Chang'e or Chang Er.

Lunaris City, Western Moon Kingdom;

The royal palace was looking sparkingly clean even from a distance with hundreds of servants giving their best for the past three days.

King Shen Niu looked anxious as he was walking back and forth in the entrance hall of the palace while kept glancing at the door.

Shen Ling came to him and reported, "The preparations for the lunch were done and the chief cook Wang confirmed that there are no problems with the taste. Our fabled Crescent wine was also carefully brought to the kitchen."

"What is its age?" asked the king.

The princess answered, "78 years."

"Good." Shen Niu responded with a satisfactory nod and commented, "Crescent Wine tastes best when preserved for 75-80 years. I hope the guests would like it."

Shen Ling shook her head with a smile, feeling that it is so stupid, "Baba, my husband doesn't care about such things. You don't need to be too nervous."

"Your husband?" The king glared at her. "I have yet to talk to him about it and you already decided that he is yours? This is the problem with you, intellectuals. You get too overconfident in your schemes that you don't even worry about failure."

"Baba, we should turn even a miserable situation into an opportunity for success," replied the princess. The King shook his head, feeling that his daughter lost her IQ because of her crush on the weapon seller.

Chapter 314 The Six Demigods Of The World

At around 11 o'clock in the morning, the light multirole vehicle arrived at the royal palace.

Western Moon's Prime Minister Zhu and other important officials were waiting for him at the entrance.

As Mark slide down the window and looked outside, he saw the familiar face. He opened the door and stepped outside while telling the remaining people to stay inside.

"Greetings, Lord Lu." Zhu Jianhong gave a 90-degree bow alongside the other soldiers stationed there. Mark was never greeted with this much respect before. So, he was a little bit taken aback but controlled his calm expression and nodded, "Thank you for the hospitality, Mr. Zhu. Shall we go?"

As the soldiers moved aside, Mark got back into the vehicle and drove through the entrance, eventually reaching the impressive white marble building, shining brightly.

The King, the princess, the uncomfortable Queen, and another uncomfortable prince who is the nephew of the king; all of them appeared to be waiting outside the palace as the doors of the vehicle opened and the people got outside.

In an instant, a trace of surprise appeared on several of them. They were only prepared to welcome Mark and probably his servants.

But, the King never expected that alongside Mark, there will be others that he didn't know.

There's his beautiful fiancée who appeared to have lost in thoughts while staring at Shen Ling; there's an average build but has knight's armor from head to toe and this guy is even in the 7-circle realm; a middle-

aged looking fellow who gives off the same vibe of a Supreme realm expert that he once met; a cute kitten but is of emperor grade that he heard of; finally, a beast king of the legendary realm.

Just the manticore is alone to turn the whole kingdom upside down. But, why did Mark bring such powerful figures to his palace and intimidate them when this was a friendly visit? The king didn't understand Mark's motives.

On the other hand, Shen Ling's smile only grew wider as she saw the group. She wasn't that affected by them at all.

The King greeted them and escorted everyone into the palace. They sat down in the main room that is connected to the entrance hall. The spotless room was decorated with floral wallpapers, high-quality paintings on them, plaster decorations for the ceiling, crystal chandeliers, etc...

As this isn't the first time he came here, Mark could see the changes. But, he wasn't as attentive to it as Song Yue or the golden-furred kitten. Mark's focus is on the king.

Being familiar with Shen Niu, he made the introductions of his people. He introduced Lan Ju as Wu Weibao in order to hide his relation to the Lan sect.

The instant he heard the name, Shen Niu cupped his fists immediately and greeted him. Obviously, as a ruler of a kingdom, he would know what happened in the neighboring territories. This was also why he was giving so much respect to Mark.

And that also means that he heard of Wu Weibao's name. He suspected it when he saw him at the entrance but now that he confirmed his identity, it became difficult for the king to keep his calm in Lan Ju's presence.

"Actually... we would have invited you... invited you in person for the favor... the help you knowingly... I mean, unknowingly did it on us. I mean the Church of Doom... you killed them... Sorry, I'm just... because of the heat you know... Hahaha..."

As the king suddenly turned into a timid person, confusing Mark and others, Princess Shen Ling took over the position of the host and spoke, "What my father wants to say is that once again you did a favor to our kingdom by taking out the elders of the Church of Doom."

"It's not a big deal." Mark waved his hand in response, understanding why the king suddenly became tense. He further said to the King, "as long as their leader is alive, the threat still exists. I actually didn't know that he was there, at that time. Or else, we would pursue him and kill him for sure. Anyway, sooner or later, I will finish the job. So, you don't need to worry about it, King Shen Niu."

"I hope so..." the King let out an awkward smile but the princess appeared to have different opinions. "No, Mr. Lu. It's not that simple. No disrespect to Venerable Wu but even a demigod will be helpless if he wants to enter the Tower of Doom and kill Yan Hai."

"What do you mean?" Mark furrowed his brows. Isn't the church of doom's leader only a Supreme realm expert? Is there anything special about this tower? Defense skills like his store, perhaps? He wondered.

The princess then looked at her mother, who sat quietly like she doesn't even exist, "It is best if she explains it."

The Queen was slightly surprised by how her daughter suddenly pushed her into the talk. She looked at her husband, who suddenly frowned at the mention of her name, and then spoke, "The elders of the church of doom speak of the existence of the ancient guardian who came to this land following Yan Hai.

The tower of doom wasn't actually constructed by the builders like the public thinks it is. It actually came along with this ancient guardian in the form of miniature size.

The tower of doom is the disguised form of the divine grade weapon of the ancient guardian, who is said to sleep in his special coffin all the time in order to prolong his life and look for a way to break through and become immortal.

No one has any idea of the abilities of the tower but one thing is for sure. It is that every elder of the church believes that as long as they are in the tower, they are safe unless an immortal from another world is attacking them.

But, forget about immortals, our world didn't even have a sufficient number of Supreme realm experts."

"Okay, you have said enough, Queen Tan." The King responded coldly, addressing her in a formal way, as soon her explanation was finished. Mark caught Shen Ling slightly smiling and when their eyes met, she quickly wiped it off away from her face.

She knew that his hatred for her will remove his suddenly developed timidness because of the mysterious expert. So, she involved her mother in the conversation. And just as she expected, King Shen Niu returned to his usual self and joined the conversation. "Anyway, with the deaths of several elders, Yan Hai won't act for a while. But, the real problem is the Dragon Empire. Mr. Lu, I won't ask whether you are responsible for the deaths of the Tang Dynasty's ancestor, supreme commander, and his men, but if I were you, I would be careful.

To my knowledge, only six demigod realm beings exist in this world. Of them, four are only beasts namely, the zheng of Kunyu, the Kun of the ocean, the Werewolf lord of the beast empire, and the dragon emperor of the Bloodhill.

Of the remaining two, one is the ancient guardian of the church of doom, and the other is the founder of the dragon empire, Tang Yuan. And the current emperor of the Tang Dynasty wouldn't keep silent after hearing about the death of his ancestor. We shouldn't be surprised if he bothers Tang Yuan to action personally."

After listening to all the explanations, Mark only commented one word, "interesting."

Chapter 315 Either Marry My Daughter Or Cut Ties With Us

Roughly about 80 minutes later;

The lunch was finished and everyone except for Mark went to their respective guest rooms.

He was sitting in a private chamber, chatting with the king and princess.

"Well, at the moment, I'm on a vacation. So, the plans of opening the branch store will have to wait for a few weeks," replied Mark when asked about the store's status. The royal family has already hired the required staff members. So, they were waiting for the opening.

While this piece of news slightly disappointed Shen Niu, it is not on the main agenda. Hence, he threw it away to the back of his mind and proceeded to speak about something else. "It's alright. The store can wait. Our hands are already full of those panzers and howitzers.

Speaking of which, we would really like to order more ammunition for the howitzers in the near future, like 1000 of them. So, I was hoping that you would start procuring them from your manufacturer and have them in stock so that, you know, we don't have to wait for too long."

At the moment, Mark cannot create anything even if he wanted. So, he cannot do what Shen Niu wants. But then again, there's nothing wrong to give empty promises to strangers like him, anyway.

Hence, he nodded, "alright, I'll see what I can do."

"Okay, thanks." Shen Niu went silent for a while before he started another topic, "So, from here to Nanqu island, huh? If you need any help with the construction, don't hesitate to..."

Before he finished his sentence, the princess hurriedly grabbed his arm and shook it, "Baba... Don't stall the matter..."

"Hmm?" Mark looked at her and then observed her father. The king looked like he was suddenly being bothered by something.

"What is it, King Shen?" Mark asked.

"It's nothing... you know... how the world is... people doing marriages, some people love each other, some people get arranged by their parents... Emperor Shang married four times like that... I, on the other hand, married only once because I thought I can only marry the one I love. In the end, she turned out to be an evil witch who plotted behind my back..."

As the king was stammering about whatever comes to his mind while trying to slowly get into the matter, the princess interrupted him once again, "Baba, shall I do the talking?"

"No way." The King almost raised his voice as he rejected her idea. "It is inappropriate."

Mark started to wonder what they are getting at. What is inappropriate?

Taking a deep breath, Shen Niu turned serious as he spoke, "Lu Zhen, I will be straight with you. I want my daughter to be married to the fourth prince of the Kun Empire who has the highest possibility to become the emperor.

However, she has taken a liking to you and wanted to marry you instead."

"Eh? She wants to marry me?" Mark was taken aback and looked at the princess, who then nodded, "Yes, that's true. I believe that you are the perfect spouse for me."

"But, we have only met two times until now. She knows nothing about me at all," thought Mark as he heard her words.

He didn't expect the princess to fall in love with him. He couldn't help but wonder whether it is because of his actions that saved her father or something. In old fairy tales, it usually happens like that. Whenever a princess or her parents get saved by a strong and good-looking protagonist, she will fall in love with him.

But then again, his impression of her so far tells that she might have decided to marry him because of his ability to kill supreme beings.

Mark was about to ask her the reason but the king decided to continue to speak his opinion on the matter without giving him a chance to react.

"Usually, I won't have an issue at all. After all, you are a young man, a high-level Spirit Warrior, and possess the strength to protect my daughter from all the harm. As a bonus, you have a good appearance too. Hence, I wouldn't have to worry about my granddaughters, if there will be any.

However, the problem is that you have made an enemy out of the Dragon Empire that we cannot dare to offend even in our dreams.

As far as I know, the Tang dynasty bore grudges very much and once they figured out that you are behind the death of their men, they will not only try to hunt you down but also your friends and family.

You are strong. So, they might not be able to do anything to you but we are different. There isn't one legendary realm expert living in our kingdom.

I'm aware that you did so much for us but I'm a king and my priorities should always lie with my people. To some extent, my daughter. This is why I cannot agree with my daughter."

Mark didn't understand a thing that Shen Niu was trying to convey.

Was this king requesting him to not love back his daughter? If that's the case, it isn't a big deal as he doesn't have any feelings for her.

However, Mark wants clarification. Hence, he calmly responded with a statement, "Just be precise, King Shen. What is it that you are implying?"

The king took a deep breath once again and spoke, "Based on the current situation, I can only ask you to choose an option between the two.

One, marry my daughter and make the western moon kingdom, your home. In such a case, we will be behind you in every decision you make. Your friends will be our friends and your enemies will be ours.

Two, if you aren't interested in this proposal, after today, please stop having any personal contact with either me or anyone from our kingdom. I'll marry off my daughter into the Kun Empire and seek their protection from the church of doom. I'll compensate you for the store branch you were supposed to open here.

And I ask you to exchange Nanqu Island for the island of Fujian, which is a bit far away from the rest of the territories but is five times bigger. The island also has about 12 islets around. All of them will also be yours.

However, we won't completely cut off our ties. It's just that if we ever need weapons, the Kun Empire will act as the medium. This is the only for the survival of my people."

"I see..." Mark easily understood the reasoning behind those two options.

A business relationship could easily be broken by interests but not the relationship through marriage.

In a business relationship, he won't have any responsibility towards Shen Niu or his people and can abandon them at any time even if the Dragon Empire or Phoenix Empire attacks them because of him but if he marries her, then it will be sailing on the same boat.

Fortunately, it isn't difficult to make this decision either.

While Mark wanted to use the Western Moon Kingdom to either form an alliance with the Western Yan region or annex it after Feng Wu claims it, he can work it out even without their assistance. Not to mention, he doesn't lack customers.

Understanding the situation, Mark replied calmly, "Thank you for being honest. I'll also be straight with you. I have a fiancée already and I promised her that I'll give importance to her opinion. I cannot marry anyone else unless she was comfortable with it.

Secondly, Princess Shen was barely an acquaintance who I met a couple of times. I don't know anything about her nor does she know anything about me. So, I'm not sure whether I'm comfortable with the idea of marrying her."

Since the king was clear on cutting personal ties with him completely before they even began, Mark decided to make it easier for him. Not to mention, he was getting a better end of the deal even with rejection. He

doesn't know where Fujian is, but if it is five times bigger than Nanqu (area: 2 sq. km), then, he might as well build a small town there. No strings attached and he can develop a base along with a manufacturing facility.

Since they will be cutting off ties, Mark decided not to mince his words and directly talk about the island of Fujian. But, fortunately, or unfortunately, fate has other plans for him and he realized it soon enough.

Before he expressed his wishes to know more about Fujian island and its islets, Shen Ling intervened in the matter for the third time with a comment, "But, Song Yue has already given her consent to our marriage though."

And this time, Mark was the one who was affected by it. He got up from the seat, shocked by her comment, "When?"

Shen Ling calmly answered, "A few days ago, after the auction. As for our relationship, we can first get engaged and then get familiar with each other. Also, I don't have any romantic feelings for you either. I wanted a marriage with convenience with you, just like all those ladies from noble clans or wealthy households marry into other households.

Give me five minutes of your time and I'll convince you that this marriage will surely bring benefits to each other."

Shen Ling was trying to remember all the parts of her proposition that she was about put forth before Mark but the latter's mind was stuck on her first sentence itself. "After the auction? Did it happen when I send her

away upstairs while dealing with the transactions?" Mark remembered Shen Niu left the store quickly when he was supposed to wait upstairs.

Chapter 316 Is Mark In Love With Song Yue?

It came as a shock to him that Song Yue had not only agreed to this marriage beforehand but she didn't even tell him about it.

It's tough for Mark to believe it as his fiancée isn't the type to scheme behind his back. He liked her because of her honest and kind nature.

Mark felt betrayed.

He didn't want to stay at the place any longer and wanted to meet her.

Not commenting on Shen Ling's earlier statement, he spoke to her father, "King Shen, please excuse me for a minute. We'll talk again on this, after a while."

In response, the king said, "Look Lu Zhen, I really respect you. So, I'm explaining all this to you. My daughter is already 26 years old. It saddens me to send her away when we just reunited but the world isn't that forgiving for the lady, especially if she is of the royal family. The higher the age of an unmarried woman, the more people think that she has some kind of defect. That is why I want to get her married soon."

I have already heard of your opinion but please do take three more days of time to ponder on it carefully and give me your decision."

"Alright." Mark didn't care about his words, at the moment. His mind is on something else.

He left the place and went to the guest's section with the help of a soldier. He wants to confront Song Yue on this matter right away.

Meanwhile, inside one of the rooms, Song Yue was sitting on the bed with a scroll in her hand. She looked like she was in deep thinking.

knock knock*

The knocks on the door brought her to reality and she hid the scroll back into the storage ring and spoke loudly, "Yes, please enter."

The door was opened and she saw Mark. His usual bright-looking expression was gone and he looked like he was quite frustrated.

He closed the door and then walked toward her. Song Yue got up from the bed. "What happened?" she asked.

"King Shen Niu gave me a marriage proposal for his daughter," replied Mark before immediately asking her, "After the auction, did Princess Shen express her desire to marry me and you have already given your consent?"

"Eh?" Song Yue had expected this to happen but didn't expect that Mark would be so displeased by it. She slowly nodded, "Yes."

Mark almost raised his voice, "Why?"

Turning around and slowly walking a couple of steps away, she answered while trying her best to hide her emotions, "I cannot stand in the way of your bright future. She is a princess, beautiful, intelligent, and I thought she will match you in every way."

"Well, not as beautiful as you but she's okay I guess..." Mark trailed off a little bit, commenting on her statement before he shook his head and got on the right track, "No, that's not the point. This isn't about calculations. It's about feelings. I don't feel anything for her."

Her face glowed for a bit but she tried to suppress it and argued back without looking at him, "Well, you can develop feelings after getting engaged. Lots of people ended up loving each other after the marriage."

Mark only became more frustrated as he raised his voice this time as if he was having a verbal fight with her, "No, I can never develop feelings for that woman because I..."

He was about to tell something but the realization hit him and he forced himself to swallow down the words and tried to speak something else, "because I... I... I have several goals to achieve. And I have told you once. Until I fulfill them, neither love nor marriage has any place in my heart or my thoughts."

"Sorry for not informing you." Song Yue apologized to him while becoming dispirited all of a sudden upon hearing his statement.

Mark didn't know what else to say and he just excused himself to leave the place, going to the royal guest room that he was allotted.

After entering the room, he threw himself on the king-size bed and hit his face against the pillow. "Idiot... what the hell was you going to blabber earlier? Okay, Song Yue was a beauty and your heart skipped many times because of her but that doesn't mean you should carelessly throw around the words."

Mark then sat in the lotus position and closed his eyes to calm himself, "Fuu... take a deep breath. Nothing has changed so far. But, the princess appeared to be quite confident in convincing me. I couldn't help but be curious.

But, what if I get convinced? What will happen to Song Yue?"

Mark didn't know how the situation will develop and that unknown future worried him. He doesn't want to abandon Song Yue at any cost and that feeling, which goes against his opportunistic nature, worried him.

Hence, he decided to run away from the problem, by leaving for Fujian island as soon as he acquired the land deed.

Mark slowly tried to clear his head with meditation, although not for a long time. In just two minutes, he heard the door knock.

"Hmm? Is it Song Yue?"

Wondering whether it is his fiancée who probably wanted to talk to him, Mark took a deep breath and got down from the bed, walking forward to open the door only to see the princess was standing outside with a smile on her face. "Princess Shen?"

"Can I come inside?" asked the princess.

Mark didn't need to think too deeply to understand her motives. He easily guessed that she will try to convince him.

He planned to escape but since the problem is already on his doorstep, he might as well face it, thought Mark as he nodded.

Mark dragged the chairs, facing each other before asking her to sit.

However, she didn't sit and just took out some kind of scroll, "mind if I use the sound barrier? It's better to remain this conversation private."

Mark became curious. He wondered what secret she was going to tell him. "Sure."

As he agreed, Shen Ling poured her ether energy into the scroll and activated the technique.

A visible yellow-colored barrier formed by the connection of hexagons, almost covering the entire room.

"Okay, I'm ready to listen," said Mark as he took the seat, indicating for her to go on with what she visited him for.

Shen Ling wiped off the smile on her face and took the seat, speaking in a serious tone, "Let me give you the main reason for my decision to choose you. I wish to become overthrow the patriarchal system in our society and become the first ruling queen of the Western Moon Kingdom.

And with you on my side as my husband, I'm confident that I can fulfill my dream."

"You want to overthrow your father?" Mark was taken aback. This is not expected by him for sure. But why she was doing that?

Was she perhaps angry with the fact that her father is trying to marry off to the Kun Empire's prince against her wishes? He wondered.

Chapter 317 Shen Ling's Scary Analysis (Part-1)

Fortunately, his suspicions turned out to be false as she explained, "No, my father is willing to hand over the throne to me but he doesn't have the power to face the rebellion from the society.

It was because of this decision that I fought to buy the 1000 panzers and purchase rights for howitzers. But, they can only be used to suppress the rebel elements.

I need a partner who can stand by my side, someone who doesn't look down on women, someone intelligent, someone strong, and someone who doesn't give a shit about how difficult the problem is.

And I don't think I can find a better husband than you."

Mark didn't speak for a while, digesting everything that she had told him earlier. It would be a lie if he says that he wasn't impressed in the least but still, her reasoning wasn't enough for him to consider marrying her.

After thinking for a bit about how to convince her to stop pursuing him, he calmly spoke, "Okay, it seems that you are clear from your side. You might also have a few things left to say in order to convince me that I will be benefited through this marriage.

However, there was a big problem here. You wanted to rule a kingdom and wanted me on your side but I cannot do that. Once my job is finished, I will leave for another realm for good.

And because of your commitments to the people of this land, you will not follow me. Hence, I don't think it is a good idea for you to marry me."

Mark didn't lie to her. Once he had his revenge against his biological parents, and give justice to his late adopted parents, he planned to leave with Lan Jing for the place his maternal grandfather came from.

Of course, there is hesitation because of Song Yue but at the very least, he wasn't creating an excuse to shoo away the princess.

However, the princess appeared to be too calm. She didn't flinch at his statement and calmly gazed at Mark.

She then let out a smile and shook her head, "No, Lu Zhen. I'm sure that you won't completely abandon this world and leave with your maternal granduncle, Lan Jing. Or else, you won't ask for the ownership of an island to build a manufacturing facility."

"What!"

Mark rose to his feet with his eyes widened in shock, "how do you know?"

He never spoke of his relation to Lan Jing with anyone else and neither the latter would have revealed it to anyone. If the princess found this relation, doesn't that mean that she also knows his birth secret?

"It is simple once we analyze the past events," Shen Ling continued to smile and gestured for him to sit down.

As he took the seat once again, the princess explained, "Let's start with your adopted parents, Lu Yimu and Yi Zexi.

According to our source of information, Yi Zexi used to be a maid for Empress Dowager, Emperor Shang's mother, and later served the Queen consort, Lan Jingyi.

At that time, her husband, Li Yimu was an apprentice of Master blacksmith Wan. He was a civilian without any ether energy. He neither had any background nor any education.

And yet, all of a sudden, he was given the position of the village chief, that too in a place, which was hundreds of kilometers away from his hometown.

The official story is that Empress Dowager was too happy for her daughter-in-law that she gave her former maid, a present in form of appointing the latter's husband such a position.

Now, when Yi Zexi and Li Yimu arrived at the Houtang village, they already had a baby boy, who looked like he was born roughly around the same time as the third prince. So, that means Yi Zexi was pregnant when she left the service of Emperor Dowager.

However, married women cannot serve as maids for the imperial family. That leaves me with a question.

Was Yi Zexi pregnant before married? If so, then, who is the father of the child? Since Li Yimu was supposed to be her husband, then, he must be the father, correct?

If that is the case, she should have been fired, not sent to her daughter-in-law who was also pregnant around the same time.

Mark interrupted her with a comment, "maybe, she was too nice? You know, my mother served the empress dowager for years. So, I guess she repaid the favor?"

"It's possible. That thought occurred to my mind at first too and I stopped my research," Shen Ling nodded in agreement. However, her explanation has yet to reach even half. She continued, "But, then, I saw you unleashing the freezing technique on that day."

Shen Ling reminded Mark of the day he showcased the Absolute freezing technique to the good elder from the church of doom, Gu Ya, who is on the side of good.

"I knew that you had ice abilities. So, it didn't come off as a surprise but the fact that Elder Gu Ya had requested you to showcase your bloodline ability to reveal her secret prophecy brought to my attention.

It was then I realized that your Freezing technique isn't some ice ability but a bloodline skill.

It made me wonder why you have a bloodline skill in the first place when you were born of civilian parents. Either you have an ancestor with an ice bloodline or you were never the child of Yi Zexi and Li Yimu in the first place.

Now, it isn't any secret that Princess Shang Jiao was an ice-ability user and known to possess Blizzard Pegasus, which she inherited from the line of her maternal family.

You had an ice ability bloodline skill, have similarities with Lan Gengxin, born on the same day as the third prince, and grew up as the son of the woman who happened to work at the Imperial Palace.

Rather than going after that 0.1% probability, I made a bet on the obvious thing. You are the son of Queen Consort Lan Jingyi. Then, who might be the father? Obviously, it is Emperor Shang.

You probably never awakened your bloodline or ether because of the opposing forces of Phoenix and Blizzard Pegasus. Something must have happened at some point in time.

Maybe, your mysterious master or manufacturer or whoever might it be, did something to your body to awaken the sleeping bloodline.

It became clear to me that you are the real third prince. Then, who might be Shang Wei, the one who is living your life? That brings me back to my above suspicion. Why did Empress Dowager do a favor on Yi Zexi?

After all, at that time, no one knows that Yi Zexi would give birth to a son with ether energy and Lan Jingyi would give birth to a normal child.

My hunch is that Shang Wei is the illegitimate son of Emperor Shang and Yi Zexi. That suspicion of mine became more apparent when you demanded your biological father that the fire seed must go to the third prince.

I don't know if you are aware of this or not. But, if a normal person without any hidden bloodline absorbs a powerful thing like the elemental seed, it would lead to death.

And soon, I would hear the results. I'm confident that Shang Wei would awaken his Phoenix bloodline. So, it's alright.

As for Lan Jing, I know that he visited your store once, and then, you bothered to call him and his king for tea before the auction. It is obvious that you know him and now, you just told me that you are leaving this world. That gives it away. You will leave with him as he is from another realm just like Lan Gengxin."

As Shen Ling was explaining how she analyzed each incident to draw a conclusion, Mark just stared at her in astonishment. It was too difficult to digest everything but he tried to be as calm as possible as he responded with a question, "Is there anything else you would like to say about me?"

Looking at Mark's expression, the princess realized that she had successfully impressed him a little bit. But, there is still a bit of information in her head she was dying to tell him.

Now that Mark is curious to know what else this princess had analyzed about him, she continued by asking, "What else I know? Should I tell you about how I think that Black Knight is Song Yun, and how Wu Weibao is actually the beast emperor Zheng, or about your revenge against the Imperial Palace through weapons dependence? Hmm?"

Mark's heartbeat rose to the peak as he felt like his plans were completely exposed to this lady. For the first time in the past few months, he found someone scary.

Chapter 318 Shen Ling's Scary Analysis (Part-2)

"Okay, just tell me everything that you know and how you find it out." Mark was so tensed at the moment that he was even considering killing her to protect his secrets.

At the same time, he was also impressed by her analytical skills. For a moment, he even thought she could help him devise a plan to dethrone Shang Fu more effectively. Should he marry her?

But, he doesn't want to act on impulse when there is nothing for him to gain from either of the options.

Hence, he decided to treat this matter carefully without messing up because of some impulse.

As Mark asked the princess to continue with her analysis, she spoke, "well, let's start with the identification of your aides.

Song Yun was arrested after his assassination plan failed and then he was charged with a series of crimes one after another, which sentenced him to 213 years of imprisonment.

Now, let's look at the charges. First, embezzlement. He was sentenced to 35 years of imprisonment and he deserved that for sure but where did the Emperor suddenly acquire the evidence, the ledger book?

Obviously, the Song clan handed it to him. Emperor Shang didn't have any grudges against Song Yun and neither is he a scheming type. Hence, he wouldn't have investigated behind Song Yun.

Secondly, domestic violence. It is actually a joke that Song Yun was charged with that crime when all he did was lock up his wife and restrict his daughter's freedom for a while.

Then, Why did it happen?

It's because domestic violence is common not only in the noble houses but also in the houses of the commoners. On a daily basis, hundreds of husbands beat their poor wives, and hundreds of wives would abuse their elderly in-laws who live with them.

But, does anyone cares about that? Neither the society cares nor the officials.

If we arrest everyone who participated in domestic violence, the jails won't be sufficient.

Thirdly, attempted murders of kin and stranger. No argument about that but Song Yun was indeed given the maximum sentence.

Fourthly, the act of terrorism. In this situation, Song Yun is indeed a criminal for colluding with the top members of the organization, which is banned from the Phoenix Empire.

However, based on Emperor's relationship with Song Yun, if the latter apologizes earnestly, Emperor Shang should have actually forgiven him. After all, Song Yun's reasoning was just to get his daughter back and kill his enemy, not harm the innocent citizens.

And finally, lying to the emperor. Indeed, deceiving the ruler of the land is the biggest sin that a citizen can commit but one should also look at the consequences resulting from that lie. It's just mostly a white lie if you ask my opinion. For that, 98 years of imprisonment is too much.

My point is that Song Yun was not only betrayed by his clansmen but also by the Emperor, who is supposedly a friend.

That leaves me with the question. Why did Emperor Shang go so hard on his friend? What do you think, Lu Zhen?"

Mark never tried to think about Song Yun's punishment. At first, he thought that Song Yun got what he deserved. Later, when Song Yun became the Black Knight, Mark no longer cared.

Now that Shen Ling reminded him of all of this, he couldn't help but wonder. This happened before the expo and the emperor has no idea about combat aircraft or howitzers.

He said unsurely, "Maybe, Emperor Shang's relationship might be turning sour with Song Yun, or maybe, he thinks that I'm a valuable asset?"

"Could be," nodded the princess before she crossed her arms to the chest and said, "However, I think that it will make more sense if he already knows that you are his son."

"No, that's impossible." Mark refuted her statement right away. He furrowed his brows as he explained, "From our past meetings until now, I'm sure that he only saw me as a weapon seller. I believe that it might be because of my actions against 8-circle realm experts and also because of the legendary realm beast king that I had formed a spirit contract with."

Shen Ling wasn't surprised and calmly nodded as if she knew that he will react like this. She said, "Well, let's just say that is true. I won't argue with that. Now, let's get back to the topic, Song Yun."

Why did he escape or rather how did he even escape in the first place when his ether energy, as well as his strength, is sealed? Not to mention, knocking out all the guards that are on the way.

Adding on top of that, this happened right in the middle of the night, six hours after you met with him.

You saved my father, who is in a worse state. I'm sure that you can remove whatever seal is placed on Song Yun.

And ten days later, a peak-six-circle realm expert visits your store and becomes Song Yue's bodyguard. Your store literally can suppress the strength of any Spirit Warrior; you have a legendary realm beast king and two powerful servants on your side. Why would Song Yue even need such protection?

What's more... He doesn't even talk. He uses ether writing method. Combine all the events and it will make sense that Song Yun is the one behind the armor.

As for Wu Weibao, I heard that he visited the campsite along with you but in the real battle, some of the soldiers claimed that they took a glimpse at a scarlet leopard with five tails.

I know for a fact that it is Zheng. So, the beast emperor is on the battlefield but the supposedly Supreme realm expert, Wu Weibao, wasn't seen anywhere else? Why?

Obviously, he is in his original form. But why did the Zheng beast even bother to leave his mountain to help you? Obviously, it is because you are the grandson of Lan Gengxin and awakened the bloodline of Blizzard Pegasus.

You are the perfect candidate to revive the sect."

Mark doesn't know what to say now. Since all of these are found out by the princess, why leave out the remaining ones? He asked her to continue explaining his revenge.

Chapter 319 Shen Ling's Scary Analysis (Part-3)

While explaining her theory, Shen Ling was also observing Mark's expression so that she can know what he is thinking.

She also had a couple of theories that can indicate that the Emperor might be aware of the truth but she wasn't hundred percent sure of them and neither did Mark appear to be welcoming such a theory. Hence, she didn't bother to reveal them.

Anyway, the princess ended her analysis with the final topic, Mark's revenge, "I have analyzed your movements from your arrival to the Imperial City. First, you acquired a store, then, slowly lived the life of an ordinary weapon seller but sold unique weapons called firearms.

Then, you get into a fight with the Song clan and you acted on an impulse, showing off the power of your battle vehicle.

After that, you traveled hundreds of kilometers just to kill the Cerberus, showing off your own power and impress the second prince.

Right then, you picked up a fight with the Sui clan, causing a lot of destruction, this time, showing off the power of your helicopter and missiles.

Then, you showed off the power of the helicopter in front of everyone in the public trial, defeating Song Yun fair and square. I wondered why you did that when you can easily defeat him through your fists.

At first, I thought you probably didn't have real strength in the first place and you probably used some kind of powerful enhancement pill or potion to improve your strength temporarily and defeat the Cerberus.

But, on the day of your engagement, you clearly defeated an eight-circle realm expert with a skill of yours. So, that means your strength is a real deal. So, were you toying with Song Yun and other opponents in the past?

I'm not so sure about it but when I saw the rate at which how you release your new weapons to sell, I realized something.

When you first arrived, you only sold single-shot pistols, then, you sold the revolver after seeing that you are generating profits and the firearms are working in this society.

Eventually, the number of weapons and their firepower improved exponentially as the Imperial Palace is frequently buying more weapons.

For the sake of maintaining your relationship with the Imperial Palace, you even let go of hundreds of thousands of gold coins that you got from Feng Wu, the leader of Kunyu bandits.

Then, I realized that you are trying to make sure that the Imperial Palace depends more on your weapons."

"And that explains my revenge?" Mark found a lot of inconsistencies in her latest analysis. Her conclusion might be correct but the way she connected with the things that happened with him to reach such a conclusion was wrong.

Some of his acts weren't just because he is impulsive or wanted to show off. It is the result of the system's emergency quests and their hefty rewards.

For the first time since she started to show off her scary analysis, Mark felt like he can breathe properly. His mood recovered a bit upon realizing that even an intellectual like her isn't that perfect.

However, he cannot ignore the fact that she somehow found the truth. Either way, as he intended to see it until the end, Mark patiently listened to her.

Meanwhile, Shen Ling was slightly surprised by the sudden smile on Mark's face but she didn't dwell on it for much time and proceeded to explain, "If you know the truth, then, it is obvious that you will be angry at your parents, especially your mother for switching you with the other baby all because you weren't born with ether.

But, your actions don't make sense. Logically, you should have sold those aircraft and other powerful weapons to enemy states like the Leon Empire but ever since your first contact with the second prince, you are just empowering the Imperial Palace.

It clearly states that you wanted the Imperial Palace to completely depend on you. You wanted the Emperor and every powerful person with authority at your mercy.

And I see that your plan is working quite well if I guessed it right.

You showed the palace that you are personally stronger than their top experts.

You displayed the might of your firearms.

With the beast king, you displayed the might of your support.

Finally, with Wu Weibao, you showed that you also have powerful allies that the Emperor cannot dare to offend. So, everyone will try their best to keep you on their side.

I just don't understand what you plan for their future, though. I feel like I missed several things and there might be a few inconsistencies as I took the highest probability route but once I covered all of that, I will be able to come to a more detailed conclusion.

Anyway, what do you think of my analysis, so far?"

If she had revealed one secret, Mark would use some excuse, but now that there are several things that he heard one after another, he didn't want to explain himself to her, and neither did he plan on admitting the truth.

Without commenting on her analysis, he simply responded with a question, "If you know that much about me, then, what will happen if these truths will come out? What do you think?"

It appeared that Shen Ling was also prepared for that question too. She answered, "Well, either you will go on full rebel mode or just deny everything stubbornly."

"Good," Mark nodded with a fake smile and leaned forward with his arms resting on its knees, "and do you believe that I won't silence you to protect my secrets, Princess Shen?"

The princess shook her head in confidence, "no, you won't. It's because marrying me brings more benefits to you than rejecting me or killing me. And I think you can already see that."

"You are intelligent for sure and are worth befriending but this isn't enough for me to marry you." Mark wasn't convinced yet as he felt that she gains a lot more than him.

If she wants to have a marriage of convenience without any feelings involved, then, he should also treat this as a business. And in business, one should always look at the profits.

To even open a store branch, he asked the king what he gets in return. If it is a love-less marriage, then, he has to see enough returns from a business perspective.

Even if she was intelligent, he could still offset that intelligence with his strength. Not to mention, the system's assistance will open when he upgrades it to maximum rank. So, he might need her advice.

As for the Western Moon kingdom, if he wants to rule it, he can topple it down at any moment. His current prowess could make that a reality.

And once again, the princess anticipated this exact reaction from him. Seeing that he was considering the marriage, the princess felt happy and she decided to make her next move.

She rose to her feet right away and said, "I knew that it might not be enough. That's why I have prepared something else that will surely convince you. Follow me."

The princess started to walk toward the exit. Mark followed her.

They walked for about ten minutes, eventually, reaching the treasury room, which is guarded by a team of 5-circle and 6-circle realm experts.

Chapter 320 Will Mark Agree To Marry Princess Shen Ling?

Both of them entered the treasury. Mark saw millions of gold coins spread around like sand with jewelry and gems found here and there. However, they didn't impress him a bit as he had more wealth at the moment.

The princess then reached a wall with a huge handprint on it as if it belongs to a giant. "This is our secret armory." She introduced it as she placed her right hand on the print.

The wall door slid to the left, revealing a chamber with weapons arranged on the walls.

There are about 110-120 of them and every single of them is a semi-divine/earth-grade weapon.

As Mark inspected them, he found that several of them are actually in Ruby grade, which is like a high-quality semi-divine weapon.

Along with that, he spotted something else. There was a common factor in every single weapon.

He asked her curiously, "You managed to get your hands on Adamantium metal?" All of them varied in percentages, some of them have 10% Adamantium, some of them have 22%, and the highest one has a 41%. But, it is clear that Adamantium metal is used in every weapon.

"Indeed, you have special eyes like I assumed," Shen Ling let out a satisfactory smile as she praised him. She then said, "Yes, they are made of Adamantium. Now, please follow me. I'll take you to our greatest treasure."

Shen Ling then went to another corner of the room with five levers in different colors attached to the wall.

Pointing at them, she explained, "Each of these levers can be moved in three positions, up, down, and middle. So, there is a total of 729 possible combinations out of which only 1 combination will work out. The combination will be changed often. So, it will be a bit tricky to open this.

And if you fail three times in a row, the seals will be activated and the toxic gases will be released from all the sides, knocking anyone under the legendary realm. So, even if we are careful to never open this lock."

"Can't you just destroy the wall with brute force? It looked like it is just made of bricks," asked Mark. He felt like she was bragging too much about that security.

To which, the princess shook her head as she was setting the levers in their positions, "but no one knows where the door really is and no one had any knowledge about these levers. Only my father and I know about it and we two are the only ones with access."

swoosh

The door slid to the left once again, but this time, it revealed a staircase to the underground.

"Come."

Mark followed her to the underground cavern.

While walking forward with a fire torch in her hands, she explained that this place was once used by her ancestor to escape from the palace with his family when he lost the war against invading forces.

Later on, this was used by the kings and princes to go out in secret. And now, it is completely sealed to anyone else because of their secret treasure.

Mark's curiosity only increased. He wondered what might be the treasure she wants to show him.

After making several lefts and rights for 15 minutes, they eventually reached the center of the cavern with a huge boulder sitting in the middle.

Because of enough lighting in this place, Mark got a clear look at the object. It was as big as 200 meters wide and 100 meters big.

"This is the treasure I told you about. This thing dropped into this land from the sky about a century ago and ever since then, it was stored in this place." As Shen Ling introduced the object, Mark walked forward with a look of shock on his face, "it is a fucking meteorite, and a high-quality one at that."

The system might be in the middle of an upgrade but his Sage eyes are still working the same just as with other skills.

Just a while ago, he found the info of those semi-divine weapons through the same method, not that he had some special eyes or something like the princess thought.

Type-E Meteorite

Grade: N/A

Status: partly destroyed.

Composition: Adamantium, iridium, palladium, platinum, rhodium, ruthenium, rhodium, metallic iron, silicate minerals, graphite, iron carbides, and others.

Description: A Type-E meteorite made up of an Adamantium alloy and other minerals.

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"Damn. She has really kept a great treasure." A look of greed clearly displayed on Mark's face as he stared at the boulder.

Shen Ling caught that and she proceeded to say, "Our kingdom has a bit of a different marriage tradition from your Phoenix Empire, Lu Zhen. Instead of the groom's family, the bride's family will be the ones to give the dowry to the groom.

And my father wanted to hand over this treasure to the Kun Empire as my dowry. But if you marry me, this will be yours to keep. Along with this dowry, you will naturally have the access to all the resources our kingdom has to offer.

Once I become the ruling queen, every bit of this kingdom will naturally belong to you. So, I reiterate that this marriage will only benefit you a lot."

By now, even Mark was convinced completely. That boulder is enough for him to put aside his reservations about everything and marry her. But, before agreeing to it, he must also inform her that he cannot compromise on a few things.

He then asked, "Everything is good but the main problem still existed. I will leave for another realm after my work is over. I might visit this place once in a while but I'm not gonna stand beside you at every minute as a normal husband does. What will you do about that?"

"As long as you visit me once a week or atleast a month, that's fine with me," replied the princess immediately, feeling excited that she had almost succeeded in achieving her current goal.

Mark asked the next question, "I probably will not be able to love you even in the future. Will you be okay with that?"

"Of course," Shen Ling nodded. "I'm okay as long as I was treated as a good friend. You can do that much, right?"

"I always thought that one shouldn't marry more than once. But, if I take this step, I might also have thoughts of marriages with other women in the future. Are you okay with it?" asked Mark.

Shen Ling's smile widened as she agreed to the terms once again, "I'll be fine. In fact, I recommend you do that. Marrying to increase the alliances is not bad. You will have my full support."

"My final question." Mark turned serious as he talked about the most important matter, atleast, in his view, "What would you have done if I had killed you on the spot and steal this treasure for myself? My secret would be safe and I would gain the meteorite for free. Unlike earlier, I have lots to gain from this act."

However, the princess didn't flinch a bit. Her smile didn't fade away from her face as she said, "If I planned to share my life with you, I should trust you with atleast this much, right? If I'm wrong, then, that's my fate. Well, I hope that you realize how much of a gamble I made to showcase my sincerity.

If you still aren't interested, then, I will think that it is my fate. After all, I have nothing else to convince you anymore."