

## The Noble 201

Chapter 201: Art of Radiance

\*\*\*\*\*

'good, that's helpful.'

Understanding what I had to do, it was my turn to act, I watched as the siege began. I was at the side rear. I was surprised that they didn't use mercenaries as cannon fodder to go to the front, I still didn't fully understand the culture of the kingdom I'm in.

The soldiers and knights of the kingdom were the ones at the front of this assault and they were moving forward towards the front walls carrying artifacts that seemed to affect, at least temporarily, the barrier and achieve some effective attacks.

Well, for now our side seemed to have the advantage. I don't know much about war, beyond the general knowledge my alternate self gave me.

Things about the art of war, strategies and so on, are subjects I never concentrated on studying. I'm not even sure if I'm fit for it, even with knowledge. But that's not important now.

I slowly scanned the place and found the dwarf who was leading us if I wasn't mistaken his rank was lieutenant colonel, I didn't remember his name or even if he said it. He was in battle position, but he was not moving, as if he was waiting for his turn to attack.

I guess, once the soldiers get tired or are at a disadvantage, they will use us. I slowly approached it. I had to be careful, as every now and then a siege weapon or stray magic would randomly fall in our vicinity, even if we were not actively attacking. For the enemy the important thing was to reduce the number.

Once close, I spoke to him:

"lieutenant colonel, I have something to report to you."

I spoke from the side. He looked at me for a moment, as if he did not understand why I was talking to him in this situation, in a moment from bewilderment he passed to anger and seemed about to yell at me so that I would not entertain him in this tense situation, but I did not let him speak and went quickly to the point

"I have an ability that allows me to see the weak points of barriers. If it's helpful, I..."

"What!!! Is there anything as helpful as that? You're not supposed to declare things like that when you register as a mercenary. The higher-ups wouldn't pass up such a useful skill. Did you lie?"

He looked surprised, and his eyes filled with suspicion at me. Well, yes, he's right. It's not like I listed all my skills when I registered. I only put affinity for lightning, and my real self only put affinity for plants.

Swoosh

I suddenly shook my head to the side the reason was that a damn arrow coming towards my head,

'Really, one can't lose concentration for a moment here. Oh, what was I on?'

"Oh, I'm sorry. I have circumstances... And well, I just wanted to know if my skill was useful now."

Yes, it was risky what I was doing. But, after all, I'm a Doppelganger, and I'm not even from this place. Besides, if I'm not mistaken, they'll use whatever it takes, no matter how suspicious it looks.

"girl, are you sure you're not lying? Because, if you are, your head could roll in this situation."

"I assure you. In fact, we can break it in an instant with the help of 8 or 10 mages who have overcome 5 existence barriers."

I acted with certainty, to make my point clear, if things went well this would be the first step in my plans and it would also help my real self get to our target faster, my gaze did not waver and the dwarf and I

stared at each other, I saw how he also blocked an arrow without even looking at it. He actually looked like someone who had been in more than one war.

"Well, child. In fact, the situation is not so good. They only have the basic barriers now, but they are likely to form more. You can see how they are not using half of their mages. Once that happens, if they're counterattacking, they'll put us in a difficult situation."

Oh!, I thought we were at an advantage, but we weren't. Well, if I thought there was a big chance before, now it was a given that it would work.

I saw him pull out what looked like a small tube with a yellow gem at the tip. If I'm not mistaken, it's a communication device.

As I thought, it spoke to someone and reported back to me. A few seconds after a silence...

[Bring it].

I heard the voice of the gem, and immediately the dwarf led me to what seemed to be the hottest and most intense place. Arrows and magic rained down uncontrollably. Defensive counter-attack and attack magic was being created on our side.

Squires were blocking the mages and archers tightly, while infantry were advancing with siege machines, pounding on the gate and disrupting the barrier.

In fact, I noticed that some were kamikazes and sacrificed themselves by opening a hole temporary in the barrier for a coordinated volley of arrows and magic to hit them with an attack that killed many of the opposing team's mages and archers. It was an intense siege.

I looked a little further back and there seemed to be some people carrying what looked like magic cannons. That would definitely hit the barrier hard, but apparently they needed to position themselves and charge at the right time.

They were not yet active, and it was likely that more barriers would be created by then.

Certainly, I still couldn't clearly understand who was at an advantage or disadvantage, by my own judgment and I promised myself to use my new ability to create a thought and leave it studying about the art of war, at least I won't be as lost as I was now.

..

.

"So you're the girl who claims to be the one who can break the barrier."

"I can't break it, but I know where to hit to break it efficiently."

"Oh, that's funny, I don't remember in the historical records that there was a skill like that. Well, this is no time to dig into your situation, fine, tell me where to strike and if it's true, you'll have achievements and rewards. If you lie, I'll make sure you pay the consequences for wasting my time."

"Okay, I need to..."

I answered without a second's hesitation, I didn't care about the consequences, but if I lose trust here, the plan would become complicated and even impossible.

Quickly and without any resistance, he followed what I asked and gathered even more mages five metamorphosis, than I asked for.

The area was relatively safe, as many squires and mages protected us and not one, defensive weapon, arrow or spell came.

It was certainly helpful not to use morphogenesis to disguise myself, I looked with my eyes of lust, just to confirm and indeed it was the same as I saw from the inside and my real self had already done all the analysis.

"Good, on my signal you will cast your strongest and fastest piercing spell in the same direction and place as me..."

Without waiting for an answer, I began to circulate mana through my body following the path set by the art.

Noticing the exact moment was not the point; I needed to predict, as by the time the magic arrives, which I did not know how fast they would be, it is possible that the weakness will change places.

It's a matter of seconds, when minimum 2 and if I'm lucky, 5. That's why I need to be clear before the time.

I waited until when finally according to my calculations and those of my real self the weakness should appear, in two seconds in a straight direction to where we were and the point almost closest to us at the barrier, I completed the circulation of the second art I practice.

"Art of Radiance, Third Stance: Sanctified Piercer."

I had to control what I could show of myself, as a basis for the future and decided this was enough. Immediately a crystal spear formed in my hand. the art of lust was the most powerful attack art I had, but it was not the only one; my alternate self, from the beginning, left me a breath and a martial art.

Both seemed to have been used by him and were undoubtedly of high level. That's precisely the breathing that my clone practices to keep the doppelganger stable, although it doesn't improve me since it's my doppelganger who practices it.

but although the mana gained is not reflected in my experience and the mastery has advantages, such as passive mana recovery even when I'm doing other actions.

The other was a combat art; my alternate self, tired of being a pure mage, started walking down that hybrid path between a warrior and a mage, and this was the result: something he created himself and I would say is my original art... that I would use if it weren't for how powerful the art of lust was

The crystal spear in my hand flew at a great speed; magicians who had good magical perception immediately released their spells as fast as my spear of light flew.

My spear was supremely faster than any spell and, when it arrived...

Pwoof

did nothing to the barrier; in fact, the barrier took effect and absorbed the magic as if it were nothing, there was not the slightest difference with other attacks.....

"...."

Chapter 202: I swear I'll find another egg

But before they even looked at me to find some response to the possible lack of what was supposed to be a weakness.

I paid no attention to them and looked at the spells that followed the path that my crystal spear passed before.

The spells that followed behind my spear, I assumed, would have tracking runes built in, as they didn't know exactly where it was going to hit, when I cast it. I must say, I expected nothing less from mages over five metamorphoses.

Bamm! Bang Bomm! crack

With almost two seconds delay, they began to impact. They did not emit the dull sounds they made when they hit the barrier, like my crystal spear, which did not seem to do the slightest damage.

They were clear impact sounds that seemed to really affect those barriers that was a three-in-one. The cracks began to form, and since not all mages were the same; some spells began to arrive later, but with the first three impacts that caused a rupture, they managed to lock the weak point during the time it took to repair.

¡CRACK!¡TINK! !SHATTER!

Immediately the hits from different elemental magics kept impacting, and even before they all hit on the eighth impact, like sound of shattering shrieking glass, the barrier shattered as if you stung a colossal bubble, dropping small fragments that fell apart and became motes of mana before even touching the ground.

"....." (humans)

"....." (demons)

Silence from both sides pervaded the place. The barriers used for the war were difficult to break quickly, unless they invaded by making small breaks and reached the center of the formation to undo it, it was almost impossible to break it quickly from the outside.

Until now, breaking barriers without affecting their core only occurred when defenses were deficient, or when powerful mages and siege weapons, after many hits to the barriers, could finally break them.

This was a barrier that even magic cannons would have difficulty breaking. They were military grade barriers for a prolonged war, they should not be easily broken, especially by some ordinary mages.

Everyone smart enough to understand this drew a blank, and those who didn't were only impressed with the unexpectedness of the situation.

"Attack, don't hold back! Team Cold Steel Rhino, go ahead, make your way to the gate! Team Ducks Reapers, immediately attack the siege teams!"

The silence was broken by the general at my side. giving orders, quickly, Those names sounded very good, and I noticed at once that among the many groups of squires one particularly formidable and strong one came forward.

The aura they emitted was powerful, and I would say they were all at least 8+ metamorphoses. Their equipment also looked heavy and wrecking, as if each one was a wrecking ball.

Each one began to accelerate and have a momentum that seemed to shatter everything in its path, with those shields that seemed to have a triangular tip like a rhino's horn.

As I thought at the time, without even hesitating, they crashed against the door and even against the walls, causing a roar that shook the place. I was also impressed to see how several shadows, which were especially agile, climbed on the walls and seemed to start taking control of the ballistas before they used them.

After that, the general began to advance, followed by everyone. The barrier was the biggest obstacle, now, in this world of magic, it was as if they had basically been left totally vulnerable.

well now i would stay close to this captain general, and do my part, but it makes me wonder what i was doing watching uncomprehendingly, the barrier breaking. being myself the author, and by that i meant the real me.

'hey wake up it's time to run'.

\*\*\*\*\*

'Fuck, this is no time for that, it's time to run.'

I finally reacted, I had been a bit distracted by the barrier breaking, luckily I was already as close as possible to the back entrance of this battle front. It was time to flee, now it was a hunt for humans against demons, and I was a demon at the moment.

I had to make sure I made it to the rift. After all, that was my goal in doing all this.

Luckily, everything behind in front of me was forest, leaving aside the main road, which was narrow and the size of a street where methods of transporting supplies came and went, as well as reinforcements.

After all, this terrain was not made for formations or fights between armies. For the demon side, it was more convenient, if they couldn't cross in numbers, in case this front fell.

But it is more common that, when that happens, the number of defenders was so few that it would affect more the enemy.

However, with the sudden chaos that even the one in charge could not handle, all the mercenaries who did this for money began to run again, as well as some of the weaker-willed soldiers, encouraging those who hesitated.

For a moment, I thought the general was going to die fighting for the front, since when I saw him before, he looked like that kind of guy, but....

Swoosh!!

Before I even realized it, I was running away with what looked like an elite squadron on their mounts, which were some kind of hybrid horse with scales from some reptile. They were even faster than before.

I couldn't even catch up to them with my top speed, but I wasn't going the main way. In fact, I decided, even though I had more obstacles, to go through the forest.

swoosshh!

Excellent decision, because shortly after that happened, a fast squadron of humans riding something resembling a velociraptor was behind, and they were as fast as scaled horses.

When I saw how fast they were, I once again regretted that Seraphina hadn't chosen a species I could at least use as a mount.

'I swear I'll find another egg and create a damn Zorynth dragon, or Velkuris... Oh! I heard the soul Roc could turn intangible and they're fast, they'd be great too.'

After making the decision to get a good mount as soon as I could, I started to run, as my life depended on it. Then I remembered all the advantages that my platinum ticket would bring me and went on with more desire.

..

.

I ran at my top speed for about two hours. It was intricate and difficult terrain, and I made sure to check it out with my doppelganger, which was now at the centre of maximum strength on that side.

I was confident that I could escape as long as I didn't run into a group of humans with nine metamorphosis. I had also cast some dark and light spells to conceal myself in order to be as inconspicuous as possible.

Since I had more than three times my mana currently, it was easier for me to maintain them, even though my body seemed to be wearing out from the resonance.

But I also felt how my high vitality helped me hold my own, and having a better physical recovery than the weight of carrying two resonances was a perfect balance.

But if I got hurt too much and needed vitality for that, it would start to affect me more than would be helpful. Even though the resonance gives me more vitality to begin with, I feel it's contradictory, but that's the way the skills are.

Maybe what was consuming the resonance wasn't even vitality or anything like that, but rather something different, that no existing memory of mine, can explain, it's not something that can be easily explained, considering the history of this world, if it was easy to explain my alternate self would know.

..

.

Finally, I reached the beginning of what looked like the mountain range. I could already see the rift more than clearly and realized that indeed, even without that incident, war was inevitable.

In this age of the gods these two kingdoms, and even the entire continent, were unlucky, having their respective rifts so close to each other.

Stop using active resonance and I approached what, in the place of the humans, would be the last stronghold of the demons before war came to their world, which would already be a loss in itself, taking them out of the ultimate treasure of each age of the gods of this world.

But that's none of my business. as far as I know, it's inevitable and I'm just trying to speed things up.

..

.

"Name"

"Lothrek"

"Affiliation"

"Khaemdras Warriors, Squad 7."

"Reason for being here."

There I was, passing the check before entering the fortress, which was built between three mountain ranges that faced the rift, after waiting in a line of those entering. Demons were not irrational beings, thirsty for blood and war.

To me, demons were almost the same as humans, with a slightly different culture and structure, and you could see how, like humans, they had a check in and check out.

Although they should have known that we were all fleeing because the Humans had defeated a battle front, they kept order as much as they could, although they could feel the agitation in the air, but without panic.

Everyone was doing their job and, even in this emergency situation, they were controlling one by one the demons who wanted to retreat and not continue the war, which now seemed lost. But I was already prepared for this.

"I want to withdraw from the war."

"show me your ID, and activate it."

"...."

It seems he was not as prepared as I thought, what he said caught me off guard, as I did not understand what he was referring to.

Chapter 203: My lucky golden ticket.

I quickly searched through the memories I took from the guy I'm supplanting. Before I had only skimmed through to find out his name and affiliation, thinking that was all that was necessary.

Now I had to search him thoroughly, to find out what he was referring to quickly. Many memories flooded my mind.

If it was when I had just one metamorphosis, I might have vomited from the information overload, but now it was different.

I quickly pushed aside his entire childhood and the fact that this particular breed was born as if they were potatoes, which was curious to see.

And, how even though it wasn't necessary, the guy had found love and planned to marry a girl who had a mask just like him, since she was of the same race.

Yeah now I feel a little bad, but then I saw how this race liked to make sacrifices to grow in power and I saw that it was a tradition for the women to sacrifice the husband on the same wedding night, and I got over it.

I finally found the memories I needed, and before the guy in front of me did anything, because his face now had serious suspicions towards me, I pulled something out of storage that I'm going to throw away later, since there's a lot of stuff in there that I honestly don't even want to look at.

I knew this breed was especially peculiar, but now I'm regretting pulling out his memories, and I think it will leave me with traumas. Luckily, there was a soul magic that could wipe memories. Once I don't need them, I'll erase them forever.

Concentrating and extracting the demonic mana whose source was now the stone in my chest, I put it on the card, which made a hologram and began to display information about me, and it matched what I had previously said.

These guys were even more advanced in this regard than the humans in the other realm, I didn't think they would have this kind of magical technology.

"Hum, right. You will be fined for abandoning the assignment, but since it has justification, it will be alleviated a bit. Are you okay with this?"

"Yes..."

"Good, you can come in. Someone will soon come and guide you."

He didn't even doubt me, despite being masked, nor did he make me take off my mask, and that's the reason I chose this species.

It was a race that was born of the cursed earth and carried a curse all their lives, but they also developed a natural restraining mechanism: the mask.

This began to grow at puberty, and the mask contained and absorbed the curse they carried.

This is why it is known that you should never ask this species to remove its mask. Not counting their natural curse, the one accumulated in the mask is something that is not known exactly how dangerous it is.

That is why no madman would impersonate them, and wear their masks, which are unmistakable because of the aura they emit.

..

Following his instructions, I passed what looked like the second line of defense and crossed a bridge connecting two mountains. As I looked down, only a dark abyss loomed in sight.

It made me wonder how humans could get past this, and looking ahead I saw a second wall with cannons and such on its second wall.

'Humm, if I want them to be of help, then a way must be found. No....., maybe they already have it.'

I kept gathering as much information as I could while looking at the surroundings of this fortress .

"hey keep walking, why are you stopping".

"o sorry I got a little distracted."

But I wasn't the only one . While the demons didn't seem to be actively recruiting mercenaries, there were certainly a decent amount, and I wasn't the only one who wanted to leave, because it seemed like we had a lot of disadvantage in this war and it wasn't worth risking so much of our lives for money.

Or at least, that's what most of the retreating mercenaries are thinking. Some may be survivors of larger groups and lost important comrades. Anyway, the more demons we retreated, the better.

On the way, I saw how many soldiers and knights looked at me and the whole group with disapproving faces, but I easily ignored them.

I had to go through two more checkpoints. Luckily, I had all the bases covered, the anti-human barriers were very powerful and advanced even with all my knowledge and Elena's help it would be difficult, without spending a lot of time, resources and effort, that's why I didn't bring anyone else with me.

On the way I saw known demons of the identity I am using, but luckily the aura was gloomy and silent, as no one was happy to retreat, as they would lose money and be called cowards, who chose life over their race.

And luckily no one approached me until the end, I didn't want to inspect the memories of that guy again, I barely and have restrained myself from throwing up, before.

..

.

I was finally able to cross to the other side of the portal. I took a deep breath and noticed again that there was a change in the mana in the air.

It was a more turbulent and chaotic mana, but my body, currently that of a demon, was receiving it well. I looked ahead and, again, a fortress was some distance away.

We didn't have to do any more procedures. Without entering the fortress, they let us go without caring what we did next.

Of the few things I know about what I knew, I alternate about where my platinum ticket was located.

The second ideal scenario is that he was in the middle of escaping his family, and the third and most difficult is that He should be held by the lord of the border city to the in-between world, basically the nearest city, to the rift, ignoring the fortress I just passed that was exclusively for military use.

The schedules have gotten a bit convoluted for me, as I don't remember when I arrived, but in the middle world it was still daytime. As far as I know it was always reverse of the schedules of both worlds and, by the fact that I see a light on the horizon, which, if I'm not mistaken, is sunrise.

In this world the sunlight was grayish and although for those of this world it would be a beautiful clear day, from my point of view the sky gave the sensation of being eternally cloudy because of the opacity and the grayish color.

Honestly, in my opinion, I feel that it is a sad and dark world, but not enough to have complaints. If I am not mistaken, it is now Monday and the second day.

I haven't slept, but now I can sustain several days without. Sure, the mental drain doesn't make it worth it, but if it's for one night, that's okay. With that in mind, I went with the flow of people.

If they're going somewhere, it's probably the city. I watched along the way as people who looked like the reinforcements made their way to the fortress, from infantry to mounted cavalry, as well as several wagons that looked like they were carrying important people.

Finally, after two hours of walking at the leisurely pace of the group I followed so as not to attract attention, I caught a glimpse of the city.

"Well, I think this is the city of Tyravok. I got here many days earlier than I thought."

Arriving so quickly made me think positively. In fact, it was only the second day and I was already halfway there. After all, maybe giving William so many beatings made some of his luck rub off on me somehow.

'Not for nothing is he my lucky golden ticket.'

...

..

.

'Fuck, William! I curse you and your fucking luck.'

I cursed William and his luck, which now I definitely didn't want to have, the reason being the being in front of me.

---

Name: Akihara Kyūbō

Race: Inosuto

Rank: Deep Connection

Gender: Female

Stats:

Strength: 3,220

Mana: 2,890

Agility: 2,650

Defense: 3,100

Vitality

: 9,450

Skills:

Affinity with Hellfire (A)

Blood Shield (A)

Regeneration (B)

Summoning (B)

-----

"Glup."

Now I remembered that, accompanied with William's luck for fortunate events, there were also unforeseen and unfortunate events. Although it is still a kind of luck, as it made him stronger when he went through it.

But looking at that state, I can't even imagine how the hell I'm going to win against that, and I definitely don't have William's protagonist power, What I had in front of me was not something I could handle at all.

This world is not gentle at all, and in an oversight, it shows you its fangs. When I got here I thought I was prepared, but I had underestimated what this plan of mine really entailed, and I should have taken into account that something like this could happen when I decided to execute it.

And by rushing it, I ended up having in front of me someone with whom, no matter how hard I look, we are nowhere near being in the same league.

'What was my status again? I think I'm barely hitting two hundred.'

I realized that his stats were so high that even if I added up the values of mine with demonization and resonance activated, which was the strongest I've ever been, I couldn't even get to his lowest stat.

I felt insignificant and oppressed in front of her. It seemed like a losing battle.

'Fuck it all, if I'm going to die, I'm taking her with me. It's all or nothing, I'll never know if I don't try, it's just numbers, I can do it, I'm not going to let her bully me.'

But I couldn't go on like that. I auto-suggested, and determinedly prepared myself to face the biggest challenge I've had so far. I stepped forward and...

smack!

But before I even took a step, a dull thud sounded. I barely understood that I was the recipient of the blow which was on my cheek. It was so quick and decisive that I couldn't even react until the pain hit.

"Did I say you could move?"

Came the authoritative voice of the woman, who was at least two heads bigger than me at this point.

I wonder if this is how Eira feels when she has to look me in the face. Now I understand a little how she always seems angry at everyone. Poor thing must feel oppressed being small.

'Humm... That's probably why Chihuahuas are also.... No, concentrate, this is no time to think about nonsense.'

That blow was so strong that I ended up thinking about the fragility of the Chihuahuas' existence, but finally I put my thoughts in order, I had to worse all my attention and concentration on how to overcome this situation, In which I got myself, myself, when only two and a half days ago, I was just looking for my platinum ticket, without thinking that I would meet in front of such a big wall.

#### Chapter 204: Information

'Those are certainly powerful barriers.'

As I stood in line to enter the city and do a check again, I noticed that the barriers were especially powerful and varied, which I expected from a fixed city.

I had already felt it, but the standard of these realms is superior to that of the Avaloria realm, and their technology in protective barriers was a reflection of this.

No one wanted infiltration or internal attacks from their enemies, especially in a city, so they put a lot of effort into it. Just by me glancing over it, I realized that there were many barriers that detected humans in different ways.

From the more standard ones, which check for pure mana from humans, to rarer ones that register human heartbeats, something most demons don't have, as cores replace it.

The good news is that these detection barriers only work when you walk through them. Once inside, I didn't have to worry.

Although I also noticed that there were barriers blocking things inside the protected area, such as anti-spell barriers for appearance changing and illusions. I even noticed that there were anti-space magic barriers, very powerful ones, that affected everything inside the barrier.

I registered them, as they were an important factor in all my plans. It was a very advanced barrier and, from what I could gather, all space magics, whether by affinity, runes or artifacts or weapons, were absolutely suppressed, except for one.

The only exception seemed to be storage bags, which were used on a day to day basis by the more wealthy or powerful people.

Looking at how strict they were, I noticed that they could be an inconvenience, both to me and even to the authority figures of this city. However, I realized that the higher-ups would probably have some sort of key that would make the barriers not affect them.

since having a space artifact or two to save them is something that people of means always secure. If I could get me one of those keys, everything might be simpler.

..

.

Again, I got through the registration and barriers without any problems, and once inside, I started to act. I don't know how everything will turn out specifically; I need to gather information again, as I am only working with the report my alternate self received and the details, too many were missing including the exact date of the events.

With that in mind I immediately headed for a less crowded alleyway as soon as I saw it. There, I finally took off that mask that had curses on it, purified it, along with the storage bag and destroyed them.

I finally eliminated those memories that I felt were going to drive me crazy, I just hope I never have to steal the memories of a race like this again. And finally I undid the demonization.

Once that was done, I immediately activated morphogenesis, changing my appearance to an image I had been visualizing for a long time for a situation like this.

While barriers blocked disguise spells and artifacts, abilities were not included in this. It was the same with the academy, which had an anti-disguise barrier but didn't block abilities morphogenesis or like Aurora's Mask of Illusions.

My skin became a little paler, or rather, grayish. My hair went back to black and my appearance was more adult, looking decent, but without attracting too much attention.

Black horns protruded from my head, curved to the sides, and my tail appeared again; it was hairier and thicker than when I was demonized.

Everywhere I looked, I was a demon. The difference was that it was only in appearance. If I passed through the barriers like that, I would definitely be detected.

The Khaemdras race is a race that is not convenient, as they are semi-repudiated by other demons, let alone demons that have pure blood.

The only reason they are accepted is because they are intelligent and can socialize and reason, even though their culture is more of monsters than demons.

But there are many who don't accept them yet, and if I meet an extremist, it would be dangerous. Such madmen exist everywhere.

Now, what I became the Umbraelis, is one of those races that call themselves 'pure blooded'. It is a race that, as far as I know, is the most abundant in number and can still be called pureblooded, so I will not draw attention to myself and I have many benefits just for being of this race.

I left the alley. Following the same pattern, I headed to a bar because I realized that, truly, when people drink liquor, information flows without even asking.

But I needed to be more selective, so I went to a high-class bar. I had to be sure and understand which of the two scenarios I am facing: the second or the third.

I had to gather as much information as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I found out my mother wasn't my real mother, sniff... I was fooled my whole life."

"What, are you kidding! Mrs. Elma isn't your mother? Then you're not Mr. Steven's son either, you're adopted?!"

"No, you idiot! Yes I am my father's son."

"Impossible. Everyone knows how in love the two of them have always been. It is impossible for Mr. Steven to cheat on Mrs. Elma or vice versa even when they were young."

"I'm not the product of a deception, it's a long story, citing that I found out that my mother's name wasn't even Elma, her name was Lucy!"

"What? Explain, you bastard, explain quickly! How is it, that possible, that happened with Mrs. Elma?"

"It turns out that my mother, Elma, or rather Lucy, is a twin sister of my real mother, who died in an incident. She was also in that incident and lost her memory. She didn't remember anything, or who she was."

"No, wait, don't you mean...?"

"Yes. Since they were identical twins, my father, who went to rescue them, didn't know who was who. According to him, they even had the same moles, and it didn't help that she lost her memory."

"Holy hell lord! So does that mean that...?"

"Yes, recently, out of nowhere, she regained her memory and explained everything to us, you know? That happened when I was one year old. Now I'm 57 and I don't even know what to think."

"And so Mr. Steven is going to break up with your mom...? That means she's single now!!... come on buddy, we have to go comfort her!, I'll bring her that flowers she loves so much".

"Why do you look happy? And she doesn't need comforting, That old man loves my mother, aunt?...stepmother?....., like there's no tomorrow...sniff...It didn't even cross her mind that; she was just surprised. But it seems he always had that possibility in mind."

". /\_ \."

"hey idiot, why do you look, sad now?...sniff, whatever. the point is I don't know not what to think, not how to refer to her now that I know this...that's why I came to ask you for some advice, you who are my best friend."

"tsk, I thought this was my chance."

"Huh?!? What are you talking about... don't change the subject, tell me what do you think I should do now?"

\*\*\*\*\*

'damn, I'd like popcorn, that was an interesting story'.

Another time I went to a bar to gather information. I thought I might find more important information. Yes, it was a more expensive bar, but other than stuff about the ongoing war, I found nothing that was relevant.

Nothing except the story about that guy who looks like a gentleman. It was interesting, novel-like, although if I were that guy I would definitely watch out for that friend of his.

It was Tuesday, early at night, and I had been going from bar to bar for almost two days and I hadn't gotten anything.

I thought about lowering the bar and going to taverns and more common places, but that didn't work either and the information was more common and unverified, so I raised the bar again to see if I had any luck, but I hadn't found anything.

I had also gone to several places trying to get information, while I took the opportunity to buy, in this demonic city, things that I could not easily find in the human world, with the money I got, selling some weapons that I did not need and useless things from my storage that I had in excess thanks to William's legacy.

I didn't think I'd get stuck on something like this. Although if I think about it, the information I'm looking for the city lord should definitely keep it absolutely confidential.

But I was hoping to at least hear something that would give me some indication of whether that guy had escaped and was on the run or had already been captured.

That's sensitive information, so it would be rare to find a person talking about it openly. But at least I was hoping for little hints.

Now I'm thinking I came even much earlier than I thought and the guy was still with his family, which would lead me to the fourth and worst possible scenario.

But it's still not certain. And since it was sensitive information, it seems I'm unlikely to find information like that unless I ask. But that could expose me if I do it carelessly.

'haaaah... I can't waste my time anymore. It's all or nothing.'

..

.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Hey, do you know of any place I can run an errand?"

"...what?"

"Yes, you know, I need... come, come closer."

The man, who was the bartender, looked at me without understanding what I wanted to accomplish. But perhaps, because of my race, he played along and came closer.

When he was close enough, I said to him in a whisper:

"You know, a place where I can buy... information..."

"I'm sorry, sir, I'm just a simple employee. I don't understand that sort of thing."

'Tsh, it didn't work.

Bartenders are supposed to be the ones who always know more than they appear to. That guy, if he's not an informant per se, should know where one is.

It was a universal law that I wanted to believe, because, to tell the truth, I don't even know where to start looking for an informant.

He was already the third bartender to intimidate. This one, especially, looked like he was hiding something, so I was more intense.

I looked intimidatingly at the guy to see if it wasn't because I approached the wrong way or something. If they had passwords and all, I had no choice but to use force.

"This... excuse me, sir..."

Just as I was about to show my most intimidating face to the bartender, who was pretending very well to be scared, someone approached me.

"...Wait a minute, I'm having an important discussion here."

"Sir, I hear you want to buy some information. If so, you could leave that part-timer alone. I don't think I can get anything out of him other than the fact that he's having an affair with his cousin's wife."

"Huh!?"

Putting aside the fact that this guy in front of me was scum, I immediately understood the implications of the guy behind me. I turned around and saw a greenish-skinned, black-horned demon.

He was small and, my first impression his face honestly is that he was a hustler, which greatly reduced my enthusiasm. But still, I'm going to give him the privilege of the doubt.

"Sir, if you want to buy information, there is a place you can go. Just follow me. I assure you, inside this city, there is nothing they don't know...believe me, this is not something I tell just anyone. I'm only telling you because it's you. "

"....."

The more I listened to him, the more my image of him as a con man solidified. He seemed nervous and did not exude any confidence.

He was a very dubious guy who approached me and asked me to go to an unfamiliar place, while still showing nervousness.

As much as I thought about it there was only one thing to do in this situation.

"Okay, lead the way."

And that was to follow him.

..

Chapter 205: Place to buy information?"

"So that's the reason everything looks so deserted around here. It's not like we're going to a dodgy place or anything like a trap sir."

"Yes, I understand."

Putting aside the fact that, after about ten minutes of walking, the man was clearly leading me to a more isolated and suspicious place, which, of course, wasn't making me uneasy at all or giving me the slightest urge to turn back.

He told me many interesting things about the city. I didn't know if I was really taking an informant with me, but just for what he told me it was worth coming to this dreary place, where a group of thugs would probably show up at any moment.

Apparently, ten years ago this town functioned as a normal one, dedicated to agriculture and, to some degree, to raising animals for subsistence. But when the crack appeared,

which indicated the possible beginning of the age of the gods, the city was turned upside down, and it was even more definitive, when the crack did not disappear with the passage of time and monsters and beasts began to come out more and more.

Being the closest city to the rift, as it basically appeared in their backyard, the city lord was replaced by one more capable of handling the situation.

The city became a middle ground for traders and adventurers who confirmed that the rift was safe, causing it to prosper, with the riches flowing out of it, under a shrewd policy.

However, a year ago, when the war began, mercenaries and soldiers began to frequent it even more and in large numbers causing a bit of a case to the quiet life of the citizens, who began to feel anxious, and it didn't help that the possibility of le garre finally coming to affect them existed.

This led to more than half of the civilians, approximately 300,000 people, to start moving out. Instead, families of soldiers, more merchants and mercenaries arrived, though not enough to fill the gaps.

This left the city in a state where only the center was adequately occupied, while the residential areas were left semi-empty. The slum areas, on the other hand, are basically abandoned, as those who lived in the slums took the opportunity to move to better and empty places.

This only increased my doubts about where we were going. We were undoubtedly in a slum, and it was supposed to be empty. If they were halfway reliable, they would have occupied a more affluent residence in a better location.

'I know this has to be covert, but still.... Haaah, it's definitely a trap. '

..

.

"Sir, what information do you want to buy? We have everything from the latest from the battlefield to gossip from the local nobility. You can find it all here."

"..."

"What's the matter? Mikail told me you wanted information, didn't he? Since you're not from around here, and because it's you, I'll give you special discount, hoping that our collaboration will extend."

"Wait... Is this really a place to buy information?"

"Sir, this is a legitimate place. Because our headquarters is undergoing renovations, we are temporarily moving to this place..."

I couldn't believe it. Really that shady guy was leading me to a legitimate place.

I had serious doubts as we entered the basement of a ramshackle house in an abandoned slum neighborhood, with no sign of a soul around.

If it weren't for me being the doppelganger, I wouldn't have taken a chance on an obvious trap. I played along to see what he was getting at, as he obviously had ulterior motives.

Even the Resonance showed that I was really nervous and with dubious intentions, but a strange confidence in it led me to decide to take a bit of a risk.

Early on, I started blatantly asking the bartenders questions, not just because they were potential information peddlers, but because I wanted to see if anyone would approach me, which actually happened.

Although I honestly thought the last bartender was the one, in the end I decided to follow the guy who looked absolutely suspicious, I hoped he would drag me to do something to me, and I would take the opportunity to turn them around and get information out of them.

If they had people too strong, I would simply self-destruct. I had already wasted time and was a little impatient; any hint of something was good and I would spare no methods.

But, against all odds, when we got downstairs, the guy gave a signal to the guys guarding the door. Through a gem, they seemed to communicate with someone. After a few minutes, we arrived in front of someone who gave the impression of being the "big boss".

He was one-eyed and had a tobacco or something similar in his mouth. He was of the same race as the guy who guided me, but bigger than me.

'well, let's see how real this is, let's go with what he said before'.

"Wait, before that. how do you know I'm not from around here and what do you mean by 'because it's me'? Also, why did you lead me here?"

"uh!, you want to check our reliability? Well, this one's on the house. You're an Umbraelis, a rare breed around these parts. It's easy, to know if someone of noble blood like you, lives, around here, since I can count them on the fingers of my hands and I know them all."

"Oh!?"

It seems that although the demon race whose form I adopted is the most common among purebloods, they are rare in this place. I forgot to take that into account. I mean, even if they are common, it also depends on the place.

Even humans can be a rare species on certain continents where other races predominate. But at least they're not totally rare here, there are just few of them. That's good.

"And it's always a pleasure to work with your kind. That's why, just because it's you, I'm happy to do business."

Come to think of it, this breed is, in a way, greedy, as those who are not noble, tend to be successful merchants and big businessmen, who when they can spend money extravagantly and inordinately, buying everything they want.

Information about objects and things is always coveted by them and of course, if you work with guys like that, it means that the guy is the real deal.

"And, lastly, I've got my guys all over the bars and important places, you know? Those are the places to collect good, juicy information, and one of my guys recognized you as a possible client."

'I knew it! It's a normal standard to go to bars to collect information.'

The more I listened to this guy, the more I realized that he had common sense, seemed trustworthy, and didn't seem to be lying.

Whether it was his intentions or his body language, everything indicated that what he was saying was true, at least for the most part, which was good enough for me.

"Well, what's the cost?"

"That depends on the quality of the information. We accept gold, gems, weapons and artifacts. The latter have to be evaluated, but one of my guys has a good eye for that. So he'll decide the price."

"Good. I want you to tell me what you know about..."

Quickly, I began to get the information I so desperately needed. It seemed that even this informant was hesitant to tell me that information, but in the end he told me what I needed.

While it is possible that the guy is in contact with important figures, including the city lord, and that he was against me, I didn't care, as my appearance was temporary and I would attack with everything the moment I noticed his intention towards me changed.

\*\*\*\*\*

POV:Big Boss

\*\*\*\*\*

"This, boss, is it okay for me to tell you that information? I know I pay him well, but, still, wasn't that information the one you said you wouldn't sell and that you would feign ignorance if they came to ask you?"

"Yes, but I was referring to the subjects of this place. You know, we searched for over two days for that guy's origins to no avail. We have been watching him to decipher him and his intentions, but we had no results."

"Yes, for some reason, every time he left the bars he would disappear into nothingness and we couldn't even locate him with the best methods we had,".

"yeah, that was suspicious and we put special efforts to find out what it was about, but the only thing we managed to find out from him is that obviously, he was looking for sensitive information, but he was showing it so explicitly, as if he was provoking us on purpose. You know, that guy is dangerous."

"What? But, boss, I just felt he had four metamorphoses, how dangerous can he be?"

"You idiot! I don't mean his personal power, I mean his affiliation. The fact that he appeared out of nowhere, suddenly, in the center of the city is something we shouldn't overlook. I told you to act suspiciously to sound him out and understand him, but to no avail. He followed you, fearlessly, as if he had backup."

"..."

"That he asked just what I thought only confirms it. whoever it is that the lord is holding captive, he's someone important, and he's already started his search. Maybe that guy was a decoy to get us to come over and give them what they needed. That's why I told him everything."

"Sir, but if it was like that, isn't it better not to have made contact?"

"Silly, it was only by chance that we found out about this. If they lost patience, they would eventually get to us, one way or another, after all we are the best in the city at gathering information. If we didn't take the initiative it would be worse. The fact that I started blatantly asking was a kind of last warning."

"Oh, I didn't think that far ahead. After all, you're the boss for a reason."

"we have to prepare . He may come back with more assignments that are more than just information. The next few days could be hectic; we have to take advantage and take advantage of whatever happens."  
"

"Yes, sir. I will call in our Elites."

"also, refuse any commissions that come in, until we are contacted again."