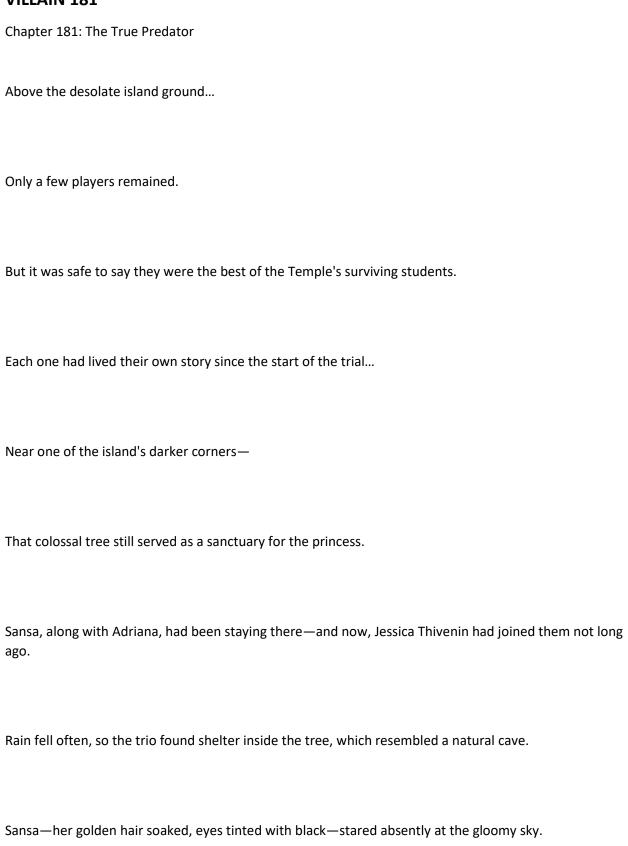
## **VILLAIN 181**



Who knew what occupied her mind at that moment?
No one could say for sure.
"Princess staying out in the rain like this isn't good for you"
"It's fine, Jessica. I like the feeling of rain soaking through me."
Jessica called out to her from inside the tree.
She had tried several times to convince Sansa to come in—but the princess refused.
Adriana, on the other hand, had stayed inside the whole time—quiet and composed, likely because Jessica was nearby.
But Sansa never moved from her place.
The rain washing over her

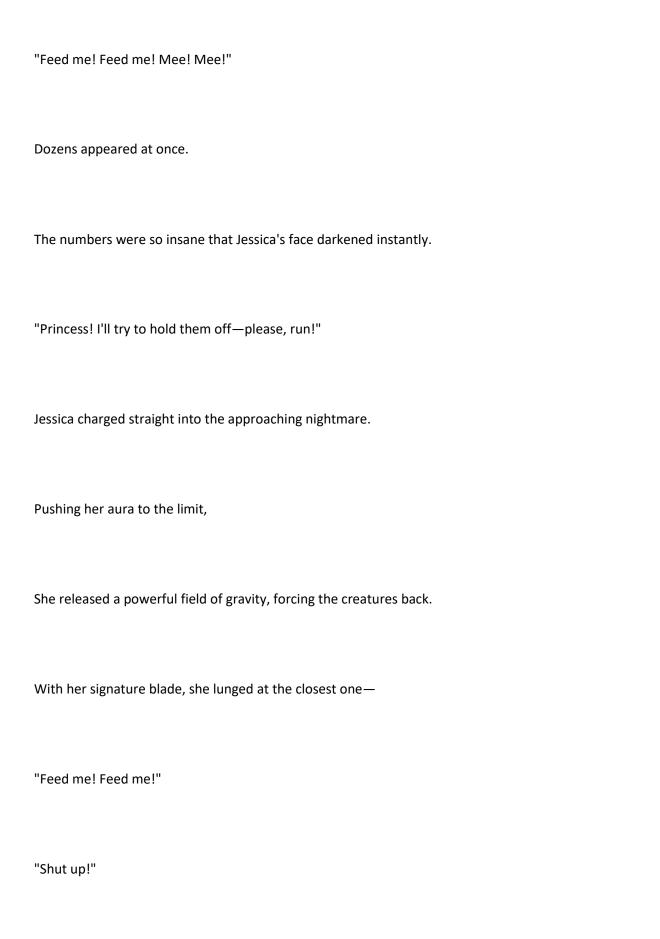


She'd already secured qualification—since the second-years hadn't been particularly outstanding this year.
And so, she remained at the princess's side—to protect her.
"If that's your decision I won't argue."
"Thank you my princess."
Jessica Thivenin treated the princess with deep respect—
But when it came to Adriana, she was cold.
To Jessica, the girl was little more than a leech clinging to the princess for selfish gain,
Even though Sansa had declared her a friend.
Now, the second-year's strongest had already begun to think of ways to get rid of her soon

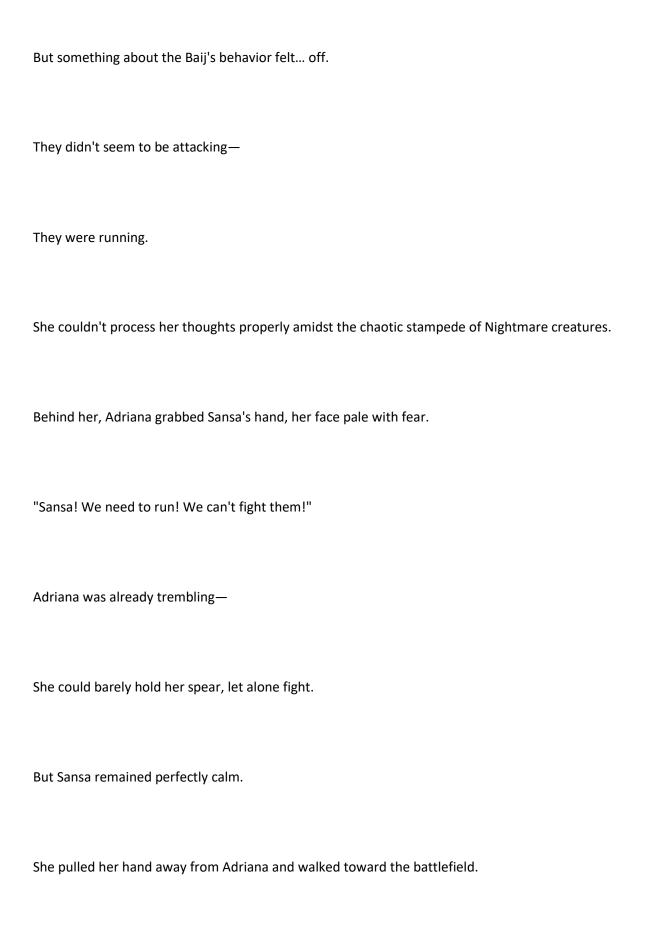
Amid all that—
Jessica's body suddenly tensed.
Both Sansa and Adriana frowned.
They all heard it.
The sound of footsteps—heavy, constant—pounding the earth.
It was growing louder and louder.
Whatever was approaching
There were a lot of them.
Too many.

"Get back, Princess!"

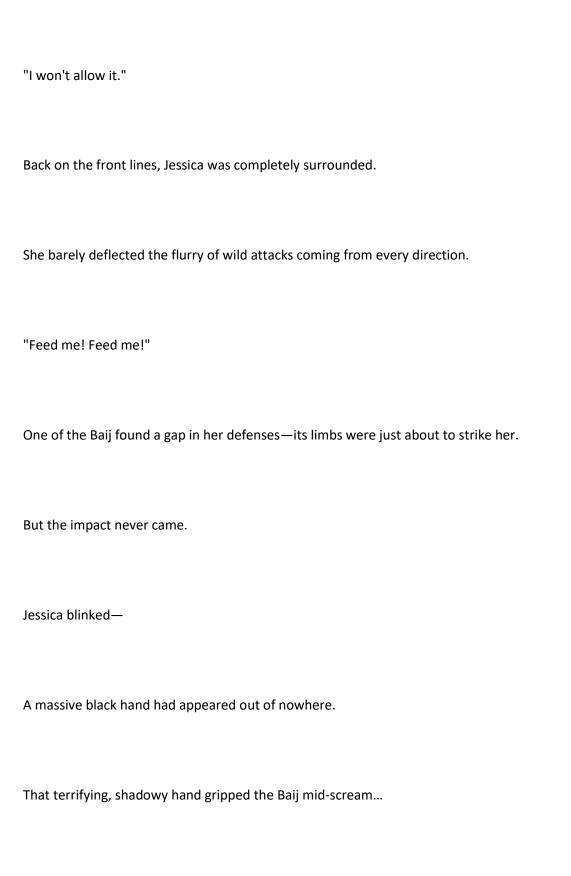
Jessica darted forward, gripping her crescent-shaped sword and placing herself in front of Sansa.
The princess remained perfectly calm.
Behind them, Adriana readied her spear.
"What the hell?"
The sounds were overwhelming—like an army charging their way.
And just a few seconds later—
They finally saw the source.
With multiple limbs and mask-like faces, they were
The terrifying creatures of the Baij.

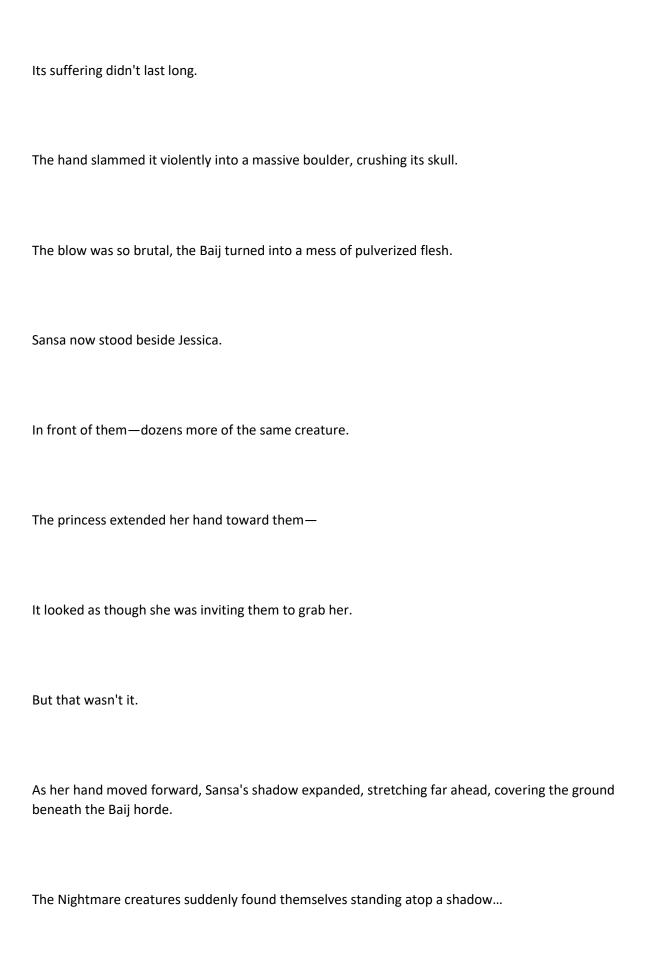


Jessica slashed with ferocity, clashing against the Byge horror.
She had the upper hand.
Her strikes severed its limbs quickly—then she crushed it down with her gravity field.
But that only worked
In a one-on-one fight.
No sooner had Jessica slain one of the Baij, covered in its foul blood, than a massive swarm of the same creatures surged toward her, tearing through her gravity field with overwhelming force.
At this rate she'd be completely devoured.
Jessica was confused.
Why were Nightmare creatures attacking in such overwhelming numbers? It didn't make sense.



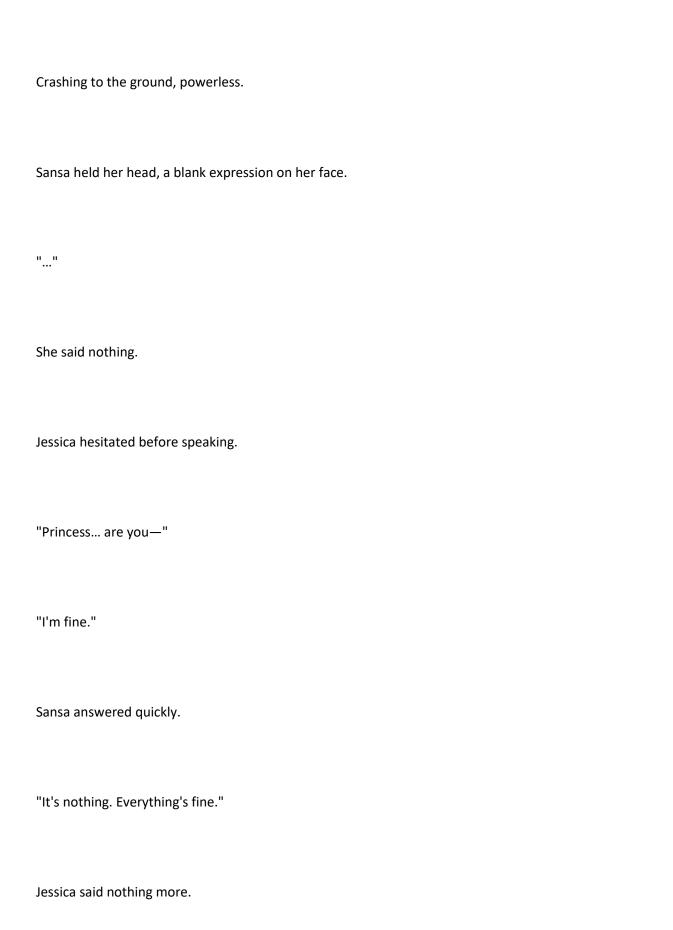




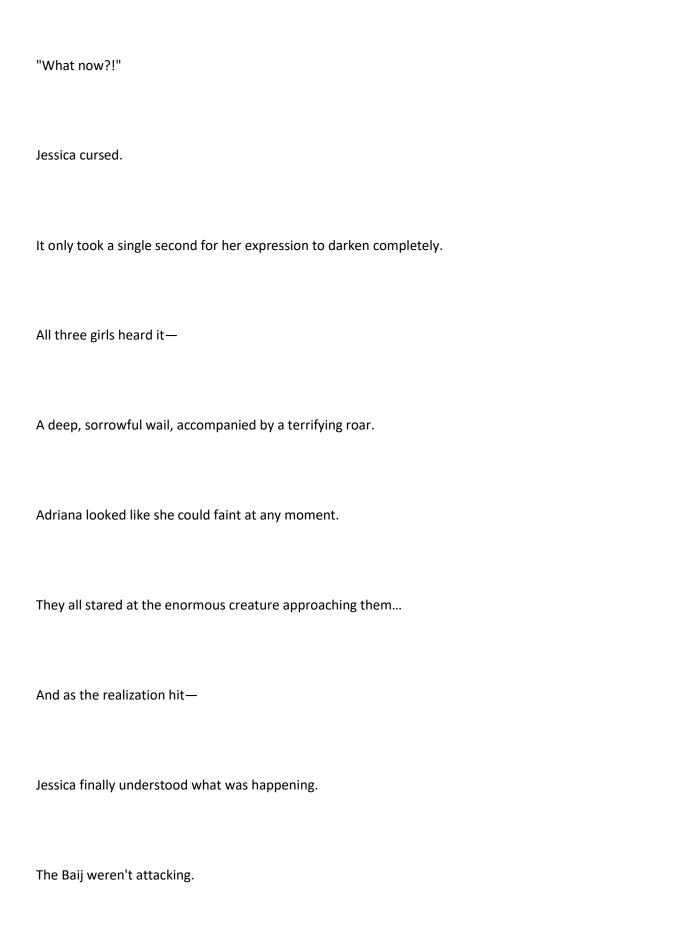


A shadow pulsing with cursed aura.
Then, with another flick of her hand—
The shadow exploded.
Dozens of massive, spear-like tendrils shot up from the ground, piercing through the Baij like mad,
Skewering them into twisted sacks of spikes.
Their bodies were lifted high by the black tendrils,
as streams of crimson blood gushed down the black spears, staining them with a darker hue.
It was a horrifying sight.
Jessica Thivenin stared in disbelief.

The princess beside her still wore the same calm expression
But she looked like a completely different person.
It wasn't just her eyes that had turned black—
Even her golden hair now showed streaks of black.
Jessica didn't know what to do.
So she grabbed Sansa's shoulder—who looked like someone caught in a trance.
"Princess!"
At the sound of her voice—
It was as if Sansa snapped out of it.
The shadow receded, and the impaled Baij fell from the sky—



Neither did Adriana, still trembling behind them.
But they were both likely thinking the same thing
'What was that power?'
The answer was vague
But that aura they had felt—
It sent a chill down their spines, shaking them to the core.
Amid the corpses of the Baij, they didn't even have a moment to think—
When the ground suddenly trembled,
Far more violently than before.



They were fleeing.
Running from a predator far more terrifying.
"The Lady of Eight Legs"
That monstrous being—
With her countless limbs and grotesque spider-like form—
She was now unbelievably close.
They'd been too caught up fighting the Nightmare creatures earlier to notice her presence
And now, she was right there—within reach.
They all froze in place, staring at her.
And she

Stared back.
Dozens of horrific eyes locked onto them.
The Lady of Eight Legs was watching from a distance.
But all her eyes were fixed on just one person—
The princess.
Sansa.
Those black eyes met hers
And the Lady stopped.
Everyone stood frozen, unable to comprehend the scene.

Jessica felt like her heart might explode at any second.
And Adriana—
She had already fainted.
The Lady of Eight Legs remained motionless, simply staring.
Minutes passed.
Then, something strange happened.
She moved.
The Lady of Eight Legs stirred—
But she didn't approach.
Instead, she turned away and left.

Jessica's eyes widened in disbelief, watching the Nightmare creature walk away—
Avoiding them.
She couldn't believe what she'd seen.
With a stunned expression, she turned her head toward the princess—
Who was still staring intently at the Nightmare Lord.
'What just happened?'
'Why didn't she attack?'
Jessica didn't know the answer.
But for some reason
She was certain the reason was standing right next to her.

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The Lady of Eight Legs wasn't the apex predator on this island...