



백작가의
망나니가 되었다.

F U S I O N F A N T A S T I C S T O R Y

Trash of the Count's Family

– 백작가의 망나니가 되었다 –

- Volume 2 -

-Author-

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[**miraclerifle (Wuxiaworld)**]

Chapter 26

You (1)

And not just three average beings. One was a dumb dragon, another was a crazy priestess who wants to be excommunicated, and the third was a punk from Marquis Stan's family.

"Sigh."

Cale could not help but sigh. He dropped his head before lifting it back up again. Once he did, he could see that it had become much quieter. Cale thought the silence was odd, and looked toward Hans.

Hans smiled awkwardly, before stealthily gesturing toward the driver, Tom, and Taylor, who was looking out of the carriage window.

Taylor had a bitter smile on his face as he started to speak.

"If it is inconvenient for your party, we will leave."

The eldest son of the Marquis family, and the son who was pushed out of the family. After his legs became paralyzed, Taylor's life turned 180 degrees overnight, from one of luxury and power, to one where his family gave him just the minimal amount of support needed to survive.

Those nobles, who knew that anyone other than the successor to the Marquis title in the Stan family would die immediately, started to avoid Taylor, finding him to be an annoyance. They even purposefully ignored him in front of Venion or the other siblings to try to curry their favor as well. The current Taylor's situation was even worse than that of a bastard son of a baron's family.

Taylor knew about Cale, the trash of the Henituse family. A luxurious golden turtle as their symbol, as well as being a handsome young man with red hair. There was no one other than Cale who fit that description. Even someone like Count Henituse, who did not join a faction, could find it uncomfortable to associate with someone like him. They

were all like that after his body became paralyzed.

Taylor had remembered the reality of the situation after hearing Cale's sigh. But at that moment.

"Why would you leave?"

Cale walked toward Taylor's carriage with a stoic expression on his face.

"This isn't my property. I wouldn't do something so childish when we are both fellow travelers."

Cale and Taylor made eye contact with each other. Cale then quickly peeked inside Taylor's carriage.

'She is there.'

The crazy priestess, Cage, was observing him from inside the carriage. Cale had read about how her curses were really scary. Some people even said her curses were at the level of a necromancer, the cursed profession.

Cale turned his gaze away from Cage and reached his hand out.

"I am Cale Henituse of the Henituse family."

Taylor gazed at the hand reaching out to him from outside the carriage. He then looked back at Cale's stoic expression.

Click.

Taylor opened the carriage door. Proper etiquette indicated that he should step out of the carriage to return the greeting.

"It is difficult for me to step out because of my legs."

"I am aware."

Taylor looked once more toward Cale, who did not seem to care about the proper etiquette, and shook his hand. It was just a short handshake.

"Nice to meet you, young master Cale."

'Not at all.'

Cale was not happy about this meeting at all. He quickly tried to turn around because he did not want to be introduced to Cage. Unfortunately, Taylor was an extremely respectful person.

"This is my companion, priestess Cage-nim. She is a follower of the God of Eternal Rest."

Eternal rest. This was a term for death. Cale held back another sigh, and looked toward Cage. Cage gracefully greeted him like a proper priestess.

"Nice to meet you, young master Cale. My name is Cage. May the peace of the night always be with you."

'Peace of the night.' That was the general greeting those who served the God of Death gave to the public.

'Peace of the night my ass.'

Forget peace of the night, Cale felt like he wouldn't be able to even sleep properly tonight. He felt like he was drinking lemonade as he looked toward Cage, who was gently smiling.

'She's acting all nice and innocent, even though she finds that to be so annoying. That is the number one reason she wants to be excommunicated.'

She really was good at acting. Cale smiled at Cage, who still had a very stereotypical smile of a priestess on her face, and confidently replied.

"I do not believe in a god."

Cage's gaze became curious. Her gaze seemed to be asking what kind of crazy thing Cale was saying to a priestess, but Cale welcomed it. Cale just wanted her to keep thinking that he was a trash.

"You are an interesting person."

"I guess I am a bit interesting."

Cale just casually responded to her statement and looked around the carriage. It was extremely shabby for the eldest son of a Marquis. Just one knight, a subordinate, who also served as the driver, and the two of them, Cage and Taylor.

'I'm sure he's out of money as well.'

Taylor probably spent a lot of money putting magic tools around the Puzzle City residence.

Since he was not getting much help from the Marquis, he wouldn't really have any emergency funds to use. Taylor was probably doing everything he could to reduce his expenses.

Taylor closed his eyes to hold back the shame while watching Cale look through his carriage. Cale did not put much meaning behind it, and started to think.

'They are probably heading to the capital because of my message.'

It was obvious where they were heading. It was to the capital, to meet the crown prince.

"Hans."

"Yes, young master."

Cale vaguely gave an order to the approaching Hans.

"Help them out."

"Yes, sir."

"Set up a separate meal for them and set up a campsite next to our as well."

He didn't want to eat with them, or even share the same campsite.

"And don't look for me. You take care of everything."

He didn't want to create a situation for them to come into contact with one another. Of course, he felt like things would not go as he wanted.

"Yes, sir. I will serve them like I am serving you, young master."

"Whatever. Go bring me some alcohol."

'Why did he suddenly become so passionate?'

Cale just stared at the suddenly passionate Hans, and slightly bowed toward Taylor as he said goodbye.

"Then I will be on my way, young master Taylor."

"Thank you for your benevolence, young master Cale."

"It was nothing."

Cale turned away from Taylor, who had a curious look on his face. He then immediately headed back to his carriage without looking anywhere else. Of course, he gave an order to the Vice Captain who was walking by his side.

"Looks like they only have one knight. Vice Captain, you take care of their guard duty as well."

"Yes, young master."

Cale verified what the Vice Captain had said to Taylor's knight before getting back on the carriage. It was regarding guard duty at night. Cale verified the knight's expression turning bright before the knight got back onto the carriage.

Click.

The door closed with a loud click. This made everyone turn their gaze toward the closed door of the carriage with the golden turtle crest, before returning to do their duties. Only Taylor and Cage, who didn't really have anything to do right now, just continued to stare at the closed door.

The two kittens greeted Cale inside the carriage.

"I've seen those two people."

"Hong. I was there too."

The kittens, who had been watching everything through the window, slowly approached Cale and sat down next to him before starting to talk to each other. They weren't looking at Cale nor even talking to him, but it was clear that the question was toward Cale.

Cale answered the witty kittens' question.

"Pretend not to know."

"Like the dragon?"

"Yes."

The kittens nodded their heads to show their understanding. Cale watched them nod, before crossing his arms and closing his eyes.

'The Healing Star.'

That was the name of the ancient power he wrote about in the letter to Cage and Taylor. The reason Cale came to know about this power was because of the Plaza Terror incident.

'The Healing Star,' is a single use power that can heal any injury or illness to the body's original, healthy state. The crown prince was in possession of such a power. The deceased queen had given it to him.

During the Plaza Terror incident, the secret organization makes their move once the royal family arrives. Magic bombs across the capital and in the plaza go off at that moment at the same time.

In the novel, Choi Han was only able to stop about half of it. That in itself was amazing, such that the kingdom considered him a hero, but Choi Han himself thought about the lives of the victims of the bombs, making his hatred for the secret organization become even worse.

'At that time, the secret organization installed bombs on some people during the incident.'

Choi Han, along with the genius mage Rosalyn, protected the people from the bombs and helped with their escape. At that time, there was an old man that Choi Han had failed to save.

The man had lost his right arm and leg while taking a bomb off and throwing it away from himself, and this incident had made Choi Han extremely upset. Watching the old man's hurt body, the crown prince thought about, 'The Healing Star.' That was how the power was originally introduced in the novel.

Naturally, the crown prince did not use the power on the old man. Instead, he consoled Choi Han, who was feeling responsible for the old man's death, and raised him up as a hero.

'It is only normal.'

Cale did not think the crown prince made the wrong decision. Who can judge him for wanting to use his power for himself? Of course, Choi Han or Rosalyn would have used it for the old man.

"By the way, is little brother dragon still following us?"

Cale nodded his head at Hong's question.

'Since it is like this, I might as well use the dragon for my benefit as well.'

His original plan was to save him and then be done with him, but if the dragon was going to follow him around the country like a little puppy, he might as well put it to good use. He had already thought about how to use that dragon the last few nights as well.

Cale knew the location of the 5 magic bombs that Choi Han had found in the novel, but he was not sure about the location of the remaining 5 magic bombs that ended up going off.

The five bombs that were located were found by using Rosalyn's genius-level mana detection abilities to find them one by one.

But now, Cale had an existence that was worlds better than Rosalyn at detecting mana following him around like a lost duck.

"Might as well make it work hard."

The kittens flinched at that statement, but Cale did not see it as he was thinking about all of the work he was going to make the dragon do in the capital. The dragon, who had no idea about any of this, delivered a boar to the campsite early in the morning once again.

Cale, who slept in after staying up late planning out the things that needed to be

completed at the capital, went out to verify the boar before noticing an odd atmosphere.

He had eaten and slept in the carriage last night. He was doing his best to not interact with Taylor and crew. That was why he could not understand this odd, and somewhat, dark atmosphere.

“Hans. What is going on?”

Hans put on an awkward smile and greeted Cale. Hans, as well as the rest of the Cale’s group, were quickly getting past their suspicions about the meat and fruit being delivered to them.

Although Cale had no idea what Ron thought about it, since Cale and Choi Han both had said that it was fine, they just went along with it. Beacrox was easy to convince since he was always excited to see ingredients of the highest quality appear every morning.

“Haha, young master, did you finally wake up?”

Hans slowly peeked toward Taylor and Cage, before approaching Cale.

“You see, I think young master Taylor has gotten the wrong idea.”

“Wrong idea?”

Cale could see the boar, as well as Taylor on the wheelchair, and Cage pushing Taylor’s wheelchair behind him. He approached the dead boar and stood next to the wheelchair as he started to speak.

“What is going on?”

As usual, the boar that the dragon delivered was enormous. It was larger than a tiger, the type of boar that would excite Beacrox quite a bit.

And, as usual, there was a drawing next to the boar. The dragon must have found it annoying to draw the fork, as only the knife was drawn this time.

“...Young master Cale. I’m sorry.”

What kind of utter nonsense was this?

Taylor had an apologetic smile on his face as he turned away from the boar.

“It seems like my movements have been detected.”

Movement? Cale could then hear the priestess Cage mumbling behind Taylor. She was angry.

“We left in secret, so how is it possible? There is someone who can avoid my detection? This is too much!”

‘How would someone at your level detect a dragon?’

Cale was done figuring out what was going on.

Something, or someone, that was able to catch such a large boar so easily and drop it off at their campsite without being detected by the priestess Cage or anyone else. That strength and stealthiness was something only an expert would have. Next to that feat of strength was a drawing of a knife.

It was a small knife to Cale, but they seemed to be seeing a very large knife. Cale looked back at Taylor, who was looking at him with both despair and sorriness.

“...Young master Cale. This incident - “
“Beacrox.”

Cale called out to Beacrox.

Marquis Stan’s second son, Venion, was probably extremely busy right now. Why would someone like that pay attention to the disabled eldest son? It wasn’t like Venion knew, ‘The Healing Star,’ was at the capital.

“Yes, young master?”

Beacrox, who was standing there with his kitchen knife prepared, responded with excitement on his face.

“Looks like we’ll be eating steak for breakfast.”

“Young master, it looks like we will get the highest quality steak once again.”

Taylor, who was staring at Cale with a blank expression, suddenly started to speak.

“...Once again?”

Cale nodded his head and responded.

“We have someone in our party who delivers food for us.”

“...Who is it?”

Cale snorted before responding.

“He is surprisingly shy so you will not be able to see him.”

Cale saw the leaves on a tree not far from the campsite moving up and down and shook his head. Cale shaking his head made both Taylor and Cage turn red from embarrassment.

“Ahem, I, I see. It seems we had the wrong idea.”

“It’s not your fault. Beacrox is an excellent cook, so please have some steak before you go.”

Beacrox stopped caressing the boar and looked up at Cale. Cale could not look at Beacrox because of what Taylor said next.

“Young master Cale, I heard that you are heading for the capital. If it is okay with you, may we follow behind you?”

‘I knew it would be like this.’

It was as Cale had expected.

“Please feel free to do whatever is best for you.”

There was no way they would find out that he had written the letter just from them traveling with him. If it was going to be like this anyways, he might as well take care of them until the capital and have them owe him a debt.

These two could be very useful in the future if he used them properly.

“Thank you. We will be under your care until we get close to the capital.”

Cale started to smile a bit at Taylor's words.

'At least he's not completely unreasonable.'

Close to the capital. Taylor was only asking for help until a location that would not make things difficult for Cale or Count Henituse in dealing with Venion or Marquis Stan for associating with the disabled Taylor. There would be all sorts of complications if they went into the capital together.

"We will determine that later on."

Naturally, Cale had a different opinion. There were still many items in the magic box waiting to be used by Cale.

"Of course. Please feel free to let us know whenever is most convenient for you, young master."

"Sure."

Taylor and Cage looked toward the casually responding Cale with curiosity. However, Cale avoided their gaze and started to speak to Hans.

"Bring my meal to the carriage."

"Yes, sir."

Cale headed back to the carriage. At that moment, someone called out to him.

"Young master Cale."

It was Cage. She seemed to have a headache, as she started to frown and walk over toward Cale. Cale had a bitter taste in his mouth while watching Cage approach him.

"What can I do for you, priestess-nim?"

"Do you really not believe in any god?"

'Now what the heck does she want?'

"Yes, none of them."

"...I understand."

Cale quickly headed to the carriage after hearing Cage's response. Taylor approached her as she watched Cale walk away.

"What's going on?"

Cage rarely engaged with people other than people from the temple or her close friends. That was why it was really odd for Taylor to see Cage frowning and reaching out to Cale. She shook her head and responded with a very bitter expression.

"It's odd."

"What is?"

"Well, it's like."

Cage touched the back of her head.

"I have this bitter feeling that the God of Death is caressing the back of my head with a sympathetic expression."

"...What kind of feeling is that? Did you not sleep properly?"

"Maybe."

Cage continued to feel that way every time she looked at Cale. The only time she felt this way in the past was when the temple had forced her to do a lot of manual labor in order to build a new temple. She had felt this same feeling when she plopped down from exhaustion and the God of Death was looking down at her with concern.

'There's no way young master Cale will order us around like that damn temple.'

Cage decided Taylor was right about her not sleeping properly, and tried to shake the feeling away.

That was how Cale's crew grew bigger and they continued toward the capital with no other issues.

Every time Cale got tired of sitting down and stepped out of the carriage, Taylor's group continued to look toward him, but they did not have any conversations.

They continued to travel like that until they were at an inn about one day's worth of travelling away from the capital.

“Young master Cale, you like alcohol, right?”

Taylor and Cage came to look for Cale.

“What can I do for you?”

Cale wanted to know why they came to visit him so late at night, but his expression was not that odd. Taylor smiled at Cale’s demeanor.

“Cale Henituse, the trash who cannot go a day without alcohol.”

When Taylor was still the potential successor to the Marquis, he had received all of the information about the nobles as well. Cale’s information was so unique that there was no way he could forget it.

“But I don’t think that is all.”

However, Cale was very different compared to the information.

He stayed in the carriage all day so that they would feel at peace, and had the generosity to give them the best treatment possible. His subordinates also trusted and followed him.

Most importantly, he treated the two of them like normal people.

“You are different from the rumors.”

They were now right in front of the capital. Taylor and Cage would need to move stealthily starting early the next morning. Of course, they will have to confidently walk in when they walk into the royal palace.

But there were many things they were prepared to research before that happened. However, they had made up their mind to move differently than their original plan.

They had been watching Cale Henituse for over a week. This person was now on Taylor and Cage’s mind.

“Young master Cale. It should be okay to share a drink with us before we leave, right?”

Chapter 27

You (2)

“Come on in.”

Cale motioned for them to come into the room, and Cage pushed Taylor’s wheelchair inside. Once all three of them sat down at the table, Cale did not even take a look at the alcohol before he asked.

“What is it that you want?”

Cale’s voice was extremely cold and stoic as usual. However, this just confirmed in Taylor’s mind that this person in front of him was not a trash. In fact, he was smarter than most people thought.

Taylor had not come here just to drink with Cale. Alcohol was only good when you were comfortably drinking with people you could trust. Drinking with others was just for easy conversation and observing the other party.

“What kind of person do you think I am, young master Cale?”

Cale quietly observed Taylor after hearing his question, before approaching his bed and picking up a pouch. He brought it back and put it on top of the table.

Clang.

A metallic sound filled the room as the pouch slightly opened. Inside the pouch were plenty of gold, silver, and bronze coins. Cale’s confident voice filled the room.

“I don’t know why you are heading to the capital right now, when every noble in the country’s attention is focused on the capital, but I’m sure there is only one thing people like you who are heading into the lion’s den want from me.”

Cale had expected it from the moment they asked to follow him to the capital, as well as every time he felt their gazes during the trip.

“The wealthy Henituse family. You want money, right?”

Sigh.

The priestess Cage let out a sigh that was almost like a gasp of admiration. Taylor was someone who used to play at the top before falling off a cliff, but Cage was someone who had always been at the bottom. To someone like her, Cale was an unique individual.

He asked the deputy butler for alcohol whenever he had a free moment. He did not care at all about what his subordinates did, and only ate the highest quality food. He only stayed in the most luxurious inns, and always seemed to be relaxed. He also did not care about what he said to others.

However, he was definitely not trash. Her friend Taylor understood this even better than she did.

“So you already knew.”

“It was a piece of cake.”

Cale answered as if it was not difficult to deduce at all.

“Based on how you are traveling, you look like you are lacking in money. In order to stay at the capital, especially stealthily, you need money more than anything else. I’m sure this was not originally your plan, but it was only natural to ask when you have the golden turtle traveling with you.”

Taylor could not disagree with anything Cale just said. It was the truth. Cale Henituse was someone who did not try to avoid him, the eldest son who was pushed aside by his family. Asking Cale and hopefully getting some money was their best course of action.

Even if Cale said no, it didn’t look like Cale would tell Venion about Taylor’s request. Cale seemed to hate complicated things.

In Taylor’s eyes, Cale was someone who voluntarily hid from others.

“Thank you very much, young master Cale.”

Cale did not say anything like, 'you're welcome.' Instead, he was ready to put into play his plan that he had formulated and thought over ever since they started following him.

"Will you be leaving early in the morning?"

"Yes. We were planning on stealthily leaving, but came here to see you before we left. We need to take care of things on our own now."

Taylor's eyes were clear as he sat on the wheelchair. However, Cale could not see any positive feelings in Taylor's eyes when he made eye contact.

"Will you be entering through the temple?"

The moment Taylor's expression seemed to show shock at how Cale knew, Cage stepped in.

"Yes. We plan to enter through the temple."

They were planning to disguise Taylor as a member of the temple and sneak him in. However, doing so would alert the Temple of Death of Cage's location. Cage was willing to put herself in that kind of danger for Taylor.

However, even entering like that would not guarantee stealth. Cale poked at that problem.

"Even if you enter through the temple, Venion or the Marquis will hear about it within three days. They most likely have informants in the Temple of Death as well."

"...You really are very well informed."

Cage started to smile. There was something she suddenly realized about Cale.

"Young master Cale, I'm sure there is a reason you are so curious about our course of action?"

Tap. Tap.

Cale's index finger tapped on the table.

"Take this money and let the innkeeper know that you and your people will be staying one more day here."

Cale then lifted up his finger and pointed toward the two of them.

“As for the two of you, you will get on my carriage. The rest of your group will enter the capital one day later.”

Screech.

Cale pushed the chair back and stood up. He then went over and grabbed another item from the magic box, and put it on top of the table.

“This is a magic tool that will make any lifeforms in a selected area turn invisible for five minutes.”

This was the second item that needed to be rented under Billos’s name.

‘Young master, are you planning on stealing something?’

‘Steal? No, I plan to break something.’

‘...Break something?’

He was planning on using this item during the Plaza Terror Incident, but he had a reason to use it in advance now. Cale was thankful that it was not a single use item. Silence filled the room once Cale stopped talking. Cage and Taylor looked back and forth between Cale and the item, and their lips opened and closed multiple times, but they could not say anything. They finally managed to ask after a while of silence.

“Why-”

Young master Taylor, who had been silent for a while now, slowly started to ask.

“Why are you doing this for us? You have nothing to gain from it.”

‘Why? I have to help you out a bit since I caused it. It’s not like it is going to harm me in any way.’

In addition, if Taylor manages to take over the Marquis position, Cale would not need to worry about Marquis Stan or Venion’s greed once the war with the foreign nations starts. That would help the Henituse territory remain quiet and allow Cale to live peacefully.

“Must I answer?”

“Yes. I want to hear your reason.”

Taylor wanted to hear Cale’s response. Cale stoically answered Taylor’s question. The response was both brutal and cold.

“It’s because you are so pitiful. I want to know just what is making someone like you, a cripple who doesn’t know when he will die, do all of this. For the eldest son of a Marquis to ask the trash of a Count’s family for money, it is just so pitiful.”

Taylor’s mouth slowly opened and closed, before he started to silently laugh. Taylor then patted his knees with his hands. He could not feel anything when he did that. However, Taylor's eyes, nose, mouth, hands, and the rest of him was still alive. Taylor started to smile brightly.

“Thank you for your sympathy. I needed that kind of sympathy.”

“However, there is one condition to all of this.”

Cale did not pay any attention to Taylor’s words of thanks.

“What is it?”

“Forget about everything.”

Cale repeated himself once more, as he pushed the bag of money toward Taylor.

“Forget about every single thing that has happened.”

Cale was showing that he was willing to help them, but did not want to be involved with them any further. Cage stepped forward. This was the reason she had come with Taylor.

“Young master Taylor and I will make a vow to the God of Death to not reveal anything. I’m sure that you are aware that anyone who breaks a vow made to the God of Death will die?”

“Yes, I am. Please make your vow.”

Cale started to smile at her words. A vow made to the God of Death. It was because Cale believed in this famous vow that he was willing to help them out.

The priestess Cage could not help but laugh after seeing Cale smile about their decision to make a vow to the God of Death.

“I presume young master Cale will not be making a vow?”

“Correct. If things become complicated in the future because of this, I plan on revealing everything.”

“To Venion.”

“Yes.”

Cale confidently answered the question. Hearing Cale’s answer actually made Taylor feel much more peaceful. Taylor liked the fact that Cale was honest and said that he planned to reveal everything if it inconvenienced Cale in any way in the future.

“Cage. Let’s do it.”

“Okay.”

Taylor and Cage. The two of them were no longer speaking formally in front of Cale. It was their signal to each other that they will reveal almost everything to Cale.

“We will start now.”

Tonight was the night of the new moon. On these nights, when the moon was not visible, was when the strength of the God of Death was at its peak. Cage closed her eyes and gathered her hands together in front of her. It looked different than when people were praying. Her two palms were pointed toward Taylor and herself.

Oooooong.

A small vibration filled the air. At the same time, a black smoke started to come out of Cage’s fingertips and surrounded the three of them.

‘Is this holy power?’

Cale was filled with an odd sensation while feeling the power around him. It was definitely different from ancient powers, but it was still warm, even though it was black.

“I, Cage, a daughter of the eternal night, wishes to borrow the name of the night to

make a vow alongside Taylor Stan. A vow is made with our lives, anyone who breaks this vow will descend into eternal darkness.”

Cage opened her eyes and looked toward Cale and Taylor before continuing to speak.

“I, Cage, and Taylor Stan, vow to keep tonight’s discussions a secret only to be shared with the witness, Cale Henituse. We will not discuss this with anyone else.”

“With anyone else.”

Taylor repeated the ending words. Cage closed her eyes after hearing Taylor’s voice. The black smoke surrounded the three of them once again. And then,

Oooooong.

With another vibration, the smoke disappeared. The vow was finished.

“Pretty simple.”

Cale could feel an odd sensation in his hand while sharing his thoughts. It was similar to ancient powers. He could sense the things related to the vow.

“The sensation you feel right now is the power of the vow. The moment we break the vow, young master Cale will be informed of our deaths as the witness.”

“I see.”

Cale easily accepted her explanation. He had no choice because of the sensation in his hand. He started to inspect the difference between the divine power and the ancient power inside of him.

At that moment, Taylor put the bottle of alcohol he brought at the middle of the table.

Tap.

The bottle now sat at the middle of the table.

“Young master Cale, will you have a drink?”

“A drink?”

Cale hid his desire for them to leave, and asked what they meant. Taylor nodded his head at Cale’s question.

“Yes. Alcohol. Alcohol is necessary on a good day.”

Taylor wanted to drink with Cale, someone he could not trust until recently. Cage seemed to have figured something out by his actions, and started to smile before putting her hand into the wide sleeves of her priestess outfit.

“Tada!”

Three shot glasses came out of her sleeve.

“Ho.”

Cale looked at the shot glasses, the bottle of alcohol, and the priestess with disbelief. He could not believe that she carried shot glasses in her sleeves.

“Priestess-nim.”

“Yes?”

“You are amazing.”

She was a true alcoholic. Cale took a glass from her, and Taylor filled the glass. Once all three of their glasses were full, Cage asked Cale a question.

“Young master Cale, is it not weird that a priestess is drinking?”

Cale tilted his head to one side and asked.

“Is that any of my business?”

Cale did not care whether she drank or not.

“Wow. I really like you.”

Cage shared her admiration while smacking her knee with her other hand. She then coyishly asked Cale.

“Young master Cale, do you not have any desire to get to know an older sister with a great personality?”

“Nope.”

Cale sternly answered and Taylor quickly added on.

“...What about an older brother with a great personality?”

“Even less.”

Cage and Taylor both started to laugh instead of being disappointed at Cale’s answer. Cale could not tell what was funny about his response, but lifted up his glass and started to speak.

“Cheers.”

Clang. The three glasses clanged together. A night of a new moon. There was no moon in the sky, but this alcohol that was deeper than the moon, and created a thread connecting these three individuals.

The next morning.

“Young master, shall we head out?”

Cale did not know whether Hans was slow or just found this to be funny. Deputy butler Hans had heard the situation from Cale and pretended to not see the two people in the corner of Cale’s carriage, instead loudly asking Cale whether they should leave.

“Yes. Let’s go.”

Of course, Cale casually gave the command to go.

Two hours. They would arrive at the entrance of the capital in two hours.

Chapter 28

You (3)

Clunk.

The carriage started to move.

Meeeow.

On and Hong glanced over and Cage and Taylor, who were sitting across from them, and stuck closely to Cale.

“Young master Cale, do you know anything about this royal event?”

Cale looked toward Taylor. Taylor was fine compared to the priestess, who was struggling with her hangover. In fact, he was even better off than Cale. This weak-looking noble had the strongest alcohol tolerance out of the three of them. Cale started to respond to Taylor, who was looking at him.

“This is my first time going to the palace. I have only been to a Northeastern Nobles Meeting a few years ago.”

Taylor did not bring this up just to start a conversation. It was because he wanted to share a piece of information with Cale for his generosity.

“I see. The event this time is to celebrate the 50th birthday of his royal highness, our current King.

It is an entertaining festival for the citizens.”

Seeing Cale speak as if it did not include himself, Taylor started to get curious.

“Sounds like it is not a festival for young master Cale?”

‘How can it be a festival I’d enjoy when my heart is going crazy thinking about the terror incident?’

Cale did not say that out loud. He was probably the only person who knew about the secret organization and the upcoming terror incident.

Knowing about such a fact was bound to bring a heavy sense of responsibility and headache. Of course, there was a relationship between that sense of responsibility and the headache.

'I will prevent it, but I will step aside if it seems like I will get hurt or tired.'

That was Cale's point of view on the terror incident. Do just enough so that I will not be inconvenienced. However, someone like Cale, no, Kim Rok Soo, who had a fear of death, could not just pretend that he did not know anything.

"It's not a festival for you either, young master Taylor."

Taylor, as well as Cage, who had been frowning because of her hangover, started to smile after hearing Cale's words.

"I am considering it to be my last obstacle before I can celebrate."

Compared to his gentle appearance, Taylor was a risk-taker. That was how he was able to be in front of Venion, even with his ethical personality, before he was attacked.

"Young master Cale."

"Yes?"

"Be careful of his highness, the crown prince."

Taylor gazed toward Cale and continued to speak.

"Although I may have been pushed aside, I still have ways of getting information in the Marquis's Estate. Although this 50-year birthday celebration for the king was planned from the beginning, the act of calling all of the nobles together was something that the crown prince suggested."

Taylor knew some information about the crown prince.

"I'm not sure how I should describe the crown prince to you..."

Seeing Taylor struggling, Cale casually answered.

“He is someone with a glib tongue.”

“Ah, yes! Err, I mean...”

Taylor, who agreed with Cale, quickly turned pale and tried to take it back, but, in the end, was forced to admit that it was true.

“Yes. You are right. You already know about it.”

“Isn’t it information anybody who is interested can find out?”

“Of course. But this is the first time I’ve heard anyone be so blunt about it like you, young master Cale.”

Seeing Taylor nodding his head, Cale started to think about the crown prince.

The glib tongue of the crown prince.

The crown prince was very good at giving compliments to people. He was also very good at praising these people in public for their deeds and giving them recognition. After that, he used these people.

Of course, the people being used have no idea that they are being used. One of these victims in the novel was none other than Choi Han, the person the crown prince lifts up as his close friend and hero.

For a commoner like Choi Han, he thought it was good that someone like the crown prince treated him so closely. However, for Cale, or Kim Rok Soo, who was reading the novel, the crown prince was the type of person he hated the most.

‘The problem is, that the way he uses people for the right reasons.’

He did not use people for his own benefits or for power. He used these people for the kingdom, the citizens, and to make the nation greater.

‘I guess it is too much to call it ‘using’ people.’

Rather than using, it was more like asking for their help. The crown prince did not order these people using his superiority, but instead he asked them on an equal level.

He used that glib tongue of his to praise them a lot and then give a really sad reason that people could not turn down. Naturally, Choi Han was unable to say no. The cold,

yet just as good-natured Rosalyn ended up agreeing to help out in the end as well.

Of course, even such a person had a weakness.

“Anyways, young master Cale, his highness the crown prince, ahem, as you already know, it is tiring to get involved with such a person.”

“You do not have to worry. I plan on being as quiet as possible before returning home. I do not like being flashy.”

Cale answered back like it was nothing. However, he then realized that silence had filled the room after he responded. The kittens, On and Hong, Cage, who was struggling with her hangover, and even Taylor, who had a gentle smile on his face. They were all staring at Cale.

“...Why are you looking at me like that?”

“Mm. Will it really be possible to, no, nevermind.”

“Nothing.”

Both Cage and Taylor said no before looking away. The kittens just shook their heads. Cale started to frown and added on.

“Even if I do end up being dragged in, the thing that young master Taylor and priestess-nim are thinking about will not happen.”

Taylor and Cage could see that Cale was smiling. His smile was so devious that he looked like a villain. Cale smiled at the two of them before continuing on.

“I also have a very glib tongue.”

The crown prince tended to stay away from people similar to himself. It was his wariness of others like him.

If the crown prince was the type to praise people and use them for his needs, Cale just needed to act the same way.

Seeing Cage look toward him with an expression that seemed to say she was feeling better, he looked right into her eyes. She then started to speak.

“I think this look suits you very well, young master Cale. You look very evil.”

“It is better than looking like a good person.”

'I knew it.'

Cage nodded her head and seemed to confirm something, but Cale did not care. Instead, he pushed aside the curtain on the window and looked outside.

They were pretty close to the gate of the capital now. The gate that Cale's carriage was heading toward was a different gate than the gate that the commoners used. He was heading toward the noble's entrance, which would allow him to get through it much faster.

"The capital really is different."

That was what came out of Cale's mouth based on what Cale saw out through the window. Taylor seemed to understand why Cale felt that way, and nodded his head.

"Roan Kingdom is the kingdom of, 'Boulders.'"

Cale could see the large wall surrounding the capital. There were many different sculptures on the wall.

The Roan Kingdom was kind of unique. Not only was it the Western Continent's greatest source of marble, but the Northwest and Western areas of Roan Kingdom contained a lot of granite. That was why it was called the Land of Boulders.

If you traveled up north, the majority of the mountain peaks were made of granite. The Roan Kingdom had quite a lot of Rock Mountains.

Taylor continued to speak, as if he suddenly remembered something.

"If you look through the ancient stories, there are many, 'boulder,' related stories, even before the Roan Kingdom came into existence. One of them says that this land had a boulder-like guardian."

The Roan Kingdom was located on the Northeast of the Western Continent.

"It was a guardian that could protect everything from any kind of attack. When darkness descended on the continent, this guardian was the one to stand in the front against it."

There were many different myths about the end of the ancient times. You would hear

tons of different stories as you traveled around the continent.

Some say that the end of the ancient times came when darkness descended and some heroes managed to defeat this darkness, others say it ended because people were jealous of each other's powers and fought for control. Finally, some even say that a god was so angry that it destroyed all living beings.

The story that Taylor was discussing right now was one of those many myths.

"Taylor, you seem to like that story?"

Taylor nodded his head at Cage's question.

"Yes. I do."

Cale turned to look at Taylor. Taylor had always had a fragile body, even before his legs became paralyzed. Taylor patted his knees and continued to speak.

"The guardian is said to have stood firmly in place, like a boulder, even after everything in his body became broken. That was how he was able to protect the people and the land of this Northeastern area, that is covered in boulders."

There were a lot of different contents in the stories regarding the darkness that descended onto the continent.

When the darkness appeared at the center of the continent, other myths discussed the tales of those heroes that fought against it. However, the main character in the one Taylor is talking about only focused on protecting.

Taylor considered such an individual to be a hero.

"Such an existence cannot survive in the present day. That is why I like this myth so much."

"But you don't seem to believe it?"

Taylor nodded his head at Cage's question.

It is very rare to see someone injure himself so severely to protect something."

"I agree."

Cale nodded his head to agree with Taylor's statement. It was one thing to protect yourself, but this guardian protected others and this Northeastern land? Cale could not understand such logic.

“But this is my first time hearing about this specific story.”

Cale had read about all sorts of legends and myths regarding ancient powers while reading until volume 5 of, ‘The Birth of a Hero.’ However, this was the first time he heard about the boulder guardian of Roan Kingdom.

“It is probably because it is not that popular. I only found it while researching through ancient texts for information about ancient powers. I told Cage about it as well.”

Cale nodded his head again, and lowered the curtains once more. He then took out a round pendant from his pocket and threw it toward Taylor.

“Get ready.”

Taylor and Cage both nodded their heads and held each other’s hand with the pendant in the middle of both of their hands. The magic device started to operate. Cale let out a sigh and grabbed a bottle from a corner of the carriage.

A moment later, the carriage stopped outside the noble’s gate, and Cale could hear the Vice Captain’s voice as well as someone else’s voice.

Knock knock knock.

“Young master, the capital’s guard wishes to verify the occupants.”

Bang.

Cale’s foot kicked the carriage door open. He could see the Vice Captain’s relaxed expression, as well as the anxious capital guard. Cale had a bottle in one hand and a glass full of alcohol in the other, and looked toward the capital guard.

“Go ahead.”

The inside of the carriage was full of the smell of alcohol. Cale’s extremely flushed face and this stench made it very clear that he had been drinking since last night.

Although the festival was still a week away, many nobles had already passed through this entrance. Two of the capital guards looked inside the carriage every time to do a

cursory look. However, the guard had never seen such a sight before. The Vice Captain smiled gently at the guard, and started to speak.

“Our young master cures his hangovers through drinking more alcohol. He is someone who has reached the apex of overcoming a hangover.”

Cale looked at the anxious guard and the Vice Captain who was trying to praise him as best as possible, and started to think.

‘Ah, this is tiring.’

That was why he said the following.

“Can’t you hurry up?”

The guard called over the other guard to look through the carriage, that was full of empty alcohol bottles, and gave the approval.

“Everything looks fine.”

The Vice Captain slowly closed the door while the guard welcomed Cale.

“Welcome to the capital.”

Creak. Click.

The door closed completely and the carriage made its way through the gate.

Cale pushed forward the full glass in his hand and started to speak.

“Apparently, welcome to the capital.”

Taylor, who was no longer invisible, started to laugh as he handed Cale the pendant and received the glass.

“It has been a while since I’ve been welcomed.”

Cale’s group had arrived at the capital.

Chapter 29

You (4)

Cale's carriage leisurely headed to the south of the capital. Huiss, the capital of the Roan Kingdom. People were clearly busy getting ready for the upcoming birthday celebration.

Cale looked out through the slightly lifted curtain and started to think.

'Choi Han should arrive in about 3 days.'

Unless he moves like a crazy lunatic, Choi Han should arrive three days later. He will bring Rosalyn and Lock with him, and they will run into the secret organization while getting Lock, which will delay them even more.

In the novel, Choi Han ran into Lock, the only survivor of the Blue Wolf Tribe and someone with the Wolf King's bloodline, before running into the secret organization once again. After that, Choi Han would run into the secret organization once more at the capital terror incident.

Harris Village, Choi Han's first residence outside the Forest of Darkness. This secret organization was the one that had murdered everyone in the village. He had run into the organization twice, but he did not have much information on them.

'The assassins don't have stars on their clothes.'

Since assassination was the goal for both Harris Village and the Blue Wolf Tribe, the secret organization sent their assassin squad. The assassin squad only wears black clothes without the stars, just in case something goes wrong. They were people who chose to take their own lives if they were caught.

But things will change starting at the capital.

'That blood-loving punk will show up.'

While preventing the terror incident with Rosalyn, Choi Han comes in contact with a leader of the secret organization. That leader and their subordinates all have the red star and five white stars on their chest.

Cale had already come up with an excuse to give Choi Han as well for their uniforms when they rescued the dragon. He just blankly stared outside, before shutting the curtains once again.

The happy citizens decorating the streets, and the streets that were becoming very beautiful. All of this would turn into a place of despair in a week.

“Young master Taylor.”

They were now at the southern part of Huiss, at the location of the noble residences. Cale’s carriage stopped in front of a building, and Cale stood up and got ready to exit.

“Ron will take care of you once we arrive at the residence. You just need to head out that way.”

He was looking at the door as he continued.

“Forget everything.”

He could hear Taylor and Cage’s voice coming from behind him.

“Thank you very much.”

“See you in a joyful environment next time.”

Cale started to smile. Cage and Taylor continued to look at him, but neither Cale, nor the two kittens, paid the two people any attention.

Click.

The carriage door opened.

“Young master, we have arrived.”

Cale, Hans, and the kittens could all see Taylor and Cage, but did not look at them. They just acted like the two of them weren’t there, and got off the carriage.

Cale instantly turned toward the driver's seat once he got off the carriage. Ron had a benign smile on his face and nodded his head. Ron, who heard the situation from deputy butler Hans, would take care of the rest. Ron headed with the driver to park the carriage.

Cale did not pay any more attention to the carriage, and turned around.

“Oh.”

He then let out a gasp of admiration. The kittens, On and Hong, seemed to be surprised as well, as their golden pupils were extremely dilated.

“...It's even better than I expected.”

The Count really was wealthy. Past the large iron gate was a five-story residence. There was even a garden between the gate and the building itself. It was not fancy or shiny, but it definitely looked more expensive than the nearby noble residences.

It had the aura and look of a building that definitely took a large amount of money to build. At the center of it was, naturally, a sculpture with the Henituse family's golden turtle on it.

Screeeech. Bang!

The large gate with the golden turtle crest on it slowly opened. The guard opening the gate, as well as the butler of the residence and the servants, all lined up to greet Cale.

“Young master Cale Henituse! Welcome to the capital!”

It was an extremely respectful greeting. They were bowing their heads so low that their heads looked like it would reach the ground. The old man who seemed to be in charge was speaking so loudly it looked like he might hurt his vocal chords.

“We will do our very best to serve you!”

‘Why is he like this?’

Cale looked toward Hans, who was pretending that he had no idea what was going on.

'He definitely knows what is going on.'

Hans definitely knew the reason they were acting this way. Cale found it annoying to ask, and approached the old man in charge and helped him up. He then looked toward the rest of the servants and started to speak.

"Everybody, lift your heads up."

The servants quickly raised their heads. They had never seen Cale while working at the residence. However, they had definitely heard stories about Cale from the people that visited from the Henituse territory.

The trash, Cale. The servants here heard that Cale considered people who worked in the estate as either nobles or useless people. Sometimes, he didn't even treat them like people. They were anxious about what Cale was going to say next and waited for him to continue.

"No need to be this respectful in the future. I do not like to cause any issues to people who do their job well."

The servants' gazes all turned toward Cale. Cale could see that they were all still stiff and started to frown.

"I heard that mother picked all of you. She said you all have a lot of pride for your work, so I'm sure you will perform very well."

The servants' expressions all turned odd.

"Ask Hans if you have any questions."

He had enough to do as is, so it was better to leave everything to Hans. Plus, there was no reason to pay a lot of attention when he was leaving again in just a few days. Cale looked toward the servants, whose expressions were getting slightly better, and started to walk.

"Let's go."

Cale walked in front as they headed to the five-story building. When a homeowner

enters their house for the first time, they needed to personally walk from the gate to the door of the residence. This symbolized that this was his territory.

When the crown prince became the king, the crown prince, no, the king, walked from the castle gate to the center of the palace, where his throne was located. It was a similar kind of logic.

Count Deruth and the Countess had walked into this residence like this before, but Cale was now the owner of this large residence.

Screeeech-

The large iron gate with the golden turtle closed. At the same time, as it usually is with information in the capital, the nearby nobles all learned of the arrival of the Henituse family's representative. This happened even faster than the person Cale sent to the palace to inform the crown of his arrival could reach the palace.

That was why these three people, who were members of the Northeastern Noble's gathering, started to worry. They started to frown while drinking tea with each other.

"Sigh... it really is not young master Basen but young master Cale. This is going to make things complicated."

"But we need to carry him with us, since he is one of our own."

"That is true. I'm sure even a trash will not act up in front of us, right?"

The neutral Henituse family and the nice, but not flexible, Basen. Then, there was the trash of the Henituse family, Cale. These three, whose families were close to the Henituse family among all of the Northeastern noble families, decided to make the decision that made sense for their future.

"We just need to protect him and prevent him from doing anything stupid. Let's first meet with him and talk."

To them, Cale was like a toddler walking by the water that needed their protection. At the same time, Cale was dangerous and could cause a scene at any point. They immediately sent an invitation letter to Cale's residence, which was quickly delivered into Cale's hand by that evening.

"Sigh."

Cale threw the letter to the table with an extremely annoyed expression.

“Will you not go?”

“Can I not go?”

“No. It is a Northeastern nobles meeting.”

“I knew it.”

Nobles were really fast at getting information. Cale was the same way as well. Hans handed the document he received from the residence manager to Cale.

“This is the list of nobles who are currently in the capital.”

“Good. Did Ron take care of things properly?”

Hans had a short response to Cale’s question.

“Yes.”

Cale was satisfied with that answer. Cale had prepared a lot for Taylor. A wig, a robe, a wheelchair without the Stan family crest, and even money. He had given everything to Taylor properly. Well, other than the money, Hans handled the delivery process for everything else.

“Good work. Get some rest.”

“Yes sir. I will make sure to get some rest.”

Hans was not the type to say that he was okay when told to rest. Cale said one more thing, as Hans quickly tried to leave.

“Ah, but have them send something up for me to eat.”

“I will make sure to do so.”

Hans quickly responded to Cale’s statement, that indicated he would not be going down to the dining room, and soon enough, Cale’s chamber was filled with a feast. Cale looked at the dishes that included meat, desserts, and even wine, and smiled with satisfaction before heading over to the terrace.

His chamber was located on the third floor. It was the room that received the most sunlight. He opened the large window heading to the terrace and called out.

“Come in.”

He then left the window open and sat down next to the table. Soon enough, Cale could see a couple leaves floating in the sky and sitting down on the chair across from Cale.

The dragon had entered the room with a couple of leaves stuck to him.

On and Hong also sat down on chairs to the left and right of the invisible dragon.

Cale stared at the three of them, before opening the wine bottle and telling them to eat.

“Go ahead and eat.”

The red wine filled the glass.

“You gathered ingredients for us, but you never got to eat any of it.”

Cale brought the wine glass to his lips as he continued to speak.

“I’m sure it wasn’t easy following us.”

At that moment, the Black Dragon removed its invisibility magic and revealed itself. On helped remove the leaves that were stuck to the dragon, while Hong stuffed a piece of steak that Beacrox had cooked into the dragon’s mouth.

The average age of these three animals was 7 years old. Cale just watched the three animals eat, before pushing more food toward them. Seeing Cale being so nice made On and Hong flinch, while the Black Dragon stopped chewing and just started to observe Cale.

Cale took another sip as he started to think.

‘They’re going to be working very hard in the future.’

Since they will need to work on his behalf, the least he could do was feed them well. Maybe it was because they were all so young, but Cale was able to relax for the first time in a long time, even around stronger than average individuals.

“It would be great if it could just stay like this.”

A house about this size, delicious food like this, and time to relax. Cale was thinking about how great it would be to live a life with those three things.

His goal was to live like this once Basen became the official successor. Cale made up his mind once more. He then turned on the magic music box in the corner.

A song that he was not familiar with started playing as Cale took another sip of wine. He could see the sky starting to get darker.

“This is great.”

‘Now this is living.’

Cale had a relaxed smile on his face. At that moment.

Knock knock knock.

The Black Dragon immediately turned invisible again, while the kittens started to pretend to be normal kittens by washing their faces. ^[1]

Cale got up to head to the door.

“Ah.”

Clang!

He accidentally hit the wine bottle while getting up, and it fell down and broke into pieces. The carpet started to get stained with the red wine.

‘...I have a bad feeling about this.’

Cale suddenly had a bad feeling for no reason. He quickly headed for the door.

‘Why do I have such an ominous feeling?’

Cale could not figure it out.

'Is it Choi Han? No, it can't be. Unless he travels like a lunatic, there is no way he arrived here already. He won't be here for another 3 days.'

There was no way someone like Choi Han would force an injured Lock to move faster. Even though Choi Han had potions that Cale had given him, the wolf tribe was disowned by the gods. Since potions were made with divine power, it did not work on them.

And there was also no way that Rosalyn, the careful and cautious person who hid her magic abilities at first in the novel, would use advanced magic to transport them all to the capital.

But, most importantly, Cale had told Choi Han that he would be staying at a specific hotel in the capital. He was going to go meet Choi Han there once before leaving Ron and Beacrox to take care of the rest.

'Right. This ominous feeling is just a side effect of hanging around people like Ron or Choi Han for too long.'

Cale calmed himself down before vigorously opening the door.

"...You-."

Cale's heart sunk as soon as he opened the door. An urgent and desperate voice quickly reached Cale's ear.

"Cale-nim. I'm sorry. You were the only person that came to mind."

A desperate Choi Han was standing in front of him. He seemed to have rushed here as quickly as possible, as he looked like a total mess.

Cale felt like he had seen the scariest thing in his life. Next to Choi Han was the deputy butler Hans, who had a similar expression as Choi Han, but with a bit of confusion mixed into it. However, the moment Cale saw the person who came with Choi Han, as well as the person on Choi Han's back, he quickly opened the door.

"Come in for now."

The person on Choi Han's back was none other than the Wolf Tribe member, Lock.

“Bring him with you.”

Lock of the Blue Wolf Tribe, the successor of the Wolf King, seemed to be in a dangerous state.

Lock was currently going through the pain before transforming into berserk mode for the first time in his life. Cale did not know why this state that happened a year later in the novel was already happening.

However, he looked around at everybody and said just one thing.

“Don’t worry.”

Chapter 30

You (5)

Choi Han and Lock. Behind Choi Han was Rosalyn. These three people walked into Cale's room.

"Hans. Go bring something to drink."

"Excuse me? Ah, right away!"

Cale closed the door without letting deputy butler Hans into the room. Cale then pointed to the bed for Choi Han, who was looking at him, to put Lock down.

"Lay him down first."

"Got it."

Choi Han carefully put Lock on the bed. Cale slowly approached Lock. Lock definitely had the purest of pure blood, making him look like a weak human. However, he was pretty tall for being a young boy.

"Haaaah, haaaaa, haaaah."

Lock was huffing and trying his best to open his eyes. He had a deep frown on his face, and his body was limp, like he could not put any strength into it. It was already too late to prevent the berserk state from arriving.

Cale looked at the tall, but still young boy in front of him, who was doing his best to keep his eyes open, and told him to relax.

"Just keep your eyes closed. No need to strain yourself."

There was no strength in Cale's stern tone, but it had a way of making people listen. Lock slowly closed his eyes. The voice of this man, whom Lock did not know, flowed into Lock's ear.

"Everything will be okay."

Lock was huffing and quietly calling for someone. He was calling for his uncle, the chief of the Blue Wolf Tribe, and the man who died for the tribe, even though he was one step away from becoming the Wolf King. His uncle had made sure Lock was hidden before rushing toward the invaders.

‘Everything will be okay.’

That was what his uncle had said to him. Lock started to frown after thinking about his uncle. Cale just ignored him as he turned away.

“Cale-nim, why is Lock like this?”

Choi Han still looked anxious and desperate. Originally in the novel, Choi Han had only slightly opened his heart to Lock by this point.

‘Just what could have happened?’

Cale was not an idiot. He knew that Choi Han’s situation had changed a bit because of him. That was why he was trying really hard to cut off their relationship. He did not ask that question, and let Choi Han continue to speak.

“Potions don’t work either. According to Rosalyn, the wolf tribe is one that cannot use potions. Healing magic does not seem to work either. I’m not sure about what to do. I need to protect him. I’m supposed to protect him.”

“Calm down.”

Cale was worried that it would be Choi Han who ended up going berserk if he continued like this. That would be just as scary as that dragon in the corner of the room going berserk. Maybe it was because he lived for tens of years in solitude, actually, even though he lived for tens of years in solitude, Choi Han’s personality remained one where he was a nice guy who cared a lot for things like friendship.

“Cale-nim.”

“If you trust me, just leave him to me.”

“...I trust you.”

“Good.”

Cale confirmed that Choi Han had calmed down, before turning his gaze over to Rosalyn.

Rosalyn. She was the first successor to the throne in the Breck Kingdom. However, this genius mage was ready to throw all of that away. Rosalyn reminded Cale of a red rose. She had red hair that was even brighter than Cale's, as well as beautiful red lips that currently had their corners lifted up with curiosity.

Although she may remind him of a rose, her personality was closer to that of the sun.

Rosalyn did not put Lock, Choi Han, or even Cale in her eyes. She was focused at the corner of the room.

"...This aura, this strong aura of mana!"

Rosalyn was accurately looking at the chair that the dragon had used earlier, while her hands were shaking and clenched tightly.

"Sigh."

A sigh came out of Cale's mouth. It seemed like the dragon was curious about this mage. The Black Dragon had sent some mana over to Rosalyn, and showing off some mana skills that Rosalyn could not even dream about. Throughout history, dragons had a tendency to hate humans, but like mages quite a bit.

The dragon was doing that because he was happy.

Cale looked toward the table that seemed empty, and quietly started to speak.

"Stop it. Stay still."

Almost instantly, Rosalyn took a deep breath and quickly returned to normal. The dragon seemed to have removed its mana. Rosalyn could not stop shaking as she looked toward Cale.

"Just what-"

Cale cut her off and pointed to Lock.

"This is more important."

"Ah."

Rosalyn's expression quickly calmed down. She looked at Lock, who was laying down with his eyes closed, and asked Cale.

"What is going on with Lock right now?"

Cale looked at the small staff in her hand. The reason they were able to arrive at the capital in just three days was probably because Rosalyn used teleportation magic. Contrary to Cale's expectations, Rosalyn had already revealed the extent of her abilities.

"You are a mage, right?"

"Yes, I am."

"Have you heard anything about the berserk mode of Beast tribes?"

"Ah."

Rosalyn let out a small noise. However, her face quickly filled with confusion.

"I have read about the Wolf Tribe's berserk mode in books. However, I have never read anything about heating up like this and being in pain."

"It is because it is his first time."

"Excuse me?"

Cale continued to speak to the people in the room who were all looking at him.

"Beast people lose their sanity during their first time entering berserk mode because of the physical pain from their bodily transformation. If they can persevere past this first painful transformation, they will be able to use the berserk mode as a weapon."

Beast people were at their strongest when they were in berserk mode.

Cale observed Lock's situation before continuing on.

"He will go berserk very soon."

He then turned to look at Rosalyn. Rosalyn nodded her head at his gaze, and sternly answered.

"I don't know what kind of person you are, but I am able to read the situation."

Although her tone was stern, her eyes were still gentle.

“He is a young boy.”

“I know.”

She was asking Cale for help, and Cale was agreeing to help.

Meeeow.

At that moment, the two kittens appeared between the two of them and jumped onto the bed. On and Hong were staring at Lock when...

“Ugh.”

Lock revealed his teeth and started to growl at the kittens On and Hong. His instincts were in control over his rationality right now, making him react to other beast people. He looked so vicious that even Choi Han was worried. However...

Meeeeeeow.

Smack.

Hong used his front paw to smack Lock’s growling mouth. It was a sharp front paw attack that seemed to be telling Lock to stop it. He then looked toward Cale with eyes that seemed to be asking Cale to hurry up and help Lock.

“He is fine.”

Cale responded to Hong when there was a knock on the door. When Cale opened the door, Hans had brought drinks, as well as wet towels. Cale gave Hans another order.

“Hans.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Bring something to carry him with.”

“Ye... excuse me?”

Cale pointed to Lock on the bed.

“Put him on it and take him to the underground training arena. Oh, make sure all of the knights are out of the arena, and that nobody is in there.”

Hans’s expression seemed to be asking why Cale would move a sick boy to the arena, but Cale just ignored it.

“Hurry up.”

“...Yes, sir.”

Hans had a ton of questions, and was looking at Cale weirdly, but he still did his job. He quickly left to grab something to carry Lock with, while Cale turned around to look at Choi Han and Rosalyn.

“Choi Han. And you.”

“It’s Rosalyn.”

“Yes, Rosalyn.”

The two of them looked away from the bed to look at Cale.

“Yes, Cale-nim.”

“What is it?”

Concern, worry, despair, and sincerity. With all those emotions on their faces, Choi Han and Rosalyn looked more like simple good people rather than heroes. Cale bluntly started to speak to the two of them.

“You two will need to get beat up a bit.”

“...Excuse me?”

After a few seconds of silence, Rosalyn seemed shocked, while Choi Han just quietly waited for Cale’s continuing words.

“Normally, when beast people with wild beast blood like the Wolf Tribe, Tiger Tribe, and Bear Tribe experience going berserk for the first time, their parents and siblings help take care of it. They take all the attacks of the berserk individual and protect them to make sure they don’t get hurt. That is how they protect their children.”

Choi Han and Rosalyn’s expressions turned sour almost instantly. Lock did not have any parents or siblings now. Cale peeked over at Lock, before continuing to speak.

“I can tell that is not an option for this child.”

Clap.

Cale clapped once, before pointing at Choi Han and Rosalyn.

“That is why we will pretend that you are the mother and father, or, if you do not like that scenario, then you shall be the older brother and older sister. You two will need to figure out how to protect him.”

Cale had his ‘Indestructible Shield,’ but he did not want to take care of Lock’s berserk state. Why should he step in when there were people stronger than him right here?

Rosalyn and Choi Han looked at each other.

“He will tire out on his own, and the berserk state will slowly disappear. It is important that his consciousness returns during this first berserk transformation. That is the only way to make him retain his consciousness and rationality the next time he transforms into the berserk mode.”

That would be when his rationality beats out his natural instinct. It was important for beast people to reach that state.

Choi Han debated it for a moment, before asking Cale a question.

“Cale-nim, how long will he maintain his berserk mode?”

“He has the purest of pure blood.”

“...So you mean it will take a long time.”

“Yes. Probably about two hours?”

Cale approached Lock’s bed, and patted Choi Han’s shoulder.

“It will be difficult for other people, but Choi Han, it should be easy for you. I trust you.”

“...I will succeed. I am Lock’s hyung.” ^[1]

Rosalyn looked toward Choi Han with an odd expression. Choi Han had manically killed the assassins to protect the living. During their journey, he was always alert and observing his surroundings. However, such a person seemed extremely relaxed, even though this was a very urgent situation.

She then heard Cale's relaxed voice while she was still watching Choi Han.

"Yes, yes you are. Let's eat something delicious after it is done."

Cale was thinking about the food and wine he did not get to finish.

The door opened at that moment, and Hans entered with Ron and something to carry Lock.

"Young master, the arena has been cleared."

"That was fast."

Cale ordered Choi Han to move the now continuously growling Lock onto the stretcher, before saying the following.

"Let's go."

1. Hyung is the Korean term for an older brother (not necessarily blood-related. As stated in an earlier chapter, Noona is the term for an older sister. However, both are true only if the younger person in this context is male.

Chapter 31

You (6)

Cale put some stuff into a magic bag and headed to the arena. The residence's underground arena. Count Henituse's territory was famous for its wealth, but that wealth was supported by military strength. How would they be able to survive next to the Forest of Darkness and the dangerous monsters contained within it without a strong military strength?

That was why their residences had underground training arenas that were larger and better than most Duke or Marquis's residences. Cale gave an order as soon as they entered the large underground arena.

"The two of you stay out of the arena as well. Secure the area, and make sure nobody comes in from the first floor."

"Yes, young master."

"I understand, young master."

Cale had a bitter taste in his mouth at the fact that Ron had an extremely wide smile on his face, but Cale chose to let it go. After watching the two people go away, Cale carried the kittens and went to the corner of the arena. Naturally, he did not forget to motion for Choi Han and Rosalyn to go very far away.

"The two of you head to the center!"

Choi Han took Lock to the center of the arena. Rosalyn had a serious look on her face, as she got a bit farther away from Lock.

"Growl!"

Lock was shaking like he was having a seizure. His arms, legs, his entire body was shaking. However, neither Rosalyn nor Choi Han approached him.

It was because Lock was growing claws. Very sharp claws that belonged to a wild animal.

“Aaaaaaaah!”

Lock’s body floated up in the air. It stiffened up like an arrow, before slowly starting to change. Cale verified that the large iron gate into the arena was closed tightly, before slowly heading farther into the corner with the kittens, On and Hong, also following him.

‘This is no joke.’

Cale could see the tall and weak Lock slowly starting to change.

“Groooooowl, aaaaaaaah!”

Lock now grew out some sharp fangs, before screaming in agony. He started to slowly get up and staggered a bit, before starting to frown and opening his eyes. He then looked toward the ceiling and let out a howl.

“Ahwoooooooooooooo!”

In that instant, a half-transparent barrier appeared in front of Cale. It was a shield. While On and Hong looked around in shock, Cale just casually started to speak.

“Dragon, you really are amazing. Can you make it soundproof as well?”

Another shield overlapped the existing one. Rosalyn peeked over, and Cale could see her shock in seeing the two layers of shields in front of Cale. At that moment, the voice of the Black Dragon, that must be somewhere inside of this shield, filled Cale’s ear.

“You are very weak. That is why you need protection.”

On and Hong were excited to realize it was the dragon, but looked at Cale with pity after hearing what the dragon had to say. They seemed to agree with the dragon’s assessment. Cale ignored their gazes, and casually answered back.

“Do whatever you want.”

“I do not know why you are not using that power.”

“You don’t need to know.”

The power. The Black Dragon quickly realized that Cale did not want to show that ancient power to other people, and left it vague. Cale shrugged his shoulders and, in the end, a third shield was created for a total of a three-layered shield.

‘His skill is growing exponentially.’

Dragons learned magic differently than humans. Dragons controlled magic with their will. Cale thought that the Black Dragon’s speed of improvement was surprising, but that it also made it much more useful for him.

Cale could now peacefully watch Lock transforming into berserk mode down on the ground.

“Growl, aaaaaaah!”

Lock’s screams filled the arena. If it wasn’t for the soundproof and shockproof magic that was installed around the basement, the knights of the residence would have all quickly rushed down.

Lock’s body became larger every time he let out a shout. Muscles that weren’t there previously started to develop, and his eyes turned red. It was proof that he was losing his consciousness.

Why did that little boy from the Blue Wolf Tribe go berserk?

In the novel, Lock would experience his first berserk transformation one year later. The reason for that was the death of an individual.

‘Healer Pendrick.’

That elf ends up dying in battle. Pendrick was someone who reminded Lock of his dead uncle, the chief of the Blue Wolf Tribe. Seeing Pendrick dying makes Lock go crazy, wanting to kill everything and everyone in sight.

“On, Hong.”

Cale looked down toward the siblings who were huddled together inside the shield.

“The two of you haven’t experienced the berserk transformation yet, right?”

The kittens nodded their heads.

“Do you know anything about it?”

“Not really.”

“Nobody taught us about it.”

Cale knew this would be the case. Since On and Hong also seemed to be pure blooded, their berserk transformation would be rough as well. Cale looked forward once again, and started to speak.

“The Wolf Tribe, Tiger Tribe, Bear Tribe, and the Whale Tribe, these four tribes lose their rationality the most during the first berserk transformation. That is why we call these four tribes the Beast People closest to monsters.”

He did not know much about the Cat Tribe.

“I do not know how the berserk transformation will be for the Cat Tribe, but if you feel like you are going to go berserk or suddenly feel yourself heating up or hurting, immediately come to me.”

‘It would be bad if you caused an accident.’

Who would have to clean it up? Cale would have to clean up after them. Cale was someone who took full responsibility for things that happened in his territory, and the people he took in.

Cale turned to look at them after not hearing any response. The two pairs of golden pupils of the kittens were turned toward Cale, and they both quickly headed to his leg and started to rub their faces at his leg.

‘Why are they like this?’

Cale didn't like how chummy they were being, and moved his leg slightly to the side. As he did that, Cale heard something that gave him the chills.

"Do dragons go berserk?"

"No."

It would be crazy for dragons to have berserk transformations. If a dragon went berserk, multiple mountains would disappear in an instant. That was a very scary thought. Cale's expression stiffened more than ever before, as he continued to look forward. It was his way of saying he did not want to hear anything more about it.

"Tsk."

He could hear the sound of the dragon clicking its tongue in the air. While Cale was thinking about the fickleness of this dragon, Lock's berserk transformation was finally completed.

Boom.

The werewolf standing on two legs stomped on the ground, making the entire arena shake.

The fur of the Blue Wolf Tribe was a dark blue color. The fierce werewolf, that could no longer be called a boy, became covered in that dark blue fur. Lock swung his arm that was now covered in muscles that were incomparably larger than Choi Han's muscles, to attack with his extremely sharp claws.

"Lock!"

"Lock, snap out of it!"

Choi Han and Rosalyn tried to call out to him, but to Lock, who had lost his rationality, they were just lifeforms he needed to attack.

"Groooowl."

A rough growl came out of Lock's mouth. This wolf, that was at least 1.5 times Choi Han's height, rushed toward him.

“Lock, snap out of it! It’s me! Choi Han!”

Choi Han could not attack his companion, and thus only defended as he called out to Lock. But would that do anything to make Lock return to normal? Of course not. Cale shook his head and continued to watch.

“Just smacking him on the head and making him faint would be the fastest way.”

Gasp. The two kittens gasped and crept away from Cale.

Although Cale was saying that, he had no intentions of making Choi Han do something like that. A Beast person who faints like that during their first berserk transformation would lose their rationality to the transformation once again in the future.

“Wow.”

The berserk werewolf’s attack was stronger than Cale expected. The fact that he was moving based on instinct made him utilize his muscles very efficiently.

“On, Hong.”

Cale called the kitten siblings over. There was a reason he had the two of them come with him.

“Watch that Wolf Tribe kid’s movements.”

He wanted On and Hong to pay close attention to the werewolf Lock. Lock was relentlessly charging toward Choi Han and Rosalyn. There was no retreating for Lock. That was the Wolf Tribe’s style. Cale spoke as if he was whispering to the kittens.

“That is the instinctual movements of a Beast person. The fact that they can move based on instinct, unlike humans, is one of the beauty and gloriousness of the Beast Tribes.”

Bang!

Lock’s fist smashed onto the ground and broke the marble floor. He was showing tremendous strength.

“You should not fear or dread going berserk. That is when Beast People are at their strongest.”

Pat.

Cale’s hand patted the two kitten’s heads.

“Although the Cat Tribe and Wolf Tribe are different, the two of you are Beast People as well. Watch him to learn the style of a wild animal, the style of relying on your instincts. And then-”

The two pairs of golden pupils made eye contact with Cale.

“Make it your own. Either that, or think of a way to kill those bears, tigers, wolves, the ones labeled as wild beasts.”

The kittens, the Cat Tribe children, immediately turned away from Cale to observe Lock. The kittens stood up on their hind legs and observed Lock’s every move. Silver and red, the two kitten’s furs stood up as they became extremely nervous.

Cats were weak compared to these wild beasts. It was because they were a tribe that relied on stealth that they clearly understood Cale’s intent. Cale watched the kittens for a while, before calling out to the dragon.

“Hey.”

The Black Dragon revealed itself in the air. Rosalyn and Choi Han did not have time to look toward them. They had to put their full attention on Lock. Cale pointed to the two people as he continued to speak to the dragon.

“Look at how Rosalyn uses her magic to not hurt the opponent. Also look at how Choi Han is using his aura not to attack, but to protect himself while not harming that wolf child.”

Tang, tang, tang!

Lock’s extremely quick fists were trying to break through Rosalyn’s shield. Rosalyn desperately called out to Lock while watching him attack.

“Lock, you remember me right? I said you were part of my family now. Hurry up and snap out of it!”

Choi Han turned Lock’s gaze over to him. He raised his murderous aura to the maximum to get Lock’s attention.

“Lock, attack me. I am the one who will protect you.”

Lock responded to the murderous aura by swinging his claw toward Choi Han. Even though Lock’s attack did not have any aura in it, his full physical strength was behind that attack.

Cale was watching that scene from far away while continuing to speak to the dragon.

“It is harder to not hurt something than it is to hurt something when you have immense strength. But I know you will be able to quickly pick it up, since you are a dragon.”

The dragon responded to Cale.

“I am a dragon. There is nothing I cannot do.”

“Correct. So watch them and make your own judgment.”

The dragon flew down and landed next to the kittens before turning invisible once again. Cale presumed the dragon would take in Rosalyn, Choi Han, and Lock’s movements like the kittens were doing.

‘Should I have brought some wine with me?’

Cale lamented the fact that he had no wine, as he continued to watch this boring battle. Two hours. For the duration of a typical movie, these three animal children kept their eyes on the battle, while Choi Han and Rosalyn started to get exhausted.

“...Huff, huff, huff.”

But the one who was the most exhausted was the werewolf.

“Huff, huff. Hyung-.”

“Lock!”

Choi Han reacted to the word, ‘hyung,’ and rushed toward the staggering werewolf. Although he was not completely out of the berserk mode, Choi Han’s reaction made Cale stand up.

“Noo, noona-.”

Lock was able to recognize Rosalyn as well.

“Ah, Lock!”

Rosalyn rushed over as well to hug Lock. Lock was still covered in the dark blue fur, but his eyes were starting to become focused. Lock was not hurt at all, while Rosalyn and Choi Han had small injuries on their bodies.

The two of them protected Lock like he was family.

“So, huff huff, sorry.”

His rationality had returned. It was a perfect first berserk mode transformation, where he was able to overcome all issues. Lock put his head on Rosalyn, who was half his height, and then this 13 year-old boy started to cry. An animalistic noise was mixed in with his crying.

“Lock!”

Lock then slowly turned back into his human form, before starting to fall. The berserk mode transformation was over. Choi Han quickly approached him and prevented him from falling over. Lock was doing his best to not faint, as he was worried that he would return to his berserk state.

At that moment, a man carrying two kittens arrived in front of this boy who was trying his best to keep his eyes open.

‘Uncle.’

It was the man who said the same thing as his uncle. The man started to speak.

“You can rest now.”

The man smiled, and made Lock close his eyes like before.

“It is all over now.”

Lock finally relaxed and closed his eyes after hearing the man’s words. Lock leaned on Choi Han and fainted. Choi Han carefully laid Lock back down on the stretcher.

Cale, who had been watching this, took a potion out of the bag and threw it toward Rosalyn. Rosalyn caught the potion bottle and asked.

“Potions don’t work on Lock?”

Cale looked at Rosalyn in a way that seemed to be asking why she was saying something that was so obvious, and answered the still confused Rosalyn.

“Why would I give a potion to someone from the Wolf Tribe? It’s for you. You struggled quite a bit.”

Rosalyn stared at Cale. She had seen an amazing sight of a three-layered magic, and had many things she wanted to ask Cale. However, she said something else.

“Thank you very much.”

This had to come first.

“No need for thanks.”

Cale casually responded and turned away. He could see Choi Han who was already looking at him.

“Choi Han.”

Just how did this happen? He needed to figure out what happened.

“We need to talk.”

Chapter 32

You (7)

Cale left the arena with Choi Han.

“Hans, Ron. Guide the two people still in the Arena.”

Cale had Hans and Ron, who were waiting outside the first floor entrance, take care of Rosalyn and Lock while Cale was returning to his room with Choi Han.

The table which held the now cold food from earlier was between the two of them, as Cale started to speak.

“Tell me.”

“Yes.”

The two of them got right to the point without beating around the bush. Choi Han straightened up, as he started to speak.

“Everything was fine until I met Rosalyn.”

“Continue.”

“I arrived at the city Cale-nim mentioned. Once I got there, I found the merchant guild heading for the capital as you described. Well, it was just a small brigade of five people rather than a guild.”

That small group was better described as a merchant group rather than a merchant guild.

“They happened to be looking for two mercenaries to guard them. Their usual guard was injured.”

Choi Han and Rosalyn became the two mercenaries. That was how it went in the novel.

“That was where I met Rosalyn, who looked just like you described.”

Breck Kingdom was across the Northwest border of the Roan Kingdom. Rosalyn was

originally heading from Breck Kingdom to the Magic Tower in the Whipper Kingdom, located beneath the Roan Kingdom, when someone tries to assassinate her as she crossed into the Roan Kingdom.

She had been hiding about half of her magic skills until that point and is able to escape from the danger by using all of her skills. She thought it would be smarter to go to the capital of the Roan Kingdom and get some information from the Information Guild rather than going straight back to the Breck Kingdom, since she did not know anything about the people who attacked her.

‘She then causes quite the scene when she gets back to Breck Kingdom.’

Choi Han, who just mentioned that he had met Rosalyn as a mercenary for the merchant group, continued on.

“She was also heading to the capital. Since we were heading to the same place, we were quite friendly with each other.”

‘Huh?’

“Hmm? Friendly?”

“Yes.”

Choi Han was speaking as if he was embarrassed.

“I’m generally not one to talk to people if they don’t talk to me, but I thought we might as well be friendly.”

“Not really. You just have to act like your usual self.”

Cale had a concerned expression on his face. In the novel, Rosalyn and Choi Han did not get close to each other until they met Lock. Rosalyn, who became wary of people after the assassination attempt, did not reach out to be friendly with anybody. Similarly, after the incidents in Harris Village, Choi Han was not the type to approach people to become friends.

Choi Han nodded his head at Cale’s words, before smiling and adding on.

“It definitely was not something I would normally do, but I wanted to do things properly since this was my way to pay you back.”

Ha. Cale let out a sigh and shook his head. Choi Han seemed to have expected it, as he brushed it aside and continued to speak with a stiff expression.

“That group was planning on staying at the village that Cale-nim mentioned I would find Lock residing in for a few days before continuing onward on their journey.”

That was indeed the case. That small merchant group of five people was made by someone who had been helped by the Blue Wolf Tribe. The injured guard was actually a warrior from the Blue Wolf Tribe.

The merchants deliberately chose to take the long way from Puzzle City to the capital to deliver daily necessities to the Blue Wolf Tribe and receive medicinal herbs in return.

Of course, it was extremely difficult, as well as a waste of even more time to go deep into the mountains to the Blue Wolf Village. That was why they met at a tiny village underneath the mountains. That merchant, who was now 60 years old, had continued this partnership for the last thirty years.

“But something happened once we arrived at that small village.”

Cale became alert. The story was important from here.

“Right around when we arrived at the village, I learned that the guard was a Beast Person. I also learned that the village they were planning to meet the Blue Wolf Tribe member to trade was the village that Cale-nim had mentioned as well.”

Cale nodded his head at Choi Han’s words. He knew Choi Han would easily recognize that much.

“That was why I believed that I just needed to follow the tribe member that was going to show up at the village to find Lock.”

‘But that tribe member probably never showed up.’

“But nobody showed up to make the trade. When that happened, the merchant asked us for some extra help.”

Cale thought about what that request would have been.

‘Go to the Blue Wolf Village with the injured Blue Wolf Tribe guard.’

“It was if we could go visit the Blue Wolf Village with the injured guard.”

“And you agreed?”

“Yes. I agreed. Rosalyn agreed as well.”

It followed the original story until this point. Just what could have changed?

In, ‘The Birth of a Hero,’ Choi Han and Rosalyn arrive at the Blue Wolf Village with the guard warrior, only to find the village destroyed and the secret organization’s assassins trying to leave. Choi Han recalls what happened to Harris Village, and immediately starts to attack them. The guard warrior also goes crazy and starts to kill the assassins. He is injured even more in the process, and ends up dying.

‘That is when Rosalyn learns of Choi Han’s strength.’

Rosalyn, who had been hiding her strength and masquerading as a beginner mage, learns of Choi Han’s strength and officially asks him to escort her back to Breck Kingdom. Of course, the compensation she offered him was huge.

‘They then find Lock hiding in that destroyed village.’

The coward wolf boy, Lock. Until Choi Han found him, Lock had been hiding as the chief had told him. The Lock at that point is very much a coward, a weakling, and kind of slow. In simple terms, Lock easily took the position of the character that readers found to be extremely frustrating.

However, his natural abilities and physical strength rise to the top five in the novel after his first berserk mode transformation.

“Cale-nim.”

“Yeah?”

‘But why would the timing of the transformation be pulled forward by a year?’

“I saw something I was familiar with there.”

“What did you see?”

Choi Han nodded his head at Cale's question. The cold food was between the two of them, but it could probably be heated up by the nervousness that filled the air between them. Choi Han started to speak.

"A red star and five white stars."

Cale's expression stiffened. He could feel his heart sink. Choi Han was saying that, instead of the assassination team, official members of the secret organization showed up at the Blue Wolf Tribe. Cale could not understand why. In the novel, the Blue Wolf Tribe was the target of assassination.

Choi Han looked at Cale's cold expression and recalled the past for a moment. He subconsciously started to clench his fists. His fists were shaking with anger.

The houses in the village deep in the mountains were simple and small. But all of them were destroyed. Most importantly, the corpses of the Wolf Tribe were completely black, as if they were burnt to a crisp on the floor. The black corpses, what smelled like burnt flesh, and the blood that was still pouring out of their open wounds. Most of the Wolf Tribe members died with their eyes still open.

"The mountain village was already destroyed when we got there. Many of the Wolf Tribe members were dead as well."

The Blue Wolf Tribe was known for their strength, so how did the secret organization kill them?

Wolves put their family, herd, and friends before themselves.

Weak members who had not experienced their first berserk mode transformation. The secret organization used those weak members as hostages, before using divine items to weaken the adult wolves. After killing the adults, they then killed the young hostages. There were a few adult wolves that tried to attack them in frenzy, but the secret organization had Holy Water to use against those few wolves.

The secret organization was a very strong organization, that even had access to divine items. They used the fact that the Wolf Tribe was disowned by the gods to their advantage. These cruel bastards had no issues using young children as hostages to kill their mothers, fathers, and the rest of the tribe members, while the poor young children watched in horror.

'The novel didn't say which of the divine items they brought.'

If Cale knew what the divine item was, he would be able to get one step closer to the identity of the secret organization. Unfortunately, the novel only described how the Wolf Tribe became weak because of the divine item. He had no way to determine the identity of the secret organization.

Cale slowly asked.

"Were they all dead?"

Choi Han shook his head. Cale's expression stiffened again. Choi Han observed Cale's stiff expression, as he continued.

"They were trying to capture the young children."

'Capture? Originally, they killed them all. Why would they want the young Wolf Tribe children?'

Cale's mind started to become complicated. Choi Han made eye contact with the Cale who was thinking deeply.

"The chief was dying when we arrived at the entrance of the Blue Wolf Tribe's village."

There were less than 100 members of the Blue Wolf Tribe.

"And they were trying to take 10 children with them."

'...This is becoming too different from the novel.'

"And the moment the chief was about to fall, a young boy got in the way of the people trying to take the children."

"...Lock?"

"Yes. It was Lock."

'Why would Lock show up this time? In the novel, he had stayed hidden, even when the children were killed. Did he think killing and kidnapping were different? Was it his instinctual need to protect his family members and his younger siblings, who were weaker than him? What would have made Lock's natural wolf instincts flare up?'

“I stopped the assassin. No, I tried to kill them.”

Choi Han said that as he looked back at Cale. Cale did not show any emotions as he urged Choi Han to continue speaking.

“Keep going.”

“...I realized that the people who did not have stars on their clothes used the same black power as the assassins I killed at Harris Village.”

Cale asked back with a shocked expression.

“It was the same power as the people who destroyed Harris Village?”

“Yes.”

“...This.”

Cale grabbed his head with one hand and let out a sigh. He was acting like it was his first time hearing about this. Of course, all of this was just an act.

“Among them, there was just one person who had the red star with five white stars on their chest. That person was the one who killed the guard.”

Choi Han started to tear up.

“And that trash of a human was drinking the Wolf Tribe’s blood.”

Cale closed his eyes.

The blood drinking mage. He was the crazy lunatic who would lead the terror incident at the capital. He kept his eyes closed as he heard the rest of Choi Han’s report.

“In the end, I could not capture or kill them. The ones I captured committed suicide, while the rest disappeared when the person with the stars used teleportation magic.”

‘Why would the blood drinking mage, who is a highest tier mage and crazy for blood, try to kidnap the Blue Wolf Tribe children instead of killing all of them like in the novel?’

Cale could not figure it out.

'Did something change drastically because I saved the dragon?'

The only thing Cale could think about was the changes he has made so far to the original story.

"This is what the mage said."

Choi Han continued in an angry and bitter voice.

"How disappointing. They were perfect as seeds. These young ones probably have even tastier blood."

Seed. Cale didn't know what the mage meant by seed, but he kept the word on the back of his mind as he opened his eyes and asked.

"And the children?"

The guard, chief, and the rest of the Wolf Tribe adults were dead. The only ones left were the 10 children and Lock.

Choi Han avoided Cale's gaze. This was the first time he did that since they sat down at this table. Cale instantly figured out what must have happened, as Choi Han reported in a quiet voice.

"They are at the inn."

'I knew it.'

Choi Han opened and closed his mouth a few more times before finally adding on.

"We came together with Rosalyn's magic."

'...It's going to be a real problem.'

Cale could feel a headache brewing. Choi Han should have just left the children with that merchant that they were travelling with. Although that merchant was far away from power right now, he was a great merchant.

“Cale-nim. That merchant is also at the inn.”

‘Is this how the story will go?’

That was what Cale was thinking right now. Cale observed Choi Han, who seemed to be finished with his report, and leaned back on the chair to sigh.

Seeing Choi Han like that, Cale asked a question.

“You must be curious.”

Choi Han looked toward the cold food and answered.

“Yes. I am curious.”

He did not even need to say what he was curious about.

Who they were.

Why they were doing such terrible things.

And why Cale knew about them.

Choi Han was curious about all of those things. Cale observed Choi Han’s pupils, that were looking down at the cold food on the table, and started to think.

‘This punk is really angry right now.’

The anger was not directed toward Cale. Choi Han was sharpening his anger toward the secret organization over and over again, like a sharp blade. Harris Village, the tortured dragon, and the incident with the Blue Wolf Tribe. Choi Han’s personally was one where he would clash with them instead of avoiding them.

Cale picked up a cold, but still delicious bread, and ripped off a piece to put into his mouth.

“I plan on telling you two things.”

“...But not everything?”

“Correct.”

Cale did not care that Choi Han was staring at him. He stood up with the bread still in

his hand. The chair was pushed back without making a noise on the carpet.

“Stand up.”

“...Are we going somewhere?”

Cale checked his watch after watching Choi Han get up after him. It was long past evening and heading toward night. That place was one to shine even brighter as the night got deeper.

Cale walked toward the door and responded to Choi Han’s question.

“The Temple of the God of Death.”

Cale was planning on going with Choi Han to the brightest place at night, the Temple of the God of Death.

There was a special type of priest at the Temples of the God of Death that could not be found anywhere else on the continent.

The deaf official.

They could not hear anything you said to each other. That was why the believers of the God of Death looked for them. Although Cale was not a believer, he was planning on visiting them, like most nobles.

Cale turned around once he got to the door. Choi Han was still standing by the table. Cale started to smile.

“I plan on telling you two truths.”

Although he was smiling, the next thing out of his mouth was not light at all.

“With my life on the line.”

Choi Han’s pupils lightly shook. However, Cale still had a smile on his face as he turned back around.

“Follow me.”

Choi Han slowly moved away from the table and headed toward the door. His eyes had calmed back down, but his face was still stiff. Cale was turning the doorknob as he

repeated himself once again.

“I will tell you the truth with my life on the line.”

Cale headed toward the Temple of the God of Death with Choi Han.

Chapter 33

You (8)

Nobody seemed to find it odd that Cale suddenly wanted to head out. Ron seemed to have gone somewhere as well, as he was nowhere to be found. The only question Hans had for Cale was about where Cale was going.

‘Young master, where are you going?’

‘Don’t worry about it.’

‘Yes, sir! But since this is your first day in the capital, can you please return without breaking any alcohol bottles today?’

‘...Are you really going to keep getting out of line like this?’

‘Not at all. Please be safe, young master.’

Cale got on the carriage and started to think about how to deal with Hans, who kept stepping out of line. The carriage arrived at the temple while he was thinking.

“Let’s get off.”

“Got it.”

Cale got up to step out of the carriage. Choi Han had been quiet ever since they got on the carriage, no, since they stepped out of Cale’s room. He seemed to have a lot of complicated emotions storming through his head right now.

Cale only knew about Choi Han’s personality until the fifth volume of, ‘The Birth of a Hero.’ However, there was one thing that Cale was sure about. Although Choi Han was a good person, he was not gullible. He was very smart.

‘If I tried to give an unbelievable excuse, he may believe me at first, but will definitely doubt me later.’

Choi Han may have been very lonely after living in solitude for tens of years, but that experience taught him how to survive on his own, and how to stubbornly persevere.

Choi Han may look at him favorably right now and follow him, but, as seen around

volume 5 of, 'The Birth of a Hero,' he is someone who eventually wishes to be the leader. Choi Han is someone who will live to make his personal view of justice a reality.

"...It is too white."

The Temple of the God of Death that Cale saw once he alighted was completely white, without a speck of dirt to be seen. The believers of the God of Death considered white to be the color of death, and cleaned everything over and over again every single day to make sure there was not a speck of dust anywhere on the building.

'What an interesting place.'

The Temple of the God of Death looked like it wanted to show that people had nothing to fear about the night with their actions. They opened the temple to both believers and non-believers once the sun started to set.

'Apparently, the priests are all sleeping if you come during the day.'

It really was an interesting place in Cale's opinion. They were greeted by two priests at the temple entrance.

"May you be blessed with a peaceful rest!"

"May you be blessed with a peaceful rest!"

The priests of the God of Death were generally extremely bubbly. Although people may consider death to be the end, the philosophy of the Church of the God of Death believed that it was important to enjoy life as they headed toward the peaceful rest.

"Priest-nim."

Cale slowly approached the priest. The priest inspected Cale with a curious expression. Cale looked like he was either an extremely affluent noble or a wealthy merchant based on his outfit. But the man behind him looked like a beggar, although the sword on his waist made him look somewhat strong.

"What can I do for you?"

"Is there an open Room of Death?"

The two priests' expressions stiffened. The priest who asked the question looked back

and forth between Cale and Choi Han before asking.

“Whose death will you be putting on the line?”

The priest peeked toward Choi Han as he said that. Choi Han currently looked like he had been rolling on a mountain and been suffering for a while. He also looked like he had not eaten anything for about two days, and seemed to be the type that would be easily scammed. The priest had a bitter feeling about this.

The priest turned his gaze over to the affluent noble. Beautiful red hair and a handsome face. He was not very handsome, but it was enough to catch attention wherever he went. In addition, this man was currently smiling.

Cale smiled as he slightly raised his hand.

“Mine.”

“Huh?”

Cale smiled once more at the confused priest.

“I will be putting my life on the line.”

Choi Han put his hand on Cale’s shoulder at that time.

“Cale-nim.”

“What?”

Cale turned around to see Choi Han with a stiff, yet anxious expression.

“I will believe you even if you don’t do this.”

Cale started to smirk and slowly responded.

“I don’t think you will.”

Choi Han will have no choice but to not believe him. How could he believe Cale when Cale was not planning to tell him anything? That was why they were at the temple.

‘Why would I tell him everything? That’ll just make me get involved in the mess.’

There was no reason for him to get involved with Choi Han that much. Cale wouldn't be able to live a peaceful life if Choi Han was around. It's already visible. Didn't Choi Han bring him more trouble to him by bringing all of the wolf children?

'He rides on the whales with the Whale Tribe to fight against mermaids in the future.'

In this human-centric world, Choi Han's position to embrace both humans and non-humans makes him start to change. The start of that is the Whale Tribe. The Whale Tribe that appeared at the beginning of volume 5 was, to be honest, quite scary.

'They were the deadliest predators.'

The Whale Tribe was the strongest of the Beast people. They were also the most beautiful Beast people. The Whale Tribe had different colors of black, grey, or pink, but they were all extremely beautiful. In comparison, the mermaids of this world had two legs and fins, looking like a human covered in scales.

'But they are so stubborn that they won't even be humble in front of a dragon.'

The Whale Tribe was extremely scary. Although they were small in number, their casual punch could easily blow up a human's head. Even Lock could not lift a finger to the Whale Tribe.

'Their temper is ruthless.'

Choi Han gets involved with all sorts of people and trouble as well. Cale had no desire to continue being involved with him.

"Priest-nim. The room?"

"Yes, we have one. I will prepare it for you right away. Please head to the basement."

"Thank you."

Cale started to walk behind the priest. Choi Han followed behind Cale with an iffy expression. Cale noticed Choi Han's movement, and leisurely walked toward the innermost area of the temple.

After walking for a long time, they could see numerous doors on one side of the wall. The priest opened one of those doors to reveal a staircase leading down into the

basement.

“Death awaits you at the bottom.”

“Great. Let’s go.”

The priest watched Cale walking down the stairs without any hesitation with interest. The, ‘death,’ that is mentioned in the Temple of Death also meant, ‘vow.’ Death was something that was guaranteed to visit you at some point. It was not something you could avoid, and your responsibility was to accept your role in the world while you are here.

That was why the officials of the Temple of the God of Death brought the end known as death for those who go against their vow.

Because of this, people who headed to this Room of Death, or sometimes called the Room of Vows, tended to be humble and serious. In contrast, this relaxed and confident person was really unique in the priest’s eyes.

‘It makes me think about priestess Cage.’

She was someone who cursed the temple extremely frequently, but she was still loved by the lord. Cage. The priest suddenly thought about her, but quickly erased it from her thoughts. At the same time, Cage was becoming frustrated while hearing the lord’s voice again.

After getting rid of the thoughts about Cage, the priest headed down the stairs behind Cale. Once they got to the bottom, the priest opened the door and informed Cale and Choi Han.

“Please wait a moment. I will get it ready.”

The priest then entered into the room alone. Cale looked toward the closed door and started to speak.

“If you really don’t think we need to do this, I will let you know one of the truths in advance. What do you think?”

Choi Han immediately responded.

“Yes, please tell me. I trust you.”

“Is that so?”

Cale rubbed his chin with one hand before casually spitting the truth out.

“The first of the two truths.”

His gaze turned toward Choi Han.

“I do not know the secret organization’s identity nor their goal.”

“...What the-”

Choi Han’s pupils started to shake. At that moment, they heard a click and the priest came back out of the room.

“You can enter now. The person putting their life on the line just needs to raise their hand once inside the room for the priest-nim.”

“Thank you. We understand.”

Compared to the relaxed Cale, Choi Han seemed extremely confused and anxious. The priest tilted his head in confusion at this, but quietly left the area. It was none of his business. Cale grabbed the doorknob as he turned to look back at Choi Han.

“Hard to believe?”

“That, you see.”

Cale could see Choi Han struggling to answer. Choi Han had said he trusted Cale, but he could not trust Cale’s words. How could Cale not know? Did that make any sense? Choi Han then heard Cale’s voice in his ear.

“I understand.”

Choi Han looked toward Cale. Cale’s relaxed expression made him seem very mature. Cale then started to speak.

“Let’s go in.”

Choi Han followed Cale into the Room of Death that was behind the white door.

As expected, the room was completely white, with a white table, white chair, and white

walls. The only non-white thing in the room was the priest who was standing there with his mouth and ears covered.

The deaf priest. Cale did not really look favorably upon that title, but these priests were pretty well respected in this world. Nobles and royalty, anybody who needed to have a secret conversation or stealthily sign a contract came to see these priests.

Cale silently bowed his head to greet the priest before raising his hand. The priest nodded at Cale's action and pointed to the two chairs by the table.

Cale sat down on the right side while Choi Han sat across from him on the left. The priest moved to the head of the table before pushing a piece of paper toward them.

[For the person who is putting their life on the line. The hand of the God of Death will touch the one who came with you. Once that happens, you can say your vow. Should you break your vow, death awaits you.]

What a vicious set of directions.

Cale pushed the paper back to the priest after verifying that Choi Han had finished reading. The priest then lifted both of his hands up like Cage had done before. At that moment.

Oooooooooong- oooooooooong-

The white room started to shake. Maybe it was because this was a place that served the lord, but a black smoke started to form around the priest once the room started to shake. The black smoke then surrounded both Choi Han and Cale before creating a connection between the two of them.

"...Is this the power of the God of Death?"

"Yes."

Cale responded to Choi Han's question before trying to feel the black smoke thread surrounding him. It happened when Cage made the vow as well, but the power of the God of Death reminded him of the stakes of this vow.

'I will die if I break this vow.'

Cale was sure Choi Han felt it as well. That must be why his face stiffened up. Cale

could feel the touch of the God of Death and started his vow.

“The priest in front of me guarantees that he cannot hear, and, if that is not the truth, he will pay the price with his life.”

This was the general phrase stated first whenever a vow was made with a deaf priest.

“Furthermore, I, Cale Henituse, vow to speak the truth to Choi Han in front of the God of Eternal Rest, and, if what I say is even slightly a lie, I will immediately die in this spot to pay the price.”

Immediately. That word made Choi Han’s face stiffen up even more. He was nervous.

At first, Cale debated whether to tell Choi Han everything.

I was transported into the novel I was reading. I am also Korean. That is why I know what happens until volume 5. This secret organization goes on to cause issues throughout the continent. The continent soon falls into a state of chaos because of a war.

Should Cale say all of that?

Or, should he say something like this? I was transported into the novel I was reading and ended up as the son of a wealthy noble. That was why I was trying to just live a peaceful life, but I remembered what happened in the novel so I changed it around a bit. I wanted to allow myself to live peacefully, even if the continent was in a state of war.

Cale didn’t like either of them. The first one might get him involved in the continent’s war and make him die out on the battlefield, while the second one might lead to Choi Han’s contempt killing him.

Cale did not want either of those to happen.

“First.”

First of the two truths.

“I, Cale Henituse, do not know the identity of that organization.”

Sigh. Choi Han let out a deep sigh before covering his face with both hands. He slowly moved his hands away after a bit to see that Cale was still alive.

“I am being honest when I say that I do not know their identity.”

It was the truth.

Cale, the original Kim Rok Soo, had read, ‘The Birth of a Hero’ until volume 5, but it did not mention anything about the secret organization’s goals or identity. All it discussed was the actions of the organization.

“And one more thing. I am being completely honest when I say this.”

The second of the two truths.

“I despise the organization and wish for it to disappear.”

Naturally, Cale was still alive. He did not like these people that caused such incidents. They probably take part in the continent’s war as well. Cale wished for them to disappear so that he could live calmly on a peaceful continent.

Choi Han seemed like he was at a loss for words. He looked at the black thread connecting himself, the priest, and Cale, before repeatedly clenching and unclenching his fist. Cale flinched at Choi Han’s scary expression when Choi Han started to speak.

“How can you hate them if you don’t know them?”

“Because I know about a couple of the terrible things they plan on doing. The Black Dragon and Lock are two of them. Choi Han.”

Cale pointed to himself with his index finger.

“I have lived my life as trash. That is my dream.”

Choi Han’s expression changed after hearing Cale say that his dream was to be trash.

“I have no desire to become my family’s successor. Basen Henituse, my blood-related younger brother. I am hoping for him to become the successor.”

This was also the truth. That was why Cale asked Choi Han a question.

“So then why would I have come to the capital as the representative of the Henituse family? Especially when I am hoping Basen becomes the successor? My father, the head of the household, told me to go, but I could have said no.”

Choi Han answered after a duration of silence.

“...I am not sure.”

“It is because I know what the secret organization is planning to do in the capital.”

Choi Han’s pupils dilated once more.

“I cannot answer how I know. But they are planning to kill a lot of people at the capital. I couldn’t send Basen to such a place. I want to prevent that incident from happening.”

Of course, Cale was not planning to do anything and everything to put his own life on the line for others.

“After taking care of all of these issues as quietly as possible, I plan on returning to the Henituse territory.”

“...You cannot tell me how you know?”

“Correct. I cannot tell anybody, no matter who it is, about it.”

Choi Han’s eyes were full of questions, but his mouth stayed shut.

Cale didn’t know the identity of the secret organization but he knew about a couple things they would end up doing. He also despised them and wanted them gone.

Choi Han’s head fell even more as he started to think things over. His head was a mess right now. Even still, the power of the God of Death coming through the black thread gave him serenity. He knew that Cale would die right here if he had lied.

“However, I will tell you one more thing.”

One more. That made Choi Han quickly lift his head to look at Cale.

“The last truth.”

This was the third truth Cale told Choi Han.

“I have no desire to harm you.”

Cale was confident as he said that. He remained alive, which meant this was the truth.

Choi Han started to frown.

Tap. Tap.

Choi Han started to tap his thigh with his clenched fist. Although he was not tapping very hard, veins were popping out of his tightly clenched fist. He slowly raised his head. Cale was still alive.

“...I trust you.”

Listening to that response that took so long to come out, Cale repeated the words he had said to Choi Han before they entered this room.

“I understand.”

He then started to smile.

Sigh.

Choi Han sighed while still sitting at the table. He lifted his head to look at Cale. Cale's eyes were pure as usual, while stubborn.

“Cale-nim. Please promise one more thing. Then I will completely trust you.”

‘...I didn't think something like this would happen.’

Cale was feeling iffy about Choi Han's response. It shouldn't be a big deal because he would be able to find a way to twist anything to suit himself, but it was the phrase, ‘completely trust you,’ that was not sitting well with Cale. But it wasn't like he could say no right now.

“Sure. What is it?”

“Cale-nim.”

“Yes?”

“I must get revenge on that organization. I think this is the first time in my life I’ve ever hated a person or an organization so much.”

Anger filled Choi Han’s pure eyes. A sense of nostalgia could be seen behind the anger as well. Choi Han was probably thinking about Harris Village.

‘Mm.’

Cale held back from letting that noise escape from his mouth. This was why he did not want Choi Han with him, even if Choi Han chose to follow him. Choi Han was a good person, but he would always finish something he made up his mind to do. That was why Cale waited for Choi Han’s final request with nervousness.

Choi Han finally started to speak.

“Please tell me no matter what if you find out their identity.”

“Ah-, well, sure.”

‘I thought he was going to ask something difficult.’

Cale had a shocked expression as he made the vow.

“I, Cale Henituse, will inform Choi Han once I learn of their identity. I will pay with my life should I go against this vow. Good enough?”

“Yes, thank you very much.”

Choi Han finally started to smile. He seemed to be relieved. Cale started to think while observing this Choi Han.

‘How would I ever learn of their identity?’

In order to find out their identity, actually, in order to even find the smallest clue about their identity, he would need to go down the same route Choi Han took in the novel. He would have to be crazy to do that. Once Choi Han gets out of the capital and the Roan Kingdom, he would run into all sorts of heroes; humans and non-humans alike.

Just thinking about it made Cale feel terrible.

“Then are we done?”

“Yes.”

Bang!

Cale lifted his hand and slammed down on the table. His smash made the table slightly shake, and the priest opened his eyes and nodded his head. The area vibrated once more.

Ooooooong-

With that, the smoke disappeared into each of their bodies. It was slightly different from when Cale had experienced this with the crazy priestess Cage. Cale felt the two vows becoming ingrained into his body as he took a piece of paper out of his pocket.

It was the cheque for 10 million gallons. Cale put that money in front of the calmly seated priest and got up. He then said goodbye to the priest before heading out of the room. Choi Han looked back and forth between the money and Cale, before following Cale out of the room and closing the door. He then looked toward Cale with confusion.

Cale casually responded to Choi Han’s gaze.

“Nothing in life is free.”

“I see.”

Cale walked back up the stairs to find the priest from earlier standing at the entrance on the first floor.

The priest greeted the still alive Cale.

“May your life continue until its destined time.”

It was their way of telling you not to break your vow so that you could continue to live. It was completely merciless.

“Thank you very much, priest-nim.”

Cale thanked the priest with a smile in response. The priest still found Cale’s smile and relaxed voice to be odd, but Cale just walked past him to leave the temple.

He then got on the carriage and and started to speak once the carriage started to move.

“For your reference, that crazy mage, that person is the leader of the incident that will happen at the capital.”

“.....Am I allowed to kill them if I see them?”

“Why are you asking me such an obvious question? Do as you want.”

‘Doesn’t matter to me.’

However, that crazy mage was a highest level mage and a teleportation specialist, so Choi Han was never able to do a he wished in the novel.

“Yes. I will make sure to kill them.”

Cale turned away from the angry face of Choi Han. It was too vicious for Cale to handle.

Once they got back to their residence, there was another individual Cale found difficult to handle.

“Young master.”

“Ron.”

The assassin Ron, who had a benign smile on his face, came to look for Cale, who was trying to rest in his chamber.

Chapter 34

Being Still (1)

Cale blankly stared at the tea cup that Ron was offering him.

“...Lemon tea before bed?”

“Yes, young master.”

Cale was not used to drinking lemon tea before bed. He didn't feel like drinking it, but he lifted the teacup up without saying anything else. He felt Ron's gaze on him as he took a sip of the lemon tea.

It was then that Ron started to speak.

“Young master, may I make a request?”

“Kek, what? A request?”

Cale's eyes opened wide at Ron saying the word, 'request,' and turned to look at Ron quickly. Ron still had a gentle smile on his face. Cale's eyes started to fog up, as he quickly started to think.

“This devious old man has a request for someone like me, who he thinks is useless?”

Cale had an indescribable sense of ominousness. He felt like the man who tried to get rid of a lump on his face and ended up coming back with two. ^[1] Either that, or the woodcutter who was greedy and claimed that both the golden axe and the silver axe were his and ended up leaving empty handed without even his own axe. ^[2]

Cale calmed himself before asking in a relaxed manner.

“Alright, what is it?”

Ron immediately shared his request with Cale.

“May I have two days off?”

“Oh.”

Cale subconsciously let out a gasp. He felt like he had his lump removed and received the set of golden and silver axes as a gift at the same time. [3] Cale put the teacup down and grabbed Ron’s hand, before starting to rapidly speak, unlike his usual style.

“Yes. Good idea. Ron, you've worked so hard for tens of years. You had to take care of this trash of a young master. If you want a break, you can take off as long as you want. You are more than welcome to do that.”

Yes, Cale would like it if Ron took a very long break. However, Ron needed to return before the capital terror incident in order to get connected to Choi Han, so two days was perfect. Cale was looking forward to enjoying the next two days without looking at this assassin’s face.

Ron looked toward Cale, who was holding his hand vigorously, with curiosity. However, Cale quickly turned his gaze away from Ron and opened a dresser next to the bed. Cale removed a money pouch out of the dresser and held it up.

Cheques and large amounts of money were in the residence’s safe, but there was still a lot of money in this bag as well. Cale took the whole bag and put it in Ron’s hand. He was the son of a wealthy family, and really did not have anything else to give other than money.

“Here. This isn’t much, but buy yourself some delicious food and enjoy your break.”

Ron just blankly stared at the money pouch Cale had put in his hand.

‘Buy myself delicious food and enjoy my break.’

This made Ron think about how long he had been living in hiding. He had spent that whole time taking care of this trash, this puppy young master.

He was now trying to step back out of hiding and restart his life. But there was a good chance that his future would be chaotic. If those people really had crossed over to the Western Continent, it would actually be worse than just chaotic.

‘Then I should leave my son here.’

Ron looked toward the relaxed young master in front of him.

“Young master, will it really be okay?”

Cale excitedly answered Ron’s question. He wanted Ron to enjoy himself so much that he would desire to leave Cale for good.

“Of course. Ron, you are qualified to enjoy a break.”

Qualification. Ron’s original plan was to quietly leave in a few days either alone, or with Beacrox. However, this damn affection was the problem. That was why he mentioned a two day break. He wanted to see what this little punk would say. He was curious to know.

This puppy young master of his now knew what kind of person he was because of Choi Han. Ron still had a gentle expression on his face, but his gaze started to turn cold.

“Young master, this is too much money. What will you do if I take this and run away?”

‘Or is it that you want me to run away since you heard that I am a strong individual?’

Although the years of forcing himself to smile had created a lot of wrinkles on his face, his sharp gaze was directed to Cale. Ron could see Cale’s reaction.

Cale had snorted.

“You think I don’t know your personality, Ron? If you were going to run, you would have either left without saying anything or just flat out said that you were leaving. Am I wrong?”

That was how Ron had left in the novel. He didn’t say anything to the Count, and whenever he needed to separate from Choi Han’s party for a bit, he would discuss their contract before leaving.

“...You are right. That is indeed correct.”

Ron nodded his head with a smile on his face. Now that he thought about it, this puppy young master in front of him had seen him more than his own son, Beacrox, had for the last tens of years. In fact, Cale might be the person who knows the current Ron the best.

‘I am very old now too.’

The old man accepted that he was getting older. Just like how tree rings don’t grow all at once, the effects of time did not avoid him as well. He then started to speak.

“I will be back to serve you when you head to the royal palace.”

“If you really want to.”

Ron looked toward the uninterested Cale and put the money pouch away.

He couldn’t allow Cale to go into the palace looking worse than the royal family or the other nobles. Ron did not want to see the puppy young master that he raised being looked down upon by others.

That would be his last duty before he left.

“Then I will head out now.”

“Sure, sure.”

Cale waved Ron out while sitting on his bed and had a wonderful night of sleep for the first time in a long time.

By the time Cale woke up around lunch time the next day, Ron had already left early in the morning on his break. Thanks to that, deputy butler Hans became responsible for serving Cale.

“Mr. Ron said he wasn’t comfortable unless it was me. Haha, I guess I am kind of amazing?”

“Can you just be quiet?”

Cale ignored Hans and looked outside the open chamber door. Choi Han had been

standing outside the door since early this morning. Cale was staring at Choi Han while wondering what was going on, and Choi Han answered without even needing to be asked.

“Mr. Ron asked me to protect you.”

‘What was Ron thinking?’

Cale had a serious expression on his face as he received a cup from Hans. He then started to frown.

“Hans. Why did you bring me lemonade?”

“Excuse me? Young master, don’t you like lemonade?”

Sigh. Cale let out a deep sigh and drank the lemonade. It was better than cold water to wake him up and settle his stomach.

Choi Han watched Hans and Cale from outside the chamber door as he recalled his conversation with Ron the night before.

‘You’re going somewhere?’

‘Yes.’

‘Where?’

‘Nothing a kid like you needs to know about.’

‘Did you come to talk to me for Cale-nim?’

‘You figure it out.’

That was what Ron said before leaving early this morning. Choi Han saw the assassin Ron instead of the servant Ron when Ron walked out of the residence.

“Choi Han.”

Choi Han snapped out of it as Cale called out to him. Cale had gotten up from the bed

and was heading to the bathroom. Cale asked Choi Han, who was looking at him.

“Is Lock awake?”

“Yes sir.”

The Wolf Tribe really did have fast regenerative abilities. Cale looked at the time. The piggy bank Billos, the bastard son of the Flynn Merchant Guild’s leader, would soon arrive at the capital. Cale had promise to drink with him, and had already decided where they would meet. It was the same inn he had told Choi Han to stay in once he got to the capital. That inn also had a bar, which was famous for its alcohol.

‘And something that will connect Choi Han and Billos is there.’

Cale thought about the merchant who would be with the 10 wolf children right now and asked.

“What about the children and the merchant at the inn?”

“I was thinking you could stop by on your way back from the meeting.”

“...Meeting?”

Hans approached the confused Cale and started to speak.

“Young master, the invitation from the Northeastern nobles.”

“Ah.”

Cale had forgotten about that because he did not consider those nobles to be very important. He started to frown a bit as he debated what to do. What kind of trash actions would he need to do at the meeting? Cale, Kim Rok Soo, had never met these people before, but it didn’t matter. He was known as trash for a reason.

“And the guest wishes to speak with you as well.”

“Are You talking about Miss Rosalyn?”

“Yes. She said any time will work based on your schedule.”

Rosalyn was a smart girl. She probably already suspects that the feeling of mana from yesterday is from a dragon. She has probably never seen a dragon before, but such powerful mana could not come from anything other than a dragon.

Cale opened the door to the bathroom and gave an order to Hans as he went in.

“I will eat breakfast in my room, so get it ready. After that, ask Miss Rosalyn if she would like to have breakfast together.”

“Yes, young master. I understand. However, it is the middle of the day, so it would be lunch.”

“...Hans.”

“I will get it ready right away!”

Cale glared at Hans, who vigorously answered, and gave one last command before closing the bathroom door.

“Ah, and leave the terrace door open.”

‘The Black Dragon needs to be able to come in.’

It was very odd that it could only sleep well if it slept outside on a tree by the window.



“Then I will go bring Rosalyn-nim over now.”

“Okay.”

Cale sat on a chair by the food, that was breakfast for some and lunch for others and sent Hans out. Beacrox seemed to have put in quite the effort, as the food on the table looked fabulous. The table was full of food, probably because he asked for it all at once instead of in courses.

“Cale-nim.”

Choi Han approached him.

“I will go stay with Lock while you are eating.”

“I guess the two of you are taking turns nursing him.”

Choi Han started to smile in embarrassment at Cale’s proclamation. Although Lock was quickly recovering, he was still laying on the bed with Rosalyn and Choi Han taking turns nursing him. Of course, Rosalyn was doing majority of the nursing.

“On and Hong are helping to take care of him as well.”

“Like hell they are.”

Choi Han could only remain silent at Cale’s words. On and Hong were staying in Lock’s room. But this was what the two kittens told Cale in secret before heading over.

‘I think we are too weak to kill a Wolf Tribe. We will probably lose, even if we enter berserk mode. We need to figure out a way to squash people like him.’

‘Right, we need to figure out a way. That is why we will go study a bit.’

On and Hong were not there to nurse Lock but to determine how to kill such enemies in the future.

“But Lock still seems relaxed having two cute kittens with him.”

“...I guess that’s great.”

Cale had no desire to tell Choi Han and Lock the truth. Choi Han inspected the area to verify that the Black Dragon was not in the room before quietly speaking.

“I did not tell Lock or Rosalyn that I brought them with me because you told me to do so.”

“Good job.”

“I told you I would keep it a secret.”

Choi Han was showing a reliable side to Cale. Maybe it was because of yesterday's vow, but Choi Han did not know how devious words could be. He didn't know how words could be used to favor one party more than the other.

The God of Death would only follow Cale's words and his interpretation of it because he was the one to put his life on the line.

"That is why nobles spent at least a week preparing what to say when they are going to make a Vow of Death. They usually average at least ten pages of texts to say."

Cale thought about how he would use Choi Han in the future before starting to speak to Choi Han, who seemed to really trust him.

"Choi Han, did you say you were going to kill that blood drinking mage if you saw them again?"

"Yes."

Cale nodded his head at the answer that came without any hesitation, and continued to speak.

"I will tell you how to find that person."

Choi Han's gaze started to change. But Cale was not done just yet.

"Of course, we have to prevent the terror incident first."

Choi Han's expression seemed to be asking Cale to tell him right away, but the moment he opened his mouth, there was a knock on the door followed by Hans's voice.

Young master, I have brought Rosalyn-nim."

Cale nodded at Choi Han and got up from the chair. Choi Han silently got up as well and opened the door. Hans and Rosalyn entered through the open door. Hans did not enter any farther than the door frame, and calmly added on to what he stated previously.

"Young master, Rosalyn-nim, please let me know if you need anything."

Hans then bowed and stepped out of the room. Choi Han followed behind him.

“Rosalyn, I will be with Lock.”

“Okay.”

Once the two of them left, only Rosalyn and Cale were left in the room. Rosalyn looked to be calm, yet cold.

“Thank you for the invitation, young master Cale.”

“It was nothing, Miss Rosalyn.”

Cale pointed to the chair across from him and started to speak.

“There are a lot of things we need to discuss.”

“Young master, I guess you don’t like to beat around the bush?”

Rosalyn started to smile as she asked, and Cale looked toward the open terrace window and started to speak.

“Come on in.”

In that instant, Rosalyn quickly turned around. She could see some leaves floating into the room. She could not help but tremble.

However, she was able to logically think things through last night. She had thought about it all night while nursing Lock. Three-layered magic and the ability to do such a thing. There was really just one answer.

She moved her gaze from the leaves floating their way and looked toward Cale and asked.

“Dragon. Is it a dragon-nim?”

Mages really did respect dragons. Her demeanor clearly showed that was the case. Cale started to smirk, as he started to speak toward the floating leaves.

“You introduce yourself.”

In that instant, the leaves that were floating on top of the table, or over the steaks if you want to be really specific, turned into a Black Dragon. It had removed its invisibility magic.

“Mm.”

Rosalyn could not even gasp, as she was completely shocked. Even though she knew it was going to be a dragon, it still was shocking. There were less than 20 dragons in existence in both the Western and Eastern continents combined, but such an existence was in front of her right now.

They were known for never leaving their territory and lair, and enjoying life as the most amazing existence in the world. Furthermore, dragons were the king of both mana and nature.

They were also an existence that preferred solitude. Although it was confirmed that there were 20 dragons in the world, they were all different colors and varied drastically in personality, habits, and traits. The Magic Tower found this to be quite interesting. Why were they different in color and personality, even after growing up under their parents?

There was only one explanation they could fathom.

‘Dragons are prideful creatures that want to be different from any other.’

They want to be unique while they are alive. That was the case, even amongst their own tribe of dragons.

Such an existence was in front of Rosalyn’s eyes right now.

It was a young dragon, but the mana she could feel and the unique gaze of a dragon told her it really was just like any other dragon.

The Black Dragon quietly observed Rosalyn for a bit before turning its head away. Rosalyn did not know what to say about the dragon’s action. After doing that, the dragon moved in front of the steak and started to speak.

“I am hungry.”

“...Go ahead, you can eat it.”

Cale shook his head as he answered, and also offered Rosalyn a seat.

“We should eat as well.”

“Ah... yes.”

Rosalyn had a blank expression on her face as she sat down. She could see the young Black Dragon eating the steak in front of her, while Cale, who was dressed fancier than usual because he needed to attend the Northeastern Nobles meeting, was elegantly eating a soup.

Nobody at the Magic Tower would believe her if she told them about this.

However, Rosalyn believed in what she was seeing in front of her eyes, as well as the rest of her five senses. Everything in nature could be felt by the five senses.

“...It is so amazing that a mage like myself can see such a sight. A dragon is with a human.”

Rosalyn believed in the sight in front of her and revealed her honest observation. Cale did not care to respond, but the Black Dragon stopped eating the steak to look at Rosalyn. He then turned his head to look at Cale.

It was the face of a reptile, but its expression was clearly visible. The Black Dragon started to frown while looking at Cale, who was still eating his soup, and started to speak.

“Very weak. He is no better than an ant. That is the reason.”

“Indeed.”

Both Cale and the dragon agreed. Rosalyn watched this with curiosity, before eventually nodding her head.

“A meal with young master Cale and Dragon-nim. It is an honor.”

Rosalyn was calm as she elegantly lifted up her fork. Cale observed her expression, as he continued to eat his soup.

‘She really is a courageous person.’

Any other mage would be shaking non-stop and praising the dragon right now. They would then ask the dragon to teach them even a little bit about mana or magic. A dragon’s magic was something that would make any mage on the continent go crazy.

Cale started to speak to Rosalyn, who was starting off with a salad.

“Please feel free to stay here as long as you like.”

“Young master Cale.”

“Yes?”

“I have three things I am curious about. But one of them has already been resolved, so I have two more. May I ask about them?”

“Please do.”

The first was probably about the dragon. Cale had decided to reveal the dragon’s existence to Rosalyn after contemplating it for a long time. He felt like it would be more beneficial to him that way.

He felt like he could anticipate the other two questions as well.

“Here is the second thing I am curious about.”

Rosalyn asked her question calmly and sincerely.

“Is it okay to allow someone who was not invited to stay in your residence like this? Even if I am a mage, as a noble, you must be sensitive about associating with strangers.”

Cale easily answered that question.

“It is fine because you are someone Choi Han brought.”

Cale peeked at the Black Dragon, that was eating the steak, before looking back toward Rosalyn and continuing to speak.

“I also have this guy.”

The Black Dragon did not respond to that statement. However, he flicked his wing once before stuffing his face into the steak plate and starting to devour the steak even faster than before. Rosalyn watched the dragon for a long time, before her red pupils moved back to Cale, who was eating a salmon steak.

“...I see. Then here is my third question.”

Cale stopped eating the salmon steak and looked up at Rosalyn. Their eyes met, and Cale could see her red pupils. Originally, Rosalyn changed her pupils from red to black with magic when they entered the capital. She did the same thing with her hair color. However, that was not the case right now.

Rosalyn asked her question.

“Why do you speak so respectfully to me, despite your status as a noble?”

Cale lifted up the wine glass next to the salmon steak and took a sip of the white wine. He then started to speak.

“Red hair, red pupils, and a mage. Then there is your self-revealed name of Rosalyn.”

It was weird to pretend not to know when someone was being so clear about it.

Cale started to smile as he asked.

“Princess-nim, aren't you the one who should stop speaking so respectfully to me?”

Chapter 35

Being Still (2)

Rosalyn started to smile.

“I heard you were trash, but I guess that was a lie.”

Rosalyn stopped with the respectful tone almost immediately, as Cale had expected. Although the majority of the people may not know what the princess of another kingdom may look like, it was different for nobles.

Low-level nobles may have found it difficult to gather information, but at the Count level, like the Henituse family, having information about the neighboring kingdoms' nobles and royalty was basic knowledge. It was not just fun and games to be a noble.

Cale responded to Rosalyn's statement.

“It is true that I am famous for being trash. However, a mage should make their judgments based on their five senses.”

“You are right, young master Cale. We only believe the things we experience ourselves.”

Cale thought Rosalyn's way of speaking was quite odd. She was speaking informally to him as a princess, but when she was referring to herself as part of the society of mages by using the term, 'we,' she spoke formally. Her identity as a mage seemed to be very important to her.

“But princess-nim.”

“Rosalyn.”

She really didn't seem to like being treated like a princess.

“Okay then. Miss Rosalyn, are you done with your questions?”

“Yes. I am finished.”

She smiled as she answered.

“Young master Cale, it seems like you do not want to be involved with me?”

Even though he knew she was a princess, he just told her to enjoy her stay and then leave. It wasn't that she found that to be disrespectful or anything. In fact, she preferred it that way. If she wanted special treatment, she would have revealed her full name and her identity immediately.

She did not want to be treated that way however. In addition, she was thankful to Cale for telling them about Lock's condition.

“Really? I just acted that way since princess-nim seemed to prefer it this way.”

‘Liar.’

Rosalyn treated Cale's words as just a good excuse.

A human who travels with a dragon. He was known to be trash by society, but was not actually like that in reality. He could have easily revealed her existence if he really wanted to do so.

She thanked Cale, who was smiling as if he knew nothing.

“It seems like you have not informed the Roan royalty. Thank you very much.”

“No problem. Something like that should be based on the involved individual's own wishes.”

Cale thought that the crown prince would barge into this residence if Cale had reported it to the palace.

“You are correct, young master Cale. I do not wish to reveal myself. If this lands you into trouble in the future, please let them know that I asked you not to do so. I will send a messenger to back up your story.”

“Got it.”

“Thank you for letting me stay here. I will take care of my business and not cause you any trouble.”

‘Not cause me any trouble.’

Cale thanked Rosalyn, who was giving him the answer he wanted to hear the most.

“Thank you very much.”

“No worries, it is how it should be.”

Rosalyn brushed Cale’s thanks off before continuing to eat. Cale and Rosalyn, the two of them did not need to speak anymore. Rosalyn just peeked at the dragon every so often.

She couldn’t help it. As a mage, her gaze continued to head to the dragon. The dragon stopped eating the sausage that originally was for Cale before turning to look at Rosalyn. After ignoring Rosalyn’s continued peeking for a while, he finally spoke up.

“Eat your own food. This is mine.”

The Black Dragon pulled the plate with the sausage closer to him. Cale was casually piling more food onto that plate for the dragon. The Black Dragon was getting addicted to the taste of steak, which was different from eating raw meat, as well as the other types of various foods that were on the table.

Rosalyn peeked toward Cale, and Cale stealthily put up four fingers without the dragon noticing. Four years old. Rosalyn smiled at the meaning of Cale’s message, and responded to the dragon.

“Yes, dragon-nim. I would not dare eye your food.”

The Black Dragon started to eat again and Rosalyn and Cale continued their meals as well.

It was a relaxing and peaceful meal.

After it was over, Cale got on the carriage to go meet the Northeastern nobles. The Northeastern nobles consisted of just 10 noble families. There were more if you considered the barons and below, but the pillar of the Northeast was based on these 10 families. Of those 10 families, the three people Cale was meeting today came from three families that had been friendly with the Henituse family for a long time.

“What a dilemma.”

That was why Cale was worried. Choi Han, who had been following him as a guard,

cautiously asked.

“What is? If I can do anything to help, please let me know.”

“Nothing. You don’t need to know.”

Cale just curtly answered before starting to think again. Choi Han observed Cale and started to worry as well. It was the first time Choi Han had seen Cale worrying like this.

Cale did not know what to do.

Just what kind of chaos would he need to cause to really look like trash?

Cale had come to a realization after being stuck with large baggage like Choi Han and the Black Dragon. He was having a dilemma about how to live a trash life.

The Northeastern nobles would have seen Cale’s trash behavior in the past. They would have also received news about all of Cale’s trashy actions in the Henituse territory. That was why he had to be even more careful, no, he had to be even more chaotic.

“Hmm.”

Cale looked down at his two hands. Act like a total bastard? That would be a way to seem like the trash of all trash. While Cale was thinking about what he could do to act terribly, the carriage stopped in front of a residence. Since the Northeastern nobles all had residences in the same area of the capital, it was not very far.

“Welcome, young master Cale-nim.”

Cale noticed the old butler greeting him at the gate, and looked to the building behind the butler.

This was Count Wheelsman’s residence. Count Wheelsman’s territory was located in the beginning parts of the Northeast, and he was neither very strong nor very wealthy. That was why he was able to build a close relationship with Count Henituse in the Northeast, where they did not have any dukes or marquis. Count Henituse liked this friendship because, for someone like him, whose territory was far in the corner of the Northeast, knowing someone who was the close to the capital was beneficial.

Cale thought about Count Wheelsman’s successor.

'Eric Wheelsman.'

Deputy butler Hans had cautiously advised Cale before he left for this meeting.

'Young master, it is great that you have a good relationship with young master Eric, but I bring this up to you to ask whether you think it would be smarter to not act so close to each other in front of the other nobles in the meeting.'

That let Cale know that Eric and the original owner of this body were very close. However, the information about Eric in the nobles information report described Eric as a good person who was a bit uptight.

"Young master Cale, may I escort you inside?"

"Sure."

Cale followed the old butler into the Wheelsman residence.

Eric Wheelsman, Gilbert Chetter, and Amiru Ubarr. The three of them were inside the residence. Cale was still thinking about how he should act in front of them as he entered inside.

In the end, he didn't need to worry about such a thing.

"Cale. You at least still listened to this hyung. Right?"

Cale had a confused look on his face. Eric Wheelsman pushed up his glasses after seeing Cale's expression. Right now, Cale was seated at the table with the three nobles surrounding him like he was in an interview.

'This is odd.'

But the atmosphere was more of them consoling him rather than interviewing him. Eric Wheelsman started to speak.

"Won't it be annoying for you as well?"

Viscount Ubarr's daughter Amiru and Baron Chetter's son Gilbert chimed in.

“He’s right. Young master Cale, I heard you don’t like annoying formalities.”

“Young master Cale, it is not wrong to find something to be annoying.”

It felt like they were trying to console a child. Cale first responded to their statements.

“Yes, it is annoying.”

“See! That is why!”

Tap.

Eric lightly tapped the table. It did not seem like it was because he was angry, but more like a subconscious movement.

He looked toward Cale, who used to be a cute little kid until he grew up to be trash, and quietly continued.

“That is why you don’t need to say anything or do anything. Just be still! Be still and we will take care of everything for you. You hate annoying things and formalities anyway.”

Cale responded back with an intrigued expression.

“I am very good at staying still.”

“Huh? You are? Ah, yes. You are like that. You are very good at that.”

Eric was known for being uptight, but he was also the type to worry about everything. But that was only because he liked to think about everything before they actually happened.

He started to speak to Cale, who became the biggest concern of his since yesterday, when he found out that Cale really was the one to come to the capital. The other two looked toward Eric as if they were cheering him on.

“Some of the other Northeastern nobles may try to annoy you. The ones who aligned themselves with Marquis Stan or some other duke will definitely try. But all you have to do is be still and we will take care of everything for you. What do you think?”

This was what Eric was most worried about. Of the 10 pillar families, only these 4 families have not aligned themselves elsewhere. The other nobles who aligned with higher ranking nobles from outside the area would want to offer the entire

Northeastern group of nobles to their upline.

They needed to be cautious, cautious, and even more cautious. This group of four families had to be in the center. That was their way of being the strongest faction in the Northeast, and, in order to do that, the wealthy Henituse family could not cause an accident at the capital.

Eric, as well as the other two, quietly waited for Cale's response.

"That would be great."

Cale had a gentle smile on his face to go with his response. Eric was thinking that Cale still looked like the good kid from the past, as long as he was not drinking, and started to speak.

"I plan on showing our respect to the crown prince together as well. I'm sure you find this to be annoying and want to get right to drinking, but that will be difficult. As long as you do that initial greeting, we will take care of EVERYTHING ELSE!"

'Oh?'

Cale started to smirk. He found this atmosphere quite interesting. He picked up the wineglass in front of him. Cale could see Gilbert flinch as he did that.

Cale thought this was odd as well. He may be a troublesome trash, but since they were on the same side, their only possible course of action was to protect him. He wet his mouth with the wine, before starting to speak.

"It's great."

"Isn't it?"

Eric had a bright smile on his face as his glasses reflected the light from the chandelier.

Cale decided to take the three nobles' offer of doing nothing and getting their protection. He liked this plan very much.

"All you have to do is show up, sit there, and relax."

"Great. It sounds perfect."

It was a very good offer, just the type Cale liked. He calmly ate the meal in front of him,

as he started to think that it was a good idea to come here today. However, Eric, Gilbert, and Amiru did not let their guards down. Cale Henituse was someone who had even thrown a bottle at the Northeastern nobles meeting when everything seemed to be going great.

They were especially cautious because they were here to convince the crown prince to invest in the Northeastern coastline, where Gilbert and Amiru's families were positioned.

"Wine from the Henituse territory really is great."

Of course, Cale knew about the two family's desire for the crown prince's investment from the information Hans had given to him. The four families shared information with each other without any secrets. However, Cale knew that the investment from the crown prince would not be possible.

'How would he be able to invest when a war will soon start from the south of the Western Continent? It might be different if it was a navy though.'

The four nobles chatted every so often as they continued their meal. The three nobles relaxed a bit after seeing Cale make it through the whole meal without causing an accident.

They were all decently satisfied with this meeting.



Cale rested for a bit after returning to his residence, before hearing that Choi Han was back, causing Cale to call him to his room.

"Cale-nim, you called for me?"

"The inn?"

"Fine. Thankfully, the children are energetic."

Cale turned pale after thinking about 10 energetic Wolf Tribe children. On the other hand, Choi Han seemed to be more relaxed and happier.

"Then there is nothing else to do?"

"Yes?"

Cale nodded his head before standing up. It was only then that Choi Han realized that Cale was not wearing his pajamas nor his usual outfit. He was wearing very casual clothes.

Cale walked over to his bed as he started to speak.

“I will be laying in bed, so go tell Hans he can stop standing outside the door and can go sleep. He will go without even looking back.”

Choi Han looked out the open terrace window. It was a bright night. He then asked Cale.

“Will you be heading out?”

“Yes.”

Cale smiled as he answered.

“I left the terrace open like before, so come to my room.”

“I understand.”

Choi Han’s gaze changed. He remembered what Cale had told him the other day. Cale mentioned that he would tell Choi Han how to find that blood drinking mage.

“Will it just be the two of us, without either On or Hong?”

Choi Han asked with a serious expression, but an answer came from somewhere else.

“I will be going as well.”

The Black Dragon removed its invisibility magic and entered through the terrace window. Choi Han looked toward the Black Dragon before turning back to look at Cale. Cale answered even more relaxed than ever before.

“The three of us will go.”

Chapter 36

Being Still (3)

Choi Han looked at the Black Dragon before looking back toward Cale and asking.

“Are we going to destroy everything?”

“No. Absolutely not.”

‘Why are his thoughts always so extreme?’

Cale laid down on the bed and waved Choi Han away.

“Hurry up and come back soon. Oh, and wear a hat.”

“I understand.”

Choi Han left only the night stand’s light on and turned the rest of the lights off before heading out of the room and saying something to Hans. Cale kept his eyes closed and pretended to be asleep.

The door soon closed and Hans did not enter. The Black Dragon, who had been invisible while the door was open, removed its invisibility and landed on the bed. One side of the bed started to sink while the dragon started to speak in a worried voice.

“You cannot really fall asleep.”

Cale started to think after hearing the dragon’s words.

‘Do I look like a four-year-old to this dragon?’

Cale let out a sigh and got up from the bed. A few moments later, Choi Han reentered the room through the window while wearing a robe.

“You’re here. I guess a robe is definitely better than a hat.”

Choi Han nodded and started to speak toward the dragon as Cale packed a hat.

“Will you be following us like that?”

“I will be invisible.”

“...I heard that dragons could polymorph. Can't you turn into a human? I think that would be easier.”

A dragon's magic was an expression of their will. That was why Choi Han thought that the dragon could easily polymorph if it had the will to do so.

The Black Dragon snorted at Choi Han's words.

“I hate humans. I do not want to be like the humans. He said that dragons were cool and awesome.”

“Who said that?”

The Black Dragon peeked toward Cale at Choi Han's question, before quickly looking away. It then turned invisible and flew up into the sky. The sunken part of the bed returned back to normal.

Cale leisurely started to speak to Choi Han, who was looking at him with an odd expression.

“Dragons indeed are cool.”

“They really are.”

Choi Han nodded his head and followed behind Cale, who was heading toward the terrace. He then looked out the third-floor terrace window and stopped suddenly.

“Um, Cale-nim.”

“What?”

“...Do I have to carry you again?”

Cale snorted at Choi Han's hesitant question, and pointed to the ceiling with his index finger. At that moment, Cale's body slowly lifted off the floor and started to turn invisible.

Cale watched his entire body turn invisible before looking up to the ceiling and starting to speak.

“Dragons are great and mighty.”

“You are right. I am great and mighty.”

The invisible Black Dragon responded to Cale. Choi Han could see Cale’s evil smirk quickly appear before disappearing. Choi Han realized how Cale was controlling the dragon and he started to speak as well.

“Wow, dragons are great and mighty.”

Once Choi Han said that, he turned invisible as well, and they could leave the residence without any worries. Of course, there were magic detection tools around the residence fence, but they were for preventing intruders. They did not have any reaction to people leaving from the residence.

Choi Han stood at a small alley a bit away from the residence, and started to speak.

“It is fine from here.”

As soon as he said that, the invisibility magic on Cale and Choi Han was removed. Cale, whose levitation magic was removed as well, landed gently from the 10 centimeters he was floating in the air. Cale was shocked at this chain of events.

‘The Black Dragon’s magic skills are much stronger than I thought. I wonder if it is related to its special characteristics.’

This level of magic was already a bit higher than the level of the highest tier mages. It was no wonder that they said that an adult dragon could easily destroy an entire kingdom if it was willing to do so.

‘But I won’t need his help like this once I get the Sound of the Wind. I can then move around without the Black Dragon or Choi Han coming with me.’

The Sound of the Wind was the third ancient power Cale was planning on taking. However, he needed to head to the Roan Kingdom’s Northeastern shores to find that power.

‘I’ll need to go to young lady Amiru’s territory.’

Cale was planning on heading there to get the Sound of the Wind on his way back from the capital. His excuse to others would be that he wanted to go sightseeing, since he

was already out. The fact that it was an ancient power by the sea made him a bit concerned, but Cale decided to not think much about it because it was a power that he could quietly take.

‘By then, Choi Han’s crew won’t be with me anyways.’

Cale was certain that the Whale Tribe and the mermaids appeared at the Northeastern shores around the end of volume 4. The war in the ocean between the Eastern and Western continents. All he had to do was avoid the shores at that time. More than the whales, he needed to avoid those crazy mermaids.

Cale covered his red hair with his hat, before taking a map out of his pocket. He then took the lead.

“Follow me.”

The still invisible Black Dragon and Choi Han walked on either side of Cale, following Cale out of the southern district of the nobles and into the center of Huiss.

The night became as bright as the day as they got closer to the center of Huiss. There were many bright lights on the streets with shops selling stuff, and bars were the most lively at this time.

“The nightlife at the capital is really different from other places.”

“It sure is.”

Cale nodded his head at Choi Han’s words before heading toward the Plaza of Glory at the center of Huiss. They could see a round plaza in front of them with fountains in all four directions. Each fountain had groups of citizens gathered around it.

The three of them could see the citizens relaxing with their families or friends after a long day of work. Since it was 9 pm right now, they would continue to enjoy themselves at the plaza until the guards came to patrol at 11 pm.

Cale looked to the left. Choi Han was blankly watching some families laughing together at the fountain to the east.

Cale, who had been leisurely watching Choi Han and the scene in front of them, started to speak.

“Make it so nobody can hear us.”

Once he said that, an invisible dome appeared around them. It was something that only Cale, Choi Han, and the Black Dragon, who were inside the dome, could see.

Choi Han finally turned to look at Cale.

“There is this thing called a magic bomb.”

“A bomb?”

“Yes. A bomb. Magic bombs can come in many shapes and sizes. With this Western continent having a long history of war that was led by magic, it has developed quite a bit.”

Choi Han quietly listened to Cale’s story.

“However, there are a lot of restrictions. The location of the magic bomb, controlling the mana flowing through it, and many other factors cause these bombs to be really complicated to use.”

That was why they preferred to have a mage use their magic during war rather than using magic bombs. But the magic bombs this time are different from those used previously.”

“Of those bombs, newly developed magic bombs will go off here, as well as multiple places around here, in six days.”

Cale did not think that the five bombs Choi Han and Rosalyn had found in the novel would still be the same. The story had already changed. That meant that this situation could easily change as well. That was why Cale came up with a new plan.

However, he was still certain that the magic bomb terror incident would still proceed as described.

‘Since I was able to confirm that the crazy mage was in this kingdom.’

The crazy mage was the one who created this new magic bomb. The secret organization would eventually distribute this bomb to different territories in the Roan Kingdom after the incident at the capital. Of course, they will be hiding their identity as the secret organization.

“Are you saying a bomb will go off here?”

“Yes.”

Choi Han looked around at the fountains and the people in the plaza. A cold voice filled his ear at that time.

“It could be buried somewhere or even installed on a person. Of course, that person will not know it is a bomb and think it is something else, like a bracelet or a purse and have it on them.”

On a person. That phrase made Choi Han turn his head to look at Cale. Cale responded coldly to Choi Han.

“That is why we need to prevent it.”

Of course, Cale would not do it. Choi Han, Rosalyn, and the Black Dragon will be the ones to take care of it. Cale planned to be still. Cale planned to be very still at the capital.

“How can we prevent it?”

“Simple.”

Cale crossed his arms as he leaned on a tree in the plaza and continued to speak.

“Magic bombs, are in essence, chunks of mana. That is why all you need to do is have someone with high mana sensitivity inspect the area and search any locations that seem to have an abundance of mana.”

Choi Han flinched at Cale’s calm demeanor before cautiously asking.

“Is it so much higher that it will be that easily detected?”

“No. It is just slightly higher, making it difficult for any average mage to notice it. But that small chunk of mana can instantly pull in the mana in the surrounding area to create a large explosion.”

Choi Han looked concerned. As a sword user and an aura user, he was slightly sensitive to mana as well. However, he was not as sensitive to it as mages, and could not be of help.

“Cale-nim, I do not think it will be easy.”

“It is very easy.”

Cale answered that way as he asked.

“Right?”

At that moment, an answer came from above.

“It is doable. Just annoying.”

Next to Cale was the Black Dragon, an existence that was said to be the most sensitive to mana. Choi Han quickly understood and nodded his head. He had forgotten that this dragon was a great and mighty existence.

Cale handed the map in his hand to Choi Han.

“I don’t know about the people, but the bombs installed in locations will be installed at least two days before the incident.”

The day of the incident would be when the king arrives. That meant that the security would be multiple times the normal level starting from the day before. That's why they needed to install the bombs at least two days before.

“I don’t know about the other locations, but I am certain that at least one bomb will be near this plaza. This is the place with the most people.”

“Right. I agree.”

“That is why, with this plaza as the center point.”

Cale pointed toward Choi Han and then up to the sky.

“Choi Han, you and the dragon will roam around the capital every night to look for the magic bombs.”

“The two of us?”

Cale patted Choi Han’s shoulder and answered as Choi Han asked. The way to handle the Black Dragon and Choi Han was pretty similar.

“Yes. Choi Han, if it is you, I know that you can stealthily move around without being noticed. You are very talented.”

Choi Han quietly nodded his head with a serious expression. He then asked.

“What should we do once we find it?”

“Leave it there for now.”

“...Not get rid of it?”

“We will get rid of it on the day of the incident.”

“May I ask why?”

Cale started to smirk.

“Don’t you want to find that mage?”

It was not the answer to Choi Han’s question, but Choi Han first nodded his head. Cale looked around the plaza. Everybody looked happy, but members of the secret organization may be mixed in with them. Cale did not know where that blood-drinking mage was located. The mage may be hiding somewhere or roaming around under a disguise.

“A mage needs to be present in order to make a magic bomb go off. The mage who made the bomb needs to remove the restriction to set it off.”

“...Then-”

Choi Han started to speak as a thought came to him before stopping himself and looking back toward Cale. Cale continued on in an uninterested voice.

“First, find the bombs. If you happen to get lucky and find the people installing the bombs, follow them without getting noticed.”

Since the Black Dragon will be with him, Choi Han would stop right before he would be detected by magic. But Cale thought it would be difficult for them to find those people in the process.

It will take a lot of work to look for the locations with a slightly elevated mana fluctuation to find the bombs. It will be very difficult and tiring. That was why Cale left this task to the two of them. He would not be able to help, but, more importantly, he

didn't want to do it.

"Then do we just have to roam around until two days before the event?"

"No. The two of you will need to come the day before as well."

"The day before?"

'Wouldn't it be difficult because there will be a lot more guards?'

Choi Han did not ask his question. It would be difficult, but still manageable for him. He would just need to spend a little more effort and be a little more cautious.

At that moment, Choi Han could see Cale with his villainous smirk once again.

Cale took a black orb out of his pocket and showed it to Choi Han.

"Ah."

Choi Han let out a gasp. He was familiar with this black orb. It was the Mana Disturbance Tool. It had been used by Cale once before. It was strong enough to have a range of an entire mountain.

Cale leisurely smiled as he started to speak. He knew when the bomb would go off.

"A lot of mages will be there that day, so it probably won't even last 10 minutes, but it will help. It will make everything related to magic not work for that duration."

10 minutes was enough.

They just needed to save the people with bombs on them in those 10 minutes. They will be very visible. And, by that point, there will be a lot of humans and beast people to put to work, in addition to Choi Han and the dragon as well.

Choi Han looked back and forth between the black orb and Cale, before taking a gulp and starting to speak.

"...Cale-nim, you were planning to do all of this on your own-"

"That is why."

Cale knew what Choi Han was going to say. That was why he cut him off and started to

Speak to Choi Han and the dragon.

“Go and work.”

Choi Han blankly stared at Cale. Cale pointed to the beer bar that was famous for its beer and continued on.

“I will be waiting for you here. Just look around until about 11 before coming back for today.”

Choi Han thought for a moment, before letting out a sigh-like laughter and nodding his head.

“Got it. Today, the dragon and I will just look around the interior of the plaza before returning.”

Choi Han had originally thought about asking why Cale was not going with them. However, he quickly realized it. Cale would only be baggage to Choi Han and the Black Dragon as they worked.

Cale was weak. There was not even a trace of mana coming from Cale’s body, nor did he look like he practiced any type of martial arts. He was plain, yet not plain at the same time.

“I will work hard, so please buy me a beer when I come back.”

“Sure. Dragon, thanks for your help too.”

The Black Dragon got rid of the soundproof dome, as if to respond to Cale’s words. Choi Han just slightly bowed his head before moving away from Cale.

Two hours later, Cale returned to the residence with Choi Han and the Black Dragon, who did not manage to find anything.

They did not manage to find anything the next night either.

Cale, who could not sleep at night, finally woke up in the middle of the day. He was not tired though, because the Vitality of the Heart made it difficult for Cale to feel tired.

“Young master, are you up?”

“...Ron.”

Cale’s honey-like slumber disappeared like a dream, as he came back to reality.

“I have returned.”

Ron was back. He then handed a letter to Cale. Cale gave an order to Ron for the first time in a while after seeing the letter.

“Ron, go wrap up a bottle of the best wine.”

It was a letter with the crest of the Flynn Merchant Guild. Cale opened the letter to find a single sentence.

[Young master Cale, will you be treating me to alcohol soon?]

The bastard son of the Flynn Merchant Guild’s leader, Billos, would soon arrive at the capital.

The letter helped Cale realize that it would not be long before he met the crown prince inside the palace. Since there were a lot of villains in there, it was time for him to be very, very still.

Chapter 37

Being Still (4)

Ron nodded his head at Cale's words, but added one more thing before he left.

"I understand. By the way, young master, you do remember that you have to visit the palace the day after tomorrow, right?"

Before the king announces the start of the festival in the plaza, the nobles were scheduled to meet with the crown prince. It was neither a serious meeting nor a feast, but something in between. It was set to take place in a wing of the palace where important meetings usually took place.

Cale thought about the crown prince and the palace before his mind drifted elsewhere.

'I wonder if Taylor and Cage are well.'

The fallen eldest son and the crazy priestess. Cale thought that the two of them were probably doing very well.

"Mm."

But suddenly, his back felt chilly and he caressed the back of his head. That coldness made Cale make up his mind.

'Let's not think about the two of them.'

Cale will be very still at the palace. Even if someone curses him from the side, he will just sit there silently before returning here. Cale peeked at the table in front of them. There was a letter from Eric sitting there.

[Cale. You don't have to do anything, anything at all. This hyung-nim will take care of it all for you. Got it?...]

Eric Wheelsman, one of the Northeastern nobles, sent him a letter a day. It was very

clear that Eric was worried about what might happen. Cale grabbed the letter on the table and chucked it to a corner.

“Then I will make sure to have them wrap up a bottle of our best alcohol.”

“Good.”

Cale was watching Ron leave, when he saw some faces he had not seen for a while enter through the open door. Ron peeked at the two of them before closing the door. The two that entered approached Cale and started to speak.

“I think I can kill them if they let their guard down!”

“I see a way we can kill them!”

It was the kittens On and Hong. These two kittens, who Cale had not seen for a while, were excited, as they seemed to have found a way to kill the Beast people who were as strong as the Wolf Tribe.

“Good job.”

The two kittens came and rubbed their faces on Cale’s leg after hearing his compliment toward them. Cale pushed the two of them away because he found it annoying. Ron soon entered the room once again.

“Young master.”

“What?”

Ron looked at Cale, who answered like he didn’t care, before asking his question.

“May I go as your personal servant to the palace?”

“Why are you asking such an obvious question? Who would go if it wasn’t you?”

That answer made Ron make up his mind to leave.

The people who called themselves, ‘Arm,’ and ruled the Eastern continent’s underworld had started to expand their reach to the Western continent. ‘Arm,’ was just one limb of the organization, and nobody knew their true identity.

The Molan family was a fifth generation assassin household that sought to rule the night in the Eastern Continent, and Ron Molan, the successor to the Molan family,

hated and feared this, 'Arm.'

"Young master."

"What?"

"You will be very cool in the palace."

"Ron."

Cale looked toward Ron, who, after returning from his time off, was flattering him unlike his usual self, and casually asked.

"I do have a handsome face and figure don't I?"

Meeeeeeow.

The kittens snorted at Cale, but they couldn't disagree. Cale was a handsome man with a slick figure.

Kim Rok Soo's favorite thing about Cale was his money, but right after that was Cale's body and face. Cale's lips looked like they wanted to form a smile.

"Of course. Our young master is the full package."

But that smile quickly disappeared.

'What did I just hear right now?'

It was a very gentle, warm, and caring voice. It even sounded like Ron was playing along with him. Cale felt chills all over his body, and turned his head around to see Ron standing there with a satisfied smile on his face. It looked different from when he was pretending to be satisfied.

Cale really felt chills all over his body now. But Ron did not care and continued to go on with his duties.

"Then I will head out for now. I need to go report to deputy butler Hans."

"Oh? Oh. Go ahead, quickly."

Ron soon left, and Cale started to ponder while looking at the closed door.

‘Why is he acting like this?’

But Cale did not want to find out the reason. What good would come from being interested in Ron’s life? Cale stared at that closed door for a long time, before a confused expression filled his face.

Knock knock knock.

Someone was knocking on the door. The red kitten Hong started to speak.

“Smells like a wolf.”

Cale looked toward the door and started to speak.

“Come in.”

The door clicked and slowly started to open. Cale could see the wolf boy, Lock, awkwardly standing there. Lock hesitated for a bit, before starting to speak.

“Hello, I, I came to thank you. I didn’t know when would be a good time to stop by, so, if it is okay with you, may I come in for a bit?”

“Come in.”

Cale didn’t want to hear this awkward voice any longer, so he waved Lock inside. Lock carefully closed the door with a nervous expression, and approached Cale. Cale pointed to the couch across from him.

“Take a seat.”

“Thank you.”

Lock sat down on the couch and peeked at Cale. Unlike his earlier words that made Lock think of his uncle, this person, named Cale Henituse, had an aura about him that made it difficult to approach him.

Rather than it being difficult because he was strong like his uncle, it just felt like it would be difficult to talk to Cale.

“Say what is on your mind.”

“You see.”

Lock seemed to be thinking about what to say, before jumping up from the seat and bowing toward Cale.

“Thank you very much!”

Lock seemed very naive, scared, and, in some aspects, stupid. He definitely fit the profile described in the novel.

‘His personality changed in the novel after going berserk for the first time, but it looks like it is still the same now.’

Cale responded to Lock’s thank you.

“Sure. It is definitely something to be thankful for.”

“Excuse me? Ah, yes.”

Lock had an odd expression on his face as he sat back down. Cale watched Lock sit and started to speak.

“No need to thank me anymore, you can go.”

“Ah, well, actually.”

Lock could not stand back up, and just moved his lips without saying anything. He had heard stories from Rosalyn, the two Cat tribe kittens, Choi Han, and even Hans, which made him think things through over and over. He was still not done thinking things through.

Cale just quietly watched Lock. It was because he knew how Lock would act that he was trying to quickly kick Lock out of here.

“Well, young master, you see.”

Lock didn’t know how to start. He continued to peek at Cale every so often while staring at his feet. Lock lightly bit down on his lips a couple of times. He didn’t like this personality of his very much. At that moment, Lock heard a cold voice.

“Spit it out.”

“Excuse me?”

Lock lifted his head up to see Cale. This was the first time Lock made eye contact with Cale since coming into the room. Cale kept eye contact with Lock, as he continued to speak.

“Good. When you are talking to someone, you should make eye contact like this.”

He continued on.

“Spit out everything you want to say.”

Cale looked at the clock before looking back at Lock, who was looking at him with a blank expression on his face.

“I will at least listen to what you have to say.”

“Ah.”

Lock let out a gasp. He clenched his fidgeting hands and finally started to speak.

“I, I am the older brother.”

His voice was weak. His body was large, but he was still a young boy.

“I need to take care of my younger siblings.”

Lock knew that he was still lacking a lot to be called a member of the Wolf Tribe. However, he had 10 younger siblings that he needed to protect and care for right now.

In addition.

“I was also a nephew and a younger brother.”

The Blue Wolf Tribe loved and cherished the cowardly and stupid Lock. He could not forget about his family, friends, and neighbors who cared for him so much.

“That is why I need to get my revenge.”

That was why he needed to pay them back for everything they took from him.

Lock pressed down on his shaking hands and said whatever came to mind. Once he did that, he felt his head clearing up a bit. He then bowed his head and could see his feet and the carpet. He then heard a voice.

“Young wolf boy.”

Lock lifted his head up. Cale Henituse. This owner of a large residence that Lock couldn't even dream of when he lived in his village, was someone that Choi Han hyung had said was worth betting at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of his life on. Such a man was bluntly speaking to him.

“You are a wolf.”

Lock started to recall many past memories. He could see his life in the Blue Wolf Tribe.

“Wolves protect their families and put them first, before even themselves. I consider them to be a tribe to be proud of.”

Lock could see a smiling face in front of him.

“I have heard what you wanted to say.”

At that moment, Lock could clearly see this man and everything in this room. On either side of Cale were the cute Cat Tribe kittens, and the sunlight coming into the room made it seem very peaceful.

Lock finally remembered the words that he needed to say, and the words he wanted to say.

“Thank you very much for your help. And... please help me.”

The owner of this peaceful atmosphere started to speak.

“Once was enough for the thanks.”

The reason Cale was thinking so much about how to act like a trash these days was because of Choi Han and the Black Dragon. The Black Dragon itself was a concern,

while Choi Han was a concern because of the things he brought back with him.

“I do not wish to help you.”

Cale did not want to help Lock. However, he knew the pain the 10 wolf children were feeling after losing their parents and their support. He had experienced it himself. Furthermore, he already had a foot inside this situation. He did not want to be responsible for everything.

He planned to do just the bare minimum, so that he would break even.

Cale continued to speak toward Lock, who was lowering his head after hearing Cale say that he did not want to help him

“However, I do have plans to make a deal with you.”

“...A deal?”

“Yes.”

Cale continued to speak.

“What do you need help with? And what can you do for me in return?”

Cale had no desire to teach this wolf boy, who was not experienced with anything. That was for Choi Han or Rosalyn to deal with. Cale stood up, as he still had a couple things to take care of before heading to the palace, before speaking once more to the wolf boy.

“Come back when you have the answers.”

Lock thought for a moment, before getting up from the seat and bowing his head.

“I understand. I will come back to see you when I have figured things out.”

“Sure.”

Cale lightly patted Lock’s head once. The gaze in Lock’s eyes as he looked up was quite satisfactory.



Cale grabbed the crown prince's invitation and got off the carriage. The gathering was to start at 5 pm. Cale looked at the palace, that was incomparable to both the Henituse estate and their residence in the capital combined.

The Palace of Joy. The name of the location of the gathering was called the Palace of Joy, and it was built by the king to share his joy of the birth of the crown prince. Of course, the king now favored the third prince.

Cale was planning to meet up with Eric, Gilbert, and Amiru outside the palace and enter together. He looked toward the palace and started to think.

'Is this a cliché too?'

It just so happened that someone else arrived at the palace right when Cale arrived.

"Wow, who is this? Isn't this our famous young master Cale?"

'Sigh.'

Cale held back his sigh. He could feel the distaste from the person before him just from their tone. The person approaching him was Neo, the successor to Viscount Tolz.

'Why do I have to run into one of Venion's minions now?'

Neo Tolz was one of the stereotypical villains. He went around doing Venion's biddings.

The village that the Black Dragon was tortured in belonged to Viscount Tolz.

And Viscount Tolz's people never liked the Henituse family. It was because, although they were separated only by a single mountain, the difference in wealth was drastic. However, in the past, they were once friendly with the Henituse family.

That all changed once they went under Marquis Stan's faction 5 years ago. Of course, they wouldn't say it out loud, but they would stealthily try to take control of the Northeastern nobles meeting.

Neo Tolz smiled brightly as he stood in front of Cale.

“You are alone?”

They were still a bit away from the palace entrance, and the Vice Captain and Ron were speaking with the guard to get permission to enter. Cale, who brought only the minimal amount of people with him, looked down to Neo.

Neo saw that Cale was alone, and thus pushed his subordinates back.

“I am going to chat with young master Cale for a bit. Go get permission for us to enter.”

Neo sent his subordinates to the guard, and took one step closer to Cale. Once the two of them were standing very close, Neo started to speak.

“Young master Cale.”

Neo had a warm and friendly smile on his face, as he spoke in a quiet voice that only Cale could hear.

“What is a terrible trash like you doing coming to the palace?”

‘Sigh, so childish. Is it like this because it is a world inside a book? Or is it because it is a fantasy world? Is it possible that punks like this exist in the real world too? They must exist since he’s provoking me like this.’

The son of a viscount dares to speak like this to the son of a count? Cale thought it was only happening because it was a novel, but actually dealing with this made Cale extremely frustrated.

‘I’m not even the MC. Can I not deal with cliches like this?’

Cale wanted to just tell Ron to kill these stupid villains who didn’t know their place.

Cale just continued to look down at Neo. Neo’s expression brightened even more. To Neo, Cale was a trash who just looked fine on the outside. For someone like Neo, who had to suck up to Venion the entire time he was at the capital, Cale was a good prey to bother.

“What? Do you want to throw a bottle at me? Or do you want to hit me? Go ahead and try.”

‘He’s just provoking me. He’s doing it on purpose. He can’t take any magic items into the palace, so he won’t be able to take a magic recording device inside. That is why he’s trying to rile me up out here.’

If Cale caused a ruckus here, it would be seen as a fight between a trash and a dignified noble. It would only be to Neo’s advantage, that was why he was trying to provoke Cale to bring down the Henituse family name.

Cale just sat there. He then heard a voice inside his head. It was the dragon speaking through magic.

- What a bastard. It reminds me of that bastard Venion.

‘He is Venion’s minion.’

Although Cale could not say that out loud, the dragon continued to speak in Cale’s mind.

- Should I kill him?

‘I don’t think there’s a need to do that.’

Cale shook his head to the dragon who was following him while remaining invisible.

Seeing Cale shake his head made Neo provoke Cale once again, as it did not look like Cale was going to bite.

At that moment, Cale’s gaze turned to a new carriage that just arrived.

Bang! The carriage door burst open as soon as the carriage stopped, and Eric Wheelsman got out of the carriage. Gilbert and Amiru were inside the carriage as well.

Cale signaled Eric, who was rushing over with his eyes wide open, with his eyes while pointing to Neo with his index finger.

“Hyung-nim.”

Cale's sincere voice that called out to him, as well as the cold gaze in Cale's eyes, told Eric everything he needed to know.

'Get rid of him.'

The eyes of the calmly standing Cale were giving that message to Eric.

Chapter 38

Being Still (5)

“Ahem. Mm! Young master Neo, it has been a while.”

Eric immediately moved in between Cale and Neo. Neo’s eyes seemed to be defeated. He thought he had found a good prey, but it was now difficult to hunt this prey with Eric Wheelsman present.

“Yes, young master Eric. I hope you have been well.”

Neo greeted Eric that way before also greeting young lady Amiru and young master Gilbert. He then saw them all standing in front of Cale, and clicked his tongue.

‘I guess they are protecting him. Even if he is trash, he is still on their side after all.’

Neo decided not to do anything after seeing the three of them protecting Cale. Eric noticed Neo’s intent, and slowly turned around to look at Cale.

Neo’s gaze turned to Cale as well.

“Mm.”

Neo then subconsciously let out a groan.

Cale was quietly looking down at Neo with his arms crossed. Cale’s eyes were extremely scornful. He had not said anything to Neo since earlier on, but his gaze and his body language said everything that needed to be said.

‘Classless fool.’

It made Neo think about the gaze Venion used to look at him. Even though Neo was angry when Venion looked at him with such a gaze, he consoled himself by saying it was the look of a higher ranking noble and let it go.

Cale turned away after watching Neo's shaking pupils for a while, and looked behind him. He heard the Black Dragon's report in his ear.

There was a reason he brought the Black Dragon with him today.

- The voice recording magic is ready.

Cale had asked the Black Dragon to record everything that happened today. Video recording required a lot of mana usage and was difficult to maintain for a long period of time, so Cale had to be satisfied with just voice recording.

Cale was originally not going to do this because the palace would have a lot of mages who were sensitive to mana, but the Black Dragon assured him that it would be undetected as long as the range of the voice recording was small.

Cale made up his mind to use this in the future to make Neo cry tears of blood, before heading toward the palace entrance. Cale was the type of person to always pay back his debts. ^[1]

Eric Wheelsman watched Cale walk away like a proud brother. He was thinking that the letters he sent every day must have worked.

On the other hand, Gilbert and Amiru watched Cale with curious expressions. Cale Henituse, the man who used to only wear flashy clothes, chose to wear a simple black outfit without any accessories. Even his red hair was clean and shining from the sun.

They wondered if it was because Cale was not drunk. Each of Cale's steps looked relaxed and calm.

Amiru and Gilbert watched Cale turn around once he got to the palace entrance. Cale's gaze, that seemed to be beckoning them over, was the most curious thing for them.

"Young master Neo, I will see you inside. Young lady Amiru and young master Gilbert, let us go."

Eric was watching Cale proudly, but Amiru and Gilbert had an even stranger sensation when the three of them stood in front of Cale.

Cale looked at the two confused people, as well as the proud Eric, and started to speak.

“Let’s go.”

The three of them followed Cale into the palace. Gilbert and Amiru’s odd sensation continued to grow the farther they followed Cale. Cale did not care however, and decided he would use these three people as much as he could today.

“Young master Cale-nim of Count Henituse’s household is entering the hall!”

Cale could hear the servant shout out Eric, Gilbert, and Amiru’s names as well as he walked into the hall.

“Not bad.”

He looked around the large hall before walking behind Eric. Young lady Amiru peeked toward Cale, before walking next to him and starting to speak.

“Young master Cale. At the front of the banquet hall is the crown prince’s seat, and the tables are split based by region. The reason for that-”

Amiru, who was about to explain the reason for why the tables are split based on region, looked at Cale’s expression, before changing what she was going to say.

“I probably don’t need to explain the reason, right?”

“Thank you very much, young lady Amiru, but I know the reason.”

Cale watched Amiru nod her head with a curious expression on her face, and then headed toward the tables to the Northeast section of the room.

There were five tables inside the hall. Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, and the center. They were all divided based on each of the noble factions.

‘The crown prince is good at things like this.’

He controlled things in the background to make the factions compete with each other while also forcing them to come together every so often. It was the crown prince’s specialty. But the crown prince was very thorough about his own treatment as well.

The crown prince's table was located to the front of all five of these tables, at a location that was about two steps higher than the rest.

'The second and third prince's seats are one step lower than his.'

One step lower than the crown prince's table was the table for the second and third princes. Even if this event was being hosted by the crown prince, it would be weird for the second and third princes to not attend a gathering of nobles. Since the crown prince was the one to host it, he made sure to show a gap between their status.

'He really pays attention to these tiny, useless details.'

The crown prince, actually, all of the people in those positions of power, were really not Cale's type of people.

"Our table is closest to the entrance, as expected."

Cale did not respond to Eric's bitter voice. The Palace of Joy had opened the eastern entrance as the designated entrance, and the Northeastern region nobles' table was the closest to the door.

Although the Northeastern region had a voice, they did not have a household that was strong enough to have a loud voice. Cale raised his hand to pat Eric's shoulder.

"It's great that our seat is close to the door. In addition, it is great that we don't have anyone we have to lower our head to at our seat."

Other regions had strong people in charge, like Marquis Stan, whom the rest had to be respectful to and subservient.

The other three people walking with Cale stopped walking. Cale also stopped walking after seeing them halt. Eric turned around to look at Cale for a while, before finally starting to speak.

"Young master Cale."

Since they were in the company of others, Eric did not call Cale casually by name.

"I'm glad that my efforts seem to have paid off."

'Efforts? What efforts?'

Cale looked toward Eric with shock and confusion, but Eric turned back around and proudly walked to the table that was closest to the entrance.

Eric did not know that Cale never read his letters and just shoved them to a corner of the room.

"Why is he like this?"

Young lady Amiru shook her head at Cale's question. Gilbert showed a similar reaction. Cale then shrugged his shoulders and headed toward the table.

But an announcement made him stop moving.

"Young master Venion Stan of Marquis Stan's household has arrived!"

Cale understood why Neo Tolz did not follow them inside the Palace of Joy. Venion. Neo Tolz was standing right behind Marquis Stan's successor, Venion.

But Cale did not care for chumps like Neo or Venion.

"Cale!"

Eric called out to Cale, who suddenly started quickly walking to his seat, but Cale just waved him off and sat down.

"Mm."

"Ah, welcome young master Cale."

"Hello, young master Cale."

Cale gave a short response to all of those respectful greetings.

"Hello. Good to see all of you."

Silence suddenly filled the table, and Cale put his hand underneath the tablecloth without others noticing.

'I knew it.'

He could feel the invisible Black Dragon's body shaking.

- "I'm okay. I told you that I am okay."

Cale listened to the Black Dragon's voice in his head, and patted its shaking body. Anger and fear. The Black Dragon's mind was full of both right now. That was why trauma when you are young is so scary.

The Black Dragon did not know how to respond because the physical trauma that its body remembered was not aligned with the rationality in its head.

- "I am okay. I am a great and mighty dragon."

Cale had told the Black Dragon when it said it wanted to follow him that Venion Stan would be here as well. He also got the Black Dragon to promise that it would not kill Venion Stan today. He also promised something else to the dragon.

- "Later. I will definitely kill that bastard and the rest later."

The Black Dragon was planning on ripping them into shreds so that they turned into fine particles of dust. Cale calmed the Black Dragon down while listening to its extremely angry voice. Thankfully, it didn't seem to be causing its mana to go wild because of this anger.

Cale thought that dragons really were very rational creatures. Cale thought about the hell that awaited Venion and the idiots who were aligned with Marquis Stan in the future, and stopped patting the dragon.

Thankfully, it did not seem like the dragon was going to run wild. If it did, this palace would easily be destroyed, and Cale would probably be dead as well. Cale let out a sigh of relief, before looking around.

He could see Eric's group and Venion's group both heading this way. It made sense, since Venion's table was the Northwest table next to them.

Tap. Tap.

The Black Dragon rubbed his head on Cale's leg.

"Mm."

The Black Dragon's action made Cale worry for a moment. He made eye contact with Eric at that time, who was fervently signaling Cale with his eyes.

'Stay quiet! Be still!'

Cale just ignored the signals. He then debated how he could pretend not to know Venion. However, all of his contemplations were for naught, as Venion greeted him first.

"Long time no see, young master Cale."

Venion Stan. He seemed to have gotten many more wrinkles since the last time they met, but he was still showing a gentle smile, fitting for a noble. However, Neo Tolz was behind him looking extremely anxious.

Cale smiled brightly and started to speak.

"Hello, young master Venion. This is our first meeting since we met in Viscount Tolz's territory last time."

Venion's gentle smile became thicker, while Neo's face became completely pale.

Marquis Stan was one of the four leaders in the kingdom's politics. The successor of such a person visited the Northeast region. Not only that, it was to a low ranking noble territory like Viscount Tolz's territory. It was obviously showing that Viscount Tolz was under the Marquis's faction.

Naturally, the Northeastern nobles all started to frown, and the other nobles in the hall started to pay attention as well. The Northeast was a region without a leader right now.

"Correct. I went to visit my friend, young master Neo, and was heading back home."

Venion Stan did not care about the gazes that were heading his way. There was no problem for him to go to the Northeast region. Venion was looking at Cale, as if he was

observing him, but his voice was still gentle.

“Yes. We said we would share a drink at the capital.”

“We did indeed.”

Both Cale and Venion seemed very calm while chatting with each other. However, the people watching them could not be as calm.

Cale looked toward Neo Tolz, who was peeking at him and started to smile. Neo flinched while looking at Cale’s smile.

“Ah, right. The day after I met you, young master Venion, one of the Viscount Tolz’s knights came to find me.”

Cale started to speak to Neo with a very concerned expression.

“I heard the villa was ransacked completely clean. Is everything okay?”

Neo’s shoulders flinched, and Cale could see the corner of Venion’s lips starting to twitch.

“Did you hear about it young master Venion? I’m sure you have since you said the two of you are good friends.”

Venion finally responded after a bit of time. He was speaking very naturally, but Cale could feel the anger inside Venion’s words.

“...Yes. It was very sad to hear.”

“Yes. You don’t know how shocked I was to hear about it while I was having my hangover drink. How could they ransack the place clean and not leave anything behind! They said you lost something very important, young master Neo?”

The most annoying people in the world were the ones with loose lips, the ones with no tact, and the righteous.

Cale was acting like all three right now. He was having so much fun. [2]

Cale warmly spoke to Neo.

“Young master Neo, cheer up. We’re bound to face such unbelievable situations at least once in our lives.”

“Ah, yes. I suppose so.”

Neo could not even look at Venion, as he just haphazardly responded to Cale.

“You need to drink to forget about everything when something terrible like that happens. Young master Neo, let’s get wasted tonight. Young master Venion, would you like to join us as well?”

Venion calmly observed Cale. He had lost the Marquis’s trust since losing the Black Dragon. Venion was suspecting the organization that gave him the Black Dragon based on the knights’ testimony and the evidence left behind, but he could not get rid of the suspicion he had for Cale’s group, who happened to spend a night there at the same time.

But he didn’t have any good reasons to suspect Cale. That was why he had spoken to Cale to confirm one more time.

“If you drink and then wake up to have a hangover drink, all your bad memories will disappear.”

But seeing Cale Henituse continue to spew nonsense like before made Venion realize he did not need to confirm anything.

“Thank you for the offer, young master Cale. Maybe next time.”

“Ah, it’s disappointing, but I guess next time it is.”

Venion walked past Cale. As he did, he could hear Cale speaking to Neo.

“Your knight was extremely pale young master Neo. You should have prepared in advance for such a situation. How could you lose all those valuable things at once? Cheer up. You may not recover what you lost, but what can you do about it? You have to just live on.”

‘Sigh. That trash.’

Venion smiled at the nobles who were observing him after hearing that he went to the Northeast, and held back his anger.

“That stupid dragon and that paralyzed son of a bitch. Where did all of them go?”

Venion only looked forward as he walked. After taking a peek at Venion walking away, Cale turned away from the extremely pale Neo without any hesitation. Of course, he gave Neo a final remark before doing so.

“Cheer up.”

Cale knew that Neo would be ripped a new one by Venion.

“Young master Cale-”

Cale watched Eric, who looked like he had a lot to say but could not figure out how to say it, before sitting back down.

- “It is my turn next.”

Cale nodded his head after hearing the Black Dragon’s voice, and looked around the table. The Northeastern nobles were all looking at him. This was probably the first time they’ve ever seen such a normal version of Cale. That was why Cale picked up the bottle of alcohol in front of him to meet their expectations.

They all looked away almost instantly.

This was the strength of a trash.

However, the people at other tables were still watching Cale with curiosity. Cale ignored those gazes, as he handed the bottle to Eric.

“I’ll drink it later.”

“...Sure.”

Cale looked away from Eric, who was speaking informally for the first time since coming into the palace, and looked at the clock at the hall entrance. It would soon be time for the feast to start. That was why the nobles all took their seats.

The reason was obvious.

With Venion Stan’s entrance, the remaining three powerful families entered as well.

Young master Antonio Gyerre of Duke Gyerre's household has arrived!"

Antonio Gyerre of Duke Gyerre's family, young lady Karin Orsena of Duke Orsena's family, and Marquis Ailan, the other Marquis of the kingdom.

They all entered into the hall with their subordinates behind them. The door closed after all of them entered, but there was nobody who got up to chat with them.

Cale leaned comfortably in his chair and looked toward the banquet hall entrance. The clock was getting close to 5 pm.

Click. Click.

The clock reached exactly 5 pm.

Screeeeech-

The large door opened and the main characters for this gathering showed up with their entourage.

The servant was ready to shout louder than he had shouted all night, but the person in front lifted his hand up to stop the servant.

Roan Kingdom's crown prince, the eldest prince of the kingdom, Alberu Crossman.

He seemed to enjoy the attention on him, as he headed to his elevated seat without any introduction. All of the nobles got up to greet him, and crown prince Alberu left the second and third princes behind as he headed to the highest spot in the hall.

Bang.

As soon as he stood in front of his seat, the door closed. It meant that everyone was present.

Crown Prince Alberu looked down at the second and third princes, as well as everyone else and started to speak.

"Welcome. Thank you for responding to my invitation."

This was somewhere where he did not need an introduction. Alberu looked down

from the top. Cale blankly looked up at him, before looking back at the clock.

‘It’s about time they got here.’

The person who would be the gossip of all of the nobles here for a while had not arrived just yet.

Cale could hear the Crown prince starting to speak.

“Precious individuals who will make this kingdom shine, the future leaders of our kingdom, this prince is very happy that all of you have come to this gathering.”

The crown prince was slowly turning on the engines of his glib tongue. It was at that moment.

“Hmm?”

The crown prince turned his gaze to the entrance. The closed door was being pushed, as if it was being reopened. He could hear some chattering through the gap that was created.

Cale started to secretly smile. At that moment, a servant urgently rushed to the crown prince from a different entrance.

‘They’re here.’

Cale was certain.

At that moment, the crown prince seemed to be deep in thought for a moment, before he waved at the knight who peeked inside.

Screeeech-

The large door opened once again.

Since it was after the crown prince, the servant did not dare call out the person’s name. But there was no need to do so.

‘Right on time.’

A wheelchair entered into the banquet hall.

Taylor Stan, the paralyzed eldest son of Marquis Stan. He had arrived at the banquet hall with the crazy priestess Cage. At that moment, Taylor and Cage's gazes quickly moved past Cale without anybody noticing. But that was enough for the three of them.

Chapter 39

Being Still (6)

Bang!

The banquet hall's door closed tightly once more. Taylor Stan was wearing luxurious and formal clothes, even though he was on a wheelchair, and there was a relaxed smile on his face. Priestess Cage was wearing the God of Death priestess robe.

'I guess they decided to flat out reveal their identities.'

Cale thought it was a wise decision. The Temple of the God of Death may get a headache over it, but why would Cage care about that?

"What is this...!"

A shocked and angry voice came from the Northwest table. When Cale turned to look, Venion jumped out of his seat in anger, as he glared at Taylor.

This was a reaction you would normally never see out of Venion, and a reaction that went against the noble etiquette, but Venion was not in a state to care about etiquette right now.

Cale looked up to the top of the platform. Crown prince Alberu opened his arms and started to speak.

"I did not expect to see Marquis Stan's eldest son, Taylor Stan, and a priestess of the God of Death here."

The crown prince seemed happy. Taylor showed his respects while still sitting on his wheelchair.

"I heard that there was an opportunity for the kingdom's nobles to meet with and discuss with your majesty. I do apologize for coming without an invitation."

The crown prince Alberu had a smirk on his face. Cale could tell from that smirk that Alberu properly understood what Taylor meant by being able to have a discussion with the crown prince.

“I did ask for each household’s representative, but if the household does not have a representative, there is no issue with who shows up. I guess you were probably upset that I only sent one invitation to the Marquis’s household, Mister Taylor?”

“Just a bit, your majesty.”

Cale peeked toward Venion. A household without a representative. Although it wasn’t official, everybody knew that Venion was going to be the successor to the Marquis. The crown prince’s words were said to subtly take a dig at Venion. It was probably because Marquis Stan was close to the third prince.

‘That is the weird part.’

Cale found that fact to be weird. Although Cale didn’t care about it and didn’t look into it, but, even if the king cherished the third prince, it should not be easy to replace the crown prince.

Even still, the crown prince was uncomfortable and wary of the second and third princes in the novel, and Marquis Stan was close to the third prince. The other factions all had a prince they supported as well.

‘I guess there is something there.’

Naturally, that, ‘something,’ was something that Cale did not want to know about.

“I do feel bad for making you upset. But, I am glad that you look very healthy, Mister Taylor. It has been a while since we last met.”

Taylor smiled and responded to the crown prince.

“Your majesty, my legs may not move, but my hands, head, eyes, ears, mouth, and everything else are still very much alive. No, in fact, they have gotten even stronger.”

“I see. Indeed, you are still alive. I have forgotten the fact that the strongest is the one who manages to live until the end.”

Cale could see that the crown prince was completely hooked. He then turned to see that Venion once again had a noble-like expression on his face, but he was still glaring at Taylor with a piercing glare.

Cale found this situation to be quite entertaining.

'It will be fun to watch.'

The crown prince, Taylor, Venion, and the nobles of the different factions. It was fun looking at the expressions on all of their faces. It made Cale long for some popcorn. This was a tense situation that could burst at any moment. Cale liked it very much that he was just going to be still.

"Then is the lady a priestess of the God of Death?"

"This servant of eternal rest named Cage greets your majesty."

Cage seemed like a saint, as she said the traditional greeting of the priestesses of the God of Death. However, there was an enormous amount of knowledge regarding curses in her mind.

The crown prince received Cage's greeting, before speaking to Taylor.

"Let us talk later. It is time for this gathering to start. I am not sure where to sit the two of you."

The crown prince confirmed that he would make some time to chat with Taylor later. Cale peeked over to the Northwest table. All of them were full of concern and anxiety. Neo Tolz was especially bad, as he seemed to be extremely anxious and fidgety.

Cale started to smile after seeing Neo Tolz acting that way. Neo frowned and turned his way, thinking about how there could be such a stupid idiot who could not tell what was going on right now.

Cale watched Neo's actions with a smile, before lifting his head up and turning to look in Taylor's direction. It was at that moment.

'Hmm?'

Cale made eye contact with the crown prince. It was a coincidence. The crown prince

Alberu was looking around to see where a good spot for Taylor and Cage may be, and Cale was turning to look at Taylor. But in the process, the two of them made eye contact.

Cale had a bad feeling right away.

‘Right here.’

“I guess there is a good spot for you.”

The crown prince made up his mind, and Cale quickly realized where it would be.

‘I guess this is the only possible spot.’

This was the only table without a high-ranking noble. Although there were families who chose to become subservient to the different factions, there was still a balance of power on this table. Furthermore, there was a household on this table that was the strong and wealthy enough that even the high-ranking nobles did not dare to poke at it.

“Mister Taylor can sit at the Northeast nobles’ table. There just happens to be some extra seats there.”

Gasp.

Cale heard Neo’s gasp and saw Eric’s concerned expression as he turned his gaze to Taylor and Cage.

“Thank you for providing seats for us, your majesty.”

“Thank you very much, your majesty.”

“It was nothing. We should work together with people who will make great contributions to the kingdom in the future.”

The crown prince said that as he looked toward the Northeast nobles’ table. Servants quickly rushed over to the table, as Alberu started to speak.

“Can we fix up the seats a bit?”

Who could say no to the crown prince? Eric stood up and responded to Alberu.

“Of course, your majesty.”

Eric was able to act this way because he needed to talk to Alberu about investing in the Northeastern shoreline and because he has refused to become subservient to another high-ranking noble. His actions made the other nobles on the table stand up as well, and the servants quickly worked to set up the table to include Taylor and Cage.

It progressed without any problems. But Cale, who had been watching this from the side, started to notice something odd. Eric noticed Cale’s expression, and quickly came over with a concerned expression to whisper to Cale.

“Cale, remember. Be still. Just be still.”

Cale ignored Eric’s words and looked at his seat. The new guests were going to be seated next to Cale. This was probably decided by the crown prince as well.

‘It’s not like he can put them next to someone else’s dog. Our family is the strongest of the remaining four households.’

The servants bowed after they finished fixing up the table, before departing.

“Please sit.”

Alberu gestured to the group, and Cale quickly walked over to sit back down. There was no chair to his side, however, a wheelchair soon came to fill that spot.

“Nice to meet you.”

Taylor greeted the Northeastern nobles as he joined them. Cage naturally sat down next to Taylor. The two of them, no, all three of them, including Cale, pretended like this was their first meeting with each other.

- This is entertaining.
-

Cale agreed with the Black Dragon’s voice that was transmitted in his mind and looked toward the crown prince.

“Then, although it was slightly delayed, let us resume.”

The crown prince announced the start of the gathering.

“I wanted to gather together the individuals who will bring forth the future of our kingdom and share a meal together. Thank you all for showing up, and I hope we have a wonderful meal.”

As soon as the crown prince finished speaking, the servants entered with plates of food for each table. An orchestra started to play background music from the back of the hall as well.

This was the difference with a real feast. It was a mix of a feast and discussion, with moving between tables being natural.

“Young master Cale, we plan to go greet the crown prince in a bit.”

Cale nodded his head at Amiru’s statement, and focused on the food on his plate. But his mind became a bit complicated.

‘What is his intention?’

There was no way the crown prince just called the nobles together for no reason. He definitely had a reason. Cale had a few different ideas about what it may be.

‘It might be because of the war in the Western Continent’s southern region, or because he caught wind about the civil war that will happen in the Whipper Kingdom.’

The Whipper Kingdom was where princess Rosalyn was headed to, the kingdom with the Magic Tower. A civil war will soon break out in the Whipper Kingdom. A war would break out between the mages and the non-mages.

There were a lot of thoughts in his head, but Cale decided to stop thinking about it.

‘No need for me to care, since I will just be very still.’

It was none of Cale’s business. He just started to enjoy the food in front of him.

- Looks yummy. Looks so yummy. The weak humans are very good at cooking.

Cale enjoyed the food while listening to the Black Dragon's envious ranting. The food in the palace really was delicious.

His hand subconsciously headed for the wine glass that the servant had left for him, but it quickly disappeared.

"Cale, just five minutes."

Cale nodded his head at Eric's sincere plea, and turned back to the food. The rest of the Northeastern nobles quietly watched him. The Northeast was already in an awkward situation with the 10 families broken apart into different factions, but now, this magic bomb-like character, Taylor Stan, was a part of that table as well.

People watched Cale, who could eat in such a tense situation, with curiosity.

Cale could hear the Black Dragon's voice in his head.

- By the way, there are magic video recording tools all around this hall.

"Oh."

Cale let out a gasp and started to smile. Anybody watching him would think he acted this way because he ate something especially delicious.

'I know at least one thing.'

Cale then felt like he figured out one of the crown prince's goals.

First of all, the crown prince was watching the nobles. The second and third prince naturally know about this as well. Which means, this was something the entire royal family wanted.

The corner of Cale's lips moved up just a bit. Eric, who became uncomfortable looking at that smile, jumped up from his seat. Amiru and Gilbert followed him up as well. There were already many nobles who went up to greet the crown prince.

Cale slowly got up after seeing the three of them get up, and lightly brushed his hair back as he started to speak.

"Shall we go?"

Cale stood behind the three nobles, and headed up the platform to meet with the crown prince.

“Oh, our Northeastern nobles!”

The crown prince welcomed the four of them with a bright smile. The crown prince had been shaking hands with everybody who came up to greet him.

Alberu Crossman. His blonde hair and blue eyes made him look like a live version of a fairytale prince. The beautiful blonde hair was something that was unique to the Crossman family, the royal family of the Roan Kingdom. They called it the symbol of receiving the Sun God’s blessing.

“Your majesty, it is great to see you. Eric Wheelsman greets his majesty for the first time in a while.”

“Yes, yes, Mister Eric. Don’t we have something to talk about?”

Eric responded back to the crown prince, who brought up the Northeastern shoreline investment issue with a bright expression.

“Yes! I have been waiting for a good moment to discuss it with you!”

“I am also waiting for that moment. You are the intelligent young master of Count Wheelsman’s family. The Wheelsman family is responsible for the entrance to the Northeast region, and has been doing a very good job. How could I push that off?”

‘He’s slowly getting into it.’

Cale quietly stood there while watching Eric, who was smiling at the crown prince who was slowly activating his glib tongue. The crown prince was praising Gilbert and Amiru as well.

‘Interesting.’

Cale quietly watched it all until it was his turn. The crown prince reached his hand out to Cale who slightly bowed his head.

“Mr. Cale of the Henituse family, that is responsible for the edge of our Northeastern region. It may be my first time meeting you, but, thanks to Count Deruth’s good work,

we are no longer afraid of the Forest of Darkness. You don't know how reassuring that is for me and everyone else."

Cale had one goal while coming here today.

"I heard that Mister Cale is a very free spirit. I'm sure this is because the artistic souls of the sculptures in the Henituse territory have given you an epiphany? I feel like your free spirit makes your soul very pure."

It was probably difficult to find praise for someone who was famous for being a trash like this. In that aspect, the crown prince was amazing.

However, he had no choice but to talk good about Cale, as long as Cale does not do anything trashy in this gathering. The royal family wanted the Northeast under their control as well. Furthermore, there were no members of royalty who would despise someone like Count Henituse, who ruled over his territory very well.

"That is why this preference for certain people will not impact the families."

Cale sincerely grabbed the crown prince's hand, as he started to use his own glib tongue. It was his turn now.

The crown prince had blonde hair and was wearing a formal outfit. Cale had his red hair and a formal outfit as well. Both of them looked relaxed. Cale's calm voice filled the air.

"I also felt something after meeting your majesty today. I realized that in addition to our current sun, his highness, we also have you, the one who will shine over the night to watch over the citizens at night. It was a wonderful image for my eyes."

Cale's voice was very calm and relaxed, and he looked very confident.

"...Is that so?"

But the crown prince seemed confused for a moment, before his expression returned to normal. Cale did not miss this change.

Cale continued on in a sincere voice.

"Indeed, your majesty. I may not be able to sleep at night now that I have personally

met you, the star in the mind of our citizens.”

Eric’s jaws dropped, while Gilbert and Amiru could not help look at Cale in disbelief. Cale could see the crown prince starting to think. He felt like he had taken another step toward his goal of, ‘getting away from the crown prince.’

At that moment, the Black Dragon muttered something odd.

- Why did this weakling called the crown prince dye his hair with magic? It is at a level that only a great and mighty dragon like me would notice it. Did another dragon dye his hair? No, is it some other type of power?

‘Shit.’

At this moment, Cale realized that he had learned another useless secret that he could not even reveal the tiniest bit to anyone else.

‘Is it a secret of a birth this time?’

Cale did not care to know about such things.

Chapter 40

Don't know, I don't know (1)

Cale gently smiled at the prince, and started to think.

'Don't know. I don't know.'

The Black Dragon kept on dragging on about asking why a dragon would ever use its magic for such an useless man and how he would never do such a thing, but Cale tried his best to not listen.

- Hmm? His pupils are also dyed. This weakling is definitely plotting something. Weak human, be careful.

'If you stop talking, I think I'll be fine.'

- Hmm? This person is not weak. Weak human, be extra careful. You will die.

'Shit.'

Cale was frightened of this Black Dragon, that was explaining useless things, for the first time. At the same time, Cale's mind began to think quickly.

The prince's mother was not the queen. She was a concubine, and she originally was a servant, one of the citizens who worked in the royal family. The third prince's mother was the current queen. The crown prince's mother is said to have had a questionable death when the crown prince was young.

Cale started to naturally think about the true identity of the crown prince's mother.

The prince was known to be average, but the dragon was saying that he is not it weak. In the novel, even Choi Han judged the crown prince to be normal, so what was he hiding? And how did the dragon find out?

'...No. Whether he hides it or not, it is not my business.'

Cale did not listen to the murmuring black dragon. Something must have been really interesting, as the Black Dragon continued to talk about the crown prince.

"...Mister Cale seems to be a bit like me."

The crown prince was saying something, but Cale was too busy thinking about things, so he just casually responded.

"Your majesty, such statement is the biggest honor of my life."

The crown prince let go of Cale's hand, as if he was nervous. Cale did not notice the nervousness, and stepped back without a word, moving behind Eric. It was easy to use Eric as a shield when things got complicated.

The crown prince observed Cale with curiosity, before turning his gaze over to Eric.

Eric started to speak with the crown prince once again.

Cale watched him and started to think.

'There is a reason.'

There was a reason the crown prince was wary of the second and third princes. There was also a reason as to why the king's favor suddenly went to the third prince. He was able to guess it all.

'Is he not really his son? Or is there a different secret to his birth?'

Cale's mind went to a drama that Kim Rok Soo saw while working at a restaurant after graduating high school.

The crown prince, Alberu Crossman, was naturally the main character.

Cale reaffirmed himself once more.

'Be still.'

He would be still from here on. He made the decision to not find out about anything else.

Cale thoroughly kept that promise. He did not drink any alcohol today, and that led to the nobles from other regions, who had never met him previously, approaching him to talk. Cale looked to Eric every time, and Eric got to work.

After this happened a couple of times, Cale quietly mumbled to himself.

“Oh. This is pretty nice.”

Gilbert and Amiru flinched after hearing that quiet murmuring, and started to talk to each other using their eyes.

‘Isn’t this weird?’

‘Right?’

The two of them slightly moved away from Eric and Cale. However, Cale looked toward young lady Amiru, and Amiru stopped moving backward after making eye contact with Cale.

“By the way, young lady Amiru.”

“Yes?”

“I heard the shoreline of your territory is extremely beautiful. Is it true?”

“Of course. The cliffs overlooking the coast are very beautiful.”

‘Beautiful my ass.’

Cale thought about the cliff and about how it would be extremely difficult to earn the, ‘Sound of the Wind.’ In the novel, the, ‘Sound of the Wind,’ was an ancient power that a member of the non-mage faction in Whipper Kingdom ended up finding.

Although it might be strange that a person from the Whipper Kingdom ended up with an ancient power in the Roan Kingdom, there was a long story behind that as well.

Anyways, that power originally went to a mage slayer, an extremely brutal fool who appears near the second half of the civil war. He was already strong enough that he didn’t really put it to much use.

‘The magic tower will fall soon.’

After the civil war, a new magic tower would be built on the site of the fallen magic tower, and Rosalyn will end up being in charge of that new magic tower.

‘Choi Han, the mage slayer, and the Empire’s crown prince.’

These three people are the ones who appear as the heroes for all of the incidents in the middle of the Western continent. The novel also discussed how the Queen of the Western continent’s Southern Jungle ended up getting involved with the matter of unifying the South as well.

Putting the secret organization that Choi Han constantly runs into aside, this continent will break its 200-year long peace to start fighting for power.

Cale looked toward Eric, who was dealing with everything for him, and looked at the clock. The feast would be over soon. Of course, the nobles were waiting for the conversation time that would happen after the meal.

‘None of my business.’

It was none of Cale’s business.

“Young master Gilbert, I should be able to leave after the meal is over, right?”

Gilbert looked toward Cale, who was leisurely eating fruit like he was out on a picnic, and nodded his head.

“Yes. We plan to meet with the crown prince after the meal, but you probably don’t plan to go with us, right?”

“Right. What good will I do there? The three of you are more informed about the investment information.”

Gilbert’s expression changed at Cale’s words. He seemed to be a bit surprised.

“...You read the document.”

“A bit.”

Cale casually responded, before looking back at the crown prince, who stood up from his seat. He was about to announce the end of the meal. Cale did not find out the real reason behind today’s gathering, but he was not disappointed about it. Not knowing

meant there was no chance of him getting caught up in it.

But Cale started to frown after hearing the crown prince's words.

"It was a pleasure to share this dinner with all of you tonight. I have prepared a simple wine party for those who may be interested, so please enjoy yourselves. Ah, I have also prepared a spot for all of you at the birthday celebration that is coming up."

The crown prince Alberu said all of this with a rather pleasant expression.

"I hope that you will all be there to share in the joys of the day."

'Sigh.'

Cale held back his sigh. Although Alberu was saying he hoped they would all be there, it was pretty much forcing them to be there.

'...I guess I'll be in the plaza when the bombs go off.'

Although it was to be expected, Cale did not like it very much.

"Then let us conclude this dinner."

Cale stood up from his seat. The majority wanted to go to the wine party with the crown prince and the second and third princes, but those who were not approved to meet with the crown prince could not go, even if they wanted to do so.

Cale peeked toward the wheelchair that was moving past him. Taylor passed by him and Cage, who was pushing Taylor's wheelchair, followed directly afterward and whispered in a quiet voice that only Cale could hear.

"See you later, our little brother."

'I said I didn't want to be their little brother.'

Cale's gaze clearly showed his feelings, but Cage just pretended to not understand and headed toward the crown prince, while pretending to be a good and pure priestess.

"Young master Cale, let me walk you out."

“Young lady Amiru.”

Amiru approached Cale and offered to walk with him. Cale looked toward Amiru’s green hair and calm yet sophisticated expression, and casually asked.

“Are you worried I will cause trouble on my way out?”

“Unfortunately, young master Neo was heading back early as well.”

“Ah.”

She was saying she was going with him in case Neo tried to start something again. Cale headed toward the banquet hall door without any other questions, with Amiru next to him. The two of them arrived at Cale’s carriage without saying much, and found Ron waiting by the carriage.

“Young master Cale, good job today.”

Cale nodded his head at Amiru’s words.

“It was hard. But you have to go back and work some more, young lady Amiru.”

Amiru smiled and started to speak.

“It is because we need to get some good news.”

However, Cale could sense the despair in her voice. The Northeastern coast was really a useless piece of land. It was a place filled with cliffs, with nothing else being interesting.

Furthermore, the whirlpools around the cliffs were also a problem. The experienced people living in the territory knew how to avoid them, but it was a dangerous place for others.

“The, ‘Sound of the Wind,’ is responsible for the whirlpools.’

Amiru and Gilbert would want to get some investment in this useless sea, no matter what. Cale looked toward Amiru, who spoke with a strange expression on her face.

“I believe we are capable of getting such results.”

“Young lady Amiru.”

“Yes, young master Cale.”

Cale thought it wouldn't be bad to give some help to Eric, Gilbert, and Amiru, whom he worked today like the beast people under his command. They still needed a balance of power in the Northeast nobles' meeting, and Amiru seemed like someone who would keep secrets pretty well.

“I believe his highness will be pretty interested in this investment.”

“I think so too.”

Amiru agreed with Cale's statement. It was because the crown prince remembered the issue, even without Eric bringing it up first.

“You discussed an investment for tourism right?”

“Yes.”

Investing in tourism using the coastal cliffs. In Cale's opinion, it was completely useless. He approached Amiru and whispered in her ears.

“If you are in desperate need of investment, I think it would be good for you to think about the value of the location of your shoreline in relation to the Whipper Kingdom and the other northern Kingdoms.”

“Excuse me?”

Cale shrugged his shoulders at the confused Amiru and added on.

“Of course, it would be best if you kept what I just said to yourself.”

“...I will remember your words for now.”

Cale was satisfied with Amiru, who seemed confused, but kept her mouth shut. He got on the carriage and waved to Amiru. Amiru lightly moved her head to respond to his wave.

Cale started to speak to Ron, who was closing the carriage door.

“Let's go.”

“Yes, young master.”

The carriage soon started to move. Cale looked out at Amiru, who was seriously contemplating what Cale had said without heading back in, and started to think about

the Northeastern shoreline.

The Northwestern shoreline was made up of sandy beaches. In comparison, Amiru and Gilbert's territory's shoreline was complicated, with many small islands. Furthermore, they were also surrounded by sharp cliffs.

Finally, there were only a few places where ships could safely be anchored. Of course, the fishermen there were veterans who would be able to avoid the whirlpool to safely fish without any issues.

'They only thought about tours and sightseeing because the peace had lasted so long.'

But the crown prince will know that the end of the peace was quickly approaching.

'Anyways, all I have to do is go get the ancient power before that mage slayer takes it for himself.'

Cale decided not to think about it anymore. That night, two reports were delivered to Cale, as he headed back from the feast.

"We found four of the magic bombs."

In the novel, there were five located in different places, and five located on people.

"All of them were around the plaza."

"Show me the map."

Cale reached his hand out to Choi Han. Choi Han had left the Black Dragon at the site of the magic bombs and had returned by himself. He seemed to have rushed back, as there was sweat on his face.

"We found one, and then I ran around with the dragon in my arms to thoroughly look everywhere. We ended up finding three more in the process, but nothing more. I'm sure we need to look somewhere other than the plaza, but there were none in the places we've looked so far."

"No need to rush, since it will be safe until the day of the celebration in two days."

"But it is better to get rid of dangerous things earlier!"

"Let's steal them in early morning of the celebration day."

“...Excuse me?”

The magic bombs Cale knew about required the developer to send a signal to blow them up. However, for anyone at the Black Dragon or even Rosalyn’s level of magic, it was pretty easy to cut the connection between the developer and the bombs even if it took some time to do so. That was how Rosalyn was able to destroy the bombs on the people in the novel.

‘That needs to be done the day of the celebration.’

That was the only way to make that bloodthirsty mage think everything is fine.

“Steal them? We are not going to destroy them?”

Cale handed the map back to the confused Choi Han, and started to speak.

“Why would we destroy such useful things?”

Even if the bombs cannot be used, the densely packed mana inside was a pretty useful ingredient.

“I will use it for myself.”

Choi Han thought Cale’s smile was pretty sneaky. Cale continued to speak to Choi Han, who accepted the map with a confused expression.

“Keep looking since there may be more. Check back multiple times to see if the location of the bomb changes as well.”

Choi Han and the Black Dragon will now need to stay hidden around the plaza and continue to investigate. It will be hard, boring, and extremely taxing on their minds, but it was not something Cale was going to do himself. ^[1]

Cale looked toward On and Hong, who just woke up from their nap and started to sleep.

“Time to pay up.”

Cale also spoke to Choi Han.

“Go work.”

The two kittens, who were rubbing their eyes tiredly, and Choi Han went to work as Cale had instructed. Cale leisurely watched them jump off the terrace window, before drinking the wine he did not get the chance to drink at the banquet, before falling asleep.

A piece of information was delivered to Cale while he was sleeping. Cale was able to hear the news after waking up.

Billos was going to arrive at the capital today, the day before the birthday celebration. Cale immediately headed to the inn where he was going to meet Billos.

It was the place the 10 wolf children were staying. Of course, On, Hong, and Lock were with Cale as he headed to the inn. He thought about what Lock just said, and asked.

“You want me to take care of your siblings?”

“Yes. That is the condition for my deal.”

“And what can you do for me?”

“It is not just me that will do it.”

Lock answered without any hesitation.

“If it is not just you, who else?”

Lock quickly answered.

“My siblings will do it with me. We are stronger as a group.”

Cale felt the back of his head turning chilly.

‘No way.’

Lock ruthlessly hit Cale with another mental blow.

“The Blue Wolf Tribe has a famed history of being strong knights. That history-”

“Is not something I need to know about.”

Cale turned away from Lock, who was sitting across from him in the carriage.

Chapter 41

Don't know, I don't know (2)

But Lock just nodded his head at Cale's response, and started to speak.

"If you do not know, may I explain it to you?"

He asked it in the form of a question, but it looked like he wanted to say what was on his mind. Cale shook his head to say, 'no.'

"No need."

"But."

Cale stared at Lock.

'You want me to take the ten Blue Wolf Tribe children and you to create a Knights Brigade?'

Lock was someone who was afraid of the Whale Tribe but was willing to attack the Chief of the Whale Tribe for his friends.

'You want me to take someone who is crazier than some religious fanatics and make him my subordinate?'

"No need to continue speaking about nonsense."

Cale's cold voice made Lock's shoulders sink. Cale did not care about Lock's reaction at all and started to speak.

"You want young children to become knights? You asked me to protect the children, but your suggestion seems to go against your request."

If Cale trained them into knights from such a young age, they would become a group of warriors who would be even crazier than religious fanatics. That was a terrible thought.

But most importantly.

“What about their opinions? Why are you deciding for them?”

Cale asked the question to Lock, who had made the decision for all of his siblings. Lock had a blank expression for a moment, before lowering his head and apologizing.

“I’m sorry.”

“No need to be sorry.”

Cale just casually responded to Lock who slightly raised his head.

“But since I know what it is you want from me, I will think about what I want in return.”

Of course, he had already thought about what he wanted. He didn’t need it now, but in about 3 months, an ancient power that could be used to make Cale money would appear in a dangerous mountain. It would exist for only 6 months, and someone like Lock in his berserk mode transformation would be best to climb that mountain.

‘If I sell that ancient power to the Queen of the Jungle, even if our territory goes broke, I will have enough money to indulge for the rest of my life.’

He would naturally raise the price before selling it, but he didn’t think there was anything wrong with raising the price for someone who should have a lot of money.

“Will there be something you need from me?”

Cale let out a sigh at the worried tone in Lock’s voice. Cale asked once more, as Lock seemed even more concerned.

“Don’t ask such obvious question. Of course, I will need your help.”

Ah. Lock let out a gasp, and then nodded his head.

“Yes. I will do whatever it is you ask of me. Please let me know once you come to a decision.”

“Sure.”

Cale said that before taking a small money pouch out of his pocket and throwing it to Lock. Lock caught the pouch as Cale explained the reason for the money.

“You’re seeing your siblings for the first time in a while, so go take them on a tour of the capital.”

“...A tour?”

“Yes. Isn’t this your first time in a city like the capital? Go treat them to some delicious food too.”

‘I can only have a relaxed discussion with Billos if none of you are there.’

“On and Hong will go with you, so you will not get lost.”

Meeeeeeow.

Meow.

On and Hong, who were quietly sitting in the carriage, announced their presence after hearing Cale’s statement and approached Lock. They then patted Lock’s leg with their front paws.

“Stop it, On, Hong. It tickles.”

Lock caressed their heads like it was cute, but, in Cale’s eyes, the kittens were seriously trying to attack Lock. Cale watched this and started to think.

‘I should leave the wolf children to Hans later. Otherwise, I will need to find a babysitter for them.’

Cale thought it would be great if it was someone who could cook well and kept things clean. Cale was thinking about people who could babysit the wolf children other than Hans when he thought about Beacrox, Ron’s son and the second chef. Thinking about Beacrox made Cale’s expression stiffen.

Beacrox was definitely someone who was good at cooking, kept things clean, and had a positive reputation within the Henituse family as someone who was respectful and normal. However, none of that mattered to Cale, since he knew that Beacrox was a lunatic who loved torture. He could not let such a person taint the pure wolf children’s minds. ^[1]

‘I also need to send him off with Choi Han.’

He wasn't necessary, but, in the novel, Beacrox went with Choi Han and Rosalyn to Breck Kingdom to torture the Grand Admiral. Cale was debating about who would be good to take care of the wolf children, when the carriage arrived at the inn Billos and the wolf children were located.

Cale got off the carriage before speaking to Lock.

"Follow me."

Cale patted the nervous Lock's shoulder, and Lock walked into the inn with On and Hong in his arms.

"Welcome to the Scent of Grapes! How may I help you?"

Cale responded to the young attendant's greeting, and immediately headed for the back door. The people Choi Han brought with him were all residing in the villa at the back area of the inn.

The attendant tried to follow him, but Cale stopped him and walked to the villa door before motioning to Lock.

"You open the door since it is your younger siblings."

"Huh? Yes!"

Lock put the kittens down and grabbed the handle. This was his first time seeing his younger siblings since he had his berserk transformation. Cale slowly moved back, because he had a bad feeling that he probably should not see what was beyond the door.

Click.

Lock turned the doorknob and opened the door. They could see the inside of the villa as soon as the door was opened. It was a comfortable looking space.

"Sigh."

However, Cale took two more steps backward immediately. It was an instinctive movement.

“Hyung!”

“Hyung!”

“Oppa!”

“Lock oppa!”

10 children rushed toward Lock, and Lock ran toward them as well. An emotional reunion was happening in front of Cale’s eyes, but Cale was overwhelmed at the sight of ten wolf children in front of him.

At the same time, there was someone that Cale was happy to see.

“...Young master.”

“Long time no see, Billos.”

Cale had told Billos to go to this villa. Cale could see that Billos was nervous underneath his smile and looked to the person approaching them from behind Billos.

“Nice to meet you, young master Cale.”

“Are you the merchant who came with Choi Han?”

A man in his sixties with a gentle expression and good physique. This person was the one who asked Choi Han to help with the Blue Wolf tribe issue.

“Yes. I heard a lot of things about you from Mr. Choi Han. It is an honor to meet you, young master.”

“An honor? It is nothing much to see the face of a trash like me.”

Cale reached his hand out to the man, and the man shook Cale’s hand as he introduced himself.

“My name is Odeus Flynn.”

Cale started to smile.

Odeus Flynn. He was someone who was a strong contender for the Flynn Merchant Guild’s leader position but gave up on it to start his own small guild.

He was Billos’s uncle.

He was the person who connected Billos and Choi Han to each other, as well as the person who brought out Billos's hidden greed.

'He is even more devious than Ron.'

He acted like he owned a small merchant guild, but, in reality, he was wearing a mask to rule the underworld. He was nice to some, but cruel and vicious to others. That was the type of person Odeus Flynn was.

Right now, the only person to know about both sides of Odeus's character was Cale.

Cale pretended not to know anything as he greeted Odeus.

"Flynn? You must be related to Billos. Nice to meet you."

"I was shocked as well. I didn't know Billos was the person young master Cale knew. I have not seen Billos since he was a little boy, so I was very happy to see him again. I feel like I've had a lot of good encounters lately."

Billos could not hide his complicated feelings while looking at Odeus. Odeus was someone who threw aside the Flynn Merchant Guild and went to live a simpler life. Furthermore, Odeus was Billos's uncle, and the only person Billos had good memories about from his childhood.

'Well, he is a good person to Billos.'

Cale let go of Odeus's hand and started to speak to Billos.

"Let's go upstairs and drink."

The villa was two stories, with a small bar upstairs. Of course, Cale addressed Odeus as well.

"Choi Han and Rosalyn will soon arrive, so the three of you can catch up."

"I understand. I hope that I have an opportunity to drink with you in the future as well, young master Cale."

Cale smiled and responded back.

“Let’s drink together sometime soon.”

Cale patted Billos’s shoulder as Billos stood there with a complicated expression and tried to head upstairs. However, there were 10 children blocking his way.

“Thank you very much, young master Cale.”

“Thank you very much.”

Cale looked toward the 10 children thanking him and started to think.

‘What a headache.’

There were 10 children who all gave off an aura that made Cale believe they would be very strong in the future. Although they watched their parents, cousins, and other family members all be killed right in front of their eyes, their strong and firm pupils let Cale know that they still had their purity and a sense of gratitude.

There were also none that were very young. All of them seemed to be between 10 - 13 years old.

‘I guess they can have a training instructor rather than a babysitter.’

However, Cale decided he would not be the person providing them with a training instructor and waved at Lock to head out. He then turned back around and headed upstairs. Although he did not respond and ignored them, Cale could still hear the wolf children thanking him from behind. That made Cale have the chills once again.

Billos came up to the second floor and immediately asked Cale a question.

“Young master Cale, just what have you been doing?”

Cale responded to that question without any hesitation.

“Doing what I can for a peaceful future?”

Billos had an expression of disbelief on his face, as he brought out some alcohol and glasses from the cabinet. He then sat across from Cale and filled his own cup.

“...Do you not see me in front of you?”

“...I’m sorry young master. I have a lot on my mind.”

Billos drank about half the bottle, before looking toward Cale. No, he was observing Cale. This person, who said that he could not live as trash any longer. However, Billos had never expected in his wildest dreams that he would meet his uncle while coming to meet Cale.

Cale stopped Billos as he tried to pour another drink and took the bottle from Billos before filling Billos's cup.

"I don't know what's bugging you, but you can't just keep drinking by yourself like that."

"...Young master Cale."

Cale filled Billos's cup, before responding.

"What?"

"Odeus-nim is my uncle by blood."

Odeus-nim. For Billos, who was not allowed to use the Flynn last name, he could not even call his uncle his uncle. However, Odeus was the only adult who was warm to Billos during his childhood.

In the novel, this was what Odeus had said to Billos.

'I consider you as my nephew and my family. You have the qualifications for that.'

That sentence became a starting point and a turning point for Billos. After being introduced to Choi Han in the novel through Odeus, Billos was in awe of Choi Han's strength, and decided to follow Choi Han. He also decided to put himself in contention for the Flynn Merchant Guild's leader position.

"Young master Cale, aren't you curious as to why Odeus-nim runs a small merchant guild, even though he has the Flynn last name?"

'Not curious? I already know about it.'

Odeus was someone who was in full control of the Northwest and Central

underworlds. Cale filled his glass, and casually responded.

“Am I supposed to be curious about the Flynn name?”

He then drank the alcohol in his cup and saw that Billos was smiling.

“I see. I guess the Flynn name is not that grand of a name.”

“Indeed. Whether it is you or Odeus, it is the same. You are a Flynn as well.”

“...I am just a bastard son.” [2]

Cale snorted and responded to Billos.

“The fact that you are a bastard does not mean that you are not a Flynn. Everybody else just considers you a Flynn.”

Although the family may not have given Billos the Flynn family name, everybody else considered Billos to be a Flynn. That was why there was nobody who ignored Billos, even though he was a bastard. The Flynn name, as one of the 3 greatest merchant guilds in this world, was a pretty big name. That was the truth.

Billos observed Cale, before taking the bottle back from Cale and filling Cale’s cup.

“Young master.”

“What?”

“I feel like you are very good at saying the right things.”

“I am a bit talented in that.”

“That is why.”

“Yeah?”

“Just what did you steal with the things you borrowed from me?”

Billos could see the smile on Cale’s face as he said that. Cale picked up the full glass and leisurely answered.

“I already stole one and will steal the rest soon.”

He had already rescued the dragon, and the others would happen tomorrow.

The corner of Billos’s lips started to twitch. There were probably no nobles who would say that they were going to steal something, but such a person was in front of his eyes

right now.

“Can’t I help as well?”

Cale shook his head at Billos’s question.

“Unfortunately.”

Clack.

Cale put the glass down on the table and continued.

“All the spots are full already.”

The list of humans and beast people to use was already in Cale’s head.

“Ha, haha.”

Billos laughed for a bit, before picking up the full glass, drinking it the whole glass in one breath and putting the glass back down on the table.

“I guess I should steal something else then.”

Billos had already decided what he was going to steal. The position of the successor of the Flynn Merchant Guild. He was going to make that position his. It only made sense, since his greed was larger and deeper than anybody else. Cale started to speak as Billos was thinking.

“Do whatever you want.”

Billos laughed once more after hearing Cale’s statement.

Cale did not care whether Billos laughed or not. The fact that Billos met Odeus today meant that his goal for today has been accomplished, letting Cale drink in peace.

Of course, Cale only enjoyed himself for a bit and returned to the residence on his own to prepare for tomorrow. He needed to start moving in the middle of the night, making him want to go to sleep early in the evening. Unfortunately, he was not able to do so.

“Ron?”

Ron bowed to Cale and greeted him.

“Young master, this Ron would like to make a request if possible.”

“A request?”

Ron lifted his head up and started to speak.

“Please take care of my son.”

“Son? You mean Beacrox?”

“Yes.”

“Why?”

Cale could see the benign smile disappear from Ron’s face. This was the first time Cale had ever seen Ron wear a rude expression on his face. Ron started to speak with the assassin’s expression on his face.

“I need to go hunt some foxes.”

Although he was old, Ron was still an assassin. Ron fixed his expression once more and started to speak. His expression was stoic, with only the corners of his lips being slightly elevated.

“Our young master knows that I am someone who kills people, right?”

Cale could feel the buzz from the alcohol instantly disappearing. He was getting the chills once again.

-
1. Beacrox is the S to our PR’s M.
 2. It is probably similar to GoT, where bastards cannot take the family name and are given names like Snow.

Chapter 42

Don't know, I don't know (3)

Cale hid the chilly feeling and trembling, and asked.

"So?"

Ron was about to resume the benign smile on his face after hearing his little puppy young master speak in his usual annoying and rude tone, but suppressed it and started to speak.

"So, I'm going to kill people."

"Leaving your son behind?"

"Yes sir."

"Is the fox a person?"

Cale knew how the assassin Ron smiled. It was a very faint smile, with just the corners of his lips raised a tiny bit. It was one that made the person looking at Ron think that it would be better if he did not smile at all. Ron replied quite pleased.

"That's right. I have to go kill a group of foxes."

But his voice was cold.

"Rip them into pieces."

It would either be Ron's body being ripped into pieces or his targets' bodies being ripped into pieces. It could only be one of those two scenarios.

Cale got goosebumps at the phrase, 'rip them into pieces.' He then started to contemplate.

Ron could see that Cale stood there without saying anything for a while. His puppy young master finally started to speak after sighing numerous times.

"...Go and come back."

The smile disappeared from Ron's face. Cale, who was already in his pajamas, laid down on the bed and continued to speak.

"I'll tell Hans that you are taking a leave of absence. Report to me every so often. You can receive money from the Flynn Merchant Guild with your ID plaque. And why would you leave Beacrox to a trash like me? He is an adult. He will figure out what to do with his own life."

Cale decided to think easily. There was no need for Ron to be with Choi Han right now. Now that Lock was able to transform into a controlled berserk state, Choi Han would be fine without Ron or Beacrox's strength.

But, for Choi Han, and more importantly, for a peaceful Northeastern region of the Roan Kingdom, Ron was needed one year later.

"However, the duration of your break is only 1 year."

Cale leaned against his pillow and continued.

"Enjoy your break."

'Since I have work for you to do in a year.'

"Don't get hurt while you are out there."

Cale stretched out his two legs, thinking he had reserved wonderful dreams for the next year. He then looked toward Ron and flinched.

The old man, who had been quiet, was actually quietly laughing. That vicious sight made Cale cower underneath the blanket.

'What is going on?'

Cale's expression stiffened.

Ron continued to silently laugh without watching Cale.

'I thought this little punk was a son of a bitch, but I, Ron Molan, is the one who is a son

of a bitch.'

Like a dog that looks at his master. Ron thought that he was like a dog, and responded.

[1]

"Young master, is reporting to you once a month enough?"

"Yes. Do as you please."

Like an assassin, Ron opened the door and left the room without making a single noise. He then said one last thing before closing the door.

"I will see you in a year, young master."

Without waiting Cale's answer, Ron closed the door. Cale quickly fell asleep, relieved that he was free from Ron for a year.

Dawn arrived, and six people were standing in front of Cale. There were some that he had personally called, and some that he gathered through Choi Han.

Cale looked toward Rosalyn, and started to speak.

"Miss Rosalyn, the brown hair looks good on you."

Rosalyn was not aware of exactly what will happen today, but understood the severity after hearing the words, 'magic bomb,' and decided to help. Cale had also promised her something in return for her help.

"Right? I thought it will make it easier for me to run wild."

Rosalyn had dyed her hair and pupils brown with magic. On and Hong were standing next to her.

"Lock, you should be able to use the physical strength of a wolf without transforming right?"

"Yes sir. It is possible."

Lock was standing there nervously as well. Next to him were the Black Dragon and Choi Han.

Cale divided them into two teams. The Black Orb was already positioned by Choi Han yesterday, so the two teams each needed to locate and take care of the four bombs.

“Miss Rosalyn and Lock will be one team. Choi Han, Dragon, On, and Hong will be the other team.”

Rosalyn had a confused expression on her face after hearing how Cale divided up the teams. Lock had the same expression on his face as well.

“What about you, young master Cale?”

Choi Han, the Black Dragon, On, and Hong all responded to the question.

“Cale-nim is, a bit, uhm, his physical strength is...”

“Weak.”

“We don’t need him.”

“He is useless.”

Ah.

Rosalyn let out a gasp and looked toward Cale. Lock seemed to be quite surprised as well. However, Cale handed the items he borrowed from Billos to Choi Han, and confidently answered.

“I am weak and will only be baggage. I also need to prepare for the celebration as soon as the sun comes up, so it will be difficult for me to go with you.”

They were going to use the short opening when the guards for the night shift switched with the day shift to enter the areas where the bombs were located and start to dismantle them. After that, while the Black Orb activates and causes a mana disturbance, they will all need to wait at their determined stations to observe the secret organizations members and the situation at the plaza.

The birthday celebration was set to start at 9 am.

Cale looked at his watch before speaking to the six of them again.

“Alright then, please head to work.”

He then added on.

“Don’t forget to bring back the dismantled magic bombs.”

Rosalyn smiled and responded to Cale’s statement.

“You promised to give me one of them.”

“Of course.”

“Should be enough to pay for my services.”

It was definitely enough. Cale looked toward the terrace, that was now being used more as a door than as a terrace, and opened the window. A cool night breeze filled the room as the six individuals quickly rushed out of Cale’s room through the terrace.

Some left with invisibility magic while others left with very fast speed. Cale watched them leave and thought to himself that they were all very strong.

He was now left alone in the room.

Oooooooooong-

Cale slowly stroked the large shield and silver wings that appeared in front of him. Even if something unexpected happens, he would not die as long as he had this shield.

“...I’ll use a tiny bit of its strength if I need to do so.”

Cale patted the shield, that looked even more holy after having the heart crest engraved in it, and decided to use it without being noticed if there came the need to do so.

Cale sat down on the couch and practiced using just a small amount of the shield’s power, before noticing his reflection in the mirror.

‘It should be fine.’

The blood-crazed mage. It was said that this person went into a frenzy by the color red. That was why, in the novel, the mage went crazy after seeing Rosalyn for the first time, saying that they needed to cut Rosalyn’s head off to take her red hair and pupils.

Cale brushed back his hair, that was an even brighter red than Rosalyn’s hair, and

started to think.

‘What are the chances that I’ll be in close proximity to that lunatic?’

Even if something like that happened, he just had to tell Choi Han to kill. Cale was not worried that his own head would get cut off. Cale relaxed and waited until Ron came to wake him up. Once Ron came at the usual time, Cale started to speak.

“Today will be your last day to serve me.”

“I can do it again in a year.”

That sounded terrible to Cale. He was planning on sending Ron to Choi Han immediately upon his return in a year. Cale was excited that he was getting rid of two baggages today, and started to speak with a light heart.

"Let's get ready."

Cale made all the preparations and headed for the palace. All the participating nobles were scheduled to move together. The Black Dragon was going to come to the palace to report on the progress.

After all of the preparations were completed, Cale got on a carriage in front of the residence’s main gate. It was not the Henituse carriage, instead, he was going to be riding with someone else today.

“Why did you want to go together?”

Amiru responded with a calm smile, as Cale asked the question while getting onto the carriage. Amiru had reached out and asked Cale to go with her today.

She got right to the point, since Cale did the same without even greeting her first.

“Young master Cale, what do you think about our territory building a naval base?”

Cale started to smile.

He had already received a letter from Eric letting him know that the tourism investment discussion did not go well. Eric said both Gilbert and Amiru were very disappointed. However, Amiru did not seem to be very disappointed. In fact, she

seemed to have made up her mind about something else, something big.

He looked toward her and started to speak.

“Didn’t you already make up your mind, young lady Amiru?”

Amiru lightly nodded her head.

“Yes. I didn’t think it was a decision I could make on my own, so I contacted my mother. I plan to discuss it with young master Gilbert today as well.”

The creation of a new military base. Something like that was not easy to accomplish. The money wasn’t the issue, it was more about the relationship between powers within the territory that complicated things. Especially in times of peace, like right now.

That was why the crown would have their eyes on the Northeast. The east was the only side with access to the ocean, but, most importantly, there was a balance of power in the East. It would also be difficult for the high-ranking nobles in the other regions to influence such a base as well.

“Then young lady Amiru’s concern is that the crown’s influence in your territory will get stronger because of this?”

“Yes.”

Amiru gave a short answer, before continuing on.

“That is why I asked for this time with you today.”

It meant that she had something to discuss with him. Cale leaned on the back of the seat, and asked while in a comfortable position, as if he was in his own carriage.

“I am curious to know what your question is, but I think I need to tell you something first.”

He knew why Amiru was here.

“Any decision regarding the funds of the Henituse family is made solely by my father. A trash like me has no decision-making powers.”

The royal family would grant permission to build a naval base and invest huge sums of money. Naturally, the ownership of that naval base would then be passed on to the royal family.

When building a military base in a territory that is outside the capital, there are a lot of different contracts between the crown and the nobility for ownership and other logistics involving the military base.

There was a significant difference in manpower and funds between using the location as a military base than using the cliffs and the ocean for just tourism.

Amiru and Gilbert's families were, honestly speaking, just average in wealth, lacking both the funds and the manpower to complete such a project.

That was what Amiru wanted to prevent. That meant that there was only one method.

Borrowing money from someone with a lot of money.

"Is that really the case?"

Amiru's smile seemed very intelligent. She had entered the crown prince's room during the wine party with Eric and Gilbert once Cale had left.

It was then that she learned that the crown prince was interested in the shoreline, even though he was not interested in tourism. When she returned to her residence that night, she thought about Cale's words, and figured out his intentions.

"His Highness the crown prince was wary of the Whipper Kingdom and the kingdoms to the north. I could tell based on our conversation with him, so I sought out some information from the information guild."

'I knew it.'

Cale could tell from Amiru's words that the crown prince and the royal family were aware of the fact that the Whipper Kingdom would soon face a civil war, and that the North was gathering their forces.

'But this was unexpected.'

Amiru's decision-making was on point. Amiru's family was not doing very well right now, relying a lot on Eric Wheelsman's family for help. It would have cost a lot to get information on foreign kingdoms through the information guild, but her willingness to spend that money to verify a single piece of information showed her personality.

Amiru looked toward Cale, who was quietly listening, before continuing.

"I heard the Henituse territory is currently fortifying its walls. I believe the Henituse family will be interested in the military, since it is a territory that does not allow any kind of invasions."

Cale nodded his head at her statement and responded.

"I will speak to my father about it."

"We will also send an official request as well."

Cale and Amiru looked at each other and smiled.

If this naval base was to be created, the balance of power in the Northeast will shift to Cale, Eric, Amiru, and Gilbert's four families. If the Henituse family provided the funds to have a steady influence in the base, the Henituse family would receive multiple facets of support from the base.

Amiru hesitated for a while, before continuing to speak.

"I am a bit worried because of the whirlpools, but there are paths that have been used for ages, and the whirlpool will actually serve as a defense to prevent foreign nations from invading. That is why I want to give it a go."

Whirlpools. Cale prevented himself from smiling as soon as she mentioned the whirlpools.

That whirlpools will soon be Cale's to utilize as he wishes.

'Wouldn't it be great to build a house on one of those cliffs and enjoy the sunset in the future?'

It would be difficult for him to stay in the Henituse estate once he hands control to Basen. Cale's plan was to hide in some remote corner during the war, and then head

to Amiru or Gilbert's territory after the war was over to build a house on a cliff to relax while looking out at the sea.

It would be a good location, since it was pretty close to the Henituse territory as well.

"Thank you for your help, young master Cale."

"Hahaha, to ask a trash for support. I have no power whatsoever, I am just delivering your message to my father."

Cale waved it off, and started to laugh. However, Amiru did not believe his words at all anymore.

'Amiru, you need to be cautious when you don't have power. However, you need to be bold if you want to earn power.'

That was what her mother, the head of the Ubarr territory, had said as she agreed on the naval base. Amiru was similar to her mother. That was why she worked to be bold, even while remaining cautious. This was her philosophy for dealing with people as well.

"It is enough for you to deliver our message for us."

Amiru reached her hand out to Cale, and Cale shook it. She then let go, before adding on.

"Please come visit the Ubarr territory next time. There are actually a lot of interesting places to see."

"I will go if I have the chance to do so."

The Sound of the Wind.

It will become Cale's fast feet, and, at the same time, give him control over a whirlwind that can be used for both offense and defense. Cale thought about the Ubarr coast, where that ancient power was located.

"I hope that the opportunity comes soon."

The carriage arrived at the palace as soon as he said that. Cale got off the carriage and looked around. The current time was 8 am.

The staff would already be at the Plaza of Glory to prepare for the celebration. The Royal Knights will allow people to enter at 8:30 am, filling the plaza full of people.

It will be a situation where it will be difficult for anyone to go in or out. The celebration will start thirty minutes after that, and Cale's group will start looking for the hidden picture starting at 8:30 am.

Necklaces, bags, pendants.

The magic bombs will be hiding in all sorts of shapes. Cale's group would find the people who have the bombs located on them. Well, it didn't matter if they didn't find them, since the answer will reveal itself.

"Oh, you're here?"

Cale received Eric and Gilbert's greeting, before standing next to them with Amiru.

"Everyone came early."

"Of course. We will start moving at 8:05 am."

Eric said that to Cale, while his eyes were sending Cale another message.

Be still today as well.

Cale nodded his head while looking into Eric's eyes, and reminded himself internally.

'I do not know anything.'

As soon as he thought that, the crown prince appeared in front of Cale. The nobles would follow behind the crown prince today.

He then saw the person who arrived next to the crown prince, and covered his mouth with his hand. It was because he could not help but smirk.

"Oh my lord."

"How is this possible?"

Eric's shocked gasp and the murmuring of the nobles filled the area. However, Cale did

not care about any of that. Instead, he lowered his hand while looking forward. Cale made eye contact with the person next to the crown prince.

The eldest son that had been pushed aside, Taylor Stan.

He was standing on his own two legs next to the crown prince. Taylor stealthily motioned with his eyes once he made eye contact with Cale.

At the same time, Cale could hear the Black Dragon's voice in his head. The Black Dragon had entered the palace to give the current report of the situation.

- I am here.

Cale slightly nodded his head, and the voice continued.

- We are dismantling all of the bombs that are currently stationed in the locations we found. We will dismantle them completely at 8:55 am, as planned.

Everything seemed to be going as planned.

- I will be heading back now since we are busy, weak human. Use your shield if it seems like it'll hurt.

Cale could not hear the Black Dragon's voice after that. It seemed to have quickly returned to help the others. This Black Dragon surprisingly put all of his effort into his assignments whenever Cale gave him a task to complete. It made Cale want to keep ordering the Black Dragon around.

'There shouldn't be any reason for me to use the shield.'

Cale was thinking that he would not need to use the shield if things continued like this.

"All preparations have been completed."

One of the knights shouted out loud, and the crown prince got on the Royal Parade Carriage and spoke to the nobles getting on the royal carriages behind him.

"Let's go."

Cale also got onto a royal carriage. The carriage soon started to move, and Cale sat there with his arms crossed while having a stiff expression on his face.

“Nice to meet you all again.”

The wheelchair-less Taylor greeted them.

“Nice to meet you. I am Amiru Ubarr.”

“...Nice to meet you.”

Taylor Stan, Young lady Amiru, and Venion’s lackey Neo Tolz ended up in the same carriage as them. Cale was wondering whether the crown prince purposely put them together in the same carriage.

It was Cale’s turn to introduce himself, but Cale just quietly sat there and looked out the carriage window. A trash was allowed to be this rude. He sat there with his arms crossed and looked toward the Plaza of Glory.

The chaos was not far away.

Chapter 43

Somehow (1)

However, the inside of the carriage was already chaotic. Cale looked toward Neo, whose legs were shaking, and internally clicked his tongue. Neo seemed to be frantic and full of concern. The majority of the nobles looked chaotic.

‘Venion’s face was a mess too.’

Cale recalled Venion Stan’s face that he peeked at before getting on the carriage. Venion was full of rage.

Who would have ever expected this?

Taylor Stan, the eldest son of the Stan family that was pushed aside, was walking on his own two feet without a wheelchair. Furthermore, a person from the Stan family was standing next to the crown prince, Alberu. Nobody could have expected such development.

‘He managed to trade for the Healing Star.’

Cale was curious about what Taylor and Cage traded with the crown prince for the Healing Star, but he did not look toward Taylor.

Neo Tolz was sitting there shaking his leg, without even looking at Taylor. At that moment, Amiru started to speak.

“Young master Taylor, have your legs completely healed?”

The cautiously stated question directly asked the question that everyone was thinking about. Taylor started to smile as he responded.

“It was a blessing from heaven. It is completely healed.”

“Congratulations.”

“Thank you very much.”

Ahem, mm.

Neo Tolz let out some fake coughs before looking back and forth between Taylor's face and Taylor's legs. He then cautiously started to speak.

"Young master Taylor, will you be returning to the Marquis's estate now that your legs have healed?"

The biggest reason Taylor was pushed aside was because his legs became paralyzed. Neo and the other nobles were probably curious as to whether or not Taylor would return to the estate to fight for the successor position once again. Especially since Neo was one of Venion's lackeys.

Taylor looked toward Neo, and started to speak.

"Return?"

It was a gentle voice, but there was firmness and coldness toward Neo hidden within Taylor's voice.

"That has always been my home. Isn't it obvious that I belong there?"

Neo shriveled up even more at the coldness in Taylor's voice. However, Cale chose not to even look at them. Cale could see Taylor's reflection through the window every so often.

Of course, Taylor didn't make it obvious to the others, making it look like he was just looking out the window like Cale as well.

Cale could read the message Taylor was trying to send him when their eyes met.

'Young master Cale! I want to tell you everything! It is a very interesting story.' ^[1]

Cale was still stoic after seeing Taylor's sparkling gaze. Cale just hoped for Taylor to take over the Marquis position and prevent any harm from happening within his territory.

That was why he did not want to talk to Taylor. However, an opportunity soon

appeared for Taylor and Cale to chat.

“Ahem, then I will step out now.”

As soon as the carriage arrived outside the Plaza of Glory, Neo Tolz rushed out of the carriage to get away from them. Since he made it very obvious that he worked for Venion, this was a really awkward place for him to be. He probably also wanted to report Taylor’s current situation to Venion right away.

“Young master Cale, I will come back with young master Eric.”

Amiru was worried that Cale might start something if he ran into the other Northeastern nobles, who happened to be in a carriage with Eric and Gilbert, and left alone to bring Eric and Gilbert over.

‘Nothing should happen since young master Taylor and Young master Cale don’t have any relationship.’

‘Based on young master Cale’s personality, he will not start a conversation with anyone.’

That was what Amiru was thinking as she quickly moved to find Eric and Gilbert.

That resulted in Cale having to receive Taylor’s bright smile.

“Finally, only the two of us are left.”

It was something Cale did not like to hear. He made that feeling completely visible on his face, but Taylor seemed to find that to be funny. Taylor quietly laughed, before throwing a straight at Cale.

“I got my leg fixed by promising to become the head of the Marquis’s estate.”

“Did you promise your loyalty?”

“No. I made a deal.”

Cale nodded his head.

“That’s good. Congratulations on your healed legs.”

Cale then turned away from Taylor, as if he had nothing else to say. Taylor found that reaction to be very fitting of Cale's personality, and took a small envelope out of his pocket and handed it to Cale.

"This is the contents of our deal."

"...There is no need to give this to me."

Cale had a stoic expression, and Taylor responded.

"It'll be good for you to know, young master Cale."

He then threw another straight at Cale.

"Cage will be excommunicated."

"Is it because she does whatever she wants?"

"It is. She is very happy about it."

Cage was finally starting on the path of the crazy priestess. She will now progress like the excommunicated priestess who is seen as a brave priestess by others, like in the novel.

"That's good."

Cale could see Taylor happily nodding his head at his words. Taylor then started to frown, like all of his emotions were crashing against him all at once like a whirlpool, and started to speak.

"This is just the beginning. We will be victorious. Right, young master Cale?"

'Why is he including me in their victory?'

Cale was curious about that, but decided to answer his question for now.

"You will be victorious."

"Thank you very much. Then I will get off first."

Taylor got up and looked down at his legs, before saying goodbye to Cale and getting off.

“The three of us should drink together after our victory.”

“The Henituse wine is delicious.”

Taylor finally opened the carriage door at Cale’s words and left. Cale immediately opened the envelope once he was alone.

He then ripped it up.

“Tsk.”

He lightly clicked his tongue and shoved the note deep inside his inner pocket. There really was a secret to the crown prince’s birth. Cale shook his head and stepped out of the carriage.

“Cale.”

Cale turned his head at Eric’s calling. He could see the full Plaza of Glory behind their shoulders.

“Young master Cale, let us go. It is our turn to enter the plaza.”

In the novel, Choi Han was curious about these people, who had a spot higher than the normal citizens of the kingdom. Today, Cale was going to that same spot. However, he was still at the bottom compared to the royal family and the holy priests.

Cale looked toward the bell tower at the entrance of the plaza. The bell tower had a giant clock on it.

The current time was 8:25 am. It was time for the nobles and priests to enter. The knights started to prevent any more citizens from entering to create room for the nobility.

“Let’s go.”

Cale pushed Eric and the others in front of him and started to walk. He could see all of the people in the plaza as he got closer. There were so many people that he couldn’t even tell how many people were there. However, they were not completely stuffed like sardines. That was how large the Plaza of Glory was, and the fact that the crown was limiting the number of people helped out as well. In response, some people were in

shops near the plaza and roofs of buildings nearby to try to get a glimpse of the king's celebration.

"Young master Cale, is this your first time at the Plaza of Glory?"

Cale leisurely nodded his head at Gilbert's question.

"Yes. I briefly passed through on my carriage, but it is my first time seeing all of it."

Cale looked around the plaza as he said that.

The tea shop to the South.

The inn to the West.

A flower shop to the East.

The top of the Ceramist Association building to the North.

These were the four places Cale focused on as he looked around.

"The plaza is pretty large."

Cale verified the locations the magic bombs were positioned. At the same time, he looked toward the fountain to the south. A young boy was waving a flag, like he was trying to welcome the king. That young boy was Lock.

'Things are going as planned.'

Cale knew that Choi Han and the Black Dragon would be watching him right now, and looked toward the Bell Tower.

The current time was 8:30 am.

"We are opening up a path now."

The knights closed up all entrances to allow the nobles to enter. At the same time, Cale snapped his fingers.

Snap.

It was a simple gesture that nobody would question.

Lock disappeared as soon as it happened. It was time to find the hidden items. Of course, it wasn't necessary at all.

'The answer will appear at 9:01 am.'

However, it was easier if they knew the answer in advance. Furthermore, since Cale didn't need to move, it was fine to look for these hidden items.

"Everybody please take a seat over here."

The seats were arranged with everyone's names posted in specific seats. The king and the royal family was not at the plaza just yet. Even the crown prince, who came with the nobles, was not out yet.

Cale arrived at his seat, and started to frown.

"We seem to run into each other a lot, young master Cale."

"That does seem to be the case, young master Taylor."

It was the same as during the feast. Cale sat down next to Taylor, and looked down at the people below the platform. He then looked toward the Bell Tower.

He recalled the story in the novel.

The single location that Choi Han managed to find a bomb in the novel was not one of the locations this time. There were already many changes to the story.

However, at least there should not be anyone who dies by the crumbling of the buildings, unlike in the novel.

The Mana Disturbance Tool was buried underneath the Bell Tower.

The current time was 8:40 am. Cale turned to his left after hearing Eric's voice.

"Cale. Be still. Okay?"

"Hyung-nim."

Eric became nervous after hearing the tone Cale used to call out to him. Cale, who used

to enjoy wearing fancy clothes and showing off until just two years ago, was suddenly only wearing dark clothes, and had a completely different demeanor about him.

“I will be very still today. I plan to do nothing at all.”

Eric was captivated by Cale’s voice, and subconsciously nodded his head. Cale seemed to be satisfied with this reaction, as he laughed and looked at the clock again.

8:45 am. He could hear the Black Dragon’s voice. The dragon was looking at him as Cale expected.

- 15 minutes left.

Dragons were really capable of everything. There was nothing their magic could not accomplish. Cale praised the Black Dragon internally as he got up from his seat.

“The stars of the Crossman family, our royal family, are now entering!”

Only one entrance to the plaza was open at this time. The crown prince was in the lead, the second and third prince flanked his sides, and the other princes and princesses walked in behind them.

A group of individuals with beautiful blonde hair entered the plaza. This was the royal family that was blessed by the Sun God, the pride of the Roan Kingdom.

Woooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo-

The cheering of the citizens filled the plaza. It was so loud that it felt like the ground was shaking. Cale remembered the words of the Black Dragon.

‘The crown prince’s hair and eyes are brown.’

Brown was known as the most average color hair and eyes. Cale looked toward the royal family, and lightly clapped. And then, it was finally 8:50 am.

“His Highness, King Zed Crossman, the sun of the Roan Kingdom, is now entering!”

Woo-

The healthy 50-year-old king appeared in the plaza in his parade carriage. Cale was watching the king, before moving his gaze away to another spot in the plaza. He could see a flower pot on top of the Ceramist Association building to the north. The current time was 8:55 am.

‘They dismantled it.’

Cale started to smile.

Rosalyn, The Black Dragon, On, and Hong will now hide within the crowd in the plaza.

King Zed was slowly heading toward the plaza from far off in the distance. Zed Crossman had risen to the position of king at the age of 20 after the former king’s sudden death. He utilized this time of peace to his advantage, killing off all of his siblings to solidify his position of power.

Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa-

The fanfare for the king was still very loud. King Zed passed through the plaza entrance and headed to the highest platform. Cale just calmly watched this all happen.

There was a special platform for the king in front of the Bell Tower.

The king and the queen waved to the crowd, before walking up to the platform. The queen stood in front of her seat as King Zed went up to the magic vocal amplifier.

Cale looked at the clock again.

Current time was 8:58 am.

The King lifted up his hand, and the cheers slowly died down. Finally, once the plaza was completely quiet, the king started to speak.

“It has already been 30 years since this king has received the blessing of the sun to rule over this kingdom.”

The king seemed very happy. Unfortunately, it was now 9 am.

“Huh?”

Cale could hear Eric's confused voice.

"What is that?"

Cale then heard Taylor's anxious voice. Cale leisurely raised his head to look at the top of the Bell Tower.

"What?"

"Who is that?"

"What is going on?"

The mumblings of the crowd started to get louder. King Zed looked behind him, and then moved his gaze up the Bell Tower. Cale looked at the top of the Bell Tower and started to smile.

King Zed started to shout.

"Who are you?!"

The knights and mages headed to the Bell Tower. The citizens started to get nervous about what was going on. They had no choice. A person appeared on top of the Bell Tower, and then more people in black attires started to appear on top of the buildings nearby as well.

"Get down this instant!"

"Everybody, head up to the top of the buildings now!"

Cale heard the voices of the knights nearby, and looked toward the man standing on top of the Bell Tower with black attire and a mask. It was the blood-crazy mage, Redika. ^[2]

'I was worried this would be different than the novel as well.'

If Redika did not show up, he would have needed the Black Dragon to reverse the flow of mana coming to the mana bombs in order to locate the hidden Redika, and allow Choi Han to kill him.

Cale was relieved that he would not need to do that, and remembered the description

in the novel.

Redika's hand became covered in a red-colored mana. This punk was unique, in that people could see the color of his mana, even though he was a mage. He then swung his hand and announced as he had in the novel.

<"Should be fun.">

"Should be fun."

A chilling voice that sounded like metal screeching against one another, filled the plaza. Then, the red mana shot out to different spots in the plaza.

That moment was exactly 9:01 am.

Oooooooooong-

A vibration started from underneath the Bell Tower.

Beeeeeeep-

Beeeeeeep-

Magic devices started to go off in multiple locations. The red mana that was flying toward the detonation devices inside the magic bombs suddenly lost strength and started to spin aimlessly in position.

It was the result of the mana disturbance.

Then, it happened inside the plaza as well.

Beeeeeeep-

Four spots started to ring in the plaza.

"Found it."

Cale's quiet voice was drowned out by the alarm of the magic devices.

Someone within the area of those four alarms would have the magic bomb on them.

As Cale expected, the magic bombs had an alarm to sound that there was an error.

Cale could see Choi Han, Rosalyn, and Lock heading toward the four locations.

10 minutes. Even if they could not manage to dismantle the bombs in 10 minutes, they had plenty of time to move the bombs to the mountain in the rear to make it go off without hurting anyone. It was possible because of Rosalyn and the Black Dragon.

- Found one human.

Cale started to smile after hearing the invisible Black Dragon's report.

The 10 minutes had just started.

Chapter 44

Somehow (2)

Cale could see Choi Han grabbing someone as the Black Dragon made his report. It was the person the Black Dragon determined to be in possession of the magic bomb.

Cale could see the necklace on the person's neck.

'That must be it.'

Cale could see Choi Han ripping off the person's necklace. At the same time, Cale's body was jerked. Someone had pulled Cale's arm.

"Cale!"

It was Eric Wheelsman. Cale slowly looked around him, starting with the top of the Bell Tower.

"Hahahaha-"

The blood crazy mage Redika was laughing.

Wiiiiiiiiing.

A loud noise appeared alongside the noise of scratching metal, combining to create a terrifying screech.

"Your Highness! Please get to a safe spot!"

The Royal Knights and some mages were next to the royal family and the king in order to help them escape. Cale first looked toward the crown prince. His hair was still blonde.

'Was it not magic using mana?'

((Did another dragon dye his hair? Or is it a different type of strength?)) [This originally had <<>> but that doesn't seem to make it show]

Cale remembered what the Black Dragon had said in the past. Cale decided to stop thinking about it, and continued to look around.

Half of the remaining Royal Knights and mages were working to calm the crowd and find the Mana Disturbance Tool, while the other half was rushing toward the secret organization. Redika, who had been laughing for a while now, started to speak.

“This is annoying”

With that, all of the secret organization members other than Redika started to launch long-range attacks. Spears, daggers, and throwing knives; all sorts of attacks started to pour down upon the knights.

Boom!

Wiiiiiiiiiiiiing-

Beeeeeeeeeep.

Cale found it very loud. At the same time, the Black Dragon continued its report.

- One more human.
- And another.

9:04 am. This was the third person so far.

“Cale! We should go as well! We should go!”

“Young master Cale, hurry up!”

Cale looked toward Eric, Amiru, Gilbert, and Taylor. They had all quickly gathered around him. Eric was looking around with a chaotic expression on his face. Cale followed his lead and looked around as well.

“What are you doing? Hurry up and let us go!”

“Let us out right now!”

The nobles were fighting to get out of the plaza as quickly as possible. Of course, there

were a couple calm ones as well. However, It was different underneath the platform.

“Why are you blocking the exit!”

“Open up a path!”

The citizens were screaming for the knights to open the door and rushing toward the exit. The knights and soldiers shouted back at the citizens.

“Please calm down!”

“Please wait just a moment!”

“You expect us to wait in a situation like this? Get out of our way!”

“Are you crazy?! The nobles are trying to leave right now! Let us leave as well!”

Cale looked for hands being raised in the air in the midst of that chaos.

“W, what are you doing?!”

Choi Han pulled a bag off of an old man’s shoulder and thrust his arm into the air. This was the third person. Cale turned his head to look around at the people around him.

The door for the nobles and priests was already open, with many nobles and priests quickly heading out as fast as they could. It looked more peaceful because there were fewer people than the gate for the citizens down below, but it was still chaotic with each person trying to get out faster than the other.

That was why.

“What a mess.”

It was a complete mess. Eric was frantically pacing around, so Cale put his hand on Eric’s shoulder to calm him down. He then held onto Eric’s shoulder tightly.

“Hyung-nim.”

“Ah.”

Cale continued to speak once the pain snapped Eric out of his chaotic state. ^[1]

“Calm down.”

Eric calmed down after seeing Cale's calm demeanor. He then looked around. The knights were fighting against these unknown assailants while the royal family was in the process of escaping. The citizens looked to be in a state of chaos. As Eric absorbed all of the events going on around him and turned back to look at Cale, Cale started to speak.

"That is more like you."

"...Thank you. I feel like my head has cleared."

Cale shrugged his shoulders and turned away. Gilbert and Amiru had come back to their senses after hearing what Cale had said to Eric, and were looking at Cale as well. Even if they tried to head for the noble's exit gate right now, they would just be swept up in the chaos. The head families of the other regions were busy gathering their people and calming them down while trying to figure out a path of escape.

Gilbert watched some of the other nobles before looking around. The other nobles from the Northeast region were headed toward them. They were all looking at Eric, but Eric and Gilbert were looking at Cale.

"...What the..."

Cale looked toward Taylor. Taylor was different from the others. Taylor's concern right now was that the citizens' gate was still not fully open. The gate was opening very slowly, most likely so that they could control the flow of people running out.

Taylor was a very altruistic and good person. That was why he was more worried about the citizens than himself. Cale looked toward Eric and started to speak. Eric had the qualifications to be the leader of this group, after all.

"Let's go."

After hearing Cale's words, Eric nodded his head and led the Northeast nobles to the gate. Cale looked at the clock.

9:08 am. The mages were busy getting rid of the mana disturbance. The Mana Disturbance Tool was going to run out in a few minutes. It only lasted this long because there were a lot of people in the plaza adding to the chaos.

- One more removed.

Now it was four. There were just two more remaining. Two minutes. Cale thought that they should have enough time.

Redika's red mana balls were still spinning around in the air. The moment the Mana Disturbance Tool stops working, those mana balls will immediately head for the magic bombs and detonate them.

Cale looked at the clock on the Bell Tower before starting to walk. The Black Dragon made another report at this time.

- That is all.

"...What?"

"Young master Cale, what is wrong?"

Taylor, who had been walking next to Cale, looked at Cale with confusion, but Cale did not have time to focus on him.

"There are only four?"

Cale remembered that there were a total of 10 bombs in the novel. Had it changed? Cale stopped walking and looked around. The Mana Disturbance Tool had a range of a large mountain. If the magic bombs were buried elsewhere, the alarm would have gone off at that location.

But the alarms for the high-grade devices only went off inside the plaza.

Did the number of bombs change because the story has changed?

9:09 am came and went, and only a few seconds were left until 9:10 am. One of the mage's amplified voice rang out in the plaza.

"Activate Mana Stability Magic!"

As soon as he said that, mages from eight different directions chanted a spell at the same time. Eight magic balls of light shot up into the sky.

Boom-

They blew up in the air and started to spread like a thin tent. And then, finally.

Wiiiiiiiiing-

The noise started to quiet down. Mana was starting to become stable once again. 9:09 am and 55 seconds.

Cale could see four items being shot up into the sky at that time. It was Rosalyn and the Black Dragon using their magic. Those four items followed the stabilized flow of mana and flew toward the mountains to the south of the capital.

For these two, who were extremely sensitive to mana, something like this was a breeze.

The citizens blankly watched as these four items flew like shooting stars toward the mountain with harsh terrain that prevented people from traversing through.

“Mana Stability Complete!”

9:10 am and 5 seconds. The mage shouted out loud, and Redika’s red mana balls started to chase behind the items flying toward the mountain. As the red mana balls finally came into contact with the four items...

Booooooom-!

A large explosion occurred in the sky. It was so bright that it temporarily blinded everyone who was looking at it. A large pillar of black smoke soon followed and rushed up into the sky. Even though the mountain was far to the south of the plaza, a large gust of wind rushed toward the crowd in the plaza.

The plaza instantly became silent. The mages’ expressions turned completely pale. It was because they realized the identity and purpose of the red mana balls that started to fly as soon as they stabilized the mana.

“...Those were magic bombs.”

Taylor Stan muttered those words in shock. Any noble who had the slightest knowledge of magic would know that only one item was capable of having such a destructive force.

A magic bomb.

Even the king and some of the princes, who were retreating, stopped moving. Everybody could not help but think about how those items had shot up from within the crowd before starting to fly toward the mountain.

Cale brushed his hair that was a mess from the gust of wind.

‘I guess there were only four bombs.’

Nobody had died.

- We saved them all.

Cale could hear the Black Dragon’s voice in his head. Cale just quietly listened to the dragon. The once chaotic plaza was now very calm. No, it was almost depressing now.

The people were probably thinking about the terrible scene that could have happened in the plaza. They were probably swept up in their emotions of both relief and fear.

- I saved them!

The Black Dragon sounded very happy and excited. This was the first time that this young Black Dragon, who had been wishing for its own death after living a life of despair, had saved something with its own strength.

Cale thought about the Black Dragon’s emotions as he moved his gaze to the location the magic bombs had shot up into the air. The knights and mages were heading to that location.

However, Cale’s group had already left the scene. They then used the invisibility magic device Cale had borrowed from Billos to hide in the farthest corner of the plaza.

‘Then Choi Han will chase after the mage to kill him.’

Cale looked toward the top of the Bell Tower. Eric and the rest had already stopped moving. They were able to figure out from what the mages were saying that the magic bombs were supposed to explode in the plaza, but ended up exploding in the mountain far away to the south.

How could they not?

Redika said it himself from the top of the Bell Tower.

‘Unfortunately, nobody died. Why did they go off over there?’

Redika continued to speak in that metal screeching voice.

“Guess this one was a failure.”

The King started to shout toward Redika.

“What are you doing? Who are you? Do you think you will be fine after attempting to commit such a deed?!”

King Zed’s response changed after realizing that it was not just an attack that was planned. The fact that they were trying to detonate magic bombs directly next to the royal family and nobles was no different than declaring war against this kingdom.

But Cale had a different thought regarding Redika’s statement.

‘..., ‘This one,’ was a failure?’

Cale’s expression stiffened, worried that there was something else as well. His changed expression made Taylor, who was approaching Cale to speak thinking that things were now okay, stop moving. He then looked toward the top of the Bell Tower like Cale was doing.

“Oh well then.”

The metal screeching voice rang throughout the plaza. Redika shouted toward the king and the knights without caring about the fact that the mages used levitation magic to approach him.

Snap.

He snapped his fingers and two people appeared next to him.

These two were just wearing black attires without the red star and white star symbol on their chest. They were each wearing a backpack.

Cale started to frown.

‘Those are the remaining bombs.’

Those two people were most likely members of the assassin team of the secret organization. They were people whose lives did not matter. Cale now understood the location of the remaining two bombs.

The two of them each took out three scrolls and ripped them at the same time.

Shield, acceleration, and combustion.

“Go.”

Redika gave the order and the two people, whose bodies were now burning, rushed toward the citizens below the Bell Tower. Redika shot out two balls of red mana toward the two people.

“S, stop them!”

Magic bombs were guaranteed to go off if they were not dismantled.

Unfortunately, Redika was closer to these two people than anybody else. The red mana reached the backpacks of the two suicide bombers.

The bombs were going to detonate soon.

The two people, who had used acceleration magic, were rushing toward the plaza at a fast speed.

One of the two rushed toward the royal family while the other...

'He's coming this way.'

Rushed toward the nobles.

All of this happened in less than 10 seconds.

- I'm coming!

Cale raised his hand as he heard the dragon's voice.

"Aaaaaaah!"

"R, run away!"

"Dodge!"

It was too late to dodge. You were not going to get out of the bomb's range simply by running for a few seconds.

"C, Cale, let's go!"

"Young master Cale, hurry!"

Eric, Taylor, Gilbert, and Amiru did not run away right away like the others. They were trying to save Cale as well. However, it was all too late.

Cale was extremely annoyed. If he started to run and the bomb went off, he would probably lose an arm. However, the Vitality of the Heart would help him recover his arm.

However, the people who were trying to protect him would lose at least a limb no matter how fast they ran. They would also not be able to recover from their injuries as he could.

Rather than allowing something like that to happen...

"...Sigh."

Cale let out a deep sigh and opened his palm up into the air. It was time to change

plans. At that moment, Rosalyn, who was teleported through the Black Dragon's magic, created a two-layer shield around herself and Cale.

At the same time...

"Explode!"

Redika shouted out with joy.

"Huh?"

Rosalyn had a blank expression as she stared at what was going on in front of her.

The suicide bomber who was headed their way was surrounded by large wings. A silver shield shot up to the sky as if it was protecting the people in the plaza, and the wings of the shield surrounded the bomber. It looked like the shield and the wings were completely swallowing up the bomber.

And a strong shield that was not very visible because of the silver light surrounded the silver shield.

- I will block it as well.

The Black Dragon announced in Cale's head.

A holy looking person with a silver shield was standing underneath the sun. A strand of silver light connected the red-haired man with the shield in the sky. Cale started to curse as his hair fluttered from the gust of wind.

"...Fuck!"

And then the bomb went off.

Chapter 45

Somehow (3)

Boom-

Boooooom-

Two explosions that could not be compared to the one from earlier simultaneously went off in the plaza. Everybody crouched down and covered their heads with their hands.

“Ahhhhhhh!”

“Ugh. My, my arm!”

“Ugggggh!”

The screams of people getting injured or killed filled the plaza. And then...

Swiiiiiiish-

A gust that sounded like rain brushed by over the heads of the people. The people at the center of the plaza got covered by the dust from the ground, while the people by the fountains got drenched by the fountain water before they all slowly raised their heads.

The first thing they saw was something going toward the North. None of the royal family was hurt because a shield was created to protect them, but the people around them were hurt.

These were the people who arrived at the plaza earlier than anybody else to wait for the king. In addition, there were the servants, the lower ranking officials, the lower tiered knights, and the mages who did not have enough time to launch their shields.

Some of them were injured while others were dead. The black smoke made it

impossible to see the royal family's blonde hair.

The people still alive all raised their heads up. They then looked toward where the nobles and the citizens had been standing.

Claaang-

The silver shield started to slowly break like pieces of glass. The silver wings crumbled down as well. As they started to crumble, black smoke started to come out of the encirclement. There definitely was a person inside, however, nothing, not even a piece of flesh or even a drop of blood, could be seen.

Everybody looking felt chills going down their body. This helped them understand the strength of the explosion.

Their gazes naturally turned toward a single location. It was the end of that silver strand of light.

“Young master Cale!”

Rosalyn quickly started to support Cale back up, as one of Cale's knees gave out and he was starting to fall. Rosalyn looked back and forth between Cale and the silver shield that was slowly dissipating. She then looked toward the royal family. These were two very strong explosions.

Of course, Rosalyn knew that the Black Dragon's shield had absorbed the majority of the explosion, but it was still true that Cale's silver shield had done something amazing.

That meant that the recoil from it would be severe as well.

Rosalyn grabbed onto Cale's arm to keep him up and called out to him. Cale was standing there with his head down.

“Young master Cale, are you okay? Young master Cale!”

He then started to think.

‘Damn, it hurts.’

Cale had lowered the strength of the silver shield after seeing the Black Dragon launch a shield of its own right before the explosion. Thanks to that, the recoil was not as severe. However, his palm was still throbbing. Cale, well, Kim Rok Soo, tended to exaggerate when it came to pain.

Even a small amount of pain was still painful. He tried to raise his head back up.

“Cale-nim!”

“Young master!”

Cale could hear the voices calling out to him getting closer. He then raised his head.

“Cale, are you okay?”

“I’m ok... cough!”

“B, blood.....!”

Eric’s face turned pale, and he almost fell backward.

However, Cale started to feel better after coughing up that small amount of blood.

‘The Vitality of the Heart really is good.’

The pain in his body disappeared, and his body started to settle back to normal at a very fast rate. In fact, Cale’s body became healthier than ever as the, ‘Vitality of the Heart,’ started to go to work.

A refreshing feeling that was similar to the feeling he had when he was able to sleep peacefully because Ron had gone on vacation surrounded Cale. He then slowly closed his eyes and started to feel his body.

‘Arms and legs are still attached. My palm was throbbing a bit earlier, but even a paper cut hurt more than that. My body is healthier than ever after that single cough.’

Cale felt like he understood why the heroes never threw the ancient powers away, even if they were not very useful. There were benefits to using these ancient powers. Using it hurt less than he expected, and now he was feeling great.

Cale started to smile in satisfaction.

As he did that, the people surrounding him became a mess.

“You think this is funny right now? Stop laughing!”

Cale opened his eyes after hearing Taylor’s shocked and sorrowful voice. He had opened his eyes after checking his body and realizing that everything felt great. However, the sun was shining too brightly that he had to squint.

“Stop trying to open your eyes either!”

‘What’s going on with him?’

Cale looked toward Taylor in confusion as he sat down with Rosalyn’s support. A noble should not do something like this, but he felt like it would be okay given the situation. Cale pretty much just plopped down on the ground without caring about what people thought of him.

The Black Dragon continued to yap away in his ear.

- Weak human, you cannot die! You are too weak! If you die, I will destroy everything! I will kill everyone, destroy everything, and once everything is gone, including your corpse, I will kill myself as well!

The Black Dragon seemed to be concerned, but the words coming out of its mouth were pretty vicious. Cale started to frown from the content of the Black Dragon’s words.

“Young master Cale, we will call a priest over!”

“I will go with you!”

Amiru and Gilbert said that before rushing toward the priest who was entering through the gate. They did not care about their messed up dress and suit. Seeing them rushing forward like that, Cale did not have the courage to say that nothing was hurting.

‘Doesn’t hurt to be checked out. I also need to pretend to be hurt.’

It was great for Cale if the priest showed up. Eric Wheelsman was standing next to Cale and glaring at the other Northeastern nobles nearby, as well, as the other nobles from other factions, to prevent them from approaching.

Cale was not looking at this, as he was looking at a discussion that may create some more chaos.

“...Please get out of my way.”

“No way. Civilians are not allowed inside.”

“...Civilian? Who came up with crap like that?”

Choi Han was talking to the knight in charge of the nobles with a cold gaze in his eyes. Cale had told Choi Han not to come forward, no matter what. Cale started to frown and waved away Choi Han, who had gone against his order.

Choi Han saw Cale’s reaction, so he bit down on his lips before bowing his head.

“I apologize.”

‘I told him not to come forward, but it’s not something to apologize about.’

Cale then saw Lock, as well as On and Hong on Lock’s shoulders, behind Choi Han. Cale smiled to signal to them that he was fine, and turned away from them as they all seemed completely lost.

“...Young master Cale, are you okay?”

Cale nodded his head at Rosalyn’s question and wiped away the blood at the corner of his lips.

“Yes. I am absolutely fine.”

Cale’s movement seemed normal as he wiped away the blood that was as red as his hair. However, Rosalyn had just seen what Cale had done. Could a princess like her take the same action? She quietly started to mumble to herself.

“...I really can't figure you out.”

However, she just silently stared at Cale once he turned to look back at her. Cale's expression became serious. It was because he realized that she was not looking at him, but past him. He then followed her gaze and turned around.

“Ah.”

The blood drinking mage. He was now floating in the air as he looked down on them.

“I never expected something like this to happen. But this is pretty fun as well.”

The blood crazy mage Redika said that as he looked toward the royal family. The mages once again used levitation magic, and even the capital's guard rushed over to aim their arrows toward Redika.

Redika then turned his gaze toward the nobles.

He made eye contact with Cale, and then noticed Rosalyn next to Cale as well. Although her hair was dyed brown right now, Redika should recognize Rosalyn, whom he saw at the Blue Wolf Village. The metal screeching voice rang through the plaza once again.

“Wow, so many different colors of blood that I like!”

Many of the mages launched attack magics toward Redika.

“Attack!”

It was not visible because of the mask, but Redika's eyes curled up like a crescent moon underneath.

“I want to put them in my display case.”

Cale's expression stiffened, and he accidentally let out his thoughts.

“Is he crazy?”

Usually, crazy characters like this end up dying quickly. Cale thought about that, and looked toward Choi Han.

Choi Han nodded his head and disappeared.

Naturally, Choi Han was moving to capture and kill that mage. However, Choi Han was not moving toward Redika.

Redika looked toward the king as the magic attacks were about to hit him, and started to speak.

“Then see you next time!”

He then disappeared. Not only that, he took everyone who came with him as well. This bastard’s specialty was teleportation magic. There was no way for the people attacking him to know where they went. However, the novel mentioned where Redika teleported to after disappearing from the plaza.

Choi Han, On, Hong, and Lock all headed there earlier.

If that really is where Redika and the secret organization members teleported to, they will most likely die by Choi Han’s hands.

‘I’m just worried that Choi Han will go berserk.’

That was why Cale had sent On, Hong, and Lock with Choi Han. The three of them would be able to help Choi Han remain rational. Choi Han was weak against young and weak existences.

Cale stood up from the seat.

The king was heading back up to the podium, and the people in the plaza started to chatter once again. The villains had disappeared, but they left behind a cruel sight. The king was heading to the podium to try to calm the crowd.

“I will do my best to get revenge for this cruel and terrible incident. That is why I want all of you to follow the orders of the crown and focus on calming yourselves and getting rest. We will push this celebration back.”

Cale turned away from the king to look at Rosalyn. Originally, she was supposed to hide her presence today, but she had revealed herself for Cale.

'She probably stepped in because the Black Dragon cannot reveal himself.'

Rosalyn started to smile after making eye contact with Cale. She then mouthed a word to respond to Cale's gaze.

'Secret.'

Cale started to smile as well. She really was someone who was on the same wavelength as him.

Cale had given the six people in his crew some instructions before the day began.

First, the dragon and the beast tribe trio would not have their identities revealed, no matter what.

That was the most important task.

Second, even if Choi Han and Rosalyn end up being recognized, they will just say that they happened to be here by coincidence. This was only possible because the crown had no way to know about the magic bombs hidden in different locations in the plaza, and because there was no way to prove the identities of who got rid of the bombs that were shot up into the air.

Third, they will not cause each other harm.

Cale and Rosalyn knew what they both had to do from that single moment of eye contact. That was why Cale brushed the dirt off of his clothes and fixed it up.

He then started to smile toward the person walking toward him.

"Young master Cale, are you okay?"

The priest was huffing, as if he was dragged over here by Amiru and Gilbert. Rosalyn stepped back, and Cale pushed his hand out to the priest and started to speak.

"It hurts a lot. Please take a look."

Cale then noticed that the crown prince was heading toward him. The crown prince

would definitely recognize Rosalyn and probably already saw her two-layered magic. He would then question the relationship between Cale and Rosalyn.

In a situation like this, it was better to suck out everything he could from this situation. That was why he started to speak in a voice that was loud enough for the priest and the nobles around him to hear.

“It really is hard to protect something.”

‘If I had to reveal my card and use my ancient power, I should take anything and everything I can from this situation.’

It was not Cale’s style to sacrifice himself just for fame and no material gain. Cale found money to be better than fame, and believed it would be better to be rich than to be a hero.

“Ah, yes, yes indeed. I saw your silver shield, Young master Cale. You did something marvelous.”

The priest took a gulp and grabbed Cale’s hand to inspect him. The priest’s words made the nobles around Cale look at him with curiosity and doubt.

Cale Henituse, the man who was known as trash, had revealed such strength. This fact was a very big shock to everyone. Then there were his actions just a few moment ago, where he protected people against the explosion before falling down while spitting out blood. But now, he was standing there as if nothing was wrong.

The nobles were observing Cale, and, because the king had left, many of the citizens were looking toward Cale as well. They could not forget about that silver light.

Cale briefly looked around at the faces of the curious nobles. Each time he made eye contact with one of them, they all showed different reactions. Some continued to show their curiosity, others avoided his gaze, and some just smiled at him.

Cale looked back at the priest after looking around at all the nobles, and responded to his statement. Cale’s voice was still nonchalant and calm.

“I guess this is your first time looking at an ancient power.”

Ah.

The priest let out a gasp.

Ancient power, a relic of the past you could only gain from fortuitous encounters. Each of them were said to have unique skills and strength.

“I see.”

A familiar voice started to speak from behind Cale and put a hand on Cale’s shoulder.

Cale knew that he had arrived.

“Your highness.”

Cale turned around and made eye contact with the crown prince, Alberu Crossman. He then realized that this moment was similar to what he had read in the novel.

The hero of the plaza terror incident. In order to deal with the complaints from the citizens about their safety and the fact that the royal family and nobles were trying to run away, the crown prince had turned Choi Han into a beacon of hope. The person who created the hero Choi Han in the novel was crown prince Alberu, the man in front of Cale right now.

Cale realized that the moment he was expecting was here as soon as he saw the look in prince Alberu’s eyes. He had expected this to happen from the moment he used the ancient power, and had quickly formulated a plan in his mind. Cale was planning to use this situation to his benefit from this moment onward.

The crown prince also realized that Cale was very similar to him.

“...Mister Cale.”

Prince Alberu hugged Cale with half shock and half admiration on his face.

“Thank you. We are so proud of what you did.”

Anybody could see that the crown prince was so full of admiration that he showed a reaction that he should not have shown as a prince.

In that moment, Cale heard crown prince Alberu whisper in his ear in a voice that only Cale could hear.

“Mister Cale, you and I share the same style right?”

‘Of course.’

Alberu’s voice was a bit tense at finding someone like him.

“I will make sure there is nothing annoying and reward you handsomely. What do you think?”

‘In that case.’

Cale lifted up his hands and smiled as he hugged prince Alberu back. He then started to speak.

“Your highness, it was nothing. I only did what any citizen of the kingdom would do.”

The young dragon’s voice echoed in Cale’s mind.

- ...Something is very odd here.

The dragon who saw all of this happen was young, but pretty sharp.

Cale finished his fraudulent hug of admiration, before heading to the palace. Although healing and investigation was the purpose of heading to the palace, since it was like this anyways, Cale was thinking about taking at least a pillar of the palace for himself as he walked with the crown prince.

Naturally, the crown prince’s face was stiff.

Chapter 46

Somehow (4)

Cale was about to get in a carriage with the crown prince. The crown prince was asking Cale for a performance until the end. Naturally, the carriage Cale was on was the crown prince's carriage that was urgently brought over to the plaza.

"Mister Cale, please get on first. For today, you deserve this honor."

The crown prince had a smile on his face that was completely different from his stiff expression from earlier. The crown prince knew that other people were now watching, and needed to keep up the act.

"How could I do that? I cannot get on the carriage before you, your highness. You are the star that shines down on citizens like myself."

- ...Human, is your head okay?

Cale just ignored the Black Dragon's question. The crown prince patted Cale's shoulder and started to speak.

Pat. Pat.

The crown prince was patting his shoulder quite hard.

"It is an expression of my respect for you. Go ahead."

"If that is the case, this lacking citizen will get on first."

Crown prince Alberu was the only one from the royal family who was still at the site of the terror incident. He stayed at the plaza even after the rest of the royal family had gone back in order to command the knights to take care of everything and to show care for Cale. Next to him was Cale Henituse, the man of the hour and the one who will remain etched in the people's minds about this incident.

The sight of the two of them standing together was like a beautiful painting, and it made people think highly of both of them.

Cale got onto the crown prince's carriage and peeked to the side.

The nobles were near the carriage, with the citizens being right behind them. Cale lightly gestured with his eyes to say goodbye to Eric, Gilbert, Amiru, and Taylor before smiling to Neo Tolz, who was blankly staring at him.

Neo Tolz flinched after seeing Cale's smile while Venion, who was standing next to Neo, stiffened up. It was not just him. All of the high-ranking nobles were observing Cale.

'How could that trash gain such a power? No, how could that trash act in such a way?'

They were all sending him gazes that seemed to imply those statements, but Cale ignored them and continued to stare at Neo until Neo flinched and turned away.

'I guess I can get rid of one of his evil minions.'

That was what Cale was thinking as he got on the carriage. His smile then disappeared as soon as he was inside. Crown prince Alberu entered behind him and then ordered his servant.

"Treat the lady over there as a VIP."

Alberu was, of course, talking about Rosalyn. The carriage door started to slowly close and Cale made eye contact with Rosalyn before the door closed completely. Rosalyn's smile seemed reliable.

Click.

The carriage door finished closing and Cale leaned back on the chair.

'The royal carriage really is a different quality. Where do they get such leather for their seats?'

Cale felt the comfort of the seat before turning to look at Alberu, who had also gotten rid of that fake smile from earlier and now had a stoic expression, just like Cale.

“Do you need any healing?”

Cale bluntly responded back.

“My body is healthy, but shouldn’t I get the best doctors and priests to take a look? I want to just lay around for about three or four days.”

“Ha.”

The crown prince’s laugh sounded like a sigh. However, he then nodded his head.

“You’re right. That will be good. The noble who saved everyone is hurt, and the crown is giving him the best treatment possible to nurse him back to health. Very nice.”

The crown prince did not keep up his act now that he knew he and Cale were of the same type of people. That was why he got right to the point.

“Mr. Cale, are you involved with them?”

Them. Alberu was talking about the people who appeared at the plaza today. Cale made eye contact with Alberu as he thought about how the Black Dragon was probably following him right now in his invisible state.

This was what the Black Dragon had said as Cale got into the carriage earlier.

- Why did the crown prince not do anything when the other humans were dying? He is strong.

The crown prince was hiding his strength. He did not do anything, even when one of his servants died and a young knight lost his arms and legs. He just pretended to be weak and hid.

‘I thought he was a good person, even if he had a tendency to use people.’

But that was not the case.

That was why Cale comfortably responded. He had a bright smile on his face.

“Your highness, why would I do something so annoying?”

“Indeed.”

The crown prince immediately agreed. There was no way someone who was hiding as a trash would do such a thing. Furthermore, Alberu could tell that Cale only stepped in because there really were no other alternatives.

“The crown may try to uselessly investigate you.”

“You will protect me, right, your highness?”

“Why are you asking such an obvious question?”

Alberu was going to protect him. Alberu opened the curtains in order to see the crowd of citizens outside. He put his smile back on and continued to speak.

“Let’s finish our conversation when I visit you later to check on how you are doing.”

The crown prince was going to go visit a healing noble and wanted to talk. There was quite a lot to talk about. Cale thought about Rosalyn, the ancient power, and his reward, as he started to speak.

“Your highness.”

“Yes?”

“If it is for a conversation with the star of our nation, this Cale is always available.”

The corner of Alberu’s smile started to turn into a frown.

“I don’t want my actions to be exaggerated when you package it up for the public.”

“I will only package it up a bit. I just need enough for people to not complain about the crown.”

The crown prince continued to speak while casually saying the next part. It sounded a bit glib, but it was the truth.

“Anyways, thank you. The number of people injured was lower thanks to your help.”

It was difficult to tell whether crown prince Alberu was a good person or bad person. No, Cale didn't even know if he was human. However, Cale did not care about any of that, and just said what he needed to say.

“I look forward to my reward.”

“Ha.”

The crown prince shook his head, but did not say anything like, ‘don't look forward to a reward.’ It meant that he will make sure Cale was rewarded handsomely for his efforts.

That was how Cale entered the palace once again while receiving a much different treatment than previously. The fanciest and most luxurious room in the palace, that was reserved for foreign royal visitors, was provided for Cale.

‘Choi Han's group stayed here in the novel too.’

Cale laid down on the extremely luxurious bed that was worlds softer than his own bed, and started to eat grapes one by one.

Another person who was staying in the palace came to visit at this time.

“Young master Cale.”

It was Rosalyn, and, as expected, she was not alone.

“Cale-nim.”

Choi Han was with her. On, Hong, and Lock were standing behind Choi Han with pale expressions on their faces. However, Cale started to frown after looking at the last person behind all of them.

“Y, young masteeeeeeeeer!”

It was deputy butler Hans. Hans looked like he wanted to cry. Hans, Choi Han, and Lock were able to enter the palace as Cale's servant and guards. Cale put his hand up toward

Hans, who looked like he was going to rush toward him.

“Stop.”

That made Hans stop moving, which gave Cale time to get up from the bed and start to speak to the others.

“Come on in.”

He was very relaxed, as if he was the owner of this palace.

Cale had a conversation with Hans first. Hans checked Cale’s condition before reporting like normal, as if the teary face from moments before had never existed in the first place.

“I have contacted master-nim back home. I thought it would be better if we contacted them before the crown did, so I hired a mage to open a communication port. In doing so, I ended up spending a lot of money.”

“Good job.”

“And.”

Hans peeked toward Rosalyn.

‘Of course he knows.’

The corner of Cale’s lips went up just slightly. Hans was a great butler candidate and knew more about the nobles than Cale did. There was no way such a person would not have other information as well.

“Continue.”

Hans reported after getting Cale’s permission.

“I told everyone in the residence to remain quiet about Rosalyn-nim for now.”

“Thank you very much.”

“You did well.”

Rosalyn and Cale praised Hans. Since they have not had any time to discuss, it was better for Rosalyn and Cale that they remained quiet about her for now.

“Excuse me, young master.”

“What?”

“I did give a report, but I think you should contact home via a communication port in the near future. If you don’t, I believe master-nim will personally travel up here.”

His father, Count Deruth, would definitely do that. Cale was busy thinking about how he could take care of this situation without jeopardizing Basen’s position as the successor, so he just nodded his head. Hans got up after seeing Cale nod.

He was a sharp one.

He knew that he needed to leave for Cale to speak with Rosalyn, Choi Han, and Lock.

“Then I will go look for the caretaker of this palace to discuss a few things.”

“Sure.”

Hans had left the room, so the Black Dragon finally revealed himself. He then headed to Cale’s bed and started to eat the fruits located there as he started his report.

“There are no video or audio recording devices in here.”

He really did a good job with whatever Cale told him to do, even if he did not look like he would do so. That was what Cale was thinking as he looked around this room that he was staying in.

It was a room for foreign royalty. Doing something like placing recording devices in such a room would easily be a cause for war. That was why the royalty in all of the different nations worked to hide video and audio recording devices in hidden locations around common areas, like the dining room.

This meant that they could say anything they wanted to in this room. However, Rosalyn still cast a noise cancellation spell.

“It’s better to be safe.”

“Miss Rosalyn, that side of you is wonderful.”

Cale agreed with Rosalyn’s decision and then looked toward Choi Han. Choi Han has had his head down since he entered the room. Cale had a pretty good idea about what happened after seeing Choi Han like this.

He did not manage to kill Redika.

“Tell me.”

Choi Han lifted his head up.

That mage appeared in the location you told me. I tried to kill him, but his subordinates rushed toward me.

“I’m sure they were ready to die.”

“...Yes.”

The secret organization valued Redika quite a bit for some reason.

“So they escaped?”

“...Yes.”

Choi Han lowered his head again as he continued to speak.

“I only managed to cut off his left arm.”

‘Hmm?’

“I then burned the arm up in case he came back for his arm to put it back together. Ah, his left eye should be injured as well.”

‘Isn’t that a death sentence for a mage? Mages needed to cast magic with both hands for their mana to be balanced. Losing an arm would end up affecting that quite a bit.’

Cale looked toward Choi Han with a stiff expression.

Choi Han was standing there with his head down and fists clenched.

“I was supposed to kill him. I’m sorry.”

“No need to be sorry. You did well.”

Cale looked toward Lock, On and Hong who were sitting next to Choi Han. On and Hong did not move toward the Black Dragon like usual. They were stiff in Lock’s arms. Lock was looking at Cale with a desperate gaze.

‘Did he go berserk?’

Cale looked toward Choi Han and asked.

“His subordinates?”

“I thought it was better to kill them so I took care of them.”

That made the red kitten Hong rub his face on his sister On’s body. Choi Han had used his black aura to completely get rid of them without any traces. This was the first time Hong realized that you could melt a person with aura.

“It’s best to be thorough to prevent any future issues. You didn’t break any buildings or anything like that, right?”

Cale was worried that Choi Han went berserk and destroyed some other things. Harris Village and the Blue Wolf Tribe incident were both traumas for Choi Han. Cale was worried that he would go crazy when seeing the people who caused those traumas standing right in front of his eyes.

‘If he goes berserk, I may end up having to clean up the mess.’

Since Choi Han was staying with him, Cale would need to clean up the mess. However, Cale did not want to do such a thing.

“Yes, of course. As Cale-nim mentioned, I made sure not to damage anything around the area.”

The kittens remembered what Choi Han said to the subordinates as he killed them.

'All of the important people in my life were killed or almost killed by you. Including today!'

The buildings were not damaged, but the look on Choi Han's face as he melted the secret organization members alive was quite scary. He did not go berserk, however, that made it scarier. On and Hong finally moved toward the Black Dragon to get a sense of relief by the dragon's side. The strongest, cutest, and nicest individual in this room was this Black Dragon.

Cale observed the kittens heading to the bed before speaking to Choi Han.

"I see, you worked hard."

Cale's words made Choi Han look up at him. Cale looked at Choi Han and everyone else as he continued to speak.

"All of you did something amazing today. It is thanks to you that all those people lived. Miss Rosalyn, you worked hard as well."

Choi Han's tightly clenched fists loosened up a bit. Rosalyn looked at Lock, Choi Han, and the kittens that were wagging their tails, before finally landing her gaze on Cale. An odd sense of cohesion surrounded her.

The Black Dragon started to speak at that point.

"You worked hard too."

This made Cale start to smile as he nodded his head.

"Indeed. I worked very hard. That is why I will be rewarded."

And the time to have their first discussion about his reward soon arrived.

"You can head out now."

"Yes, your highness."

Crown prince Alberu sent out the priest who just sat there filling the time without doing any actual treatment on Cale before turning to make eye contact with Cale. Cale had an expression of awe that the crown prince came to visit, until the door closed and Alberu started to speak.

“That expression of yours is giving me the chills.”

“Thank you very much.”

Cale returned to his usual relaxed expression. Alberu seemed to find that more bearable as he sat on a chair next to the bed Cale was laying on looking like a patient.

“I have said that you are currently resting. I said that you got up at the plaza even though it was difficult so that you could help calm things down like a proper noble.”

Alberu started to smile before adding on.

“Since you revealed that you possess an ancient power at the plaza, I played along and said you have a defensive ancient power that is not very strong. That is what you wanted, right?”

“Mm.”

Cale pretended to contemplate as he responded back.

“A young noble who is weak but stepped forward for the kingdom. It’s nice.”

“Indeed.”

Cale preferred it this way that people thought he was ‘not very strong.’ It wasn’t a lie, he really was weak.

“By tomorrow, any information about rumors about you and the current situation will be delivered to you through your butler. Make sure to take a look.”

Prince Alberu was definitely treating Cale differently than he had treated Choi Han in the novel. He didn’t have even an ounce of a warm smile and just had a stoic expression. It was as if he was dealing with someone he didn’t want to deal with because he needed to do so.

That was how Cale wanted it to be.

Cale made eye contact with the crown prince who was staring at him. Prince Alberu started to frown after seeing Cale's relaxed demeanor and started to think for a bit before he finally said what was on his mind.

"...By the way."

This extremely hesitant attitude made it seem like he was expecting something. Cale just waited patiently as this was rare to see from the crown prince.

While Cale was waiting, the Black Dragon who had woken up from his nap underneath the bed started to talk to Cale in his mind.

- Now I am certain. He is not human.

The crown prince asked his question at the same time.

"...You are human, right?"

What was going on? A straight and a hook landed on him at the same time. Cale suddenly wished he really was hurt.

Chapter 47

Somehow (5)

Prince Alberu could see that Cale Henituse suddenly had an expression of disbelief as Cale answered back.

“...I am human?”

It was an expression that seemed to be asking why the prince was asking such a stupid question. Alberu subconsciously let out a sigh.

“Sigh. Right, of course you are human.”

Cale could see Alberu point at both of them before continuing to speak.

“You and I are both human.”

The Black Dragon spoke into Cale’s mind at that moment.

- That is a lie. He is not completely human.

‘Little Dragon, can you please stop?’

Cale was having a difficult time maintaining his composure. However, a critical weakness existed between Cale and the Black Dragon. The Black Dragon could talk to Cale whenever he wanted to do so, but Cale was unable to talk back to the dragon. It was a one-way communication.

It was his fault for lacking any magic skills.

- This is my first time seeing a race with such an atmosphere around them in this great Dragon’s four years of life.

The dragon’s four years of life. The Black Dragon had only seen himself, humans, and the Cat Tribe and Wolf Tribe members he recently met.

The crown prince was not any of those species. Cale started to speak toward the crown prince who was looking at him.

“Of course. Is there much to being human? We’re all human if we live amongst each other.”

Cale made up his mind to forget about what the Black Dragon had said. Prince Alberu quietly looked toward Cale before starting to speak.

“You are right. There really isn’t much to being human. However.”

However. But. Cale was wondering if he could stop hearing these words. Prince Alberu started to speak to Cale as he was contemplating.

“I thought I was mistaken at the banquet hall, but there are some weird smells around you.”

“...Smell?”

Cale responded with shock.

“I just showered.”

The crown prince opened and closed his mouth a couple times without saying anything after hearing Cale’s retort. Cale could see the wrinkles on Alberu’s forehead from frowning. He looked like he was contemplating something. However, he erased any traces of it from his face and got to the point of the matter.

“I don’t think there’s a need for two people who are similar like us to try to sugar coat things. So, what do you want as your reward?”

Alberu crossed his arms as he asked Cale. The reason Alberu had come here so late had to do with dealing with the aftermath of the incident, but it was also because he had to look at the files regarding Cale Henituse.

However, there was nothing on Cale. Well, there was something, but it was useless.

< Famous in the Northeast for being trash. >

< Completely pushed out of the successor position two years ago but shows no complaints about the decision. >

< No signs of trying to cause issues in the home. >

It just said Cale Henituse was trash who liked to fool around and drink. That was worse than having no information. The Cale in front of Alberu was not trash.

For example, take the way he responded to the prince's question.

"Your highness, can you please explain what I will need to do for you first?"

There was no way a trash would ask something like this. Alberu answered honestly.

"I want you to not say anything to the nobles."

That was the hardest thing. That was why this was the crown's request to Cale and why they were willing to wager Cale's reward with it. Today's events were embarrassing for the crown and they could not let this affect their position of power.

That was why he was asking Cale for this, and he was able to ask Cale this because Cale was part of the Henituse family that was not part of any faction.

"I also want you to praise the crown every so often if you are asked."

"Including speaking about your very understanding nature, your highness?"

"Of course."

One corner of both Alberu and Cale's lips started to go up as they started to smile. Their smiles were pretty similar.

"Since it is an ancient power, isn't what you revealed today the extent of your power?"

"Of course. It is useless for anything else."

Cale shrugged his shoulders at Alberu's inspecting gaze even though he was the one to answer. Based on what Cale read in the novel, Crown prince Alberu knew more

about ancient powers than most people.

‘Now that I think about it, the Healing Star was given to him by his mother.’

Cale recalled this memory that suddenly popped into his mind. The crown prince had asked what he wanted as a reward. The tone of Alberu’s voice made it sound like he would probably agree to anything, yet Alberu seemed comfortable.

“What is it that you want? Something for your family? My agreement to invest in the Northeastern Shoreline? Or settling the battle for power in the Northeast?”

That was why Cale responded back comfortably as well.

“None of those belong to me, your highness.”

“...It doesn’t belong to you?”

Cale pointed to himself as Alberu stared at him.

“Please give it to me.”

What Cale wanted was something he needed for himself.

Alberu, who was silent for a moment, let out a snort. He had figured out what this trash wanted from him. Although Cale had lived as trash, humans, no, all living existences, wished to aim for greater heights and take control of everything.

In the end, Cale was the most important to himself, more than his family or the people around him.

“Then what is it you want? A higher title? A medal? Do you want to have your own faction in the capital?”

Alberu’s expression turned odd as he asked. Contrary to Alberu’s expectations, Cale shook his head no at Alberu’s suggestions. It meant that none of them were correct. He then said a single word.

“Money.”

“...What?”

Cale accurately laid it out for Alberu. For someone like Cale whose greatest desire was to live a peaceful life, this was what mattered most to him.

“Please give me money. I don’t want a medal or a higher title.”

Cold hard cash was always the best. What would a title or medal do for him when a war was about to break out? It was much smarter to take cash and use it to buy food, land, or other material things.

The final ancient power Cale was aiming to get after the ‘Sound of the Wind’ was one that became stronger the more money he used.

Cale could see Alberu put his hand to his forehead. He then lowered his hand as he asked Cale a question.

“To buy alcohol?”

Cale responded right back.

“How did you know?”

Alberu smiled and accepted Cale’s request. He then got up and informed Cale about the details.

“Once you receive the report tomorrow, take a look and then let me know how much you want.”

“Will you come visit me again?”

“Why? You don’t like it?”

Cale responded with an extremely fake expression on his face.

“It would be the highest honor to see you again, your highness.”

Alberu felt chills on the back of his neck from Cale’s response and told Cale to rest before immediately heading out of the room and disappearing. Cale just quietly

observed the door the crown prince closed behind him.

- But what kind of power allows him to dye his hair other than mana? Human, answer me. I am curious.

Cale ignored the Black Dragon's question and immediately went to bed. He was a patient from this moment on.

However, he was not a patient who could rest peacefully. Hans handed Cale a letter from Ron first thing in the morning.

"Mr. Ron has left as scheduled."

Cale nodded his head and opened the letter.

< Young master. I will report to you once a month. I didn't know that you were hiding such a power, young master. Choi Han told me about how that mage looks like. I will remember it. I have also informed Beacrox about it as well. >

Sounded like Redika would die if Ron saw him as well. That was what Cale was thinking as he looked toward the people who came to visit him after Hans.

"...I heard you were seriously injured."

Eric Wheelsman. Cale had never seen Eric looking so worried. However, Cale did not say he was okay. He needed to be loyal and play his part.

"I have no strength in my body."

"...Cale."

But Cale had no strength in his body because he had slept all day.

"My stomach feels weird as well."

This was because Cale just laid around eating when he wasn't sleeping. He was so full that there was no room for anything else. Eric looked concerned, Gilbert had a stiff expression on his face, and Amiru looked like she had made up her mind about something. The kittens who had been looking back and forth at the three visitors and

Cale started to shake their heads.

“Let me know if you need anything.”

“Yes, please do. We will get you whatever it is.”

Cale just nodded his head and asked.

“Sounds like you are not just here to check in on me?”

Eric, Amiru and Gilbert exchanged glances after hearing Cale’s question. After seeing Amiru and Gilbert nod their heads, Eric took a document out of his pocket and handed it to Cale.

“This is the updated request for the Northeastern shoreline tourism investment. We brought it with us since we were heading to the palace to see you.”

Cale turned the first page of the document. The first word on the next page was Navy. Gilbert also seemed to have made up his mind.

Cale peeked toward Amiru who smiled at him. Based on Eric’s actions, it looked like Amiru kept it a secret like Cale had asked.

“The news will soon reach the Henituse territory along with our proposal.”

“I see. Then will you be meeting with the crown prince?”

“Yes. We are scheduled to meet him tonight. We can only start moving if he shows any interest in it.”

Cale looked toward Amiru and Gilbert and casually started to speak.

“I’m sure it will work out.”

His voice was full of confidence. It was because he was sure. Eric and the others felt a sense of relief after hearing Cale’s statement. Cale waved the document in front of the three of them and started to speak.

“You can send such documents like this via a servant in the future. I know it is difficult

for you to come visit, so you do not need to come.”

“No, we will continue to come. You need to know about it as well.”

Cale just casually nodded his head at Eric, Gilbert and Amiru and then sent them out. It was difficult to greet people while leaning on his bed wearing a patient robe. That was why Cale kicked the blanket away and comfortably welcomed the next group.

He started to speak to Choi Han who was standing there like a sinner.

“Go.”

Rosalyn bit down on her lips. She had removed her magic and was standing there with her original red eyes and red hair. She also got rid of her robe and was in formal attire.

“I’m sorry, young master Cale. But I need Choi Han and Lock.”

Now that Rosalyn revealed herself in the palace, she needed to return to the Breck Kingdom as fast as possible. Since it was revealed that she was still alive, the people who attempted to kill her may start to hide the evidence.

But she could not go back on her own. This incident revealed that she was a very skilled mage, which meant that the enemy will make sure to have stronger forces when attacking her. That was why she needed strong allies.

Lock was standing by the door just fidgeting without approaching Cale. Cale looked at Choi Han and Lock before speaking as if it was only natural.

“What are you sorry about? Miss Rosalyn, you helped us out with a very difficult situation. Then we should help you out as well.”

Rosalyn could see that Cale was smiling.

“Miss Rosalyn is Lock’s noona and Choi Han’s friend.”

“...Thank you for putting it that way.”

Rosalyn may have been close to death because of the assassination attempt, but she was certain that this was going to be her turning point.

Cale took a step forward and looked at Choi Han.

“Cale-nim, I have to protect you.”

“Choi Han.”

Choi Han needed to go in order for Cale to rest in peace and prepare to hide during the war. Choi Han could see Cale’s uniquely relaxed smile.

“I will not die.”

‘I plan on making a ton of money and getting just strong enough to run away as needed to live peacefully. I’m going to do everything I can to live as long as possible.’

Cale was also thinking that with the Black Dragon by his side, there was no reason for Choi Han to protect him. In fact, in front of the Black Dragon, Choi Han himself was just baggage.

“I see. I worried for no reason.”

Cale turned away from Choi Han who looked a bit better and looked toward Lock. He then flicked his finger to call Lock over to him. Lock flinched at Cale’s motion before slowly approaching. Why was this coward so scared?

However, Cale had no plan to give any thought to such reaction.

“Lock, I will take care of your younger siblings. Go and come back to the Henituse territory in 3 months.”

“...Excuse me?”

“What is the excuse me for? Did you forget about our deal?”

“Ah.”

Cale thought about how he was going to use Lock as Lock blankly stared at him. He then handed Lock a map. It was a map of the Northeast territory that he got from Hans.

“Henituse. Come to the one that’s marked like that. I will be there with your younger siblings, so you must come back.”

“...Somewhere to return to-”

Cale didn’t care for the mumbling Lock and clenched Lock’s shoulder as he started to speak. Lock needed to come back for Cale’s life to be easier.

“Yes, somewhere to return to. Remember. You must return within 3 months.”

“Yes- yes sir! I will definitely come back within 3 months.”

After taking care of Lock’s issue to the point that Lock vigorously nodded his head, Cale felt a sense of relief. The story from the novel was twisted quite a bit already, but at least the major point was flowing as it was supposed to.

This was good because he would know more about the future the more the story followed the novel. Cale was disappointed that he could not send Beacrox with the mas well, but he could always send Beacrox with Ron after Ron came back from his time off.

Cale laid down on the bed with a more relaxed heart than ever before as he proceeded to look at the people around his room. He then turned to look at Hans who had opened the door and entered.

Hans looked at Choi Han who was protecting the door like a knight, then at Lock who was playing with the kittens, then at Rosalyn who was leisurely reading a book about magic, and finally Cale who was relaxing on the bed. He then quietly approached Cale and whispered.

“There is a rumor going around that his majesty wants to bestow a medal to you, young master.”

Everybody in the room stopped moving after hearing what Hans had to say.

Hans then quietly handed Cale a document. It was a document that contained the rumors going on about the Plaza Terror Incident. Cale had just one reaction after reading the first line.

< Cale Henituse, the noble who showed the pride of the Henituse family that protects the Kingdom from the Forest of Darkness >

“Haaaaaa.”

It was a deep sigh.

He had expected it, but it was still so very annoying.

Chapter 48

Somehow (6)

A week later, Cale got off the carriage. The carriage that he got off from had the Henituse Golden Turtle on it.

- It has been a while.

Cale agreed with what the Black Dragon said inside his head.

Cale was currently at the Plaza of Glory. A large fence was around the northern part of the plaza that was destroyed from the explosion.

Cale just walked forward, only looking toward his seat. The Henituse family's knight brigade, led by their Vice Captain, walked with Cale in the center of their formation in order to protect him.

As Cale was walking, he heard someone say something that gave him the chills.

"Oh, young master Silver Light!"

Cale immediately started to frown.

"Ahem, hem."

Cale could see the smirk on the Vice Captain's face as he let out some fake coughs and started to frown some more. The Vice Captain lowered his body a bit to whisper in Cale's ear.

"Young master, I guess they call you, 'young master Silver Light,' now. Ahem, cool people like you are bound to get awesome nicknames."

'Shit.'

Cale held back the rough words in his mind.

Young master Silver Light, young master Shield, he didn't want to hear such cheesy and embarrassing things. However, Cale knew that it would have been much worse if it wasn't for the crown prince subduing the rumors, and so he could not say anything about it.

All he could do was stoically speak to the Vice Captain, who was shrugging his shoulder.

"I'm sure they'll stop if I drink and act like I usually do, right?"

"Ahem, hem!"

The Vice Captain could not say anything and just turned away. That made Cale start to smile, but that smile immediately disappeared. It was because of what the Vice Captain said next.

"I think it would be best if you avoided alcohol, since you are still recovering."

Cale was still officially recovering and not 100 percent.

The official story was that he was injured because he used his ancient power past its intended limits so that he could protect the crowd, causing a miracle to happen that prevented the explosion.

That miraculous story naturally originated from the crown prince. That was why the staff at the Henituse residence was busy protecting the injured Cale.

It was not just the staff at the capital. Cale thought about his father, Count Deruth, who was planning on coming up to the capital a few days ago. This was what Deruth had said through the video communication.

- Cale, did you see the faces of those bastards? Your dad will kill them all for you. How dare they do such a thing to a person who cannot even swing a sword!

Even though Deruth knew Cale had earned an ancient power, the fact that even Cale's younger sister was better than Cale at swinging a sword made Deruth consider Cale to be weak.

- The reason the Henituse family does not take action is not because we are weak. Remember this Cale. We have not taken any actions until now because we are strong. Nobody shall take any actions against you like this in the future.

That was what Countess Violan had said while calming Count Deruth down. But that must have been the truth, as no nobles sent any messages or came to look for Cale once Cale left the palace and returned to his own residence. Even Eric and company did not show up.

‘That made it easy.’

Cale had used that free time very efficiently. Cale, who had been looking forward as he walked, could see the knight and soldier guarding the entrance.

“Ah, young master Cale.”

“Do you need to verify my identity?”

The knight shook his head at Cale’s question and respectfully opened the entrance. Cale had to enter alone from here on. The people who were allowed to enter this time was significantly less than during the birthday celebration, but Cale was the exception.

“Young master Cale-nim, please enter.”

“Great, thanks. Keep up the good work.”

“...Yes sir!”

Cale thought that the knight was probably overworked, so he patted the knight on the shoulder as the knight bowed and vigorously responded to him. He then walked in, not knowing that the knight was watching him walk in for a very long time.

Cale continued to walk at a leisure pace.

The Plaza of Glory.

The king planned to respect the fallen and give medals to certain people for their actions during the plaza terror incident today. The recipients were given the qualifications to stand at the second highest platform, right underneath the king, in

the plaza today.

Cale was wearing a more luxurious black outfit than usual as he arrived at his spot.

“Cale.”

“Hyung-nim, you got here early.”

Cale smiled at Eric Wheelsman, who had called out to him, before standing at his spot. This was the spot for the nobles. Cale was standing here. But why?

Eric Wheelsman, Amiru, Gilbert, and all of the other nobles could only watch Cale in silence. It was because they had all heard some news regarding Cale.

Cale Henituse has declined to accept the medal of honor and has yielded the medal to someone else.

In addition, he dragged his still injured body to participate in the ceremony.

Amiru Ubarr looked toward Cale, who was looking up at the sky.

“It is a beautiful day today. Probably because we are here to respect the fallen.”

Cale’s red hair fluttered in the wind and created a stark comparison to his black outfit. Amiru had a curious smile after seeing Cale as his usual confident self.

“It is probably because of you, young master Cale.”

“Me?”

Cale looked toward Amiru with confusion. Amiru responded back with a calm and warm smile. Cale found that reaction to be odd, but still said what he needed to say.

“You are leaving today, young lady Amiru?”

“Yes. I believe you are heading out tomorrow? I will see you at our Ubarr territory.”

Cale was going to visit the Ubarr territory after this ceremony.

“Yes. I want to see the ocean.”

“I heard. It is for your recovery?”

“Yes. It will be nice to get some fresh air.”

‘Recovery my ass. I am completely healthy and will be going there to get even stronger.’

However, Cale agreed with Amiru and nodded his head before adding on.

“Of course, that is not the only reason.”

“Ah, of course.”

Amiru, as well as Gilbert and Eric who were listening, all started to smile. It was a similar smile to Cale’s. After today, the nobles will all hear about what is going on.

The development and investment for a military base at the Northeastern coastline. That was why Amiru and Gilbert were hurrying out of the capital tonight. It was to prevent any false information from leaking out, as well as because the crown wanted things to progress as quickly as possible.

Of course, this was only possible because the Henituse family agreed to loan a significant amount of money to Amiru and Gilbert’s territories. That was the other reason why Cale needed to visit Amiru and Gilbert’s territories.

‘Cale, we are planning to send someone as well, but if you are going to go there anyways, take a look while you are there.’

‘Father, wouldn’t it better for an expert to go?’

‘Having more pairs of eyes is always better.’

Cale agreed to do as Count Deruth asked.

“We are in your care.”

“We are in your care, young master Cale.”

Cale waved at Amiru and Gilbert to say not to worry about it, as he looked back to the front. King Zed had arrived.

The memorial and medal ceremony then started.

King Zed spoke in a loud voice that was stronger than ever. There still was a large number of people in the plaza, but the atmosphere was completely different. It was very quiet.

“We are gathered back here today to show that we will not cower under fear!”

King Zed called out to the crowd once again. It was a warning to the enemies, as well as something to rally the crowd. King Zed looked down to the plaza from the highest platform as he continued to speak.

“Many people showed heroic deeds during that incident. We were able to protect this land like the past thanks to their bravery.”

It looked like King Zed had made eye contact with Cale at that time, but Cale hoped that it was not the case. Cale stealthily turned away in order to look past the King toward the sky behind him. He then thought about what the Black Dragon had said.

‘Blessing of the Sun God? I do not feel the power of any god from those weak humans. The only special one is the crown prince.’

There was no truth to the belief that the Crossman family was blessed by the Sun God. Cale, who had learned another useless truth, decided to pretend that he did not know anything, as usual. The Black Dragon seemed to get excited at the fact that Cale told him to keep that a secret between the two of them, and happily agreed.

“In that regard, we will now hand out the medals to those heroic individuals!”

King Zed started the medal ceremony and everyone went up one by one to receive their medal.

Waaaaaaaaaaaa-

Cheering filled the plaza, as if it had never been silent from the start. The Black Dragon’s voice filled Cale’s head once again.

- Humans are interesting.

Whaaaaaaa-

Cale could hear the Black Dragon's voice, as well as the cheering of the crowd for a knight who had just received a medal. Cale felt like he could guess what the Black Dragon found to be interesting.

However, because Cale was human, he understood the feelings of the people who were still alive better than the Black Dragon. There were times to be sad and times to be excited.

Clap, clap, clap.

That was why he clapped for the medal recipients as well. The atmosphere was much better now. People all enjoyed the medal ceremony as if it was a festival. This jovial environment made it possible for anybody to approach Cale right now.

"Young master Cale."

Cale turned toward the quiet voice calling out to him. There were quite a lot of nobles who headed back home, thinking that the capital was a dangerous place because of the terror incident. That was why the number of nobles here was less than before, but one of those nobles approached Cale and called out to him.

"What is it, young master Venion?"

Venion Stan was still here. In addition, the heads of each region were still here as well.

"I heard that you declined a medal. Will you not regret it?"

The gazes of the nobles who had been looking up at the platform all turned toward Venion and Cale. Cale did not know why Venion was smiling so gently and asking him that question.

- I want to kill him.

Cale was just worried that Venion's body would blow up right here. Cale hoped that

the Black Dragon would calm down as he thought about the medal.

Cale had rejected a medal. The reason for it was simple. He did not want to get, 'recorded.'

There is a record of all of the past kings of the kingdom in the highest floor of the royal library. The floor underneath that holds the record of all of the, 'heroes,' who have received different medals of honor throughout the history of the kingdom.

The crown used the fact that they needed to continue to provide these heroes with their reward money to locate and keep track of these heroes.

'That might sound like fame and honor to others, but it just sounds like chains to me.'

Cale did not want to be recorded anywhere. It was easier to forget someone who was not recorded. Who would remember the incidents at this plaza in the future when war was going to break out soon? Even if they recalled this incident, they would remember other things first.

The fact that he knew this was part of the reason Cale had decided to step forward during the terror incident, as well as the reason he wanted to avoid getting recorded.

Cale started to smile as he looked toward Venion and started to speak.

"What would I regret?"

Cale had nothing to regret. He had received a handsome reward, and most importantly.

"It is enough that we managed to survive."

He was able to live without getting seriously injured. That was the absolutely most important truth for Cale, no, for Kim Rok Soo. The area around Cale became silent. Venion spoke after a while so as to break that silence.

"...I see."

"Yes. I am also very shy. I'm too shy to go up there to receive a medal."

Venion's expression turned odd. However, Cale just shrugged his shoulder and turned

around to clap for another person who was receiving a medal.

The Black Dragon was debating how to kill Venion quickly and simply, before he looking at Cale and the people around Cale and shook his head.

There were too many people looking at Cale right now. Both the nobles and the people down below were looking at Cale. The Black Dragon thought things would get very complicated and annoying for Cale if he killed Venion right now, so he decided to act like Cale and be still, very still, as he watched the ceremony.

“This concludes today’s ceremony. However, this king will not forget this moment. I will remember it day after day in order to not forget the valiant heroes!”

The ceremony ended with the king’s final remarks.

Swiiiiish-

A rough wind that sounded like rain brushed through the plaza. Cale brushed back his messed up hair.

The crown prince had said that Cale did not need to come to the memorial today. However, Cale still showed up.

It was because he knew the weight of someone’s death.

He finished his own memorial of sort and put his right hand to his heart. This alerted Eric, who started to speak.

“Cale! Did you over do it? Does your heart hurt?”

Cale looked toward Eric in disbelief and Cale’s confident gaze made Eric awkwardly smile as he slowly backed away. Eric seemed to be very embarrassed.

Cale smiled at Eric’s reaction and patted his chest two times. He could feel the golden plaque in his inner pocket as he did that. It was the reward he had received from the crown prince.

‘The crown prince is more generous than I expected.’

The golden plaque gave Cale two opportunities to purchase anything, regardless of the cost.

It didn't matter whether he bought two slices of bread or two mountains. All that mattered was that he could only use it twice. Cale was going to use these two opportunities very effectively in the future.

'I'm sure that the crown prince was thinking, 'how much can you really spend,' as he gave this to me.'

Either that, or he gave it to Cale to see just what Cale could manage to buy with it.

'Too bad he was wrong.'

Cale started to smile. There were a lot of unique things you could buy in the world, as long as you knew how to buy them.

- What are you planning now, weak human? Just be careful.

Cale ignored the concerned comment of the Black Dragon, who had seen the smirk on Cale's face. Cale looked around where he was standing and made eye contact with a lot of people.

However, he trusted that these gazes would disappear once he left the capital.

That was why Cale, who had finished preparing to leave early the next morning after returning to his residence, handed the Black Dragon a piece of steak along with three other items. The Black Dragon clutched the plate with the steak on it, as he asked.

"What is this for?"

The three items were all the magic bombs with the detonation devices removed. The compressed mana still existed in these bombs. For now, Cale was planning on using just one of these three bombs. A mischievous smirk appeared on Cale's face.

"Destroy a whirlpool."

Cale was planning on overturning Roan Kingdom's Northeastern sea without anybody knowing about it. It was possible because neither the mermaids nor the Whale Tribe

should be at the Northeastern sea right now.

Chapter 49

Somehow (7)

Originally, Cale did not plan to destroy the whirlpool. He was planning on taking care of it using the Indestructible Shield and the Vitality of the Heart.

‘But that was when I didn’t have the Black Dragon.’

There was no reason for him to work hard when he had the Black Dragon.

Cale stuffed the Black Dragon, On, and Hong with a ton of food before sending out these Beasts that averaged 7 years of age and greeting his first guest.

“I do not know what you stole, but you did something big.”

It was Billos.

“I guess I am a bit famous these days.”

Billos shook his head at Cale, who did not seem to be injured at all. He could see Cale starting to drink while claiming to still be injured.

“You indeed are famous, young master Cale. But is it okay for you to drink?”

“There’s no reason for me to lie in front of you.”

Billos smiled as he filled Cale’s empty cup. He then handed a magic box over to Cale.

“Here are your requested items. Thank you for returning the items from last time.”

Cale had returned the other items to Billos through Choi Han. Cale caressed this new box of items as he looked toward Billos.

Cale had already decided how to use the first of the two opportunities to use the golden plaque.

He decided to buy some time.

Cale decided to buy some time for the moment when the Northern Knights, a dangerous existence for not just Roan Kingdom but also the Breck Kingdom and the other mid-northern kingdoms, started to head south.

To be more specific, other than the Northern Knights, there were also the Empire at the center of the Western Continent, the mage slayer, and the Queen of the Southern Jungle. Cale decided to buy some time to get away from all of them. It would be one thing if he was on his own, but now there were others he needed to care for.

“Billos.”

“Do you deal properties too?”

“I don’t, but I do know about what is going on lately.”

Billos really was a merchant. He received information very quickly.

“The Western continent is on the verge of blowing up, and that is a great time for merchants like myself to make money.”

“Merchants will run toward anything that will give them a profit.”

Billos liked Cale, who understood merchants a lot. He also liked that Cale didn't beat around the bush and got right to the point.

“The Whipper Kingdom will become a mess soon. I’m sure you are already expecting it?”

Billos nodded his head. The non-mages and mages could no longer coexist in the Whipper Kingdom.

“That is why I am trying to figure out what I can use to make money in that chaos. Young master Cale, what do you think will be the most profitable investment there?”

Cale easily answered Billos’s question.

“People.”

The mages will lose the civil war and the Magic Tower will be destroyed. Then what would happen to the remaining mages? All of the mages were not going to die at the end of the civil war.

The Whipper Kingdom was the Western continent’s greatest supply of magic devices. There were many mages who stayed far away from power and politics, but there will be nowhere for those types of mages in the Whipper Kingdom after the civil war.

In the novel, Crown prince Alberu Crossman was going to target this issue. As for the destroyed Magic Tower, Rosalyn was the highest-tier mage who decides to create a new Magic Tower in a different location.

Billos was a very sharp person.

“You’re thinking that the mages will look for a new home.”

Cale did not give Billos a direct answer.

The mages needed to lose in the Whipper Kingdom. That was the only way for the Whipper Kingdom to move to a better future.

However, Cale did not put much weight onto those things.

What he wanted was something else.

The Western Continent’s greatest supplier of the highest-grade magic devices. Cale needed the things that will remain after the civil war.

“Immediately let me know once the Magic Tower is destroyed.”

“...May I ask why?”

Cale shrugged his shoulders and lightly responded.

“You’ll find out when it happens.”

The Magic Tower.

Cale was planning on purchasing it.

The Magic Tower will be filled with irreparable broken magic devices after the civil war. Cale also knew the method to purchase this Magic Tower. Alberu also will not be able to do anything about Cale's actions.

"I'm looking forward to it."

Clae nodded his head in agreement. He was looking forward to it as well.

Buying the Magic Tower will buy him some time. It will give him time to protect himself from danger. It will be very expensive, but...

'Not like it is my money.'

Billos saw the evil smirk on Cale's face and his expectations went up.

"Then I will contact you when it happens."

"Okay. I look forward to it."

Cale said goodbye to Billos, his first guest. He then greeted his second and last guest. Well, the second guest more so rushed into the room.

Cale looked toward the terrace window that was open, before flinching at the existence that rushed in through the window.

"What is this?"

A clay doll the size of his palm climbed in through the window. On and Hong jumped into Cale's arms in fear.

It was because the expression on the clay doll was terrifying. It looked more like a zombie than a doll. The Black Dragon spoke into Cale's head with magic as usual at that time.

- I feel the power of a God.

“Ah.”

Cale blurted out someone’s name.

The crazy priestess.

“Cage.”

Once he did that, the clay doll that did not have any eyes or ears but only a mouth started to speak.

“I knew you would recognize me, young master Cale. This doll is connected to me. It is a single-use item that can only listen and talk.”

She really was skilled enough to be called a necromancer.

Cale looked toward the Black Dragon. The Black Dragon was talking into Cale’s mind, but did not turn invisible. It seemed to have figured out right away that it could listen and speak, but could not see.

‘Just how strong is this dragon?’

Cale suddenly questioned the Black Dragon’s strength.

However, the clay doll started to speak and prevented him from thinking about it for a long time.

“We are leaving the capital today. I’m sure Young master Cale does not like us contacting you like this.”

‘Correct. Absolutely correct.’

“However, Taylor said he had something he wanted to tell you.”

“‘Young master Cale when I go take back my position, no, when I am one level higher than my original position, I will return to pay you back for your help.’ is what he wanted me to tell you.”

“There was no need to tell me.”

“I know.”

Cale looked into the empty eye sockets of the ugly clay doll.

“Even still, Taylor and I both need somewhere to share the news when we get what we desire.”

“Do whatever you want.”

The clay doll started to smile at Cale’s words before it started to melt. On and Hong dug even further into Cale’s clothes in order to hide after seeing the doll melt away.

“Then please be healthy, young master Cale.”

The clay doll disappeared without leaving any traces behind. The Black Dragon stared at the empty spot where the clay doll stood for a bit before looking toward Cale.

“Then is that when I can get my revenge?” [1]

Once Taylor Stan returned to power and became the master of Marquis Stan’s estate, the current Marquis and Venion will both need to face the wrath of this Black Dragon.

“Yes. You can do as you want at that time.”

“Great.”

The Black Dragon made up his mind about when to get his revenge after hearing about Marquis Stan’s estate’s current situation from Cale.

The Black Dragon was going to strike Venion and the Marquis when they were at their lowest point. He was going to show them despair and make them suffer.

The Black Dragon flapped its wings happily. It really was a vicious creature.

Cale heard the Black Dragon mutter its revenge plan in his head and treated it as a creepy lullaby as he went to bed. Naturally, those vicious comments did not make it easy to sleep. The next morning, Cale was standing in front of the carriage early in the morning.

Rosalyn, Choi Han, and Lock saw them off. Cale looked at the three of them with a stoic expression.

“Cale-nim, if you think you see that mage bastard, please tell the dragon to kill him right away. All you have to tell him is to blow his head up so that he is not useless like me, who was only able to cut off an arm.”

Choi Han was spewing vicious things from early in the morning.

“I will definitely get stronger and come back! So make sure you listen to the young master while I am gone. Think seriously about the thing I told all of you last time. It is for your future. We all need to get stronger now.”

Lock was surrounded by his 10 younger siblings and telling them what was on his mind. Rosalyn was whispering with the Black Dragon inside of the carriage, and it was so quiet that even Cale could not hear.

“Dragon-nim, this is the textbook on Roan Kingdom’s alphabet, and this is the one for the continent’s common language.”

“Thank you, human. I am great and mighty, so I will learn it quickly.”

“Absolutely. Dragon-nim is great and mighty. I pray that you come up with a cool name for yourself.”

“I will ask for him to come up with a name for me.”

“...I’m sure Cale-nim will know what you mean by asking him.”

“Hmph.”

Cale didn’t know what they were talking about, but he stared at Rosalyn, who was watching the Black Dragon with a satisfied smile on her face, and started to frown. He then turned toward Choi Han and started to speak. Choi Han was still going on about what Cale should do in order to stay alive without him.

“Cale-nim, your rate of survival goes up if you blast anything away in one hit and then run away. Also-.”

“Enough with the nonsense.”

Cale stoically continued speaking to Choi Han, who immediately shut up.

“Just make sure you don’t get hurt.”

“...Yes. I will make sure to do that.”

Cale didn’t want to see Choi Han’s innocent smile anymore, so he got onto the carriage. Rosalyn got off as soon as Cale got on.

Cale felt the weight of the invisible Black Dragon, as well as On and Hong, on his lap as he looked out the window toward Hans.

“Let’s go.”

The staff, who were all outside the residence to see them off, bade Cale goodbye. Cale did not understand why these staff members would delay their work and come out to see him off. He told them it was fine, but they all still wanted to come and see him off.

“Young master-nim, please return home safely!”

“It was our joy to serve you, young master-nim!”

“We look forward to seeing you again in the future!”

‘What terrible nonsense.’

Cale had no plans to ever come back to the capital. He just casually waved at them and then closed the carriage curtains.

That action was the signal to go. Cale’s group had two more carriages than when they arrived, as they left the capital and headed to the Northeast.

Ubarr. Cale was headed to the sea that was filled with whirlpools for hundreds of years.



“Sniff! It smells salty! Is this the sea?”

The red kitten Hong looked out the open carriage window and sniffed the air. Cale nodded his head as he received a small round item that the Black Dragon handed to him.

“This is the condensed mana from the bomb?”

The Black Dragon nodded his head at Cale’s question and responded.

“Yes. We can make a new magic bomb now.”

Cale became jovial at this confirmation and opened the carriage window wide. The cool sea breeze entered the carriage as he looked out toward the Northeastern sea. There were many islands visible in the ocean. The Northeastern sea had quite a number of these small islands.

The silver kitten On was also quite excited.

“Oh! Look at that sharp cliff!”

The sharp cliff brought forth both awe and fear as they were riding across a path created on top of that cliff.

Cale looked toward the, ‘Cliff of Winds,’ the most beautiful sight in the Ubarr territory. There were many small islands next to that cliff.

Between the cliff and the islands were multiple raging whirlpools. Those whirlpools were the culprit behind why the seas of the Ubarr territory were so dangerous.

“The mage slayer ends up landing on one of those islands after being shipwrecked by the whirlpools, and ends up finding the, ‘Sound of the Wind.’

The mage slayer was known for being an intelligent barbarian. He was even stronger than Lock, the Blue Wolf Tribe member and the future Wolf King, and held the title of the strongest individual in the Western Continent. The mage slayer’s name was Toonka, known as Toonka the Tyrant.

'I just need to get it before he does.'

If things went as it did in the novel, it was still too early for Toonka to come here. Cale was thinking that there was no chance he would run into Toonka as he looked out to the sea with satisfaction. This journey would be smooth, as long as he avoided Toonka.

Cale, who had been looking out the window with satisfaction, could see something far in the horizon.

"Hmm?"

Cale rubbed his eyes a bit, but it was still the same.

"...Isn't that a whale?"

A pod of large whales were shooting water into the air as they crossed through the Northeastern Sea to head north. Cale suddenly had an ominous feeling, and clenched the magic bomb ingredients in his hand.

The whales tended to live in the Northern sea. This was true for the Whale Tribe as well. It was only during the war with the mermaids that the Whale Tribe came down south.

'I'm sure that's just a group of whales passing by. Tons of whales head north. Absolutely no way, right?'

The Black Dragon's voice echoed inside Cale's ear.

"I feel a strong presence."

That echo stabbed right into Cale's brain.

That was why Cale was frowning when they arrived at a small village just outside the Cliff of Winds.

"Young master, did you get sick on the way?"

Cale shook his head at Hans's question.

“No, I just have a bad feeling.”

“Ah, it is scary because of the cliffs. However, our driver is a veteran, so you have nothing to worry about.”

Cale ignored the useless comments from Hans and reached his hand out to the person approaching him.

“Long time no see, young lady Amiru.”

“Hello, young master Cale.”

Amiru had her uniquely calm smile on her face as she welcomed Cale and crew.

This was a small seaside village in the Ubarr territory. This small village, that had nothing special and allowed the residents to live in peace and quiet until now, was suddenly busy with visitors.

The village was quickly changing every day. However, they would soon face an opportunity that will allow their village to change incomparably in the near future. Tomorrow night would be that moment. Tomorrow night, Cale was planning on blowing up a magic bomb deep inside the ocean.

However, something that, in Cale’s point of view, should have never happened had happened. This terrible situation began when one of Amiru’s knights came to report to Amiru. The knight urgently approached Amiru and quietly reported.

“My lady, the person we rescued has regained consciousness.”

“Oh, is that so?”

‘Rescue?’

That word made Cale think of a single person.

As Cale started to frown with doubt on his mind, Amiru noticed Cale’s expression and

started to explain.

“We were inspecting the shoreline and nearby islands for the new naval base when we rescued a shipwrecked person. It seems that he has regained consciousness.”

‘I have a bad feeling about this.’

“We were debating what to do when we saw him unconscious and being dragged into the whirlpool, but I remembered what you did at the plaza and decided we needed to save him.”

Amiru continued to speak to Cale.

“Because a person’s life is precious, right, young master Cale?”

Cale answered that question after a long moment of silence.

“...Of course.”

“I knew young master Cale would answer like that.”

Cale could not even think about Amiru’s smiling face right now. All that was on his mind right now were the details regarding how the novel described Toonka’s situation.

1. Quotation for the Black Dragon when he is talking out loud, bullet/hyphen for when he is talking into Cale’s mind. Maso wanted me to clarify so you don’t grill him about it ;)



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