



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 3 -

-AUTHOR-

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[[miraclerifle](#) (Wuxiaworld)]

Chapter 50

Into the Whirlpool (1)

Amiru, who had no way of knowing what Cale was thinking about, thought the serious expression on Cale's face was because of how caring of a person he was. She then continued to speak.

"Based on his outfit and physique, he seemed to be someone from the Whipper Kingdom."

It was definitely Toonka.

Cale's face turned paler as Amiru continued to speak.

The non-mage faction that was fighting against the mages in the Whipper Kingdom were ignored as barbarians by the mages.

However, there were no barbarians in this world.

All humans had the same brain. It was just that, as time went on and history was created, they all grew and developed in the way that was most suitable for them.

The non-mages of the Whipper Kingdom were all strong individuals who managed to take control of the Whipper Kingdom's harsh mountains and shores without using any magic. They were people who focused on strengthening the human body rather than relying on other factors, such as magic.

They were rebelling because they wanted to destroy the current Whipper Kingdom that was made only for mages to have easy lives and return it to its original form.

The citizens of the Whipper Kingdom were on the side of these non-mages. Foreigners may think that the barbarians were trying to take over the kingdom, but they were not barbarians to the Whipper Kingdom's citizens. They were just free people.

They used instinct to take down this kingdom of logic.

'The problem is that Toonka is extremely stupid.'

An intelligent barbarian? There were some who said that, but, in Cale's opinion, Toonka was just a simple and stupid person who just happened to be very strong.

And stupid people were the scariest type of people.

This was because you could not talk to them.

"Young master Cale, you do not have to worry about that person. He seemed to recover very quickly."

Cale laughed it off after hearing Amiru's words.

"I'm not worried at all. In fact, I'd prefer it if he continued to get treatment for a long time."

Cale's hope was that Toonka would remain in recovery until he left. Amiru, as well as the knights who were with her in the capital, all looked toward Cale with warm gazes.

Cale did not have time to pay attention to such gazes. He had enough of a headache trying to figure out why Toonka arrived here so early.

"Young lady Amiru, could you please show us to our rooms?"

"Of course. You are still not at full strength yet, right?"

"Yes. I am still hurt."

"...Oh no, let's hurry then."

Cale only had a single thought in his head as Amiru started to walk quickly with a serious expression on her face before slowing back down to Cale's speed.

'Billos may be a Flynn and is extremely talented, but how was he so sure about the Civil War? How did he find out so early?'

It was because Cale had read the novel that he knew about Billos's abilities. However, Billos was still ostracized as a bastard son right now. There had to be a limit to his information gathering.

That meant that the fact that Billos knew about it meant that the story was changing.

‘The Civil War must be happening earlier than in the novel.’

If Cale thought about it that way, everything made sense. But what would have brought forth the Civil War? However, Cale did not think long about this question.

The fact that Toonka was shipwrecked meant that his ship was destroyed by the mages’ attacks and that he had returned from the north after gaining strength.

That meant that, even if it was moved up, the story itself did not change.

The strength that instilled fear in the mages. The peak of human potential when it came to physical strength. Toonka survived through the sea, mountain, desert, jungle, volcano, and glaciers with just his physical strength alone. ^[1]

Toonka had survived through nature and its harshest elements. There was no way that mages, who use mana, a power that is drawn from nature, could defeat such a person.

‘Maybe a dragon can kill him.’

A dragon could probably still kill Toonka with a single hit.

Cale said that he needed to rest as soon as he arrived at the residence and sent everybody out of his room before looking up at the ceiling and starting to speak.

“Hey.”

“What is it, human.”

The Black Dragon revealed itself. Cale started to seriously speak to the dragon.

“Stay by my side without going anywhere for awhile.”

Cale had realized something through the situation with Choi Han and the Black Dragon. If he tried to avoid Toonka, he could instead end up with even more baggage. He needed to prepare for that moment.

“I will do whatever I want.”

The Black Dragon snorted and turned away from Cale. However, the way the dragon's wings were flapping let Cale know that the Black Dragon would listen to him. He was saying one thing, but his body was saying another.

Cale felt much better after telling that to the Black Dragon. Cale then looked around his room. It was a residence that the head of the Ubarr family had built a while ago in this small village.

'It doesn't really fit with the rest of the village.'

This luxurious room did not fit with the village they were in. That meant that Amiru's mother, the head of the Ubarr territory, already had plans to develop this area when she originally started the construction of this residence.

That vision was finally becoming a reality 10 years later.

'It probably took a while to draw in Gilbert's family and get the protection of the Wheelsman family.'

Cale was scheduled to meet with Amiru's mother before leaving the Ubarr territory. She was going to come from the city with the Ubarr family's main estate around that time.

Cale thought about that meeting for a bit before moving to stand in front of the window. He could see the entire village through the large window, as well as the Cliff of Winds.

The Cliff of Winds.

For hundreds of years, the water in front of the cliff was ravaged by a whirlpool, causing headaches for the Ubarr citizens trying to head out into the sea.

But there was a reason Amiru's family still considered this area to be important.

There were two other villages that were by the sea, but this village was at the center of the three. The shoreline that was in the shape of a crescent moon had this village in the center with two cliffs on either side, making this the only village that made it easy for boats to set out.

Furthermore, islands of different sizes were visible from the village, making it a pretty

sight as well. It would be a great location for a military base.

Cale was scheduled to go to the smallest island tomorrow morning. The, 'Sound of the Wind,' that was the source of all of these whirlpools was located right next to that island.

Toonka had said the following about the Sound of the Wind in the novel.

< "It is a quiet but chaotic power." >

It was exactly what Cale was looking for.

A power that would allow him to quickly and quietly run away while causing chaos for the strong. Cale started to slightly smile in anticipation of tomorrow morning.

That smirk soon changed to a full-on smile that was full of satisfaction.

"Young master-nim! Uncle Beacrox made this seafood just for you!"

"Uncle is very excited about the sea!"

"Right! Cale-nim, please eat a lot!"

Cale looked at the ten wolf children bringing food to his room with satisfaction.

He had told the others that they were Lock's cousins and that they all lived in the same village when their families were killed by bandits.

Cale's smile became even thicker. It was not because he liked the ten of them. Cale's eyes were focused on Beacrox, who was bringing trays of food behind the children.

Ron's son, a chef, and a torture expert. That was Beacrox. He usually wore clothes without any wrinkles nor even a speck of dust.

It was the same right now. However, he had serious bags under his eyes.

"Please eat, young master Cale."

"Great, thanks. It was a good decision to have you all help Beacrox in the kitchen."

Cale thanked Maes, the twelve-year-old who was the eldest of the 10 wolf children, before picking up his fork.

‘Young master-nim, we want to work. Lock hyung told us we cannot leech off of you.’

The wolf children, with Maes in the lead, had rushed into his carriage during their journey and asked him to put them to work. That was when Cale had them start assisting Beacrox.

‘Mm, we think it will be better if we train with the knights, but we will still do our best.’

The 12-year-old Maes was confident and calm, unlike Lock. He was also very aware of the strengths of the Wolf Tribe. That was why Cale was even more adamant about their helping Beacrox in the kitchen

‘You are still children. It is still too early to do something dangerous like training with the knights. Help Beacrox with the kitchen stuff.’

‘You really are like Lock hyung mentioned. Yes, we will do our best.’

The children who said that they will work hard really did work hard. Maybe that was why, but Cale couldn’t help but smirk at Beacrox, who seemed to get more tired each and every day. Beacrox just stood there while the wolf children set up the table and then headed out.

“Uncle, are you not coming?”

The wolf children were bright and pure. They called Beacrox uncle and treated him like family.

“...I’m coming.”

The children headed out first after hearing his comment. All of them were dressed cleanly and had their hair well kept, as if they never lived in a remote village before.

It was inevitable with Beacrox’s style.

‘Now that I think about it, he would be a really good babysitter.’

Cale avoided Beacrox’s gaze, thinking that Beacrox would come at him with his

cooking knife if he knew what Cale was thinking about. Beacrox was living as a clean and respectful chef right now. He could not be cold to the wolf children.

All he could do was glare at Cale every so often.

Cale watched Beacrox pick up a fork and knife and start to leave the room as he started to speak.

“Thanks for always giving me a delicious meal.”

“...Yes sir.”

Click.

Beacrox left the room and closed the door behind him. Cale looked at the door and started to speak.

“I don’t know why he is trying to do his dad’s job while his dad is gone.”

There was no reason for Beacrox to bring the food to him. However, Beacrox was slowly doing Ron’s work at any chance he got. Sadly, this prevented Cale from being able to enjoy the gap left from Ron’s departure.

The wolf children or Beacrox always showed up to take Ron’s spot.

Cale looked toward the corner of the room next and continued speaking.

“Come eat.”

“Cale’s meal buddies, On, Hong, and the Black Dragon, rushed to the table and started to eat. Cale looked out at the sunset over the ocean as he leisurely ate his dinner.

The next day.

“Hello.”

“Nice to meet you, young master-nim.”

Cale exchanged greetings with an old man.

This was a fisherman who had roamed across this Ubarr sea and battled against the whirlpool for tens of years. This old man, who was known as the greatest veteran of the Ubarr sea in this small seaside village, had a very tan skin that represented just how much time he spent out at sea.

“Just trust me. I will safely take you to the central island.”

Amiru, who was next to Cale, nodded her head and added on.

“Right. He is an amazing individual, so you will be able to get to anywhere in the Ubarr sea as long as he is with you. I’m sorry I cannot go with you even though I’m supposed to show you around. I have some work to do.”

“That is okay. It is enough that you have introduced me to an expert fisherman.”

It would be complicated if Amiru went with him. Cale had already determined the people who would go with him today. The fisherman asked.

“Is it just the three of you?”

“Yes. Let us go.”

“Yes sir. Please get on.”

Cale got on the small but sturdy boat. The Vice Captain got on behind him. Since the Vice Captain will be with him, Cale did not need to take any other knights with him. It really shouldn’t be a problem though, since the islands were uninhabited.

“Please be safe, young master.”

“Got it.”

Deputy butler Hans had On and Hong in his arms as he watched Cale off. The kittens On and Hong were flailing around, trying to get away from Hans, who was getting closer to the water. Although they liked the smell of the sea, On and Hong did not like water.

- I will be flying.

Naturally, the Black Dragon was planning on following them while remaining invisible.

Cale joked with the last person getting on the boat.

“Beacrox, apparently the nets near the island tend to catch a lot of rare seafood. It will be great to broaden your palate.”

“...Thank you very much, young master Cale.”

Beacrox, who ended up going with them at Cale’s order, got onto the boat with a stiff expression. Cale ordered the fisherman once everybody was on board.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes sir.”

The fisherman, the captain of this small boat, started to row with his son. In this whirlpool filled sea, neither a large ship nor acceleration magic was important.

It was safer to be with an experienced fisherman and rely on their years of rowing experience.

“The boat may rock quite a bit, so please hold on tightly.”

The old man casually announced as the boat departed. Cale started to curse soon after they left.

“Shit.”

The boat was rocking. The boat was just barely avoiding the whirlpool that seemed like it would suck everything in. The force of the whirlwind was rocking the boat a lot.

Splash, rash.

All sorts of water smashing sounds rang in Cale’s ears as the old fisherman shouted.

“Hahaha. Young master-nim, isn’t the whirlpool grand?”

The fisherman was a very courageous man. Cale pushed away the hand of the Vice Captain who was grabbing onto his clothes with a pale expression.

He was feeling seasick.

1. TL: Yet he got shipwrecked... clearly didn't survive the sea... (PR: Perservering = Survival)

Chapter 51

Into the Whirlpool (2)

Cale looked out through the small window on the boat. ^[1] The color of the violent water was not transparent at all. It was white and blue as it reflected the bottom of the sea, and became a darker and darker shade of blue as it got closer to the center of the whirlpool.

‘You’d probably die if you get caught in it.’

Cale thought about the new magic bombs in the magic box back in his residence. He then turned his gaze toward the front and looked toward the smallest island of the cluster of islands in front of him.

“Young master-nim, it is that island over there! The whirlpool in front of that island is the worst! You’ll need to say goodbye to this world immediately if you get caught in that one! Hahaha!”

The fisherman was really gutsy. He didn’t even see the Vice Captain’s face turn paler as he continued to speak.

Cale held back the feeling of needing to vomit and paid attention to the fisherman’s words.

“There is a legend that says that the whirlpool appeared because of a thief who stole something from a god, but, aiya!”

The boat leaned to one side. Cale gulped after seeing the water crash against the boat’s window.

“Aigoo, the boat almost tipped over. Hey punk, row properly!”

“Sorry dad!”

The fishing dad and son duo really were gutsy.

“That is why, young master-nim.”

“Hey.”

In the end, Cale raised his hand to stop the old man and sternly started to speak.

“Let’s talk after making it to that island first.”

“That is what lady Amiru said as well! We are almost there.”

The old man skillfully started to row. The boat that was moving as he continued to row somehow twisted and turned to avoid all of the whirlpools. Cale observed each and every one of the whirlpools they passed.

‘The marks of the wind vomited out by the Sound of the Wind.’

The ancient power called, ‘The Sound of the Wind,’ created wind, ‘tops,’ and spun them as strong as it could. And, as time went on, those tops created new tops, leading to the numerous whirlpools visible today.

“Y, young master, I, I’m supposed to be protecting you... Ugh.”

Cale ignored the Vice Captain’s words as he clenched onto the boat’s handles. He did not want to drown to death.

Finally, the boat arrived at an island and Cale could once again feel the ground underneath his feet.

“We have arrived. It was easier than usual.”

The fisherman’s son nodded at his father’s words. Cale looked past the two of them to see the Vice Captain leaning over.

“Baaaarf.”

The Vice Captain was suffering from such severe seasickness that Cale wondered if he may end up dying. Cale tapped Beacrox’s arm as Beacrox walked by him and pointed to the Vice Captain. Beacrox frowned before taking out a pair of white gloves from his pocket and putting them on as he headed over to the Vice Captain.

Cale flinched a bit once he saw the white gloves.

'Aren't those the gloves that he uses for torture to keep himself clean?'

Beacrox seemed to have an endless supply of those white gloves. After observing the existence of these white gloves for the first time, Cale stopped looking at Beacrox and the Vice Captain and looked around the island.

There was no sand on this island, instead, it was surrounded by rocks. If you looked a bit farther in from the shoreline, you could see a small forest as well. Well, it is probably more accurate to call it a garden than a forest since they said you should be able to walk all around it in less than an hour.

"Old man."

"Yes, young master-nim."

"Continue your story from earlier, the one about the thief."

The old man stopped watching his son anchor the boat and pointed to the path they took to get here. He was pointing at the large whirlpool in front of this island.

"A long time ago, there was a thief who was faster than anybody else. The thief's steps were so light and cautious that, supposedly, he could walk on water without causing the smallest of ripples."

It really was the Sound of the Wind. Of course, walking on water was a bit of an exaggeration.

"Anyways, the thief supposedly stole something that belonged to a god. The legend says that the thief jumped off the Cliff of Winds with the items. You know which cliff that is, right? That was how the god's item and the thief disappeared from this world, as well as how the whirlpools came to exist."

The old man smiled as gently as the tanned wrinkles on his arms.

"That is why there used to be sacrifices in the past for the god's item."

"Not anymore?"

“If it really was a god’s item, why would that god bother us humans instead of taking back his item?”

Cale agreed with the old man.

It was not a god’s item. It was a human’s power. That was why a god could not take it.

“Then I will look around the island now.”

“Yes sir. I will be waiting for you here.”

The old man headed toward his son as the Vice Captain jumped up.

“Young master-nim, me too, ugh.”

He then curled back down. Cale clicked his tongue and motioned for Beacrox to come over. Once Beacrox arrived, Cale whispered in Beacrox’s ear.

“Since you are Ron’s son, I’m sure you are also not normal.”

“And?”

Cale patted the not even slightly nervous Beacrox’s shoulder and continued to speak.

“You hold the Vice Captain here.”

“...Will you be okay on your own?”

“What could be dangerous over here? I also have my shield.”

“Please be safe.”

Beacrox agreed to follow Cale’s order without much issue. This was why Cale had brought Beacrox with him. He needed someone around him for the time being, someone who was strong, but did not feel extremely determined to protect him. It also had to be someone he could boss around.

That was why Beacrox was perfect.

“I’ll be back soon.”

Cale headed to the forest at the center of the island.

“Please shoot your shield up into the air if you are in danger.”

“Young master-nim, I will be right behind, ugh.”

Cale just half listened to Beacrox and the Vice Captain as he walked into the forest. He then quietly spoke as soon as he was away from the others.

“What do you think?”

The Black Dragon answered back.

“As you mentioned, there is something underneath that whirlpool in front of this island. It was similar to the power from that cave from last time.”

The Black Dragon was talking about when Cale earned the Vitality of the Heart. Cale leisurely entered into the forest. There was no reason to look inside. He really just came here to look at the whirlpool.

‘I do need to know a bit about the terrain, since we will be flying back here at night.’

Cale asked one more thing.

“There’s nobody here, right?”

“None.”

There was nobody else other than Cale’s group on the island. Cale could finally sigh in relief. He had been worried about the pod of whales from yesterday.

“But there is a corpse.”

“What?”

Cale instantly froze up. He started to frown and looked up into the sky. The Black Dragon removed his invisibility and appeared in front of Cale.

“When I looked down on this island earlier, there were three corpses on the other side of the island.”

Corpses were completely out of Cale's expectations. Cale took three steps back toward the boat. He had a bad feeling that something unlucky would happen if he continued to walk toward the other side of the island. However, the Black Dragon continued to speak.

"But the corpses were not human corpses."

Cale lifted his hands up to cover his eyes. If it was not human, that meant that they had a distinct feature. However, they also did not resemble animals.

'So they are similar to humans, but not the same.'

Then there was only one answer left.

"Were their hands and feet weird?"

The Black Dragon energetically nodded his head.

"That's right! The hand and feet were weird. They looked like fins!"

Fins. That was the symbol of the mermaids.

A pod of whales and mermaids. Cale was worried and full of doubt. The whales and mermaids were not supposed to show up just yet.

'No.'

Cale quickly fixed his train of thought. The battle between the Whale Tribe and the mermaids had a history that was even longer than the oldest human wars. However, the moment when this was revealed in the novel was when Choi Han became involved with the Whale Tribe.

Cale called toward the Black Dragon.

"Hey, you."

"...Do not call me you."

"Then what should I call you?"

“You will soon find out.”

‘What the hell is he talking about?’

Cale just thought that the Black Dragon who had been studying the human language lately would pick a name for himself, so he simply pointed toward the other side of the island with his chin.

“Are you sure there is nobody there?”

“There are no living presence. It is the same in the water.”

“Then lead the way.”

He had to go check out the mermaid corpses. Just to verify and keep himself out of danger.

“You have to be in front of me.”

Cale pushed the Black Dragon in front of him as they headed toward the other side of the island. He then started to frown as soon as he came out of the other side of the forest and saw the corpses.

“...I was right.”

As expected, they were mermaid corpses. To be specific, there were three corpses, all with their necks broken. Furthermore, their legs and arms were twisted as well. Cale frowned even more after seeing the appearance of the mermaids with his own eyes instead of just as text in a novel.

The corpses were completely dry, as if they were mummies. However, the mermaids really did look different from humans.

There were fins on their hands and feet, while their skin seemed to be covered in scales. They also had gills instead of ears.

“Why are you not getting closer?”

The Black Dragon curiously asked Cale, who was observing from a distance. Cale easily answered back to the Black Dragon.

“It’s scary.”

“...Right. I forgot that you are a weak human.”

The Black Dragon nodded and headed toward the mermaid corpses. He then started to mumble to himself.

“It seems like they were flattened to death. They also seem to have died not too long ago. Furthermore, I can see some red blood underneath their fins. I think they were in a battle.”

‘It was a whale. A whale definitely killed these mermaids.’

The Whale Tribe had a small population, similar to the dragons, but they were the strongest existence in the ocean. That was how they were able to protect the ocean world from the mermaids.

The mermaids wanted to create a kingdom inside the ocean. However, the Whale Tribe did not accept sharing their territory with others. It was because they were a species that needed to migrate along with the weather. [2]

‘The Whale Tribe is small in number, but they are too strong for the mermaids to do as they please. However, the mermaids suddenly started to get stronger.’

The mermaids started to get stronger, putting the Whale Tribe in a difficult situation. That was when Choi Han appeared and assisted the whales. At least, that was the contents of the novel by the end of volume 5.

Cale told the Black Dragon that they should head back and turned away from the mermaid corpses.

“Can we just leave them like this?”

“Yes.”

A mermaid corpse will not dissipate on land, instead, it will just dry out almost entirely. In order for it to dissipate, it needs to be under water. Once that happens, the smell is spread throughout the ocean, signaling other mermaids to come to get the corpses.

That was why the Whale Tribe left them on land like this on purpose.

'I need to quickly take care of things and leave too.'

There was probably only one member of the Whale Tribe who fought these mermaids. If there were two of them, they wouldn't have left these corpses on land. They would have thrown them into the water in order to draw even more mermaids over and battle it out. They chose to act like this because they were alone.

Cale headed back to the boat and talked to the others.

"Let's go back. There's not much to see."

The Vice Captain, who was finally starting to recover from his seasickness, turned pale again, but Beacrox seemed to have bought a lot of fish from the fisherman, as he happily responded.

"Young master Cale, We will have roasted fish for dinner."

"Sounds good."

After returning to the residence, Cale was waiting for the time to pass with a stomach full of roasted fish. Once darkness finally descended on the small village, he took out some scuba gear from the magic box he got from Billos.

Cale stood on the window sill facing the Cliff of Winds and the Northeastern sea as he started to talk to On and Hong.

"Keep a good watch at home."

"We won't let anybody in."

"Have a safe trip."

Cale just nodded his head to respond to the baby kittens before looking toward the Black Dragon.

The Black Dragon looked toward Cale with confidence and casually called out a spell.

"Flight."

At that moment, Cale's body floated up into the air.

"Let's go."

The Black Dragon took the lead and Cale followed behind him. Cale was carrying a magic bomb as they flew high in the air in order to avoid getting noticed.

Cale's plan today was to hit the whirlpool accurately before running. By the time people came out in shock, Cale would have already disappeared like the soundless wind.

This Black Dragon's version of the magic bomb was scheduled to go off ten minutes later.

1. It's a small boat that requires oars but has rooms and windows?! o.O
2. Guess we now know the truth about how the mermaids got control in the Little Mermaid.

Chapter 52

Into the Whirlpool (3)

“It looks even worse at night.”

Cale looked down at the largest whirlpool underneath him and commented. He then started to think.

‘Toonka really is a crazy bastard.’

How did Toonka end up getting the Sound of the Wind in the novel? He was shipwrecked and arrived on this island, and then starts to show interest in this whirlpool when his condition got a bit better.

Volcanoes, glaciers, desert, this bastard who liked to crash against the elements with just his body could not help but be interested in this ocean whirlpool.

Toonka enjoyed dangerous situations. No, he was obsessed with them. That was why Cale was calling him a crazy bastard.

< “It’s my first time in the ocean, but it looks fun.” >

Toonka said that before jumping into that whirlpool without any preparations. Naturally, Cale had no plans to act in the same manner.

Cale had already packed everything he needed in the scuba gear’s pockets.

“Is it here?”

Cale nodded to answer the Black Dragon’s question and looked around. Maybe it was because it was a country village, but the entire village was dark at night.

The ocean was even darker. But it was much louder than the village from the sound of the whirlpool. The fact that it would get louder will not draw any attention. They will just think it is the whirlpool being weird and forget about it.

Cale turned away from the ocean and looked toward the Cliff of Winds.

< Toonka discovers a hidden cave underneath the Cliff of Winds and enters with curiosity. He finds something at the end of the Cave and lets out a laugh.

“I didn’t expect such a good thing to be here.”

It was a fateful encounter that Toonka had never even expected. >

Cale put aside the information from the novel and spoke to the Black Dragon.

“Let’s start.”

“Alright, human.”

Black mana started to come out of the Black Dragon’s short front paw.

Oooooong.

The magic bomb reacted to the mana and started to vibrate.

The magic bomb in Cale’s arms was not the magic bomb used by the secret organization in volumes 1 and 2 of the novel.

‘It is a much better magic bomb.’

Around the second half of volume 3, the mages of the Whipper Kingdom, who were pushed to the brink, start to develop new tools to fight against the non-mages.

One of those tools was similar to the magic bomb in Cale’s hand.

The condensed mana, which is the main ingredient of the magic bomb, reacts to the developer’s mana and divides into multiple smaller mana balls before exploding.

It wasn’t as strong, but the chain of explosions was useful to kill even more enemies.

Cale complimented the Black Dragon.

“You must be amazing to create such a thing.”

“Yes. I am a great and mighty dragon.”

Even more black mana flowed out of those short paws and disappeared into the bombs.

Ooooooong.

Cale could feel the magic bombs vibrating in his arms. Cale was aiming for the moment when the moon had set but the sun had not yet risen.

“Be careful, do not get hurt.”

The Black Dragon headed higher into the air as he put a shield around Cale and said bye.

Click.

A small noise sounded from inside the magic bomb.

Cale released the bomb from his hand and then put on the scuba mask. It was a magic tool that will allow him to breathe underwater for 5 minutes.

A few moments later.

Boom! Boom! Booooooom!

The bomb went off and Cale summoned the silver shield before falling straight down. The night wind rushed fiercely past his face.

Once the tens of smaller explosions went off, the whirlpool lost its strength and could no longer spin properly. Cale opened up the wings of the shield.

Splaaaaaash!

The shield clashed with the ocean as Cale dove underwater. He put on some goggles and headed to the bottom of the ocean. Thanks to the shield, Cale’s body was quickly sinking like an arrow.

Boom, boom! Even more explosions were going off and making the whirlpool lose even more strength. The shockwaves created from the explosions touched Cale’s

shield and silver wings, but Cale still managed to safely arrive at the bottom of the ocean.

Boom!

Cale used the shield once more to easily handle the last explosion, before starting to walk on the ocean floor.

The small central island and the large whirlpool in front of it.

That whirlpool was caused by a small top that was underneath a large boulder.

This top had continued to spin for hundreds of years without stopping.

Cale could see that large boulder in front of him. It was so large that Cale thought it could easily crush a person.

< Toonka realized that the whirlpool started from underneath this large boulder and grabbed the boulder. It was because it was smaller than the boulder he had lifted up north. However, he was not able to lift this boulder up. >

< 'Then I'll just break it. >

< That was why Toonka destroyed the boulder. >

Cale looked toward the boulder and started to think.

'Toonka, you crazy bastard. You destroyed this thing?'

Cale shook his head underneath the water and headed toward the top that resembled Sun Wukong underneath the boulder. ^[1]

At that moment, just like every other time when he had gained an ancient power, the former owner's voice appeared.

- You sons of bitches!

Oh. This owner was quite the potty mouth.

- Why is it a sin to steal something that they sacrificed people to create? Especially

when I was just going to return it to the people? You trash bastards! Why do bastards like you have such power?!

The owner of the Sound of the Wind was that same thief that was said to have stolen something from a god. She had not truly stolen a god's item. In reality, she had just stolen something from a temple.

She had suffocated after becoming trapped underneath this large boulder. The silent thief with the quickest feet met her demise like this.

This superpower to control the wind was different than mana. She herself was the wind. After her death, she had become a top that continued to vomit out whirlpools.

- This stupid water! If my friend's light was here, it would burn it all!

Cale's expression turned odd as he was taking out the items to free this top.

'Light? Is it perhaps?'

- Do you know why lightning is so scary? It is because all it takes is a single streak, JUST ONE STREAK!

Cale started to think about the last ancient power on his list, the, 'Fire of Destruction.' He had to pass through fire to get to it, and had to have a ton of money with him as well.

A sudden thought crossed through Cale's mind.

The Indestructible Shield, wood. Vitality of the Heart, Wind. Sound of the Wind, Water. Fire of Destruction, Fire.

Cale was having a bad feeling about this. He even debated whether or not he really should take this power. However.

Beep- beep- beep-

The alarm inside the scuba gear was informing him that he only had three minutes left. Cale decided to think about this later.

'Let's hurry and take it out.'

He started to dig with a hoe. He was trying to get rid of this obstacle that was holding both the large boulder and the top. This hoe, that was reinforced with magic, was so sharp that the floor easily gave way.

‘There’s no reason to be an idiot like Toonka and destroy the boulder.’

He just had to dig. Cale started to smirk. He could finally see the entire top after digging a bit longer. Cale reached toward the top and grabbed it with his hand.

Swiiiiiiiish.

Cale moved a couple steps backward with the top spinning in his hand.

Boooooom.

The boulder that had been in perfect balance with the top started to lean to one side.

- If it was a sin that I stole it, why do they claim to not be sinners when they lied to the humans? This world is rotten! It is a rotten world where those in power can do whatever the fuck they want!

‘The world has always been rotten.’

Cale ignored the thief’s rant and put the top down on the ground.

There was only one thing the owner of the Sound of the Wind wanted.

Freedom. The only way to provide that was to destroy the top.

Crack.

The top broke into pieces under Cale’s foot.

Shriiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiek-

A sharp noise like a screech echoed under the water as the top broke. The wind that poured out of the broken top started to surround Cale.

- You have the power of recovery. Don’t get caught like I did. Got it?

‘The power of recovery? Is she talking about the Vitality of the Heart?’

Cale started to frown as the thief said her final words.

- Be free.

Swoooooosh.

A white wind surrounded Cale’s body and moved up to his head before starting to move downward. It would do this until it reached his feet before stopping there.

‘Hmm?’

But the wind instead roamed around his heart.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Cale’s heart suddenly started to beat wildly.

‘Ugh.’

Cale’s heart was beating so much that it hurt. Cale patted his heart with his right hand as air bubbles came out of his mouth that forcefully opened because of the pain.

‘What is going on?’

‘Ugh.’

Cale held back another moan and curled up his body. At that moment, the wind flashed, before instantly moving down to his feet and drawing an image on his ankle. Cale could see the image of a whirlpool in the gap between the scuba suit and the scuba shoes.

This whirlpool was also silver in color.

Once the whirlpool image was completed, Cale could finally feel his heart calming down.

‘Did the Vitality of the Heart strengthen the Sound of the Wind as well?’

He was curious, but did not have any time to think about it.

Beep, beep-

The alarm rang once again to let him know that not much time was left.

However, he still had plenty of time.

Cale activated the Sound of the Wind and a gust of wind started to swirl around his feet.

Cale lightly moved one foot forward.

Swiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiish!

Cale's body instantly cut through the water. Although the large whirlpool in front of the central island was gone, the other whirlpools were still existent. However, Cale easily moved past them without any issue.

'The other whirlpools will disappear within a week.'

However, Cale was planning on maintaining those whirlpools for about a year. The whirlpools recognized the Sound of the Wind, the symbol of their owner, and made way for Cale.

His destination was the Cliff of Winds.

Cale watched the cliff quickly get closer and kicked off the ground before he got too close. His body shot upward in reaction.

Swiiiiiiiiiiiiish-

The ocean breeze welcomed Cale as he came back above water. Cale quickly took off the scuba mask and threw it aside.

Beep-

The alarm went off to sound that five minutes were up.

Cale looked toward the village and saw that quite a lot of lights were starting to turn on.

“I need to hurry.”

Hans probably wouldn't come to wake him up because he said to not bother him unless it was a matter of life or death, but it was still better to return quickly.

Cale swam toward the Cliff of Winds and noticed large and small boulders underneath the cliff. These boulders were the reason that anybody who fell off the cliff to their death ended up with mauled up corpses.

Cale looked to find the boulder that resembled the head of a lion. It was easy to find because it was the largest boulder in the area.

Cale then started to smile after seeing the small cave behind the boulder.

‘Found it.’

Toonka had a fateful encounter in this cave after earning the Sound of the Wind. It was something useless for Toonka, but it was an ‘ingredient’ that Cale would put to good use in the future.

If this ingredient was combined with the ingredient that Lock will acquire for Cale in the future, the Queen of the Jungle will have no choice but to make a deal with Cale.

‘The queen needs to save the jungle.’

Cale carefully swam past the boulders and entered the cave. The cave entrance was dark because the moon had already set, but it did not matter. Cale entered the cave and quickly jumped out of the water.

He then looked up at the sky outside.

‘It's about time he arrived.’

The Black Dragon immediately started to speak, as if he had read Cale's mind. However, the Black Dragon was speaking inside Cale's mind.

- Weak human, you are not hurt.

There was only one reason for the Black Dragon to talk inside Cale's head. Cale started to get the chills. He slowly turned his head toward the inside of the cave.

The Black Dragon only spoke into Cale's head when there was someone unfamiliar nearby.

- There is a lifeform inside this cave. Although it is almost dead, thankfully, it is not a corpse that you fear.

Pssssssss. Pssssssss.

Cale could hear something dragging inside the cave and started to contemplate his choices.

'Jump back into the water? Or ask the Dragon to take me home right now?'

Pssssssssss. Pssssssssss. Pssss.

But that dragging noise became more urgent and the lifeform revealed itself before Cale could make up his mind. Cale put one foot back into the water.

The lifeform that revealed itself started to speak in a shaking voice.

"P, please save me."

Ah. A gasp came out of Cale's mouth. The lifeform had a salty smell to it. It was the smell of the sea.

'No way.'

"There is something I must accomplish. I, cannot, d, die here!"

A human looking existence, with its horrendously scratched up leg dragging behind it, approached Cale.

There was a green fluid on the scratches that made the existence continue to vomit up blood. That was clearly the work of a mermaid.

"P, please-."

It was a whale.

This beautiful human with messy hair that was crawling toward Cale with his hands,

was a whale.

- Weak human, did you catch a cold? Your face is pale.

The Black Dragon was talking into Cale's mind, but Cale could not hear it. Cale felt like he was facing a scene straight out of a horror movie.

An injured, almost dead, member of the Whale Tribe had revealed himself to Cale.

Chapter 53

Currently Thinking (1)

Cale started to think.

‘Should I run?’

But that Whale’s pupils were accurately looking at him. He also seemed to be putting strength into his hands, as Cale could see the Whale’s fingers digging into the ground. His strength was unbelievable even though he seemed to be close to death.

He had a single question on his mind.

‘A Whale tribe member being hurt by mermaid poison?’

An answer quickly floated across Cale’s mind.

Mixed blood.

That was the only possible answer.

Cale quickly thought through the contents of, ‘The Birth of a Hero.’ There were no mixed-blood characters in the Whale Tribe that was almost as low in number as the dragons.

‘But there was one that died.’

Cale started to frown and worry.

“Ugh.”

The Whale could not crawl anymore. His body started to shake without being able to

do anything else. At that moment, Cale heard the Black Dragon's voice in his head.

- Human, are you not going to help?

The Black Dragon doubtfully asked. Cale did not answer the question and stood up. He hated useless feelings and reaching out a helping hand for no reason. However.

"Hey."

Cale approached the mixed blood Whale and crouched in front of him. The Whale human who was shaking on the ground slowly lifted his head.

This long-haired man really lived up to the stories about how the Whales were so beautiful that they made elves look like squids. Such a beautiful man was looking at Cale.

"...Save-"

Cale answered without any sort of emotion in his voice.

"Yes. I'll save you."

A mixed-blood Whale human. Cale knew that it might be more painful for this Whale to be alive than to die in the next few moments. He was sure that the Whale knew this to be true as well. ^[1]

Cale recalled the conversation the Whale King had with Lock in the novel.

<"You are a pure-blooded Wolf."

"Why do you say that?"

"My child is not of pure blood."

"Hmm? Noona is not a pure blooded Whale?"

“Not that child. I had a son who was mixed-blood. That was why... he had a lot of difficulties. He was too weak to live in the ocean.”

“Then does he live on land?”

“No. That terrible son of mine left this world before me.”>

The Whale Tribe’s king and mediator of the ocean was someone with blue hair and blue eyes. Although Cale could not tell for sure because it was dark, the face of the Whale looking at him right now was slightly similar to the face of the Whale King as described in the novel.

Cale looked toward the sea-like blue eyes and started to speak.

“Sleep for a bit. Everything will be fine when you wake back up.”

The blue eyes blinked a couple of times before slowly closing. Cale watched the unconscious mixed-blood Whale for a bit, before approaching and inspecting his legs.

“What do you think?”

The Black Dragon revealed itself once the mixed-blood Whale became unconscious and quickly approached the Whale. He then created a small light ball with magic so that they could take a better look at the leg.

“It is a mess.”

The Whale Tribe’s skin is very thick and tough. Although their skin looked flawless and beautiful, it was also extremely tough. Sadly, this mixed-blood Whale did not have such a luxury. That was why it was impacted by a mermaid’s attack and poisoned. The Black Dragon watched Cale with an odd expression on its face as Cale inspected the Whale.

“...You are a very weird human. You are so weak and weird.”

“Enough nonsense.”

Cale pointed to the Whale and ordered the Black Dragon.

“Dunk him in the water.”

“...Did you lie to him?”

The Black Dragon seemed completely shocked. The shocked expression of this reptile looked pretty serious.

“Human, you said you were going to save him! You are weak, but you have kept all of your promises until now! So why are you telling me to dunk him in the water?! Are you trying to make him suffocate to death?!”

Sigh.

Cale let out a deep sigh. He then grabbed that light ball that was floating in the air. It was not hot.

“I’m doing it to save him.”

He then added on.

“After you put him in the water, you remember the corpses from earlier, right?”

“...Just what are you trying to make me do?”

“Nothing much. Just go and bring me back one arm.”

The Black Dragon’s jaws dropped. Cale did not care about this and headed into the cave. It was because the Black Dragon didn’t say no, even though it looked completely shocked.

“...I will do as you asked for now.”

The Black Dragon really was obedient. Cale did not look back and continued to walk forward. He needed to take care of it and return back before the village became rowdy.

The cave was not deep, and Cale reached the end quickly.

‘Found it.’

The fateful encounter that Toonka had found was a ‘Small Puddle.’ Cale took out one

of the items he brought with him. It was an alarm device. It would let Cale know if someone else got close to this location.

'I just need to take it with me before I leave.'

Cale scooped a bit of that puddle into a small glass bottle.

'Fire-Suppressing Water.'

Water is always strong against fire, but the strength of this water was a bit different. If Cale dunked the item Lock will procure for him into this water, it will give birth to a very precious item.

It will become a treasure that will save the drying jungle.

Cale returned back to the cave entrance. The Black Dragon seemed to have already returned with the arm, as he handed the arm to Cale with an iffy expression. Cale could also see the drenched mixed-blood Whale boy as well.

"Let's go."

The Black Dragon sighed before levitating the mixed-blood Whale, the mermaid arm, and Cale before floating back home.

Cale received an overwhelming welcome from On and Hong as soon as he returned.

"You came at the right time!"

"The butler has been banging on the door for a while!"

Cale could tell even without the kittens telling him. He could hear Hans's voice outside the door. Hans sounded like he was ready to cry.

"Young master, I dare not enter because you said you'll kill me if you wake you up. That is why I can only continue to bang on the door. Can you please open the door young master?"

Cale took off the scuba suit and threw it to a corner before taking a device out of the

magic box and throwing it toward the Black Dragon. He then put on a bathrobe and opened the door.

“Young master, young lady Amiru asked me to verify that you were safe. So please wake up and open-”

“What do you want?”

“Oh! Young master!... Were you washing?”

Cale swept back his wet hair and leisurely answered Hans’s question.

“I couldn’t sleep, so I was sitting in the sea water bath.”

“Ah, you were in the bathroom. Then I shouldn’t have to worry about my life, since you were not sleeping.”

“...I wonder.”

“I’m sorry, young master-nim.”

Ahem, hem. Hans let out some fake coughs before inspecting Cale and starting to speak.

“Are you hurt anywhere? It is quite a mess outside right now. There were a few loud explosions earlier. I believe something has happened out at sea.”

Cale looked out the window he entered through. The village was completely lit now, even though it was the middle of the night. He could also see some lights heading out to sea.

Amiru seemed to have made a brave decision to send people out at sea, even with the dangers of the whirlpools, because the development was right around the corner.

“There was a loud noise, but they haven’t determined what caused it?”

“Young lady Amiru said people will be heading out to sea. I believe it will be figured out soon enough.”

In Cale's opinion, Amiru was going to be happy because the whirlpool by the central island had disappeared. That alone would increase the value of this shoreline exponentially.

"Is that so?"

"Yes sir."

"Then you can leave now."

Hans respectfully bowed to Cale before quickly heading out. At the same time, the Black Dragon turned off the invisibility device, revealing himself and the unconscious mixed-blood Whale, along with the mermaid arm on top of him.

On and Hong did not move from the corner of the room after seeing the mermaid arm. These kittens were scared of a lot of stupid things.

Cale headed to the bathroom and scooped up some of the sea water from the bath. The Black Dragon watched with curiosity as Cale dunked one side of the mermaid arm into the sea water.

Sizzle-

A burning noise could be heard, but, in reality, the dried up arm was quickly returning to normal. The corpse's swift change made On and Hong run and hide underneath the bed. The corpse arm returned completely back to normal in another moment. Cale looked toward the Whale human's leg. Unlike earlier, the green fluid was mixed with the sea water.

Cale took out a knife.

At that moment, the unconscious man's eyelids started to flutter and his body started to twitch.

"It looks like he's going to wake up. Human, put the knife away!"

The Black Dragon shouted and the man opened his eyes. The first thing the man saw was Cale lifting the knife up over his head. Cale smiled toward the Whale human in order to tell him to relax once they made eye contact. The Whale human's eyes started to shake as the knife moved.

Stab.

The knife stabbed into the mermaid arm and cut through the skin. A fluid started to pour out of the cut arm. It was the mermaid's blood. Once the arm returned to normal, the blood was restored as well.

Cale started to speak to the still shaking man.

“Good.”

The blood poured out and fell onto the man's leg.

Sizzle.

The green fluid on the man's leg started to sizzle once it came into contact with the mermaid blood.

Cale handed the bleeding arm to the man.

“Drink it before the blood dries up. That is the best way.”

Volume 5. This was the healing method Rosalyn discovered to heal Lock, who was injured after getting in a fight with a mermaid. It was a method that was still not known in this world.

The eyes of this man, who seemed to be in his early 20s, started to shake again. It was the same for On, Hong, and the Black Dragon as well.

In the end, the man got better. He had chosen to drink the blood after seeing that the dripped blood from earlier was indeed slowly curing his leg.

Cale continued to speak while looking at the confused expression on the mixed-blood Whale's face.

“What? Aren't you the one who killed this mermaid?”

The man's expression stiffened up. Cale started to scoff after seeing that expression. It was weird to see the Whale being so anxious after being asked if he had killed a

mermaid.

Cale then poured the remaining blood back onto the Whale human's leg, before putting the arm back into the water. The arm started to dissipate inside the water as Cale watched.

Cale continued to look at the arm dissipate as he started to speak to the Whale human.

"If you're a Whale, you probably need to return to the ocean by morning in order to recover completely. Get some sleep and return on your own."

The man's face turned cold. It was a different type of viciousness than Choi Han. This was someone who was always looked down upon, someone who was always reminded he was not as good as the rest of his tribe members. This was a viciousness that could only come from such a person.

"How did you know I was a whale?"

"Who else could kill three mermaids?"

"...I need to return home."

Cale felt like he would end up having to listen to a useless story, so he quickly waved his hand.

"I have no desire to hear your useless story."

That was why Cale did not ask for the Whale's name nor let Hans see the Whale.

"I only saved you because I said I would when you asked me to save you."

Cale laid down on the bed. He needed to take a shower, but he was too tired for that right now.

"I'm going to sleep. Be quiet on your way out."

Cale closed his eyes. There was nothing he needed to worry about since the dragon was there. He then remembered the last words the Whale King had said to Lock in the novel.

< “That is why I do not want to lose any more family members.” >

This was why Kim Rok Soo chose to take action this time. He had experienced losing all of his family members himself. Of course, he had no plans on suffering a loss from this experience.

< “If that child was still alive, I would pass the throne to my daughter and go live in the human world with him. I feel like that child would have been happy if we did that.”

“Mm, I do think noona would do well as Queen. But since noona is an affectionate person too, wouldn’t she want to live with you too, Mister?”

“Of course. She searched the entire ocean when my son disappeared.”

“I’m sure the entire ocean would have been flipped over if noona was the one doing the searching. Hey mister, what was your son’s name?”

“...My son’s name was Paseton.” >

The savior of the king’s son. Whether it is the current Whale King or the future Whale Queen, wouldn’t he be able to use this to his advantage?

But, most importantly, the Whale Tribe had to win the war against the mermaids. Cale fell asleep with a calm mind. When he woke up the next morning, Paseton was already gone.

The red kitten Hong reported to him.

“He said he’ll be back at night.”

“There really is no reason for him to do-.”

Cale just shrugged his shoulders without finishing the sentence. However, a moment later, an even bigger feeling of, ‘was this really necessary,’ filled his mind.

“Young master Cale! I’m sorry for coming over so early, but I needed to share some amazing news with you!”

Young lady Amiru was smiling brightly. It was rare to see the usually calm Amiru this way. She seemed to have come straight from the sea, as she still had a raincoat on and other people were with her.

“Do you know what it is?”

“I have no idea.”

Compared to the excited Amiru, Cale was calm. No, he was almost emotionless.

“The whirlpool, the whirlpool in front of the central island has disappeared! It disappeared overnight without even a trace!”

‘I made that happen.’

Cale could not tell her he had done that, so he just looked away. Next to Amiru was the veteran fisherman and some knights, as well as Toonka.

As described in the novel, Toonka had long brown hair like a lion’s mane. This man with a dangerous appearance that seemed like he could and would easily send an orc flying with a single slap, clicked his tongue and started to mumble.

“How disappointing. I wanted to try jumping into that whirlpool. Should I jump into a different one instead?”

He definitely was a crazy bastard.

At that moment, Amiru started to talk excitedly to Cale once again.

“Young master Cale! In return for the Henituse family’s investment, I want to show you the sight of a peaceful Ubarr sea. Will you go to the central island with me?”

Cale needed to show some sincerity in this project until someone arrived from the Henituse territory. Cale smiled gently at Amiru and asked.

“Is everybody here going over?”

“Yes.”

The corner of Cale’s lips shook at Amiru’s short answer.

Amiru, who did not see that and only saw the gentle smile, pointed to Toonka and continued to speak.

“Ah, this is your first time seeing this person, right? This is the person who was almost caught up in the whirlpool. Mr. Bob, this is young master Cale Henituse.”

‘Bob?’

Cale had an odd expression on his face.

Toonka put a smile on that scary looking mug of his. It was even scarier than seeing an ogre smile.

“Nice to meet you. My name is Bob.”

Bob. Toonka really used a fitting name for an alias. It was as stupid as him.

1. (PR: Beastmen shall have their tribes animal capitalized, normal animals shall not)

Chapter 54

Currently Thinking (2)

Cale did not want to see Toonka's smiling face. However, Amiru calmly started to explain.

"Bob is from the Whipper Kingdom. He is from a small seaside village and went out to fish when somehow he ended up shipwrecked."

"That is correct. I just live a simple life fishing by the village. Hahahaha. I do not know how I ended up like this."

'A simple life my ass.'

It was unbelievable. Amiru did not know about Cale's thoughts, as she continued to speak.

"That was why he got on a boat and helped us investigate what happened last night."

Amiru's eyes were clear as she looked at Toonka. However, when Cale looked around, there were many negative gazes toward Toonka as well.

A villager from the Whipper Kingdom. Their gazes showed their true feelings about this barbarian. Cale took a quick glance around before making eye contact with Toonka. Toonka started to smile.

"I heard that young master-nim launched a large shield in the capital in order to save everyone. I asked the young lady-nim to bring me with her because I heard that you were a strong person."

Toonka's eyes sharpened at that moment. Cale suddenly had an ominous feeling.

'This is getting dangerous.'

That was why he immediately responded with the following.

“That is why I am currently in recovery.”

“...Recovery?”

“Yes. It is a not a strong power. It is very weak.”

Amiru added on.

“Yes. Young master Cale overused his power to save everyone. That is why he is touring our territory while he recovers.”

Amiru was looking toward Cale with sympathy, admiration, and some other emotions, but Toonka was different.

“Ah, is that the case?”

He seemed to have lost all interest. He then looked at Cale from head to toe before looking away.

‘Good. That is how Toonka should act.’

Sacrifice for others? A hero? Toonka was not interested in anything like that. All he cared about and obsessed over was strength. He was the type of person who ignored the people on his own side if they were weak, and even killed them if necessary.

That was why he was called a tyrant.

“Then shall we go?”

Cale nodded at Amiru’s question. He could then hear Toonka’s mumbling from the side.

“This is weird. I smell a strong person nearby.”

He really was crazy. Cale looked up at the empty ceiling.

- I do not smell.

Cale could hear the invisible Black Dragon’s voice in his head. Toonka’s instincts were even stronger than those of the Beast people. Cale made up his mind that he had to act the weakest he had ever been while he was around Toonka today.



“We are currently investigating why the whirlpool may have suddenly disappeared. My father and our territory’s mages will all soon arrive as well.”

Cale looked out at the calm sea by the central island and played along with Amiru.

“Is that so? I’m glad. I hope we can quickly figure out what happened.”

- You are such a good liar.

Cale ignored the Black Dragon’s remark as he looked out to the sea with a calm gaze. It was quite chaotic. All of the village’s fishermen were out here, as well as the people who came out for the construction of the naval base. They were all looking around and discussing with each other. It was even louder because of the other whirlpools that were still going strong nearby. Cale looked out at all of this and added on.

“I hope all of the other whirlpools can quickly disappear as well.”

- Human, you are lying again. Didn’t you say you will make the whirlpools stay for another year?

Cale once again ignored the Black Dragon’s remarks. Amiru nodded at Cale’s words with a determined expression.

“Yes. We will definitely figure out what happened and get rid of the other whirlpools as well. With such an opportunity in front of our eyes and many people helping us, we need to grasp this opportunity completely.

The passionate Amiru made Cale feel a bit sorry for her and he started to speak.

“I’m sure you and the Ubarr family will definitely accomplish it, young lady Amiru.”

“...Thank you. I feel much better after your affirming words, young master Cale.”

Amiru’s warm gaze headed toward Cale as she stood there with a calm smile on her face. Cale responded back to her with a serious expression.

“I’m getting a bit dizzy from all this sunlight, may I go rest for a bit underneath the shade?”

Cale could feel Toonka's gaze on him from one of the boats. Toonka kept on glancing over toward Cale every so often. He seemed to be still looking for the source of that strong person's scent. However, there was no way that Toonka would find the Black Dragon. That was the limit of someone who could not feel any aura or mana.

"Ah, of course. Please rest well, since you are still in recovery. Do not overdo it."

"Thank you."

Cale leisurely headed to the central island's forest. Amiru just quietly watched him as he headed toward the shade. This Cale, who was still doing what he was supposed to even when he was in recovery, was definitely different from the Cale of the past. Although he claimed to be ill, he did not look ill at all. He just seemed to be tired.

"That is what makes him amazing."

As someone who dreamt of presiding over this territory in the future, Amiru thought that she needed to become more dependable like Cale. Passion filled her calm gaze as she quickly walked over to the investigators to help.

On the other hand, Cale was heading to the other side of the island. Since nobody was over there, it would be a great place to waste time.

- Aren't you afraid of the corpses over there? You are both weak and a coward.

Cale ignored the Black Dragon once more as he arrived at the other side of the island. He then stopped moving after taking a look.

"What the?"

- It was not me! I didn't do it!

The Black Dragon was passionately denying any blame. However, this time, Cale did not have the luxury of listening to the Black Dragon. He quickly rushed toward the boulder that the mermaid corpses were on the other day. He could not help but stop once he got around it.

'...Did Paseton do this?'

The boulder was destroyed into pieces.

“How did the mermaid corpses end up like this.....”

The mermaid corpses were turned into dust. Cale could tell these were the corpses only because he had seen them here the other day. Anybody else would just think that it was part of the boulder.

This immense strength.

This was definitely the work of a Whale.

An extremely angry Whale.

Splash. Splash.

Suddenly, the water started to churn. The Black Dragon started to speak.

- Something is shooting up from the bottom of the sea. It is moving very fast!

Cale lifted his head and looked toward the sea. He then flinched and stepped backwards.

Splaaaaash.

Something large rose to the surface. It was a lifeform that was dark grey in color. It then looked straight toward Cale.

It was a Whale.

A Humpback Whale Beast person.

Humpback Whale Beast people were known as the guardians of the ocean and protected the weaker lifeforms. For generations, the Whale Tribe's King has been a Humpback Whale beast person.

Boom. Boom. Boom.

Cale's heart was going while. The Whale's gaze was filled with both murderous intent and observation, a mix of instinct and rationality. This was the first time Cale had made such direct eye contact with a strong existence that was angry at him. This strong existence was looking down at Cale and inspecting each and every aspect of Cale.

It was at that moment.

- That stupid Whale must be crazy!

The Black Dragon's angry voice rang inside Cale's mind. At the same time, a strong power started to cause vibrations in the air. The eyes of the Whale, that had been focused on Cale, turned toward the source of the vibration.

- How dare you look at my weak human like that!

The mana in the air started to fluctuate and the water started to go wild. However, the Humpback Whale did not move at all. Instead, this 15m long Whale raised its tail and slapped down onto the water.

Spaaaaaash!

The water was churning rapidly.

This action made Cale certain that this was a beast person.

Boom. Boom.

Cale calmed his heart, as the Vitality of the Heart had noticed danger and started to pour out its strength. The Indestructible Shield also shot out as well. The ancient powers always put their owner's lives first. They were ready to go at any point to protect their owners.

Cale turned his head toward the empty void where the mana was gathering and was about to speak. However, another voice started to speak first.

"I am not trying to fight with you."

It was a voice that was as beautiful as the Sirens of the greek mythology. Cale turned his head and saw the Humpback Whale completely reveal its head above water.

"Wow."

A gasp came out of Cale's mouth. It was very large and scary. He felt like that Whale's head could easily kill him with a light tap.

- Why are you lifting up your stupid head? You're telling me everything you did until now wasn't asking for a fight? Puny Whale!

Cale let out a sigh at the Black Dragon's words before reaching out toward the mana. An angry four year old could be quite dangerous.

The mana, that seemed ready to destroy anything and everything, gave way to Cale's hand. The Whale seemed to be shocked at this development.

Cale's hand finally reached something round. It was the dragon's head. Cale just stoically patted it a few times.

"Don't get angry. You will get hurt."

The mana started to quickly disappear. Cale then heard a quiet voice.

- I will not get hurt. I am strong.

"I know, I know. But you still have to be careful."

It was hard to calm down a four year old child. However, the Black Dragon seemed to have understood what Cale was trying to say.

- You should be the one being careful, weak human.

The mana disappeared completely. Cale turned away and looked toward the Whale once the mana was gone. The Whale slowly lowered its large head toward Cale. Cale flinched at the size of the head, but managed to stand still. It was because the murderous intent had disappeared from the Whale's gaze.

Once the Humpback Whale lowered its head to right in front of Cale, it started to speak.

"I have something to ask-."

At that moment.

A small Whale was swimming like crazy from the far horizon. It was heading toward them. It seemed to be very weak and small compared to this 15m Whale.

That Whale quickly approached them and started to shout.

“Noona, you cannot bite him and kill him!”

The Humpback Whale in front of Cale quickly turned around.

Splaaaaaash!

The sea water splashed from the Whale’s movement and drenched Cale.

However, Cale did not have time to think about this. He closed his eyes.

‘This really must be that Humpback Whale.’

The tiny Whale coming toward them was most likely Paseton. That meant that there was only one existence that he would call noona.

The current Whale King’s daughter and the future Queen of the Whales.

The Whale that was at the vanguard alongside Choi Han and crew in the battle against the mermaids.

Cale could see the X shaped scar on the Humpback Whale’s back.

Witira.

It was definitely her.

The large Whale’s face started to turn into a frown. Cale slowly started to move backwards, as he did not want to get involved in this Humpback Whale sibling reunion.

The small Whale shouted once more.

“He is someone you must absolutely not kill!”

The Black Dragon confusedly spoke into Cale’s mind again.

- What is that small Whale talking about? We are not fighting.

Cale felt the same way. Cale was thankful that everybody was too focused on the situation on the other side of the island to hear this small Whale’s voice. Otherwise, everyone would have come here after hearing the small Whale’s shouts.

It was not long before the the Whales would meet. However, the Black Dragon casually added on at that time.

- By the way, just so you know, there is one more coming.

‘What? One more?’

Cale stopped walking backwards and turned toward the forest.

“Muhahahahahah. I smell it, I can smell it!”

A crazy bastard whose brown hair looked like a wild lion’s mane appeared.

It was Toonka. His eyes looked crazy. He was rushing out of the forest while shouting.

“I smell someone strong!”

Cale crouched down as soon as he saw Toonka. Thanks to that, Toonka and the Humpback Whale made direct eye contact with each other.

Cale crawled out of the way before the shrimp could get hurt. ^[1]

1. This is from a Korean proverb that talks about how a weakling getting in the way of two strong people fighting will get hurt for no reason.

Chapter 55

Currently Thinking (3)

Toonka, who had a crazed look in his eyes, was holding a baseball bat in his hand that was making a vicious noise as it cut through the air. Cale had no idea where he had gotten such a thing.

“Is it you?”

Toonka licked his lips before approaching the Humpback Whale. Even the close to 2m tall Toonka looked tiny in front of the Whale.

“Hehe, this is my first time fighting a whale.”

Toonka didn't seem to know that this Whale was a Beast person. He just wanted to fight it because it seemed to be strong. All that filled his head was strength and fighting.

That was why the Humpback Whale looked down at Toonka with disdain.

Cale just continued to crouch in a corner as he watched them.

- What are you doing?

The Black Dragon's extremely curious question rang inside Cale's head, but Cale had moved back to a safe distance before crouching down.

'A shrimp gets hurt when whales fight.'

Cale, who was weaker than a shrimp, did not want to get hurt by their fight.

“Can you just beat a whale to death?”

Toonka's eyes started to sparkle. He then lightly kicked the ground with his foot. Once he did that, his body instantly shot up into the air.

“Wow.”

Cale watched in admiration before stepping even further back.

Toonka’s bat started to swing toward the Humpback Whale. It was then that Cale could see how a Whale sneers. One corner of the Humpback Whale’s lips went up as the Whale started to move.

The 15m long large body instantly twisted before the large tail smacked down toward Toonka. However, Toonka managed to change direction in the air before safely landing back down.

Boom!

The boulder that Toonka jumped up from was destroyed by the Whale’s tail.

Splaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaash-

A large wave was created from the Whale’s attack, and it drenched Cale, along with the rest of the shoreline.

‘Damn it. I look like a rat that is drenched by rain.’

However, Cale kept his mouth shut. The impact of the destroyed boulder and the crazed Toonka were too great.

“Muhahahaha. Great, just great! Come on!”

Toonka was jumping up and down for the Whale to attack again. Toonka rushed quickly toward the Whale’s tail and swung his bat down once again. Instead of avoiding the attack, the Whale just raised its tail to attack Toonka.

Boom!

It was not a noise that would be made when a human made contact with a Whale.

Boom.

With a large noise, Toonka came back down to the ground. The bat in his hands had disintegrated into dust.

“I knew I shouldn’t have used something like a bat. Fighting is best when you use your fists! Hahahaha!”

Cale started to think as he watched this lunatic continue to fight.

‘Everybody is going to come here at this rate.’

Cale thought that people probably already knew something was going on. What could he do about it? What could he do to slip away quietly? Cale didn’t care whether the two of them fought or not.

It was at that moment.

“Noona! If you keep fighting, that generous man will get hurt!”

The tiny Whale finally arrived at the island.

Toonka instantly flinched.

“...That puny whale is talking?”

That comment made the Humpback Whale start to frown and glare at Toonka. A beautiful voice then followed it.

“You called my little brother puny?”

Toonka became even more shocked as he shouted.

“This one can talk as well?”

It was a total mess. Cale could see Toonka’s shoulders moving up and down in excitement.

“Oho, you must be Beast people! Beast people! This is going to be fun!”

Toonka was no longer laughing out loud. However, the smile on his face showed that he was at the maximum level of excitement.

At that moment, Cale could see that the Humpback Whale glanced over in his direction. He then saw that the Whale's eyes started to shake.

Cale, the human who was crouching on the ground covered in seawater and boulder dust while looking up at Witira, the Humpback Whale Beast person.

Her heart started to shake as the guardian of the ocean who protects weak creatures.

Paseton jumped in between the two of them and started to speak.

"Noona, I am still alive."

"Paseton."

The Humpback Whale started to scrunch her face. Her eyes started to tear up.

Paseton looked toward Toonka before quickly moving his fin out of the water and pointing it toward Cale.

Splash. Splash.

The water splashed along with Paseton's movement, and the water droplets hit Cale's face.

"This sir is the person who saved me when I was dying from the mermaid's poison."

The large Humpback Whale's pupils shook. The small Whale got as close to the island as possible and checked on Cale.

"Oh no, you are completely drenched. I'm also sorry about all these boulder dust. I was going to visit you tonight to thank you."

Cale brushed the boulder dust off and responded.

"That's fine. Are you better now?"

"Yes sir. I am almost fully recovered now thanks to you."

The anxious Humpback Whale's mouth dropped a bit. It was at that moment.

“You can’t get distracted when you are fighting against me! Do you want to die?!”

Toonka jumped up toward the Humpback Whale Beast person, Witira, and swung his fist. However, his fist could not touch the Humpback Whale. It was because the Whale disappeared.

Shhhhhhhhhhhhh.

Water vapor filled the area where the Humpback Whale used to be. A woman stepped onto the island from inside the water vapor.

Tap. Tap.

The woman who stepped forward with her heels clicking was Witira in her human form.

“Noona!”

Paseton called out to Witira.

Cale was a bit surprised at that moment.

“This is not just at the level of making elves look like squids!”

Witira was what you would call an explosive beauty. She was so extremely beautiful that she would make even elves look like cockroaches. It was to the point that Cale wondered how someone could be so beautiful.

Blue hair and blue eyes. If there was a contest for the most beautiful existence in the ocean, it would probably be the person in front of Cale’s eyes right now.

The Black Dragon started to speak into Cale’s head at that moment.

-... Dragons are even cooler. When a dragon becomes a human, I’m sure they are even more handsome and more beautiful. The human form of dragons is probably the best in the world.

Cale completely ignored the Black Dragon and stepped backward. Forget beautiful and handsome, the humanized Whale Beast people were still just as strong and violent. Witira started to speak as Cale was starting to worry.

“...Please do not run away. I will not hurt you.”

“My sister is someone who keeps her word.”

Paseton soon transformed and approached Cale as well. Witira could see that Paseton’s pants were ripped around his calves, and she could see the scars underneath. Anger filled her eyes once again.

Toonka slowly walked over as well.

“Stop paying attention to such a useless person. Hurry up and fight me. That’s more fun!”

Cale and Toonka made eye contact at that moment. Toonka started to scoff at Cale.

“Looks like this punk just goes around saving people.”

Tsk. Cale clicked his tongue at the term, ‘punk.’ Toonka seems to have thrown away the stupid alias of, ‘Bob,’ at this point. This was the real Toonka. Regardless of whether the opponent was a noble or a strong person, he just acted as he pleased.

Cale was more used to this version of Toonka. It was because it seemed like the character in the novel had come to life. Of course, Cale still had no intentions of letting this just pass by.

‘He’ll only learn after regretting the sale of the Magic Tower to me in the future.’

Cale was confident because he knew about what would soon happen, no, what Cale would personally make happen in the future.

The alias of Bob. This was actually a great name for an alias. It was because he would be rich for Cale to take in the future. ^[1]

However, the Black Dragon started to speak into Cale’s mind in anger.

- To rescue someone or to save someone is a glorious deed! It is something to be proud about. And talking bad about someone is mean. This punk is as bad as Venion!

...How did the Black Dragon end up like this when dragons were supposed to be creatures that only care about themselves? Cale started to think about what could

have made the Black Dragon change from the normal attitude of a dragon. He then slowly moved his body behind Witira. He was a bit afraid that Toonka might kill him for being an annoying and weak person.

“...Do not look down on such heroic action.”

However, Witira seemed to be angry. Cale also moved away from Witira after hearing what she had to say. Witira noticed Cale’s actions and calmly started to speak.

“Thank you very much. I will properly thank you in the future.”

However, anger was still burning in her eyes. This was the woman who was at the vanguard in the fight against the mermaids. She was not the type to avoid a battle nor even a small provocation.

“Oh, I like the look in your eyes. Are you finally ready to fight?”

Toonka started to twitch and lick his lips. He then relaxed his arms and moved his weight toward his front foot. This was Toonka’s battle position.

Witira started to smile.

“You think I would battle with someone like you?”

That was a mocking smile.

She then created a ball of light that seemed to be quite powerful.

Witira opened her right hand.

Splaaaaaash.

Pillars of water shot up into her palm and a long water whip appeared into her hands. She flicked her whip toward the ocean.

This whip, that seemed to be at least a couple of meters in length, cut through the water and caused the water to riot. Witira stared at Toonka with a chilly gaze as she started to speak.

“Funny. This is not a battle.”

She flicked her finger at Toonka as she continued.

“This is a lesson.”

“You are going to teach me? Hahaha!”

Toonka let out a loud laughter that seemed strong enough to cause an earthquake and looked toward Witira with an emotionless face.

“I guess I’ll need to rip that mouth of yours off.”

He then immediately rushed toward Witira. Once Toonka started to rush toward her, Witira waved her left hand toward Cale. A water shield surrounded Cale and Paseton in order to protect them.

Flick!

At the same time, the whip in her right hand viciously shot out toward Toonka.

Boom!

Toonka’s fist made contact with the whip. Witira started to smile.

“At least it’ll be fun to teach you a lesson.”

“Ugh, this is nothing!”

Witira moved her whip to wrap around Toonka’s body like a snake and lifted him up into the air. Toonka started to smile as he grabbed onto the water whip with his hands.

“Muahaha, a battle of strength is my specialty!”

Toonka broke apart the snake-like whip with his hands. This caused Witira to raise an eyebrow. However, Toonka was still no match for this future Queen of the Whales.

Witira lightly flicked her right hand and the whip quickly attacked Toonka’s body.

The impact made Toonka fly toward the forest.

At that moment.

“...What is going on?”

Amiru Ubarr, the investigation squad, and the knights appeared in the forest. Toonka was flying toward them.

Witira’s eyes grew wide as she urgently shot out a strand of water with her left hand. However, Toonka was moving too fast.

“Everybody, open up your shields!”

Amiru determined that it would be impossible to dodge, and immediately ordered the knights to defend. The knights quickly opened up their shields. Toonka saw what they were doing and shouted toward them.

“Defend properly! My body is very strong, so you may get hurt! Muhahahaha!”

It seemed probable that the knights would get hurt from this collision because they were wearing leather armor. The mixed-blood Whale Beast person Paseton was watching all of this when he heard a sigh coming from behind him.

“Sigh, so annoying.”

The voice seemed to be both annoyed and calm at the same time. Paseton’s eyes opened wide as he turned toward the voice.

Boom!

Toonka crashed into the shields. However, Toonka did not crash into anybody and nobody got hurt. Toonka turned around to see that a holy-looking silver shield had made contact with his back. There were also song wings that gently surrounded him.

“...What the...”

The shield slowly turned transparent before disappearing. Witira’s strand of water that was coming to create a shield disappeared into the air. She turned around with shock.

The disappearing silver shield was connected to that man who had his head down as

he let out another sigh.

“Sigh.”

Cale looked calm as he brushed back his drenched hair. However, he was frowning with frustration.

Instead of a shrimp getting hurt in a fight between whales, the shrimp had to use its powers during the fight.

1. The Korean word for rice is Bap. Bob and Bap are spelled the same in Korean.

Chapter 56

Currently Thinking (4)

Cale felt all the gazes focus on him, and slowly got up.

He was cheering Witira on after watching her send Toonka flying, but he urgently let out his shield because he did not want the knights to get hurt.

Because of that, the inside of the shield was created toward Cale instead of the knights. Thankfully, the knights did not get hurt, but he had just ended up unintentionally saving Toonka.

Cale seemed calm as he stood up, but his legs were numb from crouching for too long.

“Ah.”

Cale frowned as he stood up. He stumbled because his left leg was numb.

“Young master Cale!”

Amiru rushed over with a shocked expression. Paseton, who was also shocked, grabbed onto Cale’s arm. However, Cale pushed Paseton away and stood up straight. Amiru had an urgent expression as she rushed over to Cale.

“Young master Cale! You didn’t need to use your strength! Why did you do it?”

Why? It wasn’t like Cale wanted to do it.

But it would make things complicated if the investigation squad was injured. Thanks to Cale, it was just a small issue, but if Toonka had hurt the knights of the territory, things would get much bigger. Cale could not let that happen because Toonka had to return to the Whipper Kingdom at the right time.

‘Otherwise, I would lose out.’

Amiru inspected Cale with concern and disappointment.

“And why are you completely drenched like this? Are you okay? You are in recovery right now, what will you do if you catch a cold?! Young master Cale! You really!”

Amiru’s words made Paseton and Witira flinch. This was especially true for Witira, who bit down on her lips and inspected Cale as well. She recalled how her tail had drenched Cale earlier, and thought about the expression on his face when he had looked up while crouching earlier.

At that moment, Cale started to speak to the three of them. His voice was slow and seemed to be very tired.

“Isn’t it fine since nobody got hurt?”

His voice lacked any warmth, as if he was frustrated. He definitely was frustrated. His drenched clothes did not feel comfortable, and he wanted to get away from these troublemakers and get some rest now.

Paseton lowered his head while Witira looked around. She could see the shoreline that she had destroyed just a few moments ago, and bit down on her lips once again. Amiru hesitated for a moment before starting to speak.

“...Young master Cale, it is really difficult to understand you. Very difficult.”

Cale just shut up after seeing that a similar situation to the plaza incident was about to happen again. Everything was annoying.

Amiru turned away from Cale and looked toward the two Whale Tribe members. Her gaze toward them was calm, yet angry.

“And who are you?”

This was part of the Roan Kingdom, but this was her family’s territory. Amiru had no intentions of letting such an incident that happened in the Ubarr territory go.

“And Bob.”

Amiru glared sharply at Toonka, who was blankly standing off to the side.

“Who are you?”

None of the three answered Amiru's question. Toonka seemed to be worried about something, while Paseton was thinking about what to say. As for Witira, she could only lower her head after seeing what she had done.

At that moment, Amiru heard a noise.

"Achoo!"

Cale's nose was itchy and made him sneeze. He pushed back the hair that fell on his face before looking up. He didn't care about anything in front of his eyes and ignored all of the gazes that were focused on him before speaking normally.

"Let's go back first."

Nobody could say no to him.



Cale explained the entire situation before coming out of Amiru's residence and looking at the three people behind him. Witira, Paseton, and Toonka. He then made eye contact with Amiru, who was coming out behind them.

She took a look at Cale before sternly speaking to Toonka.

"You must leave by tomorrow. You should be thankful that all you are getting for punishment is being banished from our territory."

Amiru had demanded that Toonka leave her territory by tomorrow. It was because it became blatantly obvious that he was not a fisherman, as well as because he was the cause of the battle.

"The two of you will receive similar punishment if you cause any more issues within my territory."

The Whale siblings bowed toward Amiru with calm expressions. Cale observed the two siblings who were hiding that they were related to the Whale King, before turning his head.

"Young master Cale, you seem to be catching a cold, so please head on inside."

“I will.”

Amiru’s gaze became sharp as she turned back to look at Toonka.

“You return our generosity with such actions.”

Cale gently started to speak.

“That is why you are banishing him.”

Toonka’s banishment. That was what Cale had told Amiru to do.

“Young master Cale, you really...”

Amiru had heard from Paseton about how Cale had saved his life, as well as how Cale had no fault, but ended up getting dragged into the mess.

“Young lady Amiru, it was not much.”

Cale had a gentle expression on his face.

- Didn’t you ask me if I could defeat Toonka?

As usual, Cale just ignored the Black Dragon.

After telling Amiru multiple times that he was okay, Cale turned his gaze toward Toonka. Toonka had been staring at Cale as well. Toonka had a blank expression for a while now, no, it was more of a complicated expression.

Ancient power.

It was the only type of power that the non-mages, who focused on physical strength, accepted as strength. It was because they considered it a blessing for someone’s power to be passed down through generations.

Cale was looking at Toonka with no specific emotion.

He was a crazy bastard who ended up becoming a hero, but also showed signs of self-destruction in volume 5.

The Whales approached Cale, and Witira cautiously asked.

“Is it really okay for us to go with you?”

“It’s not like you have somewhere to go. I can give you a place to stay for a night.”

Cale got on the carriage and ordered the Whale siblings to follow. He then closed the carriage door and started to think.

At least Toonka will be going back to the Whipper Kingdom.

Cale, no, Kim Rok Soo’s style was to not create a deep relationship with someone he could not communicate with. This was different than avoiding someone because things could get complicated.

‘Do I need to contact the crown prince?’

How would the crown prince react if Cale said they should bring back the honey-filled hive left in the Whipper Kingdom? He could anticipate the crown prince’s response because they were similar people.

The crown prince would be very happy.

Cale was dreaming of bringing that hive back and living a nice relaxing life in the future.

Cale had to greet deputy butler Hans, Beacrox, the Vice Captain, the ten Wolf children, On, and Hong once he got back.

Hans had originally approached Cale normally before dropping his jaws after seeing the Whale siblings. He then quickly caught himself and started to approach Cale again.

“Young master-nim, are you okay? I heard about what happened.”

“I’m okay. Oh, and show these two people to a room.”

Cale pushed the two Whale siblings to Hans before turning to look at Beacrox. Beacrox, who was dressed flawlessly, as usual, started to frown once he took a look at Cale. Seeing Cale looking like a mess with the boulder dust and dried sea water, Beacrox turned toward Maes and started to speak.

“Heat up the water.”

“Got it.”

Maes calmly responded before approaching Cale.

“Young master-nim, I heard you were dragged into their battle and almost got hurt.”

Cale looked toward Maes, as well as the other Wolf children who were watching him, and casually answered.

“Not at all. There was no chance that I would get hurt.”

“...I understand.”

The extremely bright and pure Wolf children were calm, unlike their usual selves. Cale just brushed it aside and continued to watch the children, who quickly rushed away to heat up the bath water, before looking back at Beacrox. Beacrox started to speak as soon as they made eye contact.

“Young master-nim, please wash up first.”

Cale could see that Beacrox could not stand Cale’s dirtiness, and so he just nodded his head. He tried to head to the bath but a voice called out to him.

“Young master-nim.”

“What is it?”

It was Paseton and Witira. Paseton was the one who called for him, but Witira was the first to speak.

“May we visit you after you have rested for a bit?”

The Whale King. As they were his children, these two were pretty much of the same rank as the kingdom’s royalty. However, the two of them were hiding the fact that they were related to the Whale King. Honestly speaking, there was no reason to hide it. It wasn’t like the humans would know that they were royalty. It was rare to find a person who even knew about the existence of Whale people.

“Come tomorrow.”

Cale answered curtly before turning around. He could hear the Black Dragon’s voice in his head. The Black Dragon had a lot to say since earlier.

- You sneezed! Will you be able to move tonight? Shouldn’t you get some rest? Why are you so weak that I have to worry so much?! Human! It is so frustrating!

‘I’m the one who is frustrated.’

Cale decided to use the fact that nobody believed that he was completely healthy to his advantage. He told everyone not to come to him tonight because he needed rest, before speaking to the Black Dragon.

“Let’s go.”

“...I’ll listen for now.”

On and Hong sent them off as Cale headed to the Ubarr islands with the Black Dragon.

Today was the day he needed to extend these whirlpools’ lifespans to last for another year.

- I do not know why you are doing this when you are not well. This intelligent dragon brain of mine cannot understand.

Cale casually responded to the grumblings of a 4-year-old.

“It has to be done today.”

The territory’s mages would arrive tomorrow, making it more difficult to move. He had to take care of that puddle water and the whirlpool today.

Cale could see that there were still lights on the central island and landed on an island farther away. This was the location of the second strongest whirlpool, well, now the strongest whirlpool.

“Sigh.”

He then let out a sigh.

- Why is that punk swimming over here? Wait, why is that punk even here? I do not understand.

Cale could hear the Black Dragon's anxious voice. There was nobody on the island that Cale and the Black Dragon landed on. However, there was someone in the whirlpool in front of the island.

It was such a turbulent whirlpool that it was impossible to see the person inside while up in the air.

"He must really be a lunatic."

It was a dark night, as the moon had just finished its cycle. Cale started to think after seeing Toonka, who had jumped into the whirlpool on such a night. Cale wanted to know just what that crazy bastard was thinking.

At that moment, Toonka jumped out of the whirlpool and rushed over to the island.

"I knew it! I knew it!"

Toonka kept his gaze on Cale as he approached closer.

"I knew you weren't just an average person. I knew I smelled a strong person nearby. Are you a mage? How did you fly across the sky?"

Toonka's eyes started to shake after saying the word mage. His plan was to fight Cale if he said that he was a mage, and kill Cale if he was weak. Toonka was someone who thought that mages were a poison to the world. He continued to quickly walk toward Cale.

"Are you ignoring me because you are a fancy pants mage? Hmm?"

Toonka could see Cale letting out a sigh. Cale looked toward him before casually answering.

"I am thinking."

Cale was thinking about how to deal with this stupid fool.

'Do I put him in place or put him to use?'

That was what Cale was thinking about. Cale observed Toonka, who seemed to want to rush over and attack him.

“What are you thinking about that you are ignoring me?”

Cale finished thinking the moment Toonka said those final words. He then immediately acted.

‘Let’s do both.’

Boom!

“Ugh!”

Toonka, who was not prepared, got blown away and landed in the water. A whirlpool was surrounding Toonka’s body.

“What is going on?!”

Toonka, who had a high magic resistance, found it difficult to deal with this wind. The endlessly swirling wind and water from the sea sucked Toonka in like a swamp.

Cale created whirlpools in both of his hands as he approached Toonka.

Splash. Splash.

The sound of Cale stepping into the water could be heard.

He then looked down at Toonka, who was sucked into the sea by the sudden attack. No matter how tall someone was, there would always be a chance to look down at them.

“Mages cannot have ancient powers.”

Toonka could feel the wind around him disappear as he looked up at Cale.

“Bob, a warrior like you should understand what I mean, right?”

A power that was passed down from a human who created that power.

Toonka had heard about ancient powers, but this was his first time seeing one in action. He remained silent for a while before finally starting to speak.

“...Then you are not a mage?”

“Correct.”

Toonka asked another question after hearing Cale’s stern, yet very clear response.

“Then how do you know about the non-mage faction?”

Toonka found this noble in front of him to be weirder the more he ran into him.

‘Yes. He’s a weird one.’

This noble did not care that he was not using formal language with him. He was also someone who worked hard to save others when he was ill. This was also the weirdo who had a scent of a strong person around him, even though he himself was not strong.

Someone who continued to reveal unique powers every time he saw him. He was also someone who tried to save him.

This was Toonka’s first time seeing such a person.

However, Cale’s continued words shocked Toonka once more.

Cale did not answer Toonka’s question. Instead, he asked a question of his own.

“Do you have any thoughts about destroying the Magic Tower?”

“What? What did you say?”

Toonka’s eyes opened widely in shock. His expression seemed to be asking how Cale knew about it.

Destroying the Magic Tower. That was one of the goals of the non-mage faction from the beginning. Cale continued to speak.

“If you plan to do so, please do not destroy it too much.”

Toonka subconsciously let out his thoughts.

“...Crazy bastard, what are you talking about?”

“Ah, but please kick out all of the mages.”

Toonka could finally make a determination about Cale after hearing what Cale had to say. Cale started to smile while looking at Toonka.

The non-mages who win the Civil War lead the Whipper Kingdom to grow before it quickly breaks down. Although natural instincts took down the rationality known as magic, an existence without rationality would be no better than an animal.

Cale’s plan was to take control of the benefits that those animals will end up missing.

“I plan to purchase that Magic Tower. What do you think?”

Toonka started to smile as he looked up at Cale.

“What a crazy bastard.”

Toonka had made up his mind about Cale.

Chapter 57

Currently Thinking (5)

Cale responded to Toonka's words by pointing at Toonka and starting to speak.

"Are you and your crew not also crazy for trying to flip everything over?"

Toonka's smile ended up turning into laughter.

"Hahahaha-"

It was so loud that it echoed around the islands. Toonka finally stopped laughing after a while and started to shake his head as he responded to Cale.

"No. Not at all."

Toonka's gaze was cold as he stopped laughing and glared at Cale.

"We are not crazy at all."

Cale knew that Toonka would respond like that. Toonka was certain that the non-mages were the right choice for the future of the Whipper Kingdom. He was going to prove it with results.

"Of course. I am the same."

Toonka slowly observed Cale, who was saying that he was also not crazy. After observing Cale for a while, he finally started to speak.

"Personally come to buy it."

Toonka did not say that he could not destroy the Magic Tower or that he had no plans on destroying it.

"That was always the plan."

Cale did not think that Toonka's subordinates would say anything about Toonka making the decision on his own for Cale to come to purchase the Magic Tower.

The Whipper Kingdom was the greatest source of magic devices in the Western Continent. That meant that it wouldn't be wrong to say that the kingdom's money came from the mages and the magic devices.

Money would be the biggest issue once the non-mage faction won the civil war. Furthermore, they desired to get rid of any and all traces of magic in the Whipper Kingdom.

Cale was aiming for that moment.

'The crown prince will like it for a different reason though.'

The Magic Tower that Toonka and crew would think had nothing left inside would actually hold the treasure that the non-mages were dying to obtain.

"But how did you know that I was part of the non-mage faction?"

Sigh.

Cale let out another long sigh at Toonka's question. That made Toonka flinch, and Cale did not miss that moment to answer.

"You are someone from the Whipper Kingdom that is currently on the brink of a civil war. You then looked like you would kill me if I said I was a mage. Who wouldn't think of the non-mage faction?"

"...I guess?"

Cale just turned away from Toonka after hearing his response. Cale was thinking about how Toonka could be so stupid in general yet so sharp and naturally intelligent in battle.

However, Toonka seemed to have become even more interested, as he approached Cale.

"Why are you coming here?"

Toonka did not stop at Cale's blunt question.

"Seems like you're about to do something fun. I want to watch."

He really had stupidly great instincts. Cale waved his hand.

"Just go over there and play with the whirlpool. I'm busy."

"Are you really a noble?"

Toonka continued to be amazed to Cale. Toonka thought that the noble named Amiru was quite relaxed for a noble, but it was nothing compared to this punk in front of him right now. Talking so informally to a noble would usually lead to a lot of trouble, but Toonka could not help but speak informally to the noble in front of him.

"I am indeed a noble. Just like you are a warrior."

Cale casually responded and looked around. There was a lot that he needed to do today. At the same time, he heard Toonka's voice coming from behind him.

"Interesting."

Cale just frowned and pretended to not hear Toonka. He then released his silver shield. The silver wings appeared alongside the shield and lightly fluttered. At that moment, the Black Dragon's voice rang in Cale's head.

- I am very sharp.

Cale's body started to float. The Black Dragon had used its magic right on cue. Cale decided to take care of the other whirlpools first.

"Bob."

Cale called out Toonka's alias. Bob was still Toonka's official name for everyone right now.

"What?"

"You know all this is a secret, right?"

“Of course. I prefer to keep all the fun things to myself.”

The smirking Toonka really seemed to be crazy. His physique, hair, and smile all made him look even scarier because it was dark. Cale floated up into the air and started to speak.

“I will find a ship and crew for you. Don’t you need to quickly return home?”

“Oh? Thanks.”

Cale waved his hand toward the confused Toonka and headed up into the clouds.

“Win. You can do it.”

That was the only way for Cale to benefit from it.

Cale turned toward an island with another whirlpool. At that moment, he could hear Toonka’s loud laughter. It was louder than ever before.

“Hahahaha!”

‘Was that bastard always so full of laughter?’

Cale wondered as he headed to another island. Toonka watched Cale fly away for awhile before thinking that the whirlpools were no longer fun, and returning to his residence. However, Cale had no way to know about what Toonka did

Instead, he started to speak to the Black Dragon.

“Do you know when I am the angriest?”

- When?

The Black Dragon could see a relaxed smile on Cale’s face.

“When I throw something away for cheap because I think it is trash, yet it ends up being gold. Especially when I really need that gold.”

The corner of the Black Dragon’s lips started to twitch.

- I learned something good.

“No. There’s more.”

- More?

“Yes.”

Cale leisurely continued.

“It is even worse when I need to pay even more than it's worth to buy that gold back.”

-... That would suck.

Cale responded with a villainous smile and started to take care of what he needed to do. He landed on the next island.

“There is no one here.”

Cale put both palms down on the ground once the Black Dragon confirmed that no one was here.

Boom.

Cale could feel his heart beating wildly.

‘The Vitality of the Heart really did strengthen the Sound of the Wind.’

Cale could feel the strength of the wind rushing up from his feet to his palms.

It took less than one second for that to happen.

Swiiiiiiish.

The winds were roaring in both of Cale’s palms. Cale then combined the two whirlwinds into one.

Sizzle.

The two whirlwinds combined with a sizzling noise and started to generate heat.

However, because they shared the same master, they eventually became one and became a much bigger whirlwind orb. Cale then floated that orb up into the air.

Boom!

He then slammed down on the orb with the Indestructible Shield. The wind orb shot down into the whirlpool underneath the water.

Swiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiish-

The wind orb and the wind top inside the whirlpool started to mix together.

Cale looked away from the whirlpool as he floated back up with the Black Dragon's magic. The top would now last at least six months. Cale would be able to feel it if it disappeared in less than a year, and would determine what to do at that point.

"Let's go to the next island."

The Black Dragon's wings fluttered as he increased his speed. Cale continued to throw wind orbs into the whirlpools before moving to gather up the fateful encounter puddle water.

The next day, Cale was at the port early in the morning.

"Bob."

He introduced Toonka to the ship and the crew. Toonka stared at them for a while before starting to speak.

"Come after two months. The world will be different."

Cale started to think that he must absolutely not go to the Whipper Kingdom in the next two months. He could see the excitement in Toonka's eyes and knew that he was going to run wild.

"...Hurry back home."

Cale slowly moved away from Toonka and looked toward to crew to urge them to leave. Toonka watched Cale and hesitated for a bit before finally deciding to ask.

“Are you weak?”

“Yes.”

Toonka seemed extremely confused after hearing Cale’s sharp and clear answer. However, he then stepped onto the ship.

“Make sure you come after two months.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

Cale casually waved at Toonka and then turned away from the ship. At that moment, Toonka shouted loudly from behind Cale.

“My name is Toonka! Don’t forget it!”

Cale turned back around. The mid-sized ship was leaving the port with the sun shining down on it brightly while Toonka was waving at him from the deck.

It felt like a scene out of an anime when the main character was leaving. Cale thought he saw something he shouldn’t have seen and turned back around without any regrets. Cale continued to hear Toonka shout for Cale to not forget his name, but Cale made sure not to turn back.

But he was feeling full just thinking about what would happen two months later. He would be able to earn enough money to spend for a lifetime and get a way to build a strong castle as well.

Cale returned to the residence to greet the others. He started to pet the kittens, On and Hong, who had been hiding inside the residence since they got here, as he started to speak.

“You didn’t need to come to see me.”

“I needed to come to thank you as well as to apologize for scaring you.”

On and Hong dropped their jaws as they blankly stared at Witira. These kittens, who did not even have much reaction when they saw Paseton, had a completely different reaction to Witira.

Witira checked Cale's expression as she cautiously asked.

"Are you feeling okay, young master Cale?"

"Eh, same as usual."

Cale was always at 100 percent thanks to the Vitality of the Heart. It allowed him to feel perfectly fine, even after sleeping for only one or two hours

He then started to speak to Witira, who had suddenly stopped talking, as well as her younger brother Paseton next to her.

"That's enough thanks. If you thank me anymore, it will not feel genuine. Same thing with the apology."

"Got it. Thank you very much." [1]

Cale blankly stared at Witira, who was speaking formally to him, but observed her at the same time. The bloodline of the Whale King. This was different from the chief of any other Beast tribe, because the Whale King was the person who ruled half of the ocean. That made the Whale King no less than the king of a kingdom.

However, Witira was speaking formally and respectfully to Cale. She had not done so to Choi Han in the novel.

'Why is she hiding her identity, even though she revealed the fact that she is part of the Whale tribe?'

However, Cale did not reveal the question on his mind out loud. Cale was trying to hide the fact that he knew quite a bit about the Whale Tribe.

"You just thanked me again. I said no more."

Cale continued to speak to the two siblings who seemed to be straight out of a piece of art.

"I'm glad you siblings got to meet back up. You can go now."

He had sent Toonka back already and wanted to meet with the Ubarr territory's head before heading back to the Henituse territory. Of course, there was stuff for him to

complete back home, but he would at least be able to rest until he went up to the Whipper Kingdom.

It was at that moment.

“Excuse me, young master Cale-nim.”

Witira’s voice, and the voice of the Whale tribe in general, was as beautiful as the legendary siren, the dangerous beings that lured people to jump into the sea with their beautiful voice.

Cale started to get the chills thinking about that legendary existence. He slowly turned his head to look at Witira. He had an odd feeling in his mind as he did so.

“We have a very old enemy. I’m sure you already know because you healed Paseton. It is the mermaids.”

‘I know. I know very well.’

“However, my brother Paseton was able to figure out how they were able to suddenly get stronger.”

‘What the hell is she talking about?’

Cale started to frown as Paseton added on.

“The reason the mermaids were chasing after me was because I found the source of their sudden increase in strength.”

The mixed-blood Whale Paseton who was killed while being chased by the mermaids. There was a reason he was being chased, and the information he had was very important for the war between the mermaids and the Whales.

“I heard that young master is from the Henituse family.”

“...And?”

Witira and Paseton did not respond right away and exchanged glances with each other. That action made Cale even iffier. Witira finally turned toward Cale and started to speak.

“The Forest of Darkness. I wish to go there. No, I must go there.”

Cale subconsciously answered after hearing something he had never expected to hear.

“Our territory?”

The Forest of Darkness. That was the place that Choi Han had lived for tens of years, as well as one of the Western Continent’s five most dangerous and mysterious locations.

It was also the place that the Henituse family had kept under control for the kingdom for a very long time.

“I beg you. We have prepared a large compensation for you as well. May we please go with you?”

The large and small Whales both looked at him with sincerity. On and Hong tapped Cale’s knee with their front paws. It was their way of asking Cale to take the Whales with them. At the same time, there was a knock on the door before it opened. It was the Wolf child, Maes.

“Young master-nim, here is your tea and snack.”

Two other Wolf children came in with a tray and teapot. Beacrox was outside the door guiding them.

- I am much more handsome and beautiful.

Cale heard the Black Dragon’s mumbling before closing his eyes. He felt like he was standing in the middle of a chaotic whirlpool.

“Umm, young master-nim?”

Cale raised his hand at Witira’s cautious question, which made Witira stop talking. Once the Wolf children left and the room became quiet once again, Cale slowly opened his eyes back.

He looked very calm with his back to the couch, as he sat there with his messy yet cool looking red hair. However, in comparison, Cale’s dark brown pupils looked so deep that you could not see the end.

Witira and Paseton were looking into Cale's eyes when they heard his calm voice.

"First, explain everything to me."

Chapter 58

Currently Thinking (6)

“We have had many battles, both large and small, with the mermaids over the years. We control the north and the mermaids control the south.”

Paseton looked toward Cale. Cale, who was leaning on the couch, motioned to Paseton with his chin to continue with his story. On and Hong peeked at Cale’s face before slowly moving away from Cale’s knee and heading toward the corner of the room next to the Black Dragon.

“We are fighting to prevent the mermaids from creating a kingdom throughout the entire ocean. However, something changed six months ago.”

Paseton’s eyes started to fall.

“The mermaids started acting weird.”

‘Weird?’

Cale started to think about the novel’s information regarding the mermaids.

“They crossed over the implicit border between our two tribes and started to provoke us.”

This was something Cale knew about. The mermaids start to provoke the Whales so that they could take control of the ocean. Cale started to feel relieved after hearing information he already knew about. Paseton continued to speak.

“I was able to figure out the reason behind it.”

‘I’m sure it is because they want to create their kingdom.’

The Whale tribe in volumes 4 and 5 knew about the mermaid’s plan, and that was why

Choi Han was helping them fight against the mermaids.

“They are trying to take control of the sea route that connects the Eastern and Western continents.”

“What?”

Cale sat up straight and looked toward Paseton before asking.

“Isn’t the sea route something for the humans?”

There were a couple different sea routes that connect the Western and Eastern continents. The humans had found these routes, but they were far and dangerous, preventing an official route from becoming created.

According to the novel, there was an implicit agreement between the lifeforms living in the water and the lifeforms living above water. The sea lifeforms would not touch these sea routes and the land lifeforms would not meddle in the issues of the sea in exchange. That was why Choi Han was troubled on whether to involve himself in the battles between the Whales and the mermaids.

But the mermaids were going to break this agreement?

Witira started to speak.

“At first, we thought that the new king of the mermaids was leading the charge to create their kingdom, but the information Paseton brought back was different.”

Sigh.

Cale let out a sigh and took a sip of his now lukewarm tea.

‘I learned something I shouldn’t have learned again.’

The problem was that it was an even bigger issue than all of the other information he had learned up until now. It was even bigger than the issue with the crown prince Alberu.

“And there was one more weird thing.”

“Hold on.”

Cale prevented Witira from continuing by interrupting her.

“Just tell me why the Forest of Darkness is involved.”

Cale felt like he would become involved in something big if he heard anything else. He was starting to feel uncomfortable. Cale could see Witira slightly smiling.

Why did the smile of this beautiful Whale look so scary to Cale?

“Yes. This is regarding that!”

Witira brightly answered while Cale’s expression turned darker.

“As we mentioned, the mermaids became stronger about one or two months ago. We were able to figure out the, ‘ingredient,’ that caused this to happen.”

Cale closed his eyes. He slowly opened them back and asked the two Whales.

“That ingredient is in the Forest of Darkness?”

“Correct! You realized it right away!”

‘What the hell was going on? How could something from land in the Forest of Darkness make a sea lifeform stronger?’

Cale was shocked.

More importantly, how did the mermaids reach the Forest of Darkness? Cale had an iffy feeling about this.

Paseton’s eyes were sparkling as he decisively continued.

“I heard them talking about a swamp in the Forest of Darkness. That was why I was chased by them. We need to go to the swamp and figure out what the ingredient is.”

Cale did not need to hear anything else.

The Forest of Darkness.

Choi Han's Harris Village.

Cale thought about the ten Wolf children, who were probably outside the door right now, before turning to look at the corner of the room. On and Hong were there with an odd gap between the two of them. The invisible Black Dragon was probably between them.

- Human, what are you looking at?

'I was thinking about building him a villa.'

- Is it because you think I am the coolest? Fine, I will give you permission to keep looking at me.

"It's complicated."

"Excuse me?"

The Whale siblings' pupils grew larger. However, Cale did not look at them as he started to think.

'What would be the benefit?'

In order to figure out what the benefits would be, there was something he needed to understand first.

"Humans cannot interfere in the events of the sea."

Witira immediately responded.

"We know that is the case. However, we plan on making sure you are not at a disadvantage in any way from this. Everything will be done by us in secret."

She then added on to respond to Cale's statement.

"Furthermore, the mermaids broke the agreement first. They would have needed help from the land in order to reach the Forest of Darkness."

“But there is still a huge chance of danger. You know that, right?”

“Yes.”

Next came the second thing he needed to know.

“So what is in it for me?”

Cale informed them about the danger first before asking about this. A thick smile formed on Witira’s face as she slowly started to speak.

Cale knew what was going to come out of her mouth.

It would be the same condition the Whale King had offered Choi Han in the novel.

“A sea route.”

Cale started to smile.

“There is a sea route that the mermaids have prioritized in their takeover. It is one that the humans have not found yet. It is the safest sea route available.”

Cale asked, even though he already knew.

“Where is it?”

Witira, who did not know Cale knew about it, confidently answered.

“Our ocean.”

The Western continent’s Northern Sea.

“It is in the Whale tribe’s territory.”

Cale started to laugh as he asked.

“Isn’t the Whale territory the most dangerous? It is the location of the ocean’s strongest lifeforms.”

“But it is a safe place for you now, young master Cale. You will be given the rights to

use that route.”

Cale casually asked the confident Witira.

“But I don’t need it?”

“...Excuse me?”

Cale had absolutely no need for a sea route like that. It wasn’t like they were giving him the sea route. They were just giving him the rights to use it. Cale did not need that sea route in order to live peacefully.

However.

“Let me add one more condition.”

The sea route will make his family wealthier and stronger. Of course, Basen will have to work even harder as the head of the territory, but that didn’t matter to Cale. Cale could see the confusion in Witira’s face, and answered the future Whale Queen.

“Lend me your strength when I need it.”

“Our strength?”

“Yes, strength. Two times.”

Nothing else mattered to Cale other than keeping this Northeastern territory safe when the Northern knights headed down toward this warm and plentiful part of the continent. The whirlpools in the Ubarr sea and the naval base, why else would Cale have involved himself in all of this?

It was because Cale was preparing for the future based on his knowledge of the novel.

“We can’t interfere with the issues of the land.”

Cale looked at Witira’s pale expression before casually adding on.

“So you want me to put myself in danger, but you won’t do the same?”

“...We are a peace-seeking tribe.”

“I don’t think you can say that when you have been fighting with the mermaids for so long.”

The Whale tribe was feeling danger from the stronger mermaids. They had never felt such danger before. They probably wanted to completely get rid of that source of danger in order to maintain their peace.

Cale continued to speak to the silent Witira.

“The Forest of Darkness is one of the most dangerous and mysterious areas in the world. It is not somewhere you will have safe travels just because you are strong. Especially for someone like you, who does not know much about the land.”

Cale was planning on heading to Harris Village anyways.

“I will help you.”

The Forest of Darkness that Choi Han had lived in for tens of years. Choi Han did not know everything about the Forest of Darkness, even after spending that long in there. He just knew bits and pieces of it.

And the human who knew the most about the Forest of Darkness after Choi Han was, of course, Cale.

“I think I know which swamp it is.”

Witira could see Cale smile as he gently answered.

“Doesn’t the Whale tribe want a peaceful life as the strongest lifeform in the ocean?”

Cale could see Witira’s point of view starting to change. She was slowly changing from a position of request to a position of making a deal.

“You are right, young master Cale.”

The Whales that wanted peace. That was only possible because they were strong. The Whale tribe in the novel did anything and everything to fight the mermaids.

“I, Witira, as the successor of the Whale chief, accept your conditions.”

Witira could see that Cale was still calm after she revealed her identity.

“You were the successor? Great. We can finalize our deal without delay.”

He just seemed happy that they could complete the deal right then and there. He reached his hand out as he asked.

“Am I supposed to speak formally to you now?”

“There is no need to do that, young master Cale. I need to hide my identity.”

“Only I should know about it?”

“Correct.”

Cale shook hands with Witira. That was enough. Cale plopped down on the couch once the Whale siblings left. He then looked up at the ceiling and started to speak.

“Hey you.”

The Black Dragon appeared and grudgingly responded.

“Do not call me, ‘you.’”

“Then what should I call you?”

Cale could see the Black Dragon land on the other side of the couch and scrunch his nose.

“You figure it out, human.”

“Shouldn’t you first start calling me Cale instead of, ‘human’?”

Cale watched the Black Dragon with curiosity in his eyes as it snorted and avoided answering Cale’s question. However, he still said what he was planning on telling the dragon.

“Don’t you want a house of your own?”

Cale had been thinking about this for a while. If he was going to live with this Black

Dragon, wouldn't it be great to give this, 'greatest lifeform in the world,' a fitting house?

"A house?"

The dragon's wings started to flutter. Normally, dragons had a strong desire for independence. Although this one seemed a bit different, that desire should still be there. Cale casually nodded his head at the dragon's question.

However, the Black Dragon's response was weird.

"Are you kicking me out?"

The Black Dragon's wings were shaking and the mana in the area was starting to go wild. He seemed to be very angry. Cale immediately started to speak.

"Mm, it's more of a villa."

"...A villa?"

"Yes. Somewhere that you, me, On, Hong, and the Wolves will go visit and have fun."

Of course, some of that, 'fun,' would involve clearing the monsters in the Forest of Darkness. The Black Dragon stopped shaking his wings and comfortably laid down on the couch as he responded.

"...I will pick the location of villa."

The Black Dragon's eyes, that were slowly blinking like he was sleepy, suddenly became sharp as he looked toward Cale.

"In return, you will pick my name for me. You have one month to figure it out."

The Black Dragon did not care about the flabbergasted look on Cale's face, and closed his eyes to take a nap. The Black Dragon had a satisfied smile on his face. Cale turned his head after hearing some snickers to see On and Hong immediately stop snickering, acting like nothing was going on, and ask Cale a question.

"When are we going home?"

"I like fish, but I don't like the sea."

Cale answered the kittens.

“Soon.”

Two days later, Cale got on the carriage with Amiru and the others seeing him out. The carriage started to speed up, and Cale closed the carriage curtains as he started to speak.

“You can turn it off now.”

The Whale siblings appeared after they turned the invisibility magic device off. The Black Dragon also revealed himself.

Seeing the Black Dragon made Paseton flinch and Witira’s pupils dilate. The Black Dragon put his head on Cale’s leg and blankly looked toward the Whale siblings.

“What are you looking at?”

“...That fluctuation of mana back then. That was you.”

The Black Dragon and Witira stared at each other. The two of them was recognizing each other’s strength. They also wanted to see how strong the other really was.

At that moment.

Pat.

Cale’s hand landed on the Black Dragon’s head.

“Let’s go home quietly.”

Cale calmly stated and the Black Dragon quietly closed his eyes and went to sleep. The carriage immediately turned quiet.

A few days later, Cale arrived back at Rain City in the Henituse territory, and immediately started to frown. ^[1]

“Young master Cale-nim!”

“Oh!”

'How did the information from the capital reach here?'

Cale was looking at the people cheering at him and his group with a complicated expression.

'Did they forget about how he was trash?'

Of course, there were still people who immediately froze or ran away as soon as they saw his carriage.

However, a new title was now associated with Cale.

"Young master Silver Light!"

"Young master Shield-nim! Shield!"

Cale started to frown again. He wanted to know if there was a way for him to avoid those cheesy nicknames.

The Vice Captain then appeared within his line of sight. The Vice Captain, who was on a horse protecting the carriage, was proudly puffing up his chest with pride and started to speak as soon as he made eye contact with Cale.

"Young master, your heroic deeds have spread! Haha."

He slowly guided the horse close to the carriage and continued to speak.

"I think the name of Young master Silver Light is very cool. I am jealous, young master."

Slam.

Cale slammed the carriage window closed in the Vice Captain's face.

Cale did not care that the Whale siblings were looking at him with curiosity as he closed his eyes and crossed his arms.

At that moment, The Black Dragon lightly tapped on Cale's knee with his paw. Cale slightly opened his eyes and looked down. The Black Dragon saw the expression on Cale's face and cautiously asked.

“Are we home?”

Cale answered with disinterest.

“Yes. We are home.”

On and Hong started to stretch and the Black Dragon fluttered his wings. At that moment, Cale could hear the Vice Captain’s voice through the closed window.

“Young master. No need to be embarrassed!”

“Oo, Young master Silver Light!”

Cale could hear the Vice Captain as well as someone cheering for him.

‘That damn punk.’

Cale did not open his eyes again until they arrived at the Henituse estate. The trash who had left for the capital had returned home for a moment.

1. Western City seems to have become Rain City.

Chapter 59

Just Destroy It (1)

Cale's family was naturally the first to greet him back home.

Swish. Swoosh.

Cale's body was turned to the left and right against his will.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

Cale's shoulders, arms, face, and both hands were thoroughly inspected. Cale just had a blank expression during the entire process.

"Looks like you don't have any serious injuries."

Count Deruth inspected Cale for a long time before finally smiling in relief. Cale put on a soulless smile and fixed up his messed up sleeves.

Count Deruth was still strong because he still practiced with his sword every morning.

"How is your condition? Are you tired?"

"I am fine."

Once Count Deruth was finished, Countess Violan approached Cale.

"I heard you have more people with you now."

She was talking about the Wolf children and the Whale siblings. The Whale siblings currently looked completely different thanks to the Black Dragon's magic.

"Yes, it somehow ended up that way."

"Okay."

Cale could see the still flawless Violan's eyes turning chilly. [1]

"...I heard they still have not caught the terrorists."

"That is what I have heard as well."

"Alright. That'll do for now."

Violan's gaze turned to Count Deruth, who also looked back at her as they exchanged messages through their eyes. Cale wondered what they might be conveying, but pretended not to know of their silent conversation. Their gazes looked like they were going to do something big. Count Deruth started to smile gently as he started to speak to Cale.

"We can hear about the incident at the capital and your ancient power later, so go rest for now."

"Yes, daddy." [2]

Cale could finally head to his room at the Count's suggestion. However, there were more people holding him back. They were his younger siblings, Basen and Lily.

"Hyung-nim, how are you feel-."

"Ah, right."

Cale turned away from his siblings and motioned to deputy butler Hans. Hans immediately approached them.

"Here you go."

"Good."

Cale handed the items he took from Hans to Basen and Lily.

"Fountain pen for you, and a sword for you."

Cale had not forgotten about the items his siblings had asked him to get. He handed them their presents and looked at them before asking.

“What’s wrong?”

Basen’s face was stiff.

“I’m sure it was chaotic.”

“I still had to keep my promise.”

Basen listened to Cale’s emotionless response and stared at him before clenching onto the box with the fountain pen and starting to speak.

“I will study very hard. I will work for this territory’s administration and development.”

“Good, good.”

‘You have to be the next Count, so it will be great for you to study administration.’

It was a great mindset in Cale’s opinion. Cale started to smile while Basen hesitated for a moment before adding on.

“I will not do anything that will trouble you.”

“What do you mean?”

“Nothing, don’t worry about it.”

Basen did not say anything else after that. Cale looked toward Basen with curiosity before eventually turning away to look at his youngest sister, Lily Henituse.

The expression on this little 7-year-old’s face was oddly determined.

‘Now what?’

“Eldest brother.”

“Lily.”

“I will become strong enough to lead our knight’s brigade and protect our territory. I will protect everyone.”

“Oh, I will be cheering you on.”

Basen with administration and Lily with the knights. The two of them will make the territory run properly. How great would this be for Cale? Cale caressed Lily’s head with a satisfied expression.

“You will make an awesome knight.”

“Thank you. I will make it so nobody has to get hurt.”

“Good, good.”

Cale stopped caressing her head and started to walk.

“I need to go get some rest now.”

“Hyung-nim, please rest well.”

“You must rest well in order to get better!”

Cale waved at the two children and headed toward his room. The two siblings watched Cale walk away for a long time.

Cale had returned to his room for the first time in a long time, but his room did not feel like it had been empty for a while.

Meeeeow.

Meeow.

The two kittens rolling around on the bed seemed to be very excited, but Cale could not even put those kittens in his eyes, as he saw who was waiting for him outside his bedroom and started to frown.

“...You’re going to be the one serving me?”

It was Chef Beacrox. Was he trying to stop his duty as the Second Chef and do Ron’s job? Beacrox ignored Cale’s questioning gaze and handed him a letter.

“It is a letter from my father.”

“Ah, Ron.”

“He told me it was a report.”

Cale could see that the letter was not open. Although Ron had sent a letter through Hans when he had left, it seemed like he was now going to make his reports through his son.

“Great. Thanks.”

“Yes sir.”

“I set it up so Maes and the rest of the Wolf children will help out with the kitchen and serving.”

Beacrox’s shoulders flinched, but he managed to answer after a few seconds of silence.

“...I understand.”

He seemed to be very weak while walking away, but Beacrox was doing a good job with the Wolf children so far.

Click.

Cale closed the bedroom door and the Black Dragon immediately appeared.

“Our house is great. Our house is very very great.”

The Black Dragon jumped onto the bed with On and Hong in excitement. Cale snickered at the actions of the three children, whose average age was only 7-years-old, and leisurely opened up the letter. He then almost dropped the letter.

< I am still alive. You are still alive too, right, young master? >

The report had only a single line.

How could there be such a scary report? However, it let Cale know that it was actually sent from Ron. Well, the writing and the seal they agreed upon before Ron had left also supported that it was from Ron.

Knock knock knock.

“Young master, may I enter?”

Cale heard Hans’s voice along with the knock. The kittens calmed down while the Black Dragon immediately turned invisible.

“Enter.”

Hans entered with his arm full of snacks for the kittens as he started to speak.

“The mage said it is fine to visit at any time.”

“Then I’ll go now. You don’t need to follow.”

Cale left Hans in the room as he left to head to the administrative building.

- Where are you going? To meet with a mage?

Cale slightly nodded his head for the Black Dragon who followed him instead of staying back to play with On and Hong.

Cale was certain that the dragon got interested in the word, ‘mage.’

“Young master-nim, welcome back.”

“Thanks.”

There were many people greeting Cale once he entered.

“Hello, young master-nim.”

“Oh, long time no see.”

“I heard you did something big. You are so amazing.”

“Not really.”

Cale found it to be annoying and sped up. The invisible Black Dragon observed everyone before starting to flap his wings a little stronger and following after Cale.

The Black Dragon's ears flickered more and his smile became bigger as more and more people appeared to greet Cale.

Cale did not know any of this as he opened the door to his destination. Of course, he knocked.

"Young master-nim?"

"I haven't seen you before. Nice to meet you."

"It is my honor."

This was the mage responsible for the territory's magic video communication. The video communication was usually handled by someone between the beginner and intermediate level.

"Can we connect right now?"

"Of course. Where shall I connect you to?"

The mage continued to peek at Cale as he prepared the video communication device. The territory was currently filled with stories about Cale Henituse. Maybe that was why, but the mage couldn't help but be curious about who Cale wanted to contact as soon as he got home.

Cale did not know about the mage's curiosity, as he casually answered.

"The palace."

"Ah, the palac- the palace?"

"Yes."

Cale added on to specify a bit more.

"Connect me to his highness, the crown prince."

Cale saw the hesitating mage, and lightly started to frown.

"Why? Is it not possible? Then can I just leave a voice message?"

“Ah, no. It is possible. Of course it is possible.”

Since the palace received so many video communications, it was possible to leave behind a video or voice message, since it might not be possible for the palace to accept all requests due to the sheer number of requests.

‘This world is quite comfortable, other than the fact that you need mages for things every so often.’

The mage seemed to be flustered as he set the device to the palace and reported to Cale.

“It looks like it will be difficult to connect right now, but you should be able to leave a voice message for his highness.”

Cale preferred to talk face to face, but it wasn’t really necessary. Cale nodded his head and the mage started the device before heading out of the room. Once Cale was certain that the mage was out of the room, he started to speak toward the device.

“Your highness, it is Cale Henituse.”

He got straight to the point as usual.

“I plan on buying the Whipper Kingdom’s Magic Tower.”

The first use of the golden plaque. Cale imagined the look on the crown prince’s face once he heard this message. Cale also knew that Alberu had no choice but to approve. Alberu might act flustered and annoyed, but he would actually like what Cale was doing. He would also be curious.

That was why Cale added on another sentence.

“For your information, I will not be able to communicate via video or voice communication for a week. I need to head somewhere for a bit. I just wanted to let you know in advance.”

Cale then pressed the button the mage told him to press once he was done. A blue light appeared on the device to signal that the voice message was left.

He then called the mage back in and the mage looked at the light before starting to speak.

“It looks like the message was left properly.”

“Good.”

The mage saw the smile on Cale’s face and decided to speak.

“It looks like you left a pretty happy message?”

“Well, I guess so.”

The crown prince would probably hear the message tomorrow. Cale was smiling about how the crown prince would be waiting a week for his return.

-... I feel bad for the crown prince.

The Black Dragon suddenly started to feel bad for the crown prince. Cale ignored the comment and headed out of the communication room before heading toward the estate to look for Count Deruth. He wanted to take care of everything at once while he was here.



“You want to go to Harris Village?”

“Yes.”

Cale nodded his head at Count Deruth’s question. He had told his father about both the ancient power and Harris Village. However, Count Deruth was focused on Harris Village.

Deruth looked down at the, ‘Harris Village Incident Report,’ in Cale’s hands before looking up at his son. Cale’s gaze looked serious. He really meant it.

Harris Village.

Count Deruth had headed over after hearing the report from the investigation squad. He felt anger and sorrow once he saw what had happened.

The village really was completely destroyed, and there were no signs of the perpetrators.

That was why he had asked for cooperation from the nearby territories, as well as reaching out to the Information Guild to keep their ears open for any information.

“...Is it because you are concerned about that young man named Choi Han?”

Count Deruth had found signs of a battle at Harris Village. That allowed him to estimate the level of Choi Han’s strength. There was no way that his son, who had spent a longer time with Choi Han, would not know about his strength.

“I guess you could call it that.”

Cale nodded at Deruth’s words. That was the only excuse he could give anyways.

He could not say that he wanted to go there for the Wolf children’s berserk transformation and wild instinct training. He could not say it was for the Black Dragon’s growth. He definitely could not say that he was going to the Forest of Darkness to find a solution to the Whale tribe’s war against the mermaids.

Cale continued on, as he could see that Count Deruth was contemplating.

“The investigation squad has already completed their investigation, but I wanted to see it with my own eyes. Plus, I don’t even need to worry about the monsters. It is not winter.”

“That is true.”

The monsters of the Forest of Darkness. There was a large man-made stone wall between Harris Village and the Forest of Darkness. It was to protect against these monsters. [3]

There have been no monster attacks in the last 150 years. maybe people were scared because there are so many stories about how you’ll die if you go into the Forest of Darkness, but it was very rare for an actual monster to appear.

The problem was that any monsters that actually came out were extremely strong mutant monsters.

The Count found the fact that no monsters have appeared in 150 years to be odd, and so he had sent multiple investigation squads, but they could only roam around the Forest of Darkness without actually going in.

Finally, Count Deruth started to speak.

“There are still soldiers in Harris Village, so it should be safe.”

He seemed to have made up his mind and continued to speak.

“You have to take care of the people you have taken in.”

Cale slowly shook his head. It was an unbelievable misunderstanding.

“Choi Han is not my subordinate.”

Have Choi Han as his subordinate? Cale would never do such a thing. Deruth smiled at his son before nodding his head.

“Sure. Whatever you say. You are all grown up now.”

“Of course. I am 18 years old.”

“You grew up so fast. Alright. You can go now.”

Cale bowed to his father before turning around to head to the door. He could hear count Deruth’s voice behind him.

“Cale.”

Deruth continued to speak as Cale turned back around.

“The golden turtle has not always been our family crest. We are a family of warriors who are sworn to protect our family and anything else.”

The two of them made eye contact.

“We protect everything with our strong shell. However, you must remember that the

most important thing is to protect yourself. That is why we are a turtle.”

A turtle that protects itself with its strong shell. Count Deruth, who was known for being mediocre in all aspects by others, reminded his son once more.

“That is why you should always remember to put yourself first.”

He then smiled gently and added on.

“The ancient power you have earned is very cool.”

Cale smiled similarly to Count Deruth, as he jokingly answered.

“Isn't it? It is a very cool power. Oh, and I always put my own safety first.”

“Good. Then I'm glad.”

Cale observed Deruth nod his head and look back down at the report on the desk before heading out of the office. The Black Dragon had a question for him as soon as they left.

-The two of you are family, right?

Cale nodded his head at the question.

The next day, Cale got onto the carriage as he started to speak to the Whale siblings.

“Not bad for my new guards.”

Witira with her whip in her hand and Paseton with a sword in his hand, both smiled toward Cale. They were still under the Black Dragon's appearance magic. Cale started to head toward Harris Village, well, the Forest of Darkness, to be more accurate.

1. :O If I didn't know any better, I'd say this is Beacrox's mom!

2. I'm sorry, I just had to. It was the perfect opportunity.

3... The Henituse family is the Night's Watch...

Chapter 60

Just Destroy It (2)

Cale got off the carriage once they got to Harris Village, the village closest to the Forest of Darkness. His thoughts once he got there were simple.

“It’s black.”

It had been a little longer than two months, but Harris Village was still dark. Cale looked down toward his feet to see that there were still black ashes on the ground.

He then looked back forward and heard the Vice Captain’s bitter voice.

“Everything burned down.”

Cale turned around to look at Vice Captain Hilsman.

“Where did they say the graves were?”

“I will go find out.”

It had been a while since Cale had seen Vice Captain Hilsman being so calm, but it wasn't Hilsman’s fault.

A large stone wall. Harris Village, The village located outside of that wall heading into the Forest of Darkness, was no more. All that was left was the crumbling ruins of houses and dark ashes that served as signs that something once existed in this location.

“I feel a strong sensation of fire here.”

“You can feel something like that?”

“I am from a tribe of the sea after all.”

Witira lightly smiled and responded, but then she seemed to get emotional. However,

Cale did not have time to pay attention to her. He headed over to the Wolf children who did not seem to be able to get off the carriage.

“Maes.”

“Young master-nim.”

The eldest Wolf, Maes, was stiff after seeing the remains of the village in front of him. Cale was pretty sure that they were currently thinking of their hometown.

“Do you know why I brought all of you here?”

Maes could not answer Cale's question. Cale had not told him why he brought all of them here. It was a small group such that even deputy butler Hans and Beacrox were not here, but they were included.

Maes looked toward Cale with uncertainty. The young master that Lock told them to serve leisurely started to speak with his arms crossed.

“A lot of money is about to fall into my hands.”

“Excuse me?”

The sudden talk about money confused Maes and the Wolf children. Cale just continued to speak without care. The Magic Tower and the Queen of the Jungle. He would have a ton of money after these two interactions. He was also going to bring the rights to a peaceful sea route to his territory.

“And I plan on using some of that money to rebuild this village.”

The term, ‘village,’ caught the children’s attention.

“I also plan on building a villa here for all of you, me, and the rest of the group to play together.”

“...I heard the Forest of Darkness is dangerous.”

“Are you being serious?”

Cale questioned Maes and looked around. On and Hong were getting off the carriage and the Black Dragon was probably flying around somewhere. The Whale siblings were approaching a well that was covered in ashes.

“Will they be stronger than all of you when you grow up?”

The blunt question reached the Wolf children's ears.

“I promised Lock that I would take good care of all of you. That means I also have to provide a place for you to live like the Wolves you are.”

The moment a smile that seemed to say that it was not hard to accomplish at all appeared on Cale's face, a cold wind passed by them. Once some of the black ashes flew away with the wind, Cale's voice once again filled the void.

“I will create that place for you. I will help you grow and develop into great Wolves before Lock gets back.”

Cale looked toward Maes and the Wolf children and started to frown.

“No response?”

“...Y, yes!”

“Yes!”

Cale was not satisfied with the children's answer and started to walk away. Maes looked toward Cale, who was walking toward the wall, before turning around. His younger siblings were all looking at him.

Maes started to speak.

“...Let's all grow strong.”

Maes then looked around the village. He was thinking about how this black village would one day become a warm place like the hometown in his mind. Maes could feel that his siblings were feeling the same way, even though they did not say anything.

They were all Wolves.

Cale did not know about the Wolves' determinations as he tapped on the Stone Wall.

"It's quite thick."

Cale turned his head to see the only gate on the wall. This Stone Gate was the only access point to the Forest of Darkness. Of course, Choi Han did not use this gate when he first arrived at Harris Village. He jumped over the approximately 10-meter tall wall to enter.

"Is the Forest of Darkness past this wall?"

"Correct."

Cale peeked over to Witira, who had approached him. Her blue hair and pupils were both dyed brown with magic, and her face was also magically changed to an average face. However, her voice was still just as beautiful.

"I can't see past the wall, but it should be pretty unique seeing as how it is one of the Forbidden Regions, right? I wonder if the wall is strong."

Witira smiled as she lightly pressed onto the wall with her index finger. However, that finger stabbed right into the wall.

"...Haha."

Witira awkwardly started to laugh.

'Whales really are a scary race.'

Cale pretended not to see and turned away. These two long-haired siblings were still not used to controlling their strength on land. Cale quickly changed the topic.

"It's similar."

"Hmm? What is?"

"Past the wall. You said it probably looks unique."

“Ah.”

Witira let out a small gasp and Cale just shrugged his shoulders. He turned away from the wall as he continued to speak.

“The Forest of Darkness is a regular forest, just like any other.”

Cale saw that Witira had quickly approached him and was walking at the same pace as him and continued.

“But the thing inside of it is different.”

Nobody knew the reason why, but the Forest of Darkness often had mutated plants and monsters. It was easy to tell the mutated monsters apart because they looked different, but it was more difficult for the plants. Although they might look similar, a mutated version of an herb used for healing could end up being poisonous.

‘And there are also monsters that are generally found in the Eastern Continent as well.’

That was why it was one of the Forbidden Regions. It was the one place on this continent that they could find traces of the Eastern Continent.

“Young master-nim!”

Cale nodded toward Vice Captain Hilsman, who had called out to him, before turning back to speak to Witira.

“Please take care of the children.”

“Of course. There are quite a lot of young Beast people.”

Witira quietly watched Cale who sighed with an annoyed expression at her statement. Cale then turned around and headed toward Hilsman.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes sir.”

Cale only had Hilsman with him as they headed to a certain location.

“Here it is.”

Many graves were located here. This was where Choi Han had buried all of the villagers of the Harris Village.

Hilsman moved away from Cale and went to stand with the soldiers before looking toward Cale. The fact that Cale Henituse came to this village was surprising, but the fact that he looked for the graves as soon as he got off the carriage was even more surprising.

The Vice Captain had moved away to give Cale some alone time. Of course, Cale didn't even realize or care about the Vice Captain's action and just started to talk to himself.

“...The fact that he didn't go crazy is amazing.”

The fact that Choi Han remained sane after this incident was amazing.

Choi Han seemed to have put a lot of effort into these graves, but they were mostly just made with dirt. In addition, they did not have any gravestones, instead they just had their names written on flat pieces of rock. Cale counted the number of graves.

Choi Han had personally buried all of the bodies underneath the graves.

Cale had an interesting thought every so often. The reason behind the death of the Harris Village villagers that had remained a mystery in the novel. The novel made it sound like it was done for the main character to develop. But was that really it?

‘I feel like there is more to it.’

He kept having this feeling that there was more to the story these days. The reason was simple.

The Forest of Darkness, mermaids, and the destruction of Harris Village.

These three things gave Cale a scenario. However, this was a problem he would tell Lock to share with Choi Han or, if Choi Han ended up coming back with Lock, he would pass it off to Choi Han himself.

Harris Village was not Cale's problem but Choi Han's problem.

“Hilsman.”

“Yes, young master.”

So all Cale did was what he needed to do as a member of the Henituse family.

“Tell them to give them proper graves in the future. This is too shabby.”

“...Yes sir!”

Cale patted Hilsman, who responded more energetically than usual, on the shoulder before looking toward the soldiers. The soldiers slowly moved back and Cale kept his hand on Hilsman's shoulder and whispered.

“You know what to do?”

All sorts of emotions appeared on Hilsman's face as he recalled what had happened two nights ago. They were camping out in the when Cale called him over to his tent.

‘I will be going into the Forest of Darkness.’

‘What? Why would someone in recovery go somewhere so dangerous? The perpetrators will not be in there. Do you have to do so much for Choi Han-.’

The small Black Dragon appeared while Hilsman was talking. He was extremely surprised when it had happened. But that was not the end.

Meeeeeeow.

The kittens meowed before turning into people. They were Beast people. Furthermore, the Vice Captain felt chills for the first time in his life after seeing the woman pull out a long water whip and the man holding a sword with a whirlpool at its end.

‘Don't worry.’

At the center of all of these strong monsters was Cale, who had a relaxed smile on his face. The fact that Cale seemed so normal around them made Hilsman even more shocked.

Hilsman had made up his mind in the last two days. Although he was someone whose only goal was to become captain, he still wasn't an idiot.

“Yes, I got it, young master-nim.”

“Good.”

Cale turned away without any other issues from Hilsman. Hilsman followed right behind Cale, who continued to speak.

“I trust you.”

That made Hilsman clench his fists. He had thought that it would be enough if he could make it to the Captain position in the Henituse Knights' brigade. However, his mentality had changes in the last two days. He shared his thoughts with Cale.

“Young master-nim, I will get stronger.”

“Do whatever you want.”

Cale answered disinterestedly, only feeling relieved that it sounded like Hilsman would take care of the headaches.

That was why there were no guards by where Cale was standing in the middle of the night. The Vice-Captain had changed the patrol areas. Cale touched his magic bag while standing in front of the Stone Wall and started to speak.

“There are two swamps in the Forest of Darkness.”

This large forest only had two swamps. Cale leisurely continued to speak after making eye contact with Paseton.

“One is where monsters live and the other is where nothing can live.”

He then asked Paseton.

“Paseton, you said it looked like the mermaids' poison got stronger. So then which one do you think it will be?”

Paseton nervously answered.

“I think it is the one where nothing can live.”

“Correct. There is a high chance it will be that one. That is why we will be heading there first.”

They could head for the one with the monsters if the first one was not correct. That was actually easier location-wise as well.

At that moment, Witira, who had been quietly standing there, looked to Cale’s sides with concern. She then hesitated for a bit before finally asking the question.

“Won’t it be dangerous for the children?”

On and Hong were dangling on Cale’s sides.

“Young master Cale, you said that the Forest of Darkness is dangerous. And if it is a swamp where nothing can live, it is definitely either that there is poison everywhere or that the swamp itself is dangerous.”

Witira felt something was odd as she continued to speak. The Cat Tribe’s silver kitten On’s tail was happily wagging.

“A dangerous place like that is our specialty. But more importantly, he said we will not get hurt.”

The Cat Tribe was cautious and talented in searches. Witira looked up at Cale because On’s response was not what she had expected. Her eyes then turned wide.

It was because Cale was smirking and the other Cat Tribe child, the red kitten, was also smiling. Both of their smiles seemed villainous. Hong seemed to be very excited as he started to speak.

“I’m going to get stronger today. It’ll be fine!”

It was time to improve the poisonous fog.

A safe encounter for the children, who wanted to get stronger, and Cale, who wanted safety and peace, had arrived. Cale started to speak to Witira.

“It is a great opportunity.”

A poison fog strong enough to impact even the Whale tribe might be completed here if they were lucky.

Chapter 61

Just Destroy It (3)

Cale did not care that Witira and Paseton were looking at him with uncertainty. They would soon find out about On and Hong's skills.

"Let's go."

The Black Dragon started to fly up toward the top of the Stone Wall and Cale's body started to float while following behind it. Naturally, On and Hong were in Cale's arms as he headed up.

"Paseton."

Paseton nodded his head at Witira's after she called out his name, and the Whale siblings started to run up the Stone Wall at a quick pace. Water surrounded their feet and shot them up with every step.

Swiiiiiiish.

Cale cut through the wind and reached the top of the wall.

"Wow."

Hong's voice was full of admiration.

The Forest of Darkness and its vast natural setting appeared in front of the group.

This was the second largest of the five Forbidden Regions, starting from the tip of the northeast part of the Roan Kingdom and creating an oval shape until the eastern shoreline.

It was as large as two or three average sized territories. That was why the Roan Kingdom wanted to take control of this land, but nobody was able to do so until now.

'The Black Dragon or Choi Han might be able to do it.'

“It’s big.”

Cale casually commented before verifying the Stone Mountain at the center of the forest.

Unlike its name, the Forest of Darkness was not actually dark at all times. In fact, the forest, that was starting to light up from the rising sun, was actually beautiful to look at.

“Going down.”

“Sure.”

The Black Dragon slowly lowered Cale and the kittens to the ground. The Whale siblings were already down there waiting for them.

Crunch.

Cale lightly landed on the ground and stepped on some leaves underneath his feet.

“You said that the Forest of Darkness is divided into regions?”

Cale nodded at Witira’s question and lowered On and Hong onto the ground. He then opened up his magic bag as he started to answer Witira’s question.

“It is divided into the outer and inner regions.”

This large forest was divided into two stages. The first stage was the outer region, which was not that dangerous. There were only a few mutant monsters, and the majority were small monsters. On the other hand, the second stage, the inner region with the Stone Mountain at its center, was extremely dangerous.

‘Even Choi Han needed tens of years to freely move around the second stage.’

Freely moving around meant that there was no danger. Choi Han became stronger than all of the monsters. Of course, such an issue was not a concern for Cale’s group.

“The swamp we are heading to is at the border of the inner and outer regions. It should not be too dangerous.”

The outer region was large, but that was based on its width. It would not be very far if they walked in a straight line. The inner region was much larger, as it was in the shape of an oval.

“I plan on avoiding as many monsters as possible, but I don’t see a reason to delay our travel by taking roundabout ways.”

The fact that Cale did not plan to go out of his way to avoid monsters made the Whale siblings start to smile. As long as they were not going up against a dragon, there was nothing that the Humpback Whale beast people, the rulers of the ocean, had to fear.

“I am removing my magic.”

Once the Black Dragon said that, the Whale siblings’ appearances returned to normal. Witira started to smile with a refreshed expression.

“Ah. So refreshing. It was a bit stuffy under that magic. Thank you very much, dragon-nim.”

“Thank you very much, Dragon-nim.”

The Black Dragon flapped its wings at Witira and Paseton’s thanks before approaching Cale. The Black Dragon had an odd expression on its face.

“The mana is dark here.”

“Dark?”

The Black Dragon nodded at Cale’s question and looked around the forest.

“There is also a smell.”

“What kind of smell?”

“Something I am familiar with. But I cannot tell what it is.”

‘Familiar but can’t tell?’

Cale looked toward the Black Dragon with a confused expression, but the Black Dragon quickly looked away. He then continued to speak.

“It is not a dangerous smell. Just a very old one.”

‘Do dragons have a really good sense of smell?’

Cale was curious, but was not able to remain curious for a long period of time.

“What do we do from here? How do we get to the swamp?”

Witira could see Cale taking a piece of paper out of the magic bag. She then saw him open it up.

“...A map?”

It definitely was a map, but it was a pretty terrible one. However, it did have the Stone Mountain in the center with multiple other areas designated on it.

“Yes, it is a map.”

Cale had used the information he read in, ‘The Birth of a Hero,’ to create a map.

< Choi Han decided to expand outward, starting from the Stone Mountain. He was going to start with the north and eventually make his way through the entire Forest of Darkness. >

<... Choi Han finally figured out the entire inner region and then started to explore the outer region. >

<... Choi Han started to cry once he saw the large Stone Wall. The southern part of the outer region, the last section he had left to check, that was where he had found people. It had taken too long to get here. >

“But it is not very accurate. We need to experience it ourselves to explore and understand the Forest of Darkness.”

Cale then looked at Witira and Paseton, who were looking at him silently, and continued.

“So, take the lead.”

The Black Dragon was already flapping its wings and looking at the Whale siblings from behind Cale. Witira smiled and reached her hand out to Cale, who took a water bottle out of the magic bag and handed it to her.

Witira drank the water before reaching her hand back out.

Swoooooooooosh.

A three meter long whip appeared in her hand. She flicked it once before wrapping it around her arm and then joked with the group.

“I will safely get you to your destination.”

Cale found her to be reliable. A Humpback Whale. The royal family of the ocean was said to be able to easily handle the Killer Whale beast people, the troublemakers of the sea.

However, he did not plan to do as she said. But there was no need to tell her that right now. He then pointed to the entrance of the Forest of Darkness.

“Let’s go.”

Cale stepped into the Forest of Darkness.

The forest was not loud, but there were many different noises echoing inside. The sounds of insects, the roars of monsters in the distance, birds chirping, and even some other strange monster noises.

“Aren’t dangerous places usually quiet?”

Paseton cut through the bushes with his sword as he asked Cale.

“That is only when there is a single ruler in the area.”

The Forest of Darkness did not have a ruler. There was just a relationship of eat or get eaten.

“Be careful with your shoes. Make sure your skin does not get revealed.”

“Got it.”

Paseton looked down at the extra cloth between his pants and shoes and then looked back up at Cale. Cale's magic bag really was a magical bag. It had all sorts of items inside, and they were all necessary items for their travels.

'You need to be careful of your ankles here. The insects are dangerous too. You can get poisoned if you are bitten.'

Paseton recalled what Cale had told them and wondered how Cale knew about all of this. However, he could not easily ask because Cale was still very busy.

"Look forward."

"Ah, yes sir!"

Cale's blunt voice made Paseton quickly turn back forward and follow behind his sister Witira to clear their path. They were currently passing through short bushes that reached their waists.

Cale was furiously recording new information onto his map.

'It might be useless.'

Cale wondered if there really was a reason for him to make a map of the Forest of Darkness. It wasn't like he was planning on conquering the Forest of Darkness. However, he had a gut feeling that there would be a way for him to sell this in the future.

Cale's style was to do things right so that it could be used in the future to make money in the future if possible.

"We are almost through this bushy area."

"Next is the small monsters area."

Witira nodded at Cale's statement and leisurely flicked her whip. Honestly speaking, this group was so strong Cale did not need to be nervous. Maybe that was why, but Witira was calm once they got past the bushy area and arrived at the small monsters area.

Crack.

A branch broke under her foot. At that moment.

“Let’s proceed quietly.”

Cale commented while two sounds of something moving in the air suddenly appeared.

Paaat!

Paat!

Witira lightly waved her hand and there were some poisonous darts between her fingers.

Cale could see Witira turning around and smiling at him.

“I will take care of them quietly.”

Some monsters started to reveal themselves from behind the trees. Witira looked toward them with a blank expression.

“Are they mutated goblins?”

“Keeeeeeeeeeeeek!”

“Kirik, Kirik!”

They seemed to be larger than the average goblins and their faces looked a bit different as well. Furthermore, their skin was purple and red.

“No, they are not goblins.”

Witira turned toward the hand that was placed upon her shoulder. Cale stood next to Witira and looked out toward the monsters approaching them.

“Young master, it is dangerous in the front.”

“They are Honta, a type of monster from the Eastern continent.”

“Ah!”

The Forest of Darkness had monsters from the Eastern Continent. Cale had

encountered the first of the bunch.

“They are similar to goblins, but dumber and have a tendency to be more cruel and violent.”

“No wonder they seemed so foreign.”

Witira nodded her head and calmly answered.

“I will take care of them.”

“No, I will do it.”

“...Excuse me?”

Witira was blankly staring at Cale until she saw On and Hong jump over Cale and land on the ground. The two of them brushed their bodies off and prepared for battle.

“Even we can do this much.”

Witira could see that over 10 of these small monsters were heading toward them. She then looked back at Cale and saw that his body was becoming surrounded by fog. At the same time, On started to slowly disappear.

“I have something to test.”

Cale needed to know approximately how strong he was. This was the perfect time to test it out.

He had the Black Dragon to the right, Witira to the left, and Paseton behind him. Wasn't this the perfect setting for him to run wild without worrying about being harmed?

“Step back.”

“...Young master Cale.”

“Save me if it looks dangerous. How can I get hurt when I have all of you here?”

Witira took a step back after seeing the completely confident gaze in Cale's eyes that seemed to show full trust in the three of them. She went and stood with Paseton in the

rear, ready to step in at any moment.

At that moment, a shield was created around Witira and Paseton. The Black Dragon moved in front of the Whale siblings and started to speak.

“The poison is stronger than it looks.”

‘Poison?’

That made Paseton look at his sister with confusion. Witira didn’t have any idea as well, so she just shook her head and looked forward before letting out a gasp of admiration.

“...Not bad.”

On, Hong, and Cale were all surrounded by fog. Furthermore, the color of the fog was weird. It was closer to red than the usual white.

Poison. She seemed to understand the meaning of that word.

“Kirik, kirik!”

“Kiriiiiiiiiirik!”

“So loud.”

Cale created gusts of wind in one hand and both feet while being surrounded by the fog. Cale could feel the Vitality of the Heart starting to run wild in his chest and gave the order.

“Let’s go.”

Cale’s body instantly shot forward, and, at the same time, a thick fog surrounded the area.

“Kirik? Kirik, kirik!”

“Kiiii!”

The fog was so thick that you could not even see a few inches in front of your eyes.

Two strands of red fog started to move inside that thick fog.

Bang!

A whirlwind shot up to the sky and cut off one of the monster's arms in the process.

"Gek, kirik, kek!"

The red fog swallowed up that monster. Cale then shot up from right next to the spot and called forth his shield. The shield that was almost twice the size as Cale was roaming around the red fog.

Then suddenly, the shield dropped straight toward the ground.

Boom!

The sound of something being squashed came along with the loud noise.

As soon as the shield landed, a whirlwind filled with red fog was created right next to it. Two monsters who were caught up in the whirlwind were vomiting blood as they got blasted into the air.

"Kek."

"Ugh, kek!"

The monsters' poisoned bodies started to bleed out of every orifice.

Paseton blankly watched that scene before blurting out.

"I thought you said he was weak?"

"He is weak."

Paseton started to think after hearing the Black Dragon's confident answer.

'They may be small, but there are over ten of them. And they are monsters that are stronger than goblins.'

He looked toward his sister, who casually answered while smiling brightly.

“Looks like it will end soon.”

Boom!

Another loud noise was heard as the fog slowly started to dissipate. It had finished like she had said.

Paseton could now see Cale.

“They must be weak because we are still only near the entrance.”

Cale was speaking confidently while standing on top of his symbol, the silver shield. Underneath the shield were two monsters that were no longer recognizable.

Meeeeow.

The fog disappeared and the silver kitten On reappeared.

“The poison seems to be weak.”

The red kitten Hong reappeared while shaking his tail. The ground where Hong had been was completely black. Hong used his back paws to cover up the black dirt with some other dirt.

It was a peaceful scene, but Paseton couldn't help but ask after seeing the corpse of a monster that died from poison, a monster that was still dying from poison, and the monsters that died from being crushed by Cale's shield or Cale's whirlwinds.

“Young master-nim, you didn't get hurt, right?”

“Nope.”

Paseton urgently asked in shock.

“You're hurt?”

Cale pointed to the back of his hand.

“I got scratched.”

Paseton immediately shut up. Witira patted her brother’s shoulder before approaching Cale. Cale lifted his shield up and put it away. Since it was an ancient power, he didn’t need to even wipe the blood off of it. It would be completely clean when he summoned it again.

“Young master Cale, will you continue to take on the small monsters?”

“Probably.”

Cale washed the blood off of his hand after recalling his shield and whirlwinds.

“I can’t push myself too hard because I am still in recovery.”

Witira couldn’t help but laugh at the confident Cale, as well as On and Hong, who were getting feedback from the Black Dragon about their battle. Cale then urged her, as well as the rest of them, on.

“Let’s hurry.”

They still had a lot of ground to cover.

Two days later, Cale lowered the map in his hand and looked out in front of him as he spoke to the rest of the group.

“We are close now.”

The boundary between the inner and outer regions. It would not be much longer until they reached that point.

Chapter 62

Just Destroy It (4)

We should get there in about an hour.

Cale put the now accurate map back in his pocket before looking at his group.

Drip, drip.

Drops of blood were dripping from On's sharp claws.

"Grr, Grrrrrrr."

A small monster that looked like a fox was twitching on the ground from being poisoned. The Black Dragon came over to report.

"All done."

Close to twenty of these fox-like animals were dead.

"They really are getting stronger with experience."

On and Hong could not learn properly because they had to live in hiding as they had run away from their tribe. The Black Dragon naturally lacked experience after living in confinement his entire life. Cale was using the Forest of Darkness's monsters to quickly fill those gaps in their training.

"Should I have fought as well?"

Where else would he get an opportunity to safely build experience? The Black Dragon and the kittens all abruptly turned their heads as Cale mumbled to himself.

"Seems like a useless idea!"

"Weak human, it is too much for you at this point. One day is enough."

“Our youngest is right. You spit out blood from using the shield too much last time!”

Paseton let out a gasp.

“...Ho.”

However, Cale could see that Witira was just smiling brightly. He then saw her caress her whip with a determined gaze.

That was the look of someone who wanted to fight. She really was a scary person.

Cale quickly opened up his magic bag and gathered everyone around him.

“Everybody put this on before you go any farther.”

“Is it because of poison?”

“Yes.”

Cale answered Paseton’s question before putting the mask on the Black Dragon, who stuck his head toward him.

“Human. There is a weird scent.”

The Black Dragon frequently said this to Cale since a few days ago.

“What is it?”

“I don’t know. It is stronger here. It is something I am familiar with.”

“It is probably poison or the rotting smell from the nearby plants.”

Cale brushed it off and approached On. The Black Dragon that was ignored tilted his head while wearing the mask.

The Black Dragon started to mumble, but the mask prevented Cale from being able to hear what he was saying.

“...No. It is not such a trivial scent.”

However, the Black Dragon remained quiet because it was not a dangerous scent.

Cale then put the mask on On's face.

'Even Choi Han avoided this swamp.'

Choi Han had a pretty high resistance to poison. However, there was no reason to go through the swamp when there were many other paths in the Forest of Darkness while this path was messy and annoying.

Paseton approached Cale.

"It is really interesting that there are only two swamps in a forest this large."

"Really? I don't think so."

Paseton could see Cale's starting to smirk from underneath the mask. It was a pretty sly smirk.

"You'll understand once you see it."

Two swamps were enough. Cale verified that everyone had their masks on and checked their expressions. They had only been sleeping between 1 - 3 hours a night ever since they entered the Forest of Darkness.

"You all look so healthy."

Nobody looked tired.

"All of you really are amazing."

Paseton's face scrunched up at Cale's comment. He looked over to his sister and asked with his gaze.

'Should he really be saying that?'

Witira shrugged her shoulders and avoided answering the question. Paseton turned back to look at Cale, who looked to be the healthiest of the group right now.

Paseton then looked toward the Black Dragon and the kittens. They rushed over to

look after Cale whenever they thought Cale was tired. Of course, Cale was full of energy thanks to the Vitality of the Heart, but nobody else knew about that.

Witira continued to caress the whip on her arm as she asked Cale.

“Young master Cale, is it our turn now?”

Cale pointed with his foot instead of responding.

Right there was the boundary between the outer and inner regions.

“Grrrrrrrrr!”

“Caaaaaaw!”

“Squeeeeeek-”

A plethora of noises poured out toward Cale as soon as he stepped past the boundary. He then proceeded to speak to Witira, who took a step past the boundary as well.

“Go.”

A humanized Humpback Whale. This ruler of the sea was not the type to be careful.

“It’s your turn.”

Flick.

Witira flicked her whip as soon as Cale finished speaking.

Boom!

A large crater was created on the ground from the flick of the whip.

“Grrrrr!”

“Keeeeeeeeee.”

“Squeeeeeek.”

The noises disappeared.

Witira, someone whose strength fell between Choi Han and the Black Dragon, was itching for a fight. Her heart had been beating wildly while looking at the better-than-expected skills of the group.

“Shall we hurry on?”

She smiled and asked Cale as this mysterious young master responded back with a completely relaxed smile.

“Yes, as fast as possible. I want to go home and rest.”

Paseton let out a sigh after hearing what Cale had to say, before taking out his whirlpool sword.

The enemies slowly started to reveal themselves in the now quiet forest.

The boundary between the outer and inner regions was a location for monsters that were weaker than the monsters in the inner region, but the monsters in front of them were still much stronger than the so-called weak monsters outside.

Mutant ogres, mutant trolls, spider-like monsters from the Eastern Continent, and even high-level monsters appeared.

“The monsters here really are different. They still want to fight, even after seeing Dragon-nim.”

Paseton stepped forward and peeked back and forth between the Black Dragon and Cale. Cale nodded his head and gave an order.

“Hurry up and fight.”

“...Yes sir.”

Paseton jumped forward and the battle between the strong monsters and the Whale siblings began.

The monsters in the Forest of Darkness did not get scared, even in front of strong creatures like a dragon or members of the Whale tribe. In fact, it made them charge at

them even harder. It was like they were fighting for their survival, thinking that they could not allow a strong person who could rule over them to appear within their Forest of Darkness.

Cale leisurely watched for a bit until he saw a shield being cast, whereupon he asked the Black Dragon.

“What about you?”

“Too annoying to deal with those weaklings.”

“Sure. Let’s go.”

Cale started to slowly walk forward with the shield.

Boom!

An ogre’s body was split into two even pieces. Some of the blood spurted onto the shield.

Flick. Boom!

The sound of the whip was followed by the explosion of a giant spider, and one of the legs flew over and hit the shield before falling to the ground.

“Watch and learn.”

Cale walked through the battlefield in a straight line as he leisurely spoke, while On, Hong, and the Black Dragon all pretended not to care but were seriously watching the battle.

The monsters that appeared in front of Cale who seemed to be on a stroll through the forest all disappeared thanks to Witira. Cale stopped once he could see the swamp in the distance before starting to speak.

“This is now the start of the swamp region.”

Boom. Boom.

The mutant troll’s head fell to the ground before it was followed by its body. Witira

flicked off the fluids on the whip as she responded.

“Let us keep moving.”

“Sigh.”

Paseton let out a sigh as he followed his sister to Cale’s side. The Whale siblings suddenly stopped walking and tightly pressed their masks. It was because poison and a rotting smell entered their nose.

At the same time, their eyes opened wide after seeing the swamp that was covered by large trees until now.

“What do you think? Isn’t it fitting for the Forest of Darkness?”

Cale turned away from the shocked Paseton and looked toward the swamp.

The swamp was as wide as a lake and pitch black.

He spoke to the rest.

“It is a pretty large lake. It is large enough for multiple huge ships to fit. It is also unique compared to other swamps because this swamp is black.”

It was the most fitting spot to explain the reason for the name of the Forest of Darkness.

This swamp was the only actual black spot in the forest.

“...I didn’t expect it to be so big.”

Witira let out her admiration. She then took a gulp after looking at the swamp area. Cale understood why she would have such a reaction.

All of the plants were either black or brown, yet they were not dying, and instead they were extremely vibrant.

“It must be poison.”

Cale nodded in response and tightened the mask on his face. He also tightened the laces on his shoes and put on some gloves.

The rest of the party followed suit.

They could hear Cale's voice coming through the mask.

"The plants here have grown up with in the poison and have mutated to survive in the environment. Although it might not be a deadly poison, they all have some type of poison within them. Be careful and make sure the plants do not touch your skin."

That made Paseton think about the mermaids' poison and quickly, make sure he was completely covered. He then felt that something was odd.

"...Hong?"

The red kitten strolled past him. Hong looked toward Cale and dashed into the swamp region after seeing Cale nod. Witira tried to reach out and grab him, but it was too late.

"Hong!"

Hong did not have a mask nor anything on him. Witira looked toward Cale with shock, but Cale did not seem to be fazed. Witira then heard Hong's voice.

"Delicious!"

Hong was wagging his tail and chewing on a black plant. Cale stepped into the swamp region as well and approached Hong.

"How is it?"

"It's just a paralyzing poison, but it is tangy!"

Cale sternly commented to the excited Hong.

"Slow down, you might choke. Eat slowly, but eat a lot."

"Okay. I feel like I am getting stronger."

Cale snarkily commented to the Whale siblings, who were still blankly standing outside the swamp region.

"Are you not coming?"

The Whale siblings slowly entered the swamp with chaotic expressions on their faces. Cale slowly led them closer to the swamp. Thankfully, the brown ground and black swamp were easy to differentiate from each other, so there was basically no danger of falling into the swamp lake.

That was why Cale was able to quickly inspect his surroundings.

“Paseton.”

“Yes?”

Paseton was standing there with a stiff expression on his face, acting as if that blank expression from earlier had never existed. Cale pointed to a location nearby.

“Looks like someone was here recently, doesn’t it?”

There were some marks on the ground and lots of footprints. Since the monsters did not come to this area, there was only one explanation.

“I will investigate it.”

Paseton immediately went to investigate and Cale turned away from him.

The ingredient from the swamp that made the mermaids stronger. The evidence they left behind gave Cale a good idea of what it might be.

“...Looks like there is a good chance it was the swamp itself.”

There were many marks on the ground next to the swamp. They probably didn’t care about hiding their tracks, since they believed that nobody would come here.

Tap tap.

Cale stopped looking at the swamp and looked down after feeling a tap on his leg.

Hong seemed to be really excited, as his mouth was covered in black and he was rubbing on Cale like he was trying to be cute.

“I want to try drinking the swamp too.”

Witira, who was next to them, flinched, but Cale did not care as he responded to Hong.

“Wait for now.”

Hong’s ears fell.

“...But I want to get even stronger.”

“Why?”

Hong peeked toward the Black Dragon and his sister, On. A large hand patted Hong’s head at that moment.

“Don’t think about useless things and take it slow. You’re already stronger than I am.”

“But everyone is stronger than you are.”

Cale lightly patted Hong’s head and told Hong to go over there and eat some other poisons.

Cale thought about how he would make On and Hong stronger in the future before turning away. However, that made him immediately start to frown.

‘What’s wrong with him?’

The Black Dragon seemed to be acting odd, as he continuously tilted his head to the left and right.

At that moment, Paseton approached.

“There are no signs of digging up any of the nearby plants recently. However, there are many signs that they are doing something to the swamp itself. Based on the marks, I would say they were here between two weeks to a month ago.”

Cale looked toward the wide swamp and responded.

“It looks like they gathered up some of the swamp.”

“That does seem to be the case.”

Cale was about to speak after seeing Paseton and Witira looking serious. However, the Black Dragon approached at that time and Cale started to frown.

“Why did you take the mask off?”

“It was not a familiar scent, but a familiar scent of mana.”

‘What?’

Cale started to get the chills. The Black Dragon pointed to the swamp with his short front paw.

“There is a familiar scent of mana here.”

Cale started to frown even more. The Black Dragon confidently added on.

“There is the scent of dragon mana in the swamp.”

Cale urgently looked toward the black swamp. This extremely vast swamp was massive, but Cale was thinking about the size of an adult or ancient dragon.

“Of course, there is no sign of life in the mana. It is just a very weak trace.”

These words were the final blow. The unbelievable thought in Cale’s head quickly became the reality. He then also felt like he knew how the mermaids got stronger.

There was a dragon corpse inside the swamp.

Chapter 63

Just Destroy It (5)

Cale immediately asked the Black Dragon.

“How can you feel the scent of dead mana?”

Mana. That symbolized a power that existed in nature.

In some senses, it was similar to an ancient power that was created in a specific location. However, the two were very different.

The difference was between whether or not it could be left behind.

Mana disappeared as soon as the person who controlled that mana died, while ancient powers could be left behind.

The Black Dragon easily answered.

“I think it is because of the swamp. The swamp is dominating the mana and preventing it from dissipating.”

‘Dominating?’

Cale’s expression turned odd but the Black Dragon kept silent. The Whale siblings, as well as On and Hong, approached Cale and the Black Dragon.

The Black Dragon started to speak into Cale’s mind.

- I am very perceptive.

Cale made eye contact with the Black Dragon.

- I feel a power similar to your shield and wind inside the swamp.

“Ha!”

Cale inadvertently let out a gasp-like laughter. The mask-less Black Dragon started to smile. Cale also started to lightly smile as well.

Ancient power.

There was an ancient power inside the swamp and it had a good chance of being related to the keyword, 'dominate.'

'This is a first.'

This was Cale's first time finding an ancient power that was not discussed in the novel. Of course, he had no idea whether this was an ancient power left behind by someone or one that was naturally developed in this location.

"You are very smart."

"Correct. I am smart."

The rest of the group became even more curious after seeing the Black Dragon and Cale smirking mischievously.

"Young master Cale, can you tell me what is going on? What do you mean by the scent of a dragon's mana?"

Cale turned around to look at Witira. She was asking Cale, but seemed to have at least a decent idea of what was going on.

"I'm sure you already have an idea, but there is a good chance that there is a dragon corpse inside the swamp."

"...A corpse?"

"Yes. But it is most likely very old and probably mummified."

Cale only knew about the Forest of Darkness based on Choi Han's experience as described in the novel. However, there was a number of very important information told by the novel.

< The lifeforms in the Forest of Darkness have had to always fight for survival because there has never been any single dominant ruler. >

No ruler.

It was probably correct to say that there were no dragons in the Forest of Darkness while Choi Han was there. Furthermore, people in the novel never mentioned a Dragon's Lair or a dragon in the Forest of Darkness.

'It must mean that it is a very old corpse.'

Tap. Tap.

Cale lowered his head to see Hong point to the swamp with a bitter expression.

"I guess I can't eat the swamp water?"

Hong seemed to have lost his appetite after hearing dragon corpse. Cale could see that Hong was heading over to the Black Dragon to apologize without waiting to hear his answer.

"Sorry. I thought it would be delicious."

"I do not care."

The Black Dragon responded back with a curious expression.

"The thing inside the swamp and I are different. We are not related."

Dragons really didn't seem to care about their, 'tribe.' They all just considered themselves to be individuals unique from anything and everything else in the world. Cale looked at the completely unperturbed Black Dragon before he started to speak.

"I thought that the mermaids would have gotten stronger from the poison in the swamp. Their specialties are poison after all."

The Whale siblings Paseton and Witira looked toward him.

"However, now I am thinking that it is probably the dead mana in the swamp and not the poison increasing their power. Either that, or it is from both the poison and the dead mana."

Cale looked at the siblings.

'If it is poison, they would just need to take a sample to find an antidote. However, this is a whole different ball game if it is from the dragon's dead mana.'

Cale could see Witira frowning while Paseton was looking at the black swamp and the nearby area. A depressed comment came out of his mouth.

"...It's too wide."

Witira spoke up as well.

"I am not sure about what we should do."

They were able to narrow down the cause of the mermaids' source of strength, but they could not figure out a way to deal with it. It would be one thing if it was poison, but the other issue was too complicated to solve quickly.

"It's not like we could prevent anyone from coming into the Forest of Darkness or stay here protecting this black swamp at all times."

Witira looked out toward the swamp once more. A dragon's corpse? That was an unexpected problem. The fact that this swamp was large enough to completely submerge an adult dragon made things even more difficult.

A normal dragon grows in size a total of three times. An adult dragon that completed all three stages of growth was humongous. They were at least 5 meters larger than a Humpback Whale like herself.

At that moment, he could hear Cale's voice once again.

"It's simple."

His voice was peaceful. Witira turned her head. Cale had walked up to the edge of the swamp while smiling.

"First, take as much of the swamp water as you need."

Cale turned away from the swamp and looked toward Witira.

"And then we make another deal."

“...Deal?”

Cale’s smile became bigger after watching the confusion spread on Witira’s face.

‘I didn’t plan on doing this, but...’

Originally, he was just going to figure out what caused the mermaids to get stronger before getting out of here. However, the situation was different now.

‘A pool of dead mana is dangerous.’

The mermaids were probably able to absorb the dead mana because they were dark creatures. However, it was just a dangerous poison to natural creatures like the Whales or humans.

There was no reason to keep something around that was helpful to the enemy while dangerous to himself.

There was also a new benefit in front of his eyes.

Even if it was a mummified corpse, the dragon’s bones were still present. ^[1]

Furthermore, there was also the ancient power.

“Yes. We will make another deal.”

“What does that have to do with dealing with this situation?”

Witira subconsciously caressed her whip again. An unexpected sense of anticipation filled her heart, and Cale fulfilled that anticipation completely.

“I will take care of it for you.”

Witira could see the excitement in Cale’s eyes. She had never seen such a look in Cale’s eyes before.

Cale pointed to the swamp and gave a short answer.

“I’ll just destroy it.”

“...What?”

Witira looked at the black swamp. The very large black swamp. What did he say he was going to do to this? She was staring blankly at the swamp when Cale started to speak again.

“No need to overthink it.”

She looked back at Cale. He still had a smile on his face and seemed to be very excited.

“I will get rid of it for you, so make a deal with me.”

Cale was thinking about what he was about to do.

This was the Forest of Darkness, somewhere where nothing would seem weird. It was a place where he could claim anything that happened to be an accident and feign ignorance.

“Young master Cale.”

It was a deal that Witira could not reject.

“Let’s make a deal.”

Cale and Witira decided to make a second deal.

“But there isn’t anything I need right now.”

“Please let me know whenever a condition you like shows up. I will accept it as long as it is something reasonable for both parties. This is a promise I, Witira, makes with my name on the line, so you do not need to worry.”

Cale casually nodded his head at her words. It was fine if she did not do anything for him. The Dragon’s bones and ancient powers were enough of a reason to give it a try.

“By the way, anything coming out of the swamp belongs to me.”

“...Sure.”

Witira was disappointed about the dragon’s bones, but decided not to be greedy. The

Whale tribe was able to rule because they were strong on both land and sea.

However, water was also their weakness. Underwater, inside of the swamp. If the swamp water and mud was poisonous, it would be a difficult environment for the Whales to survive.

Cale decided to proceed right away after hearing Witira's response. He stood at the border of the swamp and waved toward the rest of the group.

"Step back."

The rest of the group became confused. However, Cale just sternly said it once more for these chumps that won't listen to him when he wanted to get to work right away.

"Go back into the forest and stay there. Don't come out until I tell you to come out."

Cale opened up the magic bag and continued to speak.

"You could get poisoned or hurt if you don't listen."

Paseton, who had been listening quietly, started to speak.

"Young master-nim, will you do it on your own?"

"He is not alone."

The Black Dragon responded for Cale. Paseton turned toward the sound of the voice and then flinched. He could see the clear vibrations of mana around the Black Dragon. They were like waves floating around the Black Dragon, who had found the perfect opportunity to show off his strength.

"The two of us will take care of it, so go wait over there."

"Young master Cale, I really can't tell what your limits are."

Cale just let Witira's comment go in one ear and out the other ear, as he patted On and Hong on the head. Hong's ears and tails were down.

"You two stay there as well. On, take good care of Hong. Hong, I'll bring you some of the swamp poison, so just wait for me."

Hong nodded his head at Cale before approaching the Black Dragon.

“Be careful. Don’t get hurt.”

“I understand.”

The Black Dragon nodded his head at Hong and stood still while Hong patted him with his front paws. Cale thought that the kids were playing well with each other and took an empty bottle out of the magic bag and threw it toward Paseton.

“Put the swamp water into the bottle. It is a magic bottle, so it won’t break.”

“...How did you even prepare for this?”

Paseton looked toward Cale with admiration, but Cale did not care. Instead, he continued to ruffle through the magic bag that looked small on the outside but was very spacious on the inside.

“Young master-nim, I filled the bottle.”

“Then go wait over there.”

Cale told Paseton, who had filled the large bottle with mud and water from the swamp, and the rest of the group to move along. Witira hesitated for a moment, but moved back toward the forest at the kittens’ urgings.

The Black Dragon verified that everyone was safely far away before approaching Cale.

“What do you plan to -.”

The Black Dragon stopped talking after seeing what Cale took out of the magic bag. He then continued speaking after seeing Cale gently smiling at him.

“Human, you look a bit smart right now.”

“Nah.”

There were two magic bombs in Cale’s hands.

These were different from the bombs with the multiple explosions he used in the

Ubarr coast. These were the stronger and more destructive bombs used in the novel when the Ubarr mages launched their final attack.

Two of those bombs were in Cale's hands right now.

"I was debating where to use these, but I guess an opportunity has shown up."

Cale handed the two magic bombs to the Black Dragon.

"Run wild."

"Can I really do that?"

Cale shortly answered the Black Dragon, who had caused a very visible fluctuation of mana to show how much he wanted to use his full strength.

"Don't ask something so obvious. Naturally, make sure I don't get hurt."

The Black Dragon started to smile.

Swiiiiiiiiiiiiish.

A gust of wind started to run amok with the Black Dragon at the center. Natural power. The mana was triggering the air in the vicinity.

Cale quickly summoned the Indestructible Shield after feeling like he was going to be pushed back.

At the same time, he could see layers of shields being created around him.

One layer, two layers, three layers.

It was a total of three layers.

"I need at least this much to make sure you don't get hurt."

The confidently speaking Black Dragon's eyes were sparkling. Dragons really had completely different personalities compared to Whales. Rather than loving peace, dragons preferred to rule with fear and destruction. They were selfish and violent beings.

Cale pointed toward the black swamp once the Black Dragon had finished preparations for the bombs and looked toward him.

“Destroy it.”

Chapter 64

Wasnt Supposed to Be Like This (1)

The mana in the black swamp and the air around them was fluctuating.

The Black Dragon was in the sky looking down.

He was a dragon in the end.

A violent and ominous aura was dominating the swamp region. Cale turned around to look at the boundary of the black swamp and the forest region. Since that violent and ominous aura was controlling the boundary, the forest was not shaking.

However, the group waiting for them there all had pale expression.

Cale recalled the information about an average dragon's strength in, 'The Birth of a Hero.'

< The reason the Whale Tribe was said to be able to survive against a dragon was simply because they would manage to survive without dying. There was nothing the dragon could not kill if it really wanted to do so. You just needed to look at a dragon's strength to see why the dragons say that they are above all else. >

Booom! Boom! Boooooom!

Cale turned his gaze back up to the sky. Multiple strands of mana were crashing against each other as they gathered around the Black Dragon. The Black Dragon looked down at the swamp calmly.

A 4-year-old dragon that used to get tortured.

That same dragon could no longer be found.

< A dragon does not need to dominate things because its existence itself is a symbol of dominance. >

Cale started to feel chills down his back.

Oooooooooo-

Pssssssssh-

Caaawwwwww-!

Squeeeeeeeak-!

The Forest of Darkness started to cry. Cale looked around and did not see any other existences. However, there were many different sounds of screaming coming from the forest.

The monsters that had not feared the Black Dragon earlier were all so scared that they were screeching at the top of their lungs.

- So loud.

Cale looked toward the Black Dragon after hearing it speak in his mind. The Black Dragon was looking down at Cale as well. The two magic bombs were already floating in the air.

There was just emptiness in the Black Dragon's eyes. All of this was just trivial to him.

“Ha!”

The corners of Cale's lips slowly went farther and farther up. The Whale Tribe's Witira? An overwhelming dominance that was worlds apart from the large Humpback Whale was coming from the Black Dragon's tiny body right now.

Cale answered in a loud voice.

“Do it fast, because it's loud for me too!”

- I knew you would say that.

The Black Dragon finally started to smile as his unique black mana started to surround him.

Oooooong.

Now the ground was fluctuating. Cale could feel the vibrations underneath his feet.

'Amazing.'

However, he didn't have time to keep looking at the vibrating ground.

The black mana had disappeared. In its place was a large bright orb above the black swamp.

Crackle, crackle.

The orb was like the sun, gathering all different sources of light as they crashed against each other like serpents.

Cale gulped. It was at that moment.

Swiiiiiiiiish-

The wind started to roar as the Black Dragon's black mana entered the two magic bombs

Click. Click.

The two bombs started their countdowns.

Two bombs that were made to be as explosive as possible, along with an orb that looked like a giant meteor.

'Rather than destroying it, it is going to obliterate it.'

Cale wondered whether the dragon corpse would be okay, but could not actually ask about it.

- I'm doing it now.

Cale could not see anything else after the Black Dragon said that.

Baaaaaaaang!

Cale covered his ears as the Forest of Darkness echoed.

“Ugh.”

Cale stumbled from the ground’s vibrations, but did not close his eyes.

The world turned black.

A black fluid shot up into the sky as an extremely bright light shined in Cale’s eyes.

Screeeeeeeeeeeeech-

A chilling noise rang in Cale’s ear.

The light started to crack as it made contact with the black fluid. Cale raised his head.

A black pillar shot up into the sky making it look like night and day coexisted together. However, all of that quickly disappeared. The black pillar turned into dust and blew away with the wind.

Crackle.

The final shield broke down. The other two had already broken down earlier without any noise. Cale was not hurt.

The black swamp had disappeared, but everything else remained normal.

Cale turned his head to see that Paseton had fallen on his butt with the kittens in his arms. He could also see Witira getting back up while holding onto a tree trunk.

There was deep fear in both of their eyes.

But the forest was not harmed. Only the swamp had disappeared. It was an amazing degree of control. That was why the Whale tribes could not get rid of the fear in their eyes.

Cale turned back around to see that the black pillar had disappeared, and the Black Dragon was standing alone. The Black Dragon was already looking at Cale as well.

Cale spoke to the tiny dragon.

“Good work.”

All five of the dragon’s senses were very alert right now. He could see that Cale, who was smiling at him, had goosebumps on his arm. He could also see Cale’s gaze as well.

“You did really well.”

Cale’s calm gaze made the Black Dragon start to smile. He then honestly shared his feelings.

“So refreshing.”

That made Cale go stoic. Seeing the dragon really looking refreshed made Cale make up his mind to never make this dragon angry.

Ron, Choi Han, and Beacrox were also concerning. There were too many strong beings surrounding him for him to be happy that he was able to defeat a couple of small monsters.

Cale reaffirmed his desire to live a peaceful life after feeling the existence that is a dragon. He then looked at the bottom of the swamp that was now visible.

The black swamp was gone, but there was still a bit of black liquid remaining.

“It is in the shape of a dragon.”

There was a block of black mud, looking like a clay dragon, remaining in the size of an adult dragon. He also found a white crown by where it seemed like the dragon’s head would have been.

It was the ancient power.

“Can I do as I please?”

The Black Dragon responded to him.

“Don’t ask such obvious questions.”

“Thanks.”

Cale did not notice the Black Dragon flinching as he headed toward the dragon-shaped black mud. He would probably find the dragon's bones if he got rid of this mud.

'If I get this and the magic power...'

What a jackpot.

Cale started to smile and his palm started to itch with excitement.

Paaat!

The shield appeared in front of Cale and a whirlwind started to roar in each of his hands. The whirlwinds were as large as possible and wind started to form underneath Cale's feet as well.

Swoooooooooooooosh.

It was the moment the Sound of the Wind gathered together.

Spuuuuurt!

The black mud shot quickly toward Cale as if it wanted to swallow him.

It was at that moment that Cale heard the voice of the ancient power's owner. This was also not a location-based ancient power, but one left behind by someone.

- Do you know what it means to dominate?

Boom. Boom. Boom.

The cold voice that seemed to pierce through his skin made Cale's heart run wild.

And then Cale's body suddenly shot forward.

Bang! Bang!

The whirlwinds in his hands shot out like arrows. The whirlwinds cut through the black mud to create a path.

Cale quickly walked through that path.

The shield and the wings prevented the black mud from landing on Cale.

- Dominating is to take away everything, even the enemy's breath.

Boom. Boom.

His heart beat madly every time he heard the voice.

It was like he was fearful of the voice.

“Ugh.”

Cale bit down on his lips because of his heart's wild beating.

Swooooooosh-

The whirlwind arrows cut through the black mud again. Cale continued to hear the owner of the ancient power's dominating voice in his mind.

- Do you know what the easiest way to take away your enemy's breath is?

Swiiiiiiish, swiiiiiiish.

Whirlwinds continued to pour out of Cale's hands to clear the way for him. Cale was surrounded by the black mud, making him become covered in darkness.

However, Cale had to continue to walk down the path created by the whirlwinds.

He then heard the voice again.

- Fear is the answer.

Cale started to smile. Fear?

Cale, no, Kim Rok Soo, had overcome all sorts of fears.

He needed to do so because he wanted to live. He wanted to live a happier and more peaceful life than anyone else.

Humans already lived a life full of dread and fear about the mysterious future.

A combined whirlwind that was bigger than any of the other whirlwinds previously shot out of Cale's hand to continue to create a path.

Rooooooooooar!

It was much stronger than before.

“Bullshit.”

Domination? Fear? Cale didn't care about that. All he cared about was how it would benefit him.

Cale quickly walked through the path he created. He then heard the voice again.

- Muhahaha. You are right. It is bullshit. You already know.

'Found it.'

Cale could see the White Dragon's skull, as well as the white crown on its head.

Cale reached out toward the crown and his fingertips touched the tip of jewel on the crown.

- Use it well!

A bright light shot out of the crown and made the black mud disappear. At the same time, the crown flew toward Cale. He closed his eyes only to hear a different and refreshing voice.

- Sometimes, even bluffing can save your life. Muhahaahahaha!

Cale could feel another power wrapping around his heart.

Boom, boom.

His heart was beating wildly. He could immediately tell what this power was.

Cale's expression turned iffy

“...What the hell is this?”

Cale opened his eyes. He saw that all of the black mud had disappeared and that the large dragon's corpse had revealed itself.

"Human, why do you seem as strong as the tip of my claw? No, you are still weak, so what is going on?"

The Black Dragon rushed over to Cale. He seemed to be quite confused. Cale started to smile.

"My charisma has increased."

"What useless crap are you saying now, human?"

The Black Dragon looked anxious, but it was the truth.

Cale was able to learn the name of this ancient power.

'Dominating aura'

It was a really cheesy name, but that was exactly what it was.

'ONLY' your aura becomes stronger.

It was a pretty useless power compared to the decorated crown shape it came in.

"It is a perfect power for scamming."

"Scamming is bad."

Cale ignored the Black Dragon, that had started to frown and nag at him, and looked toward the rest of their group.

He could see that they were hesitating and could not approach him. Cale put away the dominating aura and motioned to the group standing far away.

Currently, the entire forest was quiet, as if they had never screeched in the first place. Cale was the one to break that silence.

"Come over here."

The deep voice made the kittens, who were covering their ears and face, abruptly turn their heads. They were then able to approach Cale and the Black Dragon very quickly. However, they rushed past Cale.

They were heading to the Black Dragon. However, they slowed down once they got near the dragon.

“H, he doesn’t look hurt!”

“We were so scared! Our youngest cannot get hurt!”

The kittens roamed around the dragon and made sure he wasn’t hurt. They then approached him and patted the dragon’s back.

“Our youngest is the best!”

“So cool! You are so strong!”

Cale made sure that the dragon calmly stayed with the kittens before looking toward the Whale siblings, who still had not moved. Cale had a smile on his face as he patted the dragon who approached him and asked the Whale siblings.

“You can’t come?”

The deep voice echoed in the Whale siblings’ ears. Witira opened up the fists she had been clenching. It wasn’t like that right now, but the moment the black mud disappeared, Cale looked very different. He definitely was still a weak human who would die with a single flick of her whip.

‘It was different from a strong power.’

It was only for a moment, but Cale reminded her of her father, the Whale King. It was not based on his strength.

But it was an atmosphere that only those in power could have. That was what she felt.

“Young master Cale.”

Cale asked the Whale siblings who finally approached him.

“I’m guessing the two of you aren’t hurt?”

“...We are not.”

Witira did not say anything after seeing that Cale was back to his usual self. Cale looked away from the Whale siblings and back to the Black Dragon.

“Any stagnant mana left?”

“Not anymore.”

Since the black liquids and mud disappeared, the stagnant mana no longer remained. All that was left was the sturdy dragon bones that had a high magic resistance and magic capabilities.

“Then you can store these bones.”

“Alright.”

Cale looked down toward the kittens, who were rubbing their faces on his calf. Once they made eye contact with Cale, both kittens started to tap Cale’s feet with their paws.

“We thought something bad would happen. Why do you always step forward when you are the weakest?”

“You just have to leave it to our youngest sibling. But he can’t get hurt either.”

Cale ignored the kittens who were scolding him. He then continued to speak to the group.

“Let’s go back.”

They had to return to the Henituse estate now.

And a few days later, Cale was able to return home two days later than expected. Hans had a message for him as soon as he returned.

“Young master-nim! His highness, the crown prince, contacted you. What is going on?”

“Nothing.”

Cale vaguely answered Hans. However, he couldn't hide the smirk on his face.

“Something that is mutually beneficial.”

It was a great chance to steal the biggest treasure created by the Whipper Kingdom's Civil War. Hans also delivered another piece of information to Cale.

“Ah, and Choi Han-nim sent a message that he will be heading back from the Breck Kingdom.”

‘What?’

“Little Lock is coming back with him as well. Oh, and even Miss Rosalyn.”

“What?”

‘This soon? Did they just destroy the Breck Kingdom?’

Cale started to frown as soon as he returned home.

Chapter 65

Wasnt Supposed to Be Like This (2)

"But young master-nim, what about your guards? I heard that the Vice Captain and the children will remain in Harris Village to work."

Cale started to frown at Hans's endless barrage of questions. Hans did not care, as he continued on while picking On and Hong up into his arms.

"You said the Vice Captain was staying back to investigate the Forest of Darkness?"

The explosion in the Forest of Darkness. The Vice Captain knew of the cause of the explosion because Cale explained it to him, but the "official" story was that he was staying back to investigate because they were keeping Cale's involvement a secret.

'Young master-nim, I will take care of these tiny roles for now, but I will not remain in this spot forever.'

Cale quickly got rid of Hilsman's comment to him from his mind. It was useless chatter anyways.

"I didn't need them anymore, so I let them go at the entrance."

The Whale siblings had left at the entrance. They naturally had the bottle of swamp water with them. However, half of its contents were with Cale.

Hong's tail was shaking because he was going to get stronger soon. On as well.

"Hans."

"Yes sir."

"Did the crown prince say when I should contact him?"

Cale leisurely asked. However, Hans answered back sternly.

“Immediately. That was what he said.”

Cale started to smile. The crown prince must have been really anxious. Cale calmly started to speak.

“Then let’s go.”



Cale sat down on the couch and crossed his legs. The territory’s video communication mage peeked toward Cale.

“Is it ready?”

“Ah, yes, yes!”

The mage gulped before continuing on.

“It is possible to speak with his highness right now.”

The mage was looking at Cale, the person the crown prince was currently looking for. Compared to how nervous he was, Cale seemed to be very calm.

“Then you can head out now.”

The mage quickly bowed and left, although he turned around a few times on his way out due to curiosity. Cale commenced the video communication as soon as the mage left, and a face soon appeared on top of the half transparent orb.

Cale immediately started to speak.

“It is my great honor to speak with the star of the nation, the wonderf-“

- Enough.

The crown prince immediately cut him off, as if Cale’s words gave him the chills. Cale had a sly smirk as he quickly stopped talking.

Alberu calmly observed Cale, who was sitting down leisurely, yet in a way that was still respectful, and then got straight to the point.

- What a mess they made in the Breck Kingdom.

Cale's smile became wider. It was what he had been waiting for. Why else would he have hurried over like this? It's not like he enjoying seeing the crown prince's face.

'The crown prince's information network is the most accurate.'

Cale quietly sat there and smiled as if nothing was wrong. Things would all take care of themselves.

- Seeing as how you are not saying anything, I guess you're already aware of what happened.

See? All resolved without having to say anything.

- Princess Rosalyn seems to have made her resolve. How else could she obliterate a Grand Duke's entire family in a single day?

Cale felt his heart jump at the word, 'obliterate,' but he did not let it show on his face. It was because he could see that Alberu was observing him. Right now, Alberu was poking at Cale to see what he could find out.

- She also gave up her claim to the throne.

Rosalyn really did give up her claim to the throne. Now it was time for her to show her true nature as a mage.

- But based on what I heard, there were two very strong individuals with her. Everybody else might not know but I do.

The crown prince really was good at explaining things.

Alberu's sharp gaze pointed toward Cale.

- Aren't they your subordinates?

Choi Han and Lock. Cale answered back with the truth to Alberu's question.

"My subordinates?"

They were not Cale's subordinates. Choi Han had nothing to do with him and Lock was just someone he was making a deal with. Cale could see the corner of the crown prince's lips slowly starting to move up. He also leaned back on the couch like Cale and casually spit it out.

- You sly fox.

Cae could not disagree with that. Alberu saw Cale's lack of reaction and shook his head before adding on.

- Why do you want the Magic Tower?

The crown prince no longer tried to beat around the bush or be glib around Cale. Cale looked toward the crown prince with a serious expression.

"Your highness."

Cale sat up from his seat, which made the crown prince also sit up with curiosity. Cale then continued.

"Every so often, I have this thought that you and I are very similar."

The crown prince started to frown.

- Such a terrible thought.

"I agree."

Cale just pushed aside the fact that the crown prince showed such disdain for the fact that the two of them may be similar and continued on.

"The Roan Kingdom is a kingdom without anything."

Silence suddenly filled the room. If the mage outside the room heard what Cale just said, he may have fainted. However, the crown prince Alberu was smiling as Cale had expected.

The crown prince seemed to have latched onto the bait.

- Not going to watch what you say now?

“Your highness, you are currently smiling, aren’t you?”

- Well, it is the truth.

The crown prince did not disagree.

The Roan Kingdom was a kingdom where neither the knights nor the mages were very strong. Although it had a long history, it was just average in every aspect.

However, crown prince Alberu knew that, although this would be fine during times of peace, it was not okay to be mediocre in every aspect during times of chaos. He knew that they needed at least one specialty area.

However, that was not something that could easily be created in a short period of time.

Such a large scale issue would take tens of years if they were lucky, but at least an average of hundreds of years if they were not. That was why he had made up his mind.

Take it from someone else.

Take another kingdom’s specialty away and make it theirs.

And a good prey appeared in front of his eyes.

The Whipper Kingdom that used to be the kingdom of mages.

Cale and Alberu made eye contact as Alberu commented.

- You sharp bastard.

The two of them had similar smirks on their faces. This time, it was Cale’s turn to speak.

“The Magic Tower for me. And for you, your highness-“

Cale and Alberu answered at the same time.

“Mages.”

- Mages.

A short silence filled the room before Alberu covered his eyes with his hand and started to laugh.

- Haha. Interesting. At first, I thought it was terrible that there was someone else like me.

The crown prince laughed for a while before removing his hand and answering.

- I will give you whatever you need.

Alberu then waited for Cale's response.

"Thank you very much."

Just that sentence and nothing else. However, that sentence struck Alberu properly. Alberu was curious about this confident attitude of Cale's and asked.

- But why is it that you want the Magic Tower?

Cale noticed that the crown prince seemed to be observing him again. He really was a difficult person to handle, but there was no reason to be so worried.

I'm sure he wants to know if I know about the North"

There was an existence that was a source of concern for the Roan Kingdom in the novel, the Northern Kingdom of Knights. Crown prince Alberu was wary of that kingdom while preparing for their invasion.

War is a time of chaos, and chaos will provide opportunities for the prepared. One of those opportunities was the mages running away from the Whipper Kingdom.

The crown prince, who didn't have much influence in the kingdom, would use them to strengthen his power and increase his influence inside the kingdom.

If Kim Rok Soo had read past the fifth volume of, 'The Birth of a Hero,' he would probably know the two powers that develop as new heroes. One would be a knight from the North.

'And the other would probably be the crown prince in front of him right now.'

Especially because the Black Dragon told him that the crown prince was not human. Cale started to smile. The crown prince was trying to figure out whether Cale knew about the North's movement and wanted the Magic Tower for that reason.

"I just want to own a Magic Tower."

-... I shouldn't have asked.

Alberu could see the sly smirk on Cale's face as he shook his head.

"Then why is it that your highness needs the mages?"

Alberu started to smirk in a similar manner.

- I just want to give them a home.

Both answers were terrible excuses, but neither of them called each other out. The two people who were both sitting back casually like they were part of a painting just continued to chat with each other.

- When do you plan to head out?

"I plan to go in about a month."

One month later. Cale would be finished with his preparations and head to the Whipper Kingdom at that moment. The Civil War would be close to ending by the time he arrived at the Whipper Kingdom. Toonka's stupid face seemed to be shining gold in Cale's mind.

- How will you get there?

"By ship."

- And your guards?

Guards. That word made Cale start to smile and Alberu realized his mistake.

- I guess that was a useless question. Cale, make sure you are careful since your body is still weak. You know what to do, right?

“I will bring back any and all good things.”

- Sometimes we really are on the same page for no reason.

Cale and Alberu, although the two of them were very different people, the smirks on their faces looked so similar right now.

Three weeks later.

Cale slowly opened his eyes and started to roll around. He rolled around his large bed and started to yawn.

It was 3pm. He had just gotten up. He started to rub his eyes and looked up at the ceiling.

“I win! He woke up one hour later today!”

“Our youngest wins again. I really don’t know why he keeps waking up later and later.”

The Black Dragon and Hong looked back and forth between Cale and the clock while chatting with each other. Cale rubbed his belly with his right hand. He had only gotten up because he was hungry.

“...Ah, the life of a rich person who doesn’t have to work.”

This was the definition of happiness.

Cale had not done anything for the past three weeks.

He had come up with a name for the dragon, but asked for another month to think about it, and ordered other people to take care of all of the things he needed to prepare for the trip. He slept early and woke up late every day, just fooling and rolling around doing nothing inside the house. It was great that his family kept telling him to rest to recover. So he listened to them and did absolutely nothing.

But Cale’s happiness finally shattered.

“Human, it looks like Choi Han is back.”

The Black Dragon whispered in Cale’s ear as he smiled.

“This is great. I have been so bored lately.”

Cale sat up on the bed with a stoic expression.

Choi Han’s group was supposed to arrive today. Since it was 3pm, they were probably already here and waiting for him.

Cale stretched before getting up from the bed. These past three weeks of doing nothing resolved his mind even more.

‘Make money so I can do nothing forever.’

Cale’s eyes looked very determined. He decided that he would take care of the Whipper Kingdom and the Queen of the Jungle at once so that he could sit around doing nothing again. Cale headed into the bathroom while the Black Dragon approached Hong once he saw the door close.

“The weak human’s eyes only seem full of spirit whenever he is going somewhere.”

“You’re right. But I’m glad that I am stronger now. I can make sure he does not get hurt.”

The silver kitten On who had been listening to the Black Dragon’s conversation with Hong had an odd expression on her face. She thought about the smile on Cale’s face as he rolled around the bed and mumbled to herself.

“Are you sure it is full of spirit?”

“Yes. I am right.”

“Noona, it definitely is.”

“Mm, I guess so.”

On finally agreed and brushed her fur. On and Hong’s furs were much brighter now. The three of them sat around waiting for Cale to come out. They were looking forward to heading out of the house again after such a long time.

Chapter 66

Wasnt Supposed to Be Like This (3)

However, contrary to their expectations, Cale headed into the study with a stoic expression. He pushed back his still slightly damp red hair as he sat down and faced the three guests.

He took a sip of the tea that deputy butler Hans had given him before he started to speak.

“Long time no see.”

Cale looked toward Choi Han, whose expression did not change at all, and the just as shy Lock, and greeted them before looking toward Rosalyn.

“Your Highness, Princess Rosalyn, it has been quite a long time.”

Rosalyn started to smile and answered in a refreshing manner.

“You cannot call me princess anymore. I have been banished from the royal family.”

“...Is that so?”

“Yes. I have been removed from the family records. I no longer have a family name.”

Cale just turned away from Rosalyn, who answered in such a happy manner. He then casually added on.

“I guess I can just continue to call you Miss Rosalyn then.”

Rosalyn’s red pupils focused on Cale. Although she was the one who chose to give up her claims to the throne instead of getting written off, people still had looks of pity toward her these days. Seeing Cale acting so normally around her made her able to respond with a relaxed heart.

“Yes. Just like before. You can keep treating me like that in the future too.”

She could see Cale nodding without even looking at her and thought that she really did the right thing by choosing to come back with Choi Han.

Cale did not see Rosalyn's smile, as he had turned to look at Choi Han and Lock. Choi Han was sitting straight up, but seemed to be quite happy.

'It feels like he became even more of a good guy.'

Choi Han's pupils were so clear that he seemed like a very good person. In fact, he seemed to have taken another step toward becoming a hero of justice. Cale turned away from that good guy vibe that did not mesh well with him and instead looked toward Lock.

Lock was different from Choi Han. He seemed to have something to say, but was too shy to say it and thus could only sit there fidgeting his fingers.

"Cale-nim."

"What?"

There was no need for him to turn around. Choi Han was the only person who called him, 'Cale-nim.'

"Should I report about what happened at Breck Kingdom?"

Rosalyn suddenly looked toward Choi Han in shock. However, Choi Han did not look at her and only looked toward Cale.

However, Cale, who was looking at Lock, shook his head.

"No need. I don't think I need to know what you did for a friend."

Rosalyn could see Choi Han smiling peacefully after hearing Cale's words. He then started to speak.

"Yes, that is true, but please let me know if there is anything you are curious about. I will report it to you right away."

"No need."

Cale felt like he would just get a headache if he knew about it. He did not want to know how they were able to cause such a ruckus in the Breck Kingdom in such a short amount of time, as well as how Rosalyn gave up her claim to the throne.

“Lock.”

He called out to Lock instead.

“Err, yes?”

Lock, who was now taller than Choi Han, was still a bit awkward. Cale knew why Lock was so fidgety right now.

Hans had said that Choi Han’s group had arrived an hour ago. While Choi Han and Rosalyn probably had a lot to do once they got here, it was obvious what Lock was thinking about in this foreign place.

Cale looked toward Lock’s confused face and started to speak.

“Your siblings are somewhere else right now.”

Lock’s expression changed.

“Where? Are they all there?”

Cale answered without any hesitation.

“Harris Village.”

Choi Han, who had been looking at Cale, stiffened after hearing those words. However, Cale did not even look his way before taking a break to take a sip of warm tea.

Someone else interjected as he did that. It was deputy butler Hans.

“We are currently reconstructing Harris Village. It used to be a small but beautiful village next to the mountain. Something bad happened not too long ago causing it to burn down.”

Mountain, small but beautiful village, and reconstruction due to a large fire. A single image filled Lock’s mind as he heard those words. It was an image of his hometown

that was burned to the ground.

“We are also constructing a proper cemetery as well.”

Choi Han looked toward Hans as Hans peeked toward Cale and continued to speak.

“The young master was adamant about that part.”

Click.

The teacup made a noise as Cale put it back down on the table. He then started to frown and retort back.

“I was not adamant about it.”

“But wasn’t this the first thing you ever asked the Count-nim for in regards to something related to our Henituse territory? This was the first time I ever saw you interested in the administration of our territory, young master-nim.”

“It was nothing big.”

Cale waved toward Hans to say nothing else and Hans quickly shut up. However, he seemed to be fidgety like he still had a lot to say. Cale just ignored this and looked toward Lock, who seemed to be deep in thought.

“Lock.”

“Yes?”

“Go see your siblings and the land that they are living on right now.”

Cale then turned around. Lock was staring at him, but he knew Lock would understand since he was a sharp kid. He then called out to the still stiff Choi Han.

“Choi Han.”

Choi Han was quietly observing Cale as usual. A lot of things had happened in the Breck Kingdom. He had taken care of all of it quickly in order to return home. He could hear Cale’s voice echo in his ear.

“Go give your regards as well. Your younger brother Lock doesn’t know the way, so you can guide him there.”

Regards. He didn’t need to ask who that should be directed to. Choi Han lightly clenched his fists before opening them back up. He had to calm the overflowing emotions inside of him. Harris Village, that had burnt down to a crisp. That village would now be different.

Cale said one final thing to the three of them.

“You can go now. Miss Rosalyn, it is fine for you to leave now.”

Cale was tired after dealing with these three for the first time in a while. It felt like his honey-like break for the last three weeks had just disappeared into thin air. Lock and Rosalyn slowly followed Hans out of Cale’s study.

Choi Han waited until they all had left before finally getting up.

“Cale-nim.”

He then bowed.

“Thank you very much.”

Choi Han chuckled after raising his head back up because he could see Cale had a stoic expression that also seemed to show that he was annoyed.

“I don’t need such thanks. Just get out.”

Choi Han did as he was told and headed for the door. Cale, who had picked his teacup back up while observing Choi Han, could hear Choi Han stop with the doorknob in his hand and start to speak.

“I heard from Mr. Hans that you will be heading to the Whipper Kingdom?”

“Yes.”

Cale just gave a curt response.

“We will be going right away once you get back from the village, so pack your bags.”

“Yes sir.”

Choi Han had a refreshing smile on his face. However, that smile quickly disappeared as he turned the doorknob.

Click.

Choi Han continued to speak as the door opened.

“His name was Bob?”

“How do you know about Bob?”

It had been a while since he heard of Toonka’s alias, Bob.

‘Did Hans tell him about Toonka?’

Cale looked toward Choi Han with curiosity, but he could only see Choi Han’s back as he stood at the door. Choi Han’s unique calm and sincere voice continued to flow.

“Mr. Beacrox told me that he almost made you get hurt.”

‘Why would Beacrox say something like that?’

Cale recalled the incident and responded back.

“Hurt? I didn’t get hurt. I just got poured on by water and boulder dust.”

“...I understand.”

Choi Han did not say anything else as he walked out of the study. Cale could see Hans crossing paths with Choi Han and coming back in. Hans stopped for a moment after making eye contact with Choi Han and blankly stood there.

“What is it?”

“Huh? Oh, uh, nothing. Nothing at all.”

Hans waved his hands frantically at Cale's question and looked back toward the leaving Choi Han before coming into the study.

"...Young master-nim."

"What?"

Cale observed Hans's completely pale expression.

"Did you have a fight with Choi Han-nim?"

"Me? What the hell are you talking about?"

"Of course you didn't! Haha, it is nothing."

Cale stared at the weirdly acting Hans, but still said what he needed to say. He still had to give the order.

"We will leave in about 10 days, so prepare everything."

"Yes, I understand. I will work hard!"

Cale continued to blankly stare at the suddenly energetic Hans, but Hans quickly left the study. Cale, who was now left alone in the study, looked toward the calendar.

The last guardian of the Magic Tower, who cast away his position and ran away.

"...This will be my first time seeing a dwarf."

In order to buy a fully intact Magic Tower, he needed to meet the dwarf whose family had protected the Magic Tower for generations. Cale started to smile.

That dwarf was not just any dwarf.

'A mix-blood dwarf that is half Rat beast person.'

Muller. The tiny person that had the shabbiest and worst death in, 'The Birth of a Hero.' He was as short as a dwarf and looked weak without any muscles due to the unique nature of the Rat people. He really was a tiny person.

Cae headed out of the study and into the bedroom. He was thinking about how to catch that runaway Rat while he was heading toward the Black Dragon, On, and Hong, who were probably playing in the bedroom right now.

10 days. This will pass by very quickly.



And just as Cale expected, a week quickly went by. He was sitting in his couch like he had been a week ago, leaning deep into the back of the couch.

“Sigh.”

Cale did not hide his sigh as he sat there with a frown.

Choi Han and Lock, who had left exactly a week ago, leaving Rosalyn here, were back.

However, they did not come back alone.

“Young master-nim.”

Vice Captain Hilsman came back with them. But his appearance was weird. The Vice Captain, who usually dressed in a way that fit his position, was wearing shabby leather armor and had lots of injuries on his face.

‘I told him to focus on the restoration of Harris Village.’

It felt like the Vice Captain had done some things in addition to what Cale had ordered.

“I have returned, young master.”

He didn’t know the reason, but Cale still avoided Hilsman, who was speaking with admiration. However, he was not the only one who came back with Choi Han and Lock.

“Young master-nim! We wanted to see you!”

“Young master Cale-nim! We’re here too!”

“Hello young master Cale! Have you been well?”

Cale could hear ten children speaking at once. Maes, as well as the other Wolf children, were innocently looking at Cale and smiling.

However, the atmosphere around them felt very different. The children had bandages wrapped around multiple spots on their bodies. Something outside of Cale’s expectations seemed to have happened in Harris Village.

“We came with Lock hyung because you never mentioned when we should come back.”

Maes answered for all of them. Cale held back his sigh.

‘Not telling you when to come was my way of saying don’t come back.’

Cale could not tell the children who were already here to head back, so he just nodded his head and turned around to look at Choi Han and Lock. He gave an order to the two of them.

“Pack your bags. We will leave in two days.”

However, a response came from somewhere else.

“Yes sir!”

A total of 11 people. The Vice Captain and the Wolf children all energetically responded. It was like Cale was looking at a knights brigade that had been training for a long time. Choi Han and Lock looked toward them with satisfaction. This was especially true for Choi Han, who was looking at them like he was looking at his students.

Cale’s expression became odd.

It wasn’t supposed to be like this.

Chapter 67

Wasnt Supposed to Be Like This (4)

That odd sensation continued until Cale arrived at the dinner table. All he said was one sentence.

“I will be visiting the Whipper Kingdom for a bit.”

Clang.

The spoon in the hand of his youngest sister, the 7-year-old Lily, fell to the ground. Cale turned to look at Lily after hearing the noise only to see Lily with a pale face and the corners of her lips shaking.

“My teacher said.”

Lily didn't even think about picking up the spoon as she continued to mumble.

“The Whipper Kingdom is very scary right now and people die every day. The nobles have to hide and it is even hard to eat yummy food! You can't even sleep in peace! That is what my teacher said!”

Her emotions seemed to be getting stronger as she continued to speak. She then started to frown after looking toward Cale.

“You are not allowed to do that.”

Count Deruth cut Lily off and sternly answered. Cale looked toward Deruth with confusion. The crown prince had promised assistance during his travel to the Whipper Kingdom so that he could safely and stealthily get there.

‘We will tell your family that you are doing my bidding. There's no need to tell them about the mages or Magic Tower or anything of the sort, right?’

‘Of course. Secrets are the best. I also only want my family and the Ubarr territory liege to know of my travels.’

‘Naturally. I will have it all prepared.’

Crown prince Alberu then immediately informed Count Deruth that it was a secret mission that he had tasked for Cale.

“Father, it is an order from his highness, the crown prince.”

“It doesn’t matter.”

The good-natured and average looking Count Deruth’s face was extremely scrunched up in a frown. Cale looked around to Basen, who was stiff like time had frozen, and then to the only person who looked calm, Violan.

She casually asked once they made eye contact.

“Is this your own decision?”

“Yes. I wish to go.”

“Cale.”

“Yes?”

Violan put her spoon down and continued to speak.

“You know it is dangerous over there?”

“Yes.”

Cale lightly agreed. However, it would be fine with Choi Han, the Black Dragon, Rosalyn, and Lock. Even Hilsman and the 10 Wolf Children were passionately asking him to take them with him, so he didn’t think he would be in danger at all.

“Cale, just remember one thing. I am always worried about you, my son. We all worry about you. However.”

Violan’s gaze suddenly turned sharp.

“We don’t care about this kingdom at all.”

“Ahem, wife, we need the kingdom to be safe for our family to be safe as well.”

Deruth stopped frowning and let out a fake cough. However, Violan ignored it and continued to ask Cale.

“Is this your decision?”

Violan asked the same question once more and Cale immediately responded back.

“I am a Golden Turtle.”

Count Deruth recalled what he had said to his son not too long ago.

‘We protect anything and everything with our very sturdy shell. However, the most important thing is to protect ourselves.’

He looked toward his son, who seemed calm and relaxed.

“It is most important for me to use my sturdy shell to protect myself.”

That was Cale’s answer.

“I am a Henituse after all.”

Of course, Cale put his own safety first. He would only step into a battlefield if it looked like they would definitely win, and he had the strongest person on the battlefield next to him.

“You don’t need to worry.”

His voice was full of certainty and his gaze was confident. Countess Violan started to smile.

“Alright, I understand. But I do not think I can stop worrying. That is what it means to be a parent.”

There really wasn’t a reason to worry, but Cale nodded at Violan anyways. Count Deruth kept his mouth shut as they restarted their meal. Based on how he was not telling Cale that he could not go, it seemed like he had accepted it as well.

“They think we’ll do anything they order us to do because we have been staying low for a while.”

Count Deruth just mumbled to himself as he roughly chewed on a piece of a meat every so often. However, seeing as how there was no more opposition, Cale peacefully focused on his meal again.

He was focusing on his meal intensely, such that he did not notice what happened next.

He didn’t see that the gaze shared between Count Deruth and Countess Violan was not normal. He also didn’t know that after dinner, Count Deruth ordered the butler to secretly gather any and all information related to the crown prince and the Whipper Kingdom, regardless of the cost.

Cale just finished the great meal and left the dining room. He could hear someone rushing toward him, although this was against the nobles’ etiquette.

“Basen?”

It was Basen and Lily who chased after Cale.

“...Hyung-nim, must you go?”

“Pretty much.”

He didn’t need to go, but he just preferred 10 years of peaceful days rather than just one day. Cale continued to speak to his two quiet siblings.

“Both of you need to focus on your studies and training. I can only go around like this because the two of you are here holding things down.”

Cale was always at peace knowing Basen would become the next liege of the territory and Lily the commanding officer for the military. At least they wouldn’t have the typical drama plotlines of the eldest son and the more talented younger son fighting for the successor position nor something of the sort.

Cale turned away from the siblings who were still just quietly watching him. He still had a lot to prepare. Cale started to walk away as he spoke to his siblings again.

“I will bring you both some souvenirs from the Whipper Kingdom.”

Cale could not see that Basen and Lily's gazes were focused on Cale before exchanging glances with each other and nodding their heads. He had absolutely no idea that his younger siblings had already decided their future occupations.

A few days later, Cale was happy that he was able to get on the ship at exactly the time he planned to do so.

"Young master Cale."

Cale looked toward the source of the voice as soon as he got on the ship.

"Young lady Amiru."

Amiru quietly observed Cale, who was still just as relaxed as before. The Ubarr liege had already gotten on the same boat as the crown prince, so Amiru had ordered for them to prepare the largest and strongest ship as soon as she received the crown prince's order. ^[1]

"Young master Cale, I hope that you return safely without hurting yourself this time."

"I hope for the same as well."

He had absolutely no plans to get hurt. Cale could see that Amiru started to frown like she didn't believe him.

"I do not understand why his highness would send you to that dangerous place when you just finished your recovery. However, his highness is probably sending you because it is you, and he can trust you."

Trust? The crown prince was not the type to trust anyone. Cale had no problem honestly saying that with a stiff expression.

"Really? I'm not so sure. He didn't seem to trust me much at all."

Amiru raised her voice at Cale's bitter smile.

"Of course! Young master Cale, if it means anything, I trust you."

"Ah, yes, well, thank you very much young lady Amiru."

Seeing Amiru respond so fiercely, which was opposite her calm demeanor, Cale could not say anything else. He then started to walk again as they needed to leave on time. He had people he needed to meet.

“Young master Ca-.”

“I’ll be on my way now, young lady Amiru.”

Amiru had some other things to say, but just closed her mouth. The image of Cale pushing back his red hair that was moving along with the ocean breeze was both refreshing and cool.

Cale got on the ship with a relaxed heart after seeing that Amiru was no longer trying to hold him back. He got on the deck and could see that the village was very noisy with construction right now.

Furthermore, some of the other whirlpools had disappeared, creating a safe path that was wide enough for a large ship.

‘But the rest of the whirlpools are still the same.’

Cale turned his gaze back to the ship and started to sigh.

“...Sigh.”

How did he end up with so many people?

Choi Han, Lock, and Rosalyn.

The kittens, On and Hong, were shaking because they were on water yet were adamant that they would come with him.

Hans, who was next to the kittens.

Finally, Vice Captain Hilsman, who was completely pale because he was on a ship, Beacrox, who was observing Hilsman silently, and the ten Wolf children next to him.

‘If I get hurt with all of these freaks around me, that would be very surprising.’

Someone might even think he was trying to go destroy a kingdom right now.

- I like the smell of the ocean.

Why would he fear anything, especially with the Black Dragon coming along as well?

Cale gave an order to the group, who were all looking at him.

“Let’s go.”

Boooooooooooooooooo-

The horn sounded their departure across the Ubarr sea. The ship was disguised as a trade ship. Well, that wasn’t really a disguise.

‘It is a trade I am making after all.’

But it will naturally not be a fair trade. It would be very beneficial for Cale, but unfair for the other party.

- Human, do not smile like that. You look like you are going to scam someone again.

He could hear the Black Dragon’s voice, but chose to ignore it and enjoy the refreshing ocean breeze. Just like that, the ship started to head for the Whipper Kingdom’s smallest port.

Later that night.

Cale was not sleeping but standing on the deck. It was close to midnight, so nobody else was on the deck, but the deck was lit up and the full moon made it not dark at all.

He was planning to meet some guests here tonight.

Cale leaned on one of the railings as he calmly looked out to the ocean. It was at that moment.

“Human.”

The Black Dragon revealed himself and approached Cale. There was no need to be invisible because nobody else was here right now.

“What?”

“I was just wondering...”

The Black Dragon seemed to have a lot on his mind. No, he seemed very suspicious as he blankly looked Cale up and down.

“...Is the name you are thinking of a random word?”

“What the hell are you talking about?”

The Black Dragon seemed very concerned.

“I feel like you will pick something like Black or Dragon.”

“Ah, your name?”

The Black Dragon was talking about his name. Cale made a very serious expression at the 4-year old’s very concerned question.

“...Is a name like that not very good?”

Cale’s expression was very serious. The Black Dragon had not seen Cale look so serious for a while now. The Black Dragon’s eyes started to shake as he urgently responded.

“Not at all! I am fine with anything! It is fine as long as you give me a name, human! Do not worry!”

His wings were fluttering rapidly, and his tail was shaking as he strongly appealed to Cale. Cale’s expression instantly turned normal like he was never serious at all.

“Then I am glad.”

He then casually continued on.

“Raon, On and Hong would have been sad if they heard what you said.”

Silence suddenly filled the area.

“...Human, what did you just say?”

Cale had actually thought a lot about the Black Dragon’s name, contrary to the Black Dragon’s expectation. A name was a special thing given to someone. For Kim Rok Soo who had to live on his own, the only thing that was given to him by his parents was his name.

“Your first name is Raon.”

Raon. It meant joyful in pure Korean. [2]

“And your last name is Miru.”

Miru. Pure Korean for Dragon.

Joyful Dragon. It was a funny name, but Cale had come up with it with full sincerity. He was worried that Choi Han might be suspicious of a pure Korean name, but he had come up with an excuse for that as well.

A calm voice reached the Black Dragon’s ears. However, The Black Dragon had never seen such an expression on Cale’s face before. A calm smile was on Cale’s face right now.

“I came up with this name in the hopes that you will be happy and live a joyful life.”

“...What does it mean?”

The Black Dragon asked Cale for the meaning of the name. Cale pointed to the Black Dragon with his index finger.

“You.”

Raon and Miru. Neither of these words existed in this world. There was only one thing these two words stood for in this world.

“It is you. They are words just for you and only you.”

“...Only me?”

“Yes.”

Cale started to smile as he patted the Dragon's head.

"Since you are a great and mighty dragon."

"...Only me....."

The Black Dragon mumbled to himself for a while before patting away Cale's hand from his head and stretched out his wings. His wings were fluttering rapidly as he snorted.

"I guess it is useful. I will do you a special service and use this name."

"Sure, Raon."

The Dragon started to scrunch his nose. The corners of his lips were twitching as he flew up into the air.

"I am the great and mighty Raon Miru."

"Yes, Raon."

"Right. I am Raon."

The Black Dragon had received a first name and a last name after four years of life. He now had something other than his body that belonged to just him. The Dragon raised his head.

He could see the darkness of the night sky that was different from the darkness inside the cave. It was a night like this when he had been rescued from the cave. The Black Dragon, Raon, would never forget that moment. He also felt like he would never forget this moment either.

Cale raised his head like the Black Dragon. The night sky was the same no matter where he went. He could hear Raon's voice as he blankly continued to stare at the sky.

"Thank you, Cale."

"...What?"

Cale looked toward Raon with surprise. However, The Black Dragon was already back

to normal.

“Human, how is it that you cannot understand the first time?”

“Why don’t you say it once more?”

Cale started to smile as he tried to pat Raon’s head. Raon headbutted the palm and strongly objected.

“No. I really, truly, absolutely will not! Weak human, go inside and sleep! You will catch a cold.”

However, contrary to his actions, Raon’s wings were fluttering and his tail was wagging like On and Hong. Cale quietly laughed at Raon’s appearance. The quietly laughing Cale was very visible, even though it was night time and they were out in the ocean.

“I think it will be difficult to go back in.”

“Why is it diff-.”

Raon suddenly stopped talking before looking out into the ocean. He was looking at a spot far from the ship.

Splaaaaaaaash-

The water parted as a large existence slowly showed itself.

It was a Whale.

It was at that moment.

“Cale-nim!”

Someone urgently shot out from inside the ship and was rushing toward Cale at a very fast pace. It was Choi Han. Choi Han had a worried expression as he inspected the existence that was slowly revealing themselves. He then turned to look at Cale and approached him.

“Hmm?”

It was then that Choi Han could see it.

Cale was waving at him to go away with a very annoyed expression. The Dragon Raon then scoffed at Choi Han and started to speak.

“They are not enemies.”

“What?”

Choi Han turned to look back at the ocean. At the same time, Cale stopped leaning on the railing and bowed his head toward the ocean.

It was not just one Whale. There were three Whales coming to them.

The guests had arrived.

One was Witira, the Humpback Whale. The other was a Killer Whale. And finally.

“I greet the Whale King.”

Cale greeted the largest of the three, a Humpback Whale, the Whale King.

1. Being on the same boat is a metaphor for being on the same side.

2. Apparently there are some words that are, ‘pure,’ Korean and not referencing Chinese at all. There are only so many of these words, but the author is choosing to use it for the Dragon’s name.

Chapter 68

Wasnt Supposed to Be Like This (5)

The large whale eyes of the Whale King, Shickler, moved toward Cale. Cale was smiling.

‘What a strong pressure.’

Shickler was the king of the ocean. He had a presence that could not be compared to the king of a kingdom that oversaw a small region of the Western continent. That was why Cale was starting to smile even more.

Shickler’s pupils started to cloud as he began to smile. Cale stepped back a bit and opened up his arms.

“How about we have our discussion above the deck?”

Pssssssssssh.

Water vapor filled the air as three individuals quietly approached the ship.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

The three people gently landed on the deck. Cale could hear Raon’s voice in his head at that time.

- Dragons are much more beautiful and glorious!

Cale understood Raon’s feelings and patted his head. These three pure-blooded Whales were extremely beautiful.

‘This one is completely stiff.’

Choi Han had stiffened up after seeing the Whale Tribe people.

Cale followed Choi Han’s gaze and looked at each of the three people in front of him. The future Whale Queen, Witira. She was the same as usual.

The Killer Whale with white hair. This man was probably Archie, the greatest warrior of the Whale Tribe. He had an important role in the Whale Tribe arc in the novel.

He was the one who beat Lock up in the novel, and he was someone who was violent with a bad personality. However, his loyalty was quite strong.

“It has been a while since I’ve come down to the southern ocean.”

This old, yet cool voice made Choi Han turn his head. Shickler, the Whale King, had a gentle smile on his face.

He was the most handsome middle-aged man in the novel. The author seemed to have put his soul into this character, as the novel took four lines to describe Shickler’s appearance.

‘I can see why the author did that.’

But it wasn’t like your appearance would feed you. Cale just needed to take in what he needed to take in.

“The south is much warmer, isn’t it?”

Shickler’s pupils started to cloud.

‘He is just as Witira described.’

His daughter, Witira, had said that Cale was a weak yet strong person. As she mentioned, he was the weakest person on the deck but had no issue being confident.

“The south is good as well. Thank you for saving my son. I came with my daughter because I wanted to personally thank you.”

“No need for such thanks. I just did what I needed to do.”

Cale smiled gently as he reached his hand out respectfully. What would be the point of having a long discussion so late at night?

“Since we are both busy people, shall we get right to the point?”

“Sure. But you see...”

Shickler let out a small sigh. Cale did the same before reaching his hand out.

“Choi Han.”

Tap.

Cale put his hand on Choi Han’s shoulder.

Shickler did a similar action.

“Archie.”

For some reason, Archie and Choi Han were staring at each other. What beef would two people who had met for the first time have with each other? Cale put some strength into the hand on Choi Han’s shoulder and Choi Han looked toward him.

Choi Han was mesmerized by the Whale tribe’s beauty a moment ago, so what would have made him so angry? This ship would sink with a single slash of his sword if Choi Han started to fight on the ship.

“What is it?”

“...Cale-nim.”

Choi Han bit down on his lips. At that moment, someone gave Cale the answer. As usual, it was the Black Dragon, Raon.

- That Whale checked you out from head to toe! How dare he!

Cale could hear Raon huffing as he turned away from Choi Han.

Archie. Archie was even worse than Toonka. You know, the ones who are on the good side but always cause trouble? Archie was that type of character.

He was someone who only pledged his allegiance to Shickler and did not even care about anybody else, including other members of the Whale tribe. He was the troublemaker of the Whales. Cale finally made eye contact with Archie.

‘Mm.’

Cale held back his groan. Archie really was looking at him with vicious eyes. Why was this punk acting like this? However, the answer was pretty obvious.

‘Probably because I made Shickler personally come to meet me.’

Archie didn’t care about the fact that Cale had saved Shickler’s son nor the fact that he helped out the Whales with the mermaids. Cale stiffened up a bit after looking into the vicious eyes of someone who was even stronger than Witira.

Shickler could see Cale stiffen up and urgently started to glare at Archie. He had told Archie not to do this multiple times, but Archie never seemed to listen.

“Archie, enou-.”

Shickler stopped talking and turned his head.

‘Father, young master Cale is very odd. It was only for a moment, but he felt really big.’

He recalled what Witira had said as he looked at Cale. He could see that Cale was once again standing leisurely, as if he had never stiffened up in the first place. However, the atmosphere around Cale was different. He finally understood why his daughter had said that Cale was strong.

A gaze that seemed so deep that they could not fathom the deepness was aimed toward Archie. Choi Han, who had been watching from the side, subconsciously stopped frowning.

“...Cale-nim.”

He then subconsciously called out to Cale as well, but Cale did not look at him. Choi Han oddly felt like that was only natural. Cale’s gaze was dominating and only looked forward. The atmosphere around Cale also captured everyone’s attention.

It was different from a strong pressure. It was gentle yet firm, making it difficult to approach. It was because Cale was frowning.

‘My body is responding on its own.’

The Vitality of the Heart responded to the pressure from Archie, making a bit of the Dominating Aura come out as well.

The two powers working together made it possible for him to escape the strong pressure from Archie.

Cale slowly started to speak.

“Who are you?”

Since it was like this anyway, he might as well squash him right now.

Cale did not like Archie’s gaze and slowly moved forward.

Creak. Creak.

The wooden planks on the deck creaked with his every step.

“Just who do you think you are.”

The Dominating Aura revealed about half of its strength. Exactly half a step. Cale stopped in front of Archie and asked in a blunt manner.

“That you dare to stare at me like this?”

Archie could not speak. He was definitely a bit taller than Cale, but it felt like Cale was looking down at him.

Cale had definitely looked weak and he still felt like he would be able to kill Cale with a single hand, but he could not move.

Archie could see the corner of Cale’s lips starting to gently go up. Cale could also see that Archie’s gaze had softened up, and so he coldly answered.

“If you can’t even answer that question.”

Archie could tell that the man in front of him, Cale, was looking down at him.

“Then don’t get caught staring like that.”

Cale and Archie stared at each other in silence for a few seconds until Archie’s foot took a step backward. At that moment, Cale put away the Dominating Aura and started to smile as he looked toward Shickler.

“Isn’t that right, your majesty?”

Cale did not want to fight with them since they would see each other a few more times in the future and they still needed to make some deals with each other. That was why he had only used half of the Domnating Aura and was now looking toward Shickler with the brightest smile he could muster.

“...Indeed.”

Shickler answered after a few moments and grabbed onto Archie’s shoulder with a very strong grip.

“Apologize and introduce yourself.”

Cale knew how Shickler had domesticated the troublemaker Archie. He beat him up. He beat up him so much that the entire ocean seemed to be filled with dust. He really beat him to a pulp while saying that a beating was the best medicine for a troublemaker. ^[1]

Archie then came back to his senses and became Shickler loyal subordinate. That was why Cale knew that Archie would not hurt him even though he was glaring at him.

Cale could see Archie bowing his head without looking at him.

“...I apologize.”

It was a very quiet voice. He really didn’t want to apologize. At least, that was what Cale thought as he glared at Archie. Archie quickly avoided his gaze when their eyes met.

“My name is Archie.”

“Alright. I am Cale Henituse.”

He then heard Raon’s voice in his head.

- Human, you seemed almost as strong as the tip of my toenail just now. Good job! Very good job!

Cale held back his sigh at this charisma that was complimented by a 4-year-old before

gently reaching his hand out to Shickler, who was blankly staring at him.

“Please give me the package.”

“Ah, right.”

The oddly frazzled Shickler seemed to have lost the regalness of a king and turned into a neighborhood uncle. That was how he was once you became close to him. Shickler looked toward Witira.

“Young master Cale.”

“Long time no see. The package?”

Witira was relieved that Cale was still the same.

‘Relieved? Me?’

She was shocked for a moment, but calmed herself before handing the package over. There were a total of three items that were now in Cale’s hands. One of them was a small bottle with only the Dragon’s dead mana contained inside, with the poison having been removed.

Dead mana. This was very dangerous for a living person who did not have the darkness affinity. That was why Shickler was curious.

“But why do you need this dead mana? There should be no humans who need it. Well, maybe the necromancers of old may find it useful, but there are none of them left. I don’t know what you plan to do with this small amount.”

Cale put on a mischievous smile.

“Who knows.”

What Cale needed was just this small amount. Cale put all the items into his magic bag and discussed a couple things with the Whale royalty before saying goodbye.

“See you again next time. I apologize once again for Archie’s actions today.”

“It’s okay.”

“No, I insist. It’s because that punk still has a lot to learn.”

“...Father.”

Witira called out to calm her father before speaking to Cale.

“See you again next time, young master Cale.”

“Sure thing.”

He needed to see them multiple times since there were many ways he could still put them to use. Cale leisurely waved at the leaving Witira and Shickler, as well as the fidgeting Archie who said his goodbyes, before turning back toward his crew.

“Choi Han, what are you doing?”

“...Ah, nothing.”

Choi Han was shocked when Cale called out to him and vigorously shook his head. Cale walked past Choi Han, who had been standing there with a blank expression on his face for a while, and headed into the ship.

“I’m going to go sleep.”

The Black Dragon Raon, who was following behind Cale, abruptly turned his head around and started to speak to Choi Han.

“I am Raon Miru, the handsome, beautiful, great and mighty existence! Remember that!”

Choi Han stared at the extremely excited dragon before observing Cale, who was his usual relaxed self.

“...I need to get stronger as well.”

Choi Han’s voice disappeared into the ocean as he stood on the deck alone. Of course, if Cale had heard this, he would gasp in fear, thinking that an even stronger Choi Han would easily destroy this entire continent.



The next morning, Cale could see that Hong was grumbling next to the Black Dragon, who will now be called Raon.

“I like Raon, it is cool. But I think Ra-Hong would be nice too.”

On the other hand, the usually quiet On seemed to be excited, as she was happily walking circles around Raon.

“Raon Miru! Our youngest’s name is so good! It is the best!”

Cale, who had been watching this while laying on his bed in the ship, turned away as Raon continued to shout.

“Hey, Wolfie! I am Raon Miru! Hey, mage! I am Raon Miru! Choi Han!”

“I know your name already.”

It was so much that even the usually nice Choi Han was answering like this.

Currently, Raon, the kittens, Choi Han, Lock, and Rosalyn were in Cale’s room. Raon approached Choi Han.

“If you know it, say it.”

“Sure, Raon.”

Raon started to smile. It was then that Choi Han turned toward Cale.

“Miru. How did you come up with that last name?”

Choi Han had an odd expression on his face. Cale understood the reaction. Choi Han did not seem to know the pure Korean, ‘Raon,’ but he seemed to know, ‘Miru.’

“Something I made up?”

“Made up?”

“Yes. I suddenly thought of that word when I looked at Raon. It just popped into my

head. It was a very interesting experience.”

Cale just casually answered as he continued to eat grapes while laying down. He then asked Choi Han as calmly as possible.

“Why do you ask?”

“Nothing. It was just interesting.”

Choi Han’s gaze was filled with nostalgia. It was because the name was pure Korean. He nodded his head and started to speak to Raon.

“Raon Miru. It is a cool name.”

Raon pretended not to hear what Choi Han had said, although his wings were fluttering with joy. Cale nonchalantly observed this before looking out the window toward the ocean. He hoped to arrive at the Whipper Kingdom soon.

They arrived at the smallest port in the Whipper Kingdom in a few days, as Cale had wished. There was someone there to greet them, the most important player for this transaction.

“Young master-nim!”

The even chubbier Billos now further resembled a piggy bank. He jumped onboard to greet Cale on the deck. Billos seemed to be much lighter than his actual weight, as he agilely jumped on board as soon as the ship stopped.

“Aigoo, young master-nim, I hope you didn’t get seasick?”

- Seems like he is trying to suck up to you.

But Cale actually really liked how Billos was acting. Cale patted Billos’s shoulder and whispered in his ear.

“Time to catch a big fish?”

Billos started to smile so widely that his eyes almost disappeared.

“I will just trust you, young master-nim.”

The Magic Tower will be destroyed and the liege of the Magic Tower will be ripped to shreds by Toonka. All of the mages inside the Magic Tower will be killed, however, the liege of the Magic Tower was a greedy person.

Cale looked toward the messed up port that was very different from the ports of the Roan Kingdom and casually said aloud.

“Treasure hunts are so fun.”

As long as you find the treasure, that is.

Chapter 69

Different than Intended (1)

Cale patted Billos's shoulder. Billos's eyes filled with anticipation as Cale started to speak.

"So work hard if you need some treasure."

It was an indifferent command, but Billos still responded with excitement.

"As hard as you need me to work, hehe."

Cale shook his head after seeing that Billos was clearly excited. He knew that there was a lot going on Billos's mind, but that Billos was putting up this front.

'Since I didn't explain it thoroughly.'

All he had told Billos was two words.

Magic Device. Billos had heard only those two words. Cale observed Billos leaving to work before turning to look at a certain person.

He was looking at the person who needed to be the most cautious in the Whipper Kingdom.

Rosalyn.

The mage needed to be careful if she did not want to get hurt or even killed. Cale found her standing on the deck and approached her. It was so that he could warn her.

"...Miss Rosalyn."

But there was no need to do that. Cale stopped to think about what to say.

"What is it, young master Cale?"

Cale had to ask after hearing the calm in her voice.

“Is that a club in your hand?”

The club in Rosalyn’s hand was causing strong gusts of wind as she swung it around. She looked like she was used to this. He could also see a light leather armor underneath her robe as she refreshingly answered Cale’s question.

“It is indeed a club. Whether it is a magic staff or a club, they’re all the same when you use it to hit something.”

“You are very wise.”

Cale was honestly in admiration as he gave her a thumbs up. There was no need for him to warn her about moving around the Whipper Kingdom as a mage.

“Wise? I just wanted to make sure things didn’t become difficult for everyone else because of me. I may not look like it, but I learned a variety of basic martial arts when I was young.”

Tap. Tap.

Rosalyn lightly tapped her other palm with the club. As part of the royal family, especially as the eldest child in line for the throne, she had learned self-defense, as well as some other basic martial arts.

Her gaze suddenly became chilly.

“I also wanted to take a look at this place with my own eyes.”

Cale started to smile. Rosalyn, the liege in charge of the new Magic Tower in the future, was a very just person like Choi Han. That was why she was able to grow together with her party members. However, she also had a definite goal as well as a cold rationality. The Whipper Kingdom would give her some complicated feelings, as well as an opportunity to learn.

Cale followed Rosalyn’s gaze to look toward the port.

This was the least destroyed port in the Whipper Kingdom because it was the smallest one and because the regular citizens used it quite frequently. However, there were not

many ships going in and out of the port, and the faces of the people getting off of the few ships arriving were very gloomy. However, the faces of the people living here were bright.

‘Many of the citizens who were treated like slaves at the Magic Tower live here.’

Cale could see pillars of black smoke in the distance. Civil Wars always left behind destruction in their paths.

“Young master-nim, we can move now. The carriage is prepared.”

“Great.”

Cale nodded at Billos’s statement and got off the ship. He started to speak after taking his first step into the Whipper Kingdom.

“It doesn’t smell that good.”

Cale sniffed the musky smell of the burnt and destroyed buildings as he headed to the residence Billos had prepared for him. He started to speak to Billos once he got to his room.

“You prepared quite well.”

Cale complimented Billos, who had prepared the quietest residence by the port, a carriage with the Flynn Merchant Guild crest, as well as all of the other tiny details.

Billos shrugged his shoulders as Cale asked one more thing.

“Did you make sure to do it quietly without others knowing about it?”

“Isn’t that only natural?”

Cale smiled and responded back after seeing the greedy gaze in Billos’s eyes.

“I knew I liked you.”

“You as well, young master-nim.”

Cale leaned on the couch as he casually asked.

“Victory?”

Billos slowly nodded his head with a sincere expression.

“Yes. It was as you explained, young master-nim.”

“I see.”

In the end, no, as expected, the non-mage faction had been victorious. Cale had arrived right on time for the end of the Civil War.

There was only one thing that signaled the end of the Civil War.

The destroyed Magic Tower.

The fall of the mages’ final fortress signaled the end of the Civil War. Of course, there were still things to take care of afterward the war.

“That non-mage faction was wilder than I had expected.”

Billos started to frown as he described the Civil War.

“They seem like they are not afraid of death and like they are only focused on killing mages.”

Billos’s shoulders shook a bit as he tried to recall how it looked before the Civil War compared to the current situation. These two periods of time were the best time for him to make some money.

However, he had seen much more than that.

“They were especially scary whenever the citizens with magic resistance showed up in large numbers or took the vanguard.”

The biggest influence in the battle between the mage faction and the non-mage faction was this, ‘magic resistance.’

These citizens with magic resistance were slowly born through the generations, and the fact that there were only a few of them, as well as the fact that they could not learn any magic, made their lives difficult in the Whipper Kingdom.

However, these citizens with magic resistance were born in large numbers during this generation, which ended up becoming an advantage for the non-mage faction.

The citizens considered this as a sign from nature that they were to kill those arrogant mages who believed they could rule over nature with their mana.

“This is especially true for the person named Toonka, the one in charge of the non-mage faction.”

Cale was just silently listening.

“That man and his direct subordinates really seemed to move based on instinct. I saw him just once from a distance and he was pulling a mage’s neck off with his bare hands. You don’t know how terrifying that was to witness.”

Sigh.

Billos let out a sigh as he shook his head.

“I couldn’t even sleep properly that night. Just thinking about Toonka and his direct subordinates still makes me feel sick.”

Billos had made up his mind to absolutely avoid those people. It didn’t feel like he could communicate with them. Thankfully, the staff around Toonka were smart and easy to talk to.

“It must have been very cruel.”

Billos wildly nodded his head at Cale’s short response.

“Yes, it was very cruel. The corpses of those mages who were torn to shreds while they were still alive are hanging outside all of the castles.”

However, Billos did not say that that was bad.

“Well, I’m sure even that is not enough in the Whipper citizens’ perspectives.”

Billos understood how they were feeling. Furthermore, as someone who was making money off of the Civil War, he was not in the position to say either side was good or bad.

“But, young master-nim.”

“What is it?”

Billos started to smile as he asked Cale a question. Cale’s response felt cold, but Billos did not budge.

“Where are we headed to now?”

Billos was very curious about their destination, as well as what the treasure was. He could see Cale, who had been quietly listening to everything he had to say, start to smile.

This smile filled Billos with anticipation. Cale then started to speak.

“To meet Toonka.”

“...Excuse me? Who?”

Billos thought that he had heard wrong. The fact that he had not been able to sleep properly for a while may have affected his hearing.

Cale continued to speak while looking at the confused expression that he had seen for the first time appear on Billos’s face.

“We are going to the Magic Tower.”

“What?”

There were many reasons Cale had selected this very small port. It was the closest port to the Magic Tower, one out of the battle areas, and one where many of the citizens still lived.

Cale leisurely continued to speak to Billos, who had a blank expression on his face but seemed to be thinking about a lot of things right now.

“Just trust me.”

Billos opened and closed his mouth a few times before jumping up and heading over to the cabinet in order to take out a bottle of alcohol. He then started to chug it and

only stopped after emptying about half of the bottle into his mouth.

“I will trust my instincts.”

“And what do your instincts say?”

Billos took out a new bottle and handed it to Cale.

“My instincts are telling me to follow you, young master-nim.”

Cale took a gulp straight from the bottle.

“You have pretty good instincts. It is perfect for a merchant.”

Cale seemed to be very relaxed. Billos clenched onto the bottle in his hand as he looked past Cale’s shoulders and out the window.

Although the official Civil War was over, there were still screams throughout the Whipper Kingdom as all of the mages were not caught just yet. Madness, despair, sorrow, these were all still plentiful in the air.

“This tastes great.”

Billos decided to follow his instincts even more after seeing Cale so calm.



A few days later, Cale stepped out of the carriage with the Flynn Merchant Guild crest. There were three more carriages behind him as well.

“Young master-nim, this is as close as we can get to the Magic Tower in a carriage.”

Cale could see the destroyed Magic Tower in the distance, but it was much less destroyed than he had expected.

“He really kept his promise about not destroying it much.”

Toonka had listened to what Cale had said.

“It is a beautiful Magic Tower.”

Billos seemed to be in a daze next to Cale. At that moment, Cale took someone out of his pocket and showed a small corner of it to Billos.

“Gasp!”

Billos let out a gasp.

The golden plaque.

He only saw a bit, but that was definitely a golden plaque. Billos’s gaze instantly changed.

“Young master-nim, I respect you very much.”

Cale just ignored Billos as Hans approached him.

“Young master-nim, what do you plan to do now?”

Hans asked what Cale was going to do as he looked around. They were currently around the entrance of a base that was created in front of the Magic Tower.

They could see lots of huts and houses. In fact, it seemed more like a village than a base based on the size. They could also see uniquely colored people as well. They were the citizens of the Whipper Kingdom.

There were also other odd people as well. This made Hans’s eyes start to quiver.

“Mmph!”

He then subconsciously covered his mouth with his hand. There were people who looked like warriors, but they were covered in blood and chopping up some corpses. They could tell that the corpses were wearing robes. These were all corpses of mages.

Behind the corpses were the chopped off heads of the mages rolling on the ground.

The scent of blood and rotting flesh overwhelmed Hans’s nose as he started to hear the sound of corpses burning behind him.

“Take a break if it’s too much.”

Hans turned to look at the calm Cale and realized that everybody else around him was composed. Even Maes and the children, whom he recently learned were Wolves, were calmly observing the situation in front of them.

“Hans.”

“...Yes, young master-nim.”

“This is a battlefield.”

Hans could feel the weight of those words. At the same time, he clearly looked into Cale's eyes that were coolly observing the entire battlefield.

Chapter 70

Different than Intended (2)

Cale indifferently observed the tents, warriors, merchants, and other people moving to and from the camp. It made him recall when he was Kim Rok Soo and working different jobs. He suddenly felt tired and had a desire to relax and read a book. However, his face was calm, as usual.

Cale's gaze once again turned toward Hans as he asked Hans a question.

"Will you rest?"

"I am okay, young master-nim!"

Deputy butler Hans could see Cale speaking to him in his usual self.

"Then let's work."

That made Hans feel better. Cale gathered everyone in front of him after verifying that Hans was calm.

Since the Civil War was already over, Cale and crew were able to get to the base in front of the Magic Tower once they showed their identifications. The base was now just filled with people finally getting some rest after the long war.

And the reason they were able to get so far was because Billos had traded materials with the warriors multiple times during the Civil War. They had come under the Flynn Merchant Guild's name.

However, they were going to do something different starting now.

"We came to meet someone named Toonka today. Make sure you do not respond to any provocations before that."

Choi Han, who had been quietly listening, started to speak.

“Who is this person named Toonka?”

“Ah, that Bob guy from before is Toonka. Bob is an alias.”

Cale just casually responded to Choi Han as he turned to look at Billos. However, he was able to hear Choi Han’s quiet mumbling as he turned.

“...So it is him.”

“Huh?”

“It is nothing.”

Choi Han responded with a calm expression, so Cale just let it go as he started to speak to Billos.

“Billos, you said you could get to the tent with the chiefs?”

“Yes. However, only about 6 people, including myself, can go.”

“It seems like you made quite a bit of money?”

The fact that he was able to have conversations with the chiefs symbolized that Billos had made a lot of money through the Civil War. Billos just smiled and did not say anything else.

At that moment, the invisible Raon started to speak in Cale’s mind.

- Funny.

‘Now what?’

Cale started to frown.

- I have a feeling that something entertaining will happen.

‘Feeling?’

Cale got the chills and caressed his neck as he ignored Raon’s words.

He then quickly selected the four people who would go with him.

“Choi Han, Lock, Hilsman.”

Cale made eye contact with Rosalyn. She had not said anything after looking around the residence once they arrived. Cale wondered whether she was angry about the death of her fellow mages.

However, what Cale saw in Rosalyn’s eyes was the gaze of a royal princess. Rather than getting angry because of the deaths of the mages, she was thinking about the stupidity of the Whipper Kingdom’s royal family for keeping things as is until the citizens rebelled like this.

“Miss Rosalyn, you’ll be coming, right?”

Rosalyn fixed the large club over her leather armor as she answered.

“Yes.”

The people who would go with him had been decided. Cale decided to leave the rest to Hans.

“We will go somewhere quiet and stay there! I will keep everyone safe!”

Cale could see On and Hong snorting at deputy butler Hans’s words. At the same time, they were asking Cale with their eyes.

‘When will we go to the Magic Tower?’

Cale responded back with a gaze.

‘Just wait a bit.’

They will soon be able to get to the location for the kittens to run wild.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes sir.”

Billos put on a large necklace with the Flynn Merchant Guild crest on it and took the

lead. Cale followed behind him.

As soon as they entered into the base, they could feel multiple sharp gazes falling on them.

“Just look forward.”

Everyone looked forward like Cale said. The non-mage faction was made of citizens, knights, and the magic-resistant individuals. Cale’s group stood out like a sore thumb amongst the faction members, who were all covered in blood.

Cale could see the non-mage faction members in front of him as well.

‘I guess they haven’t had enough.’

They wanted war. He could feel the madness and chaos in the air around him. Cale recalled how Toonka had taken control of the Whipper Kingdom royalty and made them his puppets before rushing to fight with the Queen of the Jungle and the Empire.

He took the time to look at the soldiers under the command of a tyrant like Toonka. They did not come up to provoke them or fight with them. They were just mesmerized by Toonka, who they instinctually feared. However, none of them backed away either. They just continued to viciously stare at Cale, who looked like a noble.

“We are here.”

Billos stood in front of a tent. It was not very deep in the base, as Cale had expected. It was only a bit away from the entrance.

“Honestly speaking, the chiefs-”

“Billos.”

Cale cut Billos off because he knew what Billos was going to say.

The non-mage faction thinks that they destroyed their, ‘rationality,’ but in reality, a different kind of rationality had exploded in its place.

Are only mages smart? Are they the only educated ones?

No. There were many others who were educated as well. The scientists had come under Toonka because they were tired of being suppressed by the mages.

‘They hate magic even more than Toonka does.’

You could just consider them to be crazy. It is even scarier when smart people go crazy.

“Contact them.”

“Yes sir.”

Billos approached the largest tents in the chiefs’ section. A warrior approached him to guide him and watch him.

The chiefs’ tent. There were many more warriors here than the other areas. It was interesting that Toonka had no problem throwing away weak warriors but were protecting these chiefs.

‘That is why he couldn’t become a real hero.’

Cale ignored the sharp gazes of the guards and waited for Billos to come back with the chiefs. He just needed to ask them to meet with Toonka and they would probably welcome it with open arms.

However.

‘Why does my neck feel so cold?’

Cale looked around to see what might be causing this odd feeling. Billos was taking longer than he had expected. It should not take this long to come back with a single person.

- Human.

Raon’s low voice rang in Cale’s mind as the entrance flap to the tent Billos entered started to move. It looked like a large person was trying to run out.

‘No way?’

Suddenly, Choi Han, who had been standing behind Cale, stepped in front of Cale with

a stiff expression.

“Choi Han?”

“I have a bad feeling about this.”

“What?”

Riiip! The tent entrance ripped open.

“I smell it! I smell the scent of a strong person! Muahahaha! This is perfect! I was so bored!”

A large man covered in blood revealed himself. Behind him was a man and a woman who were slightly smaller than him, but still quite large.

“Sigh.”

Cale let out a sigh.

The crazy person who was covered in blood as if he had showered in mage blood was naturally Toonka. As usual, Toonka was accurately looking at a specific location.

“It’s you!”

He was looking at Choi Han, who was protecting Cale from him. Toonka did not seem to even see Cale behind Choi Han.

“The other ones smell strong too, but you seem to be the strongest! I can’t sleep while smelling such a scent!”

Cale decided he needed to step forward. However, Choi Han asked in a very low voice.

“Is he Toonka?”

“Oh, you recognized him right away.”

Cale just answered Choi Han’s question without thinking, and Toonka pointed to Choi Han at the same time.

“Fight me. Aren’t your hands itching too?”

Cale let out a sigh. Toonka really never seemed to change.

Choi Han would naturally decline as his personality was not one who would fight for no reason. He would definitely not fight with someone he had just met.

Cale tried to walk past Choi Han, who was in front of him. That was when he heard Choi Han’s voice.

“Sure.”

‘What?’

Raon’s voice echoed in Cale’s head.

- Just as I expected. I, the great and mighty Raon, is smart!

Contrary to Raon’s excited voice, Cale started to frown.

On the other hand, Toonka licked his lips after seeing the way Choi Han was glaring at him. He only had Choi Han in his eyes and did not see anybody else. Choi Han had the strongest scent here. It was the same scent that made him think of the Whale people who were staring back at him in the Ubarr territory.

“Kekeke, yes, I like that type of gaze.”

Toonka was excited. He felt like he could have a physical fight, one that did not rely on crap like magic.

Choi Han put his hand on the hilt of his blade after seeing the madness in Toonka’s eyes. He was calm, but his gaze seemed like it wanted to chop Toonka in half.

Screech.

A part of the blade came out of the scabbard.

It was at that moment.

Squeeze.

Choi Han felt a strong grip on his shoulder and suddenly got the chills. He had felt this once before.

It was the same pressure that caught everyone's attention when they were with the Whales. A quiet yet emotionless voice reached Choi Han's ear.

"Choi Han."

Cale was looking at him. Cale wasn't blaming him or giving him a command, but his gaze seemed to be extremely deep. That gaze made Choi Han subconsciously let go of the blade.

Click.

The blade was pushed back into the scabbard.

"Are you trying to fight right now?"

The Dominating Aura was surrounding Cale's entire body right now. He walked past Choi Han and faced Toonka.

The stench of blood filled his nose.

"Toonka."

Cale needed to stand above Toonka now. It became a little more complicated, but he decided that he might as well use this opportunity. Cale pushed back his red hair and greeted the blankly staring Toonka.

"Long time no see."

"You, you ar-"

Toonka did not recognize him right away. However, as soon as he saw the red hair, he thought of a single person. However, this person in front of him was too different from the last time they had met. He clenched his fist. An unexplainable feeling was coming out of this bastard in front of him.

The bastard that shoved him in the ocean and looked down on him, Cale Henituse. His gaze was the same as two months ago. The man he saw two months ago asked him a

question.

“Do you want to fight?”

Cale had a calm smile as he asked. However, he did not wait for Toonka’s response.

“Choi Han.”

“...Yes sir.”

Choi Han could not help but nod his head at Cale’s indifferent voice.

“Fight him if you want.”

Choi Han could only answer in one way.

“I will definitely win.”

Choi Han put his hand back on the hilt of his blade. His tightly clenched fist let him feel a stronger desire than before. Cale then turned toward Toonka, who was slowly starting to smile. Toonka then let out a loud laugh.

“Muhahahahahahaha!”

It was so loud it echoed through the base. However, Toonka was still nervous. The person in front of him was definitely weak, however!

There was an aura that dominated this area. Toonka ignored that aura and shouted even louder. He was excited. His body was heating up. Blood, he needed to see blood.

“Let’s fight! Great! Very good!”

In that moment, Raon was scoffing at Toonka as he spoke to Cale.

- He’s crazy for a beating. What an idiot. Our side is much stronger!

It was only obvious. Toonka would probably get beaten to a pulp.

Choi Han was not the type to go easy in a fight. Cale looked toward the even crazier looking Toonka, who was laughing like a maniac, and started to speak to Choi Han.

“No need to hold back.”

That made Choi Han start to smile. This smile did not look pure and innocent at all. That smile satisfied Cale and he called over to Toonka.

“Bob.”

The sudden return of his alias from two months ago made Toonka stop laughing. Cale then glanced at Toonka’s subordinates, as well as the warriors who were slowly approaching the chiefs’ tents and the people who were too scared to move. He looked back at Toonka afterward and started to speak.

“Set it up.”

They might as well do it right if they were going to fight anyway.

Chapter 71

Different than Intended (3)

Cale could hear Toonka shout with an excited expression on his face.

"Get it ready right away!"

Suddenly, an arena for the battle began to form in the center. There was nothing special about it. The citizens who went crazy for battle moved some of the tents near the training ground to create a larger area for the battle.

- Weak human, the chubby human is staring at you.

Cale turned his gaze after hearing Raon's voice. Billos was staring at Cale from a distance. Cale casually made a shooing motion toward Billos.

The chiefs were next to Billos, but now was not the time to worry about it. Cale turned his gaze to the front as a shadow appeared in front of him.

"I will guide you to the front."

It was the large woman, Pelia, Toonka's left arm and a master of the spear. She pointed toward the front of the audience section of the arena. His expression immediately stiffened.

"There is no need to do that."

Cale did not want to be at the closest place to the arena at all. He would be the first to die if Toonka is sent flying or Choi Han accidentally launches his aura toward the wrong spot.

"We have to give you the best spot."

As Pelia said that and looked forward, Cale could see the soldiers create a path to the center of the arena. It was a miracle for such wild people to be so coordinated.

Pelia really deserved her position as Vice General.

Cale sighed and followed the path to the front of the arena. He had already hidden his Dominating Aura, but Pelia and the soldiers could not take their eyes off of Cale.

His slow pace made it seem like he was on a casual stroll, while the young man and woman walking behind him looked dangerous.

- Why are you going to a dangerous place? You can not do this because you are weak! It does not matter if you have become as strong as the tip of my claw!

But Cale was just walking slowly because he did not want to go. He couldn't do anything about Raon's nagging. Rosalyn and Lock did not look good following behind Cale as well.

"Young master Cale."

"What is it?"

Rosalyn cautiously looked toward the arena where Choi Han and Toonka would fight against each other.

"What if this makes them hate us?"

'Hate?'

Cale's eyes were full of confusion.

Lock then approached Cale and started to whisper.

"As Noona mentioned, wouldn't it be bad if Choi Han hyung ends up winning? What if they get angry? Don't you think Toonka would be angry and decide not to trade with us? "

Neither Rosalyn nor Lock had any doubts about Choi Han winning. This was the same for Cale. However, Cale was thinking a little differently than the two of them.

Cale slowly sat down on the chairs that were provided for the high ranking officials. He then pointed to the seats on either side of him for the two people still standing.

"Are you going to stand the whole time?"

Rosalyn and Lock sat in the chairs with concern still on their faces. Then Cale's voice reached their ears.

"There is no need to worry."

Toonka was not that strong. Of course, he was strong compared to the average person, but he was outrageously weak compared to Whales and Dragons.

However, Toonka would never have come to this position if he had suffered after meeting a stronger being and vowed revenge on all of them.

He was not the only one who was like that.

"Just look around."

Rosalyn turned her gaze as Cale pointed to the open space. It was at that moment.

"Woo! Woo! Woo!"

Voices echoed in the wide open space. The shouts of the soldiers around the arena rang in Rosalyn's ears. There was more.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of the citizens stomping their feet filled the area. Lock, who had been watching, could feel the vibrations underneath his feet. Once the citizens started to stomp, the soldiers and knights all started to stomp as well.

"Woo! Woo! Woo!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

And that noise gradually grew louder. It seemed like the earth itself was shouting.

"Young master! What, what is going on?"

The timid Lock looked at Cale with a pale expression. He could see Cale smiling.

He answered for both Lock and Rosalyn.

"Winning or losing does not matter to them."

At that time, Pelia came near Cale to sit behind him. She also heard what Cale had to say.

"The Warriors' Ritual."

She stopped sitting down and looked at Cale, who continued to look forward without noticing Pelia's reaction. The two warriors slowly made their way into the arena.

Choi Han and Toonka. Cale continued to speak while looking at the two of them.

"To fight."

For Toonka's people, victory or defeat was not important. Fighting was the only thing that mattered. In particular, if the opponent was not an enemy, the fighting between warriors was rather sacred.

"Only that is important."

Cale finished speaking and leaned over the back of the chair as much as possible. He was afraid of getting hurt after seeing Toonka and Choi Han entering the arena.

At that time, he heard Raon's voice.

- Do not worry, weak human. I am stronger than the two of them! You will not get hurt.

It was a voice filled with pity. Cale did not like the tone of Raon's voice, so he continued to lean back before turning around.

"What is it?"

"It is nothing."

Cale saw that Pelia was sitting down and turned his gaze forward. He then also sat up straight. He didn't want Pelia, who was loyal to Toonka, to get angry for his casual demeanor.

- Yes. Do not sit like a wimp and sit up proudly! Human, you are doing well!

Cale ignored Raon's ramblings as he observed Hota, one of Toonka's other subordinates, stepping forward as referee.

'Not that they really need one.'

Until your opponent faints or gives up. That was the rule of these people. Fainting in such a battle was embarrassing for these people.

"Young master, I don't need to worry?"

"Yes, you can just relax Miss Rosalyn."

Cale responded to Rosalyn's question and watched Hota start to shout in order to get people's attention. He then blew a small flute.

Beeeeeeep-!

The battle had begun.

It would be nice if they ran toward each other right away, but Choi Han and Toonka both continued to stare at each other without moving. Cale watched this without thinking much about it.

At that moment, he could hear Toonka's voice. The arena was large, but since they were in the front, it was not difficult to hear their voices. It also helped that Toonka had a very loud voice.

"Why do you care about what the weakling thinks?"

'The weakling?'

Cale felt like it was referring to him.

'Choi Han is wary of me? Why?'

Cale had a question, but could not think of it any longer. It was because Rosalyn and Lock kept peeking his way. Toonka definitely was referring to him when he said weakling.

Choi Han's voice could be heard at that time.

"...What did you just say?"

His voice was very low. Cale could see the mocking smile on Toonka's face.

"I said why do you care what the weakling thinks! The weaklings are the first to die in any battlefield! I'm sure you know that!"

Rosalyn and Lock started to frown. At that moment, the two of them heard something in their ears.

"Sigh."

Cale's sigh made Lock shut up. Lock's claws were becoming sharper and slowly getting longer. Rosalyn brushed her face with her fingers. However, the two of them soon stopped moving.

"Poor bastard."

...Poor bastard? The two of them both had confusion on their faces as they looked toward Cale. Cale had a blank expression as if he had never sighed in the first place as he looked toward the arena.

The Choi Han that Cale knew had been transported to the hell known as the Forest of Darkness when he was just a sophomore in high school. He was the weakest existence in that forest for the longest time. Cale felt bad for Toonka, who was telling such a person that the weakest would be the first to die.

"Young master Cale, who are you calling a poor-"

"...Just take a look for yourself."

Cale pointed to the arena instead of answering Rosalyn.

At that moment, Choi Han took the sword strap off of his waist. The sword flew out of the corner of the arena once Choi Han threw it in the air.

Plop.

Cale could hear the sound of the sword falling to the ground, but he just nodded his head as he started to mumble.

“It’s definitely better to beat someone up with your bare hands.”

Lock and Rosalyn both flinched and watched as Cale’s words became reality.

Wham!

“Ugh!”

Rosalyn could now tell who Cale was calling a poor bastard.

Pow! Pow!

Boom!

Boooom!

The arena was silent.

Nobody could talk. However, Raon’s voice was going off in Cale’s head.

- He’s being beaten to a pulp!

Raon was correct. Choi Han was beating Toonka up without holding anything back.

“Ugh, you bastard!”

Toonka moved very quickly for someone his size as he rushed toward Choi Han and threw a punch.

Pang.

It made a cute noise as Choi Han blocked it with his palm. Choi Han then closed his fist around Toonka’s hand as he darted toward Toonka. All of this happened in an instant.

Cale could not see past that point. However, he could hear it.

Boom!

Toonka's body was flung to the ground. The arena was filled with dust from the impact.

"Ugh!"

Toonka was having a difficult time breathing. However, Cale could see that Toonka was still smiling.

"Great! This strength! A battle of st- ugh!"

"You talk too much."

However, Choi Han did not allow Toonka to keep smiling.

Cale could see Toonka raise his arms in an attempt to block Choi Han's attack, but Choi Han's kick still flung Toonka into the air.

"Ugh! Hahaha!"

Toonka was laughing even as he was sent flying. He then twisted his body and tried to attack again. However, the results were the same. He ended up getting beaten again and again.

All Cale could see was Toonka's bloodied clothes, his face that was slowly getting swollen to the point that they couldn't even tell it was Toonka, and the dust that was consistently being kicked up into the air.

"Hehe... hehe, I will not fall!"

Toonka got up while staggering to the side. At that moment, Cale could hear Raon's serious voice.

- ...Why is he laughing after getting hit? Does he enjoy getting hit? ^[1]

Cale looked up toward the sky. However, he could still hear what sounded like a punching bag being beaten up.

There was no way that Choi Han, someone who could fight against the Whales, would not be able to beat Toonka up easily. Only Choi Han had the strength to fight against both Raon and the Whale King, Shickler. He really deserved his title of the main character.

Pow! Pow!

Cale continued to look up at the sky with curiosity.

When will Choi Han finish beating Toonka up?

Wasn't it about time for Toonka to run out of strength?

However, Toonka was just too strong.

"Young master Cale, shouldn't we stop Choi Han?"

Cale gave a short response to Rosalyn's cautious question.

"We cannot get involved in the Warriors' Ritual. It can only end with the will of one of the warriors. All we can do is watch this sacred ritual from the side."

Cale did not know that all of the high ranking warriors were looking at him as he said that. He just looked back down after hearing another punching noise followed by a bang.

"Hehehe, you are a really strong bastard. Spit!"

Toonka spit out some blood and continued to laugh. Choi Han looked toward him with disgust. It looked like Choi Han had realized how crazy Toonka was.

He would continue to smile no matter how much he was beaten up. He will stand back up even after being beaten to a pulp repeatedly. He would never give up. He seemed like a character out of a children's cartoon.

'That is why he is such a crazy bastard.'

Cale could see Toonka's morale starting to go down. He could not even tell whether Toonka even had his eyes open anymore.

Toonka looked terrible as he let out a shout and rushed forward once more.

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!"

Toonka then started to fly away.

“...Looks like he is blasting off.”

Toonka was flung high into the sky. Choi Han’s half transparent black aura had sent Toonka soaring into the air.

“Huh, huh?”

“D, dodge!”

“Everybody move!”

The soldiers rushed backward in order to dodge Toonka’s body as Toonka came flying their way.

Booom!

A large ditch was formed as if a meteor had struck down and caused an explosion. Toonka had fainted inside this ditch. Fainting was what Toonka found to be the most embarrassing.

Choi Han walked over to Cale like he didn’t even need to check on Toonka. Cale quickly got up, as if this was the moment he had been waiting for the entire battle.

Rosalyn and Lock, who also got up at that moment, started to flinch. This was the same for Toonka’s subordinates who were heading toward Toonka.

That feeling they had gotten earlier. That gentle yet anxiety provoking feeling. Cale reached his hand out to Choi Han who had approached him.

“Good job.”

“Yes, Cale-nim.”

Choi Han grabbed Cale’s hand and started to smile. Cale surrounded his body with the dominating aura before looking around. The gaze that Toonka’s companions gave Choi Han and himself was worlds apart from the original gaze that Toonka’s group had given them when they had arrived.

Cale had a smile on his face.

Now it was set up properly. It was set up exactly as Cale had wanted.

Tap. Tap.

Toonka woke up from someone tapping on his cheeks. Pelia was waking him up. However, Toonka was looking at Cale who was behind her.

Cale looked down at the collapsed Toonka as he started to speak.

“Take me to the Magic Tower.”

Chapter 72

Different than Intended (4)

Cale could see the change in Toonka's expression. He blankly blinked a few times before slowly starting to frown as if he remembered what had happened.

"I lost."

However, he was calm when he started to speak. Cale then proceeded to speak.

"It was still a warriors' battle."

Toonka blankly stared at Cale before slowly starting to smile. He looked extremely ugly with that expression on his face. His face, that already looked like an orc's because of the beating he had just received, now looked like a mutant troll's face. It was full of blue bruises.

Cale turned away to stop seeing that ugly face. He could hear Toonka starting to speak as he turned. Toonka was speaking to Pelia.

"A new warrior has appeared today!"

Cale could see soldiers approaching them after hearing Toonka's loud voice. There was anticipation on the faces of the citizens. They did not seem to look down on their leader for fainting or have any animosity toward Choi Han for beating up their leader.

Warrior.

It was a cool title that was incomparable to those stupid mages. Someone who deserved such a title had appeared.

"We will have a celebration tonight! Get it prepared!"

Boom. Boom. Boom.

The citizens started to stomp their feet again. At the same time, they cheered for both

Choi Han and Toonka. Although these citizens were called barbarians because of such actions, Cale did not care.

Of course, there will definitely be some soldiers whose morale goes down because Toonka lost, as well as some high-ranking people who will have animosity toward Cale's crew.

'Not my concern.'

He just needed to take what he needed to take. Cale could hear Toonka speaking to Choi Han behind him.

"Warrior! I will definitely kill you next time! Muhahahahaha!"

Cale turned around to see Choi Han frowning deeply. Choi Han had deeply disliked Toonka in the novel. He then heard Toonka speaking to him.

"I destroyed it less, per our agreement!"

It meant they were now going to go look at the Magic Tower.

Cale climbed back up and patted the pale Billos's shoulder.

"Billos."

"Yes sir."

"Go get everybody from outside the base."

Billos seemed confused, but accepted before pointing to someone else.

"Of course. But there is someone I need to introduce first."

Cale looked toward who Billos was pointing at. Brown hair and brown eyes along with an extremely average face. He seemed so common and average, but it was so much so that it made him look unique.

"Young master-nim, this is Chief Harol-nim. He is currently the Supreme Chief in charge of the entire faction."

Harol. He was a necessary member of the non-mage faction.

“Nice to meet you, young master Cale-nim. My name is Harol.”

The peasants of the Whipper Kingdom did not have last names. Cale reached his hand out to Harol.

“Nice to meet you. I am Cale.”

Harol cautiously shook Cale’s hand before quietly starting to whisper.

“I guess young master Cale-nim is who our leader Toonka-nim said he was going to sell the Magic Tower to.”

Cale did not say anything and just smiled as he let go of Harol’s hand.

Harol. Harol was neither a very strategic person nor a strong individual. He also did not have any unique abilities. He was a great scientist, but he was lacking compared to the other chiefs.

However, he was one of the founding members of the non-mage faction.

The mages had considered themselves above the regular citizens because of their magic abilities. Harol had been the one who had brought up the idea of saving the people from such tyranny. To them, he was a hero.

People followed him because of how average he was. Toonka and Harol, this combination was the hope for the Whipper Kingdom’s citizens.

“It is my honor to meet you. I guess we have a lot to discuss from here on.”

The non-mage faction needed money. Harol probably wanted to take as much money as possible from Cale. At that moment, Cale could hear Raon’s voice in his head.

- What a liar.

The dragon really was sharp. Cale gently responded to Harol.

“I suppose so.”

An unfair trade. That trade started from Harol and not Toonka.



Cale stood in front of the Magic Tower and looked up.

The 20 story Magic Tower was the second tallest building on the entire continent. The tallest building was the Empire’s Alchemist Bell Tower.

‘It’s better than I expected.’

Toonka had destroyed the Magic Tower less than Cale had anticipated. There were only a few outer walls that were destroyed. In comparison, all the windows and the insides were a total mess.

‘This isn’t all there is to the Magic Tower.’

Cale turned away from the Magic Tower to look at Toonka.

“Are you going in as well?”

The question made Toonka start to frown.

“You think I am crazy? Why would I go into that dirty place?”

Dirty place. Toonka was calling this famous building that was known throughout the Western Continent a, ‘dirty place.’ It was dirty to him because the citizens’ blood, sweat, and tears were shed inside of this building.

“Harol will guide you.”

Toonka said that before peeking toward Beacrox, Hilsman, the Wolf children, and Lock. It was because he smelled strong scents from them as well. He then also peeked toward the two baby kittens in Cale’s arms.

He then looked toward Choi Han, who was talking to Rosalyn, before casually starting to speak.

“You are interesting because you are weak.”

Cale naturally ignored Toonka, however, Toonka continued to speak.

“A weakling who oddly seems strong.”

However, Toonka could not say anything else. It was because Choi Han had started to stare at him. Toonka started to smile brightly at Choi Han’s stare before he started to approach him.

“What? You want to fight again?”

Choi Han sighed before ignoring Toonka. Cale observed Toonka and Choi Han’s interaction before taking a look at Billos and Harol discussing with one another. He then started petting the kittens in his arms while starting to quietly sing.

“Let’s catch a rat, let’s catch a rat. How many rats?”

On’s front paw moved in Cale’s arms.

Tap.

She hit him once.

Cale continued to speak.

“Don’t hurt him though. Life is precious.”

Hong snorted before moving his front paw.

Tap. Tap.

He tapped twice before his tail started to wag. On started to shake her head after seeing the smiles on Cale and Hong’s faces. The two of their villainous smiles were becoming similar the longer they were together.

However, On’s tail was shaking as well.

At that moment, a stealthy voice filled Cale’s mind.

- Should I come with you too, human?

Raon really must want to go with them, as he even asked Cale for permission. Cale sternly shook his head. Cale quietly whispered as if he was gently speaking to the kittens.

“You have to catch something else with me.”

The baby kittens and Black Dragon all closed their mouths after seeing Cale’s expression as he said, ‘something else.’ That sounded fun as well.

Harol and Toonka soon approached Cale. Toonka pointed to Harol with friendliness.

Our chief will guide you. Pelia will go with you as well.”

Pelia was going to be Harol’s guard. Cale nodded his head and asked.

“Did you clean up the corpses of the mages in the tower?”

“I left a few there.”

Cale knew this would be the case and kept a straight face. At that moment, Raon started to speak.

- I guess you are only afraid of mermaid corpses. Don’t worry, I will make sure the mermaids can’t get to you in the future.

‘...I’m not really afraid of the mermaids either.’

However, Cale did not say that out loud since he should not run into any mermaids in the future.

Toonka observed Cale’s calm demeanor before continuing to speak.

“Those bastards do not need their souls consoled.”

The consolation of the soul referred to cremation.

The citizens burned mage corpses whenever possible. Of course, there were some corpses with their heads rolling around on the ground, but those corpses would soon

be burnt as well.

However, there must be a reason for the corpses they left behind not to be burnt.

'Probably the ones that killed the most citizens.'

What do you need the most of to advance magic devices?

Experiments.

What would they experiment on?

People.

There were many mages who performed experiments on humans in secret.

"I plan on getting rid of them when there are no more mages left in this kingdom. There will be no traces of them left."

Toonka quietly mumbled, contrary to his usual self. However, Cale did not pay much attention to his words.

Although all of the mages in the tower were dead, not all of the mages in the Whipper Kingdom were dead.

'The Mage Tower mages were all part of the mage faction.'

They were hierarchical and greedy. A tower is naturally going to have a top and a bottom. The people on top enjoyed looking down on the people down below.

However, there were some mages who stayed far away from power and greed. They preferred not to take part in politics or anything of power. Those mages were currently in hiding, trying to find a way out of the Whipper Kingdom, as well as trying to determine where to go.

Crown prince Alberu Crossman would be their shield. Alberu will gather together the mages who are only interested in magic research under his wings.

Cale then asked Toonka.

“Can I go in?”

Cale put the two kittens in his arms down on the ground. They will stealthily investigate on their own as long as the entrance door remains open.

Beacrox and Choi Han stood behind Cale. Seeing Beacrox there, Cale had a confused expression on his face. However, Beacrox was looking toward the still bruised and battered Toonka with disgust.

“Harol.”

“Yes, leader-nim. Young master Cale-nim, I will guide you.”

Screech.

The Magic Tower’s door opened and Cale started to frown. He casually started to speak to Harol and Toonka, who were both looking at him.

“The rotten stench is strong.”

The first floor of the Magic Tower. As soon as the door opened, Cale could see a corpse wearing the golden robe that symbolized the liege of the Magic Tower, as well as the destroyed remains of the devices inside. Cale started to speak with disgust at the crazy people who caused all this.

“Leave the door open to ventilate. I can’t stand this type of smell.”

He then started to speak to Toonka.

“And cover the corpse. I’m a weakling so I can’t stand looking at a corpse for long.”

Toonka snorted, but still motioned to a soldier guarding the entrance. Cale verified the pale, yet calm Rosalyn, before leaving her and the others behind and entering the Magic Tower.

Choi Han quickly stood in front of him with Beacrox behind him.

“Shall I guide you floor by floor?”

“Chief Harol.”

“Yes?”

“The top.”

There was no reason to look anywhere else.

“...The top?”

“I’m curious about what it feels like to look down from the top. The liege’s room. Let’s go there.”

“I understand.”

They got on the elevator, the only device that was still functioning in the Magic Tower. It would instantly take them up to the 20th floor.

“You somehow managed to not break this.”

“Just in case we needed it.”

Harol gently responded, but Cale had to hold back his snort.

Oooooong.

The only remaining magic device in the Magic Tower started to move with a gentle vibration. The platform that Cale and crew were standing on slowly started to move up. It finally stopped once they got to the top of the Magic Tower.

Cale looked at the single door on the top floor and started to speak.

“Is that the liege’s room?”

“Yes it is. Ah, young master-nim?”

Cale did not respond to Harol’s call and started to walk.

The others quickly followed behind him. Cale walked to the door and turned the knob.

Click.

The door opened and the liege's room revealed itself.

"What a mess."

Cale's blunt assessment was heard by everyone else.

An area as wide as an entire floor was in front of them. It definitely was a mess.

Everything inside the liege's room was destroyed. There was also blood everywhere. It looked like they had splashed blood around the room on purpose.

"A total mess. Chief Harol, can I go to that window over there?"

The only symbol of the liege's room. The only undestroyed thing remaining in this room was the view from that large window.

"Of course. Let me guide you there."

"I want to think in silence. Can I go alone?"

"...That is a bit..."

Seeing Harol looking uncomfortable, Choi Han moved away from the liege's room and stood in front of the elevator.

"I will be right here."

Beacrox went and stood next to Choi Han as well. He looked thankful that he did not need to go into such a dirty and messy place. However, Pelia was still uncomfortable. Nevertheless, Harol had made up his mind and started to speak.

"Pelia-nim, I will guide young master Cale-nim over there. Will five minutes alone with me be fine, young master-nim?"

"Of course. Keep one door open. That way, she can feel at ease."

"Thank you very much."

Cale returned Pelia's thanks with a smile.

The liege's room had a double door entrance. They kept one of them open as Cale entered the room. The twentieth floor. The liege's room was very wide as the liege had occupied the entire floor for himself.

That was why most people would not be able to hear Cale's voice once they got to the window at the edge of the room.

'Choi Han might be able to hear it, but it doesn't matter if he does.'

Cale crossed through the destroyed items in the room. Tables, chairs, books, carpets, everything was now trash.

Cale stood in front of the window that was the furthest away from the door and started to speak.

"You broke everything?"

Harol confidently responded to Cale's question.

"Of course. This was the room of the worst person in the Magic Tower. This was the room of a monster made from mana."

A monster made from mana. This was what the warriors used when referring to mages.

- What a liar.

Raon was grumbling in disbelief, but Cale did not care. Instead, he started to whisper in Harol's ear. He was talking about Harol's secret that nobody else knew about.

"You say that, but you are a mage as well."

He could feel mana, but his heart resisted mana. He was a mixed child of a mage and a magic resistant person. The unluckiest of all mana users.

The secret of a person's birth was quite common in this world.

"Chief Harol, no."

Cale put his hand on the completely pale Harol and called out to him.

“Harol Kodiang.”

The phrase about how a smart person going crazy was scary definitely was referring to Harol Kodiang.

“Don’t you want to erase all traces of your father?”

The liege of the Magic Tower, Pister Kodiang, did not know about Harol. This was a child who was born without his knowledge. A true monster that the monster made from mana had created.

“How did you know?”

Cale gently responded to the monster who asked him that question with a bitter smile on his face.

“Let me hear your answer first.”

He didn’t need to say something like how he was going to buy the Magic Tower. Instead, Cale spoke about what he knew to be Harol’s desire.

“I will get rid of the Magic Tower for you. What do you think?”

Chapter 73

Different than Intended (5)

“How did you know?”

“The mana told me.”

Harol had a twisted smile on his face after hearing Cale’s answer.

The mana told me. That was the phrase that was quite famous for being the Magic Tower’s liege’s favorite phrase.

Harol Kodiang. He was born between a mage and a magic resistant citizen, and he had the unique traits of both sides. However, his appearance did not look anything like the citizens at all.

“...Are you planning on using my bloodline as blackmail?”

Cale looked down from the 20th floor instead of responding to the question right away.

There were a lot of memorable extra characters in, ‘The Birth of a Hero.’ Harol Kodiang was one of them.

His mother passed away while giving birth to him alone, and his father did not even know of his existence.

That was the start of Harol’s anger.

‘However, there was something Harol did not know.’

It was something only the author and the readers would know. That one line was enough to make Harol’s anger worthless.

< Harol Kodiang. He was a product of his parents’ love, but unfortunately, he would never know the truth. >

The novel did not go into detail about it. All it said was that the liege of the Magic Tower met her when he was out training as a young mage and fell in love.

Cale continued to look out the window before speaking to the son of the Magic Tower's liege, who ended up destroying the Magic Tower.

"Why would I use it to blackmail you? Being related to someone by blood is not a sin."

Harol did not have a response. Cale turned his head to look at Harol.

"Plus, aren't you all the ones who are in a rush?"

They were currently between spring and summer, with the fall harvest season right in front of them. All of them had rebelled against the Magic Tower because they could not handle the taxation of the Magic Tower any longer.

Harol needed to fill the people's desire in order for them to rise up once again.

In fact, Harol was someone who wanted war even more than Toonka did. He wanted to destroy the seeds of mages in the entire world.

"...There is a mage within your crew."

"Yes there is."

Harol could feel mana like his father, but could not use it. There was no way he wouldn't know that Rosalyn was a mage. Of course, the reason that he couldn't feel Raon's presence was because his skills were too weak.

Harol could see how calm and confident Cale was and decided to ask.

"What is the Roan Kingdom planning to do with the Magic Tower?"

Cale started to frown as he made it very clear to Harol.

"The Magic Tower is mine."

Harol observed the red-haired man who spoke confidently while looking out the window.

“I do not share my things with anyone else.”

He would have to be crazy to give this to the kingdom. Cale thought about all of the time he spent to get here. There was no way he would give this up. The Magic Tower would become an ingredient for him to create the sturdiest castle for his territory.

Cale could see that Harol’s eyes were filled with complications and confusion.

‘He probably is going through all sorts of scenarios in his head because he is so smart.’

The final goal of this crazy bastard was to destroy all mages in the world. Harol respected and hoped for a world where everyone just relied on their strength or things like ancient powers.

It was funny, since the world Harol was trying to create would be even worse when it came to comparisons between the people who had abilities and the people who did not. That was why Cale called him a crazy bastard.

“...Young master Cale, is it not that you want the mages of the Whipper Kingdom?”

“Me?”

Cale scoffed to show that he was being honest when he answered. He already had Raon Miru, the Black Dragon with him.

“I do not need any more mages around me. An even greater existence is by my side.”

-... Human, I like the view from up here! The great Raon is right here human!

Cale could hear Raon’s voice, but he paid no attention to it. Harol had a complicated expression on his face. Cale was planning on sending the mages to the crown prince anyways. He didn’t care about whether Harol figured this out or not. He wasn’t lying, since he personally would not take those mages under his wing.

‘Of course, I will give some help to the crown prince.’

By some, he meant a lot of help to make sure that the mages ended up with the crown prince.

“Alright, Chief Harol Kodiang.”

Harol could see that Cale seemed to have no worries at all. He pointed to the door. It was at that moment.

“Cale-nim, it has been 5 minutes.”

Their alone time was over.

Choi Han looked through the open door and announced the end of the time before adding on.

“And other people have arrived as well.”

Other people? While Harol looked confused, Cale started to speak.

“You can hear the details from my people.”

Two people entered through the open door as soon as he said that. It was Billos and Deputy butler Hans. Hans had a large bag of files in his arms.

Why had Cale called Billos and Hans to come with him? It was naturally in order to put them to use.

Harol could feel Cale’s hand on his shoulder.

Tap. Tap.

Cale lightly tapped Harol’s shoulder before continuing to speak.

“Have a nice discussion.”

Harol started to laugh at Cale’s calm voice before returning to his usual gentle expression.

“I definitely will.”

Harol gave that short response before quickly heading over to Billos and Hans. Billos walked over to Cale while Hans and Harol were discussing. He then cautiously started to whisper.

“Young master-nim.”

“What?”

“Should I make the deal under my name for now?”

The transfer of funds was completed with Billos as the middleman. Billos would take Cale’s money and deliver it to the non-mage faction. It was because of the difference in currencies and such.

Of course, Billos would be taking the crown’s money and not Cale’s, but the non-mage faction had no way of knowing about that.

“Yes.”

“Then I will leave a deposit and deliver the rest of the money within a month.”

“You take care of it.”

“But I do have a question.”

Cale could see Billos licking his lips. It looked so gross that Cale motioned with his chin for Billos to hurry up and speak.

“That, you see, how much were you thinking of spending?”

The great Magic Tower held a lot of history within its walls. Everyone else believed that all of the devices except the elevator were completely destroyed. The citizens of the Whipper Kingdom also hated this building.

Cale put up one finger in front of Billos. Billos seemed confused after looking at the finger before cautiously asking.

“...100 million?”

“No.”

“One billion?”

Cale did not respond.

“...Ten billion?”

Cale nodded his head at the cautious question.

“Take care of it within that range.”

It seemed small compared to the tens of billions of gallons that went into feeding the army per month, but the non-mage faction needed money urgently to settle the needs of the citizens. The same amount of money could have different values based on the needs of the people.

Furthermore, it was the crown prince’s money and not Cale’s money anyway.

Billos started to frown as he quietly, but quickly, started to whisper.

“But it is all destroyed? Well, the original Magic Tower would take more than even a hundred billion gallons to purchase, but none of the magic devices even work right now.”

“That is why it is a maximum of ten billion gallons. Bring the cost down using the fact that it is just a skeleton of what it used to be. Oh, and you can use more money, so buy a good chunk of the nearby land as well.”

“...Excuse me?”

“There is something that we can sell that is worth the cost of this Magic Tower.”

A short period of silence filled the area.

“Sigh.”

Billos let out a deep sigh.

“I have no idea what you are planning, but I guess we should always aim to generate the most profit?”

“Of course.”

“Then I will do what I can.”

Cale started to smile after hearing such a satisfactory answer. Billos seemed to be at a loss of words, but still barely managed to smile back.

“My heart is shaking after hearing such large amounts of money, young master-nim.”

“I’m sure it is beating with joy.”

Billos did not retort Cale’s response. He respectfully bowed before leisurely walking back toward Harol.

The non-mage faction had no use for the Magic Tower and instead needed to do something big like destroying the Magic Tower to satisfy the citizens. Since it was going to be worthless anyway, they might as well make some money off of it.

“Cale-nim.”

Choi Han and Beacrox approached Cale. Beacrox looked around the room before asking.

“Are you going to clean it once you buy it?”

Cale gently responded to Beacrox’s question.

“I’m going to get rid of everything.”

The moment Beacrox let out a sigh of relief, Cale stopped leaning on the windowsill and started to walk away. There was no need to look at anything else right now.

He would be back at night anyway.



There was a big frown on Cale’s face. He could hear Toonka responding to him.

“You don’t feel well?”

“Yes.”

Toonka started to frown at Cale’s nonchalant answer. The surroundings were very loud. The citizens were enjoying the celebration to welcome a new warrior.

Toonka knew of their current financial situation, but this was more important to him. He needed to use the warrior name to draw people to them. That was why the chiefs

had agreed to this dinner celebration.

“...You weakling.”

Toonka seemed to be disgusted, but it was hidden through his swollen face. Cale just pointed to Choi Han.

“The main character for the celebration is still available, so it shouldn’t be a problem. I need to rest because I am a weakling.”

Although Choi Han did not seem to like it, Cale lightly pushed him toward Toonka and crew. Naturally, Hilsman was with Choi Han as well.

“Hahaha! I can feel the will of the Whipper Kingdom’s warriors! A celebration! This is great!”

The Vice Captain really was good at socializing.

“Then goodbye.”

Cale left the celebration area without any regrets. Beacrox was with him as a guard. Beacrox asked a question because they were heading toward Cale’s crew’s tents that were quite far away from the celebration.

“I just need to stand guard outside of the tent?”

“Yes, I will be sleeping.”

“That will be the official story.”

It really was easy to talk to Beacrox. He didn’t need to do any unnecessary explanations.

That was why Cale had gathered the three others into his room. Of course, he needed to crouch to look at the three of them.

On, Hong, and Raon were all sitting on the ground.

“Did you find him?”

On and Hong started to smile.

“We have a good feeling about where he may be!”

“We know approximately where he is!”

They were very excited.

Cale had already changed into another outfit. He then looked toward Raon and started to speak.

“To the liege’s room please.”

Raon covered Cale, On, and Hong with invisibility and flight magic before avoiding the gazes of the other people and arriving at the 20th floor of the Magic Tower, the liege’s room. Since all of the alarm magic devices were already broken and only a guard was left at the entrance of the Magic Tower, it was not very difficult. Toonka had been adamant that as many people as possible took part in the celebration. He was oddly useful in times like this.

Whaaaaaaa~

Hahahahaha~

Laughter and clapping, as well as even singing, could be heard echoing throughout the night. Cale could see the soldiers and citizens all gathered by a bonfire and dancing around. They seemed excited to be celebrating for the first time in a while.

Cale put his magic bag on his waist before looking toward the kittens. The kittens slowly started to guide Cale through the Magic Tower. They moved stealthily, living up to their reputation as members of the stealthy Cat tribe, while Cale followed behind them down the stairs. He could not use any magic device since they would leave some evidence of being used.

However, Cale then started to frown.

He stopped exactly on the 15th floor stairs and asked.

“...Where is he?”

This was how the novel had described Mueller.

< Mueller used his small body to hide in a secret wall along the Magic Tower Staircase. It was a spot that only his family and the liege of the Magic Tower knew about. The coward hid in that location. He ended up being stuck there, too afraid of the guards to step out. >

Which wall would it be? Where would Mueller be?

Hong wagged his red tail as he answered.

“The first underground level!”

Damn it. Cale had selected the wrong spot to enter. Cale held back his sigh before quietly using the Sound of the Wind and picking the kittens up in his arms. He then spoke to Raon.

“Follow me.”

Cale’s body moved very quickly down the stairs.

Tap. Tap.

It was very quiet, such that the guards outside would not be able to hear it.

The Magic Tower’s layout was 20 stories above ground and three stories underground.

“A, amazing!”

“We got down here in an instant!”

- You are weak, but as fast as my claw, human!”

Cale listened to the compliments of the three, who averaged only 7 years of age, while he stood outside the stairs to the underground levels.

“Around here?”

“Yes!”

The kittens were saying that they could smell a Rat. However, even they could not know the exact location. Cale had read the novel, so he could open the secret door as

long as he knew the location.

'It really described a lot of useless things.'

'The Birth of a Hero,' took time to describe all extras and passing characters with at least one line of description. Cale only knew the location because of this.

Cale took out a small steel rod from his magic bag. On and Hong flinched and looked toward him, but he did not care as he started to tap the wall and walk down one step at a time.

Ding.

Ding.

"Where could it be?"

Ding.

Ding.

The red-haired man started to mumble as he walked down the staircase that was lit up by glowing rocks one by one.

Cale was feeling good that he would be able to save Mueller who, in the novel, was caught before almost starving to death and had to watch as the non-mage faction destroyed his family's bodies before they killed him.

Ding.

Ding.

However, the kittens and dragon following behind him did not look so good.

At that moment, Cale took another step down and hit the wall.

Dong.

"Found it."

It looked just like the rest of the walls in appearance, but the inside of this wall would be different than the rest. Cale started to smile. He took out a magic stone from his bag and touched the wall.

Cale was quite focused, as it required paying attention to a lot of details.

‘There is a spot on the wall with five holes in the shape of a star.’

Cale managed to find the five holes in the shape of a star. He then put the magic stone at the center of those five holes. It was at that moment.

Creeeak.

A small noise could be heard as the wall moved and absorbed the magic stone. Cale took a step back.

Creeeeeeeeeeeak.

An odd noise was made as the wall slowly started to open. A very small person could be seen inside. Cale tried to give a friendly greeting as Mueller became visible.

“...Hmm?”

But something was off.

“Waaaaaaaaa.”

The very small coward was shaking intensely while having a pale face. It was as if he had seen a ghost, no, a homicidal maniac.

It was different than what Cale had expected when he decided to be the hero who saved Mueller.

“Waaa, hiccup!”

Mueller was even hiccuping. Cale tried to smile as gently as possible and greeted him.

“Hi?”

However, this only made Mueller shake even more. On, Hong, and Raon all looked

toward Mueller with pity.

Cale was confused.

'Why is this punk like this?'

Chapter 74

Different than Intended (6)

Cale looked toward On, Hong, and Raon.

‘What is going on?’

He asked the three of them with his gaze, but the three just sighed and shook their heads.

“Sooooooooob.”

Cale could still hear Mueller continuing to cry. Why was he crying so much? Cale turned back toward Mueller.

Both the dwarves and the Rat people were very short. Having received both sets of genetics, Mueller was smaller than both dwarves and Rats.

He resembled the dwarves in fairy tales, having very cute features that would make almost any adult have the desire to protect this small person.

However, this did not apply to Cale.

“I feel so bad for him.”

On and Hong wagged their tails before approaching Mueller with pity in their eyes. Mueller started to shake even worse as they got closer. He was crying even louder now.

“...I feel so bad for him.”

Cale internally snorted at On’s words.

There was no need to feel bad for him. Mueller was 30 years old and lorded over the others as part of the family that helped develop the Magic Tower. He knew about the Magic Tower’s last line of defense, but did not use it because that would have meant revealing himself to Toonka and his crew. He was so scared that he just ignored his

father's last wishes. [1]

If it wasn't for that, there was no way that the Mage faction would have lost so badly.

Of course, this was actually beneficial to Cale.

Although he looked like a young and cute boy based on his appearance, inside of that body was a thirty-year-old man who knew the ways of the world. He knew that his own life was what mattered the most.

Naturally, Cale preferred such a person.

"Sooooob."

Cale was tired of seeing a grown ass man continuing to cry. He decided to stop the good guy act.

"Hey."

Mueller flinched at Cale's voice. He started to shake again after seeing the steel rod in Cale's hand. He felt like this was the end of his life.

Plop, plop.

Cale placed some things on Mueller's arms while he was still crouching inside the wall. It was a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk. He had taken it out of his magic bag.

Mueller's eyes started to shake. He cautiously looked up at Cale only to see a slightly annoyed expression.

Eat it."

Mueller quickly took a bite after hearing what sounded like a command. Cale had an odd feeling while watching Mueller eat the bread that got drenched in his tears.

'...He seems to be useless.'

He had a bad feeling about this. Mueller looked like a totally useless fool.

He was supposed to have the dwarves' technical skills and the Rat's stealth and

meticulousness. This combination was said to have given him the potential to become the greatest developer and constructor. But why-

“T, thank you very much.”

Why does he feel like such a doof?

Cale had a bitter taste in his mouth. However, On, Hong, and Raon all looked toward Mueller with pity and approached him. They were trying to be his shield, as it looked like he was afraid of Cale.

However, contrary to their intentions, Mueller was unable to even taste the bread he was chewing. Two purebred Cat tribe kittens and a dragon. At that moment, he heard a noise that brought chills down his spine.

Ding. Ding.

Cale tapped the wall with the steel rod. There was no reason behind it, he was just randomly tapping. He had a bad feeling about Mueller, but decided to take him anyway.

The Henituse territory had a lot of sculptors, as well as skilled artisans of all styles. There were especially many artisans involved in construction. It was because they had a lot of quarries. That was why Mueller would be useful.

“Do you want to live?”

Cale’s low voice echoed throughout the staircase. He started to get annoyed with Mueller, who looked like he was ready to cry again.

Ding. Ding.

Cale calmed himself by tapping on the wall with the steel rod. He thought about how he probably needed to be gentle with Mueller since he was such a coward. Cale put on a gentle smile as he asked Mueller.

“Should I save you?”

Mueller vigorously nodded his head. It was so energetic that the breadcrumbs started to fling off of him. Cale was satisfied with his energetic response and started to speak in a relaxed manner.

“Then you have to listen to me. Got it?”

“Y, yes sir!”

“Eat your bread first.”

Mueller quickly started to eat the bread. Cale was satisfied with the speed and casually asked.

“You know where the Magic Tower liege’s treasure room is, right?”

Plop.

The bread in Mueller’s hand dropped to the ground. Cale gently added on.

“You dropped your bread. You should pick it up.”

Mueller quickly picked the bread back up. He was still crouching inside the wall with Cale, On, Hong, and Raon surrounding the entrance to the inside of the wall.

“I know that you know about the secret room. The real room for the liege of the Magic Tower.”

The room on the 20th floor was not the real liege’s room. The Magic Tower had more to it than meets the eye.

Mueller’s eyes turned chaotic. How did he know about the room? It was something that only the liege of the tower and the members of the developer’s family knew about.

At that moment, Mueller heard Cale’s voice once again.

“You also know how to get into the fourth floor of the basement, right?”

Cale could see the shock in Mueller’s face. The Magic Tower was known as having 20 floors above ground and three floors underground. Cale started to get an odd feeling after seeing that Mueller was looking toward him with fear, wondering how Cale knew about all those secret places. Cale felt like he had become a criminal, taking a hostage and threatening them for information. He had no plans to do that. In fact, his goal was to save Mueller and give him a safe place to stay.

Cale started to smile and console the shaking Rat person.

“First of all, I will at least let you live if you do as I say.”

He naturally had no plans to free Mueller. He needed to take him back home and put him to work. Cale could see that Mueller quickly responding.

“Anything, I will do anything you tell me to do.”

The Rat and Dwarf mix halfling sounded like he was desperate.

“Good.”

Cale responded to Mueller’s desperation.

Mueller’s eyes were still shaking as he looked at the man who brought the scary Cats, Cats that were even scarier because they were pure-blooded Cats, as well as the Black Dragon with him.

“Then eat the bread and guide me to the fourth underground floor.”

“But you need a magic stone to go-.”

Cale took a bag out and threw it toward Mueller before he even finished his sentence. It was a bag filled with many magic stones. Mueller quickly finished eating the bread that was still drenched in his tears.

He then had to go down to the third underground floor with Cale’s group surrounding him.

The stairway to the third underground floor. In front of it was only the door to the 3rd floor and no other stairs heading downward. However, Mueller took a magic stone out and approached the wall, eventually revealing a mechanism on the wall.

Creeeeeeeeak-

A cave was revealed accompanied by the noise. It was the pathway to the fourth underground floor.

“You go in first.”

Mueller mechanically stepped forward after Cale ordered him to do so. Cale was excited as he headed down the inclined pathway. The cave was dry without any humidity, and there were light stones keeping the path lit.

The 4th floor of the basement.

This was somewhere that only the liege of the tower, the mages who were secretly experimenting down below, and Mueller of the developer's family knew about. Cale walked down the path for a while to find a small door.

"...There is an alarm magic device."

Raon stepped forward as Mueller stood there mumbling. Once Raon lightly waved his paw, the small door opened. Naturally, there was no alarm that went off. Mueller was shocked, but Cale did not care as he stepped in through the door.

'Found it.'

He had found the first treasure.

What was hidden in the Magic Tower?

The biggest secrets were the two research projects that the Magic Tower was conducting in secret.

The names of the research projects were simple.

'A mana storage device that used the principles of ancient powers.'

'The reason for developing magic resistance.'

A research that Harol would desperately want to acquire, as well as research that would take away the citizens' greatest advantage, were both held here.

"Wonderful."

Cale could see the files under layers of security inside two large circular bins.

The citizens who respected ancient power, and Haros who hated magic but also wanted to be able to use magic. How great would they have felt if they had found these

research documents?

'But something like that will not happen now.'

These now belonged to Cale.

Cale approached the large orb located in the middle of the two circular bins.

He could see a seed resting within a fluid inside of this transparent orb that looked like a giant egg.

"Human, that looks interesting!"

Raon approached the egg and squished his face onto the glass in order to observe the seed inside of the fluid.

Cale approached Raon and patted his back as he asked.

"Do you want to try raising it?"

"Human, is that okay?"

"Yes. But it is mine once it is done growing."

"Deal!"

The young four-year-old happily accepted a deal where he would do all of the work only for someone else to benefit from it. Cale had a satisfied smile on his face as he continued to speak to Raon.

"Let's pack up everything in here."

"Of course! I am curious about everything!"

It looked like Cale should create a lab for Raon in the future. Cale started to smile, knowing how much this seed and the research material were worth.

"Mueller."

"Gasp, you even know, m, my name."

Cale approached Mueller, who was hiding at the entrance without coming in. Mueller looked back and forth between the dragon that made the documents and the large egg disappear into another dimension, and Cale, who was approaching him. He could not help but shake.

“Let’s go to the liege’s room now.”

“Y, yes sir!”

“Raon.”

“What is it, human?”

“Set an alarm device here and a few magic traps.”

The fourth floor of the basement would be revealed once the Magic Tower was destroyed. Toonka and the non-mage faction would become even stronger if they found the items that were down here. Of course, Cale did not really want them to get stronger.

‘Although they will perish faster this way.’

But that was not Cale’s problem.

Cale just blankly watched as Raon happily created some magic traps.

“Other humans cannot take all of the interesting things in here. I need to make it so they die the moment they step in here!”

Cale watched the excited four-year-old with satisfaction, but Mueller’s face continued to turn paler. Cale didn’t care about Mueller’s current mental state, instead, he waited until Mueller resealed the room that was now filled with Raon’s magic traps before he grabbed the back of Mueller’s neck.

“The liege’s room.”

That sentence made Mueller respond while still remaining curled up.

“We need to first go to the 20th floor.”

On and Hong jumped into Cale's arms. Mueller, On, and Hong all shared the space in Cale's arms. Mueller could feel Hong's front paw on his back and felt like he was going to die. That made him develop the courage to say the following.

"I, I can walk- aah!"

But before he could finish speaking, he needed to close his mouth because they were moving very quickly. Cale had used the Sound of the Wind to quickly rush up to the 20th floor.

Mueller staggered before trying to stand once they got back up to the 20th floor. He needed some support as he seemed to be dizzy, leading On to give him some support.

"T, thank you very much."

Meeeow.

On gave him a smile, but Mueller started to shake as he avoided eye contact with On. He then started to speak after seeing Cale's gaze that seemed to be telling him to explain how to get to the secret room.

"There is actually another floor in the Magic Tower."

"Is the 21st floor the real liege's room?"

"No, we do not call it the 21st floor."

"Then what do you call it?"

The Magic Tower's liege's room. That was a room that the non-mage faction did not ever manage to find. Cale only knew about it because of something that was written in the novel.

< Although the non-mage faction ended up finding the 4th floor of the basement, they would never learn about the real liege's room. If they had discovered it, the strength of the Whipper Kingdom would have increased by another step. >

Cale heard Mueller's voice in his ear.

"The 0th floor. We call it the 0th floor."

“Get it ready.”

“Yes sir.”

Cale watched the now quick and no longer crying Mueller with satisfaction. The moment a smile ended up on his face, Mueller’s movements became even faster. Although he looked like he was shaking a bit, he was fast after receiving the unique traits of both dwarves and Rats.

“Oh.”

Cale let out a small gasp of admiration.

Oooooong-

“I didn’t expect it to be here.”

Mueller moved some things on the floor of the liege’s room. All sorts of devices popped up and Cale could hear the sounds of gears turning.

Finally, once Mueller used a magic stone, a pretty loud noise echoed in the liege’s room.

Boom.

However, the loud noise of the celebration allowed Cale to not have to worries. Nonetheless, he was soon full of confusion.

“...Mueller, explain.”

“Yes sir.”

There was no change at all. Mueller started to point, not at the room that still looked the same, but somewhere else.

“It is over there.”

“...Over there?”

Cale looked toward where Mueller was pointing.

It was the window.

It was the large window that Cale had looked out of earlier in the day.

“You just have to jump out.”

“Out the window?”

“Yes sir. Then you will be at the 0th floor.”

Mueller raised his head to look at the owner of the shadow that covered him. He could see into Cale’s eyes.

“...You know what happens if you’ve lied, right?”

The steel rod shined in the light. Cale looked toward the shaking Mueller, who nodded his head and started to smile. He then picked Mueller up.

“Aigo, what are you doing sir? You told me you would let, let me live!”

Cale ignored Mueller’s cries, instead, he looked toward Raon and the kittens before looking out the window. Cale sighed while looking at the three pairs of eyes that were staring at him.

“You first.”

“What!”

Mueller was thrown out of the window. However, they did not see Mueller fall to the ground. Cale quickly followed behind Mueller.

Cale did not need to experience falling down twenty stories.

Tap.

There was a platform right underneath his feet.

“I guess it is magic.”

The real liege’s room appeared as Cale made his observation. At the same time, he

could hear the children's voices from behind him.

"Noona, I can't tell what I am looking at right now."

"Hong, my eyes are fine, but this is weird."

"Oh."

Raon just had a single word of admiration.

Cale started to smile.

< The liege of the Magic Tower was a greedy person. Because of something that had happened in his past, he was full of greed. >

Gold. Jewels. Magic Devices. Money filled the very wide 0th floor.

The entire room was shining and filled with things that would be worth a lot of money.

< His greed was almost at the level of an average adult dragon. >

"It really makes you think about a Dragon's Lair."

Cale headed toward a pile of magic devices. None of the items in this room were cheap. All of the magic devices were decorated with jewels, making it obvious that they were made for nobles or royalty.

The entire room was filled with items like this.

The liege of the tower did not use these devices, even as they faced death. That was because using it like that would not be for himself, but for everyone in the Magic Tower.

Cale covered his face with both of his hands. He could see the slacker's life through his fingers.

"Hahahaha!"

Cale did not hold back his laughter. He let it all out. Mueller watched Cale for a bit before looking around the liege's room that he had known about for a while, but was

seeing for the first time. He then stealthily reached out and grabbed the golden brooch that was closest to him.

Meeeow.

But he heard a chilling sound as soon as he grabbed it.

On and Hong were wagging their tails while watching him. The Black Dragon also took a step toward him. Mueller quickly let go of the golden brooch in his hand.

The thirty-year-old Rat could not do anything.

On the other hand, Cale had a wide smile on his face as he looked toward the children.

“We are rich.”

Listening to Cale’s calm voice that was very different than Cale’s current expression, On, Hong, and Raon all started to smile. A jovial feeling, similar to the one down below in the celebration, filled the room.

The Rat watched all this with fear in his eyes.



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