

TECHNOLOGY 551

Chapter 551 More Disrespect!

"This entire place is already reserved!

So please leave now, and dock at the other port!"

" "

Skye thought that he was hearing things.

What?

After seeing his flag, was this the welcome that they had given him?

Was it that his flag wasn't sewn properly for these people not to recognize it?

For this trip... Skye had requested for one of the most famous tailoring companies in his continent to sew all 12 flags for his ships.

The flags were so big that none could see what was sewn on it easily.

For his trip, Skye had left with 12 ships that each had a flag.

And the flag in question was just a sketch of his empire's royal seal on it... as well as the name of the continent that he came from.

For him, the most important thing that he made sure to include was his Continent's name... and not his empire's name instead, since peasants and some people might not properly remember it.

But once they hear what continent he came from, they would definitely be kissing his feet in no time.

With that being said, how come these buffoons didn't give him way at all?

Didn't they properly recognize the words written on his flags, or were they just too stupid that they couldn't read?

He knew that his empire and the Pyno continent spoke almost the same language... as there were just little differences here and there.

And even when he had spoken to several wealthy merchants and other nobles from the Pyno continent who came to visit his empire... there has never been a language barrier between them.

So he felt like these idiotic savages should at least be able to read what he had written, no?

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Skye looked at all 3 metal ships that stood before him coldly.

On their decks, several strangely dressed men in uniform looked straight at them indifferently.

He looked at the ships intensely, before opening his eyes wide in shock.

Eh?

Was that glass that he was seeing?

And were there people behind the glass in some hidden room?

Skye now looked at the people in the control room with an even more confused expression on his face.

And when he looked at the bag of broken glass pieces that he had gathered up as gifts to these people.... he somehow felt very foolish at the moment.

One would say that his so-called gift was utter garbage... because that was what it was.

Trash!

He boiled a little from anger, as he felt that these people were not only looking down on his flag and origin.... but were also looking down at his wealth.

And just when he was about to say something, he suddenly heard a voice echo out from the ships before him again.

"We do not allow or want any trouble across the shores of our Ship Station.

So please, sail to the other dock immediately!"

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Skye looked at them and sneered.

He didn't believe that they would do nothing to him, so he sent for one of his men to bring his megaphone over.

"You want me, a prince from the great continent Veinitta to turn back just because you say so?

What gave you all the balls to command me?

Do you know that what you are doing could cause a war between our empires?

Tsk!

You all better give way now, before I change my mind and not show you all any mercy!"

Listening to their leader, Skye's men smiled even more arrogantly as they observed how silent the men before them were.

Oh! Now they knew fear?

Hehehehehe..... weren't they the ones that were so stuck-up and acted high and mighty earlier on?

Didn't they want to act tough by coming over and commanding their leader?

So now, why were they all so quiet?"

Everyone was gleefully looking at the strangely dressed men before them proudly.... as if they expected them to kowtow to their leader.

Skye looked at the men and smiled calmly.

"Well... what do you all have to say now?"

"Hmmm..... we are sorry we didn't recognize his highness' brilliance earlier on." The voice from the metal ship said.

And just listening to what the voice had said, Skye and his men gave out a victory smile and sneered at them in contempt.

As expected, their continent was a powerhouse that made others go weak with fear.

But how would they have known that in the next few seconds, those broad smiles of theirs would turn into raging frowns instead?

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"Your highness, we apologize for the negligence on our part.

After all, it was rude of us to call you out without addressing you in your appropriate title.

But nonetheless, our orders still remain the same.

Now, your highness..... you have 3 minutes to at least show signs of turning around, or we will treat you as hostile!"

" "

Dammit!

This wasn't how the script was supposed to go.

Skye and his men trembled slightly from anger.

This was the biggest humiliation that they had ever experienced.

Skye looked at them and gritted his teeth brazenly.

"And what if I don't leave?"

"Then you will truly face our wrath.

As I said, this place is reserved.

And just so you know, you've already wasted time talking to me.

So you only have 2 minutes and 11 seconds left." The voice said calmly.

But for Skye, it seemed like the voice was mocking him instead.

He clenched his hands and continued to observe his surroundings for a bit.

Even though he had 12 ships and had completely outnumbered those 3 metal ships, he still felt like he shouldn't make any moves for now.

After all, he didn't know anything about his enemy.... so this was undoubtedly a bad idea.

For now, he had no choice but to concede to these.

But in future when he became Carona's ruler, these people would be the first to die!

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And just like that, the mighty Prince Skye Williams left the scene and headed towards the other dock.... because there was no way that he would anchor his ships around the place and head to the shores of Loplin City in small boats.

So with no pace available, he waited for a bit, before finally rushing in to take a docking space.

This was the first time in his life that he had fought with others for docking space.

And it would definitely be his last!

Chapter 552 Women In Power

Time went by swiftly, as all the men who had previously been out un Ngum city.... had now finally made it back to Baymard in one piece.

Of course, they were awarded for their hard work... as this could've been a global issue if it wasn't controlled properly this time.

And in addition to that, their names were also noted and properly stored for historical purposes..... and a massive celebratory party was held in their honour too.

The celebration was given an entire day to itself since most people were exempt from working on that day.

And what really made it all the more tear-jerking, was that the patients that they looked after.... especially the children, all made massive cards that had the words 'Thank you' on them.

For sure, these cards were made to thank the citizens of Baymard for sending out the capable doctors, nurses and soldiers.... as well as sending them charitable donations from the church here in Baymard.

Because due to these donations, many people in Ngum city had enough money to at least feed themselves for the next month steadily... if they truly wanted to rely only on the money given to them.

But that wasn't the case, as many people now wanted to become merchants or able farmers who would sell their goods to merchants instead.

They also adopted the idea of picking up trash and disposing of it, so some people now worked for the government as 'waste workers'..... and others signed up to join their city lord's army instead.

Of course, some had learnt a little bit of medicine... or rather healthcare from the doctors.

As they were just taught on what to do if one had the flu, headache, fever and so on.

Because like it or not, these people still died from things like a fever.

Of course when the matter got too serious, they had to get a proper healer to look into the matter.

And that was why their city lord had also invited 2 healers to remain here in Ngum city permanently..... with a fat salary of course.

Anyway, there were so many job opportunities for those people now... as things were really looking up for the people in Ngum City.

And with all that said and done, the whole Shinjep thing was really finally over.

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Today, Landon had been trying up all loose ends before his departure tomorrow morning.

And funny as it may seem, or the past few weeks, everyone has been fighting for his attention like crazy once he told them that he would be out of Baymard for a while

Be it government officials, or even those within the lower region... everyone wanted to talk about some matters that needed Landon's full attention.

And that was why during this entire time, he had been going up and down like crazy.

Fortunately, he was able to quickly satisfy everyone to the best of his abilities.

Anyway... in addition to dealing with all this, Landon also had to give the women in his household several duties as well.

And that was why he was currently holding a meeting with them.

To be more specific, before him.... were; Mother Kim, Mother Winnie, Lucy and Grace.

One should know that every time Landon went out on a mission, he always made sure to give them several tasks to complete.

And because he went out on missions frequently, these ladies had decided to adopt their roles permanently as their second jobs.

That was why they all worked as Government officials in different government offices too.

After all, it was very common for a teacher or a lecturer to take on other jobs as well.

Landon looked at the women before him lovingly, while waiting for his secretary to finish distributing several documents to them.

Of course this was an official meeting, so all of them had also brought in their secretaries too.

Everyone had already been sent the official meeting 'Agenda', so they knew what they were going to talk about.

And in their tables, one could find a large nameplate there... which showed their names, as well as what government position that they all held.

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'Ding!'

A small table bell went off, which finally indicated that it was time for the meeting to begin.

The ladies as well as their secretaries, all sat upright while facing Landon seriously.

"Ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we've assembled here because of one important reason... and that is the assurance that things will continue to run smoothly during my absence.

And so just like last time, I will begin by going into detail about their duties while I'm away.

Of course if you have any questions to ask, please do ask during the question and answer (Q\&A) part of the meeting.

First off, let's list out everyone's duties before talking about them in detail later on.

Let's begin with Mrs. Queen Mother 'Kimberly O.' from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks.

Queen Mother Kimberly will continue to ensure that Baymard's environment, which includes its habitats, streams, lakes and so in ... Constantly remain clean, fresh and free of contamination at all times.

And while doing so, Queen mother Kimberly will also be tasked with properly handling the current situation in Riverdale city.

The city still has some issues with stream water pollution, as several people.. especially tourists, still pollute the streams constantly which in turn contributes to the increase in ill-health within the region.

These people still use their stream and make water drinking, washing clothes, dishes and even bathing.

So using continued water will definitely make them sick.

And for those with very weak bodies, just something as small as this could even kill them.

That is why you and your team must continuously strive to tackle the matter head-on.

Even though the death rate in that city had gone down drastically... Its results could still be better improved.

So.....With that said, Queen mother Kimberly, can you handle it?"

"Yes, your highness!" Mother Kim answered seriously.

"Good!"

Chapter 553 Women In Power 2

"Queen mother Kimberly, can you handle it?"

"Yes, your highness!" Mother Kim answered seriously.

"Good!"

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Mother Kim felt very excited as well as confident that she and her team will be able to improve the situation to some extent before Landon got back from his mission.

It has been over 2 years since she began working for her Ministry, and now... She knew most of the protocols and procedures needed in handling such matters.

Immediately, her mind went to work... and she had quickly decided to head towards Riverdale city as soon as Landon left Baymard.

Of course she would first give her morning lectures, before heading out at 1 P.M to the city to collect more stream & lake water samples.

She and her team would also have to find a way to lower the water pollution rate as well.

Because even though they had placed several signs along the streams..... and also informed all those coming into the city about the rules, Tourists still did as they pleased.

So this time, they had to take a more dramatic approach instead.

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Landon nodded at mother Kim before finally facing Mother Winnie.

"Alright!

As for Mrs. Winnie from the ministry of Health & Long Term Care..... during my period of absence, you and your team will still do all your regular duties and inspections involved.

Please properly conduct your monthly inspection of all batch samples for drugs, eyewear or anything healthwise.

More importantly, all restaurants and areas carrying food also need to be inspected as well.

Any place that doesn't reflect the health and safety codes when handling, packaging or storing meat, dairy or any other foods.... should be properly punished as protocol.

And this goes without saying, but those places need to be extremely clean as well.

No mice!"

"Yes, your majesty!" Mother Winnie responded seriously as well.

The meeting continued on, with Landon talking about the responsibilities that both Grace and Lucy had to deal with.

For Grace, she was currently working with the Ministry of Trade & Investment that dealt with imports and exports, all matters concerning trade nationally and internationally... As well as National investments too.

And apart from doing all that, she also had to attend several meetings with different associations.

But the biggest meeting that she had to attend during Landon's absence, was the annual merchant meeting.... which basically consisted of all registered merchants that came to and fro Baymard.

Yes!

Baymard had a Merchant Association.

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For the annual meeting, only registered members could attend the event.

And anyone who brought in any unregistered member as a guest had to be sanctioned heavily, and might even be suspended from the association indefinitely.

One should know that this meeting was an exclusive one for members only... And was also one of the many perks entitled to members as well.

Of course, some of the perks were simple things like; longer Visa dates, better-discounted prices, 5% off schooling fees for their children and so on.

In short, all these perks were a way of saying thank you to them because half of Baymard's income came from these merchants who exported goods on a daily basis and distributed them throughout the Pyno continent... as well as to other places in the world.

And so with all those benefits, almost all merchants who wanted to work with Baymard in the long run immediately registered for under the association.

The association had over 300 members who were either wealthy merchants, ordinary merchants or even merchants that just started up.

In short, everyone within the continent knew that signing up under this association was a good starting point for new merchants.

As they could easily mingle with other wealthy merchant associates or even have the opportunity to give proper business proposals as well.

And in addition to that, they also had several perks from Baymard as well.

So how could they not scramble to sign up for it?

This annual meeting/meet-up was a 5-day one... With different activities and meetings that had been planned out for the associates.

For sure, people from all over the continent would be swarming over like flies.

So with how big the event was going to be, Landon was already certain that Grace would have her hands too full during his absence.

But since she said that she could handle it, then so be it.

"Your majesty, the event will definitely be successful.

So worry not." Grace said confidently.

"I believe in you, Miss Grace." Landon replied, before focusing his attention to the last person on the list.... his fiancée, Lucy.

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In her case, she worked within the Ministry of National Security, Peace & Defence.

Of course this goes without saying, but as the future queen .. she had to protect the empire whether Landon was present or not.

As a minister within the department, she also had to work with the leaders of all armed forces within Baymard.

Anything to do with security and peace had to pass through her ministry.

So she and her team had to ensure that everyone was following protocol.

Her ministry had so many things to do, like working alongside those who might fight wars, countering global and domestic terrorist threats, screening goods at the ports to see if any black powder, explosives or hostile individuals that tried to make it through, and so on.

In short, she and her team were those people in movies that spoke to Mr. & Mrs. president about important security matters and came up with ideas on what to do when facing national attacks.

And aside from that, Lucy was also a registered member of the military and Navy forces, as she had been training every Tuesday, Friday and Sundays alongside the soldiers and Navy officers.

So if there were actually any attacks during his absence, he was confident that she would properly handle the situation to the best of her capabilities... with the help of Lucius, Gary and the rest, of course.

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And so just like that, Landon had properly settled everyone before finally heading off to bed.

It didn't even take up to a minute before his heavy eyes quickly gave way.

Yup!

He was dead tired!

But luckily for him, the sandman was there to nestle him warmly all night long.

It truly felt like time went by too swiftly.... because before he knew it, the morning had already come once again.

And now, It was finally home for him to leave!

Chapter 554 Code F-103

The next day, Landon got up feeling energized and quickly made his way to the barracks.

For this mission, apart from the soldiers... Landon was also bringing some Marines as well.

One should know that the marines existed to win battles as swiftly as possible in any time of crisis.

So they could fight on land, air and sea.... alongside the soldiers, pilots and Navy.

Anyway, starting whenever there was a mission, Landon always made sure that they were included in it because they too needed the experience alongside the soldiers or Navy officers as well.

At 5:30 A.M, all army doctors, nurses, marine officers and soldiers that had been chosen for this mission immediately assembled before the heavy armour trucks for roll call.

"Sylvester Mordy!"

"Present Sir!"

"Caperon Vernoda!"

"Present Sir!"

The roll call only lasted for a few minutes, before everyone went into their designated vehicles as planned.

Before today, they had already been told what vehicle they would be staying in during the duration of their mission.... as well as a day-to-day summary of what their duties would be while they journeyed forward.

Some might have to be cooks, while others would be drivers instead.

In short, their schedule had been made into shifts that switched every 8 hours.... with everyone having at least 2 off days before they arrived at their destination.

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For this mission, Landon had made 5 teams that had a perfect blend of both marines and soldiers.

As for the leaders of each team, he had appointed himself, 2 Navy officers and 2 soldiers to be group leaders.

One team will focus on guarding the vehicles when they arrived, as well as protecting the doctors and nurses.... while the other 4 teams will focus on either rescuing those that need to be rescued or fighting the battle head-on.

And so with roll call finally over, everyone quickly hopped into their vehicles and left without delay.

"Your majesty, we did another check on their food supply, weaponry and essentials again.

And so far, everything is good to go." Said Warrant officer Basil.

Even though they had checked everything previously, it was still better to have a last-minute check again just in case some double-crosser had done something without their notice.

Landon looked at the marked list in his hands and nodded in satisfaction, before finally looking at his time again.

They had planned to move out at 6:30 A.M on the dot.

And now was just 6:24 A.M.

"Alright!"

Let's get into our designated vehicles.

It's almost time to move out!"

"Yes, your majesty!" Basil replied, before finally walking to the lead vehicle and grabbing his Walkie Talkie.

"All drivers should get ready for departure.

I repeat!

All drivers should be ready for departure!"

With the first reminder given out, all drivers held their steering wheels as if they were in a racing competition.

And soon, it was already 6:30 a.m. on the dot.

Time to move out!

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'Vrrrrrrmmmmmmmm!'

All 40 vehicles steadily left the barracks and headed towards Baymard's magnificent gate.

Luckily, they had decided to leave within the early hours of the morning..... or else their exit would've definitely caused a lot of commotion on the streets of Baymard.

And if that were to happen, the press would definitely be all up on their business with several theories on why they were moving out.

For now, it was best to keep everything on the low.

They drove as fast as they could past Riverdale city and continued on into Arcadina's western territories.

Indeed, travelling by car was definitely faster than with horses.

Because before they knew it, they had already passed Riverdale city in no time.

In fact, Landon had already estimated that if they kept travelling in both day and night time with just a couple of breaks for food distribution and what not..... they would probably arrive in the Northern territories of Arcadina in 5 days' time.

And based on how long they would take to battle and treat injuries, they might spend another 4 or 5 days within the northern territory before using another 5 days to come back.

So it was clear that this whole mission would keep him out of Baymard for at least half a month or more.

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'Vrrrrrrmmmmmmmm!'

2 days had gone by just like that, everyone switching roles here and there.

Of course, they had caused some commotion around some villages and towns as well.

"Father!... Father!..... Father!

Come out quickly!

Look, it's a carriage moving without a horse!"

"Wah!

Even though I heard that these things existed, I always thought that it was a lie.

But who would've known that it was true?!"

"Goodness!

Just look at how big and beautiful it is?"

"Ahhh!!.... how can it be so beautiful?"

"Oh my God.... can I ever own something like this?"

"Pui!

You?... own it?

I heard that even our ruler, King Alec Barn can only dream of owning it.... then what more of you?

Please stop dreaming!"

"Really?

Is it that expensive?"

"Of course it is!

I also heard that it can fly as well, and can also turn invisible too."

"What?!!!

Oh my heavens!

Is it really true?"

"Hmhm... I heard it from merchant Oliver!

Bro.... its also said that this thing is called a car and not a carriage.

And it can also talk as well.

He said tht when one sat in something called a train, it will tall at each stop."

"Amazing!

Now I see your point.

There's no way that I'll ever be able to get one for myself!"

"I totally agree!

Just looking at it, I'm sure that these people are from Baymard."

"Holy sh**!

Baymard?"

"Of course Baymard!!

Which other places can create such godly things?

They're the pros when it comes to making godly things!"

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Conversations like these could be heard from all those who had spotted these heavy armour trucks.

But Landon wasn't too bothered about the fact that his presence was known.... and that was because the path that they had chosen to use, completely avoided all the major towns and cities.

In fact, they only passed through very small villages and less popular towns on their journey to the North of Arcadina.

And funny enough.... even though most of these people hadn't gone to Baymard before, they had automatically chosen to believe that Landon and his crew were from Baymard.

Because even though they lived in villages, some merchants from these villages had brought in some basic necessities like hood winter coats and blankets for those in the villages... so many people still knew of Baymard.

In addition to that, those who went out to bigger cities for visitation and came back, later on, all spoke about Baymard as if it were a mystical place.

So its popularity had quickly risen up in these territories.

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The team steadily travelled through 73 several villages and towns, until they saw a large cloud of smoke coming from one of the villages.

Landon picked up his Walkie Talkie and gave out his orders.

"Emmergency! Code F-103!

I repeat, Code F-103!

Drivers, full speed ahead!"

'Vrrrrmmmmmmmm!"

Chapter 555 Local Tyrants

'Vrrrrmmmmmmmm!'

The cars speeded up quickly to the unfortunate village or town ahead.

Everyone looked at the cloud of smoke that seemed to be growing bigger the closer they got and couldn't help but feel a little bit anxious.

Hopefully, they weren't too late!

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Meanwhile, in the tiny village.... several men on horseback were towering over a group of injured villagers.

The men were the ones who got injured, while the females shivered and hugged each other fearfully at the side.

The women couldn't escape even if they wanted to, because some of the riders had surrounded them with bows and arrows as well.

"Bahahahhahhhaha!

Village chief!

Do you think that surrendering yourself to us will change anything?

Tsk!

If you all want to blame anyone, then you can only blame yourselves.

If you all had provided the full amount of grain requested and coins that we requested... then we wouldn't be here, now would we." said a large chubby man, who had a black eye-patch on his right eye.

'Whip!'

'Whip!'

'Whip!'

As he spoke, his men continuously whipped the poor injured village men that were already lying on the ground pitifully.

Listening to the chubby man, the village chief was immediately filled with sorrow and hate.

His grief surged with every expelled breath, as he looked at the wailing women and the injured men all around him.

His heart felt empty, as a sense of nothingness quickly engulfed him completely.

Just how did it become like this?

Was it truly their faith to die in the hands of these evildoers?

And all of this was because they couldn't provide enough grain and coins for these villains.

Of course, these scumbags wanted to drain them dry all year round.... and for the safety of his people, he had no choice but to comply with their every demand.

His village had given almost all the food that they had to these wild bandits, but yet it wasn't enough to guarantee their lives this time around.

The bandits before him were known as the Wolfhound Bandits.

They were the big bosses within this territory, as they collected 'protection fees', grain and women from the neighbouring villages and minor towns around the place.

At the end of every season, they would collect their protection fees from the villagers unfailingly.

And if the quota hadn't been met, then they would severely punish or eradicate the villagers all together.

In a way, they did this so as to warn the other villages of the consequences of not completing their requests.

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The village chief lifted his body face upwards and gritted his teeth in pain while looking at the towering giants before him.

"Please.... give us more time.

I promise that we will be able to give you all that you requested in 2 weeks' time."

'Pah!'

One of the towering men quickly slapped him silly, which sent him back to the ground in an instant.

"Village chief!"

Everyone else cried out in grief, as they watched their 56-year-old village chief get smacked hard in the face.

The village chief in question gripped the ground below him as hard as he could, before finally kneeling before the chubby towering man again.

"Please!... just give us more time!" He said while kowtowing to the man with all his strength.

And once again, he was harshly kicked several times in the head by the same man that had previously slapped him.

'Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!'

"You ugly good-for-nothing!!

How dare you open your filthy mouth and talk back to our leader?

Who gave you the guts to make any requests, huh?!!"

'Smack!'

'Pah!'

'Bang!'

The man continued to aggressively attack the village Chief until his entire body was covered in reddish-purple bruises.

And soon, the village chief quickly spat out a mouth full of blood.

'Splak!'

"Aigoo..... go easy in the old man little 7.

We don't want to kill him yet, alright?

After all... they say that it's good to be filial to the elderly, don't they."

"Hmm... you're right elder bro.

I'll go easy on him by only boxing and punching him hard.

So worry not, I promise that I won't kick him or use my sword on him again."

"Hahahahaha.... that's the spirit little bro!"

"Hahhhahahahahah!"

Smack!'

'Pah!'

'Bang!'

"Hahahahahahaha"

While the bandits laughed merrily, the rest of the villages grew pale from fright instead.

Their lips quivered and their bodies shivered vigorously, as they soon realized that their legs had turned wobbly in a flash.

F***!

The entire scene was just too gruesome to watch!

The village chief tried to keep his heavy eyes open, but soon... he could feel himself slowly losing consciousness.

And as he was about to faint, he couldn't help but curse himself a little for not being strong enough.

'Dammit!

If only he had enough strength'.

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"GrandPapa!"

Just as he was about to lose consciousness, he heard his granddaughter's voice calling him.

No!

Why would she reveal herself as his relative?

Now wouldn't they just target her even more?

At this moment, the pain in his heart was much more than that from his injuries.

She was the only family he had, as he would rather die than let her be harmed.

He tried his best to open his eyes with all his might and regain his consciousness once more.

But of course, his body was too weak to listen to him.

A stream of tears flowed down his cheeks when he thought about his sweet granddaughter.

'Ancestors... if you really exist, then please save my granddaughter!' He silently prayed, before finally fainting from his injuries.

The young girl who looked not more than 13 years old, quickly rushed out from the group of women like a slippery weasel and hastily made her way to her grandfather in a flash.

And even though these bandits could've stopped her, they allowed her to reach the village Chief's side... so that they could be certain of the relationship between the 2.

"GrandPapa... GrandPapa.... please wake up." The girl said pitifully while nestling her grandfather's bloody face on her laps.

Seeing her interaction with the village chief, the chubby leader smiled dastardly.

Of course seeing the smile on their leader's face, the bandits immediately knew what it meant.

This girl was now the property of their leader.

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"Hahahahaha... boys, this time... we've truly picked up a treasure.

Now kill the men, and take the village Chief and the women hostage immediately!"

"Yes, leader!" Said the bandits who also smiled cruelly at the villagers who were now wailing and begging for mercy for their loved ones.

"Please... don't kill my son!"

"Please spare my husband!"

"Please spare my family!"

The women begged with all their might before the chubby leader quickly silenced them all.

"Enough!

I hate noise more than anything else!

They will die, and that is that!

Men, finish the job now!"

"Yes, leader!" The bandits responded again while closing in on their targets.

But before they could even make a move, they heard several strange noises coming towards them at an alarming pace.

And because of the sudden commotion.... their horses all shook crazily, making the archers miss their mark.

Eh?

What the hell was going on?

'Vrrrrmmmmmm!!!!'

'Shrrriiiiieekkkk!'

'Bam!!!'

"Freeze!

Put your hands up in the air, if you don't want to die!"

Chapter 556 A Lawless Land

When Landon and the rest had arrived on the scene, they were first taken aback by the massive blazing huts within the tiny village.

The fire burned angrily, as its leaping flames seemed to be filled with rage towards the huts that it engulfed.

The air smelled burnt and felt extremely hot as well, as several black particles danced about in it merrily.

The black particles and the flames were a stark contrast to the clear snowy floors below..... And made the whole scene looked like a painting brought to life instead.

The villagers gathered around the cold snowy grounds, either had faces that had been coated with burnt ashes... or bodies filled with blood and injuries instead.

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"Freeze!

Drop your weapons and put your hands up in the air, if you don't want to die!"

" "

The villagers saw Landon and his men, and immediately... Their mouths dropped and opened wide in awe.

'Ahhh!

So cool' They thought.

The way the trucks had parked, and the speed at which Landon and his men had got out... made everyone look at them in amazement.

If this was back on earth, it would look exactly like how those cool secret agents stop their cars just in time to tell someone to 'get in!'.

And before the vehicles had even stopped, several men calmly jumped out and pointed their weapons at the bad guys.

It was just too cool!

Of course seeing all of this, the villagers felt like crying instead.

"Hurray!

We are saved!"

"We are saved!"

"My son will live!"

"My wife will not be taken away.

Thank the heavens!"

They said excitedly without a care in the world for the stunned bandits that were currently surrounding them.

Even though some of them had been previously injured and felt immense pain all over their bodies..... At this moment in time, they couldn't feel the pain at all.

Their bodies felt light as if a heavy burden had been taken off their shoulders.

Tears of joy welled up in their already swollen eyes, as they looked at the men who had just arrived on the scene.

Did their ancestors listen to their pleas and finally sent these people to save them?

Were they finally going to be free from these bandits?

Did this mean that they would no longer suffer or starve to death from giving all their food and coins to these bandits?

Many of them looked to the sky and said a silent prayer in their hearts.

'Thank you, ancestors... Thank you!'

.

As for the bandits, the moment they heard the words from these strange people... Without even a single thought, they quickly raised their hands up like children who have been caught doing mischief.

But after a few seconds, they all placed their hands down and pointed their weapons at Landon and his crew instead.

Dammit!

Previously... because of the strange superior-looking carriages and the rushed entrance of these men, the bandits all raised their hands unconsciously without even giving it a single thought.

As reflex would make anyone do certain things in such surprising situations.

Plus... the way Landon and his men had come in, first gave them the impression that these men were far superior to them.

So of course they did as they were told like morons.

But after raising their hands in the air critically, they now felt really stupid and decided to defend themselves instead.

Many of them already had a high that these people were from Baynard... But so what?

It was common knowledge that the place was ridiculously weak.

In short, many empires had already started making plans for owning the place, and that was a fact.

Essentially, everyone knew that Baynard had no sword academy or archery squad, and only had something (taser) that could release lightning onto its victim.

But this strange weapon could only be fired if one stood somewhat close to the victim.

The leader of the group felt that if they stepped back a little bit, then they would be safe from these black stick rooms that were currently pointed at them.

.

"Men, step back!" The leader commanded.

But just when they were about to move, someone else commanded them to stay instead.

"I said you all should freeze and drop your weapons!

Any more lives, and we will take action against you regardless."

Hearing that, their leader, as well as some of the bandits all, sneered while looking coldly at these nosy people before them.

At this distance, what could their weapons do to them?

They looked at these nosy people who coldly while continuously pointing their weapons at them.

"Drop our weapons?"

Heh!

Do you take us for fools?

What if you kill us after we drop them?"

"It's not our policy to kill at will.

So we won't

Now drop your weapon immediately!!"

"Like I said, do you think that we will really believe that?

Hmph!

Judging from you're carriages and outfit, I'm guessing that you from Baymard.

But I would like to mind you all that this is Arcadina, the land of the lawless... And not Baymard.

Listen here!

I don't really care what you intend to do..... but around these parts, we are the law!

So with that said, I suggest that you all stop being nosy and her out of our way now!!!!!" The leader said arrogantly.

.

Hearing him, the other bandits also felt confident as well.

If these people were from Baymard, then what could they really do to them?

With that, the bandits all felt overly excited and hyped up too.

"That's right!

You all are just nosy people!

How is any of this your business?"

"Do you people just like to go around looking for trouble?"

Well, since you all like trouble so much, then we'll give you double of it instead."

"What a bunch of busy-bodies!

After we deal with you all, we will be taking these sweet carriages of yours."

"Aye... Actually, we should really thank you for putting your nose into our business the way you did.

Thanks to that, we're now acquired these godly carriages."

"Leader... Why don't we just kill them and take their belongings instead?"

"Yeah, leader!.... Let's kill them!!"

"Yes!

Let's do it by hanging them?"

"No!

I don't agree!

Let's burn them instead!"

"Tsk!

What do you all know,

Cutting them into pieces is definitely the better option here."

"No!... Burn them!"

"Hang them!"

"Poison them!"

(*_-_-)

Chapter 557 Pitiful Heroes

"Burn them!"

"Hang them!"

"Poison them!"

(*_-_-)

The bandits rambled on with their leader while treating their enemy like dirt that wasn't even worthy enough to enter their eyes.

They all sneered and spat at these Baymardians who wanted to play the heroic part of saving these weaklings today.

As for the heroes in question, they were busy giving secret hand signals to each other.

Landon smiled calmly when he thought about how smoothly things were going.

These bandits had really underestimated them due to the rumours that they've heard about Baymard.

But why should he bother to correct them?

It was always best for his enemies to lower their guard to some extent, so that the job can get done without too many casualties on his side.

.

"Enough!" The chubby leader said to his men, before giving his complete attention to these newfound enemies of his.

In truth, he took their silence and their lack of action as a sign of anxiousness.

For him, it was obvious that they were now flustered because they couldn't attack them at this distance.

So with that thought in mind, he didn't even bother to look at them before issuing out his command to his archers.

Who asked them to be heroes?

"Men, fire Now!!!" The chubby leader said, before majestically walking towards the back of his mm instead.

But just before any of them could take a shot, they all felt a sharp stinging pain on their necks.

Eh?

Had they been stung by bees in the winter?

They felt like the stinging pain was probably nothing, so they continued working out their arrows at will.

'Thup! Thup!'

'Thup! Thup!'

'Thup! Thup!'

Several arrows were sent flying... And Immediately, Landon and his men either rolled away or jumped behind their trucks for cover.

"Hahahhahahahaha!

Look!

I knew that they were all talk and nothing more." Said one of the bandits, who was watching the show pleasantly.

"I agree!

Did you see how they ran away like whims?"

"Hehehhe... Without any archers or even shields, how would they be able to fight or launch any attacks at us from this distance?"

"Yeah!

They've really disappointed me.

So what was the point of that cool entrance earlier on, if they were actually this weak?

It almost feels like bullying now.

But I'm definitely not complaining!"

"Aye!

You heroes there!

What's the matter with you all?

What happened to your heroic speech from earlier on?

Tsk!

What a bunch of weaklings!"

.

As the bandits celebrated their early victory, the villagers on the other hand... all felt very scared instead.

Wait... Were these people not their saviours?

Did their ancestors really but send them over to help them?

As they watched the so-called battle, confusion instantly overtook their minds when they saw how tyrannical these bandits were.

For them, the side that showed more aggressiveness during the battle was the winning team.

That was just how it was.

In these times, the more strength one displayed and the louder one was... Made the crowd or spectators usually believe that they were invincible.

So seeing that the bandits had made their saviours take cover with their tails between their legs... many of the villagers felt like their earlier celebration was a joke.

They looked at Landon and his crew with guilt and pity instead.

They even felt like maybe it was due to their prayers, that their ancestors had guided these men here go their deaths instead.

If these people hadn't meddled into this matter, then maybe they wouldn't be fiercely attacked the way they were right now.

In the eyes of the villagers, their saviours had now turned into pitiful people instead.

And somehow, they truly felt guilty for putting them in this mess.

Sigh!!!!..... Maybe they should just give up and resign to their faiths instead.

.

One should know that even though the 'Wolfhound Bandits' had established themselves around these parts just 4 years ago..... Within this time frame, they had grown into a mighty force to be reckoned with.

They had overlooked 17 villages and 3 towns within these parts.

In short, rumours said that their real boss was a powerful convict that escaped from Deiferus some time ago... And had chosen to settle in these parts instead.

Actually, the chubby leader before them could be seen as a squad leader at most.

As he still needed to answer to the big boss.

The bandits managed to stay on good terms with the nobles who had territorial jurisdiction over these villages, by giving out a certain fraction of what they took from the villagers to these nobles.

And so just like that, the bandits continued their dastardly deeds without any repercussions.

Indeed, the place was definitely a lawless land.

In short, the more the villagers thought about it all, the more their flames of hope died down instead.

Because even if they were saved from this bandit group\\ squad, then wouldn't the other teams just come over to still collect food rations and money from them later on?

Unless the entire Wolfhound base had been completely eradicated of its members... Then wouldn't all of this just bring them back to square one?

And just looking at how the battle had started off, they couldn't help but smile bitterly instead.

It looked like it was their faith for them to suffer or die today.

.

Thup! Thup!

'Thup! Thup!'

'Thup!' Thup!'

Multiple arrows were continuously sent flying into the air by these wolfhound bandits.

And as for the saviours in question who were currently taking cover behind their vehicles, they didn't feel anxious or look like they were pitiful at all.

Instead, they remained calm and collected while looking at their watches nonstop.

"Your majesty....the speed at which the arrows are being launched, has decreased tremendously."

"Good!

We have just a few seconds before it takes full effect."

As Landon spoke, the number of arrows launched reduced in number... And just from listening alone, one should tell that the arrows were no longer hitting the vehicles again.

He looked at his watch and smiled slightly... Before giving out hand signals to his men again while looking at his watch.

'.....10...9.....8...7.....6...5.....4.....3...2.....1'

Finally, it was time for them to make their move!

Chapter 558 Saviours From Above

'HahahahaHahahaha!'

The bandits continued laughing, when suddenly.. . one of them fell off his horse.

'Bam!'

--silence--

'Kha...feewww!!!!'

The rest of the men and the villagers all looked at the snoring man in confusion.

Eh?

Why would he be so tired to the point that he would fall off his horse during a time like this?

Didn't he sleep at night?

The leader was even more confused than the rest because he had personally made sure that everyone got ample sleep before today's operation.

So how could he just fall off now?

The leader was still angrily looking at the snoring man on the floor... Before he heard several other loud bangs again.

'Bam!'

All his archers had now fallen to the ground like flies.

His eyes opened widely, as he looked at the snoring men on the ground.

What the hell was going on?

Even the other bandits who were just swordsmen were also confused as well.

They immediately shook their snoring comrades in disdain.

This was totally unprofessional!

Some of them quickly noticed the tiny darts that had been plunged into their comrade's necks.

But before they could make heads or tails of it all, it was already too late.

'Din! Din! Din! Din! Din! Din! Din! Din! Din!'

Landon and his men sprung into action without any weapons on them..... As they saw this as a great opportunity to practice some of their combat skills.

All the 38 archers were now down, so dealing with the remaining 42 swordsmen left would be a breeze for them.

The villagers looked at them with more pity, as if already telling them to Rest In peace.

Because for them, there was no way that they would win unarmed.

As for the remaining bandits, at first... They looked at them in panic, before finally relaxing and laughing at them instead.

These Baymardians we're really foolish!

How could they just run up to them so unarmed like that?

Did they really believe that they could win when they didn't even have a sword at hand?

And how could their leader just stand back and watch them run to their deaths?

How stupid.

"Come!

I'll show you all just how capable the Wolfhound bandits really are!"

"Brother... Just leave those first 2 to me.... I'll gut them with my sword in no time."

The bandits said, while playfully looking at their prey arrogantly.

What a bunch of idiots!

'Swish!'

The battle had begun.

.

Warrant officer Angelica looked at the bandit before her calmly, before finally grinning excitedly.

It had been so long since she fought an enemy in combat, since they usually just shoot the enemy down during hurried missions.

As for the aspect of killing these bandits, they truly felt like it would be like bullying.

If they had been outnumbered, with several words or arrows coming their way... Then killing their opponents would definitely be understandable.

But in a situation like this one, where they had already outnumbered the bandits with some of their men even watching from within their vehicles... Wasn't it more like bullying if they just killed these bandits at will?

It would be a little bit too much to just go that... But that didn't mean that they would also let these bandits roam about freely too.

Of course, his majesty would undoubtedly have a plan for them after the battle.

With that in mind, Angelica ran up to one of the bandits and made her move.

The bandit was taken aback at first, before finally looking at her lustfully.

"Hahahhahahahaha!

Little lady, are you sure that you can even fight me without a sword?

Hehehe... Since I like you, then I'll go easy on you.

How about it?" The bandit said playfully, before finally swinging his sword downwards with all his might.

'Swish!'

Angelica nimbly slanted her body leftwards and immediately dodged the bandit's sword, which produced a loud whistling sound while cutting through the air swiftly.

'Swish!'

'Swish!'

'Swish!'

Angelica continued to give the violent attacks thrown at her calmly, which utterly infuriated her enemy.

The fact that a woman could while her own against him so calmly while also being unarmed..... was a big slap to his face.

Truthfully, all the lust in his eyes had gone away as the fight progressed.

And now, he only felt hate for her.

Because if they eventually took down these Baymardians, his reputation would still be lost amongst his brothers.

For a lot of them, any man who couldn't even take win a woman in his first swing was definitely weak as f***.

So the longer she dodged, the angrier he became.

.

"B**ch!

If you are really all that, then stop dodging all my attacks and face me head-on.

Just stand there and die!!!" The bandit yelled angrily, before finally aiming for Angelica's head again.

'Swish!'

Angelica quickly dropped to the floor with her hands on the ground, and instantly used her legs to send a fatal blow towards his lower legs.

More specifically, she had aimed for his Tibialis Anterior Muscle on his lower legs.

A fatal blow there could cause shock, tearing of blood vessels, nausea..... as well as the inability to step on one's limb again.

"Ahhhh!!!!'

The bandit yelled in pain for a bit while dropping to his knees in a flash.

'Bam!'

His legs felt extremely painful.... and no matter how much he tried to move them, they just wouldn't budge.

The pain was so unbearable that he felt like something was literally holding onto his heart and crushing it with all their might.

What the hell?

Tiny droplets of sweat soon began forming in his forehead, as his body was also fighting a battle of its own too.

He looked at Angelica angrily and continued swinging his sword like a mad person while kneeling down.

It was all this b**ch's fault!

The duo didn't fight for too long, as Angelica quickly ended it all with a solid kick to one of his pressure points..... That instantly made him faint.

Of course she herself didn't come out unscathed, as during one of his rampant attacks.... she had been a tad bit late when dodging one of his attacks, which led to her having a shallow cut on her left arm.

.

The battle didn't take too long to win, which also left the villagers shocked as well.

They had been right!

These people were definitely here to save them.

Ahh!... With their ancestors looking over them like this, how could they not feel blessed?

Luckily, they don't doubt these heroes from their ancestors.

Chapter 559 Finishing The Job

Looking at the bandits that were all lying down on the ground, everyone quickly gasped in shock and relief.

At least for today, their husbands and sons wouldn't die in the hands of these villains bastards.

Immediately, the women all rushed to the soldiers and knelt down before them while expressing their gratitude too.

"Thank you..... Thank you for saving us."

Landon nodded at them and quickly sent the medical team to look after the injured villagers lying in the snow.

And at the same time, some of the soldiers were also tying up the bandits as well.

Of course, Landon had already gotten the location for the Wolfhound bandit's lair.

But since he didn't want to seem too suspicious, he had to get someone to guide him and his men there immediately.

The village chief's 13-year-old granddaughter curiously looked at Landon and his men, as she had never seen people who dressed as well as them before.

She listened to the heroes before her talk about what to do next, and quickly decided to help them no matter what.

This was her home, so she felt the need to be a part of whatever battle that would occur between these heroes and the Wolfhound bandits.

If anything, she more or less felt ashamed of how weak she had been previously.

Her beloved grandfather was kicked, beaten and even treated worse than dirt up to the point where he had fainted from his injuries.

If not for the fact that these bandits wanted him to live, then she had no doubt in her mind that her grandfather would already be dead by now.

Even though she had been terrified of these bandits, she still couldn't just watch her grandfather get kicked around ruthlessly by these villains without doing anything.

And that's why she had rushed over with the intentions of using her body to shield off all the blows and attacks from hitting her beloved grandfather.

But funny enough, when she came out... The bandits didn't bother hitting her at all.

Instead, they all looked at her very lustfully instead.

She didn't even want to imagine what would have happened if these brave men didn't come in at the time that they did.

Because one thing was clear, and that was the fact that she and the rest of the villagers wouldn't have had any good ending if they would've been taken away by these bandits.

And so the fact that she didn't have enough power to do anything, just made her feel completely worthless instead.

She clenched her fists with all her might and forced herself to look eye to eye with the leader before her.

"Noble heroes... Please, I..... I want to go with you all.

I want to fight!"

--silence--

Landon and the rest of the soldiers stopped what they were doing and all focused their attention at the cute 13-year-old girl before them..... That seemed to be around the same age as little Linda back in Baymard.

In her eyes, one could still see traces of fear, uneasiness and courage in them.

The girl looked at them with a serious expression on her face, which looked more like she was pouting instead.

.

The villagers who all heard the girl, looked at her in shock and gazes that were filled with anxiousness and concern.

For them, the way they looked at it... No matter how high the chances of these heroes winning against the Wolfhound bandits were, there was still a probability that they might lose at the end of it all.

So sending the girl to her death was something that none of them wanted.

Moreover, how were they going to explain her death to their village chief when he wakes up later on?

"Little Gloria!

Why would you want to risk your life like that?

Are you trying to kill us from worry?!!"

"Little Gloria... Please listen to aunty.

Going for a battle isn't the same as going to the stream to play.

So please stop this foolish mess and think about the village chief's feelings."

"Yes little Gloria, think about the village chief!

If something were to happen to you over there, then wouldn't that alone kill him?

You are just a little girl, so please don't throw your entire life away... Alright?

(+Δ+)

The villagers continued their best in trying to convince the little girl to stay behind.

But no matter what they said, little Gloria in question just stood there silently, while meeting Landon's eyes and clenching her fists hard.

No matter what, she had to get stronger.

Landon looked at the girl before him and knew that he had to come up with a way to reject her without actually crippling her confidence or courage.

She seemed like the stubborn type who would think he was looking down on her if he just rejected her with no legit reasons at all.

Of course for him, he couldn't take her because she would just slow them down, and might even be a distraction or a possible hostage target during the battle.

So there was no way that she was going.

.

"What's your name?"

"G...Gloria Perckle." She said while stammering a bit.

"Hm... And why do you want to join us so badly?"

"Because I want to protect my village by getting stronger."

"Hmhm... That's a very noble cause for you to go with us." Landon said, which instantly brought about a broad smile on Gloria's face.

She looked at Landon in a daze, as she was still shocked by what she had heard him say.

So did this mean that he would take her along?

Her heart rate quickened very fast, as she thought about how this would be her first time participating in a formal battle.

She clenched her fists even harder and looked at Landon and his men with so much determination.... as if telling them that she would not let them down.

Yes!

She would definitely prove herself to them and eventually grow stronger in time.

(*^*)

Chapter 560 A Visit To The WolfHound Lair

(*^*)

Landon looked at Gloria's determined eyes and smiled slightly.

"Calm down little lady.

Even though it is noble to go out and fight for one's people, doing so without any real skill will not only make you lose the battle... But will also dampen the mood of those around you even further.

And in addition to that, it will only bring about grief to those who truly love you dearly."

Listening to Landon, Gloria felt like someone had thrown a bucket of cold water over her.

Did this mean that she wouldn't be able to help anyone out?

She knew that she had no real skills that would make her valuable in any fight.

But still, was there really nothing that she could do in order to help her people?

"Little lady, even if you don't follow with us to the battlefield, there is still a way for you to be of service to us."

"Please speak kind sir!" Gloria said while opening her eyes excitedly.

Hm..... you see, there are several other ways in which one can help out in a battle.

You can either fight on the battlefield itself, help strategize or even help out the injured to the best of your capabilities.

As for the first 2, you don't qualify for them at all... Since you've never had any formal training whatsoever.

But you can still be of help when it comes to the third option.

Yes!

You will be of great assistance to us or your people by looking over the injured alongside my men.

Implore you not to look down at this position!... Because during battles, they are one of the most crucial people needed on the field to heal the injured and save lives.

Those who heal, are the real lifesavers of life... and are on the same level as those that fight the actual battles.

So with that said, little lady..... your mission, if you should choose to accept, will be to join the medical staff and treat the injured.

So miss Gloria Perckle, Do you accept the mission?"

"I Do!" Gloria said confidently.

"Good!"

.

After getting Gloria, Landon and some of the soldiers hastily left with one of the village hunters... Who usually accompanied the village chief to the Wolfhound Lair whenever their village chief was called upon.

Even though his injuries were somewhat heavy, it wasn't to the point where he couldn't move or do any sort of work at all.

In fact, as a hunter..... he had gotten far worse injuries from fighting several deadly animals deep in the forest.

So the 2 sword injuries that he had gotten from these bandits, weren't that gruesome when compared to a massive Hangol gripping one with its sharp razor-like claws.

so he chose to show Landon and the rest the way.

And even if he felt extreme pain, he would still have volunteered to go... As nothing was more important than eradicating these bandits, hence solving his people's problems once and for all.

But of course before he could head out, the medical team had first stitched and bandaged his wounds properly.

And after that was done, they were finally off.

'Vrrrrmmmmmm!!'

Inside one of the trucks, the hunter couldn't help but marvel at how cozy and comfortable the place was.

More importantly, he had never seen a carriage with such an interior before.

And what shocked him the most, was how fast they had arrived at the Wolfhound stronghold.

Eh?

Wasn't the journey supposed to take several hours to complete?

So why did they arrive so soon?

The hunter felt like everything was just too dreamlike for him to believe.

"Mr. Cletus... Here's a pen and a paper.

Can you show us an overall look at how the lair is like?"

"Of course sirs!

I'll do that right away!!" Cletus the Hunter said, before taking the pen and paper from one of the soldiers.

He first drew a rectangle, before filling it out with several circles and shapes which he said were buildings.

Apparently, the Lair had a total of 13 buildings within it.

He could give out all information about how the exterior buildings and surroundings within the lair looked like.

But when it came to what was actually located within each building, he had no clue on the matter... Since all the times that visited the place was to just act as the village chief's guard or escort.

So they usually stopped him outside one of the buildings there, and only allowed the g chief to go in instead.

He drew a very rough and ugly presentation of how the lake was actually set up... And also explained all that he knew to the soldiers as well.

Landon looked at the system's map and knew that there was just one secret underground tunnel within the lair, that was also surprisingly close to their underground dungeons as well.

But of course he wouldn't say anything about it... So he decided to just strategically lead his men there instead.

.

'Vrrrrmmmmmm!!'

They drove for a bit before finally parking their vehicles a certain distance from the lair's main entrance and stealthily got out from the trucks.

Of course, some people were assigned to guard the truck and the hunters, while the others would follow Landon into the lair for battle.

"Alright!

We need to hurry this up as quickly possible... Because we still need to get to the Northern A.S.A.P"

Landon said, while leading the pack in.

One should know that he had previously added an entire day off into his travel journey... So that when they arrived, they would all first rest for an entire day before saving whoever the system wanted him to save.

But now they had already used time off to deal with today's matter, which meant that their rest day was now gone.

So they had to quickly wrap this up and get fast!

.

And just like that, their second battle for the day had begun.

'Phiew! Phiew! Phiew! Phiew! Phiew! Phiew!'