

TECHNOLOGY 611

## Chapter 611 - Hope

"Smelly men, what do you want?"

" "

--silence--

(>°□°)

Gringo looked up to the sky and didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

How could he have forgotten that this brat was always rude through and through?

Even though it has been over 4 months since he last came to the brat's home, how could he have forgotten the boy's true nature?

Smelly man?

Did these magnificent men look like smelly men to the brat?

But even though he glared at Dartomi, he couldn't help but feel anxious for the poor kid.

Gringo secretly looked at Beri and the rest before sighing from relief.

Good, they weren't angry.

He looked again and was even more confused than before.

Eh?

Why were sir Beri and the rest smiling instead?

Did they like being insulted?

But how would Gringo have known that the men were actually admiring Dartomi's courage instead?

Even though he was trembling, he never yielded or diverted their eyes in the least while insulting them.

[Soldiers: the kid's got spunk.]

Beri smiled at the lad in amus.e.m.e.nt.

"What do we want?"

Kid... We want to help you!"

"Really?"

And why would you want to do that?"

There's no free meal in this world, so why?" Dartomi asked curiously.

"Hmm... it's because our ruler and our people have once suffered a fate that made the entire world shun us too.

So we are here to provide aid to those who truly need it.

Of course, we can talk on and on about what we can or can't do.....But in your heart, I know that you've already made up your mind on what you will do.

Isn't that right, Dartomi."

"Hmmm.....my place can't take all of you at once, so only you and the village chief can come in."

"As you say, this is your home after all."

With that, Beri turned to the rest of his men and nodded at them, before heading in with Gringo.

.

Both Beri and Gringo spent over an hour trying to satisfy the young man's curiosity.

Unlike most, Dartomi had actually never heard of Baymard before as he never left the mountain region for anything.

He used to live in the village with his parents when he was younger... Even though he was still shunned by everyone.

But unfortunately for him when he turned 4, the Pure Evil cult that was newly established at the Time went to each village in hopes of spreading terror.

Of course they attempted to take his mother and defile her, but his father wasn't having it.

His father was killed and his mother committed suicide, rather than be defiled.

And so he became an orphan who fended for himself since then.

He moved here and never went back down again.

But hearing about Baymard made him feel like he didn't know the world outside at all.

"Can I see it?"

"Are you sure you want to?"

I've been called a monster my whole life, and many people say that the hole under my nose is a scar marked by a demon.

It's said that looking at it would make one get bad fortune.

So, do you really want to see it?" Dartomi said with a serious expression on his face.

"Hahhhahahahahah!

What stupid curse?

Kid... I've seen 3 people like you, and they have already been treated by our healers (doctors).

What curse?

As I said, ignorance is this world's biggest sin."

Hearing Beri, both Dartomi and Gringo jumped in shock.

They were cured?

So this wasn't a curse?

Beri went in to explain the basic knowledge about what he knew about it, which took the other men by surprise.

They were also shown pictures of the before and after treatments of some patients.

Without a doubt, they were shocked by the picture thing that didn't look anything like a portrait.

But the patients in the pictures stunned them even more.

Dartomi looked at the smiling boy in the picture and felt the flames of hope grow deeper within him.

So this illness was called Cleft lip, and it was just a defect from during pregnancy?

He looked to the ground, slowly took off his scarf and raised his head back up again.

He tried to hold back his tears, but in the end... He wept like the kid that he was.

'Woo...Woo...Woo...Woo'

"There, There.

It's all better now, isn't it?"

Gringo looked at him and sighed.

All he saw now was a pitiful child.

And now that he knew that it was an illness, he felt even more empathy for the orphaned poor boy instead.

He couldn't help but feel ashamed when he thought of the behaviour of some of his villagers towards the boy who had no one in this world to turn to.

What monster?

Clearly, the poor guy was just sick and needed help.

Gringo promised himself that if he ever found people who were like Dartomi, he would immediately send them to Baymard for treatment.

And anyone who ever called Dartomi a monster in his presence, would definitely feel his wrath.

Sigh..... The world was really ignorant, and so was his previous self.

.

Beri allowed Dartomi to cry to his heart's contempt.

And after 5 minutes, the red puffy-eyed boy quickly resumed his so-called cold look... which at this point only made him look like he was pouting.

"So you all are leaving now?"

Wait!

Do I need to go with you now?"

"No... Not now.

This is only the first village that we visited.

So after distributing everything to all chosen villages and towns, then we will make a U-turn and pick everyone up.

Plus we also have to take care of the out evil can't before we leave.

So in about a week or so, we should be back.

After all, it's only 2 P.M, and we are already on our way towards the next village now."

"Okay, I'll wait for you all."

"Good!"

With that, Beri and his team left.

But they weren't the only ones who were preparing for battle.

Far away from Carona, danger was silently brewing in the dark.

## **Chapter 612 - The Time Was Near**

'Sweuuu!!!'

The end silently whistled against the trees that were now starting to grow their leaves.

The forest was slightly warmer, and the animals had all come out to play.

The birds tweeted away, and the frogs sang the base to the song.

Just one look, and one could see that the forest would soon get its full look within the next few months.

Several deers, rabbits and animals were all searching for food around the trees along a tiny forest trail.

Everything seemed to be at peace... when suddenly, all the creatures lifted their heads in unison and quickly vanished back into the heat of the forest.

'Gallop! Gallop! Gallop! Gallop!'

Right on cue, over hundreds of men on horseback rode along the forest trail silently, with their leader riding in the centre of the group.

But even though their leader was cloaked in black and had a long hood on, anyone who saw his frame or shadow... Would undoubtedly know that he was the leader of the pack.

The men rode vigilantly until they finally stopped at a field of Wet strangling grass.

Yup!

As the name suggests, the grass would strangle anyone who dares to resist it.

Anyone who saw it would say that it looked like one of those Baymardian mops.

It had a stick-like top body, and the bottom half of it was exactly like that of a mop's.

But one shouldn't be deceived, because underneath that wig of grass, we're countless times that were wrapped around like a ball of yarn.

The grass's utter appearance was just a camouflage to lower one's guard.

Because as soon as anyone came a few inches to it, it would strangle you and cut off one's blood circulation in a heartbeat.

It was one of the most vicious plants known to man, and also liked blood the most.

Some grilles called it the devil's plant, while others called it the figments of enemy ancestors.

Several believed that they were a result of enemies that were buried in the place where they were killed.

Of course, beliefs like these made warriors travel several miles away just to throw the ashes of their enemies away.

All in all, the ant was believed to be pure evil.

.

"Stop!" One of the men commanded while raising his right hand in the air.

Soon, everyone did as they were told and quickly gave way for the man to approach the leader.

The leader then took out a small potion from his chest and gave it to the man.

"Everyone, stand back and wait!"

With that, the man moved towards the strangling plants and took a deep breath.

Even though these plants were deadly, they had but one weakness known to just a few powerful men in the Pyno continent.

Yup!

These plants hate this potion.

Even the man didn't know what the position was.

But all he knew was that whenever he sprinkled several drops of the potion onto 2 or 3 plants before him... a few minutes later, the entire field would turn red.

One thing to note was that these plants were normally purple in nature.

And when they attacked, they would turn grey.

But for some reason, red meant that they were asleep instead.

Additionally, they typically got affected by the other strangling plants around them.

So if one got hungry, turned grey and accidentally touches another one beside it... Then that one would also get hungry and turn grey too.

And in turn, the entire field would get hungry and turn green in a matter of minutes.

As for the potion in the man's hand, it could make these plants stay asleep for 15 minutes max with no signs of them waking up.

This was a huge secret that only kings and high-class nobles knew of, as the potion itself could make any middle class noble go bankrupt within a year.

The warrior sprinkled a few drops and quickly stepped back.

'Weeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhh!'

The affected strangling grass made a high-pitched crying noise, and quickly turned into red from bottom to top.

And once it completely turned red, it slanted sideways as if it were sleeping and immediately touched the other plants beside it with its long stick-like upper part.

'Weeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhh!'

The rest cried out and the cycle continued.

Within the next 4 minutes, the entire field had turned completely red.

"Everyone, we have just 13~15 minutes tops.

Advance quickly!"

With that, the rest of the men rode through a tiny footpath amidst the red field.

Even though it seemed like the time was a lot, sometimes, these plants would get up earlier than expected, so the quicker they were the better for them.

.

The men rode along the small foot trail and finally entered a cave at the other end.

And right on cue, they heard the sounds of the plants waking up in unison.

'Weeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhh!'

As expected, some really woke up early.

Good thing that they hurried as fast as they could.

One should know that with no real way of measuring the potion ingredients, how could each potion have the same results?

The men rode into the cave while feeling relieved as well.

At this point, even if someone had accidentally seen them enter the cave, they wouldn't be able to advance at all..... Lest they want to die a gruesome death.

Heck!

Even the potions were so valuable and well treasures, that their leaders were only allowed to take 2 spoons of them in a potion bottle whenever they had to leave or enter the cave.

'Gallop! Gallop! Gallop! Gallop!'

The men continued to advance while avoiding all traps that were set up for intruders.

And soon, they came out of the cave and was greeted by a massive estate a little further away from the cave's exit.

"Welcome, your majesty Alec Barn.

Welcome!"

"Hmm... Have all the men that I sent this way arrived?"

"Yes your majesty, they're all here."

"Good!

Now round everyone up as soon as possible.

It's time to prepare for battle!"

## **Chapter 613 - The Time Was Near 2**

After dishing out his orders, Alec calmly entered the estate.

There were men everywhere!

The place was so full that people had to sleep within the hallways of all 12 estates.

"Welcome your majesty!"

"Welcome your majesty!"

As he passed, everyone quickly stopped what they were doing and saluted him with respect.

Alec nodded back and steadily made his way to the west wing of the main building.

That wing had his bedroom, as well as his main office by it.

Of course, he went straight into his office and stayed there.

Right now, time was of the essence.

A few hours went by, and after a while, there was a knock on his door.

'Knock! Knock! Knock!'

"Enter!"

Immediately, 7 of his most loyal Commanders and aides all walked in and first went on bended knees.

"We have completed the task, your majesty.

"Hmhm... So how many men do we have presently?"

"47,069 men, your majesty." Answered one of the aides.

47,069 men?

That was almost 50,000 men!

Alec had previously sent out close to 20,000 when he was back in the Capital.

And on his way to Baymard, he had taken at least 2~5,000 men from each big noble in the cities.

In some cities, he took from over 4 people at once.

And in others, he just targeted only a single noble instead.

All this while, Alec had been strategically crippling those who were secretly against him with this move.

He took at least half of their total number of official knights.

And in some cases, he took all of their men instead.

Undoubtedly, this greatly affected their political stance and power, since they couldn't make too many moves until Alec appointed or sent their men back to them or appointed new ones.

Looking at how many men he had tallied up, Alec grinned in satisfaction.

.

"Excellent!"

For the next week, we'll go over the battle plan with these warriors before we head out.

With these many men at hand, if we don't properly assign and group each warrior to certain tasks... Then there will be widespread chaos on that day.

I want the men to be split up into 8 groups.

You 7 will be in leaders of 7 groups.

While I, on the other hand, will have the 8th group stay behind on the field and protect me.



Additionally, they will also serve as backup as well.

As for your groups, some of you will control all archers, while others will control the warriors, black powder, poison and so on.

Remember, I want this done in a week tops!"

"Yes your majesty, it shall be done." They replied in unison.

"I expect nothing less.

Now, what about the scouts that have been monitoring Baymard dor the past 1 month?"

"Your majesty, from what they reported..... Baymard isn't aware of our incoming attack as well, because they're still the same from the time that we left.

They still haven't opened up any sword fighting academies, and only have those 'thunder-thingies' (tasers) as their only weapons.

But your majesty, it's said that these people are very skilled at hand-to-hand combat."

Hand-to-hand combat?

Alec sneered when he thought about it.

What did those Baymardians think this was?

How could hand-to-hand combat help them defend against black powder?

Except it was sorcery, there was no way that he would believe that they could win against him.

He gently massaged his beard and smiled confidently.

Of course it can't just him, as his aides were also smiling stupidly as well.

What a joke!

They felt like these Baymardians we're being too lax and trusting of the world.

Or else, how would they end up with such bad national defences?

Everyone's mood was that of a sly fox that had its prey right where it wanted it.

In their minds, the battle has already been won.

.

"It's good that they're foolish.

This will only reassure and give us a better chance of victory.

So for now, tell the scout's to stop, lest they get discovered.

Remember, our biggest advantage is our surprise attack.

With how big our group is, there's no way that they would be able to win.

But we still can't take my chances, that's why we have to surprise them instead."

"You're right your majesty.

Since we have a week tops to allocate out tasks, and another 4 days to ride towards Baymard... Then if we get discovered now, wouldn't that be enough time for these Baymardians to get help?

They have already signed a treaty with Carona, so they will definitely come to their aid." Said one of the aides.

"As always, your majesty is always one step ahead of us.

A trip to Carona takes 2 and a half days using their sh.i.p.s.... and word on the streets is that Carona keeps special forces around the coastal city in times of Crises like this.

So If we alert them now, in a span of 5 to 7 days, their reinforcements would've already settled down in Baymard.

That's why your majesty wants us to stop the scouts.

Your majesty is wise!" Added another aide, whose eyes were almost twinkling with excitement.

Alec listened and nodded back to affirm their theories.

"You all are correct!

We don't know how many elite forces are within the Carona's Coastal city that hosts the Bay-Caronian Transport sh.i.p.s.

So we can't take any chances and let our enemies increase in number.

For all we know, after they get help..... they might end up having exactly the same number of men as we do or higher.

That is a chance that we must never take!

Relay this to the scouts: Any can't who dared to leave this place will be killed on the spot."

"Yes, your majesty!" They replied seriously.

Even they would kill anyone who jeopardized their plans.

Baymard had to fall into their hands no matter what.

"Alright, that's all for now.

Dismissed!"

With that, everyone left the office silently.

The long-awaited battle that they had been looking forward to was quickly approaching.

Their hearts pounded like a drum and their entire body fell into a state of ecstasy.

Finally, they would get rid of that bastard child.

But of course, they weren't the only ones who were looking forward to battle.

### **Chapter 614 - The Time Was Near 3**

'Shuah! Shuah! Shuah! Shuah!'

The waters clashed against the hard wooden bottoms of several sh.i.p.s that were currently on their journey to victory.

The sh.i.p.s all sailed in a triangular formation, with the main ship leading the way.

And on the lead ship, several men were currently going over their battle plans seriously.

"How long before we arrive?"

"Commander Pirus, we have 3 more weeks of travel, before we finally reach Baymard's shores."

"Good!

Even though we didn't get any additional slaves to join our fleet, Terique's victory in this battle will still be reassured.

We have the list of weapons that they use, as well as the way to counter these weapons too.

So tell the men to go over it again.

Our victory in this battle should be completely one-sided with us just winning brutally." Pirus said sternly.

Everyone nodded and felt that this was indeed the case.

Truthfully..... the number of people and battleships that they had initially prepared, had now dropped by about 3/10 (30%).

It so what?

They still outnumbered these Baymardians and even had information about the weapons that they use.

To them, victory was definitely guaranteed.

Anyway, they had left Terique with 68 sh.i.p.s that were all packed and fully loaded in hopes of destroying Baymard.

The amount of black powder that they had at hand was enough to make even kings and rulers open their eyes in awe and shock.

"Captain Nicodemus!

Is it ready?"

"Yes, Commander!"

"Excellent!

Quickly, command the rest of the fleet to get ready to stop.

We should be fast approaching the rendezvous spot soon."

"Understood Commander!"

Immediately, everyone in the room swiftly got up and hurried towards the deck.

They stood calmly in wait while the ship sailed, before stopping at a very tiny island.

.

'Bam!'

Pirus and a few others got off the ship and walked towards the men before him.

Yes!

This island was a well-known pirate claimed one.

There were several pirates on shore all drinking rum and celebrating for heaven knows what.

And at the forefront of them, was their Captain who was currently enjoying and basking under the sun.

Pirus and the rest didn't mind these pirates.

But what made them angry were the remarks that they heard from these men as they advanced towards the pirate Captain.

These vulgar men whistled and licked their lips at them while catcalling them.

'Phee-Pheew'

"Look at that chest!

Hey gorgeous!

You look like the type of man who would like to be under me, so would you like to give it a try?"

"Hey handsome, we haven't had a woman's touch in a few months now.

So if you're interested, then come over to papa.

I don't mind at all!"

"Hey beautiful!

I'm stable, ready and unbeatable in the bedroom.

Try me and you'll never look for any other woman."

"Hey blondie!

Do you like what you see?

I knew it!

You like the fact that I have one n.i.p.p.l.e right?"

"Aye... You there with the silver hair.

You're exactly my type.

Come!... Don't be afraid of my belly!"

(-\_\*)

Pirus and the men all felt several chills run through their spines when they heard these men talk.

The appearance of these pirates were unruly and vulgar.

They had hard leathery skin that came from years of hardship on the deck of a boat.

And when they smiled, their black, green, yellow and missing teeth made Pirus and his men want to puke.

Who would want to sleep with them when they look like that?

Many of the men were already bis.e.x.u.a.l anyway, so that wasn't what truly offended them.

Even if they had to get pleasure from a man, it shouldn't be one that had so many boils and pimples on their face that they looked like a monster altogether.

The life of a pirate was hard, and with it came dirt and diseases that made some of them look ugly.

They just didn't have the time to take care of themselves, and whenever they were at sea... They would even spend over a month before they took their next bath.

At least whenever they got to their islands, they were cleaner than at sea.

But still, their appearances made Pirus and his men want to puke!

Especially when they smiled and looked at them with desire and l.u.s.t.

Ugh!

How disgusting!

.

Pirus and his group of 7 walked towards the pirate Captain amidst All the cat-calling.

Dammit!

They were so pissed that one could see all their veins bulging on their foreheads.

They looked at the pirate Captain ahead, as if blaming him for not restraining his overly s.e.x.u.a.l crew.

If not for the fact that Nopline had specifically requested for them to get intel from these bastards, why else would he be here?

Yes!

Here pirates also worked for Nopline as well.

They were his eyes and ears around these parts.

"Oh?"

And what brought you fancy looking boys all the way here?" The pirate Captain said, before giving them a broad smile that showcased his blackened teeth.

They shuddered uncontrollably when they saw his smile, but the pirate Captain didn't mind at all.

"So, what can I do for you boys?"

"We are here because of our master's orders."

"And who's your master?"

"Sir Nopline!"

Hearing Nopline's name, the pirate Captain's eyes immediately lit up.

"Where's your identity and proof?"

"Here!" Pirus said arrogantly while tossing his crest and a letter to the pirate Captain.

A minute later, the pirate Captain folded the note and passed it back to Pirus.

"Alright!"

Come inside and we'll talk about it more."

With that Pirus and his gang went into one of the estates on the island.

And an hour later, they had gotten everything that they wanted to know.

Of course without a doubt, they hurriedly left the pirates and went straight back to their ship.

"Commander Pirus, it looks like our spy is still within Baymardian as planned.

So once we get in, he'll do his part."

"Hmhm.

It seems like everything is going as planned.

Heheheheh!

Soon, Baymard will be ours!"

## **Chapter 615 - She-Devil**

Life was truly a mysterious thing.

Because like a chain reaction, major forces within the entire Pyno continent seemed to be having several difficulties of their own.

Far away from Commander Pirus and his fleet, several people were currently praying for their lives as hard as they could.

Dammit!

Who asked them to provoke this monster?

.

In a beautifully styled room, a 38-year-old man stood before several kneeling servants with his back facing them.

The kneeling servants all shuddered from fear and didn't dare to look up at all.

The place was now frighteningly quiet, and all that could be heard was the buried breathing from the servants.

On the other hand, the man who had his face gaming them slowly turned around to reveal a small human that had been strapped to his chest.

The person on his chest held a clay teacup and took a sip from the cup angrily.

Yes!

The person was in rage!

And who was this person?

Well, it was none other than the one-arm Cary Barn.

It could be said that Cary now stood as a symbol of evil to all those who worked for her.

Before, she could've been said to be a devil who worked in hell.

But now, they all saw her as the owner of hell himself.

Cary had transformed into a nightmare for them.

Nonetheless, who could blame her?

She had lost both of her legs, as well as her most dominant arm... The right one.

So now, she was like a 3-year-old baby who was carried around wherever she went.

All this, as well as her now very low self-esteem, made her lash out all the more.

For sure, she had tried to move on her own... But it was utterly difficult and still needed a lot of practice to do.

One should know that for the past few months, she had been secretly learning how to support her entire body and walk on her own.

Because no matter what, she felt a sense of security whenever she tried moving on her own.

And best of all, it made her feel stronger.

She hated the looks of pity, mocking, gloating and even contempt on the faces of mother, maids, stepmothers and nobles who happened to chance upon her.

From the moment her condition was leaked, several frienemies of hers came to visit her estate all in the guise of 'worrying' about her.

But she could see all the gloating and hidden messages within their sweet talk.

It would be a lie if she said that she wasn't angry.

Regardless, what could she do?

Her father didn't favour her anymore, hence he didn't listen to any of her requests.

He treated her like a monstrous disgrace, and was even tempted to remove her from the royal registry.

In his mind, daughters were tools and legitimate sons were family.

So with a broken tool like Cary that couldn't even be used for his own gain, why would he bother about any of her requests?

Even if those nobles mocked her, she was sure that Alec wouldn't do anything to them and might even support them instead.

She laughed bitterly when she thought about her so-called family.

Indeed, she was a broken tool for them.

.

As for the guard who was assigned to carry her on his chest, he was one of her mother's most loyal guards who had been working for her mother even before she was born.

The guard never spoke unless he was alone with her, and his entire aura was one that intimidated the workers even more.

He now slept in her room and made sure that he went almost everywhere with her.

Well everywhere except for her bath pools and latrines.

In truth, there were times that the maids had even thought of drowning the princess to death.

But they didn't dare because they would undoubtedly be buried alongside her as well.

Additionally, their families might even join them too.

So they dared not plot against the princess.

And the head guard who always carried Cary around would catch them before they even completed to dead.

So what was the point?

The head guard was also in charge of all security measures within her estate.

And to Cary, he was her lucky star.

Because ever since he came, that dastardly hooded man hadn't shown up again at all.



Months have passed by with no other incidents having.

So how could she not be happy?

She couldn't help but feel shed a few tears whenever she thought of her secure her estate had now become.

It was truly a thing of joy for her, and all this positive energy gave her some of her confidence back... Although it also turned her into a little mister as well.

Cary looked at the shivering and sneered.

"Do you all think that because I'm like this, I wouldn't be needing any of my luxury gowns or jewelry anymore?"

Let me ask you all for the last time.

Who took my Golden Barogan (kind of animal) bracelet?"

--silence--

The maids shivered even more when they heard Cary's words.

Some of them were shivering because they were indeed guilty, while others shivered because they were afraid that those guilty wouldn't step forward at all.

And in that case, wouldn't they be all killed on the spot even though they were innocent?

They couldn't help but first their luck.

How could they end up working with such lowly thieves who seemed bent on pulling them along death's road.

Their faces all turned ghastly pale, and their bodies looked like their spirits had already departed from the world.

Cary gleefully looked at their ghastly expressions and smiled viciously.

Of course, she already knew who the thieves were since she had gotten the report from the guard who was now carrying her.

He had placed hidden guards all over her estate so they would know whether someone planned to poison her food, or even place deadly powders on her clothes or not.

But who would've known that they would end up meeting thieves instead?

### **Chapter 616 - Skills For An Internet Troll**

"Crash!"

The clay teacup in Cary's hands was sent flying towards the floor.

It shattered into several pieces that shot towards some of the maids like dynamite.

She had missed her aim.

The maids quivered and dared not move from their original positions, lest they anger the she-devil before them.

Because if they had moved in attempts to dodge it, then they would surely be killed on the spot.

Cary looked at the shattered pieces below and frowned even more.

Doing things with her left hand was truly a hassle.

She took a deep breath and calmed herself before looking at the maids once more.

"Raise your heads and look at me.

You all are my most trusted maids.

So of course stealing from me will only make me feel betrayed and angry at you.

Why couldn't you have asked me for a bigger salary or something else?

You all are like family to me, so I would've listened to your requests.

Sigh... why didn't you just ask?" Cary said while acting pitifully.

The maids looked at her appearance and felt like what she was saying was true.

After all, if they really thought about it more... all she had been doing ever since she lost her limbs was to throw tantrums here and there.

She would yell, break things and taunt them verbally.

But she had never done anything to physically harm them.

So wasn't this the same as a 3-year-old child lashing out whenever it wasn't given what it wanted?

Now that they took a closer look at her, they felt that she needed was more love and attention since her mother was the only one who showered her with love.

Thinking about it now, why didn't they just ask her for a bigger salary, rather than stealing?

.

Cary looked at their soft expressions and sneered.

"As I said, you all are like family to me.

So this is your last chance!

If you step forward now, this one promises not to kill you.

You have my word as an Arcadianian Princess."

'Thud!'

Immediately, two maids bashed her heads on the floor loudly.

"P... Princess, please forgive this lowly one.

This one just wanted money to take care of my son.

As you said, we are all family.

So please forgive this lowly one."

"Princess, this one only wanted to save her dying father.

So I teamed up with maid Sati to steal the bracelet.

I beg the princess for forgiveness!" They said while continuously smacking their heads on the floor as hard as they could.

"Hmmm.... you all may rise.

I forgive you all."

"Thank you, princess!

Thank you, princess!

Thank you, princess!" They said excitedly in unison.

So the princess really took them like family?

They were so shocked that they almost forgot to breathe.

Did she forgive them just like that?

How benevolent!

They felt even more incredulous at the whole ordeal and couldn't help but sigh from relief.

Today must be their lucky day.

But how could they have known that all was not as it seemed?

"Thank you, princess!"

"Thank you!"

(^\_^)

They thanked her merrily.

Cary on the other hand looked at them hatefully.

"Yes.... I've forgiven you all, and I promise not to kill you.

But that doesn't mean that I can't punish you all right?"

--silence--

The moment the duo heard Cary's words, they soon had a bad definition in their hearts.

"Hehehehhe..... I'd like to remind everyone here that no matter how I look, my status will always remain the same.

I will forever be a princess of Arcadina.

So, what crime is usually given out to thieves who steal from royals?

The answer is death!

But because of my promise, I've decided to only punish you two.

And since you both like to steal from defenceless women, then why don't I make you become one instead?

Men come!

Seize them, cut off their legs and their dominant hand immediately.

And whatever you do, make sure that they don't die!"

The moment those words came out, the women felt fear like they've never before.

"Please Princess, forgive us."

"Forgive us... Forgive us."

"Princess!

Didn't you say that we are all family?

Don't you promise not to hurt us?"

"You b\*\*ch!

You will surely rot in hell for this!"

" "

As the women were dragged out, their pleading soon turned to insults.

Just like that, from today henceforth... They too will become cripples as well.

The other maids trembled from fear and promised never to end up like the rest.

.

After dismissing the rest, Cary stayed in her room with head guard Medonis.

"Young mistress!

We sent our spies to your lover's home and found out the reason for his absence.

But young mistress, it isn't good." Medonis said grimly.

Cary felt a sharp pain in her heart from Medonis' words.

The signs were always there, but she failed to see them.

Her eyes turned misty, and her nostrils felt blocked as well.

How dare that bastard?

Yes!

Ever since she lost all 3 limbs, Anthony had been avoiding her like the plague.

He would send letters saying that he was busy, and didn't even bother to ask about her condition again.

His letters that were previously 2 pages long, were now 6 or 9 letters long instead.

In her last letter, she had written a 3-page long letter about how much she missed him and yearned for him, and also written on how she spent her days now.

But the bastard had only written:

[

To my darling;

Good for you.

Your lover,

Anthony.

]

That was it.

If Landon saw this letter, he would've said that Anthony would've been an amazing internet troll back on earth.

The skill to anger someone with so little words was truly rare.

(\*^\*)

Cary felt like exploding when she saw the letter.

What was the point of even holding up a pen to write the letter?

Might as well not have written at all!

"Young mistress... It's as you've suspected.

He specifically told his father in private that he no longer wants you anymore." Medonis said without any hint of emotions.

"What a good Anthony!

Does he think that he can get away from me just like that?

Hehehehe... How naive!

And to think that this is the man I sacrificed for.

Medonis!

Tell your men to continue watching him for now.

I'll definitely make him pay, but not now.

And by the way, do you know why mother hasn't come over yet?" Cary asked worriedly.

"Young mistress... I do.

A matter of urgency has occurred.

In fact, it isn't just your mother who is worried.

My spies within the 3rd queen's camp have also reported another matter of urgency to me."

"Well, what is it?

Spit it out Medonis!"

"Young mistress, both women received secret letters.

And from the looks of it, Prince Eli and Prince Connor have both gone missing!"

### **Chapter 617 - Busiest Man Alive**

While most forces seemed to be in turmoil, back in Baymard..... Landon had finally finished dishing out instructions on new products, as well as answering any questions pertaining to them.

As for the changes in Baymard, Landon didn't think or give them everything.

His main focus was to give them the most problematic ones... and from there, they could make the simpler ones.

Take for example the electric cooker.

When he had created years way back... 6 months after its creation, someone in the industry had an innovative idea as to make a single set electric burner.

And from there, many other kinds of burners and ideas popped up.

All he needed to do was create more complex things like planes, arcade games, amus.e.m.e.nt park rides and so on.

So that in this way, the people would invent their own products once they understand the underlying principles.

If he had to invent every little thing, then where would he have the time to travel out?

Once everything was settled in the Pyno continent, without a doubt, he would be visiting and fighting battles on other continents too.

So where the hell was he supposed to find time to invent every little thing?

His goal was to make the complex ones, and the citizens would focus on the rest.

Because even for things like computers, if the people understood the underlying principles behind them... Then they might even be able to create iPads without his help.

As for food, there were currently over a hundred brand new recipes that he had never created.

They were the work of Baymardians and international chefs here.

Hence he did not doubt that soon, other chocolate versions, drinks and new recipes would come out again.

After all, each company had a budget for innovative ideas.

And all ideas were voted upon before money and other resources were allocated for product research and development.

Even government work typically went on without him 95% of the time.

They only came to him when it involved some risky situations.

Of course they came over to report general death rates, birth rates and things like that since it was generally his place as a ruler to know, improve and be concerned about his people.

Again, he too was a busy man who taught doctors, engineering teachers, military martial arts teachers and so on.

Not to talk of the fact that he still had to fight for world peace and complete the system's tasks.

So how the hell would he have time to create the small things?

He was even impressed when he saw the first pressure cooker that was created by a Baymardian.

Granted, it wasn't as good as those from earth.

But it was a start that showed how innovative these people were.

So with that said, he would not bother himself with little matters for now.

He was just too busy

.

Landon slumped on his chair the moment he stepped onto his office.

"Brian, please request for my lunch earlier than usual.

Preferably now."

"Yes, your majesty."

With that, Landon dropped his office phone and rested his head on his table for a bit.

Dammit!

He was tired as hell!

He just got back from giving a 3 and a half-hour teaching session with the Computer & Software Engineer lectures.

There was no way about it, he had to prepare them for the next semester.

And from there, it would be their job to teach the students instead.

Of course he would continue teaching and guiding them too, but not as much as he did now.

This Spring might just be the busiest session of the year for him.

'System, pull up Alec Barn's tracker.'

'As you wish, host.'

With that, a large screen appeared before Landon's eyes showing a large red dot on it.

The screen looked more like a GPS location map.

Landon looked at the dot and confirmed that Alec and his gang were still in that very spot on the map.

They had been there for 5 days now.

And judging from he had heard from Alec's conversation with his men, they would be marching towards Baymard in a day or two.

Of course depending on how fast they were, they would use an additional 2~4 days to get here.

'Hmm... System, show me that of the spies.' Landon requested.

And immediately, the GPS map moved swiftly and showed 3 red dots on the screen.

Landon's eyes lit up when he saw that the spies were already in Baymard.

'They're back!

As for what spies he was talking about, of course they were his.

For sure, it would be unnatural if he just miraculously informed Lucius on the exact period when the attack would begin.

So 15 days before Alec had even arrived at his location, Landon had sent out 3 spies to keep an eye on the road.

Alec's hideout was about 3 cities and several villages away from Baymard.

But Landon had sent the spies 5 cities away to watch the roads there.

From Alec's plan, Landon knew that they would start trailing within the forest 4 cities away, so he had sent his spies when they were 5 cities away instead.

He had also told the spies about the fact that Alec's men would be travelling in batches.



So the moment they saw several hooded men pass through the roads at different time intervals, they instantly knew who they belonged to.

And the moment the last batch passed, they stayed a few extra days to confirm that no other groups would pass by before travelling back to Baymard hastily.

A war was coming!

Landon was also on the move as well.

Looking at the GPS trackers, Landon knew that the spies were currently making their way towards the barracks.

So he made no haste and hurriedly left his office too.

Brian who was just about to knock on Landon's office with a cart of food and was shocked.

"Your majesty, your food!"

"No time Brian."

"Then what do I do with it? And where are you going?"

"No time to talk, cancel all my appointments."

Brian stood there dumbfounded for a bit, before gritting his teeth and running towards Landon.

"But your majesty, you haven't answered my question.

As your secretary, I should know where you're going in case of emergencies."

"Hmm...hmmm...hmmmm" Landon mumbled with a sandwich in his mouth.

[Brian: (\*+\_+)]

"The majesty, pardon me... But I didn't quite catch that."

"Brian, you're so young.... Yet you already had hearing problems?

I said to the barracks!"

" \_ "

.

'Vrrrrmmmmmm!'

'Bam!'

For sure, It didn't take too long before he arrived.

And not surprisingly, he and the spies entered Lucius' waiting room at the same time.

"Your majesty!"

"At ease.

Welcome back!

Go issue the code."

"Yes, your majesty."

With that, Landon sat down in one of the chairs within the waiting room.

### **Chapter 618 - Enemies From All Angles**

Landon sat in silence alongside the spies and waited for Lucius to arrive.

Apparently, he was out.

Of course as the main boss of the barracks, he had a massive waiting room with 4 secretaries working there each shift.

The waiting room could seat up to 50 people at once, and even had its own bathroom too.

Most of the time, people weren't here to actually see Lucius.

Nope!

They were there to get several documents or assignments from Lucius.

Typically, only teachers or top military personnel would come here to see if any requests that they submitted had been approved or rejected.

At times, it was to make reports on aggravating matters like reporting the matter of international spies and so on.

Anyway, for serious cases like these... all they had to do was tell the secretary's the word: 'Hades'

And the secretaries would know that it was a matter of life and death... Or that it involved Baymard's overall safety.

So the moment Landon and the spies came in, one of them said the code word to one of the secretaries there.

From there, the secretary quickly looked at Lucius' schedule and made a phone call to the office or region he was at.

He was currently within the military warehouse, so they called someone there, who later went into the warehouse and told Lucius the code too.

With that, the rest was history.

.

"You all are back!

And just to be sure, were you the ones that issued the code?"

"Yes, Commander King-Father Lucius!" The spies replied in unison while watching Lucius calmly walk into the waiting area.

"Good!

Oh?

Excellent!

Your majesty, you're also here as well!"

"Yes, I wanted to discuss something with you.

Coincidentally, I met them here too."

"Wonderful!

This will save the trouble of having to send for you.

Now, let's get into my office first."

With that, Lucius briefly went towards the secretaries to confirm that they were indeed the ones who issued the code before finally opening his office door.

No matter what, he had to ask the secretaries as per protocol... Even if Landon and the rest had confirmed it.

'Bam!'

Lucius' office door was shut tightly, and now there was room for privacy.

His office was huge for mission distribution purposes and so on.

There was also a hidden bed there, just in case he had to work all night long.

As soon as everyone was properly seated, the spies gave a detailed summary of all their findings.

And when they were done, they took off... leaving Lucius and Landon alone in the office.

"Hmmm

They said that they saw a little over 25,000 men.

But they also said that maybe some of Alec's men had arrived way before they were sent out.

So we could be looking at double that amount." Landon said calmly.

"50,000?"

"Hmhm... 50,000 men." Landon states again.

In his opinion, whether Alec was a terrible ruler or not, the fact still remains that he is a Ruler.

So that amount isn't hard for him to come up with.

.

The corners of Lucius' mouth slowly lifted up all of a sudden, revealing a sly smile on his handsome face.

Landon looked at him in confusion.

"Why are you smiling?"

"Hahahahaha... I just find it laughable.

Actually, it's not that I'm shocked by the numbers.

No... I'm more shocked by how much he has underestimated Baynard."

"What do you mean?"

"Brat!

When I first started working under him, he would send over 300,000 ~600,000 men to fight battles with other empires.

In fact, 50,000 is really too small a moment for the mighty Alec Barn.

Actually, even though he ruled the people with fear, under his reign, Arcadina's land size increased.

And this was all thanks to the huge amount of forces he had sent out to battle constantly.

We lost so many people in the war, but that didn't stop Alec's momentum at all.

He even created several secret estates that were filled with p.r.o.s.t.i.t.u.t.es and young women whose jobs were to birth warriors.

His men would ravish them, get them pregnant and they would be trained at the age of 7 to be knights.

Well, I never got to see these estates since I was always on the battlefield within the borders.

But some of my colleagues always told me of their experiences there.

So 50,000 shows that he doesn't believe that we have a chance at winning.

And if it were 25,000, we might even be seen as dog poop in his eyes.

But it's that overly confident nature of his that will be the end of him.

Hahahhahahahaha!

He might just have a heart attack from the whole ordeal." Lucius said happily.

Ah....he had been waiting for this day for a very long time.

Lucius is looked at Landon and leaned forward while placing his hands on his cheeks playfully

Speaking of it, are you going to follow the 'Young Master' (Oden Barn) back to the Capital after the battle?"

"Nope!

We will send out some men to drive them there and protect them at all for 18 days.

By then, I expect William to have settled down and gotten rid of all pests in his way.

I know what you're thinking, but there's nothing for you to worry about.

Before we left his main base, he had already informed his men to lay in wait around the Capital for his return.

So all those close to the Capital should already be there or on their way there as we speak."

"Hmmmmmmm

That's good then.

It seems like the Younger Master (William) is prepared." Lucius said, before sighing from relief.

"Yup!

After the battle, he and his family will leave 2 days later for the Capital without me.

Also, how can I leave when the wedding is coming up?

Do you want Josh, Gary, Mark and Trey to kill me?" Landon said helplessly.

Was Lucius trying to set him up?

They would definitely kill him if he was absent!

.

The guys had already planned to have a joint wedding towards Spring's end.

Spring ended on June 21st and the wedding was on June 3rd.

So he dated not leave until after their wedding.

Speaking of weddings, Santa & Penelope's own would be by Summer's end.

And if he wasn't mistaken, it was on September 12th.

For sure, he and his family would use hot air balloons once they reach the Coastal city in order to save travel time.

Additionally, before Santa's wedding... William might have his coronation too.

So he would have to go to Arcadina's Capital city for the ceremony, as well as the treaty reveal.

And after Terique's issues were sorted out, wouldn't he also have to go there too.

He didn't know the exact time when Nopline would attack Baymard.

But he knew that It was within Springtime.

Today was May 13th, and Spring ended on June 21st.

So he felt like within the next few weeks, Terique's fleet might pop out at any given time.

That's why he requested for the coastal guards to sail out and stay on the water borders of Baymard.



Some of them had been watching the weather nonstop.

Of course the moment the rain started drizzling instead, one of the men hastily made his way towards his lord.

Now, they could continue their journey.

"I am here at your service, your majesty."

"Hmmm..... Have the boys eaten?"

"Yes, your majesty."

"Excellent!"

40 minutes.

40 minutes before we depart.

Now go!"

"As you wish your majesty."

With that, the man rushed out in a flash.

When the heavy rain had started 2 days back, they had no choice but to stop at this nearby town.

A village wouldn't do, since Alec and his men were many in number.

So, they literally kicked the residences out of their homes and had them sleep in the barns, stables and streets instead.

While they on the other hand, slept inside while having their fun with several women too.

For sure, Alec didn't join in on the fun, as he didn't want any bastard child who would end up tarnishing his reputation even further.

He would be a fool to fall into the same trap twice.

And so his men had their fill of whatever was available in the town.

As for their plans, the town was just about 6~7 hours away from Baymard if one travelled at a steady pace on horseback.

So if they left at 7 A.M, they should be arriving around 2~3 P.M tops.

Not bad.

One should know that battles could carry on for days with the one-party trying to break in or damage the city walls.

Alec had honestly planned that the battle would take at most 16 hours.

Sure, they had impressive walls... And only a fool would waste their time attacking those walls.

So why attack the walls when one could attack the gates instead.

He had never seen all the mechanisms put in place to lock the place, so he assumed that it was just an ordinary dungeon-like metal gate.

In his mind, his black powder would destroy any gate before it.

But unfortunately for him, things would never be that simple.

.

Anyway, he had planned to use up at most 16 hours to destroy the gate, infiltrate the place, kill Landon and proclaim himself as ruler.

But looking at his arrival time now, he was afraid that if they hadn't broken into the gate before dark... Then they would have to camp outside Baymard's gates and fight on the next day.

Ugh... What a hassle.

Nonetheless, he wasn't worried about losing at all.

No!

He just wanted it to be done and over with.

The good thing was that his men were well rested within these 2 days.

So even if he arrived there in the afternoon, they could still battle seriously.

That was also why he wanted to travel at a moderate steady pace.

Energy conservation was very important if they were going to perform brilliantly during battle.

Alec chewed on his breakfast silently, while the town leader's wife stood by his side like a little maid.

"I'm finished.

Take it away!"

"Yes, your majesty." The trembling lady said, before hurriedly grabbing the tray of food from the table and dashed out at full speed.

His majesty was really scary!

Even though she was a model, albeit a lower class one... In front of his majesty, she was nothing more than a common maid.

At least she had been permitted to sleep in the kitchen.

Because unlike some other nobles and peasants that had been forced to sleep on the streets and barns during this harsh weather.

The moment she left, Alec calmly wore his armour and calmly went downstairs to meet his men.

"Your majesty, we are ready."



"Good."

With that, the men all got on the horses and left the town which they had been keeping hostage all this while.

Of course, the town's people waited for a whole 2 hours, before finally breaking out in celebration.

"Hurray! Hurray!

They're gone!"

"Phew!

I thought they would never leave.

Ahhh... I feel like I've just survived a great tribulation."

"My poor son caught a cold because of them.

Finally, they're gone and we can now move back into our homes."

"Those beasts even touched my wife and my daughter!

Damned bastards!"

"At least they didn't kill us.

So we should be happy."

"Hurray!

They've gone!"

"Hurray!"

(:\*Δ\*:) .

Some people were crying, while others were hugging each other and jumping around merrily.

For them, even if they had been taken advantage of... At least these men didn't kill any of them.

So they were only happy to have come out luckier than most people would in the world.

And so just so that Alec and his men couldn't hear their loud celebrations from miles away, they waited for 2 whole hours before shouting and crying at the top of their lungs.

As for Alec, even if he would've heard them, why the hell would he turn back now?

His mind was filled with nothing more than thoughts about Baymard.

Hehehehehe... A few hours from now, the battle will begin!

**Chapter 620 - The Ghost Is Out Of Its Shell**

Alec had already travelled for more than 2 hours now.

And while he was looking forward to the battle, those in Baymard weren't idly waiting by too.

Every day, the men at Baymard's city gates continuously prepared for the upcoming battle nonstop.

They had already prepared all the ammunition and equipment needed for the battle.

And at this point, they had also gone over the attack plan a hundred times now... since they didn't know the exact date and time when Alec would arrive.

Of course as per protocol, only those involved in the battle knew about the impending crisis at hand.

It was their duty as law-abiding military personnel to not cause widespread panic amongst the civilians.

So everything was kept under a tight lip.

And even those within the barracks who weren't involved with the battle, didn't know about the incoming war.

As for Landon, he was currently going over some major details with some of the leaders at the city walls.

They all sat upright in their army uniforms confidently.

Once everyone was seated, one of them rang a tiny bell to officially start their 15 minutes protocol meeting.

'Ding!'

"Alright!

Since everyone is here, then let's begin.

Let's start with safety, which is Captain Nebu's main responsibility.

Captain, are all facilities needed for civilian transportation ready?"

"Yes, they are your majesty!

At present, we have 13 military buses for civilian transportation if need be." Nebu answered seriously.

.

One should know that Baymard was now open to the public.

So since the battle would be taking place at Baymard's forefront, where would the poor guests who are on their way to Baymard go?

It wasn't right for them to be caught in this crossfire.

So the military had arranged for several buses to drive out and pick them up instead.

Basically, the moment the scouts sent in their reports through the Walkie Talkies, the buses would go forth and pick up anyone on the roads.

The civilians would then be brought back to the Landport and kept there for the time being.

At that point since they were planning to enter Baymard, they could just continue with registration.

Also, if they had carriages and horses, then they would be reminded to turn around and stay in Riverdale city for an extra day before coming back again.

As for those who were leaving, Landon was sure that no harm would come to them...since Alec and his men were trying to save energy and wanted to be in their best shape for battle.

Plus... Over 200 carriages were going and coming into Baymard hourly.

So how would they have the time to meddle with all these people?

Hence it was better for those on carriages and horses to turn back instead.

Because once the last Military bus came back, the city gates would be shut tight.

As for those who trekked to Baymard from heaven knows where, Landon thought that it would be too heartless to ask them to trek back since they were probably tired and hungry.

That was why he opted for them to be picked up.

As for those travelling behind Alec and his men... Please!

They weren't fools.

The moment they saw such a large force marching towards Baymard, they would turn back without a doubt.

In this era, such a large force going out could only mean battle, or ceremonial occasions like coronations.

And in truth, they didn't want to find out which it was.

So they hurriedly turned back and waited for the news to reach their ears.

With that said, all Landon and his crew had to worry about, were those stuck between Baymard and Alec.

.

"Good!

Once the scouts send word, make sure to call the Landport as well.

At that time, all Check-outs will be put on hold for an entire day.

And all those who were supposed to check out will be given free accommodation and 3 Square meals within some of the moderately ranked hotels in Baymard.

Tell the Landport to arrange a general checkout time for tomorrow too.

Those who are held up today can checkout tomorrow anytime before the appointed time if they liked."

The meeting didn't last long before Landon secretly made his way towards William's home.

For sure, he informed Lucius of his whereabouts before heading out there.

"Brat, don't worry.

Once we get information that Alec and his men are close by, I'll make a call to the young master's home."

"Thanks."

With that, Landon was off.

Of course, he had planned to bring William and his family to watch the show.

After all, this fight was also theirs too.

So it was only right for them to watch alongside the Baymardian and Caronian soldiers.

For sure, Micheal and his family could also come along if they wanted to.

He gathered everyone in William's home and briefed them on the situation at hand.

"My spies tell me that there's a high possibility of him arriving here today.

In fact, he might arrive any given time for now."

"What?"

Everyone jumped up in shock while looking at the calm Landon who was currently crunching on some ch.i.p.s.

'Crack! Crack! Crack!'

Their lips twitched when they saw how calm he was.

"Boy!

Even though I'm somewhat confident in you.

Are you sure that you can take on those many people all at once?" Oden asked seriously.

Even though his son had explained the battle on their base to him, he still felt like what Landon had used was just ordinary black powder.

So he wasn't all that sure that they could take on 50,000 men all at once.

It wasn't that he was underestimating Landon... But someone had to see it to believe it.

Plus this was his brother that they were talking about.

Even though he had grown somewhat confident throughout his period here, now that the moment of truth had come... Oden suddenly felt bad for dragging Landon and his family into this.

Michael looked at Oden and shook his head bitterly.

'Bro... If only you knew what this little imp could do.'

As someone who had been rescued in Terique, and had seen Landon's battle upfront... He didn't doubt for a second that Landon would win.

Even William thought the same too.

But everyone else wore a gloomy expression and remained silent.

Landon looked at them and chuckled.

"What's the big deal?"

If I said that I would take him down, then I would!

Don't worry, I would never do anything that can't confident in."

Listening to Landon, they somehow felt released, even though their worries were still buried in their hearts.

And soon, the phone rang and everyone's heart tensed up.

'Ring! Ring! Ring! Ring! Ring!'

Landon, who had been sitting by the phone calmly picked it up amidst everyone's anxious gaze.

"Hello.

Is the ghost out of its shell?"

"Affirmative.

The ghost has broken free."

"Alright, we'll be there soon."

'Pang!'

With that, Landon hung up and looked at everyone calmly.

"He's here!"

So those who want to watch the show