

Chapter 671 - The Heroes Arrive

'Swoop!'

The Marines dropped into the enemy territory swiftly with their masks on and their guns at hand.

Right now, the battleships were still firing different heavy destroyer bullets into the water... making those on board feel like they were still being attacked.

After all, the impact from the shots caused several massive waves to hit the already damaged ships.

The ships rocked and creaked endlessly, and coupled with the loud whistling and explosive sounds... the enemy all ran for cover, thinking that they were still being attacked.

"Ahhhh!"

"The ship is going to fall apart!"

"Dammit!

How did it become like this?"

With their distractions this effective, the marines all moved stealthily within the enemy's ships.

'Shwahhhhh!!!!'

From the moment they landed, they quickly spotted up into separate teams.

Some of them stayed on deck to either cuff the injured and guard the deck, while the others decided to go below deck instead.

One should know that earlier on, almost all pirates stayed on deck battle-ready.

So when more than 15 rounds of bullets were sent flying, most of them had already dropped dead or turned injured.

And some unlucky people even got shot twice and even thrice.

The scene was truly bloody.

And those who weren't injured quickly pushed the injured away and hurried toward the lower decks.

Of course some injured followed behind them in fear.

But the number below deck was really small when compared to the number of dead or injured men lying around on deck and moaning pitifully.

The Marines communicated with their hands and tried to move around as stealthily, while trying to get their job done fast.

Warrant Officer Micheal looked at the scene and quickly led his team towards the lower deck.

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On the second floor below deck level, several men impatiently looked at their Commander anxiously.

'Boom!'

'Boom!'

'Boom!'

The sounds of whatever it was that hit them, continuously tormented them as the ship rocked even more.

Dammit!

What should they do now?

Everyone felt like they had been fooled into fighting this war.

Why was the information they read about these sh.i.p.s so different from what they were personally witnessing?

Who the hell was that so-called spy?

For the first time, they began to question if master Nopline had intended to get rid of them through this war... or if he was also ignorant of Baymard's real potential.

The countless memories of the many glorious victories prior to this all flashed through their minds quickly.

F***!

Could this be what their enemies usually felt when they pummelled them to the ground?

Could this be the so-called despair?

If they had known earlier on, wouldn't they have preferred to surrender than to die so pitifully?

That's right!

In cases like these, they felt no shame... because to them, what the enemy was using was purely sorcery.

So they weren't surrendering to an enemy that was wielding a sword.

Nope!

They were surrendering to the fact that the enemy knew sorcery!

"Commander!

At the rate things are going, they will sink the ship in no time!" Said one of the men, who was honestly looking outside a window hole.

He had opened the wooden lid on the hole and secretly tilted his head at an angle that made it hard for others to see from outside.

All this time, he had been trying to look for an opening for escape, so that the men could send word to the rest on the late floor below.

But no matter how much he looked, the ship and the strong waves just kept washing his face and rocking the ship from the explosive impact on the ocean's floors.

"Mooney, any luck?"

"Not one little ray of sunshine."

"Son of a b**ch!

Commander!

What do we do now?

If we don't find a way out, we will surely die!"

"Die?"

No way!

I can die now!

My brother will surely inherit my property if I die."

"What about me?"

I've finally acquired my father's property after a gruesome battle with my elder brothers.

So how can I die here?

No way!"

"Then what should we do now?"

"Wait!

What if we surrender?

Isn't it better than dying here like this?"

"Surrender?"

"Yes surrender!"

"That's true they said we can live if we do right?"

"Tsk!

You all are way more naive than I thought.

They said that before we began battling.

So how is it possible that they would still give us that option now?"

"Then what do we do?"

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Pirus listened to the endless worries and complaints from his men and felt his eyes twice a bit.

"Enough!

Know this!

If any of you dare betray Master Nopline, then the moment you step back in Terique, your fate will be as good as dead.

So never forget who gave you your wealth and glory.

The enemy is trying to sink us to the bottom of the ocean.

So rather than talking so much, keep trying to look for an opening so that we can escape!" He said arrogantly.

But soon, he paused a bit before placing his finger on his lips.

The place immediately fell into silence and everyone looked at him curiously.

Pirus looked up and held his sword in his hand firmly.

Something was not right!

Previously, those on the floor above them were talking, wailing, screaming and crying anxiously... just like the rest of the men before him.

But now, those on the first floor below deck had suddenly gone silent.

In fact, the only noise that he could hear were those coming from the other rooms within the 2nd lower floor and the floor below.

But when Pirus stood on a barrel and placed his ears on the ceiling, he couldn't hear a single thing from those above which made him very uneasy.

Everyone felt uneasy too, as the silence from above was just too strange.

Their ship had 3 floors below deck level.

And each floor was typically rowdy no matter what time of day or night it was.

There were always people up taking rotational shifts or even staying up at night gambling, telling stories, eating, stomping their boots and so on.

Be it the first 2 floors below deck or the last floor meant for paddling slaves... there was never a deck floor that could remain this silent.

And so with that in mind, everyone slower unsheathed their swords and daggers as they too had some understanding of the situation.

Sh**!

The Baymardians were here!

Chapter 672 - A Battlefield Within the Ship!

Sh**!

The Baymardians were here!

Everyone drew their swords while thinking of what to do next.

First off, one would find stairways at both ends of this floor that led upwards or downwards.

So even if they wanted to rush towards the 3rd floor below deck where the slaves are, they might accidentally run into these Baymardian sc.u.m on the stairway.

They were now trapped on the 2nd floor.

Dammit!

The men trembled a bit and looked around the room a little more.

So this was where they were going to die.

The men took a big whiff of air and tried to stabilize their bodies amidst the rocking ship.

Of course, they were currently within one of the rooms on the 2nd lower floor and were fortunate to have realized that the Baymardians were here.

But their comrades in other rooms didn't seem to realize it at all!

Nonetheless, these men around Pirus didn't feel like reminding them.

Because in times like these, it was everyone for himself.

And so, all the men in Pirus' room slowly licked the door and waited for the enemy anxiously.

But unbeknownst to them, their commander who was supposed to lead them in battle... was thinking of his own escape plans instead.

As they said, it was every man for himself.

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The marines calmly separated into 4 groups after dealing with those on the 1st lower floor.

2 groups stayed along the stairway in case any enemy from the third lower floor tried to ascend... while the last 2 groups began searching the 2nd lower floor from both ends.

Of course, those in the hallways had been silently snipped down before they could even make a sound.

'Budum!'

Warrant officer Micheal quickly signalled for some of his men to take down those within the first 2 rooms.

The rooms were parallel to each other, so it was inevitable that they would have to take care of them at the same time since their doors were open.

2 marines took out different smoke bombs and hastily rolled them into the room, while the rest took a deep breath and held their guns against their chests patiently.

"Eh?"

"Is that smoke?"

"F***!"

"Don't tell me that they've decided to burn us all to the ground."

"But if it's true, then why is the mole green?"

"Who knows... maybe it's because of the ship's rotting wood?"

"Are you guys stupid?"

"Who cares about the colour of the smoke?"

"It's definitely fire, so let's get out of here!"

"Fire!... Fire...F."

'Phiew! Phiew! Phiew!'

Some of the men ran outside the room but were quickly shot by the marines, while others dropped to the ground instead.

"That's right!"

"They had sent more than 6 canisters of sleeping gas into each room."

"The marines silently sniped those who came out of the rooms, until there were no more escapees."

"And from there, they quickly stepped into both rooms and saw that the enemy had either lost consciousness or was dizzy and about to lose consciousness."

"Good!"

"With that, Micheal and his team continued forward."

"They weren't bothered about the unconscious men there, because those in the stairway would send for one of the marines on deck to tie these unconscious men up."

"But of course until they came, Micheal left 2 marines in each room to overlook the unconscious men."

"With that, Micheal and his team continued forward."

They took down several others until they had finally arrived within the room that Pirus and his men were in.

But this time, the door was shut, and there was no sound coming from within the room.

Micheal frowned and signalled for his men to surround the door.

He then raised his hand in the air and began a countdown.

[3... 2... 1]

'Bam!'

Immediately, the door was kicked down by his men.

And the moment they did so, they backed away in hiding again.

'Swish! Swish! Swish!'

As soon as the door broke, several daggers and arrows were shot their way... followed by the battle cry of several men from within the room.

'Yahhhhh!'

They charged towards the door in full force with their weapons at hand.

But some Baymardians slid across the door and shot the knees of those at the front.

'Phiew! Phiew! Phiew!'

'Ahhhhhhhhh!'

The injured men fell to the ground holding their knees in agony.

And while they fell, 3 other marines quickly threw smoke bombs into the rooms too.

Of course since they were late to throw it in, it was inevitable that some of the men would have to come out and fight them within the hallway.

And because of the noise, those men within the other unchecked rooms came out as well to join the fight within the hallway.

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"Yhaaaaahhhh!

Get them!"

Immediately, the whole place had turned into a battlefield.

Micheal hurriedly pointed his guns towards the incoming men and shot them calmly.

'Phiew! Phiew!' 'Phiew!'

They dropped like flies until he had to reload his gun.

But how could the enemy give him time for that?

"Die!!!"

A tall burly man lifted his right hand and aimed his dagger towards Michael's throat.

But Micheal quickly moved to the side and used his elbow to hit his enemy's wrist.

One would say that he even used the famous 'IP Man elbow punch' from earth.

He quickly attacked his enemy's wrist, before fiercely punching his enemy's lower belly with his fists.

'Arhhhhh!'

The enemy gritted his teeth and fiercely sent his dagger towards Michael's belly.

But once again, Micheal used both hands to grab his opponent's hand and gently directed his opponent's force towards the walls of the hallway.

'Pang!'

The dagger was now stuck in the wooden wall.

And the moment it got stuck, Micheal placed one hand on his enemy's back and quickly forced his enemy downwards while using his knees to hit the enemy's belly again.

'Urh! Urh! Urh!'

The enemy groaned in pain, and before he knew it, Micheal had given him a fierce Karate-chop at the back of his neck.

And just like that, he fell towards Micheal's body unconsciously.

But since Micheal still needed to recharge his guns, he used the big guy as a shield while loading up again.

'Catchak-chak!'

Now he was all loaded up and ready to go.

He dropped the big guy down and continued tackling the rest relentlessly.

And so just like that, the hallway battle soon came to an end.

With that, the men searched the room that had been unchecked and captured some men who were hiding behind several barrels.

Likewise, within the room where Pirus was in, they found a hole under a barrel that was directly connected to the last floor below.

The men peeked and saw several slaves in rags sitting in rows.

Their legs were all chained and all men on a single row all held a gigantic paddleboard.

"Warrant Officer Micheal.

Those who surrendered to us have confessed that their Commander isn't amongst them."

Micheal listened to the report and looked at the hole thoughtfully.

'How clever'

Chapter 673 - Smoking Out The Rats

Micheal looked at the hole for a bit and smirked before finally leaving with his men.

Of course, he kept 4 people in the room to keep an eye on things before he left.

He walked down the stairs and stepped onto the last floor below deck.

The entire floor had no rooms and looked very similar to that of a church instead.

There were several backless-benches on each side of the wall.

And between them was a massive space for people to move to and fro the floor.

Additionally, right at the forefront of the floor... there was another massive space there that was supposed to be used by these Teriquen warriors to control or lead the slaves in the right paddling direction.

One could look at it like a music conductor that had to make sure that everyone followed the right note, tune and flow of the musical performance.

The slaves who had their legs chained to the bottom of these benches, all had dirty dusty faces.

In fact, it was clear that since their voyage, they hadn't even been given water to wash their faces.

Of course for them, water was precious since these Teriquen men didn't even give them enough to begin with.

Their clothes were ragged, their hair was messy, their lips had long cracked and their skin looked like it had aged quite a bit.

In short, the slaves all looked weak and destitute.

And the moment they made eye-contact with Micheal and his team, they all covered their heads in fear and shivered uncontrollably.

Some of the marines still had their gas masks on, so for sure...they looked like aliens to the slaves at this point.

Micheal who had long removed his gas mask calmly walked forward instead.

And as he walked, he continuously observed all the shivering slaves before him.

There was no doubt about it.

The enemy Commander and a few others were probably hiding amongst these men.

Micheal whispered into the ears of some of his men before walking forward to the forefront with a slight smile on his face.

And very soon, all his men lined up along the middle path while facing each bench within the floor.

Now, it was time to smoke out some Teriquen rats!

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"Everyone, please raise your heads." He said calmly.

And soon enough, everyone did as they were told for fear of angering their new capturers.

But not surprisingly, some hesitated for a bit and even tried to avoid eye contact with Micheal and were all duly noted by the marines standing alongside them.

For sure... this didn't mean that they were actually guilty, as they might have been slaves who were too afraid.

Still, it was very likely that they were also lower-level Teriquen warriors that felt frightened for a bit.

Of course, Micheal knew that this wasn't enough to catch the culprits.

So he decided to play a little game.

For one, even if he got a Teriquen prisoner above deck to identify their Commander... given the situation, they might not want to again.

Why?

Because now that their commander had disguised himself as a slave, didn't it mean that the Commander's chances of escaping were great?

If the Commander had been caught after battling, then that was that.

But their Commander had used his brains and had found a way that guaranteed his escape.

One should know that Baymard was all about freeing slaves and whatnot.

So for sure, if their Commander succeeded, then he would be able to go back to terique, bring more reinforcements and save them in the nearest future.

And since they had surrendered and were so that these Baymardians wouldn't kill them... then they could just wait for their Commander's return, no?

Thinking like this, one could say that Baymard's kindness was also its weakness.

Anyway, after Micheal analyzed everything, even if it were him... he wouldn't identify his Commander too.

So the best way to tackle this is by governing the oppressed a chance to speak.

That's right!

The slaves would be the ones to point out the rats.

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"Everyone, listen up!

We are men from Baymard who only attacked the sh.i.p.s to protect our empire.

So since you aren't our enemy, then we will naturally let you all go."

(O^O)

Everyone heard them and felt excitement fill their veins like crazy.

Finally, they would be free!

From the moment they had been dragged into this war, they had never expected that Baymard would fully win.

And now that they did, they couldn't help but feel like the heavens he sent these Baymardians to free them up.

Many of them have been slaves for over 17 years now and had been taken away as a slave when they were just little kids.

They were known as Paddle-slaves, and had been trained to row the sh.i.p.s whenever Nopline's men needed to leave for missions.

This was all they had been taught to paddle in various formations or patterns, depending on where the ship had to go.

And while on sea, every week... at least 10 of them would die from their ill-treatment on board.

But now after years and years of being abused, they had finally been saved.

Of course, they knew about Baymard since it was the talk of almost everyone within the entire Pyno continent.

Baymard was like a beacon of hope to all slaves out there... reminding them that one day, they might be saved.

They heard that the place treated their kind like humans and even forbade anyone from calling themselves 'slaves' within its empire.

Such a place would definitely be a paradise for all slaves within the Pyno continent.

Everyone bowed several times in thanks, as their legs were still chained.

"Thank you kind saviours!"

"Thank you kind saviours!" They said with tears in their eyes, as they looked at Micheal in gratitude.

Micheal just smiled and waved his hands nonchalantly.

Now that they felt like this, then the next step should be fairly easy, no?

Chapter 674 - Smoking The Rats out 2

"Thank you, kind saviours!"

"No... it's alright.

This is what it should be.

You all are human beings too, and you deserve to be treated as such."

The more Micheal said, the more warmth the slaves felt in their hearts.

If it was some other person who said that they wanted to free them, they would definitely feel like it was a trap.

But these were the famous Baymardians, so they were more likely to believe it.

They had an unshakable reputation within the slave and peasant community.

So there was nothing anyone could say to make them doubt these Baymardians.

As for Pirus and some of the Teriquen men, even though they blended in and acted pitiful as well... their hearts were all felt on fire.

Hahahhahahahaha!

They were finally going to escape alongside these worthless slaves.

And when they got back to Terique, they would request for Master Nopline to send out more spies again while waiting silently for their revenge.

As the saying went, it was never too late for a gentleman to get his revenge.

So all they had to do now was wait.

Pirus tried his best not to let out a victorious smile when he looked at Micheal.

His heart pounded loudly against his ribcage, and his veins seemed to bulge out on his forehead in excitement.

'Hahahhahaha!

Pirus, you are brilliant!' he thought, as he resisted the urge to stroke his own chin.

Luckily, he had jumped down onto this floor while the Baymardians were busy attacking the 2nd floor.

He had long cut his trousers with his knife, making them look like shorts.

And of course, he rolled on the ground to dirty the shorts before quickly throwing the rest of his clothes and knife outside the window.

He tried his best to look as dirty as possible, and also chained his legs to one of the empty seats available.

Since people died weekly, their bodies were typically thrown overboard.

So there were a few empty seats here and there.

As for the rest of the Teriquen men, they were already on this floor ages ago... as they were in charge of controlling and leading the slaves to paddle towards the right direction.

That said, the moment they saw Pirus descend from the 2nd floor, they were also in shock.

But when they saw his actions, of course they too did the same as well.

They weren't fools!

Just his action alone meant that the enemy had breached the ship.

So now that there was nowhere to run, wasn't their best option to disguise themselves as slaves too?

For sure, they followed their Commander's actions right till the very end.

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Micheal patiently waited for the slaves to finish expressing their gratitude, before finally raising his hands and calling for silence again.

"Alright everyone, please settle down.

As I said, we will be able to free you all.

But, there is just one little problem that needs to be solved first.

You see, some Teriquen warriors have hidden amongst you all in hopes of escaping from our grasps.

And as their enemy, we can't let them go.

So if any of you knows them, please point them out.

Because if you don't, then it means that you have sided with our enemy.

And if that's the case, then no one will be able to leave, as everyone will be considered to be an enemy.

Brave men!

This is a chance to liberate yourselves from your current predicaments and become free men.

I guarantee you that once you're free, no one will be able to know what transpired here because the men that we catch will be locked up in our prison for many years to come.

I can guarantee you all that whatever happens in this room, will stay in this room.

So you all don't need to be afraid of their wrath.

Again, those that aid us will also be rewarded for their merits as well."

Dammit!

As Micheal spoke, the Teriquen men felt like face became paler and paler by the moment.

They were scared as hell!

Would they be singled out, would they be caught?

They began to silently request for the heavens to give them this chance to escape.

Just this chance, this was all they asked for.

They felt like crying, but had no tears to shed.

Everything that happened today seemed to flash within their mind in an instant.

They tried to stay calm but felt a great amount of fear crawl into their hearts.

Cursed!

What kind of sh**ty luck did they have?

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"Everyone!

You all have been long oppressed and maltreated.

And now, you finally have a chance to be free.

With that said, can you all please point out the Teriquen men who tried to blend in with you during this time?"

O_O"--->

Very quickly, 20 people hurriedly pointed at the culprits.

And soon, more people pointed at them too.

At this point, they no longer feared these men and devised to take their destiny into their own hands just like their saviour had said.

After their saviour had explained some key points to them, they had quickly realized several important facts.

Firstly, there were so many of them that it was almost impossible for these Teriquen men to remember them.

Of course some of them might be remembered.

But so what?

Freedom to them was something that they had longed for since they were little.

And now, it had finally come to pass.

But even though they were scared of sir Nopline, they knew that provided they didn't step in Terique, the chances of them being found out would be slim.

First off, their faces were hardly remembered.

So only those who trained them or sailed with them once might be able to remember them.

Heck!

Even sir Nopline didn't even know how they looked like.

Therefore, even if they go to Terique again, they might not even be found out, unless someone had once worked with them.

Even at that, with the countless slaves under Nopline's wings, it was just too hard to make them out.

So they were definitely taking this chance to escape!

Finally, freedom was here!

Chapter 675 - Plans For Mr. Nopline

Pirus and his men looked at these worthless slaves in rage.

F***!

These bastards weren't scared of their wrath at all!

Micheal examined each of them and smiled broadly.

"Hmm... so, we've finally caught you all.

But don't blame these men for saying anything.

Because even if they didn't, we would've still been able to catch you all." Micheal said calmly.

Pirus squinted his eyes in confusion.

How?

In his mind, his disguise should've been flawless.

But of course, not to these marines.

Firstly, his skin and that of his men weren't as bad as that of the slaves.

His lips weren't cracked and even though his shorts looked worn out, it was still in a good condition when compared to that of these slaves.

Again, their overall body proportion showed that they were warriors and not paddlers.

The slaves were only trained to work their arms and row.

So they were really skinny below their chest region.

But for warriors, they trained their overall body to be able to run during battle and so on.

So their calves were thick and their bodies were typically well balanced.

In short, they focused on overall training.

From running when hunting in the woods, to attacking bandits, enemies and so on... warriors had to keep fit in every aspect.

So the contrast in body shape alone gave them out.

In short, they were so many signs that could have been pointed out.

But time was of the essence, so motivating and using the slaves was the shortest way to go.

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Pirus quickly grabbed a slave anxiously.

And of course, his men also did the same too.

"Listen here, you lowlifes.

Since you all value their lives so much, then quickly drop us off on Arcadina's shores immediately.

And when you drop us off, don't follow us anymore... or I can't guarantee the lives of these worthless pieces of trash when we leave!" Pirus said, while literally strangling the tired and frightened slave that he held onto.

"Sirs, don't do anything rash.

We will do as you have said." Micheal said while casually given out some hand signals to his men.

Of course, Pirus just thought that he was anxious for the safety of these slaves instead.

"Stop talking and see to my demands now!"

"No problem sir, my men will get on it right away.

Marines!

You heard the man, do as he says."

"Yes sir!" With that, Pirus turned around to see some of the marines leaving the room.

Good, it looks like they were really going to inform their big boss of their conditions and take him to safety.

"Sirs.. please let them go.

They are innocent."

"Innocent?"

Hmph!

They deserved death the moment they decided to betray me!" Pirus said arrogantly.

And as Micheal distracted Pirus, some of the marines secretly shot several tranquillizers at their backs and necks.

'Thup!'

Pirus and the men continued talking back at Micheal.

But soon, they felt that something wasn't right!

Why did their body feel so heavy?

And why was the room sort moving on its own?

They wobbled for a bit before releasing their captives.

And just like that, they fell to the ground in one swoop.

'Bam!'

'Zzzzzz--'

The sounds of people snoring made the slaves so shocked and confused.

Were these people so tired that they couldn't even finish threatening the Baymardians before taking a nap?

Michael quickly took out his Walkie Talkie and reported the overall situation to the main battleship.

And after that, he quickly gave out orders to the rest of the Marines.

"Alright!

Now that all enemies are down.

Squad 1 will aid in freeing the slaves, Squad 2 will assist in taking the enemies away."

"Yes, Warrant Officer Micheal."

Great!

Now that everything was over, the squads quickly got busy.

Of course, they weren't too worried about searching the sh.i.p.s for money, information and treasures because once the Coast guards haul these enemy sh.i.p.s away, then everything will be properly searched in the base.

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And so just like that, the teriquen force had been utterly destroyed by the Baymardians.

Additionally, the Navy was glad that their battle 'Scenario 2' had turned out just right.

Well... before coming for battle, there were many scenarios or possibilities that came to mind.

The first possibility was the entire army would surrender.

Of course even though they knew it was highly unlikely, it was still good to give it a shot.

Again, their 2nd scenario was attacking the enemy without sinking any sh.i.p.s which could really save clean-up time.

And their third option was to sink 30~40% of the sh.i.p.s if they were really in a pickle.

They didn't know how many sh.i.p.s would be coming their way, so they had to have the option of sinking some of these sh.i.p.s.

Fortunately, they could handle the number of sh.i.p.s that came towards them this time

So they didn't need to sink any one of them.

But, if it was like a real size empire fleet consisting of 300 or even 700 sh.i.p.s.

Then they would've definitely sunk them down.

The enemy had underestimated them, so they didn't need to go that far to deal with Nopline's fleet.

Also, now that they knew that slaves were paddling these sh.i.p.s, they felt very glad that scenario 2 had worked out.

Imagine sinking these innocent men?

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The battle didn't last for long and ended around 3 P.M.

The prisoners were quickly taken away by the Navy and marines.

And the several Coast guards hauling sh.i.p.s had quickly arrived at the scene and hauled the sh.i.p.s away as fast as they could.

Of course, some other Coast guard sh.i.p.s came over and released massive thin nets that caught all wooden particles on the water's surface.

These sh.i.p.s focused on cleaning up the Ocean's surface immediately.

Everyone out in the Ocean, as well as within the Navy base were all extremely busy.

They worked relentlessly to tidy up the scene so that Baymard's Sea Port could be open to visitors again.

And just like that, the battle had come to an end.

Landon who had just gotten word of their victory, calmly smiled and drummed his finger against his table.

Now that this battle was over, it was time to aid King Micheal and his family in getting the throne back.

That's right!

It was time to put an end to this Nopline character once and for all.

Chapter 676 - A New Arcadina

As Landon prepares for his next moves, within Arcadina... William had already dealt with all of Alec's loyal men.

The Capital had been buzzing non-stop for the past few weeks, as everyone felt like several miraculous scenes had taken place right before their very eyes.

"Goodness!

I can't believe his highness Oden Barn had been alive all this while.

This is truly a joyous occasion for Arcadina."

"Aiyyyy!

I'm so happy that I lived to see this day.

Who would've thought that he would have thought that the truth of that matter would come to light now?"

"Hmhm...

I'm still very much shocked myself!

How could that tyrant Alec Barn kill his own father and brother, before pinning it all on the innocent Ferris family?

Luckily, the Ferris girl quickly took his highness Oden away just in time."

"That's right!

The heavens were really on their side!

And now, they even have an heir to the throne.

But I wonder if he would be any good since he never grew up in the palace?"

"What the hell are you talking about?

Young Prince William personally led his men into the palace and dealt with those in his way majestically.

Not to mention the fact that he had also captured the tyrant Alec Barn.

So how could such a man not be up to the task?

And even if he wasn't too great, I trust his highness Oden Barn.

So his son shouldn't be any worse!"

"I agree!

Back in the day, his highness Oden Barn had a great vision that benefited us, peasant people.

So this kind of ruler has my support all the way!"

(o^o)

.

On the Capital's streets, several people continuously talked about all the interesting events that had taken place within these few weeks.

Be it the nobles or even peasants, everyone couldn't help but keep their eyes glued on the palace.

All nobles quickly sent their respect towards Oden and William, in hopes of gaining their recognition.

Because now, they didn't know whether their political positions would stay put or not.

Even the advising members that used to give their opinions to Alec on political matters, didn't know if they would still keep those positions at all.

After all, no one wants to lose their wealth or noble status just like that.

They knew very well about all the corrupt and devious things they had done behind the scenes.

So having a whole new 'government' made them feel like all their dirty little secrets would soon come to light.

Additionally, William had personally announced that soon... he would be beheading Alec, as well as all the corrupt officials who either kidnapped, wrongly accused or murdered the innocent civilians constantly.

So how could they not panic?

Dammit!

Why them?

The thing that really made them want to cry, was the fact that ever since they had sent those letters weeks back... not one of them had gotten so much as a reply or an invite to the palace.

Weeks had gone by and no reply had come yet.

F***!

This alone made them feel like they were already royally screwed.

And as the days passed, the silence felt more and more tormenting to them.

They hadn't slept or eaten a lot and seemed to be scared of any little thing that crossed their path.

Even the howling night wind made them feel like the world before them would soon disappear in a flash.

Their hearts twisted and sunk even further, as they visualized how their heads were going to roll pretty soon.

And every day, they would wake up early in the morning and ask if they had received any mail from the palace.

Jeez!

At this point, even a verbal message would make them feel safe.

But sadly, nothing of that sort had ever arrived.

They quickly started thinking of various escape options from the Capital.

Even if they had to venture into another empire, it was way better than staying here and getting beheaded.

Because in the minds, staying here meant waiting for death... while escaping at least gave them a 50% survival chance.

So of course they were taking it

With that, many of them had begun to make plans for their grand escape.

But who was William?

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"Young master!

That's the situation so far." Said a hooded man dressed in black.

"Hmmm...

Just make sure that those on the list don't escape!"

"Yes, young master.

But what do we do about those who plan to score when they aren't even on the list?"

"Heh!

If they're running away when we aren't even targeting them, then that's their problem.

This shows that they have a guilty heart about the matter.

So if they want to go, let them go.

We will give them the illusion that they have successfully escaped from our grasps.

And this will only push them further and out of Arcadina as quickly as possible.

Times are changing, and so will this empire!

We must first take out the weeds on our flower bed, for the flowers to grow and bloom to their fullest potential.

As for the other corrupt men in power hoarding over the various cities and regions in Arcadina... taking care of them and appointing more upright people will be our next move for the entire year.

Arcadina needs to change!

Now go and do as you've been told.

"Yes, young master."

With that, the assassin seemed to blend into the darkness and had disappeared from William's sight altogether.

William left their meeting point and slowly walked towards a massive courtyard that had over 2000 men guarding it.

The guards all knelt in unison when they saw him approaching.

"We welcome the young master!" They said in a very spirited tune.

"At ease men.

Tell me, how are they?"

"Young master, they have been provided for and their wounds have been properly treated too.

But from what the Baymardian military doctor said, they're still weak and would need 2 more days of rest."

"Good!" William said, before walking in.

And who was he here to see?

Of course, he had come all the way here to see his so-called relatives.

That's right!

He was here to see his aunties.

Chapter 677 - Gratitude, Hate & Wishes

When it came to the situation of his 2 aunts, William couldn't help but shake his head helplessly.

Alec had 3 official wives, and all 3 wanted nothing more than to kill each other.

Alec's First Wife, Queen Sera... had aided her daughter, Cary... into killing third queen Argenia's daughter, Jennette.

Of course, payback was a b**tch!

So Argenia had already made Cary more stable before killing both Cary and the first queen Sera.

Now there were just 2 queens in the mix.

Of course, second queen Eliza, who was Connor's mother... was still looking for her missing son.

So she had asked some of the assassins to follow the moves of both Sera and Argenia, just in case they had a hand in Connor's disappearance.

But who would've thought that she would get to hear of such a juicy play?

With Sera was dead, that meant that only Argenia and she remained.

So she had planned to take out Argenia before Alec arrived.

That way, she would be the only queen in Arcadina who was controlling the scenes from behind.

Coincidentally, the day they had their battle was the same day William had planned to lay siege on the palace.

And while both women were battling it out, William would swoop in and stop them before they could kill each other.

Of course with that said, he placed both women under house arrest and had some people treat their wounds for the time being.

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Both women had been so stunned by the fact that Oden Barn had survived.

And once they got the gist of things, they quickly realized that their time and reign in the palace had finally come to an end.

Again, when Argenia heard that William was Mr. G.P, she couldn't help but cry in gratitude.

If not for him, how would she have known the real culprits behind her children's death?

Even if he was using her, he still aided her a lot in fulfilling her plans for revenge.

And now that he even brought up the matter of Alec's capture, how could she not be thankful?

She leaned towards him and cry pitifully.

This was all that kept her alive.

Of course, she knew that she wouldn't be allowed to personally behead Alec... as so many people were standing in line for that.

The guy had killed his own father, so wouldn't his brother want revenge too?

Not to talk about Mona Ferris, whose entire household had been burned down ages ago.

In fact, Alec probably had thousands of people, both nobles and peasants that personally wanted him dead.

So she knew that asking to behead him would be a bit too much.

That was why she had asked to personally stab 100 times before he was beheaded.

But William had only agreed to grant her 2 'stab opportunities' in regions that couldn't kill him.

After all, they needed him conscious for the beheading ceremony.

Additionally, Argenia also requested to move into a quiet village and live the rest of her life in solitude there.

Both of her children were gone, so what she was looking for was a resting place.

William felt a little pity for her since he was clear that she wanted to kill herself there.

Nonetheless, he had also promised her that after Alec's death... he would personally take care of the matter.

That was it on Argenia's end.

But as for Eliza, she wasn't having it!

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Eliza felt like someone was personally tormenting her.

After all her meticulous planning for Connor to take over the throne, how could she allow anyone else sit there?

She started growling and biting those who treated her wounds, as she felt like they were simply looking down on her.

Additionally, from the moment William had told her that Connor had been locked up in a very far away place... she had spared no effort to bite and attack him more than twice.

But what could she do against him?

William just felt that being truthful here was the best thing to do.

So he had ensured her that Connor was safe and would even be released after some years.

He had also told her about all visitation rights in Baymard and so on.

So if she truly wanted to see her son, then she can go see him anytime she wanted.

Of course... all this still pissed Eliza off, as she looked at William as if he was the main culprit in charge of giving her baby such a cruel fate.

But she had been quick to forget that it was Connor that had attacked William first.

She screamed and banged her door madly as she wanted to get out now and see her poor baby.

In her mind, the only thing that she wanted to do right now, was to assemble all of her men and march them straight into Baymard.

Of course, she also wanted to get more men from the officials and nobles that used to support her son.

In her mind, now was the time for them to prove their loyalty.

But how would she have known that many of the officials and nobles felt like they were currently walking on eggshells too?

Everything came so suddenly that no one in the Capital had the time to think about helping others now.

Some officials even decided to abandon their families and run away with their wealth.

So if they could abandon their wives and children, what about her?

Please!

She was all on her own on this one.

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"You lowly son of a b**ch!

Release me this instant, or I won't be able to guarantee the safety of your family when I finally leave."
Eliza said angrily while trying to untie herself from the bed.

William looked at her and sighed.

"Aunty, you will be freed 4 days from now just as planned.

So please, don't injure the maids or doctor that come in to treat you again."

"Pui!

So what if I abused them a bit?

What are you going to do about it?

Do you think that all this will make my hatred for you go away?

Dream on!

Listen here, boy!

No matter what happens in future, I will definitely make you pay for what you've done to my baby.

This is my promise to you!" Eliza said sternly.

William just looked at her and smiled.

Apart from pity, the only reason why he kept her alive was so that she could see her son again.

That was in a way, his last bit of kindness towards her.

He wasn't a fool!

He knew that after she left, he would concentrate all her savings and men into rescuing Connor.

But in his mind, the prison he saw was almost impenetrable.

In fact, he was sure that they wouldn't even be able to get passed Baynard's Landport... talk less of attempting a prison break.

Eliza would waste all her money and resources on that and get broke later on.

Even if she sold herself to rich noblemen or even worked hard to get more resources... she still won't be able to get him out.

And when reality finally touched her, she would have no choice but to wait patiently for her son to be released.

Who knows, many she might even become humble, work earnestly and save money for her son's life after prison.

But William had already decided that he would give Connor an Eli some money after they left prison.

Of course, the money would be given to them in Baynard the moment they came out of prison.

From what he knew, they were sentenced to 12 years in prison.

So they should be out by the time they were in their middle or late thirties.

And by then, Eliza should also be in her early 50's.

After all, she gave birth to Connor when she was around 16 years old.

Again.. he also heard that if they were good... then they might even be released earlier than expected.

So maybe when they were 30, 31 or even 32, they might be released, rather than waiting for a few more years.

Anyway, he only hoped that by then, they could live an honest life with the money they had been given, and even start a family at best.

And he would definitely send some men to monitor, as well as protect them if they had really changed.

For now, William looked at his fiery aunty and sighed.

Only time would show her how foolish her thoughts were.

Chapter 678 - Carona's Continuous Progress

As Arcadina was preparing for its new ruler, the empire of Carona continued to undergo several dramatic changes altogether.

It was a brand new day, and everyone went about their busy lives excitedly.

Carona had left its old shadow behind and was also progressing towards its own new age.

"Now kids, let's do a simple problem alright kids.

If I take 5 apples and add them with 2 tomatoes, what will the answer be?" Said a very cheerful voice coming from a solar TV.

And in front of the television, was a 4-year-old girl currently looking at her notebook to get the right answer.

"That's right!

Because apples are not tomatoes, we cannot add them up.

So the answer should still be 5 apples and 2 tomatoes.

Well done!" Said the cheerful voice.

And soon, the little girl's eyes lit up and she clapped for herself even though she had previously gotten it wrong.

Nonetheless, she quickly wrote the right answer down in her notebook and smiled happily.

"Alright kids!

Now after that tiring question, what do you all say about a little signalling?

Today, we'll be singing the Two-Timetable in a fun and exciting way.

Now, let's have fun and sing along!"

With that, the little girl got up and did the little dance on TV.

She followed the yellow flower's dance moves and tried her best to memorize the Timetable.

And while the little girl was immersed in her own little world, her mother quickly brought out her breakfast and helplessly dragged her daughter away from the TV.

"Mimi, eat your food fast okay?"

Mummy is starting a brand new job today so I can't be late."

"Alright mummy." The little girl said cheerfully.

Filomina looked at Mimi and smiled happily.

Ever since they had gotten a solar TV Cassette player and some TV, movie and kids cassettes... her little girl seemed to have turned smart all of a sudden.

The girl could now write, and she could even do additions and something called multiplications by heart.

Of course, Filomina had also learned reading and writing alongside her daughter by watching the learning shows on TV.

And once she grasped the key concepts, she quickly used her housewife salary to buy more advanced books and studied diligently while her husband went out to work.

For sure, when it came to grammar, she was more advanced than her daughter.

But when it came to math, she found that her fighter was way better than she was.

Anyway, her biggest thing was to learn how to read and write, so that she could also get a better job and support her family.

Some jobs didn't require one to read.

But she felt like times were changing and books and even TV programs made learning easier.

And sooner or later, being literate would be the main requirement for better income.

So even without a teacher, many people in Carona still knew the basics thanks to all these resources at their disposal.

Sure, they were only at the beginner stage, but not too long from now... they would be at the intermediary stage and maybe even reach the advanced stage.

Working in places that required them to read meant that they would be working and learning at the same time.

So in a way, their jobs also enriched them greatly.

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Filomina hurriedly ate breakfast alongside her daughter and quickly placed Mimi's backpack on her waist.

At the same time, she quickly searched her own bag for a while.

Key... key... key... where did she put it?

She couldn't find that colourful keychain anywhere.

She searched for a while before quickly making her way to her bedroom again.

Sure enough, it was still on her bed.

Now, with everything at hand, she hastily unlocked the door from within, picked up a Baymardian padlock from the side, stepped out and locked the door with the padlock.

'Click!'

Her door was finally sealed.

As for the lock on her door, it was called an 'Alarm Padlock!'

That's right!

It had a built-in movement triggering alarm that would emit a loud sound when the lock got hit or shaken twice.

Of course, the alarm would go on for 3 minutes before stopping... unless the keys were inserted into the lock.

The Caronians placed these sorts of locks on their doors, windows, bicycles, and even on their gates.

This small device here had greatly reduced the crime rate, as well as plotting and scheming.

Before, they only placed a wooden stick against their doors when they weren't available.

But the thieves still touched their belongings at will.

Now with these padlocks, forget it!

It would even alert the neighbours, and they would come over to catch the thief themselves.

Even noblewomen had caught their own maids sneaking into their rooms in an attempt to put poison on their makeup or even plant 'evidence' on them.

This device had made so many people sat up.

And even assassins found it hard to get through the windows that were now locked with these alarm padlocks.

One should know that even if they want to destroy the windows and doors to get in, how would they do it without shaking these locks?

The only possible way was to steal the key or break-in by passing through the walls or ceilings.

A job that used to be seen as an easy feat for now assassin, was now seen as a daunting task.

Sigh...

All they could do was silently curse Baymard for their own predicaments.

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Filomina opened her bag just to be sure that the key was there, before holding Mimi's hand and walking away.

Each lock came with 4 keys and 3 spare batteries.

She and her husband kept 2 keys while the other 2 were kept in a box buried somewhere around their front door.

As for battery changes, after unlocking the padlock, if they continuously rotated the key clockwise, the bottom part of the lock would fall off and they could just replace the battery then.

Everything was really easy and simple to use, which made their lives even better and safer.

Filomina rushed through the busy streets and quickly dropped off Mini at the Kindergarten/Daycare... before getting off in the opposite direction again.

She looked at her watch anxiously, before speeding up a bit.

Today was her first day on the job.

So how could she afford to be late?

Chapter 679 - Carona's Continuous Progress 2

Filomina ran with all her might and finally made it 10 minutes earlier.

Yes!

She did it!

She felt like dancing victoriously when she looked at her watch.

As they say, first impressions make a difference.

So with that thought in mind, she quickly calmed herself down, wiped her sweaty face, drank a bottle of water from her purse and slowly walked in as if she hadn't just completed an entire marathon just to get here.

Fake it till you make it baby!

And where was she going to work?

Of course, it was within one of the newly constructed government buildings.

She alongside 99 others, had been hired and given various tasks within this newly built government estate.

And from what she knew, she had been placed within a sector that is responsible for calculating all statistical information in Carona.

Be it birth rate, death date or even unemployment rate... they seemed to be a lot that they had to do.

And their Minister or boss, was someone who has been interning in Baymard for the past 3 years.

Now, he was back, and he was ready to put his knowledge into use.

But because she wasn't too good in math, she was only qualified enough to be one of the department sector's secretary

As for their head secretary, he also worked in Baymard as the boss's secretary too.

So now he would be teaching her and a few others what to do.

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"Morning Mrs. Filomina.

The others are already seated within the main building.

So just go over there and join them just like the last time."

"Thank you, Mr. Green," Filomina said before hurriedly fishing towards the main building.

Previously when she had attended the orientation, they were only told about the importance of their sector to Carona.

Of course they were briefed on their duties and also showed around the estate.

But that was all.

So today, they were very sure that they would get a glimpse of what this 'secretary' job really was.

"Morning Filly!"

"Morning Filomina!"

"Morning!"

"Morning!"

Everyone smiled and treated her cheerfully since they had bonded well during their last time.

One should know that even though 100 people were hired, her department only recruited 13 people.

And 8 out of those 13 wrote secretaries, while the rest were sent to work under the main boss himself.

As for the 8 of them, there were 5 women and 3 men.

Everyone chatted excitedly for a bit before Mr. Green who was the head secretary, came back.

"Welcome everyone!

Now that you all are here, it's time to take you to your new work stations."

Once everyone heard her, their excitement couldn't be contained as they quickly followed him towards their new office.

The room was massive and had more than 20 office desks all lined up neatly.

From the number of desks alone, they were sure that the department would hire more secretaries later on.

But for now, there were only 8 of them.

And on top of each table, were several other documents and items on it too.

"Everyone, please choose a desk and seat," Green said while gesturing with his hands.

And when everyone did as they were told she calmly sat on a desk at the forefront of the room that was facing them.

It was as if he was a teacher and they were the students.

"The new era is one in which secretaries play an important part in.

So as office secretaries, I expect you all to be alert, efficient and play a vital role in this new era.

Now back in Baymard, we used something called typewriters.

But since those aren't allowed to be exported out of Baymard yet, we will continue to rely on our hands as we have done for the past hundreds and thousands of years.

And luckily for us, we have several office materials that will aid us in completing these tasks.

So from today henceforth, these office supplies will be your best friends.

And as for the uses of these supplies, we will be covering that today slowly.

Now... let's begin."

.

Of course, typewriters couldn't be exported out of Baymard since their mechanism could be copied by many outsiders if given time.

So they were only used in Baymard, and could only be bought by establishments, businesses, or aspiring writers who have joined the writers association.

As Filomina listened to Green, she became more and more shocked about her secretarial duties.

She placed empty A4 papers before her and also read the many guidelines of the standard of all letters, reports and notes that she had to write.

She used her ruler, erasable ink, pens, binders, envelopes, folders, scissors, rubber bands, highlighters, planners, calendars and many more.

And as time went by, she began to understand the uses of all the office supplies in her desk drawers.

There was just so much to do that she didn't even notice when lunchtime had arrived.

What the hell?

She looked at her watch and felt like time seemed to fly by in a blink of an eye.

Was this how it felt like to work?

Was this how others felt each time they went about their day busily?

She looked at all the notes she had jotted down earlier on and felt something within her shake.

She felt intelligent, confident and proud of herself now.

It was a feeling that was much different from before.

Her husband wasn't in the best condition as he would fall sick very often.

But he still worked hard for their family of 3.

So now that she could support him, she only hoped that he would look for a better job and take care of himself.

Her husband was born with a very weak constitution.

So seeing him do heavy labour all the time made her weep daily.

But now, everything was different.

If she even worked within the department for a longer time, maybe she could even recommend them to hire her husband.

After all, she had been told about employee recommendations.

So why wouldn't she want to use up that opportunity?

Filomina clenched her fists and decided to give it all she had.

For her family, she would be the best secretary ever!

And so just like that, several Caronians who came back from Baymard, quickly put their skills into play and began teaching many others the way forward.

Likewise, in Baymard, several other people were excited as well.

Finally, the day they had been waiting for was here!

Chapter 680 - A New Machine

"Your majesty, It's simply amazing!

This technology will definitely make everyone scream in shock." Tim said while going over the doc.u.ment in his hands.

Landon just looked at him and smiled.

Of course, the document in Tim's hands was that for manufacturing Vending Machines.

He realized that if he didn't get this done now, then by the time Pac-man was finally created... Tim and the rest wouldn't be able to do it for a long time.

Why?

Because after that, they would need to focus on creating the first importer ever, as well as headphones and many other things that would be rewarded to him by the system.

In fact right now, Tim's only focus was on building the aquarium and getting the Pac-Man arcade game done.

So when it came to the aquarium, the construction workers did everything, while their supervisors would report to him on the progress so far.

Of course, he also took time off at least once in 2-weeks just to see how far they had gone.

With that said, his main focus was now solely on Pac-Man, so he had some spare time to focus on vending machines now.

It was better to have this done as soon as possible, rather than to keep pushing it onwards.

Again... Landon noticed that he couldn't buy all technologies from the system.

Sometimes, his level wasn't enough.

And other times, it was because the system had kept specific designs as some sort of reward.

Yup!

He had asked for helicopter and plane manufacturing designs to boost his army, but he got turned down.

The system told him straight up that it would be rewarded to him after Baymard has reached a certain development level.

And when he asked, he was told that he needed an amusement park, functioning aquarium, computerized gym equipment like treadmills and many more.

As for the gym thing, many of his equipment worked on spring and pulley systems... like the leg weight machines that allowed one to pin the weight they desired and strap the rope on their leg.

And as they lifted their leg, the rope would lift the weights in the machines too.

In short, be it biceps machines or even machines that work on one's inner thighs, they all used spring or pulley mechanisms.

So he had never bothered to make treadmills or any other computerized machines.

The gym had normal weights, bell weights, jump ropes, boxing bags, yoga mats, workout balls, running tracks, basketball, soccer, tennis, badminton and other sports equipment that could be used daily.

So when the system mentioned things like treadmills, he was indeed shocked.

Not to talk of the amusement parks, water parks and so on.

Sigh... He still had a long day to go in so little time.

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Tim briefly looked over the 70-page document in his hands and frowned a bit.

"Your majesty, pardon me asking, but how do these vending machines detect fake money from others?"

From the brief outline here, we will place these vending machines in the land and seaports too, right?"

"Hmhm.

That's the plan."

"Uhhh... your majesty.

Since I personally witnessed how our money was made.

I'm sure that there will be some sort of scanning device in the machine to check if the paper money coming in has that unique strip on it.

So I understand how the paper money will get filtered.

But what about coins?

Within baymard, I'm sure that almost no one would use coins since even visitors have to change their currencies upon arrival.

But what about the Land and seaports?

When the visitors are on their way back, they will definitely be carrying coins.

And even on the cruise ships, there will definitely be more vending machines there too.

So how do we detect fake from real coins there?" Tim said confusedly.

He didn't want anyone to put in fake money and then draw out drinks or anything food from the vending machines.

That would be unfair to the rest who had earnestly placed real coins into it.

Landon looked at Tim and nodded in satisfaction.

As expected of an overseer.

For sure, Tim wouldn't let Landon go until all his doubts and worries had been sorted out.

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"Tim... even though you and I have never made coins before, what can you tell me about them?"

"Your majesty, coins within the Pyno continent all look the same everywhere one went.

And they are specifically created and inspected by the royal coin makers in each empire.

All empires came together hundreds of years ago and agreed to make them similar in size and design, so as to facilitate trade amongst them.

So the coins are all roughly the same." Tim said confusedly while looking at the smiling Landon.

It was true, all coin types had specific markings on them.

Around the edges of the coins were the names of all empires within the Pyno continent.

And at the center of the coin was a 5 leaf clover.

Again, each leaf had a symbol that represented the royal family of each empire.

Additionally, there were also several marks at the back of the coin too that made it hard for anyone to forge these coins.

The coin masters were the most skilled in their empires and worked diligently to inspect and make sure that each coin that went out... be it copper, gold or silver, all met the standards of the agreement hundreds of years ago.

That was why the penalty for possessing fake coins or cheating others with fake coins was life imprisonment.

But even though it was a serious crime, there were always some daring people who still tried to forge out fake coins for their well being.

Anyway, each coin type had the same design but differed in size and thinness.

Gold coins were thicker than silver or copper coins, even though they all had the same designs carved on them.

So with that said, how could screening these coins be an issue?

Well, he might still get some fake coins as even nothing was 100% full proof.

Because even back on earth, vending machines still took fakes and got cheated.

But no matter what, vending machines were a must!