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Chapter 2536 You Are Late

Kai walked toward the camp after saying that. Brutus chided, "Listen to me, this is the Demon Wolf pack's territory. Don't you dare think of escaping. Once you're out of the camp, the Demon Wolves will surely come after you and eat you alive. You were lucky not to have encountered them this time." Kai ignored Brutus. When he was back at the camp, he kept thinking about Leifr. He wondered why Leifr was looking for him. Is it because of the celestial beast aura I have?

Brutus looked at Kai, who was ignoring him. A murderous look appeared in his eyes. Villagers like Kai could never be rude to people like Brutus. The night went by. Francois glanced at the white powder he had scattered before turning to the others. "Who was on shift last night?" Those who had been chosen for the night shift came forward, and one of them was Kai.

"Did a demon beast come last night?" Francois asked.

The others shook their heads, but Kai nodded his. "Indeed. A demon beast came to the camp last night."

"What kind of demon beast was it?"

There was a visibly nervous look on Francois' face.

"A Demon Wolf. It approached the camp but was startled and fled," Kai replied truthfully.

Upon hearing that it was a Demon Wolf, Francois became less tense. He was clearly relieved by the answer. However, his reaction confused Kai. Aren't we in the Demon Wolf pack's territory? Are there other demon beasts around?

"All right, pack up your things. We're leaving." Francois headed straight ahead. "Let's go!"

Brutus waved his hands, gesturing for the others to move. He led the people further into the area.

Once in a while, there would be howls of Demon Wolves, and that made everyone's hearts leap into their throats.

Yet, not long after they started their journey, Francois abruptly furrowed his brows and signaled for the rest to stop.

As an aura came from a short distance away, multiple silhouettes appeared. The people shared looks of surprise with each other. They had never thought that they would encounter other humans in the area. The villagers who went hunting usually would not venture to this place, after all.

Francois' and Brutus' expressions turned grim when they realized who the newcomers were.

A man with a short beard said to Francois with a small smile, "Francois, you're late."

"I think you just got here too, Chev. You weren't that much faster than me," Francois said, his face gloomy.

Chev Nesser merely laughed before raking his gaze across the people behind Francois. In a sarcastic tone, he said, "You'll never get the Grus Divina with these people you've brought with you."

"You don't need to worry about whether or not I get the herb. I'm sure you're here for the Grus Divina too. Well then, let's see who gets that mystical herb!" Francois declared, narrowing his eyes that were filled with hostility.

"You want to compete against me?" Chev laughed. "Listen, both you and I will never get the Grus Divina because I've found out that the spirit beast protecting that mystical herb is a bloodthirsty beast. We'll never be able to defeat it."

Chev's words shocked the people in Francois' group. They knew their goal was to gather herbs, but they knew nothing about what herbs they were gathering and what dangers they would be in.

Now that they had found out that they were on a trip to gather a mystical herb that was protected by a bloodthirsty beast, they realized they were risking their lives.

Everyone shook in fear, but they had no other choices. They had already come all the way here, and they could not go back. Even if they wanted to retreat, they could never make it out of the mountains.

Francois could sense the terror radiating off the people behind him. He knew that Chev was saying such things to scare them.

"You say that because you can't deal with them, but whether or not I can deal with them is another matter that you'll find out soon enough."

Francois' eyes were full of confidence. He had put on that look partially to give the people who had come with him a confidence boost.

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Chapter 2537 Surrounded

However, his confidence was not unfounded. Francois indeed had a way to deal with that bloodthirsty beast, but there was no way he was going to tell Chev about it.

"Do you perhaps have a way to deal with that bloodthirsty beast?" Chev asked in surprise.

"This is none of your business. If you don't have what it takes, then head back. Don't make this place your grave."

With that, Francois led the people onward.

Chev was livid as he watched Francois and his group leave.

"Mr. Chev, what do we do now?" asked one of Chev's servants.

"We're following them. I want to find out what card this man has up his sleeve that he can use to defeat that bloodthirsty beast!"

Upon saying that, Chev went after Francois' group.

When Francois realized that Chev and his people were following them, he furrowed his brows.

"Francois, Chev's a persistent pest! He keeps tailing us. What do we do now?" Brutus asked.

"Let him come with us. I'll let him know I'm no easy target soon."

Francois discreetly changed the direction he was heading in. "Hefe, do you know those people?" Kai asked.

"I do. The one who was speaking is the son of the Nesser family. Here, the Nesser family is a powerful family, but they seem to be on bad terms with Emerald Cauldron Sect," Hefe whispered.

"We'll have to be on our guards. It looks like a battle will break out soon." Kai had noticed that Francois had changed his route. He guessed that the other man had to be doing this to deal with Chev's group.

After they walked for a few hours, howls of Demon Wolves started echoing around them, and they were getting louder and louder.

At the same time, Demon Wolves' auras rushed toward them like waves in the sea.

When the people sensed the aura of the Demon Wolves, they turned pale. Even Brutus looked anxious as he asked, "Francois, are we surrounded by Demon Wolves?"

Francois inclined his head. "Yes. I deliberately led us all in here."

Brutus turned to look at Francois in disbelief.

Francois quickly produced a bag and explained, "I have anti-wolf powder here to make them stay away from us. They won't attack us. I'm going to get the wolves to kill Chev!" He handed Brutus the anti-wolf powder. "Pass this around and have them apply the anti-wolf powder on their clothes." Brutus nodded and passed the anti-wolf powder to their people, giving them the same instructions Francois had given to him.

"Kai, what is this? Why do they want us to put this powder on our clothes?" Percy asked in confusion.

Kai gave him a small smile and said, "If I'm right, this must be anti-wolf powder. When Demon Wolves smell this powder, they'll be startled, and they'll run away. That way, they won't attack us."

Hearing that, Percy exclaimed, "So this is something good! I'll have to put more on me!"

In no time, Percy was almost completely covered in powder. "Mr. Chev, I think we've been surrounded by the wolves. What now?" one of Chev's servants said nervously.

Chev narrowed his eyes. "D*mn it. This guy deliberately led us toward the wolves."

"Mr. Chev, Francois is the seniormost disciple of Emerald Cauldron Sect. He'll surely have a way to keep the wolves away from his people. Look at the white powder coating them. Maybe that's what they're using to keep the wolves away, but what about us?" the servant continued asking.

"If the wolves attack, we'll rush into their group. His people are villagers. They aren't professional fighters. If we stay close to them, the powder on them might work for us too," Chev whispered.

He knew that the white powder had to be used to drive the wolves away, so if they rush into the crowd when the wolves attacked, they would be able to take advantage of Francois' group's plan to keep the wolves away from them as well.

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Chapter 2538 Chaos

While Chev's people were tense and on their guard, Francois was staring at

Chev.

Right then, over a hundred Demon Wolves emerged from the woods, surrounding them.

The colors drained out of the people's faces when they saw the wolves.

Even though they had the anti-wolf powder coated on them, Francois was equally nervous when he saw the appearance of over a hundred Demon Wolves.

"Francois, w-we..." Brutus stammered.

"Stay calm. We have the anti-wolf powder. If the wolves attack, we'll just run away from them. With the anti-wolf powder, we'll be fine," Francois said to Brutus and the others.

Kai and the rest were still useful in their quest for the Grus Divina, so Francois was not going to let them die any time soon.

The truth was, Francois had instructed Brutus to recruit so many people on the herb-gathering trip not because he wanted them to protect each other, but because he wanted to use them to deal with the bloodthirsty beast.

Francois had long known that the spirit beast guarding the Grus Divina was a bloodthirsty beast, and he had a way to deal with it.

When Chev saw the Demon Wolves eyeing them, he began to quiver uncontrollably.

"Charge!"

Before the Demon Wolves began to attack, Chev led his people running toward Kai's group.

Chev knew that there was no way they were going to survive an attack from those Demon Wolves.

Francois had never thought that Chev would lead his people toward his group, so he quickly leaped over to stand before Chev.

If Kai's group weren't still useful, Francois would not have bothered saving them.

"You deliberately led us into a pack of wolves. I hope you didn't think you could avoid the Demon Wolves' attack just because you can make a kind of powder that keeps them away. I'm going to stick closely to you and find out if those Demon Wolves are still going to attack us!"

Chev raised his sword and slashed forward, killing a villager in the blink of an eye.

He was ruthless and unhesitant.

Francois quickly fished out a pair of scissors with a golden glint to confront Chev.

Almost at the same time, Brutus jumped into the fight and began engaging Chev's men.

In an instant, chaos erupted at the scene. Kai quickly retreated with Percy and Emily.

He did not want to get himself involved in a meaningless fight like that. When Ali and Hefe noticed that Kai was not doing anything, they, too, quickly retreated.

The Demon Wolves surrounding them looked at Kai and his group, but none attacked them.

In a flash, a few of the villagers who had come with Francois were dead, and that devastated Francois.

However, Francois was still stuck in a fight against Chev. It did not seem like a victor was going to emerge from their fight anytime soon.

"Chev, if we keep fighting, we'll end up getting killed by the Demon Wolves. Let's stop," Francois said to Chev.

Hearing that, Chev swiftly removed himself from the fight, and Francois did not make a follow-up attack.

Chev did not want to fight against Francois at a time like this either. It was highly unlikely that the victor of their fight would leave the place unscathed anyway.

"Stop!" both Francois and Chev cried out to their people in unison. "Chev, that Grus Divina is under the bloodthirsty beast's protection. If you don't have a way to deal with that bloodthirsty beast, you'll never get the Grus

Divina. I can give you the anti-wolf powder to let you leave this place, so hurry up and head back," Francois said to Chev.

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Chapter 2539 Get Ready To Escape

Chev laughed out loud. "Francois, do you take me for a fool? Are you seriously asking me to head back after my arduous trip here? Yes, I can't deal with that bloodthirsty beast, but you might not be able to deal with it yourself either. I think we can put aside our differences and work together for now. Once we get the Grus Divina, we'll discuss how to split it between our groups."

Francois snorted. "No way. I'm sure I'll be able to get the Grus Divina, so why would I want to work with you?"

"If you're not going to work with me, Francois, then let's fight to our deaths and let the Demon Wolves send us our merry way to the afterlife!"

Chev readied himself for another fight.

Francois' face was contorted. He said in exasperation, "Chev, the Grus Divina is important to Emerald Cauldron Sect. On the other hand, your family doesn't even know how to use it. We can work together, but we can't split the Grus Divina between us. I can give you the bloodthirsty beast's corpse. You should know how expensive the beast cores of spirit beasts can be."

Francois felt helpless. He had no choice but to choose to work with Chev, who had surprised him with his willingness to fight to the death.

Chev was tempted by his offer. "Do you really have a way to deal with that bloodthirsty beast?"

"Of course I do. If I don't, why would I come all the way here?" Francois responded confidently.

After a moment of contemplation, Chev nodded. "All right, I'll agree to that. I won't ask you to split the Grus Divina between us, but that bloodthirsty beast's body will be mine!"

"That won't be a problem." Francois was delighted to hear Chev's agreement, and he stretched out his hand toward the other man.

The two shook hands, and the disagreement was settled.

"Now, how do we deal with these Demon Wolves?" Chev asked, glancing at the Demon Wolves surrounding them.

"We'll have to run out of this place. I doubt they'll attack us with a layer of antiwolf powder on us."

As Francois spoke, he scattered some of the anti-wolf powder on Chev and his people as well.

Now, both sides were allies, but the dead would never come back to life.

The villagers who had lost their companions could only hide the misery and anger they felt. There was nothing they could do about it. In the face of absolute power, they were insignificant.

No one would care about which of them lived and which of them died. They only cared about their personal gains.

Kai shook his head slightly when he saw the scene. The villagers meant nothing to the people from the powerful sects and prestigious families.

Ethereal Realm was far more ruthless than the mundane world. "Get ready to escape!" Francois yelled when he saw that Chev's group was ready.

Immediately, everyone lifted their weapons and kept their backs glued to their companions as they looked at the Demon Wolves warily.

Right as Francois was about to cry out his order, a howl reverberated in the area.

"Awoo!"

Like an explosion, the howl sent shockwaves in all directions.

As a matter of fact, many trees were uprooted by the shockwaves. Francois and Chev paled drastically while the others were filled with fear.

They could smell death from the wolf howl as if the grim reaper had appeared before them.

"This is bad news! Why is there such a powerful Demon Wolf in the area?" Francois said through gritted teeth as he studied his surroundings. Chev was silent, but the hand he had on his sword was trembling.

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Chapter 2540 It Should Be Nearby

Upon hearing the wolf howl, Kai knew at once Leifr was making the sound.

"Stay alert and stay close, everyone," Kai reminded Ali and the others in an undertone.

Kai knew any demon beast capable of transforming into a human was very powerful. If Leifr were to lead the wolf pack toward them, everyone would be in danger.

However, just when everyone was incredibly tense and braced themselves for battle, the hundreds of Demon Wolves gradually retreated, disappearing into the jungle without a trace.

The unexpected turns of events rendered the crowd dumbfounded. After all, Demon Wolves were vicious demon beasts, so why would they retreat when they had an absolute advantage?

"Why are they pulling back?" Brutus asked confusedly.

Francois didn't answer because he was clueless as well as to why the Demon Wolves had left.

"Could the Demon Wolves be scheming something? They're smart creatures, and I even noticed some of them have developed spiritual intelligence," Chev said.

"Regardless of what they are scheming, we must leave quickly." Francois led the group forward swiftly, wanting to leave the Demon Wolves' territory as soon as possible.

Seeing that, Chev also led his men to tread on Francois' heels.

However, the retreating Demon Wolves didn't reappear, nor did they give chase.

Right after their departure, Leifr slowly stepped out of the shadows, accompanied by a beautiful young girl. The girl looked about twenty and had charming dimples when she smiled.

Astonishingly, standing beside that sweet and delicate-looking girl, Leifr appeared anxious. He kept his head down and did not dare to gaze directly at her.

"Princess, did you see the man who had the celestial beast aura on him?" Leifr asked in a low voice.

"Yes, I saw him. He's quite handsome, but I wonder why he carries the celestial beast aura. I should find an opportunity to take him to see my father and let my father examine him."

She bolted in the direction Kai and the others were heading while Leifr followed closely behind her, nervously protecting her.

Meanwhile, Kai and the others had already left the Demon Wolves' territory after traveling in great haste for some time, which eased everyone's tension slightly.

However, they were now deep into the mountain range. Even after leaving the Demon Wolves' territory, there were still other high-level demon beasts lurking.

Those villagers were defenseless against those high-level demon beasts. They could only rely on Francois and the others' protection.

"I'm catching whiffs of the Grus Divina. It should be nearby. Let's hurry." Francois rushed in a specific direction. Approximately ten minutes later, Kai and the others found themselves facing a charred land.

The ground was entirely black, devoid of any grass. Even the surrounding trees were extremely withered as if they had been burned by fire.

Bones and corpses of numerous demon beasts littered the charred land. The carcasses were intact, showing no visible wounds, but they were severely deflated. It was obvious their blood had been drained.

A nauseating stench filled the air, and a dense lethal intent lingered in the atmosphere.

No one knew where the bloodthirsty beast was hiding. Many were sweating from nervousness, and the more timid ones collapsed on the spot upon taking in the scene.

"How could a mystical herb grow in such a place? It's barren here!" Percy muttered as he scanned his surroundings.