

Chapter 82 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ⑩

I faced Chloe in her real equipment.

Normally we would lower the rank of the equipped items to the Iron series, but I wouldn't be able to accurately measure my ability with that. It was accompanied by danger for both me and Chloe, but this time's mock battle was for the sake of completely defeating Alyssa...and a necessary ceremony for me to survive.

——Chloe! Come at me for real!

I had Chloe forcibly raise her bloodthirst towards me by ordering her.

Alyssa showed an overwhelming difference in power against Chloe. If I don't have enough ability to hold back so that I don't kill Chloe who comes at me with the intent to kill...I won't be able to carry out this time's strategy.

"——!? M-Master...!?" (Chloe)

Even while showing an anguished expression, Chloe readies the bow on her back —— Ichival, draws the string, and sets its aim at me.

——Hyuuu!

Alongside a faint sound of wind being cut...one arrow comes flying towards my forehead.

The arrow approached me with an instantaneous speed, but because of my stat increase, my eyes, which had their dynamic vision strengthened, fully grasped the arrow's trajectory. I bent my upper body back, dodging the arrow, but...Chloe already held the next arrow in hand, and fired it with a swift motion.

Tsk!? Is it going to work...?

I swing Gáebolg while matching it with the arrow's path and knock it aside.

Chloe calmly sets up the next arrow without being surprised about me repelling the arrow.

Don't look down on me! ——Darkness Arrow!

Overlapping with the timing of Chloe shooting her third arrow, I release many darkness arrows at Chloe. I avoid the approaching arrow by sidestepping, and Chloe dodges the many darkness arrows by widely back-stepping.

Oops, this distance (long-range) is really disadvantageous for me.

I powerfully kicked the ground...dashing towards Chloe while raising Gáebolg overhead. Chloe realizes my aim, quickly shoulders Ichival, and readies the dagger she had taken out of the buckle at her waist.

"Hah! You think you can stop my spear with a dagger!?" (Shion)

I swiftly thrust Gáebolg at Chloe while smiling ferociously. Chloe tries to evade by twisting her body, but...Gáebolg is an instant faster, grazing Chloe's flank. In contrast to Chloe, who's looking pained, I unleash several thrust while maintaining my favorite combat distance (middle range). Some thrusts were dodged, some thrust had their trajectory averted by Chloe's dagger, and some thrusts grazed Chloe's body.

It doesn't go as far as being fatal, but my thrusts definitely continue damaging Chloe.

Did her eyes get slowly accustomed to my thrusts?

The rate of evaded thrusts is gradually rising. Chloe estimates the timing when I'm going to pull back Gáebolg, and starts to measure the timing to slip into my bosom.

Didn't you know? Besides thrusts — pointed attacks, spears can also do sweeps — linear attacks, okay?

I mow the extended Gáebolg to the side without pulling it back.

"——gh!?" (Chloe)

The edge of Gáebolg's blade...no, the handle part hit Cloe and blew her away. I swiftly approached the fallen Chloe, and pressed Gáebolg's blade against Chloe's neck.

"So? How was it? Who's stronger, me or Alyssa?" (Shion)

"T-That is..." (Chloe)

Chloe hesitates to continue.

"Blue! Noire! Rouge! And while I'm at it, Kanon! Who's stronger!?" (Shion)

I yell loudly as if displaying my power.

"Umm ~ssu..." (Blue)

"That's..." (Noire)

"How to put it..." (Rouge)

Blue, Noire, and Rouge falter to speak just like Chloe.

The ones unwilling to speak up are all those who had actually confronted Alyssa. Honestly said, I was satisfied with the result of the mock battle just now. Even if it's me saying it, it's that...a complete victory, right?

I'm losing by one level, but...based on the stats, I should be superior. The equipped items are B rank unique items.

Is it a difference of experience...? Is the gap so large between Alyssa and me...?

"U-Umm~...Shion-san, may I?" (Kanon)

Kanon calls out to me who's lost in those negative thoughts.

"What is it?" (Shion)

"You know...it's just a guess, but isn't the root of Alyssa's strength Mana? And haven't you shown a strength based on Body just now...? Isn't that the reason why Chloe and the others can't make any clear comparisons...?" (Kanon)

——!?

"Is that so?" (Shion)

I look at Chloe's, Blue's, Noire's and Rouge's faces. They have bitter expressions, obviously agreeing with Kanon's opinion.

"I see... How about this then?" (Shion)

I head to a wall where none of my subordinates are, and push out the pointed end of Gáebolg.

——Dark Night Tempest!

The airflow of darkness that seeped out of Gáebolg's tip transforms into a storm, blowing violently.

——gh!?

At the same time I senses how the vitality across my whole body escapes, causing a light dizziness.

"W-W-Wow... This is an amazing spell!?"

"T-This huge mana..."

"Uhii!? This is awesome ~suu!?" (Blue)

"So this is our lord's power...?"

"B-Boss...wonderfully superior..."

Due to the raging storm of darkness, Kanon and the others leak voices full of astonishment.

"So, me or Alyssa...who's stronger?" (Shion)

I asked once more the same question.

""It's Shion-sama (-san)!""

They unanimously approved of my strength.

"Now then, all that's left is to lure in Alyssa..." (Shion)

I revealed a bold smile.



I carefully examine the information I have grasped in order to lure in Alyssa.

①Alyssa's main force — Alyssa herself (estimated A rank). High pixie (B rank). Four Goblin Generals (B rank). Alyssa wears B rank unique items. The remaining monsters have C to B rank items equipped. They have plenty of combat experience.

②Once my main force begins its invasion, Alyssa will invade the domains over here.

③In case my main force doesn't attack, Alyssa stands at the head of the defense herself.

④The most optimal way to defeat Alyssa is for me to take her on myself. However, if I head out without my main force being present to defeat her, I will risk my own life.

⑤Alyssa can go outside her Domain, but I can't leave my Domain.

That's about it?

In order to clear ④ and ⑤, it's necessary to lure Alyssa into my Domain. To have her come here, the main force has to attack Alyssa's Domain.

I suppose I will first resolve this issue.

The major point is: how much combat forces do I have to deploy for Alyssa to invade my Domain?

If it's just Rina's party...will she judge them as the main force and come invading? The answer is very likely no. There's her track record of having intercepted Chloe's group. It's very likely that the same tragedy will repeat itself with just Rina's group. If I were to add Blue, Noire, Rouge, and 100 subordinates to Rina's group, Alyssa would likely attack my Domain gleefully. However, if I invest this much of my combat forces, I won't be able to stage a defense instead.

Hmm~...how troublesome.

I plunged into the sea of my thoughts in order to search for a path towards victory.

Chapter 83 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ⑦

I repeatedly considered my options to find a route towards Demon King Alyssa's destruction.

Assuming I suppress Alyssa myself...what about the other five enemies?

If it's Chloe, she could probably defeat a goblin general in a one-on-one battle? If I were to ask her, she would likely answer that she can, but...to be honest, in my eyes it's a 50/50 chance. If it was Chloe + the dark high elf, they would win with a high probability. How about Blue? In a one-on-one battle, the chance of him losing is high.

If it's Noire? Rouge? Layla? Guy? Iron...?

What if I leave the bloodkin out and surround the enemy with a group of subordinates...? There will be many losses, but they will likely be able to win. However, will Alyssa invade my Domain if I have enough reserve forces to stage such a defense? The answer is no.

Alyssa's goal has shifted from stealing my sectors to survival until the end of the 《Proclamation of War》.

Putting it very extremely, she can achieve that goal by abandoning two of her remaining three sectors and staying within the remaining sector.

What should I do to lure out Alyssa then? The answer is to leave behind the lowest necessary number of forces to reliably kill Alyssa's forces and have the invasion team become a splendid decoy.

The subordinates that will defeat Alyssa together with me are Chloe and the dark high elf, Noire, Rouge, Blue, Iron, Layla, Dakel, Red, and Guy; those ten.

Going by combat strength, I wanted to add Rina as well, but Rina is the sole human among my subordinates who Alyssa is conscious of. She stands out too much. If Rina weren't to be present in the invasion team, it would be very likely that Alyssa would suspect something. On the other hand, if it's Layla and the others, it will be difficult for Alyssa to distinguish them, as long as I give similar items to the subordinates of the same races.

The strategy has no loophole, has it? I simulate the rundown of the strategy, which I had designed, in my head many times over.

It's fine, there are no loopholes. In Alyssa's eyes, the biggest bait — me, which has a very high chance of turning the tables, will appear in front of her. The strategy should be successful...

I called my subordinates into my cave, and informed them of my plan.



"I will tell you the strategy from now on! Those I call out by name, step forward!" (Shion)

My subordinates watch me, who speaks to them from a stage, with bated breaths.

"Chloe! And your subordinate, dark high elf!" (Shion)

"Yes, master!" (Chloe)

"You two will kill the high pixie!" (Shion)

"A chance to redeem myself...I'm deeply grateful." (Chloe)

Chloe and the dark high elf lower their heads upon my words.

"Moreover, in the event of this time's strategy succeeding...dark high elf, I will give you a name."
(Shion)

"#\$%#!?"

Giving a name — in other words, he will become my bloodkin. After the dark high elf widened his eyes, he bowed deeply.

"Next, Noire! Rouge!" (Shion)

""Yes!""

"You two are going to kill a goblin general!" (Shion)

"Aye!" (Noire)

"Without fail!" (Rouge)

Afterwards, I call Blue's and Iron's, Layla's and Dakel's, and Red's and Guy's names, and order them to subjugate a goblin general each.

"Rina!" (Shion)

"Yes!" (Rina)

Rina, who had her name called out alone, approaches me with a stiff face due to her nervousness.

"Rina, take 200 subordinates, and invade a sector!" (Shion)

"...Eh?" (Rina)

"Mmh? You didn't hear me?" (Shion)

"No, I heard you clearly... Taking on Alyssa..." (Rina)

"Can you take on Alyssa?" (Shion)

"If ordered...I will bet my life on it!" (Rina)

"I acknowledge that spirit of yours, but...it's impossible." (Shion)

"Wha-!? Who's going to face Alyssa then!?" (Rina)

Rina raises her voice and draws close to me.

"Me." (Shion)

I answer Rina's question curtly.

""""——!?""""

In response, not only Rina's but the expressions of all present subordinates were wrapped up by shock.

"Hah? For what reason did I show you my strength, you think?" (Shion)

I look at the faces of my surprised subordinates while talking with an astonished voice.

"T-That's...in order to encourage us." (Rina)

"Maybe your prefer—— kyaaa!?" (Kanon)

Leaving aside Rina, Kanon, who was about to say something rude, screams while rolling up her skirt.

"For the time being, Rina, you will take along 200 subordinates, including subordinates that will pretend to be part of the main force, and invade Alyssa's Domain." (Shion)

I wonder, can Alyssa really distinguish the faces of subordinates (monsters)? I can't.

"However, if I take 200 subordinates of the main force with me, the defense forces will be..." (Rina)

"If we leave too many subordinates behind, Alyssa won't come attacking, right?" (Shion)

"Y-You could say that, but...isn't that dangerous?" (Rina)

"Certainly, the stakes are high. However, the return is equally high. I'm a broken being called Demon King in this broken world. If I don't cross some dangerous bridges, I won't be able to survive." (Shion)

I explain the main point of this time's strategy in order to persuade my subordinates....and myself.

"I'm aiming for a complete victory in the current war — the battle against Alyssa! All of you, put your full power into carrying out the plan!" (Shion)

""""Yes!""""

Looking at my subordinates who donned tense expressions, I braced myself, too.



One hour later.

200 subordinates led by Rina began to invade Alyssa's Domain.

They are advancing with the invasion at a high pace inside the sector that lacks any defending monsters. The one and only human bloodkin — Rina, who walks at front. The ones following after her are subordinates of C rank and above. All of them wear items of C rank and above. No matter how you look at it, to anyone...it would look like the invasion by my main force.

I wonder, is Alyssa going to move as anticipated?

While being assailed by tension, I watched Rina's group on my smartphone.

24 hours later.

Rina's group is currently invading the fifth floor.

Alyssa hasn't made a move yet.

At this rate, Rina's team will likely succeed in usurping the sector they are currently invading.

Alyssa won't move?

The anxiety is too much for my heart.

If she even abandoned the defense, we will likely be able to usurp two sectors until the «Proclamation of War» ends. However, destroying Alyssa won't come true.

I guess Alyssa adopted a safe approach... Just when I was about to partly give up...

——Beeeeep!

...the alert informing me of an invasion resounded from my smartphone.