

Story Shorthanded 第二十五話 人手不足

————— I don't need this power!
That is my only wish. I won't wish anything but that. That's why God —————
please realize this wish of mine.

To be alone ————— I don't want it anymore!

————— こんなチカラいらなのっ！
ねがうのはそれだけ。それしかねがわないの。だからカミサマ————— どうか
おねがいをかなえてほしいの。
さびしいのは————— もういやなの！

In the bottom of the cold, dark sea. It was different from the shining surface that sparkled as it bathed in sunlight because everything was shrouded in jet-black.

No life could be felt here, but that was a mistake. There were numerous living things inhabiting the deep sea. They were the marine animals that could endure the pressure of the deep sea.

冷たく暗い海の底。太陽の光を浴びてキラキラと輝いている水面とは違い、ここは穏やかで静寂な、全てを包み込むような漆黒が広がっている。

そこには生命の欠片を感じさせない、とは言えない。深海にもそこに生息する者たちだって数え切れないほどいる。深海の圧力に耐えられる構造を持った魚介類たち。

Within them, the Blade Shark with big jaws and sharp, blade-like figure was the predator of all living things in the deep sea and crowned as the King. No matter how big of a fish it ate, its appetite only calmed for a few second as it had unparalleled appetite and ferocity,

中でも大きな顎と鋭い剣のような角を持つブレイドシャークは、その深海に生きる者すべての捕食者であり、王者の称号を手に入れている。自らの何倍にもなる巨躯の魚相手でも、十数秒で平らげてしまう食欲と獰猛さは他に類を見ないほど野蛮で凶暴である。

And now a strange light was right before the Blade Shark in this deep sea. There was only one thing it would do when it found a prey. It straightened its body and swaying left and right to prepare its attack.

It rushed and opened the wide mouth towards the small mass that sunk at the bottom of the sea. It advanced at the speed that was impossible underwater and the mass would enter its mouth in a moment..... or so it should be.

そして今、そんなブレイドシャークの瞳が暗い海の中で怪しく光る。それは獲物を見つけた時に行う所作の一つだ。次いで頭を軽くフルフルと左右に振って突撃の準備を整える。

そのまま海底に沈んでいる小さな塊に向かって大きな口を開けて突進する。水の中とは思えないほどの速さでグングンと進んでいき、一瞬でその塊は口内に収まる……かに見えた。

————— *BACHIBACHIH!*
————— バチバチッ！

Despite it was inside the sea, electrical discharge phenomenon was generated from the mass. It was a thin light that looked like a very weak static electricity.

It moved straight and touched the Blade Shark's body. However, the Blade Shark didn't notice it as it was just like a mosquito's bite and it kept advancing, but at the moment its wide mouth was about to touch the mass—————

海の中だというのに、その塊から放電現象が発生した。だがそれはとても弱々しい静電気のような細い光だった。

それが真っ直ぐ向かって来ていたブレイドシャークの身体に触れる。しかしブレイドシャークは蚊に刺されたほどの気づいていない様子で突っ込んできて、大きな口がもう少しで塊に触れると思われた瞬間—————

————— *PIKliih!*
————— ピキイイッ！

The mouth opened Blade Shark suddenly hardened like a stone. It was not a metaphor but it hardened literally. Following that, even its sturdy body was changed into rock and rolled into the bottom of the sea as it was.

That followed by the small mass rustled and a face came out of it. It seemed the body had completely wrapped in seaweed.

突然ブレイドシャークが口を開けたまま石のように固まった。それは比喻ではなく本当に固まっていた。そしてその頑健そうな身体も、まるで岩のようにゴツゴツしたそれへと変化して、そのままゴロリと海底へと転げた。

そして小さな塊がガサガサと動くと、そこからヒョイッと顔が出てくる。どうやら身体に海藻を巻いてジッとしていたようだ。

“Uh~ I am sorry..... but to be attacked all of a sudden is something beyond me.”

「う〜ごめんなさいなの.....でもいきなりおそわれるとやっぱりダメみたいなの」

The face which distorted in sadness was a young one, its face was just like a ten years old girl. Skin that as if it was transparent and pure, innocent eyes. The yellow-green hair was styled in short cut, but it was swaying inside the sea.

悲しげに歪むその表情はまだ幼く、外見では十歳前後の少女のようだ。透明感のある肌と穢れを一切知らないような純粋な瞳。黄緑色のショートカットだが海の中でユラユラと揺れている。

In addition, the worn clothes had shells attached on it and a transparent, beautiful raiment that was worn on the head moved and swayed just like the wave.

さらに貝殻を繋ぎ合わせて作った服を着込んでおり、頭から美しい透き通った羽衣のようなものを羽織っていて、それもユラユラと波の動きを伝えるように動いていた。

“This is the third time today....”

「きょうもこれで三かいめなの.....」

If one looked carefully, in a location slightly away from the girl laid fishes that similarly had turned into stones.

Tears flowed as the girl gazed towards the water surface.

She reminisced for a while, and a curiosity sprang inside her.

よく観察してみると、少女から少し離れた位置に、同じように石になった魚が横たわっていた。

少女は涙を浮かべながら水面へと視線を走らせる。

しばらく水面に顔を出していないのを思い出し、彼女の中で一種の好奇心が湧いた。

“I wonder..... can the land cure this constitution....?”

「りくなら.....このたいしつ、なおるかな.....？」

She lost her friends and family because of her constitution. She recalled that she must not let anyone come close to her because she didn't want to experience it again.

Without approaching anyone..... no one would be hurt if she was to be always alone. No one would become just like the Blade Shark from before, or so the girl believed.

この体質のせいで失った友達や家族。そしてもうあんなことになるのなら誰にも自分には近づかせちゃいけないと彼女は思っていた。

誰も近づかせなきゃ.....自分がずっと一人であれば誰も傷つけなくて済む。今みたいにブレイドシャークのようなことにならない、そう彼女は信じている。

Even so, she was still a child after all. The loneliness had considerably crushed her heart. When she thought the sea was not the place she belongs to, she slightly hoped that there'd be a place for her on the land, an inevitable wish.

だがそれでも、やはりまだ子供。寂しさは相応に心押し潰すが如く迫ってくる。海には無いと思われた自分の居場所が、陸ではあるかもと一抹の希望を持って、それは仕方の無い想いだっただのかもしれない。

As if manipulated by something, the girl swam towards the surface. She desperately stretched out her hands as if trying to grasp something and her body was launched towards the light.

彼女はまるで操られたかのようにスイスイと水面へと泳いで行った。何かを掴もうと手を必死に伸ばし、光の中へその身を投じていった。

Souji Alkasha was a reincarnated person. Originally, he was a Japanese and lived by the name Asakura Souji, but he noticed a female student fell from the stairs on his way to the school's rooftop and he fell together with her as he tried to protect her. When he noticed it, he already reborned as a baby in this world, 【Orb】 .

ソージ・アルカーサは転生者である。元々日本人で朝倉想二という名前で生活していたが、学校の屋上に向かう途中で階段から落ちかける女生徒を庇って自らも一緒に落ち、気が付いたらこの【オーブ】という異世界に赤ん坊に生まれ変わっていた。

Inside the fantasy world where magic and races other than human exist, Souji became a butler that he had yearned for and the joyous fact that he was capable of using magic made every day a smooth sailing.

魔法や人間以外の人型生物などがいるファンタジーなこの世界で、ソージはなりたかった執事にもなれて、さらに魔法が使えるという嬉しい事実により日々の生活は順風満帆であった。

However he shrunk back as the duty of a butler was far more bigger than what he thought at the time he was in Japan.

しかしそんな彼だが、日本にいた時に考えていた執事の役目がまさかこんなにも膨大なものと辟易するとは思ってもいなかった。

“Haa, I will be able to deal with the things here after I hand over this document to Ojou-sama. Furthermore, this....”

「はあ、この書類はお嬢様に渡して、こっちはオレが処理できる。それにこっちは.....」

With such a mood, Souji frantically arranged the mountain of documents, but this was not a duty of a butler originally. No, even if it was a butler's, it was not something to be done alone.

こんなふうにソージの目の前に山ほど詰まれた書類を必死で整理しているのだが、本来この役目は執事がするようなことではない。いや、仮に執事がすることであっても一人でこなす仕事量ではないのだ。

“U~n, as expected I can't finish it alone.”

「う～ん、やっぱオレ一人じゃ手が回らないかもな」

Naturally, Souji's jobs were not only this, there were also taking care the personal needs of the current master, Yoyo Yatsugi Crowtail and her requests, confirming the employees' jobs and calculating their wages. Furthermore it would be able to make one faint if the housework, work on kitchen garden, etc were to be included.

Though he somehow make it through with the maids' help, there were some that always dragged on to the next day. Actually, recently the obstacle became harder as several maids had resigned due to their families' circumstances.

As expected Ninthe and even his mother that usually lazing around, Kaina were also busy.

無論ソージの仕事はこれだけでなく、屋敷の当主であるヨヨ・八継・クロウテイルの身の回りの世話や頼まれごとがあり、使用人たちの職務確認や給金計算。それに家事などや菜園での仕事など挙げればそれこそ目眩がしてくるほど多い。

メイドたちとともに仕事は何とかこなしてはいるが、それでも翌日に回さなくてはならないものなどが出てくる。実は最近メイドの数人が実家の都合などで辞めてしまったこともガッツリと支障が出ている。

ニンテやサボり癖のついた実母であるカイナもさすがに慌ただしく動き回っている。

“Should I hire capable people or educate the current employees..... u~n.”

「これは人材を補給するか、もしくは今いる人たちの教育をするか..... う～ん」

Souji basically wanted to focus on housework and serving Yoyo. If possible he wanted to let the maids to take care of the other things, but that was truly inefficient as in fact some places might misplaced, and added that Souji would be more certain if he did it himself.

ソージは基本的には家事やヨヨの世話に集中したい。他のものではできればメイドたちに任せたいが、何とも効率が悪かったり、抜けている場所があったり、ソージがした方が確実なので結局ソージがする羽目になっているのが現実である。

If so, should he hired specialists that could do the jobs, or should he educated the current employees, but time would be necessary for the education and Souji didn't have time to spare in such a busy period.

Besides, it was necessary to be patient till those done with the education. Then, there was only one answer.

それならば誰かそういう仕事ができるスペシャリストを雇うか、今いる人たちを教育するかなのだが、教育するには時間が必要であり、この忙しい時にそんな時間をソージは割けない。

それにもものになるには結構根気強く続ける必要もある。ならば答えは一つ。

“Hiring capable people, is it? I should ask Ojou-sama for permission.”

「人材補給かな？ 一応お嬢様に確認取るか」

Souji, *crack crack*, moved his shoulders and went out of his room. His destination was Yoyo's room.

When he met Yoyo, he described the present situation and the proposal that he just thought of.

ソージはボキボキッ肩を回すと、自室を出て行った。向かうのはヨヨの部屋だ。

ヨヨに会うと、現況報告を行い先程考えた提案を述べた。

“I see, you certainly will die due to overwork if this keeps up.”

“Haha, please don't laugh at that, Yoyo-ousama.”

“Fufu, I know. Well then, let's issue an official notice. Offers suitable salary for the competent ones, and I don't mind if they lives here because there are empty rooms.”

“Certainly.”

「なるほどね、確かにこのままじゃあなたが過労死するかもしれないわね」

「はは、それは笑えないですよヨヨお嬢様」

「ふふ、分かったわ。では触れを出しましょう。仕事ができる者にはそれ相応の給金も提供できるし、部屋も余っているから、住み込みでも構わないわ」

「畏まりました」

Souji made recruitment leaflets and distributed them into the town at the same day. The details for recruitment were they looking for people that good at accounting, or excellent gardener. The part for people that good at accounting was especially urgent, at the very least two people were needed.

There was also the case where several maids had gone so it would be hitting two birds with one stone if they have ability as a maid, but he didn't expect it that much.

Besides, Kaina had worked reliably due to the situation, so Souji thought it was good in itself.

即日にバイト募集のチラシをソージは作って街に配った。募集内容は、経理が得意な人材と、園芸能力に長けた庭師だ。

特に経理の人材が急務であり、少なくとも二人はほしいところだった。

メイドも数人いなくなったこともあり、メイド能力もある人材なら一石二鳥なのだが、それほど期待はしていない。

それに今の状況ならカイナがしっかり働いているので、これはこれで良かったのではとソージは思っている

Having finished distributing the leaflets, the result appeared in the next day. And considerable amount of people came to the mansion for the interview.

The interviewers were Yoyo, Souji, and somehow Kaina included. At the time she asked whether she was trying to slack off again, Kaina displayed her odd motivation as she said, "It is unbelievable if I am not participating in such an amusing event!"

チラシを撒き終わった翌日から成果が表れる。かなりの数が面接を受けに屋敷に足を延ばしてくれたのだ。

面接官はヨヨ、ソージ、そして何故かカイナ。またサボりではと聞いてみたところ、「こんな面白いイベントに参加しないなんて嘘よ！」と意味の分からないやる気を見せてきた。

Because he also wanted to judge the ability as a maid, he decided to allow Kaina who was the head maid to take a seat. The drawing room was used, and the interview would be done one by one.

とりあえずメイド能力も判断したいので、メイド長であるカイナの同席を許すことにした。客間を使い、面接は一人ずつ行うことになった。

"Well then, please enter."

「ではお入り下さい」

The one entered the room was a tanned man in his latter half of 30. Head wrapped in bandana, along with running shirt and short pant that displayed a rough appearance for someone coming for an interview.

Though the clothes weren't specified, the too casual man made them spontaneously floated bitter smiles.

部屋に入って来たのは真っ黒に日焼けした三十台後半くらいの男性。頭にはバンダナを巻き、ランニングシャツと短パンといったとてもラフな格好で面接に来ていた。

服装指定はしなかったが、あまりに自然体の彼に思わず苦笑を浮かべてしまう。

“Th-Then, please introduce yourself.”

「で、では自己紹介をお願いします」

With Souji urging him, the man smiled with his white teeth shown and,

ソージが促すと、男はニカッと白い歯を見せ、

“I am Demick Lannerway! You can understand my specialty just by looking, right?”

「俺はデミック・ランナウェイだ！ 特技は見て分かるだろお？」

Though Souji could see what he suggested,

思わせぶりにソージを見てくるが、

“No, I don't understand, so what is it?”

“How rude. Can you still not understand after seeing these bursting muscles?”

「いえ、分かりませんが？」

「何だよつれねえなあ。このはち切れんばかりの筋肉を見てまだ分からねえか？」

He boasted while his log-like arm that wore muscular armor twitched.

丸太のような筋肉の鎧を纏った腕をピクピクと動かして自慢している。

“..... do you want to be a gardener?”

“No, the accountant.”

“The heck is that! Ah, s-sorry....”

「.....庭師希望ですか？」

「いや、経理だ」

「何でだっ！ あ、し、失礼しました.....」

He unintentionally forgot himself and became the straight man. After all, gardeners needed physical strength as they worked even in hot day. Furthermore, gardening was not only that, it was written in the leaflets that the work including the farming, so physical labor was a necessity.

思わず我を忘れて突っ込みを入れてしまった。だってそうだろう、庭師は暑い日でも外で仕事をするので体力だっているだろう。それに園芸はそれだけでなく、畑仕事などにも従事してもらいたいとチラシには書いてあったので、力仕事も必要になってくる。

That was why Souji judged that those muscles would help as a gardener or so he thought.

だからこそあの筋肉が活かされるのは庭師だと判断したソージは間違っていないはず。

“Buhahaha! That’s a good one, Nii-chan, a good tsukkomi! Don’t worry, I wish to be the gardener!”

“..... excuse me, but do you understand that this is an interview?”

“Hah? Isn’t that an of course? I came here for that after all.”

「ブハハハハ！ いいね兄ちゃん、いいツッコミだ！ 安心しろって、俺は庭師希望だぜ！」

「.....あのですね、これが面接だと理解していますか？」

「は？ そりゃ当たり前だろ？ そのために来たんだからよ」

Then don’t make fun of the interviewer!, though he wanted to shout that out loud, he only coughed once.

だったら面接官をおちよくるんじゃねえと声高に叫びたい衝動にかられたが、一つ咳払いして、

“Then you want to be the gardener and of course you have experiences on it, right?”

“Aa, even like this, I have appeared in 《Gardening Fiesta》.”

“Hee, did you mean the tournament to decide the number one gardener that held once a year in the central continent?”

「では庭師希望ということで、無論経験はお有りですよ？」

「ああ、こう見えても《ガーデニングフェスタ》にも出たことあるぜ！」

「へえ、毎年一回中央大陸で開催するナンバーワン庭師を決める大会にですか？」

Central continent a.k.a **【Ougon continent】** was the location of the palace where the Emperor lived, and a lot of tournaments were held every year. One of them was 《Gardening Fiesta》. Famous gardeners from all over the world gathered and compete with their abilities. And the winner was given a chance to be employed as the palace gardener.

中央大陸、別名**【オウゴン大陸】**には皇帝が住む宮殿があり、毎年多くの大会などが開催されている。《ガーデニングフェスタ》もその中の一つだ。

世界中から名のある庭師が集まって腕を競い合うのだ。優勝者には宮殿の庭師として召し抱えこんでもらえるチャンスが与えられる。

“That event certainly only has around 100 participant. Isn't that mean you have quite the ability to be chosen as one of the 100?”

“Buhaha! No need for the praise! It make me embarrassed! Ah, but, regrettably I didn't win the tournament, you know?”

“I can tell. After all the winner can work in the palace, so there's no way the winner would purposely came to East continent just to serve in a humble noble's mansion.”

“Ara Souji, sorry for it being a humble mansion.”

「確かアレは百人参加型のイベントでしたね。百人に選ばれるとは相当の実力なのでは？」

「ブハハ！ そう褒めんなよ！ 照れちまうわあ！ あ、けどよ、残念ながら優勝はしてねえぜ？」

「そりゃそうでしょうね。優勝者は宮殿で働けるのですから、わざわざそこを蹴って、東大陸のしがたい貴族屋敷に仕えたいと考えるととは思えません」

「あらソージ、しがたい屋敷で悪かったわね」

Though she wasn't angry, Souji straightened his back due to the verbal slip.

怒気は込められてはいないが、失言だったとソージは背筋を伸ばした。

“Please pardon me, Yoyo-ojousama.”

“Fufu, it is okay. Anyway, why do you want to work here?”

“Ah? That is of course because I liked the garden when I took a glance on it, you know?”

“That so, then you are hired.”

“Wa-, Ojou-sama!?”

「申し訳ありませんでしたヨヨお嬢様」

「ふふ、まあいいわ。ところであなた、何故ここで働きたいのかしら？」

「あ？ そんなもんこの庭を一目見て気に入ったからに決まってるだろ？」

「そう、では採用よ」

「ちょ、お嬢様!？」

He could not help but to be surprised. Though he also thought of hiring him, he was aghast because Yoyo decided that just after a few minutes of conversation.

Frankly, Souji could only thought the reason to hire him was that he appeared in 《Gardening Fiesta》. However, he still didn't know whether that was the truth.

これが驚かずにはいられない。採用するということにもそうだが、それをたかが数分の会話で決断したヨヨに愕然とする。

ハッキリ言って彼を採用する理由としてソージが思いつくのは《ガーデニングフェスタ》に出たという言葉だけ。しかもそれが真実かどうかなどまだ分からない。

Simply speaking, there was also the possibility she was just jumping the gun by leaving it to her mouth to say the hiring. He was certainly looked capable, but Souji still thought it was too much to promptly decided to hire him.

Not only Souji, similar things happened to Demick as he became slackjawed.

簡単に言えば雇われたくて口から出まかせを言っている可能性だってあるのだ。確かに仕事は見た目からできそうだが、それにしても即決し過ぎだと思った。

そしてそれはソージだけでなくデミックも同様だったようで、口をだらしなくポカンと開けている。

“Is something the matter, Souji?”

“W-Well, if I am allowed to speak. Even if he is said to be hired, he is still the first interviewee. Isn't there's the possibility that there are other more capable people?”

“Ara, if so then it won't be a problem to hire them too.”

“Uh..... though that is correct, but....”

“..... do you want to hear why I made a prompt decision?”

“C-Certainly.”

「どうかしたのかしらソージ？」

「い、いや、あのですね。採用するにしても、まだ彼は一人目です。他にも優秀な方がおられるかもしれないですよ？」

「あら、それならその者も雇えばいいじゃない」

「う.....それはそうなのですが、ですが.....」

「.....私がどうして即決したのか聞きたいのかしら？」

「は、はい」

The others also wanted to hear it. Yoyo floated a beautiful smile and her thin lips were gently opened.

それは他の者もそうだろう。ヨヨは微笑を浮かべると、その薄い唇を静かに開いた。

“It is because he said he likes the garden.”

“..... come again?”

“I questioned him. About the reason he choose this mansion. And he said he liked the garden when he took a glance on it. That's why I decided to hire him. Understand now?”

「彼が庭を気に入ったと言ったからよ」

「.....はい？」

「私は尋ねたわ。この屋敷を選んだ理由を。そして彼は庭を一目見て気に入ったと言った。だから雇うことにしたの。分かったかしら？」

Silence flowed inside the room. Apparently, rather than the capability, her passing criterion was how he liked the garden.

Though he wanted to say a lot of things to that, Yoyo was the master of this mansion, so he gave up as he thought it was futile to object her decision.

室内に沈黙が流れる。彼女の合格基準はどうやら仕事能力よりも、庭を好きかどうかだったらしい。

いろいろ言いたいことはあるが、この屋敷の主人がヨヨである以上、彼女が決定したことに異を唱えたところで無駄だと思い諦めた。

“I understand. Then Demick-san, please ask the maids about the details of your work.”

“Eh, ah, that’s, is it really okay to hire me? Of course I am happy. But as expected, I never thought it can be decided easily like this.”

“The answer is yes, so work hard. After all you will immediately dismissed if you work half-assedly.”

「分かりました。ではデミックさん、仕事内容はメイドにお聞き下さい」

「え、あ、えっと、いいのか俺で？ そりゃ俺は嬉しいけどよ。こうもあっさり決まるなんてさすがに思ってもいなかったんでな」

「ええ、だけど仕事はしっかりね。生半可なことをしていたら即座にクビにするわよ」

Receiving Yoyo’s words, Demick scratched his uniformly short haired head and grinned.

ヨヨの言葉を受け、ガリガリとその短く刈り揃った頭をかくとニカッと笑うデミック。

“Okay then, little miss! I will take care of the garden that it will be the best no matter who see it.”

“Fufu, I will expect that. Ah, also because you are going to work for me, bear it in mind to use honorific when you speak even if it is a clumsy one. Especially when you are in public.”

“I understood! Ah, no, I understand, Master!”

「オッケーだ嬢ちゃん！ 誰が見ても最高の庭を維持してやるぜ！」

「ふふ、期待しているわ。あ、あとそれと私に仕えるのであれば、拙くてもいいから敬語を話すように心がけなさい。公の場では特にね」

「分かったぜ！ あ、いや、分かりましたぜ当主様！」

He thumbs up in acknowledgement, then went out of the room leaded by a maid.

親指を立てて了承すると、メイドに連れられ部屋から出て行った。

Story 26 A Young Interviewee
第二十六話 小さな面接者

Though Souji was surprised because the first interviewee was hired, after some more interviewers, there were no talent that judged to be suitable by Yoyo and everyone's were rejected.

When an Ikemen appeared, Kaina said, "Ara, an ikemen!," and her cheeks loosened, but Yoyo didn't judge from the face and did the same question-answer session which resulted with the ikemen immediately rejected. It was a secret that Souji somehow felt good when he saw the ikemen's depressed face.

初っ端から採用という驚愕の体験をしたソージだが、それから何人か面接を受けたが、ヨヨの眼鏡に合う人材がないようで軒並み撃沈している。

カイナなどはイケメンが現れた時に「あら、イケメン！」と頬を緩ませていたが、当然顔で判断するヨヨではないので何度か質疑応答して、そのイケメンはすぐに落とされた。落ち込んだ彼の顔を見て何故か気分が良かったのはソージの秘密だ。

"How many left?"

"Hmm, according to this information..... only one left."

"Well, it is not restricted to only today~, so isn't it an okay even if we only found one person?"

「あとどれくらいいるのかしら？」

「そうですね、報告によるとあと一人.....ですね」

「まあ今日だけに限定しているわけでもないし~、一人だけでも見つかっただけでも良しとしたらどう？」

Souji shrugged his shoulders when Kaina said that.

カイナがそんなことを言ってきたのでソージはやれやれと肩を竦めると、

"Mother, please say that after we are done with interviewing the last person."

"Ah, sor~ry. I slipped that because the flow up till now made it seemed to be decided already~."

"Good grief..... next person, please."

「母さん、そういうことは最後の人を面接し終わってから言って下さい」

「あ、ゴメ~ン。何かこの流れだともう決まらなさそうな感じだったからついね~」

「まったく.....次の方どうぞ」

Seeing the last person who entered the room, the three and anyone would be stiffened as they taken aback. The one who *pechi pechi*, came barefooted with strange appearance
_____ was a little girl.

すると最後に部屋に入って来た人物を見て、三人の誰もが呆気にとられたかのように固まる。ペチペチと裸足でやって来たのは、奇妙な格好をした——————少女だった。

“..... e-excuse me..... that is..... I should give up after all!”

「.....あ、あの.....その.....やっぱりやめとくの！」

The girl said so and tried to go out only to be called to a stop by Souji. Thus the girl halted and turned towards Souji and the others while blushing as she said, “Uh~.”

そう言いながら部屋から出ようとする彼女をソージは呼び止める。するとピタリと動きを止めた彼女は「う～」と顔を真っ赤にしながらソージたちの方を向く。

“F-For the time being, please sit in that chair. Okay?”

「と、とりあえず、その椅子へお座り下さい。ね？」

He was perplexed whether to use formal words, but at the last word he smiled radiantly to make the girl feel at ease. Thus the girl that had her eyes wandering around suspiciously, nodded and sat on the chair.

敬語を使うべきか迷い、それでも相手を安心させるためにも最後はにこやかに言ってみた。すると挙動不審に目を泳がせた少女はコクリと頭を動かすと椅子へと腰かけた。

Even though they had interviewed considerably unique people up until now, this girl was the most extreme. She wore clothes with shells attached on it, and transparent raiment on her head. Moreover her expression that just like a lost puppy was accentuated by her barefeet.

今までなかなかの個性的な人材が面接を受けに来たが、この少女はその最たるものだった。貝殻を繋ぎ合わせた服を着て、向こうが見えるほど透き通った羽衣を頭から羽織っている。何よりも迷子の子犬のような表情に、裸足という格好がその思いを加速させる。

(I certainly told them to let any applicants inside, but there should be a limit....)

(確かに誰でもいいから希望者は通せとは言ったけど、限度があるだろ.....)

Anyway, Yoyo said she wanted to see all of the interviewees, so Souji told the maids to overlook anyone that came, but he wondered about overlooking such a girl.

とにかく面接希望者は全員ヨヨが確認したいと言ったので、メイドがどう思おうが一応通すように言ったソージだが、さすがにこんな幼女を通すとはどうだろうと思った。

“Umm, for the time being, may I hear your name?”

「えっと、とりあえず、名前をお聞きしてもよろしいですか？」

Though there was the awkwardness, it was necessary to continue the interview. The girl twitched and displayed a somewhat frightened expression when Souji said that, then her mouth trembled.

とにかく違和感が抜群だが話を進めなければならない。ソージの言葉にビクッと身体を動かした少女は若干怯えた表情を作り、その小さな口を震わせた。

“I-I am here..... that is..... because I hear can lives here....”

“Eh? Living here? Ah~ well, if you are accepted you can work as a live-in employee because there are excess rooms in this mansion.”

“I-Is it really okay for Eu to live here?”

「こ、ここって.....その.....セイカツできるってきいたの.....」

「え？ 生活ですか？ あ〜まあ、採用されればこの屋敷には部屋が余っているので住み込みで働いて頂くことは可能ですが」

「ほ、ほんとにここにユーがいてもいいの？」

The girl's eyes were filled with a tiny hope for the first time.

初めて少し希望を秘めた瞳を向けてくる少女。

“Eu? Is that your name? Umm, there should be no problem for you to stay here if you are hired.”

「ユー？ それがあなたの名前ですか？ えっと、採用されれば滞在されても構いませんよ」

He said so with the gentlest tone as he could, the girl floated a radiant smile, but there's immediately a shadow in her expression.

努めて優しい音を出すと、少女がペアッと笑顔を浮かべるが、すぐにその表情を崩し陰りが帯びる。

“Uu..... but, but, what can Eu do?”

“Huh?”

「うう.....でもでも、ユーはなにができるの？」

「はい？」

He received a shock because the one questioned was the interviewer, and he looked at Kaina for help, but her eyes glittered in excitement.

それを面接官に聞くのかと衝撃を受けたが、助けを求めるようにカイナを見るが、目を輝かせてウズウズしている。

(Ah, this is the symptom where she wants to hug the girl due to her cuteness.)

(あ、これは彼女の可愛さについて抱きしめたい症候群が出てるな)

Therefore Kaina was useless, so he looked at Yoyo. Yoyo was looking at the girl called Eu with serious gaze. Then Yoyo began to open her mouth.

よってカイナは頼りにならないとヨヨに視線を向ける。彼女は真剣な瞳でユーと名乗った少女を見ている。するとヨヨが初めて口を開く。

“Nee, you, are you from the Aquatic race?”

“Eh, ah, it is so.”

「ねえ、あなた、もしかして水棲族(すいせいぞく)かしら？」

「え、あ、そうなの」

Aquatic race? Though the transparent feeling Eu carries is certainly a feature of the Aquatic race, why did she leave the sea and came to the land? Moreover I can't guess her reason to live in this mansion.

水棲族？ 確かにユーの持つ透明感の水棲族の特徴でもあるが、そんな彼女が何故海を捨てて陸へ？ しかも屋敷で働こうとしているのか理由が見当もつかない。

“Basically, the Aquatic race lives in the sea, and I heard they can easily obtain the food and dwelling there. So why did you went out to the land?”

「水棲族は基本的には海で生活するし、食糧も住処も手に入れようと思えば簡単に手に入ると聞くわ。なのにあなたは何故陸に上がったの？」

As expected, even Yoyo was intrigued by it and asked the same thing as what Souji thought. Following that, Eu further drooped her shoulders and raised a tearful expression.

やはりヨヨも気になっていたのか、ソージと同様の疑問を尋ねる。するとユーはさらに肩を落とし泣きそうな顔を浮かべる。

“Eu is..... Eu is..... even Eu didn't want that..... but..... *sniff.*”

“It's okay. You don't need to say it if you don't want to.”

“Eh? Is that okay, Ojou-sama?”

“Souji, how can you easily poke your head into a woman’s problem?”

“..... haa.”

「ユーは.....ユーは.....ユーだっではなれたくなかったの.....だけど.....クスン」

「いいわ。無理に話さなくて」

「え？ いいんですかお嬢様？」

「ソージ、女性の悩みに気軽に首を突っ込んでいいものではないわよ？」

「.....はあ」

He could not say that rather than a woman she was just a little girl. Yoyo continued as she ignored the puzzled Souji.

女性と言われても相手は少女なのですがとは言えなかった。ソージの戸惑いを無視してヨヨは続ける。

“Well then, let me change the question. Are you alone?”

“Uh..... that is right.”

“Then, can I interpret that you came here because you are looking for a place to live in?”

「では違うことを聞くわ。あなたは一人なのよね？」

「う.....そうなの」

「それで、ここにやって来たのは生活できる拠点を探しに来た、ということでいいのかしら？」

From what Eu said, when she wandered around inside the town, one leaflet that pasted on the wall entered her view, and she was charmed by the written words about the possibility to live in the mansion.

ユーが言うには、街でフラフラと歩いていると、壁に貼ってある一枚のチラシに目がいき、そこに書かれている屋敷に住めるという言葉に魅力を感じたという。

Apparently, after she went up to the land several days ago, she wandered around as she didn’t know what to do, and she was hungry. Though she asked for food in the town, she was refused as she didn’t have any money.

She asked how could she earned money and naturally answered that she need to work. And the girl, who thought she could not live on the land without doing that, wondered how could she work, and she saw the leaflet when she walked in the town.

どうやら数日前に陸へと上がったが、何をすればいいか分からず彷徨っていると、食べ物が恋しくなったという。そこで街で食べ物を見つけて欲しいと頼んだが、金を持っていない彼女は門前払いを受けたとのこと。

金はどうやったら手に入るのか聞くと、働いて稼ぐと当然のことを言われた。そこで陸ではそうしなければ生活できないのだと思った彼女だが、では働くにはどうすればいいのか分からず、街中を歩いている時に例のチラシを見たということだ。

“I see. I understand your situation now. But we are not doing a charity here. And even if we thought of doing that right now, you will surely hit the same wall later and be returned to the sea. You don't want that, right?”

“To return to the sea..... I don't want to.”

「なるほどね。あなたの現況は理解したわ。でもこちらも慈善事業をしてるわけではないのよ。たとえここで少しの施しを与えて放置したとしても、近いうちあなたは必ず同じ壁に当たり結局は海に帰ることになるわ。それは嫌なのでしょ？」

「ウミは.....いまはやなの」

She strongly said those words with her mouth and clenched her fists. Yoyo could guessed that something might had happened in the sea, but just as Yoyo said before, she must not easily meddle into it.

口を強く一文字に結び、ギュッと両拳を握っている。余程海で何かがあったのだと判断できるが、それはヨヨの言うように簡単に深入りしてはいけないような気がした。

“However it was just like I had said before, we are not doing charity. We won't look after someone without any capability in this mansion.”

「しかしね、先程も言ったけど、私たちが慈善事業ではないの。何の能力も無い者を屋敷で面倒を見るつもりはないの」

What Yoyo said was the obvious, but maybe because she witnessed the severity of the society now, Eu once again had a tearful expression.

Souji, who weak towards such an expression, was driven by the impulse of wanting to do something, but he knew the current him must not doing anything that selfish. All decisions rested on Yoyo's shoulders.

ヨヨは当然のことを言っているのだが、世間の厳しさを目の当たりにしているのか、ユーはまた泣きそうな顔をしている。

こういう表情には弱いソージは、何とかしてあげたい衝動にかられるが、今の自分の立場で好き勝手できないことも知っている。全てはヨヨの采配次第なのだ。

“..... I see, then I wonder what can you do?”

“..... eh?”

“Tell me about yourself. I will decide whether to hire you or not after that.”

“Uh, that’s..... I am not driven out?”

“Ara? I don’t see any reason to drive you out because I still haven’t hear anything about yourself.”

“But, I immediately said to get out when I asked for a job before.”

「.....そうね、あなたは何ができるのかしら？」

「.....え？」

「あなたのことを私に教えなさい。採用するかどうかはそれで決めるわ」

「あ、あの.....おいださないの？」

「あら？ まだ話も聞いていないのに追い出す理由が見つからないわ」

「で、でもまえにあったひとにおしごとたのんだら、すぐにでて行っていわれたの」

That was natural. No one would want to hire an obviously suspicious-looking little girl.

それはそうだろう。見た目が明らかに怪しい幼女を誰も仕事を斡旋したりはしないだろう。

“Is that so? However I won’t do such a foolish thing. After all the appearance is a trivial thing.”

「そう？ でも私はそんな愚かなことはしないわ。だって見た目なんて些細なことだもの」

That’s right, Yoyo was such a person.

そう、ヨヨとはこういう人物なのだ。

“What important is whether that person can serve under me or not.”

「大切なのはその者が私に貢献できるかできないかよ」

What she meant was everything depended on the person’s capability.

全ては能力次第だと言う。

“And of course the personality is also important.”

「もちろん、人柄も大事ではあるわね」

Eu became dumbfounded when she heard Yoyo’s words.

ヨヨの言葉をポカンとして聞いているユー。

“That’s why tell me about yourself. The things that you capable of.”

“The thing Eu..... can do....”

「だから教えなさい。あなたは何かできるのかを」
「ユーの.....できること.....」

U~n, she groaned and her figure as inclined her head to think was so adorable, and Souji felt Kaina who, "Haa Haa," panted beside him as annoyance.

う〜んと唸りながら小首を傾げる仕草はとても可愛く、隣で「ハアハア」と言っているカイナがうるさいと思うソージだった。

I wonder since when..... did mother became this dangerous....

いつの頃からだろう.....こんなに母親が危なくなったのは.....。

While he felt that tears accumulated in his eyes, he waited for Eu to open her mouth, then wind blew from the window and several documents fell from the desk towards Eu's feet.

Eu got off the seat while saying, "Unsho," picked up the papers and brought it to Souji.

note : unsho = one two, or something said when one moved or doing activity from idleness, similar to se~no~

思わず目頭が熱くなるのを感じながら、ユーが口を開くのを待っていると、窓から風が吹いて来て、机の上に置いてあった書類が数枚ユーの足元へ落ちる。

ユーが椅子から「うんしょ」と言いながら降りて、その紙を拾うとソージの方へ持ってきてくれる。

"Thank you very much, Eu-san."

"Ah, th-that is..... j-just Eu is fine."

「ありがとうございますユーさん」

「あ、そ、その.....ユ、ユーでいいの」

Receiving his gratitude, Eu made her face that completely red due to embarrassed looked down. Seeing such a fresh reaction, he could heard the voice that just like the breath of a dog in heat.

さん付けされるのが恥ずかしいのか顔を真っ赤にして顔を俯かせる。その初々しさを見て、さらに隣からまるで盛りのついた犬の呼吸音が聞こえてくる。

"Eh? Ah, wh-what are you doing, Souji!"

「え？ あ、な、何するのよソージ！」

Kaina was lifted and carried just like a cat, thrown outside as it was, then he closed the door. Of course he locked it too.

カイナを猫を持ち上げるように、ヒョイツと襟首を持つと、そのまま部屋の外へポイツと捨てて扉を閉めた。無論鍵もだ。

“Aah geez! What is with this~! Please open itt!”

「ああもう！ 何するのよお〜っ！ 開けなさいよお！」

That could not be done. It was for the sake of his master's virtue as a girl. And Souji returned to his seat as if nothing had happened, though the shouts from outside could still be heard.

それはできない。主に少女の貞操のために。ソージは何事も無かったように席へ戻るが、いまだに外では叫び声が聞こえる。

“Aa, please don't mind it. It is the best to ignore that after all.”

“Eh, ah, is..... that so?”

「ああ、気にしないで下さいね。アレはああするのが一番ですから」

「え、あ、そう.....なの？」

Though Eu restlessly looked at the door, she slowly sat again on the chair. At that time, Eu, who sneaked glances towards the documents on the desk, was seen,

ユーは不安気に扉の方に顔を向けていたが、ゆっくりと椅子に再び腰を落とした。その時、ユーがチラチラと机の上にある書類を見るので、

“What's wrong? Aah, these? These are the documents used for the interview....”

“I think that is wrong?”

“..... heh?”

「何かしましたか？ ああ、これですか？ これは面接に使った書類で.....」

「まちがってるの」

「.....へ？」

He could not understand what she suddenly said and,

何を言われたのか突然のことで分からず、

“Umm, what do you mean?”

“Those, some are wrong.”

“Those..... these documents?”

「えっと、何か？」

「それ、まちがってるの」

「それって……この書類ですか？」

What Eu pointed were unmistakably the documents that previously fell towards her feet. And now Yoyo sharply narrowed her eyes.

ユーが指差しているのは間違いなく先程彼女の足元に落とした書類の束だ。その時、ヨヨは目を鋭く細めると、

“Can you tell us what is wrong?”

“That’s…… umm, not all of them…… there are three that wrong.”

「何が間違っているのかしら？」

「えと……その、ぜんぶじゃなくて……三まい、まちがってるの」

Realizing something, Yoyo said, “Let me see the documents, Souji,” and Souji responded by handing over the documents on the table to her. Following that, Yoyo seriously looked over them, then returned her gaze to Eu.

するとヨヨはハツとなると、「書類貸しなさいソージ」と言うので、ソージは返事をして机にある書類を手渡す。そして真剣に目を通すヨヨは、その視線をユーに戻す。

“…… nee, did you say your name was Eu?”

“Y-Yes.”

「……ねえユーと言ったかしら？」

「う、うん」

Because Yoyo was staring at her, Eu was puzzled.

ヨヨに睨みつけられているので、戸惑っている様子を見せるユー。

“I will make a question and you will answer it.”

“O-Okay.”

“Ojou-sama?”

“Be silent, Souji.”

“C-Certainly.”

「少し問題を出すから答えなさい」

「わ、わかったの」

「お嬢様？」

「ソージは黙ってなさい」

「は、はい」

Souji kept silent as he felt her seriousness. Following that, Yoyo took out her pen, began to write something on the paper, and read it out when she finished the writing.

何やらかなりの真剣さを感じて押し黙るソージ。そしてヨヨがペンを引き出しから取り出し、紙に何かを書き始め、書き終わるとそれを読み上げていった。

“This is the question. Currently, there are five employees in the mansion. Though the salary is paid every month, one person is 148,000 Dras, another one is 122,000 Dras, next is 237,000 Dras, then 86,590 Dras, and the last one is 245,700 Dras.”

「では問題よ。今、屋敷に五人の使用人がいるとする。一月に一度給金を払うのだけど、一人は148000ドラス、一人は122000ドラス、一人は237000ドラス、一人は86590ドラス、一人は245700ドラス」

Dras was the currency in 【Orb】. Basically it was at the same value as Japanese yen.

ドラスというのはこの【オーブ】での貨幣である。基本的には日本円と同じなので分かりやすい。

“In addition, the first three people obtained 20% increase due to the risk involved. Moreover, 15,000 Dras was given to all five of them as a bonus. Now, how much the total salary that these five received?”

「さらに先に挙げた三人には危険手当があるとして給金の20%を付加させるわ。また五人全員にボーナスとして15000ドラスが与えられたわ。さあ、五人が受け取った給金の合計は幾らかしら？」

Apparently, she was writing the question on the paper, and by no means it was a difficult question. Such a problem was also written in the document from before and given to people that applying as accountant to solve with time limit.

However no one could give a satisfying result. Almost everyone took too much time to calculate it, and within them were people that got the answer wrong.

どうやら問題を紙に書いたようだが、決して難しくはない問題である。こういう問題を先程の書類にも書いてあって、経理希望者に、時間制限を用いて解いてもらったのだ。

しかしほとんどの者が満足いく結果を残してはくれなかった。計算に時間が掛かり過ぎる者がほとんどであり、中にはやはり計算間違いする者もいた。

It would be okay if they handed over the paper and let her slowly thought about it, however to have her answered it by only hearing the question was indeed too cruel but,

紙を手渡しジックリ考えさせてもそれなのに、ただ読み上げるだけで答えろというのはさすがに酷だと感じたが、

“It is 1,024,690.”

「1024690なの」

..... *come again?*

.....はい？

Souji stared at Eu who promptly answered so without any hesitation. However, Yoyo giggled and,

ソージは何の迷いもなく即答するユーを凝視してしまう。しかしヨヨはクスクスと笑みを溢すと、

“Fufufu, Souji, this is good. We found the best accountant.”

“Eh? O-Ojou-sama, don't tell me that answer...?”

“Ee, this girl is the real deal.”

「ふふふ、ソージ、良かったわね。最高の経理を見つけたわよ」

「え？ ま、まさかお嬢様、今のって.....？」

「ええ、彼女は本物よ」

Story 27 Eu's Special Skill Ability

第二十七話 ユーの特技

“Uh~ th-that's, umm..... does it suit me?”

“Ee, it suits you very well.”

“Ah..... uh....”

「う～あ、あのあの.....にあってるの？」

「ええ、とても良くお似合いですよ」

「あ.....う.....」

The one looked down while blushing was the one passed the interview from before, Eu. She would work as accountant, but honestly Souji still feel uneasy when he looked at the girl whose height not even reach his waist.

顔を真っ赤にさせて俯かせているのは先程面接で合格したユーである。この度、経理担当として働いてもらうことになったのだが、正直ソージは自分の腰ほどにしか達していない身長少女を見て不安が残る。

The girl currently wore a maid uniform, and it certainly suited her just as he said as she looked lovely. However, her appearance was even younger than Ninthe, so it was a mystery whether she could keep up with the work.

今彼女にはメイド服を着てもらったのだが、彼女にも言った通り確かに可愛らしく似合っていた。しかしやはり見た目はニンテよりも幼く、本当にこれから仕事を続けていけるのか不思議だった。

At the interview, she had displayed an excellent ability before the interviewers. She instantaneously answered the mathematical question Yoyo read out, and Yoyo gave her a pass. Yoyo had her reason as to why she asked such a question. While Eu was interviewed, several documents on the desk fell towards Eu's feet, and Eu kindly picked and handed them over to Souji. These actions took only few seconds.

だが面接時、卓越した能力を見せつけてくれたのも目の当たりにしている。あの時、ヨヨが出した計算問題を瞬時に答えたことで、ヨヨは合格を認めた。

ヨヨが何故そのような問題を彼女に聞いたのかは理由がある。面接している時、机の書類が数枚ユーの足元に落ちてしまったが、ユーは親切にそれを拾ってソージに手渡してくれた。この間、約数秒ほどだろう。

And Eu immediately said, "Three, are wrong." At the beginning he didn't understand what she meant, and later he understood after he asked Yoyo.

There were seven documents used to answer the calculation question for the current interview. The question itself was received by each of the accountant applicants. There were four that answered right though they took their times. Only four. The three left were all wrong.

そしてすぐにユーが「三まい、まちがってる」と言った。何のことだか最初は分からなかったが、あとでヨヨに聞いて納得した。

今回の面接時に使用した計算用紙は全部で七枚。経理希望者全員に受けてもらった問題である。そのうち時間はかかったものの正解者は四人。つまり四枚。そして間違っているのは残りの三枚だった。

Souji and the others knew whether it was right just by looking because they knew the answer, so there's no need to check them with red pen. In other words, only the question and its answers were written in the papers.

If these seven documents fell and four had same answer were seen, the possibility that the other three were wrong was high, and the possibility of Eu randomly guessing became high too.

こちらは答えが分かっていたので、一目見て正解か否か分かるので、別に赤ペンでチェックを入れたりはしていない。つまり用紙には問題とその計算結果が書かれているだけだ。

ただもし七枚全部落ちて、その答えを見て四人が同じ答えをしていると目視していたのであれば、三人が間違いであるという可能性が高く、でたらめに言ったとしても当たる可能性は高い。

However, the ones that fell towards Eu's feet weren't all but four. Within them, only one was right while the others were wrong answers. It means all of them had different answers. That's why, Eu's response where she could she through that three were wrong and one was right caught Yoyo's attention which resulted in her putting out that question, and it was proven that Eu had calculating ability that wouldn't be beaten by anyone.

だがあの時、ユーの足元に落ちた用紙は全部ではなく四枚だけ。そのうちの一枚は正解で、三枚は間違いの解答。つまり全部バラバラの答えだったわけだ。

その中で、たった数秒チラッと見て三枚が間違い、一枚が正解だと見極めたユーの言動がヨヨには引っ掛かり、あの問題を試した結果、彼女には他を逸するほどの計算能力があることが判明した。

There were basic arithmetic operations in this world, 【Orb】. However, only those receiving advanced education such as people with high position like nobles and great merchants could do it, while the ones called commoners couldn't. Well, Yoyo could do it.

この【オーブ】にも四則演算は存在する。だがそれができるのは高度な教育を受けた者だけであり、貴族などの身分が高い者や、大商人の位置に立っている者など、この世界では一般人とは呼びにくい者たちばかりだ。まあ、ヨヨはできるのだが。

A convenient thing like multiplication table didn't exist here, and even the nobles didn't touch the complex ones of the basic arithmetic operations.

That's why even if it was simple problem like addition and subtraction, Souji could not believe that the little girl could find the correct answer of calculation with more than five digits, moreover it was all finished inside her head.

しかし九九といった便利なものは無いし、四則演算といっても複雑なものは貴族も手を出してはいない。

だからこそ、単純な足し算で解ける問題だったとしても、五ケタ以上の計算式を、しかも頭の中だけで正解を導き出したのが、幼女だとはソージも俄かには信じられていなかったのだ。

“E-Excuse me, Eu?”

“Wh-What is it?”

“That is, did someone taught you the calculation methods?”

「あ、あのユー？」

「な、なんなの？」

「その、誰かに計算の仕方を教えて貰ったりしたんですか？」

Of course even if someone taught her, mental calculation was still a surprising ability.

無論教えてもらっていたとしても暗算は驚愕すべき能力ではある。

“That’s..... I played make-believe as a merchant..... with everyone..... though I am now alone...”

「よく..... ショウニンごっこしてたの..... みんなで..... いまはひとりだけど.....」

The atmosphere somehow turned into a dark one, so Souji was in panic as he had touched something he shouldn't touch.

何だか急に雰囲気ブラックモードになってしまい、突いてはいけない問題に触れてしまったようで焦るソージ。

“M-Merchant? Ah, s-so that is! My~ Eu is smart!”

“..... eh? Smart? Eu is?”

“Ee, I can't even match Eu in calculating ability. That's why Eu is smart.”

“Ah..... ehehe..... s-somehow I feel happy....”

「しよ、商人？ あ、そ、そうなんですか！ いや～ユーは賢いですね！」

「.....え？ かしこい？ ユーが？」

「ええ、単純な計算力ではオレもユーには敵いませんよ。だからユーは賢いです」

「あ.....えへへ.....な、なんだかうれしいの.....」

The appearance of her loosening her cheeks while her hands covered her mouth, unlike Kaina's, certainly had the power to stimulate his desire to protect.

両手を口元に当てながら頬を緩めるその姿は、カイナとは違うが、確かに保護欲を存分に刺激する威力がある。

“Then, about your work, do you understand what accounting is?”

“Accounting?..... uun”

“Thought so~.”

「それじゃ、君にしてもらう仕事についてなんですけど、経理って分かりますか？」

「けいり？ううん」

「ですよね～」

As expected, the word accounting didn't appear in children Merchant make-believe.

さすがに子供の商人ごっこでは経理という言葉は出てきていないようだ。

“It is the process concerning the finance and salary, but....”

「会計・給与に関する処理を行うことなんですが.....」

Looking at Eu, she was quietly looking at him which mixed with anxiousness as if to express,
“Eu can't understand it at all.”

ユーを見てみると「ユー、とてもわからないの」的な感じでジッと不安気に見上げてくる。

“Ah. Well, simply speaking the work is to calculate money, to grasp the fixtures in this mansion, to know in details if it is enough or not.”

“Fixtures?”

“Ah~, for example, ingredients, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies. Well, it is a necessity for the accountant to know the things necessary for daily life. Can you do it?”

“Un, I will do my best.”

“Ahaha, I see. Well then, it is a necessity for you to tour the mansion for the first time, so please wait as the one in charge will come soon.”

“Eh! I-It's not..... Onii-chan?”

“O-Onii-chan? W-Well, that way of calling make me ticklish though I am happy..... that's not it, umm, I am considerably busy even if I looks like this now as I have a lot of works to do. That's why I prepared the perfect guide for Eu.”

“Uh~ perfect? N-Not a scary one, right?”

“Ee, a really cute girl.”

「そうですね。まあ、簡単に言えばお金の計算したり、屋敷内にある備品などをしっかりと把握し、何が足りているのか、もしくは足りないのかをきちんと知っている仕事ですかね」

「びひん？」

「あ～、食材であったり、トイレ用紙や掃除用具。まあ、生活に必要なものを知っておく必要が経理にはあるんです。できそうですか？」

「うん、いっしょけんめいする」

「あはは、そうですか。それじゃ、まずは屋敷内の案内をしなければならないんですが、担当者がもうすぐ来るので待ってて下さいね」

「えっ！ お、おにいちゃんじゃ.....ないの？」

「お、お兄ちゃん？ い、いや、その響きは何ともくすぐったいけど嬉しい.....じゃなくて、えっと、オレはこう見えても結構忙しくてですね、たくさん仕事があるんですよ。ですからユーにピッタリな案内役を用意しましたから」

「う～ピッタリ？ こ、こわくないの？」

「ええ、とっても可愛らしい子ですよ」

Then someone came towards them with a loud footsteps.

するとダダダダダと盛大な足音を立ててこちらへ向かってきた者がいた。

“I’m sorry to have kept you waiting, Souji-samaa!”

「お待たせしましたですソージ様あ！」

It was Ninthe. Her sudden appearance made Eu surprised and trembled, so Souji quietly put his hand on Eu’s head to ease her up.

ニンテだった。彼女の突然の登場にビクッとユーは身体を震わせていたが、ソージは彼女を安心させるために彼女の頭の上にそっと手を置く。

“Ah…… eh…… no way……”

「あ……え……ウソ……」

Souji spontaneously put his hand away.

思わずサッと手をどけたソージ。

“Heh? “no way”? Ah, I am sorry to suddenly put my hand on your head! Do you hate being patted?”

“U-Uun! That’s wrong! That’s, touching Eu is…… dangerous.”

“Heh? Dangerous?”

“But…… somehow it came out alright……”

“Souji-sama! To nonchalantly touch a girl’s head is a nono!”

“I-I am sorry, Ninthe. I will keep it in mind!”

“That’s good! After all, the hair is a girl’s life. That’s why it is a nono to nonchalantly touch it. This is what Kaina-sama taught me!”

「へ？ 何が嘘なんです？ あ、すみません、つい頭に手を！ もしかして撫でられるの嫌でしたか？」

「う、ううん！ ちがうの！ その、ユーにさわるとキケン……だから」

「へ？ 危険？」

「でも……なんでかだいじょうぶだったの……」

「ソージ様！ ダメですよ女の子の頭を気安く触っちゃ！」

「ご、ごめんニンテ、気をつけますから！」

「そうですよ！ 女の子の髪は命そのものなんです。ですから軽々しく触っちゃいけないんです。カイナ様に教わりましたです！」

Ninthe puffed out her chest with *ehhem*-like feeling. He didn't thought of blaming his mother as he obediently apologized because only this time the thing Ninthe said was correct.

えっへんという感じで胸を張るニンテ。また母親かと思わないでもなかったが、今回ばかりはニンテの言うことが正しいと思うので素直に謝罪した。

“Then, I will leave it to you, Ninthe.”

“Yes! Please leave it to her senior!”

「ではニンテ、あとはお任せしますね」

「はいです！ 先輩なので任せて下さいです！」

Looks like she was happy to have a junior by seeing her, *Mufufu~*, giggling. She also tried to put a senior like air. Souji inadvertently smiled after seeing the elated her.

When he tried to leave after waving his hand, he felt something pulling his clothes and he saw Eu after he turned around.

むふふ〜と鼻を膨らませているところを見ると、後輩ができて嬉しいようだ。先輩風を吹かせてみたいのかもしれない。そんな彼女が微笑ましくてついソージは顔を綻ばせてしまう。

手を振ってその場から去ろうとすると、服を引っ張られる感覚を感じ振り向けばそこにユーがいた。

“Excuse me..... is something wrong?”

“Th-That's.....n-name.”

“Eh? Ah, aa, the introduction huh. Now that you say it, we still haven't introduce ourselves?”

「えっと.....どうかしましたか？」

「あ、あの.....よ、よろしくなの」

「え？ あ、ああ、挨拶ですか。そう言えば自己紹介してませんでしたっけ？」

He recalled that he had forgotten to introduce themselves because he was so busy.

バタバタしていて名乗るのも忘れていたのを思い出す。

“Though there will be a welcoming party soon, well I am this mansion's head butler, Souji Alkasha. Please take care of me from now on.”

“Even if it is called head butler, Souji-sama is the only butler here.”

“Ninthe, don't cut in a conversation.”

“Ahaha, sorry. Next is Ninthe. Ninthe is Ninthe. Though Ninthe is still a novice maid, best regards.”

「また近いうちに歓迎会もしますが、とりあえずオレは、この屋敷の執事長を務めているソー
ジ・アルカーサです。どうぞよろしくお願ひします」

「執事長といっても執事はソージ様だけですけどね」

「こらニンテ、話の腰を折らない」

「あはは、すみませんです。それじゃ次はニンテです。ニンテはニンテって言ひますです。ま
だまだ新米のメイドですが、よろしくです」

She floated a radiant smile that suit her.

ニカッと彼女らしい笑顔を浮かべている。

“U-Umm I am..... Eu..... Eu Sophia.”

「あ、あのあの.....ユー・ソピア.....なの」

**Maybe because she was unaccustomed to introduce herself, she introduced herself while
looking down with flushed cheeks.**

こちらは自己紹介に慣れていないのか、頬を紅潮させて顔を俯かせながらの紹介だった。

“Fuwa~ what a cute girl~.”

「ふわ~かわいい子です~」

**Ninthe smiled as she was also defeated by Eu’s cuteness. Souji realized something and turned
around. but no one was there.**

ニンテもユーの可愛らしさに負けたのか、ニコニコしている。だがそこへソージはハッと
なって後ろを振り向く。.....誰もいない。

(No, this is-!?)

(いや、アレはっ!?)

**He could hear a person’s breath that sounded as if it had dashed for 100 meters from the other
side of the wall when he strained his ears.**

耳を澄ませば壁の向こうから全力で百メートルをダッシュした後のような人の呼吸音が聞こ
える。

“..... Ninthe.”

“What is it?”

“I will just say one thing.”

“O-Okay.”

「……ニンテ」

「なんです？」

「一つだけ言うておきましょう」

「は、はいです」

Ninthe gulped due to Souji's seriousness.

ソージの真剣さにニンテの喉もゴクリとなる。

“Listen, if you encounter a red-haired, perverted maid, immediately shout, okay?”

“Eh, th-that is....”

“Understand!?”

“Y-Yess!”

“Okay, that is a good reply. Then, please take care of her.”

「いいですか、赤い髪をした変態メイドと遭遇したら、即座に叫ぶんですよ？」

「え、あ、あのそれって……」

「分かりましたねっ！」

「は、はいですうっ！」

「はい、良いお返事です。では頼みますね」

Then he once again turned towards the wall but,

そうしてもう一度壁の方を振り向いたが、

(Tch, judging from the presence, looks like she had escaped....)

(ちっ、気配を察して逃げたな……)

Souji thought about what would happen if he didn't subjugate the elusive monster, then he waved his hand again and left the place.

ソージは神出鬼没のモンスターを何とかして討伐しなければと思い、もう一度ニンテたちに手を振ると、その場から去って行った。

Story 28 What Eu Held

第二十八話 ユーの抱えてるもの

As the two were left alone, Ninthe enthusiastically wanted to teach various things to the newly hired maid.

It was Ninthe's first junior, moreover it was a girl younger than her, so she thought to absolutely get along with Eu.

二人きりになり、ニンテはさっそく新しく入ったメイドのユーにいろいろ教えるために意気込んでいた。

彼女にとっては初めての後輩で、しかも年下で女の子ということもあり、絶対仲良くしたいと思っていたのだ。

“Excuse me, can I call you Eu-chan?”

“Ah, uh..... okay.”

“Hooray! Then, you can call Ninthe as you like?”

“Eh..... umm..... Ninthe-..... -san?”

“Mu~ that's somehow feels too formal~. If possible, can you call Ninthe with -chan too?”

「えっと、ユーちゃんって呼んでもいいです？」

「あ、う.....いいの」

「やった！ それじゃね、ニンテのことも好きによんでくださいです！」

「え.....えっと.....ニンテ.....さん？」

「む~何か固いです~。できればおんなじちゃん付けがいいです~」

Ninthe had already forgotten that she herself said to call her as Eu like.

好きに呼んでくれと自身が言ったことをすでに忘れていたニンテだった。

“Uu..... Ninthe-..... -chan.”

“Ehehe~, then let's go.”

「うう.....ニンテ.....ちゃん」

「えへへ~、それじゃ行きましょうです！」

Ninthe smiled in pure bliss. Then at the time she reached to take Eu's hand,

ニンテは本当に嬉しそうに破顔する。そしてユーの手を取ろうとした時、

“D-Don't!”

「ダ、ダメなの！」

The hand that was withdrawn with tremendous momentum made Ninthe dumbfounded.

物凄い勢いで腕を引っ込められて、ニンテもキョトンとする。

“Th-That is, sorry....”

「あ、あのごめんなさいです.....」

Awa awa, Eu was panicking because Ninthe dejectedly drooped her shoulders.

しょんぼりと肩を落とすニンテに、あわあわと焦りを見せるユー。

“Ah, th-that’s not it..... that is, I don’t feel it unpleasant..... uu.”

「あ、ち、ちがくて.....その、イヤとかじゃなくて.....うう」

Though she desperately made an excuse, her rejection was considerably shocked Ninthe who became somewhat teary eyed.

必死に言い訳をしているが、拒否られたことがかなりショックだったのかニンテは若干涙目である。

“Ara? What is wrong with the both of you?”

「あら？ どうかしたのかしら二人とも？」

The mansion’s current master, Yoyo came at such a time. Her appearance as she walked was beautiful and the graceful air that overflowed from her surely would make anyone stole a glance.

そこへ屋敷の当主であるヨヨがやって来た。歩く姿も美しく、気品溢れるその佇まいは誰もが目を奪われるほどだ。

“Ah, Yoyo-sama....”

“Are Ninthe going to guide Eu around?”

“Y-Yes.”

“Nn? Somehow there’s no vigor in that. Ah, Eu, that uniform suits you.”

“Au..... th-thank you.”

「あ、ヨヨ様.....」

「もしかしてニンテがユーの案内役かしら？」

「は、はいです」

「ん？ 何か元気が無いわね。あ、ユー、その服似合ってるわよ」

「あう.....あ、ありがとうなの」

Seeing the two's behaviors, Yoyo guessed something had happened due to the somewhat bad mood.

二人の仕草を見て、どうにも雰囲気良くないと察しヨヨは何があったのか尋ねる。

“About that....”

「それは.....」

Ninthe moved her mouth painfully. From the two's appearance, she judged that the two didn't fight, so she spoke to the two.

ニンテは言い辛そうに口ごもる。二人の様子を見て、喧嘩をしたというわけではなさそうと判断して二人を交互に見つめ口を開く。

“Eu, are you displeased that Ninthe is your guide?”

“N-No..... I-I am not displeased by it..... however....”

“However?”

“.....”

“Look Eu, aren't you here to work?”

“Th-That is so.”

“If so, the people in this mansion are your family.”

“..... fa-..... family? Eu's?”

「ユー、ニンテの案内は嫌かしら？」

「ち、ちが.....イ、イヤじゃないの.....でも.....」

「でも？」

「.....」

「ねえユー、ここであなたは働くのよね？」

「そ、そうなの」

「なら、この屋敷にいる者は全てあなたの家族よ」

「.....か.....かぞく？ ユーの？」

Eu widened her eyes and opened her mouth in blank amazement. Yoyo chuckled then smiled.

目を大きく見開き口をポカンと開けるユー。ヨヨはクスッと笑みを溢すと、

“Ee, me, Souji, Ninthe, and everyone here are your family. That’s why even if it is just a little, try to get close to us.”

“Family…… Eu’s family…… b-but if it is Eu, that will surely happen again…… -o…… so…… it isn’t good to touch Eu.”

「ええ、私も、ソージも、ここに居るニンテもみんながあなたの家族。だから少しずつでもいいからあなたからも私たちに近づいてきなさい」

「かぞく……ユーのかぞく……で、でもユーのことすれば、きっとまたなくなる……から……だから……ユーにさわっちゃダメなの」

Large drop of tears began to flow from her big eyes. Furthermore Ninthe had become dumbfounded and *awa awa*, panicking just like Eu from before as she didn’t know what to do. Yoyo did her best to keep calm and,

ポロポロとその大きな目から大粒の涙をユーが流し始める。それにギョッとなるニンテは、どうしたらいいか分からず先程のユーのようにあわあわとなっている。

しかしヨヨは比較的冷静に努めて、

“I understand. Then everyone will not touch you against your will.”

“…… re-…… ally?”

“Ee, you should have your circumstance, right? However, I have one thing for you to remember. The people in this mansion, all of them held in their arms their own difficult circumstances. Even so, they can live with a smile. Do you know why?”

“Uun.”

“That is because everyone are doing their best to survive.”

“……”

“Didn’t you also said you will work hard? That’s why, include to come to know this girl and others too inside that hard work.”

「分かったわ。ならみんな、あなたに無理矢理触ったりしないわ」

「……ほん……と？」

「ええ、何か事情があるのでしょ？ でもこれだけは覚えておいて。この屋敷に迎え入れられた者は、みんな何かしら人には言い難い事情を抱えているわ。それでもみんな笑顔で暮らせるの。何故だか分かるかしら？」

「ううん」

「それはね、みんなが一生懸命に生きているからよ」

「……」

「あなたも一生懸命に頑張るって言ったでしょ？ ならその一生懸命の中で、この子たちのことを知っていきなさい」

Yoyo gently put her hand on Ninthe's head.

ヨヨは優しくニンテの頭に手を置く。

“I am sure that you will soon understand that what you think right now is just a small matter.”

「きっと、あなたが考えていることがどれだけ小さいことかすぐに理解できるから」

She said so while smiling, then Yoyo said, “Take care of the rest,” to Ninthe and left. Ninthe replied with considerable vigor. Beside her, Eu's expression was also somewhat relaxed.

微笑みながらそれだけ言うと、ヨヨはニンテに「あとはよろしくね」とだけ言って立ち去って行った。ニンテも元気良く返事をした。そしてどことなくユーの表情も緩んでいた。

After separated from Ninthe and Yue, when Yoyo turned the corner,

ヨヨがニンテたちから離れ、角を曲がると、

“That was splendid, Yoyo-ojousama.”

“Peeping is not a good thing, Souji.”

「お見事でしたヨヨお嬢様」

「覗き見は感心しないわよソージ」

Souji had been at this corner since he left Ninthe and Eu. As for the reason, he was worried about Eu's attitude towards other people.

He heard from the maid that went she came for the interview, she'd keep a certain distance from others and became surprised and frightened when someone approached her more than necessary. Besides, there's also her reaction when he touched her head.

ソージは、ニンテたちから離れてずっと角を曲がったところで様子を見ていたのだ。その理由として、やはりユーの他の人に対する態度が気になったからだ。

メイドからも聞いたが、面接を受けに来た時も、他人が必要以上に近づくとビクッと怯えたように一定の距離を保っていたらしい。それに先程頭に触れた時の反応。

“However, the two are now able to be friends because of Ojou-sama’s words. They have such a good atmosphere unlike before.”

「ですが、お嬢様のお言葉で二人は打ち解けるきっかけができました。先程とは違い、良い雰囲気です」

It could be seen Ninthe was smiling as she explained various things and Eu kept nodding as she paid attention to the explanation. There was still the slightly large distance between the two, but it was definitely becoming closer.

見ればニンテは笑顔でいろいろ説明をして、ユーもフンフンとちゃんと話を聞いている。二人の間には少し遠い距離は確かに存在しているが、それでも前進しているのは間違いない。

“Even if I didn’t happen to pass there, you will do something about it, right?”

“Wouldn’t it be unknown whether it’ll go that well?”

“Fufu, let’s just leave it at that.”

「私があそこを通りかからなければ、あなたが何とかしたでしょ？」

「あそこまで上手くいったかは分かりませんよ？」

「ふふ、そういうことにしておきましょう」

Then, Yoyo changed her smile for a moment and,

そこでヨヨは一旦笑みを崩すと、

“Souji, for now try to investigate Eu’s identity.”

“Is it okay?”

“Ee, there’s should be a circumstance that made such a young girl to go up to the land alone. There is also the possibility that she is looking for her family. It will be the best to hear it from Eu herself, but to hear it by force will backfire on us.”

“It is as Ojou-sama said.”

“But if we keep waiting for her to talk, there’s the high possibility that her family or friends will think she was kidnapped or something then went up to the land to search for her.”

“If so, there’ll be a commotion.”

“Ee, that’s why before that happen, we must understood her circumstances and contact her family if they are alive as it is necessary to tell them.”

“I understand. Then, I will quickly gathers the information. Did Ojou-sama noticed anything?”

「ソージ、一応ユーの身元を調査しなさい」

「よろしいんですか？」

「ええ、幼い彼女が一人、陸に上がって来たということは、何かしら事情があるはず。もしかしたら彼女の家族が探しているかもしれないわ。本当ならユーから聞くのが一番なのだけれど、無理矢理聞くのは逆効果だわ」

「その通りですね」

「でもこのまま彼女が喋るのを待っている間に、あの子の家族や友達が誘拐か何かにあったと考え探しに陸へ上がってくる可能性も高いわ」

「もしそうなれば騒ぎになりますね」

「ええ、だからそうなる前に、事情を察知して、彼女の家族がいるのであればコンタクトを取り、その旨を伝える必要があるの」

「分かりました。では急いで情報収集に動きます。何かお嬢様の方で気づかれたことはありませんか？」

If so, he could narrow the search range.

もしあればそれを頼りに調べる範囲を狭めることができる。

“I am, and though it is only a guess, isn't that girl came from the Star jellyfish (Hoshikurage) tribe?”

“Star jellyfish surely is the tribe that lives at the adjacent sea. I heard it is a peaceful tribe.”

“Ee, that girl figure, and that raiment. They are the characteristics of the Star jellyfish tribe.”

“Indeed. I will do as you wish. I will investigate based on this information.”

“Do it quickly. If we leave these girls to that Hentai-san, well at the very least I think it won't become something big.”

「そうね、恐らくけど、彼女は星海月(ほしくらげ)の一族ではないかしら？」

「星海月というと、確かに近海に生息する種族ですね。基本的に穏やかで争いを好まない種族だと聞きます」

「ええ、あの子の身形に、そしてあの羽衣。アレは星海月の特徴よ」

「なるほど。畏まりました。その情報を元に調査してみます」

「しっかりね。あの子たちは、あそこの変態さんに任せていれば、少なくとも大事にはならないと思うから」

At the place Yoyo pointed at was the head maid that excitedly watching at the two cute girls while only putting out her head

ヨヨの指差した方向には、ニョキッと顔だけ出して二人の可愛らしい少女たちを興奮気味に見つめているメイド長がいた。

“..... though in a way, I will be okay if it becomes a big matter.”

「.....別の意味で大事にならなければいいのですが」

Souji was slightly uneasy due to his mother's dangerousness, but he immediately went out to search information about Eu.

ソージは実の母親の危険性に一抹の不安を抱えながらも、さっそくユーの情報収取へと向かって行った。

Story 29 A Strong Beauty

Around that time, Souji's childhood friend when he was in Japan that was summoned by 【Rashtia Kingdom】 , Amakawa Mayuki arrived at 【Pubten】 , a city in the coastland of the East Continent a.k.a. 【Dolkia Continent】 , accompanied by similarly summoned best friend of her, Hoshimori Sheila.

"It'll be good if we get information related to Sou-kun here...."

Mayuki possessed beautiful, glossy black hair that reflected the light. Because the hair was made into ponytail, it swayed regularly as she walked.

And though her height was small with childish looks, the destructive power of her breasts that symbolized a woman was tremendous, they were even revered by Souji as Oppai demons.

At the time she was in the academy, her displayed beauty made her bathed in attention from the male students. Following that, Sheila who was walking beside her was also a beauty.

Sheila was a half, and though her hair was brown in color, her irises were serene blue. The so called blue-eyed person.

If it was said they were idols that appeared on TV, people would immediately be convinced by their looks.

As for the reason they were in this world, they were summoned by 【Rashtia Kingdom】 to stop the Demon race's uprising.

【Summoning Brave Souls Vessels】 . There were existences called brave men and heroes in this world, 【Orb】 . Their souls were sealed and owned by the Emperor.

The Emperor had ordered to do the ritual in order to stop a part of Demon race that was rampaging, and that's how the girls' adventures began. Mayuki and the others were summoned as the vessels for the heroic souls and promised to be returned to their original world if they defeated the Demon race, so they had no other choice but to lend their strength.

In the end, the one who defeated the leader of the Demon race was not Mayuki's party but Souji, but the thing that spreaded was they were the one who defeated the Demon race. Though she was grandly received by the kingdom, Mayuki had seen the traces of Souji in the red-haired boy she met in the continent where Demon race lived, 【Zoan Continent】 , so she sneaked out from 【Rashtia】 to look for that boy.

Incidentally, Sheila also had her own reason to meet Souji. After all, she was the female student that caused Souji's death. She met Mayuki by accident and hit it off with her, they agreed to live together when they came to this world, and Sheila supported Mayuki as she knew Mayuki wanted to meet the red-haired boy. She also wished to meet Souji again.

“Is there an information seller in this town?”

Sheila asked Mayuki as she looked around the town.

“U~n, I don't know about that, but how about we look for something to eat first? I am hungry.”
“Fufu, okay. Sheila is hungry too.”

The two have walked for a long time and haven't eat anything. As they looked for a shop where they could eat easily, they noticed people were crowding before them, then they approached the crowd as they wondered what happened.

They pushed through the crowd and saw two people that created the imposing atmosphere as they glared at each other. One was a man with completely red face and appearance of a drunkard.

The other one was a woman with noble looks and model-like figure. By her look, she seemed to be at least 20 years old.

Her faint pink hair swayed along with the breeze and so silky that made one envy it. Seeing the woman, Mayuki fell into the feelings that she was seeing a scene from a movie. A confrontation between a beautiful actress and the thug. It was that sort of scene.

“Umm, excuse me..... what's happened here?”

Seeing the two that seemed to beat each other at any moment, Mayuki asked a nearby onlooker.

“What happened was that man said women are weak, so they should quietly follow behind the men. That woman heard that and well, she rebutted him.”

“Then, it is that man’s fault!”

“Eh? Ah, no, well, it was the alcohol that speak after all.”

The onlooker raised an awkward expression towards Mayuki’s words. Apparently, that man had drunk since the daytime, so he probably inadvertently slipped those words. And those words angered the woman.

“Then, everything will be okay if that man just apologize....”

“Do you think he will? That drunken man?”

“..... indeed.”

His obstinate appearance was just like a true old-fashioned tokyoite man. His atmosphere was that he would not willingly withdraw the words he had said.

“Well, that woman said she will show how strong a woman is, and it became such as situation.”

“S-So that’s happened....”

When one looked carefully, a sword was hung on the woman’s waist. Though there’s no armor that worn on her body, her standing figure conveyed a strong image.

“Let me say it again! Withdraw your previous statement!”

The woman shouted so with anger mixed inside.

“Keh, I am *hic* a man of the sea! Like hell I *hic* would withdraw my words, I *hic* will make you admit it!”

Apparently, their confrontation was inevitable.

“Eu..... M-Mayuki-san, wouldn't it better to stop them?”

Sheila anxiously asked that.

“I think so too, after all it will be terrible if they are injured..... ah!”

The man tried to catch the woman when Mayuki thought to interrupt them. However, the woman's slender figure inclined to the side and she avoided the man's charge.

“Oraah!”

The man further charged, but this time the woman grabbed his arm and used his momentum to throw the man to the ground.

“D-Damn you....”

The man spitted and,

“Don't underestimate a man of the seaa!”

He tried to catch the woman again with considerable vigor. However, the woman greatly jumped from her location, rotated her body and dropped her heel on the man's head.

“Gufuuh!”

The man staggered and toppled to the ground with a slam. He completely lost his consciousness with the white of his eyes shown.

“You should understand now. Gender doesn't matter, a strong person is strong!”

At that moment, cheers overflowed from the surroundings.

The woman, who easily defeated the drunken man as if taking a candy from a child, made Mayuki and Sheila speechless. Frankly speaking, Mayuki thought to stop the fight before the two greatly injured, but the conclusion that came ever so quickly surprised her. Moreover, the woman clearly overwhelmed the man. The woman defeated the man even without touching the sword on her waist.

“She is..... strong.”

“Y-Yes, really strong.”

Hearing Sheila’s words, Mayuki replied with a nod. The woman was certainly a considerably powerful person. The woman made previous declaration while looking down at the knocked down man and everyone felt her strength was the real deal. When the woman thrust her fist up high and bathed in people’s cheers,

“Princesssssss~!”

The shrill voice that came from somewhere shook the current atmosphere. The scream-like shout passed well through the cheers.

A girl around 14-15 years old elbowed through the crowd and came to Mayuki and Sheila’s side.

Her yellow-colored hair was tied in twintail, and the tails that even passed her waist were amusingly swayed all over the places as she moved.

Her big, teary eyes trembled on her small face. Even her slight freckles were stood out and added to her loveliness. Moreover, the one piece dress with huge ribbon attached suited her well.

“Oh, Olulu, what happen?”

“Mou! It’s not what happen! Didn’t I said to obediently wait in the store because I am going to look for an information seller! So, what’s with this commotion!”

Apparently, the girl that just show up was called Olulu. She said those in anger with puffed cheeks.

“W-Well, this is inevitable! It’s because he make fun of women! I won’t be able to become a vessel that lead others if I just be silent and overlook it!”

“To cause such a commotion, please remember what are you! If you want to become a vessel others looked up to, then please make your mind capable of warding off whatever other says like a wind!”

“Uh, b-but....”

“Don’t make an excuse if you want to become someone who lead others!”

“Ah, uh..... I am sorry.”

Not even a fragment of her previous bravery left as she became down, and the woman’s appearance was just like a child that angered her mother.

“To begin with, Princess is always like this! Princess always, always has a short fuse and acted before thinking! Listen! That’s why Princess still cannot meet the person we are looking for, and that person will only be disappointed if Princess meet him.”

“Th-That’s troubling!”

“Then don’t act rashly.”

“Uh, uu~”

The woman was watching Olulu as if she wanted to say something and,

“It is useless to appeal me with such eyes. As a punishment, today’s dinner will be soup with mushroom that Princess hate!”

“N-No way! Anything but that, Olulu! I reflect, so don’t do that!”

A lot of people could not catch up to the suddenly changed atmosphere. That was inevitable. Even though the man was drunk, the woman had defeated the stubborn man easily, but next a girl that didn’t look strong appeared and scolded the woman which made her eyes teary. However at that time, the defeated man abruptly stood up and charged towards the woman whose back turned towards the man.

“I will kill you!”

The man had lost himself to anger. Thus when Olulu was surprised as she saw such a man, the woman noticed something approached from her back by guessing from Olulu’s state. And when everyone saw the woman touched the handle of her sword,

(This is bad!)

Mayuki, who guessed things would become irrecoverable if this keep up, tightened her expression, swiftly squatted down and put her right hand on the ground.

[————— Summons Tree (Shoujyu)!]

At the moment Mayuki recited that, a tree suddenly appeared from the ground before the man and stopped his movement. Following that,

[Tree Restrain (Jyubaku)-!]

This time, vine-like things appeared around the man’s feet and twined around to restrain the man’s body.

[Wh-What’s with this-!?!]

Not only the man, the surrounding people became noisy as they focused on the suddenly appearing trees. However, only the woman who was holding her sword turned her gaze towards Mayuki.

Story 30 Princess and Maid

Mayuki approached the drunken man and,

“Uncle! Attacking a woman from behind is bad! Furthermore, if it’s a fight, then fight fairly! Or is that how the man of the sea is!?”

Bishih, she pointed at the man as she said so. Hearing the words that the he was a man of the sea, he drooped his head as if he regained his senses and said,

“S-Sorry..... I lost myself to anger.”
“It’s not me you should apologize to, uncle!”
“Eh, ah, th-that’s right.”

Mayuki touched the tree in gratitude and the tree returned to the ground. The liberated man turned towards the woman and bowed as he scratched his head.

“I-I am sorry! I apologize for looking down on you! I will take back the words I said from before!”

The woman floated a smile and,

“Don’t mind it, anyone can make a mistake. It’s good that you understood.”

Thus the two reconciled. Mayuki clapped as she felt glad about it. Then, Sheila came to her side and said,

“Thank god it end well, right? Mayuki-san.”
“Yup! It is the best that they reconcile.”

Mayuki thought it was the best outcome as no one gain irrecoverable or great injury. At that time, she saw the woman tried to take out her sword and she expected it’d become a sorry situation that couldn’t be joked about, so she used magic and was relieved that it ended well.

“Let me say my gratitude to you. Thank you.”

The woman slightly bowed as she said so.

“However, if it was just that much, even if you didn’t do that...”

“Princess?”

Olulu jumped towards the woman as she said so in a low voice that obviously mixed with anger.

“Wh-What is it, Olulu?”

“To people that helped us, is only saying thank you enough? Or, don’t tell me, you are not going to cause another trouble, are you?”

Thought she was smiling radiantly, one could see an Oni wrapped in black aura behind her.

“Th-Thathathat’s impossible! U-Umu, thank you, I wish to express my gratitude!”

“Ah, no need, I am just glad that you are all right.”

“Excuse me, if you’re okay with it, we would like to give you a reward.”

Olulu said so in gratitude.

“Eh? There’s no need to go that far! We didn’t do anything that deserve such a thing!”

“What!? Oi, you! Olulu had said to reward you so- ouch, Olulu it’s hurt if you pinch me there!”

What seen was Olulu with dark smile as she pinched the woman’s side.

“I am truly sorry for my master’s speech and behavior. But, it’ll help me if you can at at least spare some time to eat with us, can’t you?”

Mayuki held good impression towards Olulu’s polite speech. However, she inadvertently smiled wryly when she seen the woman behind Olulu rubbing her pinched side with teary eyes.

Mayuki and Sheila looked at each other and,

“It’s only a meal, so isn’t it okay?”

“Yes, Sheila don’t mind.”

“Aha! Then, it’s okay!?”

Olulu smiled brightly. Then Mayuki replied to her with similar smile.

“Yes! Please let us accept your kind offer!”

“Eeh!? 【Schneeh country】’s princess!?”

Mayuki and Sheila were brought to a restaurant by the Olulu and the woman they just got acquainted with. There, Olulu thanked them again and began her introduction, but Mayuki doubted her hearing when Olulu introduced the woman beside her.

“That’s right! 【Schneeh country】’s third princess, Koram Hyatt Schneeh, is me!”

Koram declared that with serious face though they were inside a restaurant. However, she was scolded by her maid, Olulu Chein.

“It’s embarrassing, so don’t suddenly stand up and introduce yourself with such a loud voice!”
“I-I am sorry, Olulu.”

Apparently, Koram could not went against Olulu. From their conversation since before, Olulu seemed to be the stopper for the reckless Koram.

“B-But, is that really true? That’s..... she is a princess.”

“What’s with you! How can yo-....”

“Princess, be silent!”

“Uh..... o-okay.”

She reluctantly shut her mouth and her gesture was truly just like a child.

“It is understandable that the two can’t believe it. It is a rather unbelievable story after all. However, there’s Princess’s sword. It is a treasured sword with 【Schneeh country】’s crest that can prove her lineage.”

Leaned against the wall near where Koram saton was a sword with handle which glittering ornaments and a crest were engraved to.

【Schneeh Kingdom】 was the kingdom governing 《Anjax Region》 of this east continent, 【Dolkia Continent】 , and the country also known as 《Country of Flowers》 due to flowers that blooming all over the year round.

Even the country used crest that imitated rose flower. And the same crest was unmistakably carved in Koram’s sword.

“Th-Then she really is a princess? Waa~, but the impression I get from her is different from 【Rashtia】’s princess.”

“Wa-, Mayuki-san!”

Mayuki only said what she think, but Sheila panicky tried to stop her which followed by the trembling of Koram’s shoulders.

“Y-You mean I am uncivilized..... rude..... a-and doesn’t look like a princess?”

Koram glared with teary eyes.

“Aah! No, that’s not it! Because I have the image of a princess as someone younger, I never thought there’s princess as beautiful and mature as Koran-sama!”

“..... eh? B-Beautiful.....?”

“Yes, a beauty! 【Rashtia】’s princess is still young so she give off cute feeling, so I am deeply moved to meet a dignified princess like Koram-sama!”

“I-Is that so? O-Okay! I will make you my vassal!”

This time she was elated and began to laugh. Olulu could only sigh to such a Koram and,

“What are you saying? That’s rude to our benefactor.”

“Muh? B-But Olulu, there’s not one too many for another excellence and loyal subordinate, you know? Besides, she said I am a beauty! And dignified!”

“Ah~ okay okay. Princess looks really happy.”

Against Koram that said so with sparkling eyes, Olulu maintained her composed attitude. For her to be accustomed to such a conversation, it's possible such things had also happened before.

Continuing their conversation, Koram was still 18 years old. Apart from her speech and behavior, she was a mature beauty that would make anyone charmed as long as she didn't speak. In the end, that's as long as she shut her mouth.

Following that, Olulu was 14 years old just like her appearance tell. The two could be said as childhood friends as they grew up together since their childhood. However, more than them coming from royal family, Mayuki and Sheila were intrigued as to why were they in such a place. Moreover, the princess had only one attendant beside her, and Mayuki's party didn't believe that's something usual.

"Well, even I have objected about this. However, Princess won't hear me."

Olulu shrugged her shoulders with *good grief* feeling.

"Just what is the reason for your travel?"

"Maa, simply speaking, she is a stalker, isn't it?"

"S-Ssssstalker!?"

Not only Mayuki, even Sheila was taken aback to such an answer.

"Muh? I am not in skirt faction, you know? That kind of fluttering thing only make it harder to move...." note : she mistake sutoka/stalker as sukato/skirt

"You are wrong, Princess. It is stalker."

"What is stalker?"

Eh? She doesn't know?, Mayuki and Sheila tilted their heads as she watched Koram with such feelings.

"Maa, to say it in a way that Princess will understand..... a pervert that will even chase the man she fell in love with even to hell, something like that?"

"Wh-whawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawha-!?"

In a moment, Koram's face was completely reddened as if boiled.

"H-ha hen hi hell hor!"

"There's no such a language, Princess."

"Wh-Whose fault do you think this is!"

Bam, Koram said so as she hit the table. Thus she became the center of the surrounding guests and restaurant employees' attention.

"E-Excuse me, please calm down, Koram-sama!"

"Th-That's right! I-It's not like falling in love with someone is a bad thing!"

Though Mayuki and Sheila frantically did the follow-up,

"Ugaaaaaah! I-It's not like I have su-su-such a feeling"

"..... you are stammering, Princess. Have you forgotten? Seven years ago, that boy promise to meet Princess again, then didn't Princess blushed as you are really happy about it?"

"U-Uh..... y-you are wrongggggg-!"

Koram suddenly ran away from the shop while carrying her sword. Olulu was *slurp~*, drinking her tea as if nothing had happened.

"Hafu~, as expected, the tea is delicious~."

"E-Excuse me, Olulu-san?"

"Ah, please just call me Olulu. Please, please call me that without reserve. Furthermore, there's no need for formal wording."

"Th-Then, Olulu, is it okay for you to be separated from Koram-sama?"

"Don't worry. Princess will immediately returns after she ran for a while. Aah, isn't it fun to tease her?"

"Ah, i-is that really so?"

"Yup. Princess always become like that when it come to the boy in her memory. Moreover, such innocence make me can't stop doing it."

Apparently, this relationship between master and servant was quite reversed. She was quite the devilish woman to be able to lead someone from the royal family around by the nose.

(Even though she is still 14 years old..... how fearful....)

Mayuki saw the devil behind the grinning Olulu.

Story 31 An Unexpected Circumstance

Souji Alkasha was currently arriving at the mansion's adjacent sea. There were people around the sandy beach. Because it was not the season for season, they were probably just strolling.

His reason to come here was to investigate the identity of Eu, the new maid serving in the mansion. She stubbornly didn't want to talk about it and though there'd be no problem if he just left her alone, Yoyo ordered him to as she said Eu came from Star Jellyfish tribe, so he came here where the tribe lived but....

"In the end, there's only the calm sea spreading through the horizon huh."

Just as he said, there's the blue and beautiful sea before Souji and there was only the soothing sound of the waves. Because Eu had gone out of the sea, he hoped that her family or acquaintance would act as they wondered what happened to Eu, but there's nothing at all.

"Maybe I should just go to the open sea."

Souji had examined the surrounding and did not find any abnormality, so he thought of investigating the sea from the sky.

"Become my desired image, orange flame."

The orange flame that Yoyo and Ninthe rode on before, unlike that time, was created into one person vehicle. He rode it and the orange flame moved as it was. It was as if he rode the golden cloud.

Though the people in the beach was surprised by Souji's appearance, Souji just ignored them and advanced to the sky.

He was in the open sea now, but it truly was quiet as he did not find anything at all.

“U~n, there's nothing to do except going into the sea, isn't it?”

Though he brought his swim wear, if possible he didn't want to enter the sea. Even if the surface looked calm, there were ferocious creatures inside and there were also belligerent tribe of Aquatic race.

If it turned into a battle, Souji could not skillfully use his magic. In the end it was fire, so it was weak against water.

It's possible for him to fight underwater because of the hellish training from the previous head butler, Balmunk, but it would be troublesome as he lost his advantage, his magic.

“Excuse me! Is there anyone who know a girl from aquatic race called Eu~!”

Of course he didn't expect any reply, but for now he shouted and thought it'd be the best if someone hear him. After he shouted and went around the sky for several times,

Blub blub blub blub...

Bubbles appeared from the place Souji was looking at. He watched it for a while, then he could see shadow under the bubble and,

Splash!

As if to personify fish, a fishman-like creature appeared from there.

(That's definitely someone from Whirlpool Scale(uzu uroko) tribe. Moreover, a male.)

Whirlpool Scale tribe, just like the name implied, it was a tribe with whirlpool-shaped scales that covered all of the fishman's body as its main characteristic. It was a part of Aquatic race that lived in this adjacent sea and renowned to have impatient personality, so Souji was cautious as it's possible to be suddenly attacked.

"So it's you! The one being noisy since a while ago!"

He was angry after all, so Souji decided to watch his words so as to not agitate him any more than this.

"I apologize. However, there is something I want to ask, so may I have some of your time?"

Souji's humble manner made the fishman clicked his tongue as if he felt it troublesome and,

"..... you, is that your magic?"

"Ee, it is as you say."

"tch, there is a problem due to magic even here."

"Eh? May I ask what do you mean by that?"

"..... it's unrelated to human."

"..... I apologize if I annoyed you. However, I have something I want to ask, may I?"

"..... say it."

"Thank you very much."

Souji bowed and said his gratitude.

"Well then, do you know a girl called Eu?"

"Ah? Eu? I dunno."

"Even if she is a child from Star Jellyfish tribe?"

"Hah? What did you just say?"

"Eh? A child from the Star Jellyfish...."

"You! Don't say you don't know what those guys did in this sea!?"

He came here to investigate it, but it seemed quite a troublesome thing had happened in this sea. The fishman's indignation was unusual, so Souji was taken aback.

"May I ask what happened?"

"Those guys petrified everyone that lived here!"

"P-Petrified..... you say?"

"That's right! A lot of my companions were also petrified! Other creatures too! Even though we didn't do anything to them! Yet, those guys ruined this sea!"

"..... but I can only see the calm sea and there is no sign of battle, isn't it?"

What greeted Souji's eyes was the unchanging, peaceful sea.

"Keh, that's now. However, the head of each tribes had discussed about it. We can't let them do as they like more than this. So, we decided to at the very least drive them out."

"D-Drive them out...?"

"Aah, only then if they resist that it'll become a war, you know, a war."

The matter seemed to be bigger than he thought of. In addition, Eu's existence might be related to this. Related to the reason she went up to the land in escaping like manner.

"If there's war of course it isn't peaceful. Then, what did the Star Jellyfish tribe said?"

"Ah? They said the culprit had been banished, so there's no more threat. But, do you think we believe it? Inside the sea is full of creatures petrified by them! Even if they said the threat has left, how can we convinced by that!"

The man's words made Souji capable of guessing what had happened. For example, if Eu was the one behind that petrification, her tribe probably had tried to cover up for her.

However, the matter had gone out of hand, so Eu was driven out by her tribe. Following that, she might have petrified a lot of creatures as she wandered the sea alone.

Thus she thought the sea was not the place she belong to and went up to the land. If she was really the culprit, then the peace in the sea was surely had been protected.

However, just like the man said, it was just a one-sided excuse, so it was necessary to give Eu's tribe punishment. Thus the heads of tribes decided to banish Star Jellyfish tribe from this sea.

"..... in the end, can't it be solved with discussion?"

“As if! They are the bad ones!”

“However, you are all from Aquatic race.”

“Keh! The sea has its own rule! Person from the land should just shut his mouth! Rather, why are you trying to thrust your head into this problem? Don't tell me, are you those guys' spy? Nothing will remain if those guys even use people from the land!”

“Y-You are wrong!”

“Don't try to lie!”

Suddenly, the man inhale the sea water and shot it just like a water-pistol.

“Please calm down! I am only here to talk!”

“Shut it! A mainlander should not meddle with us!”

The man fired water bullets as if he was a machine gun.

(Kuh! I should retreat for now!)

Judging they would not be able to converse if this keep up, Souji went back to the land. From his back, “Don't ever return!,” such yell could be heard, so Souji inadvertently sighed.

(Ojou-sama, looks like we have hired quite an unexpected girl.)

Having heard the circumstance from that fishman, Souji decided to move orange flame as-is to return to the mansion.

Story 32 The Thing She Held

Having returned to the mansion, Souji immediately conveyed the information he heard from the man of Whirlpool Scale tribe to Yoyo. Yoyo was hearing Souji's story while doing the paperwork in her room, but she suddenly stopped and frowned.

“..... so that's happened. With this, Eu is surely related to this matter.”

“That's right. Considering Eu's attitude and how she come from Star Jellyfish tribe, there's no mistake that she is involved in this. Rather, she is the center of this problem.”

“.....”

Yoyo shut her eyes with hand on her chin, she seemed to have entered consideration mode. However, they might become careful as to how to treat Eu from now on.

(Ojou-sama would never coldly driven someone she had welcomed in this mansion out..... however, we cannot take an optimistic view where nothing will happen if Eu lives here.)

Assumed that Eu was truly the one petrified the creatures in the sea, though they didn't know the cause to make that happened, there's the possibility that Eu might do the same to the people in this mansion.

Naturally, Souji never thought Eu as someone who could do such a thing, he understood even though they were just met.

Even so, what's the cause for Eu to come here, he wanted the information to confirm that. The current Souji could only make guesses.

(As expected, it'll be the best to hear it directly from Eu..... Ojou-sama probably thought the same thing now....)

However, it was Yoyo's decision to not hear Eu's story by force, and she was not someone who could easily overturned her decision.

“..... nee, Souji.”

“What is it?”

“It is only an if, but if someone is petrified, can you cure it?”

“..... it is possible if it was a kind of abnormal state. However, it'd be impossible if the person died right after being petrified. Isn't it the same as Ojou-sama?”note:her magic

“..... you are right.”

From what Souji knew of Yoyo's 『Tuning』 magic, by touching the object, there's the effect of freely adjusting the object's state. For examples, poison that entered the body could be changed into harmless protein, and it was possible to heal a cut at once by raising one's healing rate to maximum.

However, even Yoyo's magic would not be able to revive the dead. Souji at least guessed so.

If it was to cure someone from petrification, for example if Eu petrified someone from this mansion, Souji should be able to do it. However, if petrification = death, then it become something he could not just ignore.

It's possible that also reached even Yoyo. Not only that, for Yoyo that held the people in this mansion as someone important to her, she could not just continue the current situation as-is.

"Souji, can you tell Eu to come here?"

That might be the best answer. Though Yoyo's feelings could be guessed from her bitter expression, optimistic thoughts would be too dangerous. Her action was the correct one as the current master.

Bending her previous words, she'd be able to hear the information from Eu, but she believed Eu would opened her mind a little if she do it with a kind attitude.

"Certainly."

Eu was guided by Ninthe around the mansion, but now they seemed to cook together in the kitchen with Kaina joined them.

Souji went there at a quick pace, and there were the three in the kitchen just as he heard from Yoyo.

"Ah, Souji-sama!"

"Eh? Souji?"

Ninthe noticed him first and followed by Kaina who turned her head in panic.

"Mother, looks like you could not endure to just watching while hiding yourself, so you showed yourself huh."

"Wa- what's with that expression~! I am just teaching the two how to cook, it is purely for this mansion sake~!"

Punpun, Kaina puffed her cheeks, but he wanted her to stop that as she already had a son that almost twenty years old. Though there's no awkwardness as she had a childish face, it was awkward for Souji.

Souji sat on a chair and watched Eu peeling the vegetables off. She didn't notice Souji appearing at all. She looked like the type that'd fully concentrate on what she currently do. He approached her and the girl finally raised her face as she leaked a small "ah...."

"Yaa Eu, what do you think of this mansion? Have you come to like it?"

"Ah, un."

"What are you doing now?"

"Umm, Eu is peeling these off. Today's meal is stew."

Maybe because she liked stew, her cheeks were loosen in smile.

"I see, it is the best if you enjoy doing it."

"Souji-sama, where did you go?"

Ninthe approached with her innocent gaze.

"I am just doing an errand from Ojou-sama."

His words made Kaina's brows twitched. She faintly nodded when Souji saw her. She also shrugged her shoulders probably because she had guessed the situation. She might be asked by Yoyo to watch over Eu and somehow asked about her situation. Well, half of her reason was just because Eu and Ninthe were cute.

"Eu, I don't mind if it is after you finish peeling these off, so can you come with me to meet Ojou-sama?"

"Heh? Un, Eu don't mind."

She nodded her small head and,

"Then, Eu will end it quickly."

Moving the peeler, Eu peeled the vegetables' skin.

“What are you talking about?”

It piqued Ninthe’s interest, so she asked that.

“Ee, you know that Eu will be in charge of accounting, right?”

“Ah, yes.”

“However, it’d be too difficult to remember the work for the first time, that’s why I asked Ojou-sama to teach Eu some pointers about what to do from now on.”

“Hohe~ somehow it looks so difficult~”

Though that’s not completely a lie, Souji’s heart was pained by the thought that it’d be connected to the thing that made Eu sad.

“Ninthe, your hand is stopped~”

“Ah, I am sorry!”

Ninthe also had her share to peel and began to move her hand when she was reminded by Kaina. Next, Kaina approached him and whispered,

“Nothing happen for now. Eu is a good girl.”

“Ee, I know that already.”

“But, did you..... find something?”

“..... yes.”

He heard a small sigh from Kaina, but she immediately return to her previous location and began to instruct the two. Souji also helped them, he was with Eu until it ended.

(Ah, now that I remember. Maybe I should made the snack too.)

Thinking the talk with Eu would be long, Souji decided to cook something easy to eat.

After the first stage completed, Eu went to Yoyo's room accompanied by Souji. *Kon kon*, he knocked and entered the room after they obtained permission to do so.

"Sorry, Eu, to call you all of a sudden."

"Uun, Eu don't mind."

There were two sofas in Yoyo's room and Eu seated before the table that seemed to enclose Yoyo. Souji put the teas and cakes he brought with him before the two. Yoyo took a sip to moisten her throat and exhaled a warm breath.

"Nn, it is delicious, Souji."

"Thank you for the praise. Eu too don't hold back, there's the snack too."

"Y-yes."

"Ara, this is good. This cookie's sweetness is just right."

Yoyo moved it into her mouth in delight. What Souji made was cookies with choco chips included. A snack that suited the black tea Souji prepared.

"munch munch munch munch..."

Eu seemed to like it as she wholeheartedly and frantically moved her small mouth. Her adorable appearance was just like small animals that was eating the bait. After a breath, Yoyo began to speak quietly.

"Nee Eu, what do you think of everyone in this mansion? Do you think you can get along with them?"

"..... everyone's are nice."

"I see, I am happy to hear that. Have you heard anything about your work?"

"Only..... a little."

"About the real work as accountant, you can be at ease as Souji here will teach you everything."

"Onii-chan will...?"

Souji made a gentle smile and Eu cast down her gaze as she was a little embarrassed.

“Ara ara, has Souji already charmed such a lovely girl?”

“Eh...?”

Yoyo casually said so with lowered tone. Even from Eu’s attitude just now, Souji completely didn’t understand as to why it became he charmed her.

However, Souji certainly felt the room temperature got colder and thought it’d become a boomerang if he make any excuse, so he shortly said, “Please stop joking,” and asked if they wanted another cup of tea to change the topic.

“..... haa, the same Souji as always. Whatever, I want another cup.”

“Certainly. How about Eu?”

“E-Eu too.”

Tea added to the two’s cups and Souji put his hand on his chest as he was relieved that the topic changed.

“Well then, Eu, actually, I called you here because I have something I want to ask you.”

“..... what is it?”

“..... you are from Star Jellyfish tribe, right?”

Eu suddenly opened her eyes wide. Next, she was obviously shaken as her gaze swam around.

“Ah, uh, th-that is....”

“It’s okay for you to hide it. It isn’t like I thought of condemning you even if you are from Star Jellyfish tribe.”

“..... y-you won’t be angry?”

Eu said so in uneasiness.

“Ara, I don’t have a reason to be angry, so why would I? Or, did you do something that’d make me angry?”

Bikuh, Eu's body trembled and she cast her gaze down. Seeing her attitude, as expected she surely held something difficult to say.

"..... actually, Eu, Souji there went to the sea where the Star Jellyfish tribe live."
"! eh?"

Eu looked up to Yoyo, then she moved her face and gazed at Souji as-is.

"Though I thought I did something bad to you, you are someone who will take care of this mansion, so it's necessary to investigate your origin."

"....."

"Truthfully, I don't want to use this method to find out and I thought to wait until you want to tell me, but the situation called for it."

"..... what do you mean?"

"Now, the sea is...."

Following that, Yoyo explained the things she heard from Souji to Eu, and Eu's face gradually paler as the explanation continued. Next, she abruptly stood up.

"I-I must..... do something!"

Souji stood up before Eu to block her from leaving the room.

"Onii-chan, move!"

"Please calm down, Eu."

"But..... because of Eu..... that's why Eu must go...."

Eu gripped her maid uniform and hung her head down regretfully. Souji knelt and looked at Eu's face. Next, he smiled towards Eu and,

"Please tell me about what happened. I should be able to help you."

"..... O-.....-niichan..... why?"

"Eh?"

“Why..... are you so nice to Eu?”

“That’s an of course. You should’ve heard it from Ojou-sama. Eu is already a part of this family.”

“..... uu.”

“If a family member is troubled, we will help with all of our might.”

“U, hic..... hic..... uuh..... uh....”

“You might be scared to tell other about what you hold. However, we won’t abandon you. Isn’t it? Ojou-sama,”

“Ee, as the master, I wish for the happiness of the people in this mansion.”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaan!”

As-is, Eu clung to Souji head before her and began to cry. Souji gently received her and *pon pon*, he patted her back.

“There’s no need to worry. That’s why, please tell us. Tell us everything you held.”

Story 33 Seeking Information

Having stopped crying, Eu explained everything with some faltering. First, it was true that she came from Star Jellyfish tribe. Next, her tribe lived in the adjacent sea.

Following that, Eu was currently seven years old with only her mother as her family. Her tribe of tens of people lived together.

They lived in peace, but Eu said her body began to change around half a year ago. She suddenly caught a mysterious fever and collapsed, and not only her mother but everyone from her tribe were worried about her, and they ran about to cure Eu. However, the people of her tribe seen a bizarre spectacle in a certain day. That was, the surroundings of the sleeping Eu were petrified. With Eu at the center, the matter had spreaded until today.

Everyone from the Star Jellyfish tribe thought this was the effect of the disease that’s attacking Eu and they went around gathering information from the other tribes hoping they know something about it. However, the replies they got were, “We don’t know.”

Next, her mother approached Eu to feed her, but the discharge phenomenon fired from Eu’s body as she suddenly began to cry a big time, and her mother that touched by it was instantly petrified.

Seeing that, the people from her tribe were aghast, and they approached to examine her body as they thought they couldn’t just let it go on. The discharge phenomenon appeared again and everyone around her were also petrified just like her mother.

However, Eu's condition began to settle down gradually since then. Her fever downed and her reddened face returned to normal. Then, what waiting before her that finally opened her eyes was her petrified mother.

Eu asked the chief as to what had happened. Thus she was told that it became like this because of Eu's sickness which made her speechless.

The chief said it was not her but the disease fault, however for Eu she lost her mother due to herself being sick..... it could not be helped that she thought so.

The chief persuaded the tribesmen that it was just an accident, and commanded them not to blame Eu.

Some were convinced while there were also those that didn't. And in a certain day, Eu was embracing her petrified mother with eyes swollen with tears, and children around Eu's age approached her with eyes swollen with tears like her.

"You killed father!"

"That's right! You murderer!"

"We hate you!"

They were the children of the petrified adults. Saddened by the suddenness of losing their parents, their hatred turned towards Eu, and they began to criticize her simulatenously. Then it turned worse, they threw stones, hit her, Eu was harassed.

Eu was smart and gentle by nature, so she could neither angry nor resent the children. It was also because she thought it was her fault that the children were angry.

However, the children's hands finally turned towards Eu's petrified mother. A stone that a child threw hit the right arm of Eu's mother and crack appeared.

Seeing that, everything became pure-white before Eu's eyes and she screamed. Then she noticed the surrounding children had been petrified. And the people from her tribe that came when they heard the commotion,

"Are you the one who did this...? So, that's not a disease?"

With those words as the trigger, darkness could be seen inside their eyes.

“This heretic!”

“Because of you everyone are-! Get away from our tribe now!”

Such words were said by the tribesmen and though the chief tried to stop them, Eu screamed again as she was scared by the way the adults see her. Thus the discharge phenomenon fired from EU's body and instantly petrified the seaweeds and fishes it touched.

“D-Damn it! If this keeps up our home will-! Eei! Begone, Eu!”

“W-Wait!”

Though the chief tried to stop him, the man shot out a mass of air from his hand towards Eu. And that hit Eu. The severe pain made her body collapsed.

To worsen it, the man tried to attack again, but the chief stood before Eu to cover her and spoke to Eu with his back before her.

“Run away, hurry. I'm sorry to put you into such a situation.”

“B-But, mother is....”

“Leave your mother to me. Now, escape from here for your survival.”

“B-But!”

“Hurry!”

Overwhelmed by the chief, Eu ran away from there.

Since then, she began to live alone for a while. She continued to search for the place where she could live easily inside the sea.

However, various fishes and others from aquatic race approached her as she wandered inside the sea, and she fired the discharge phenomenon every times she was frightened. Thus everythings touched by the electrical discharge were petrified.

Recognizing that it was not a sickness but she herself was the petrifier, Eu lived in the ocean where no one would approach.

However, her unique constitution made her could not fit in even inside the ocean. Thus thinking her unique constitution could be cured on the land, she reached towards the light that reflected by the water surface.

Having heard Eu's story, Souji and Yoyo were currently watching the exhausted Eu sleeping on the sofa. Souji put a blanket on her so she would not catch a cold.

"You've cried much, but still able to finish your story. So, please sleep well."

At the time Yoyo drawn the black tea Souji brought to her mouth,

"Looks like what happened to her is just a we guessed."

"Ee, her magic probably went out of control when it first appeared. Normally, most people would be conscious when it happens. However, this child was an exception because of her sickness."

"Looks like it. She was likely to be just sick at first. However, her magic appeared by chance and went berserk as she could not control it..... something like that."

It meant, the worsening of Eu's physical condition did not related to the appearance of her magic. It was only by chance that her physical condition worsened. However, her magic appeared right at the time she was sick.

The high fever that continued for a long time was because the 《Magic Core》 in her chest moved actively. That's why, her fever immediately downed once her magic appeared. Her sickness was likely not a severe one and should be healed immediately if not for that.

"Ee, it's just an unfortunate accident. However, the people of Star Jellyfish tribe probably felt that her magic was a threat as they didn't know of this fact."

"Maa, after all it instantly petrify people, so of course they'd be frightened by it."

After seeing Eu's sleeping face that seemed to have some of her burdens removed, no one would be able to think this child experienced such a sad past.

"However, it has happened. And it was a fact the sea is in trouble now because of that. Though we can just watch how the things develop from now on..... what shall we do?"

"Fufu, Souji, are you trying to provoke me?"

Yoyo watched him with narrowed eyes as she floated a beautiful smile.

"No, there's no such a thing."

"The one who understand the best about what will I do from now is you, isn't it?"

"....."

"Fufu, that's right, first of all, I need to obtain more detailed information of the sea's current state. Souji, make the preparation now."

"Certainly, Yoyo-ojousama."

Souji bowed respectfully.

"..... uh...."

"Ara, have you wake up?"

From sleeping to waking up, two hours had passed since then. Souji was the one who laid Eu on the bed. And thinking Eu would be uneasy if she woke up alone, Yoyo ordered Kaina to stand by Eu's side.

“..... here is?”

“It’s Souji’s room. After all, your room has not been prepared yet~. But I think it’ll be done before the night.”

“..... Onii-chan’s..... room?”

“That’s right. But, looks like you have spoken everything~. You did your best, Eu.”

Then Kaina quietly put her hand on Eu’s head and patted it. Though Eu was surprised, she closed her eyes as she felt it pleasant.

“U-Umm..... where are Onii-chan and Yoyo-sama?”

“Nn~ they are going out for a bit.”

“Going out?”

“Yup.”

“Where?”

“To various places for Eu’s sake.”

“..... for Eu?”

“Yup, that’s why please be at ease and rest some more.”

Eu started getting up after she hurriedly removed the bedding. However, Kaina touched her forehead and smiled.

“There’s nothing to be worried about. Our Yoyo-sama and Souji-sama wi~ll surely able to do something!”

“.....?”

Not understanding what Kaina meant, Eu wore an astonished face.

Story 34 Information Dealer, Nobile

The mansion Souji lived in was located in 【Moriata】 town, 《Nockles Region》, 【Dolkia Continent】. There were three regions in 【Dolkia Continent】 and currently Souji and Yoyo had arrived at 《Gudo Region》.

There were various towns and villages in the region, but the carriage was driven towards the 【Barvalha】 town. The town had its own special characteristic which was a lot of bad people gathered here.

In the beginning, it was just a small village, but those ruffians migrated here one after another, and it gradually developed into a big city.

Gambling was particularly active in this city and it was not an exaggeration to say the gambling made the town grew. It was a town where money keep moving all day long, and it also famous as a town that never sleep.

As for the reason Souji and Yoyo came to such a place, they knew there was an excellent information dealer here.

Even if the region was different, the distance between 【Barvalha】 and 【Moriarte】 wasn't that far. Therefore, they came here thinking they'd be able to obtain information they need as the town was near the sea where Star Jellyfish tribe lived.

"It's always a lively town no matter how many times I come here."

"Ee, but look there."

"Eh?"

What Yoyo pointed at was a man surrounded by several men. They looked quite the bad ones. Then the several men attacked that one man together and escaped after they took the attacked man's luggage.

"Thieves..... no, more like robbers."

It was a true robbery as the victim was attacked.

"Ee, that kind of activity is a daily thing here. Especially those dressed like us would be targeted immediately before we know it."

"As usual, this is a lawless zone huh. Now I remember, it is also called crime town."

The only rule in this town was the jungle rule. That's why, there'd be no problem to deprive someone of their money and goods as it was the result of them being the weak one.

The two talked as they walked and,

"..... Souji."

"Yes. Looks like we are surrounded."

The two halt. Souji was in full alert so he could protect Yoyo at any time. Thus rough-looking people appeared from the alleys. There were five people in all.

“My my~, aren’t that quite the good clothing you wear.”

“I wonder from which noble are you~.”

“With that said, looks like you don’t know there’ll be a trial here.”

Though the men said so,

“Oh my, don’t you know who I am?”

“Haa? You, just what are you saying? Of course we don’t.”

The man answered Souji’s question and spit at him.

“Even if I look like this, I have received the trial a long time ago.”

“Haa?”

“Yes, it is just as I said. You people, are you newcomers in this town here? If so, it can’t be helped that you didn’t know who I am.”

“Just what are you babbling about? Oi guys, let’s first take the red-hair’s expensive-looking clothes!”

The other men agreed to the man. Souji shrugged his shoulders as if to say *good grief*. Then the five men came towards Souji simultaneously.

“Ojou-sama, please excuse me for a bit.”

“Ee.”

Souji carried Yoyo in princess carry and jumped high that he reached the building’s roof as-is. There, he let Yoyo down and,

“Oi bastard! Get down here!”

“Yes yes. I will go down now even if you don’t shout so.”

Souji jumped down from the roof and once again positioned himself in the middle of the five men.

“Though you seemed to have high jumping ability, don’t come here if you can only do that!”

When the five men tried to catch Souji again, Souji instantaneously moved from his location and kicked one of the men’s stomach. As-is the man blown away as his saliva scattered, then Souji used the back of his fists to hit the face of two men near him and continued with a round kick. They grandly rolled on the ground and crashed into the buildings’ walls.

Three men had been silenced in that move. Next, of the two people left, Souji promptly moved before one of the men, thrust his fist into the pit of the man’s stomach, and the man fainted in agony.

The last man was astonished after seeing such a spectacle. Souji smiled at the man and,

“Well then, you are the only one left, so?”

“A..... ah, hahaha, aren’t ya quite a good one bro. I-I admit it! You passed the trial! So....”

“Please don’t say something that convenient.”

Souji immediately moved behind the man and he quietly gripped the back of the man’s neck.

“Here is using the law of the jungle, you know? That’s why, don’t complain if I do something to you, okay?”

Though he could not see the man’s face, Souji said so in derision. The man’s body began to convulse as the blood could not flow into his head.

“It’ll be good if you remember this. The next time you try to put your hand on Ojou-sama or me..... you’ll be gone from this world, kay?”

As-is, he thrust the man’s head to the nearby wall. *Bakiih*, the wall broke because of the force, but it seemed to not resulting in mortal wound as the man’s body was still convulsing. Souji brought Yoyo down to the ground again, and they advanced.

“So Souji had received the trial here, it must be at the time you went to travel with Bal.”

“Ee, I passed it at that time.”

Bal was Balmunk, the head butler before Souji, a middle-aged man that serve Yoyo’s father. To make Souji independent as a butler and to be a splendid successor of him, Balmunk made Souji traveled with him for several years.

As for Souji, he called it 《Hell Travel》 due to the too fierce journey. Though it was done for Souji, he didn’t want to experience such a traveling again.

During the travel, he came to this town and received the trial. As for the trial, frankly it was just to test one’s ability. To test whether ones could defend themselves from the attack of those rough-looking men.

Of course if one failed he’d immediately thrown outside, deprived of everything. If one splendidly succeed, then the rumour of him being strong would spread in the town and the chance of being attacked again would extremely decreased.

But just like before, newcomers didn’t know the past Souji, so they’d attack to test him. It was not a strange thing. This happened a lot because a lot of people going in and out of this town.

The old timers remembered his face and name, but the trouble never end. Yoyo had came here with Souji, and although Yoyo didn’t fight, her face was remembered as a set with Souji.

“Well then, it’s around that corner, Souji.”

“Ee, I wonder is she still energetic?”

“Who knows. But she probably will sell the information with an unreasonable price again, right?”

“Ahaha, that’s just like her.”

The two advanced straight in the pathway and turned into a small alley. Then, a building came into their views. A dark building where sunlight didn’t reach.

In a place where it would not be strange for mushroom and moss to grow, a house with roof that looked like an opened book was built.

First, Souji approached the door and the bell that was hung from the ceiling was rung for several times. However, there’s no answer. As he strained his ears, *uhihihhi*, a laughter of someone covering its mouth as it enjoying something could be heard.

“Pardon my intrusion~.”

Souji said so, opened the door, and entered. Then there's the counter, beyond it was a room with a big box and there's a face appeared from within the gold and silver filled box.

“Uhihihi~ mo~ney mo~ney~.”

Seeing the person that sung broken song with captivated face, Yoyo said,

“..... how ugly.”

I think so too. Was what Souji said in his mind.

“Well~ sorry sorry! I was working everyday, so I satisfied myself with 『I am a woman buried in money』 right~.”

Probably everyone would be able to understand just by seeing her once. She was a matchless money lover. She especially liked expensive jewels and metals, her favorite is to get a large amount of money

Her name was Nobile Frohze. A super elite information dealer, and a miser that would ask a large amount of money as payment. Frankly she was just a greedy person.

From her look, she was in the first half of her twenty, her figure was good with long and narrowed eyes, and though she was unmistakably a beauty, she was a man hater.

After all, she was cruelly betrayed by a man in the past and her trauma turned her into that.

That's why, she would cruelly demand a man that come for information ten times the price she gives to a woman.

Even at the beginning, she was that cruel to Souji. She saw Souji as if he was a filth and only speak a little which ended with her clicking her tongue. It took considerable amount of time until she became friendly.

Because there's Yoyo at that times, it was considerable faster for her to become friendly with Souji compared to other men. Souji was glad that she acted normally before Souji now.

"Yoyo-chan and Souji-chan, long time no see right~."

Seeing Nobile floated a friendly smile, one would not be able to think that she was a man hater.

"Ee, long time no see."

"Same here, so how are you?"

"Un un, energetic here! Maa, only Souji-chan will worry about me~. Onee-san is happy~"

"I am glad to hear that."

"Ehehe~, well, what is it now~?"

"Actually, we come here to ask something."

"Fuun, for even Yoyo-chan to purposely come here..... is it related to the mansion?"

Though she was still smiling, Nobile's eyes narrowed as if she was looking for something.

(She might be looking for the money we bring~)

Though Souji sighed in his mind, he was watching what the silent Yoyo would do.

"If it's you, you must have the information about the adjacent sea, right?"

"Nn~ maa, I have quite the networks after all right~. Though Yoyo-chan is also an information dealer, but you specialized in business related ones right~."

There were various kind of information dealers. For Yoyo, it was mostly related to business, about how the price in a place increased and the information about the thing a famous noble want.

Of course those weren't all as it was not strange for an information dealers to visit other information dealers, buy their information, or just to share information.

“Do you know the current problem of the Aquatic race in the adjacent sea?”

“..... I~ see. What Yoyo-chan want is information about them huh~. Ah, don't tell me, did you hire someone from the Aquatic race in your mansion?”

Nobile was not an information dealer just for show. Her skill to obtain information was splendid, and her reasoning ability was also high. Even with a remark, she could accurately judge what's the meaning behind it, and her strong point was to be able to think thing logically.

“Fufu, as expected of you. It is just as you said, that's why a little problem had appeared. I came her to obtain any information you have about the sea.”

“Fu~n, maa, I won't ask anything personal you know~. Selling information is the work of an information dealer after all. So, it's common not to delve into the customer's privacy for more than necessary right~.”

“Then, you have the information?”

However, Souji did not overlook that Nobile's eyes shone at the time Yoyo said so.

“There is you know. But..... it's expensive, you know?”

Story 35 The Gained Information

It really was the shine of a miser's eyes.

However, Yoyo answered calmly with a cool face.

“Ee, I don't mind.”

“..... as~ expected, Yoyo-chan will do anything for her family right~. Souji and the others must be happy right~.”

“Certainly. I am happy that I can serve Ojou-sama.”

He really meant what he said, and Yoyo's shoulders twitched while Nobile was grinning when she saw Yoyo's face.

“A~a, I feel hot right~, though there's no heating appliance here right~.”

Nobile said so with teasing tone, but Souji only tilted his head as he didn't understand her reason to say that.

Souji could only see the back figure of Yoyo, but before Nobile was Yoyo's face with flushed cheeks. And though she tried hard to remain calm, Yoyo was obviously shaken by Souji's words.

"L-Let's leave it at that! So, are you going to sell the information?"

Because she could feel the strength in Yoyo's words, the giggling Nobile immediately tightened her expression. It was a businessman's face.

"First, tell me what kind of information you want."

"All right."

Yoyo told what currently happening in the adjacent sea and Nobile respond with *fumu fumu* as she listening attentively to it. Thus after the talk was over,

"Apparently, it matched with the information I got right~. In other words, Yoyo-chan wants to learn what kind of discussions the tribes inhabiting the adjacent sea are, and followed by the current state of the Star Jellyfish tribe right."

"It so."

"OK~, you can expect fresh information from me~."

"Thank you. Well? How much is it?"

"Hmm~, well this information is not that hidden after all~. With little to lose, it will be 2,000,000 Dras you know~."

He felt his eyes popping out. If seeing this for the first time, one would make a commotion as one said, "T-Twotwotwotwotwotwotwo millions!?" And though he knew she was greedy, that's still too expensive.

Information dealt by the information dealers normally would be ranked. From the lowest there were E, D, C, B, A, and S as the highest, and the current information should be more or less C ranked.

For C rank, the highest market price should be around 5~1 million. Because it was twice the highest price, it was the same as murder.

It was still an okay because Yoyo was client, but if it was an unknown male, it would not be strange that she charged tens times higher which would made one's heart jumped out. Normally, no one would buy information from her, normally.

But as to why she was still an information dealer even now, it was because there's no lie in her information up until now. Moreover, it was an extremely accurate, fresh information. That was because she lived in this world.

"Two millions huh, Souji."

"Yes."

Answering Yoyo, Souji narrowed his eyes and his right hand moved towards empty space.

"Open the storage, purple flame."

At the same time he muttered that, swirling purple-colored flame appeared from his right palm. Next, it gradually transformed into a door as tall as Shouji's shoulder. Moreover, it appeared to be a double door.

The door opened out and a dark space spreaded inside. Souji put his hand inside.

"Nn~ ah, here it is."

Rummaging inside, he grabbed and pulled out the thing inside. It was a case made with a sturdy material. He put the case on the counter.

"Aha~, Souji-chan's magic is marvelously interesting as usual right~."

Nobile had seen it for many times, so she only happily smiled, but those seeing it for the first would surely be surprised.

This flame's characteristic was the ability to put and took out things inside. In other words, there's no need to carry one's possession by hand as it was possible to empty-handedly travel anywhere.

Moreover, food could also be put inside with nice effect that it would neither rot nor deteriorate. It was a godsend effect for cooks as it was possible to cook with fresh ingredients at any time if the ingredients were put inside.

The only limit Souji knew was it's impossible to store living thing.

"Then, I shall open it."

Opening the case, there was a small pouch which made even Nobile frown seeing it. Yoyo chuckled and opened the pouch to show the inside.

"TH-THIS IS-!?"

Nobile opened her mouth with eyes wide opened. Next, a magic circle was produced on the counter in the next moment and a small creature appeared.

"Mofusuke, appraise it!"

"Moffufu~."

What suddenly appeared was a stuffed doll-like dog with brown, fluffy (*mofumofu*) fur. Though it was a bipedal, its eyes were lovely and there was a monocle on its right eye. The round tail made one wanted to touch it.

Trotting, it shut one eye and Mofusuke silently stared at the thing inside the pouch.

"Mofumofu~."

Stopping at that and looking at the three,

"Mofu mofu~ mofutto! Un, this is the real deal-mofu, Nobile!"

Of course it was not a stuffed animal, so there's no one inside. However, it talked. And Souji recalled being greatly surprised the first time he seen it.

This Mofusuke is Nobile's magic. It'd be okay to say her magic created magical creatures. They could talk and act just like people. Following that, they always lurked inside Nobile's magic power, so they could appear whenever needed.

Mofusuke's ability was to appraise. And as its name suggested, it was an ability to appraise the thing it see.

"Th-Then THIS is..... <<Rainbow Sand>>?"

"Yes, it is. This much will be enough, right?"

"Rather than enough..... at the lowest, this will be around three millions you know! Eh? Is it really okay?"

Nobile was completely perplexed by the thing Yoyo brought. After all, <<Rainbow Sand>> was that valuable.

An animal called Iris bird lived in the island further east of the 【Dolkia Continent】. These creatures laid egg which incubated for three years with temperature more than 70 °C until it turned into ashes which rainbow in color.

However, Iris bird did not easily lay egg, so perseverance was needed to get hand on it. Furthermore, not all eggs were rainbow in color. Most of the eggs would only turned into normal ashes.

That's why <<Rainbow Sand>> was scarce in number, and the set price in auction was a hundred million for 100 grams even now.

And even though the <<Rainbow Sand>> amounted so small that it'd blown and disappeared, the price would become higher if it was put on the auction.

That's why, even though it was Nobile herself that said two millions, she was surprised because what Yoyo put out was something with higher value than that.

"D-D-Do you need the change?"

"No, there's no need."

"R-REALLY!?"

Nobile's mouth further opened wide. She felt it was unbelievable.

"However, there's a condition."

"..... condition?"

Nobile cautiously looked at Yoyo.

“It is not that hard of a demand. We are going to intervene with the problem in the adjacent sea, that’s why I want you to make the information around there as your top priority until it is solved.”

“..... are you sure only want information about the adjacent sea?”

“Ee, is something wrong?”

Nobile crossed her arms and shut her eyes as she began to think, and with one eye occasionally opened to sneak a look on the <<Rainbow Sand>>, her cheeks loosened.

(She really like it..... the money.)

Though Souji was amazed, he felt good that she was easy to understand. She would not tell any lie as long as the price was paid.

Thus after a while, Nobile looked at Mofusuke and,

“Mofusuke, what do you think?”

“Mofu? I think it is okay-mofu. Beside, Yoyo and Souji are the clients-mofu~.”

“U~n..... YOSH! Okay! I will sell with that condition!”

The deal reached an agreement.

The case with <<Rainbow Sand>> inside was handed to Nobile and Nobile quietly opened her mouth.

“Then, let me present the information now~. Come out, Fuwakichi!”

When she finished her words, another magic circle appeared on the counter and this time there was a sheep-like creature which covered in fluffly(*fuwafuwa*), white fur, this was another bipedal stuffed animal-like creature.

The tail rolled into a comma was adorable. Moreover, there was a knob-like thing on its stomach. And it somehow was saluting just like the police in Japan.

“I have come with fresh information just as ordered-fuwa!”

“Ye~s, then let me opened your stoma~ch.”

Nobile touched the knob on Fuwakichi’s stomach and pulled it just like a slide. Inside was not internal organs but several sheets of paper.

Nobile took the paper and used the knob to close it. Next, she handed it to Yoyo with a wink.

“Inside is the information Yoyo-chan want to know you know~. Thanks for the business okay~.”

Having obtained <<Rainbow Sand>>, Nobile was smiling happily. By the way, Fuwakichi she summoned was of course a magical creature.

Its ability was to download information. An excellent ability where it was possible to take the information out using the paper as medium like just now whenever needed.

Her magic was cultivated for the sake of being an information dealer.

“Thank you. Let’s go, Souji.”

“Certainly.”

The two turned their backs on Nobile and,

“Come again~, Yoyo-chan, Souji-chan~.”

Nobile waved her hand to send them off. Souji lightly returned a bow and they went out of the building.

Story 36 Star Jellyfish Tribe’s Decision

Several hours before Souji and Yoyo meet Nobile, the chief of the Star Jellyfish tribe that lived in this sea held a discussion. The topic was the petrification that had become a problem in this sea.

People had considered the Star Jellyfish tribe as the center of this problem as the petrification started with sea creatures which lived around them continued with others from Aquatic race.

They were being blamed by the other tribes.

People of Star Jellyfish tribe knew the petrifier. After all, the culprit, Eu, was someone from Star Jellyfish tribe. However, she had been driven out from their home, she was not here anymore, so she shouldn't be able to petrify people from other tribes. They had informed so to the chief of other tribes, but the anger didn't diminish.

Thinking it normally, the other tribes one-sidedly had their people petrified, so they wanted the Star Jellyfish tribe to take responsibility even if the culprit was no more. However, only the chief considered that while the others didn't.

"What are you saying! This thing is that monster's doing!"

"That's right! We are also the victims here!"

"Besides, we are not related to that anymore, so it isn't necessary for us covering for that thing!"

The tribesmen were only blaming Eu. Even if Eu did that unconsciously, it was the truth that they suffered considerable damage.

Resultantly, it was also the truth that the other tribes told them to get out of this sea to take responsibility as people from the same tribe. However, none of the tribesmen agreed to do that.

After all, their own family had also been petrified by Eu. And Eu became hated by most of the people here.

"Everyone, it is true that we suffer such a crisis where we are going to be driven out of home now because of Eu. However, isn't Eu also a victim?"

However, only few people could accepted the chief's words.

"Why! We have banished that monster and the sea should be peaceful now! As for the proof, no one was petrified for a while now!"

Just as the man said, the calm days had been continued for a while now. Almost everyday petrified thing appearing since the time Eu was driven out. Those are the seaweed and deep sea creatures of the sea a little away from here, but such a situation had not been occurring for a while now.

"That thing must've went far deeper, even huge creature would be dead there! That's the truth!"

“Hey, that’s not something you can thoughtlessly say. Even if we driven Eu out, she is still someone from Star Jellyfish tribe like us.”

The chief’s words made the others shrugged their shoulders. The silent continued, and a man was panicking within such a heavy mood.

“What is it?”

That man was also someone from Star Jellyfish tribe, but the story they heard from him made everyone surprised and time seemed to freeze.

“I-Is that true?”

The chief had his eyes wide opened as he could not believe it.

“Y-Yes. It was decided by a conference held by the other tribes’ chiefs.”

“..... kuh.”

The chief grit his teeth and,

“They told us to hand them the culprit.....?”

“Y-Yes.”

“If not..... they’ll drive us out..... by force?”

“..... yes.”

The answer the man squeezed out made the chief raised an anguished expression. If they did not give out the culprit behind the petrification, Eu, the tribe would be banished from this sea by force.

The other tribes’ chiefs had decided so. They must’ve wanted to punish the criminal with their own hands. Only by doing that they would be able to calm down.

It was a bad luck that a lot of the aquatic race living here had rough temperament.

“Looks like..... we cannot settle this with words anymore.”

Not only the chief, the other tribesmen were speechless because of that demand. After all, Eu was no longer here. Even if they search for her, they could not guess where she was now.

“I-Is there a time limit?”

“..... one week..... they said.”

What it meant, they must find Eu whose location was unknown in this vast ocean within one week. Frankly, it was an unreasonable demand.

Though the chief felt they could do nothing but accept that decision,

“..... we might be able to find her.”

One of the tribesmen muttered so. Thus the others asked him with, “What do you mean?”

“Actually, I recently overhear it, there’s a man living in the sea shrine several kilometers from here.”

“So, what are you trying to say?”

“He called himself sea hitman and he’ll kidnap or kill anything as long as there’s enough reward. Wh-What do you think of asking him? It is said that he had gone to various sea, so he might be able to find Eu.”

Finding hope in the man’s words, “Ooh~!,” the other tribesmen raised voices of admiration. However, the chief had a bitter expression.

“All of you, are you really going to search for Eu?”

“Of course! Just how much do you think we have suffered because of that thing!”

“But....”

“No matter what chief said, I’ll contact that man for the sake of this tribe’s peace.”

“Isn’t Eu also one of our tribe?”

“Such a monster is not one of us!”

Only one man shouting so, but the other tribesmen were nodding as they felt the same. Thus everyone left the place in silent.

The chief was the only one left, he was looking at his dwelling where a certain person stood.

“..... I am sorry, this me could not find any way to stop them.”

What projected in the eyes that shaking in regret was the petrified mother of Eu.

Having returned to the mansion, Souji and Yoyo wore difficult expressions inside Yoyo's study. The reason was the information gained from the information dealer, Nobile. As expected of the information dealer Yoyo count on, there were also the profiles of aquatic race living in the adjacent sea with marvelous details that worth the price, but the thing that surprised them the most was one of the decision made among the aquatic race.

A lot of people from aquatic race were petrified by Eu who was someone from Star Jellyfish tribe. So, the other tribes demanded Star Jellyfish tribe to get out of that sea so as to take responsibility.

Of course the Star Jellyfish tribe objected, but the other tribes' chiefs already made a compromise with another proposal.

That was to hand Eu over. With the anger of other aquatic race in adjacent sea not calming down, they'd forcefully driven Star Jellyfish tribe out of the sea unless the culprit, Eu, was handed over.

If so, the Star Jellyfish tribe might be destroyed if they did poorly. Of course it'd end well if the Star Jellyfish tribe went out of that sea, but it looked like they would not agree to do that.

“And, this thing is the one making me anxious.”

Yoyo muttered that as she cast her gaze down to the paper.

“Me too. For the Star Jellyfish tribe to hire a man calling himself a hitman..... is it for Eu?”

“That might be so. They probably asked the hitman to search and capture Eu.”

“Might there be any information on the hitman?”

“It is written on another paper. Fufu, it really is fresh information.”

There were several sheets of paper, Yoyo put one of them on the desk.

“The name is Jack Note. He is a person from aquatic race called Land Shark tribe that originally lived on the northern sea.”

“Hee~, I am sure there are lot of battle-lover in Land Shark tribe, and isn’t it a tribe that excelled in combat?”

“Ee, moreover, Jack Note is even more of a battle-lover among the tribe, he unabashedly killed his companions.”

“The worst bastard huh.”

If someone become his enemy, he’d unabashedly injured that person even if it was a companion. Apparently, he had a considerably dangerous personality.

“Why such a person here?”

“About that, wait..... here it is. I see, he was banished from the sea he lived in because he killed a comrade and now he’s here.”

“In other words, he fled here?”

“That’s so. Because the sea here is not as dangerous as the northern sea, he probably thought he’d be able to enjoy killing here, right?”

His motive was just like how one wants to overcome nausea. Of course his objective is not limited to what Yoyo guessed, but for him to kill his own comrade....

As he thought so, Souji got an idea about Eu’s matter. Thus having read Souji’s intention, Yoyo opened her mouth.

“Souji, that child is a pure and good child. For example, if her companions are injured as a result, she will certainly regret and try to compensate for it.”

“..... it is as you said. I am sorry, Ojou-sama.”

“Besides, it’s not like those petrified are dead.”

That’s right. Just as Yoyo said, even if Eu unconsciously injured her companions and lot of others, she certainly felt the pain and shed tears for them.

Furthermore, it was not for certain that those petrified were dead, so Souji was scolded for thinking of killing her companions.

“However, it’ll be quite troublesome if this Jock Note make a move.”

“That’s right. We don’t know how good he is from the gathered information of him, but if he find out Eu is here, he’ll certainly come as he is hired for this.”

Actually, Eu was standing out since the time she went into the land, so information about her would easily be gained if one told her feature.

“..... from the tribes’ chief conference, one week was given to the Star Jellyfish tribe,”

“A short one huh. The tribesmen should also searching Eu in frenzy.”

“That’s right. I will put an order where Eu must not go out of this residence, and about the petrification..... only this we don’t know as to whether it is curable.”

“It will be good if my green flame and Ojou-sama’s 『Tuning』 can heal it, but we cannot say it for certain as we haven’t see anything.”

“..... has Eu petrified something since she came to this mansion?”

“Aa, indeed. If we can cure that then the others will be curable too. However, what will we do if we can’t?”

Rather, the maids would’ve told them if something like that was found, so perhaps there’s none. It looked like Yoyo said so even though she understood that.

“..... it will be the best if Eu can use her power, but she seems to not have a complete control over it, and it make it more difficult as there’s the danger of it going out of control if it is done forcefully.”

If Eu could control her power, it’d be okay for her to petrify the books on the bookshelf or even the papers on their hands which they’d be able to try to return to normal.

However, guessing from her story, she could not use it well even though she knew it was her own power.

“Though I’d be able to understand more about her power if I touch her and use tuning....”

“..... shall I call Eu?”

Yoyo closed her eyes and thinking for a while. Then,

“Indeed. We will just lose our time if we do nothing. That’s why we will do whatever we can for her.”

She answered so and Souji went out of the room to call Eu. While doing so, he asked the maids around if they found any petrified object, but there’s none. As expected, he could do nothing but rely on Eu for this matter.

Story 37 A Gift from God

Being called to Yoyo’s study, what’s happening in the adjacent sea was being conveyed to Eu in an extent that would not agitate her. The matter about her tribe hiring a hitman was not conveyed.

“Eu, your power is not your tribe’s characteristic, it probably is your magic.”

“..... magic? Eu’s power?”

Eu moved her mouth as she was surprised by what Yoyo said.

“Ee, unfortunately I can’t prove that. It’s only my guess after all. So, does Eu want to know the truth of your power?”

“Eu is..... Eu’s..... power is..... dangerous.”

“Indeed. Eu’s power is certainly dangerous. There’s already damages from it too.”

It might be a rather sharp words, but Yoyo didn’t stop as she needed Eu to be conscious of the truth.

“Listen, Eu know there’s existence of magic in this world, right?”

“Eh..... un”

“About magic, it is something that can become a blade to hurt others if it is misused.”

“.....”

Yoyo’s sharp gaze which turned to Eu made Eu’s shoulders trembled, gradually.

“..... however.”

Relaxing her expression, Yoyo smiled gently.

“Depending on the usage, it can also help someone.”

“..... help..... someone?”

“That’s right, even the power kept inside your small body should be able to save someone.”

Eu displayed a puzzled expression and turned her gaze to Souji which Souji respond with a nod as he smiled. Next, his hand was quietly put on Eu’s head which made her leaked a small, “ah...,” and,

“That’s right, Eu. Magic is something amazing. It’s not something anyone have equally. Magic is..... a godsend ability.”

“Eu’s..... ability?”

“Yeah. Thus it is up to Eu to use or to kill that ability. Simply, if Eu work hard then the power you fear of will become a family that’ll help you.”

“Fami..... ly? u..... just like..... Onii-chan, Onee-chan..... and Ninthe?”

“That’s right, however, if Eu always fear it, if you do not face your own power, then it won’t become your family no matter how many time passed.”

“That’s..... Eu don’t want that.”

Souji gently pat her head, and Eu narrowed her eyes due to feeling pleasant.

“If so, first, let’s make friend with that power.”

“Fri.... end?”

“Yes. Then some day, it will become your family.”

“.....”

This time, Eu moved her gaze from Souji towards Yoyo. Yoyo once again floated a beautiful smile as she looked at Eu.

“And I will help you to make that happen.”

Receiving Yoyo’s words, Eu cast her gaze down for a while. No one and nothing speak as they waited for Eu’s answer. Thus she bit her lip and raised her face.

“E-Eu will do it! Eu, Eu wants a lot of family members!”

I am truly glad. Souji had thought in his mind that she'd run away due to fearing her power. But his thought was fortunately came off as she showed her strength. That's something to be happy about.

Yoyo relaxed her cheeks as she seemed to be relieved. It probably because she also thought the same as Souji.

Souji and Yoyo looked at each other and nodded mutually. Following that, Yoyo stood up from her chair and said.

“Then, we shall start now. First, let's make a friend for Eu.”

Around that time, Mayuki and Sheila, who continued their search for Souji, were walking inside the town together with the third princess of 【Schneeh Kingdom】 , Koram Hyatt Schneeh and her maid, Olulu Chain whom they met in this town.

“I see, so Koram-sama and Olulu are here for the information dealer.”

Mayuki had heard the girls' reason to come here from Olulu in the previous restaurant.

“Yes. We thought it'd be possible to obtain the information of the person Princess adores.”

“O-O-O-O-O-Olulu-!”

“What is it, Princess? Why such a panic?”

Certainly, Koram's face somehow reddened as she panicked.

“D-Don’t misunderstand! I-I only want to thank him about th-that time..... th-there..... there’s no way it is related to I-love!”

“Ara, is that so? However, Princess always carry the brooch gotten from that person at that time....”

“Uwaaaaaah! H-Hohohohohow did you know! I-I never say anything about this brooch to anyone!”

“Well, that is because I am Princess’s maid. There is nothing I don’t know about Princess.”

Though she smiled radiantly, hidden behind her smile was the strange master-servant relationship. It’s obvious that Olulu was the one with master-like aura here.

“Uu~..... Olulu is always like this....”

Seeing the teary Koram,

(Uwah, Koram-sama so cute....)

Mayuki was charmed by Koram that she felt the impulse to hug her. That’s when Olulu clapped her hands,

“Maa, that’s why I looked for the information dealer for the Princess who always thinking of man from her past.”

“I-I see..... haha.”

Mayuki forced a smile at Olulu’s words. Even Sheila had her cheek cramped. As expected, this maid probably the strongest here.

“Th-Then, did you find the information dealer?”

Sheila’s question replied by Olulu with, “Yes,” as she nodded. However, her expression immediately shadowed.

“Actually, the information dealer here isn’t that good, so I didn’t get any satisfactory answer.”
“Now that you mention it, you two said that you are also have business with the information dealer.”

Koram turned towards Mayuki and Sheila, and promptly said that.

“Ah, yes. Actually, we are also looking for someone.”

“Hou, what a coincidence. A man? A woman?”

“A boy.”

“Hohou, this is also what coincidence. The one we are looking for is also a boy! Though a long time had passed, the one who saved me is a boy. He is surely have become an excellent man by now! Ahaha!”

Maybe because she beautified the memory of the boy, she didn’t even consider the boy turning into a bad one.

“Now you mention that, what kind of person Mayuki-sama and Sheila-sama are looking for?”

Olulu’s question was the natural, but Mayuki troubled as how to answer it. After all the only thing she know was only the outward appearance.

If that boy was truly Souji then Mayuki would able to say it to her heart’s content just what kind of person he was, but there’s also the possibility that he wasn’t him, so she could not thoughtlessly concluded that he was Souji.

“U-Umm..... h-he is a butler..... probably.”

“A..... butler?”

“Mayuki-san, we still don’t know if he truly is a butler. Ah, Olulu-san, we are just thinking as to whether that person is serving as a servant of a wealthy person somewhere.”

Mayuki seemed to be fixed that he was a butler, but Sheila explained that there’s other possibilities using her words.

“With that being said, looks like the one Mayuki-sama and Sheila-sama looking for is just like our, a servant.”

“I see, a butler huh. I have nothing like that, Olulu.”

“There’s neither need nor necessity for one. Besides, a butler is basically a man who served you. Is that really okay, Princess? For Princess to have a man by her side before you meet that boy in your memory. It’s possible you’ll be disliked due to unfaithfulness....”

“Wh-WHAAAAAT!? I-I can’t let that happen! I-Immediately abolish butler system! I-I am not someone unfaithful! Absolutely noooooot!”

The Koram holding her head in worry made Olulu smiled in amusement and said,

“Fufu, Princess is truly cute after all. There’s no need to worry about unfaithfulness or whatever as we still have not meet him. Isn’t it, Mayuki-sama?”

“Ah, y-yes, that’s right....”

Mayuki realized that she must not make this maid her enemy.

After that, Mayuki and Sheila were guided by Olulu and asked the information dealer, but they didn’t get information about their target or anything related just like Koram and Olulu.

However, they were informed by the information dealer about the location of an information dealer who sell accurate and fresh information slightly further from here.

“Are Mayuki-sama and Sheila-sama going to that information dealer?”

“Un, we will go there.”

“Then, will it be okay for us to go there together?”

Olulu suggested so. Mayuki and Sheila leaked, “Eh?,” and looked at Koram’s face at the same time.

“Mu? Olulu said so, so isn’t it okay? Besides, Mayuki and Sheila are also strong. So you won’t be a hindrance to us!”

Certainly Koram had physical strength unthinkable of a princess while Mayuki and Sheila were the existences called as hero by **【Rashtia Kingdom】** . Next, there’s also the strongest maid who owned mysterious strength despite her weak appearance.

With these four, they should be able to go over even the rockiest road.

“Sheila....”

“Yes, Sheila welcomes to have such reliable companions!”

Sheila narrowed her blue, serene eyes and smiled happily. With Sheila’s agreement, Mayuki bowed towards Koram and Olulu.

“With this, for a while, we’ll be in your care!”

“We’ll be in your care!”

Sheila also did that. Koram and Olulu replied them, satisfied. Following that, Mayuki turned towards their destination and speak which showed her eagerness.

“Yosh! Then, let’s go! Our destination is 【Barvalha】 in ‹‹Gudo Region›› !”

Obtaining new companions, Mayuki’s party advanced towards their new destination.

Story 38 The Existence of Magic

Souji, Yoyo, and Eu came to the backyard of the residence. This was a good place to practice magic that Souji used in his childhood.

No one come around here and the considerably large area made it convenient to test magic.

Yoyo told Eu to stand naturally. However, even though she was told that, she was shaking due to the tension and her loveliness even made them laugh unintentionally.

“It’s okay, Eu, I am only going to touch you. So please relax.”

“O-Okay!”

However, she was still stiffened, and seeing such a Eu, Souji said,

“Eu, look here.”

“Eh?”

Raising his right hand high, orange-colored flame gushed from his palm just like a fountain. Its details made it look like water spraying, scattering to the surroundings. Moreover the extremely thin flame fragments reflected the sunlight and sparkling.

“Fua~ beautiful~.”

The stiffness previously on her face had been lost. She seemed to have become relaxed.

“You did well, Souji. Then, Eu, close your eyes.”

“U-Un....”

Though Eu once again became somewhat nervous, Yoyo decided this much would be okay and her slender, white hand quietly touched Eu’s forehead. Yoyo closed her eyes and one could feel that she was concentrating on searching for something.

Souji looked up to the sky as he thought it’d took some times. There were clouds with various shapes, and he entrusted his body to the comfortable wind.

Birds were playing in the distance sky, they seemed to be very happy. Following that, when he was feeling the gentleness of nature,

“Huh? What are you doing in such a place?”

Immediately reacting by turning around towards the voice from behind him, there was just like Eu, a new employee, who was positioned as the residence’s gardener, Demick Lannerway. Souji immediately made a gesture to tell him to keep quiet, and seeing Yoyo and Eu behind Souji, Demick winked and quietly came close to Souji. Next, he asked him with a small voice.

“Oi oi boy, just what is that?”

“Please stop with the boy. I don’t mind if you just call me Souji.”

“OK~. So, Souji, what’s Master doing now?”

“Magic training.”

“Hohou, so that midget there can use magic?”

“Ee, but she didn’t aware of that, that’s why Ojou-sama lend her a hand to let her become aware of it. More importantly, why is Demick here?”

“Oi oi, ‘ain’t I the gardener here? Here is also a splendid backyard. Is it that weird for me to come here to look around? After all, I am thinking of planting fruit trees in this backyard.”

Indeed, there's that. There are beautiful flower beds and vegetable gardens in the frontyard, but the backyard is quite bleak, so I think his idea is a good one.

"That's a good idea. By the way, what kind of fruit?"

"Nn? Fruit that can increase one's energy like an aphrodisiac."

"Rejected!"

He inadvertently shouted out loud, realizing that, he turned his gaze towards Yoyo, but it seemed there's no need to worry and he sighed in relief.

"Buhaha! 'course that's a joke! 'sides, it's necessary to gain permission from the Kingdom if I want to grow such medicinal plant. And 'course I don't want to do such an annoying thing. What I want to plant is <<Four Season Fruit>> that'll have different kind of fruit depending on the season."

Incidentally, there were of course seasons in this 【Orb】 . Four seasons just like the time he was in Japan.

"Good grief, please be moderate about your joke. It's troublesome to retort after all."

"Then, isn't it okay to not retort?"

"Aren't you the one at fault!"

"Buhaha! That's right! Buhaha!"

"Please laugh a little more quietly! Or else you'll disturb the two!"

"Oops, sorry 'bout it."

Demick panicky held his mouth. By interacting with Demick, he understood he wasn't a bad person. It just that Souji felt it was not easy to interact with him as he tend to play around with the other person (mainly Souji).

But Demick was certainly an excellent gardener, hearing the story from the maid that in charge of the garden with Souji up until now, he immediately pointed the problems and suggested on how to improve it.

Thus Souji also heard that, and he didn't object as it'd certainly improved the efficiency just as Demick said. Though Demick was a free-spirited person, even Yoyo was satisfied knowing he'd take care of the garden entrusted to him until the minute details.

“Call me if it’s ended, Souji. I am going to continue my work in the frontyard.”

“Understood, Demick-san.”

Demick smiled which displayed his white teeth and moved towards the front of the mansion. Following that, Yoyo opened her eyes with such a good timing. Noticing that, Souji tried to come closer only to instinctively stopped his feet due to her glare.

“Souji, didn’t I always say to be quiet at such a time?”

“Uh..... y-yes.”

He wanted to shout out loud that it was Demick’s fault, but he could not say that as bowed his head because he knew he was the one being noisy.

“Haa, please remember that. Well then, Eu, it’s okay to open your eyes now. What did you feel?”

“Nn..... somehow, it feels like Eu is inside warm water.”

That should be said as hot water, but it seems Eu still doesn’t know that word.

Note : Eu used あったかいみず / attakai mizu, while in this sentence it used湯/yu (hot water/spring water)

“Ojou-sama, did you understand anything about Eu’s magic?”

“Ee, her magic is electrical discharge..... I wonder if it’s okay to call it that.”

“Electrical discharge?”

“Ee, but it’s not the normal electrical discharge as it carried a special effect which is to petrify anything it touch.”

“Did Eu also feel anything?”

“U-Un. A lot of things flowed into Eu’s head.”

Yoyo was likely to have examined Eu’s body and adjusted the magic information to flow into Eu’s head.

“That’s right, let’s call Eu’s magic as 『Petrification Lightning』 .”

“P-Petrification..... Lightning? Is that her magic?” note : the name used is Denkousekka

“Ee, I think it is a wonderful name, what do you think?”

Yoyo showed a *how is it* face and asked that, and certainly that's a good nickname which showed Eu's ability to the letters. Eu looked like she liked it and repeatedly muttered that as if to digest it.

"Well then Eu, you should be able to feel the existence of your magic more than before now. Next is for you to train so you can control that power well. If you do that, that power will surely be able to help you."

"B-But, how? Eu doesn't understand that well."

"Isn't the training method also flowed into your head?"

Normally, experiencing the appearance of magic, the information and knowledge on how to use the magic and the training method to improve it would flow into one's head.

Even the knowledge about 『Flame Genesis』, how to master it along with the suitable training method flowed in Souji's case.

Even so, mostly were cliché training methods such as conjuring the magic repeatedly.

Eu was frowning as she was troubled by Souji's question. It was probably because she could not interpret the flowed information well.

"For the time being, first, Eu needs to be able to use your own magic by your own will. Souji, spare some of your time and teach Eu thoroughly starting from the existence of << Magic Core >>. I will also do something if I have the time."

"Certainly."

"I am going to return to my room because there's documents that need to be arranged, but Souji should teach her a little more right now."

Saying so, Yoyo brushed her hair and start to turn on her heel to return towards the mansion. That's when Eu raised a voice with panicked expression.

"E-Excuse me!"

Yoyo halted, turned towards Eu and ask, "What is it?" Thus embarrassed while fidgeting, Eu said,

"Uh, ah..... that's..... thank you..... O-Onee-chan."

The destructive power of Eu's embarrassed appearance was outstanding. If Kaina was here, it was easy to imagine her turning into a pervert and hugging Eu.

After all, even Yoyo was opening her eyes wide and her cheeks became somewhat loosened. However, she immediately averted her face from Eu.

"D-Do your best."

Yoyo said so to Eu, it's obvious that she was losing her composure, then she immediately left as she was. Seeing her retreating figure, Souji inadvertently said,

"Ahaha, to be able to shake Ojou-sama, Eu really is something."

".....?"

Eu was unable to understand Souji's words, but Souji didn't mind that and moved his mouth.

"Well then, shall we start the training?"

"E-Eu will try her best!"

Since then, just as Yoyo said, he taught Eu on how to use magic at intervals between works.

Story 39 The Creeping Shadow

A man covered in grey robe entered a bar in the town called 【Shanikia】 , <<Nockles Region>>.

The eerie man that even covered his face with the hood made the bar guests' gazes focused on him.

That man seaton the chair before the counter and,

"Old man, I want to buy information."

The deep voice resounded inside the bar. The bartender called old man who owned good body build keep wiping the tableware with a white cloth, and answered the man with lowered voice.

“Though I don’t know you, you’ve come to this bar, so how about ordering something first.”

With the bartender’s words, several guests approached the man from behind. All of them were men who carried rough characteristics.

“Oy oy, this is our resting place, so don’t bring up such a depressing thing.”

“Yeah, this is not place for a suspicious person like you to come.”

“Ora, let us see yer face!”

One of the guest strongly grabbed the seated man’s hood and there was the man glaring whose skin was blue just like fish.

“B-Bastard, so ya’re from Aquatic race huh.”

“Keh, so that’s why it smell fishy here.”

“How unpleasant————.”

Zakuh!

“What ar-..... eh?”

Something thin pierced one of the guest’s chest. It was something that suddenly expanded from the man’s back which made the other guests dumbfounded as they didn’t know what happened. However, that instance,

Gushu gushu zashu zashu!

Several thorns broken through the robe from the man’s back and skewered the guests behind him.

“Gah..... a..... gih..... kh!?”

Blood vomited from the guests' mouths and *gakuh*, their heads drooped. "HIII!?", the bartender was frightened and dropped the tableware. The thorns went back into the man's back, resultantly, the guests' bodies fell into the floor as they were.

Morrow, the other guests inside the bar screamed and escaped outside.

The man was grinning and turned his bloodshot eyes towards the bartender.

"Let me say it again. I want to buy information."

"A-A-A-A-A-Ask anything you want!"

Even the bartender showed completely different attitude compared to the one from a while ago. It was likely because he thought he'd be dead if he ruined the man's mood even a little. The man once again covered his face with the hood and,

"Then, hear me. Do you have any information about Aquatic race, no, Star Jellyfish tribe's brat coming here?"

"Heh? S-Star Jellyfish tribe..... is it?"

The bartender asked back as his forehead drenched by sweats.

"Aa, the outward appearance is of around five years old brat. There's a rumor that she was seen here."

"P-Please wait a sec. I am going to look for it now!"

The bartender opened the shelf behind him and began to search for something with speed that couldn't be believed coming from his build. Then, he shown a sheet of paper before the man.

"Th-Though I don't know if it is related to that, a strange event occurred in the forest nearby several days ago."

"Strange event?"

"Y-Yes. Statues of two notorious men were found."

The man's brows twitched when the word statues was said. However, he kept silent.

"From the investigation, it turned out they were real people that turned into statues by mean of petrification. Well, they are notorious, so lot of people are happy about that tho."

“Oi, so what’s the connection with Star Jellyfish tribe?”

“A-Actually, someone seen the two were quarreling with a child.”

“Hou.”

“And the child is none other than someone from Aquatic race.”

“I see. So? Do you know where’s that brat now?”

“I don’t know the details, but that child was going to other town, and the nearest one from here is 【Moriarte】 .”

Hearing the bartender’s words, the man’s mouth distorted into crescent. Next, he silently stood from the chair and,

“It is somewhat an excellent information. So, how much should I pay for it?”

“N-No! Th-There’s no need to pay!”

So, please get out of here now, was the thing felt from the paled face.

“Kuku, for free huh. That’s something to be happy about.”

Pleased laugh resounded inside the bar, then he went out of the bar by *pichari*, stepping through the pool of blood created by the collapsed guests’ bodies.

Several days after hearing about the existence of magic from Yoyo, Eu was training her magic at the backyard accompanied by Souji.

“That’s it, just like that.”

Currently, Eu was concentrating with closed eyes. With the knowledge of <<Magic Core>> inside Eu's chest, Souji taught her the method of extracting magic power from there and Eu worked seriously on her training.

What surprised Souji was Eu's talent. Souji took considerable amount of time before he could feel the magic power from <<Magic Core>>.

However, only after an hour Eu was able to feel the heat coming from <<Magic Core>>. No matter how much knowledge did she obtained from Yoyo, or even how she was taught personally by Souji, the speed of her growth was surprising.

Surely, because Eu was capable to unconsciously activated her magic, then it was natural for her to be able to feel the heat coming from <<Magic Core>> even faster than Souji, but Souji still envied her talent.

But thinking she'd soon capable of using her magic with this, Souji was happy about this miscalculation. Thus currently, Eu was extracting magic power from <<Magic Core>>, and concentrating to transform it into her magic.

Eu was clasping the palms of both of her small hands. Conjuring her magic, she was trying to petrify.

Magic power oozed out from Eu's body as she concentrating, next pleasantly, *pachi pachi*, electrical discharge occurred.

(This electrical discharge is Eu's magic.)

Yoyo named it 『Petrification Lightning』. It was the strongest magic where the electrical discharge would petrify anything it touched. However, because Eu still could not create the electrical discharge well enough, it could not petrify anything yet.

“Muu~h.”

Eu more strongly shut her eyes and braced herself, but the electrical discharge that sometime appeared only last for an instant, she still could not freely control it. However, being aware of her magic's existence and to be able to conjure it in just a few days was something worth a praise from Souji.

Before long, “Funya~,” steams could be felt coming from Eu’s head and she sat down on the ground. That could not be helped because using unaccustomed magic would considerably burdened one mentally.

“Ahaha, I think we shall end it now.”

“Uh~, sorry, Onii-chan, for unable to do it well.”

“What are you saying. Eu is very excellent. At least, Eu has talent that even I envied about.”

“I-Is that so?”

Her face that cutely looking up had flushed cheeks.

“Ee, but there’s no need to hurry. In one of these day, you will surely be able to use your magic.”

“..... un, Eu will do her best.”

Her growth speed was certainly more than expected. However, it was likely not in time according to the one week period imposed to the Star Jellyfish tribe.

If she could control her magic, petrify something, and Souji or Yoyo could de-petrify it, then it could be used to negotiate, but if they could not make it in time....

(Even if it’ll be unwelcomed, I will go to the sea and face them)

Souji’s existence would likely had been conveyed by the man from Whirlpool Scale tribe he met before. If he was told to be a spy from Star Jellyfish tribe, then it’d be hard to approach them peacefully.

Besides, he didn’t have any proof that the petrification could be cured, so even if he said he held power to do so, rather than believing him, there’s high possibility that they’d just fear him for plotting something.

Thus even if turn into a negotiation, it’d be troublesome in the future if he could not cure the petrification, and Yoyo also said that this should be the final method if Eu didn’t learn her magic in time.

Eu looked at the electrical discharge she created, promptly threw it into a tree’s branch, but it didn’t petrify. *Is there still something Eu has not awaken, or is there still something insufficient....* He didn’t know, but he could only believed in Eu now.

(Guessing from Eu's story, she seemed to petrify her surrounding when she was in danger or in great confusion but....)

He had suggested it to Yoyo. If it come near to the deadline, though he felt bad for Eu, he'd made Eu experience a little danger.

Thus he might likely to obtain petrified object. However, Yoyo reasoned him that the risk was too high so he must absolutely not do that.

It was extremely dangerous when magic went out of control. It'd affect the surrounding, but at worst it would made the person in question's mental collapsed. Particularly, it would become poison on Eu's body who was just awakened to her magic. This method wasn't even something that could be chosen.

Thinking the risk, Souji agreed to Yoyo because no matter what he could not put Eu in danger.

(There's still four days. I will just leave the final decision to Ojou-sama.)

Story 40 Respective Power

Several days passed after Souji was appointed as Eu's magic trainer, and Mayuki accompanied by Sheila, Koram, and Olulu moved from <<Anjax Region>> into <<Gudo Region>>. Mayuki whose glossy black hair swayed left and right as she walked was asking Olulu about 【Barvalha】 the city they were going to.

"Hmm~, simply, it is a dangerous city."

"What kind of danger?"

"I only heard about so it's not that detailed, but it is a city where the law of the jungle is used."

".....? W-What do you mean?"

Because Mayuki wasn't that smart, she couldn't completely understand the meaning of Olulu's words.

"Hohou! A town with survival for the fittest huh! That's make me itch to go there!"

"Do Koram-sama understood that meaning?"

"Of course! It means, the strong one is justice! Ain't that simple! Ahahahaha!"

Koram laughed out loud, and the astonished Mayuki now turned towards Sheila.

“Umm..... probably the public safety is bad, so it is a dangerous town where we must not let our guard down?”

“Oo~ is that so, Olulu?”

“As expected of Sheila-sama. That is a splendid interpretation, how admirable.”

“E-Ehehe.”

Sheila was happy for the praise and blushing.

“However, what Princess said is also correct, but that childish way of perceiving, it makes me sad.”

“Wh-Why, Olulu! Anything wrong with that!?”

“..... maa, it is Princess after all. I have already given up about her.”

“Oluluu~.”

Koram clung to Olulu with moistened eyes. Just from her appearance, no one would think of her as the third princess of a country.

“But, I wonder if the information dealer there is really reliable~.”

Mayuki muttered so with grumbling tone.

“I wonder. Up till now we have come to various information dealer, but none bear satisfactory result....”

Sheila leaked a small sigh as she recalled what happened up until now.

“Then, I think it’s probably okay, right?”

“Is that so, Olulu?”

“Yes. That information dealer is said to be number one in this continent. It just that....”

“It just that, is something wrong?”

“Yes..... I heard the rumor that the information fee is so enormous that one’s eyes would fly out.”

“H-How much is it? I-Is it around 100,000..... something?”

“I don’t know. To begin with, not much time passed since we begin our travel.”

From what they heard, not even one month had passed since Koram and Olulu started their travel.

“I see, then, wouldn’t it be okay if we ask the market price from the previous information dealer?”

“Indeed. I’ve been careless.”

Olulu replied as she cast her gaze down to reflect.

“Olulu, don’t mind that! If it’s money, then I will earn it no matter how much it is!”

Koram drawn the sword hung on her waist, and *bishih*, poised it. Olulu looked at her with half-closed eyes and asked the thing that should be asked.

“..... what does Princess mean by earning it?”

“Fuh, I am a princess from one of the kingdoms, right? The moneylender will surely lend the money if I asked for it! What do you think, Olulu! Isn’t it an amazing plan!”

“..... haa, I see. Seriously, I admire how Princess thought that idea instinctively.”

“AHAHAHAHAHA! There’s no need to admire me! AHAHAHAHAHA!”

The actual problem was, the moneylender would not lend the money if the sum was too high no matter what the collateral was. They would be severe about money even if the client from a royal family.

Even Mayuki noticed that and could only floated a forced smile with cramped cheeks.

(This person is a princess, hah~.....)

Somehow she felt disappointed inside her chest.

“I am sorry, you two. Princess has not gone out of the castle that much, so her experience about the society is unbelievably small. That’s why, though her speech and behavior will bring a lot of doubt, please just accept it generously.”

“Y-Yeah. Looks like Olulu is also have it hard.”

“It isn’t, rather because Princess is like this that I find her amus-..... no, I find that I can truly serve her.”

Though Mayuki just heard worrisome words, she decided to not pursue it.

“Oh! I can see it now! So, that’s **【Barvalha】** !”

A big town could be seen in the direction Koram pointed at. Thus just as she said, that town was called **【Barvalha】** .

“Yosh! Let’s go with full spirit, girls!”

Koram advanced proudly as her shoulders cut through the wind.

(I wonder..... will there be any information,..... Sou-kun.)

Mayuki prayed as if to petition in her mind and walked towards the town.

Mayuki’s party entered the town and they were forced to understand the meaning of what Olulu said previously. As for the reason,

“Heh heh heh. we’ll strip you of all your belongings, brats.”

Ruffians suddenly appeared from the shadow of the buildings and surrounded them. Olulu took position behind Koram who already poised her sword. Next, Mayuki had also took a stance and watched the surrounding while Sheila beside her tensed her expression.

Normally Mayuki and Sheila would be puzzled by the sudden highway robbery, but they had spent several months in this world and fought even rougher-looking demon race. Their experience was not that shallow that they'd shaken just by being surrounded by those stubborn-looking men. Of course at the beginning, needless to say about the cowardly Sheila, Mayuki didn't even want to fight.

However, for the sake of returning to their original world, they desperately overcame their fear and the method to fight now carved into their bodies. Though they didn't want to boast about it, the current situation was not something unusual for them.

(Six people huh....)

Mayuki looked at the men surrounding them and,

“Sheila, is someone among them could use magic?”

“Please wait a sec.”

Thus *Kyuliiiiin*, magic power was concentrated in Sheila's eyes. Sheila moved her face and observed the men one by one.

“That person, the person with bandana on his head owned <<Magic Core>>.”

“OK, just one person.”

What Sheila pointed was a big bodied man whose head wrapped in yellow bandana.

“I am surprised. So, Sheila-sama can use 『Appraisal』 magic?”

Olulu who heard their talk said so in admiration.

“Uun, what Sheila have can be said as 『High Vision』, simply speaking, it is an ability that could see through thing.”

“Th-That's amazing, Sheila-san! So, you have that kind of power!”

“Eh, umm..... eu.”

Olulu's praise made Sheila cast her gaze down due to embarrassment.

"Princess, apparently that man with bandana can use magic."

"Hou, then I shall be his opponent!"

Floating an amused smile, Koram, *bishih*, turned her sword towards the man with bandana and,

"Oi, you! Remember it well! My name is *mugamuh!*?"

Koram panicked because suddenly Olulu covered her mouth from behind. Next, she brushed aside Olulu's hands and,

"Wh-What are you doing, Olulu!"

"Princess! I won't allow Princess's position being made clear in such a place!"

"B-But, Olulu, it is the etiquette to name yourself before the fight..."

"That's the way of warrior with high social status! That's why, it isn't necessary for Princess to introduce herself for such a boorish, low level fight!."

"Uh..... o-okay."

Koram reluctantly acknowledged that due to feeling the tremendous pressure from Olulu. Next, she coughed once and,

"I-I don't have any name to introduce to lowlives like you! It's better for you to leave at once if you don't want to experience something painful!"

"That's the way, Princess! That is so cool!"

"FUHAHAHAHAHA! Of course, Olulu! FUHAHAHAHAHA!"

Olulu easily made Koram laughed out loud, but Koram's words made the man with bandana had lot of veins popped on his forehead.

"What's that little miss, ain't ya just said something amusing. Then, shall we see who will be in pain, now we will test you! Guys, do it!"

With the man's words, the surrounding men came to attack Mayuki's party simultaneously.

"Koram-san, me and Sheila will fight the other men, so please take care the man with bandana!"
"Umu, I'll leave them to you!"

Because Mayuki's suggestion was not refuted, Mayuki and Sheila looked at each other and nodded.

Next, they were made back-to-back.

"Sheila, please take care of the three over there!"
"Roger!"

Mayuki knelt and put her right hand on the ground.

"————— Summon Tree!"

Magic power flowed from Mayuki's body, went along her right hand into the ground.

"Here I go! Wood Restrain!"

One line of crack expanded from the ground where Mayuki was and three huge wooden dugongs appeared from there, rushing towards the men before them.

"M-Magic!?"

The man with bandana was surprised when he saw Mayuki's magic. Olulu's eyes were sparkling while Koram leaked, "Hou," finding it interesting.
Thus the three dumbfounded men that received the charge from the wooden dugongs crashed into the wall and lost their consciousness.

"Sheila!"

Mayuki immediately turned around to help Sheila but,

“It’s okay!”

Sheila clasped both of her hands as if praying, closed her eyes and chanted.

“..... please come, Jikoku-san of the right.”

Next, magic array was drawn at the ground to her right, and shouldering a katana, a child that looked like a ninja appeared. Only its eyes could be seen as its face was covered, but its gaze was sharp despite being small. However, *nyoroh*, a long tail grown from around its butt.

“Master, wan..... wan..... wan..... the enemies are those-nya?”

Mayuki suddenly said, “Aa, it gives up.” Though it actually wanted to say one, it bit its tongue three times and stopped trying to fix that.

“Yes. Please take care of them!”

“Acknowledge!”

Jikoku drawn its katana and moved into the three men’s bosom with speed faster than eyes could follow. Note : let me say this, the raw said there are 6 man but as the story continue... it changed to 7...

Batah batah, the men collapsed one after another. Next, Jikoku sheathed its katana and,

“Don’t worry-nya. I used the back of my sword-gozasu..... -gozaru.”

┌

Mayuki couldn’t endure her laughter. Setting aside the “I used the back of my sword,” she felt it regrettable that just a little more she’d be able to hear “-gozansu” instead of –gozaru. But, it was cute that it restated itself to fix that.

Incidentally, Jikoku was a girl, though her face was unknown because it was covered, if the cover taken off then one would see a cute cat-girl. Mayuki recalled the happiness when she touched Jikoku's ear. That's why she decided to touch it again by all means this time.

"Thank you very much, Jikoku-san."

"No, there's no need for gratitude-degozaru. Well then, one shall leave."

Once again, magic array appeared under Jikoku's feet. But, she seen Mayuki first. Maybe because she wasn't baited and happy about it, Jikoku made a small *guts pose*.

"Wh-What the..... that brat also a magic-user!?"

The only one remained was the man with bandana, he turned aghast due to his comrades instantly done in.

"Saa, you are the only one left! Here I go!"

Koram closed the distance, and the man with frustrated expression,

"G-Goddamnit! A-At the very least I'll beat you!"

The man's fist thrust at the ground and earthen thorns surged to attack Koram. *Watch out*, was what Mayuki tried to shout but,

Zakuh!

The sword held in Koram's hand easily slashed the probably hardened ground.

"S-Slasheddddd!?"

Though it was the man who shouted, Mayuki and Sheila were also surprised. Apparently, even the magic Mayuki seen as dangerous was something completely no need to be heeded by Koram.

As she was, Koram quickly arrived before the man's bosom and given a blow to his abdomen. Raising agonized voice, the man was silenced. It ended with complete victory for Mayuki's party.

NOTE : WANT TO TAKE A BREAK~ DAMNIT LAZINESS OVERFLOW~

Story 41 Heroes' Magic

"Both of you are amazing!"

After repelling the men, Olulu drew closer to Mayuki and Sheila with sparkling eyes. The two respond to Olulu's tension with slightly embarrassed expressions.

"Both of you are capable of using magic, moreover both the amount and quality of your magic power are amazingly high! Right, Princess!"

"Umu, it is exactly as Olulu said. Are the two of you magicians serving the royal palace or something?"

Koram also asked out of curiosity. The reason she asked that was because this world gave magic-user preferential treatment as they also hold considerable social status.

Moreover, the stronger one's magic, the higher one's social status will be. This world where the gap between riches and poors was deep made the presence of magic as something extremely important, so it's normal for those capable of using magic to desperately train it so they would be taken in by noble or royal family.

An excellent magic-user was also became a kind of status for a country, so the country would investigate the person they found as a magic user, then scout it if that person's magic was an excellent one.

As such, the two capable of using such powerful magics made Koram thought any country would not be able leave them alone, so she asked that, however....

Mayuki and Sheila were having a problem answering that. Even if they honestly answered, [We bear the power of past heroes,] there's the possibility that they would be thought as someone with something wrong in their heads as it was an unbelievable story.

Actually, **【Summoning Brave Souls Vessels】** is a famous story, but Mayuki and the others were trained in the vicinity of the kingdom summoning them, so people from other Kingdom are not necessarily know them.

It was not because their names weren't publicized, but because they didn't even travel to the other parts of this world. Therefore, even if they said they weren't people of this world, the current them could not present any proof of it, and they would only be laughing stocks.

Still, it wasn't like they want to hide it either. Even if they would not believe it, Mayuki thought that'd be better than lying to them. After all, they weren't strangers anymore, she thought Koram and Olulu as her friends.

"Sheila..... can I tell them?"

"..... about that. We are already far away from **【Rashtia】**, so even if it becomes a rumor, Sheila doesn't think we will be brought back immediately."

"..... un, okay!"

Mayuki heard her best friend's opinion. Then, Mayuki faced Koram and Olulu,

"Actually...."

She spoke of what kind of existences they were. Olulu was speechless with her eyes sparkling in admiration while Koram crossed her arms, shut her eyes, and nodded as she listened to Mayuki.

"After that, we left **【Rashtia】** and arrived here."

Koram was looking towards Mayuki, so she spoke formally.

"Umm..... then Mayuki-sama and Sheila-sama are people from another world, and you keep the **【Heroic Spirits】** inside your bodies?"

"Y-Yeah. That's right, but..... ahaha, it is unbelievable after all, right?"

“N-No, that’s..... I don’t mean to say that....”

Olulu sneaked a glance at Koram, then Koram opened her eyes.

“I see, so you are the same as my father!”

“..... heh?”

“Certainly, those huge magic power and the strength of your magic. They feel similar to the time when my father uses his magic.”

Koram spoke something unexpected which made Mayuki and Sheila dumbfounded as they didn’t understand the meaning of those words, so Olulu supplemented them.

“Excuse me~. It means Princess’s father, the King of Schneeh Kingdom, is originally someone from another world.”

“..... eeh!?”

Mayuki inadvertently raised a loud voice. Sheila also raised a voice, though not as loud as Mayuki’s, and she was slackjawed.

“Inside the King’s body is the 【Heroic Spirit】 of 【Hero Saturn】 -sama.”

“I-Is that so? I-It is the first time I hear it....”

“Is that really so? It should be a considerably famous story, but....”

“Exactly! Father is famous! He even left a legend where he alone killed group of rampaging giant beasts with only one attack!”

Koram proudly puffed her chest. The breasts with nice shape were shaking as if appealing their existences.

“Then, then who are the heroic spirits reside inside Mayuki-sama and Sheila-sama!”

Olulu pressed on because it looked like she loved this kind of story. Even Mayuki was overwhelmed by how Olulu pressing on her.

“U-Umm, mine is a person called 【Zeus】 .”

“As expected! I’ve thought of it when I saw Mayuki-sama’s magic, and it actually 【Zeus】 - sama’s magic, [Supreme Lord of Tree (Jupiter)]!?”

“Eh, ah, yes, that’s right.”

As a proof, Mayuki put her right palm on the ground and recited [Summon Tree] in a small voice. Morrow, a tree pierced through the ground before Mayuki.

“Uwa~ no matter how many time I see it, I can feel tremendous magic power emitting from this tree.”

“Umu, as expected of 【Brave Souls Vessel】 . I want you to spar with me at least once.”

That’s a little....., Mayuki thought. Though she only seen a little of Koram’s strength from the fights, Mayuki felt that Koram’s strength was the same if not higher than her.

Besides, Sheila said Koram also capable of using magic, and that’s enough reason for her not wanting to fight as she didn’t want to fight against someone using combination of magic and swordsmanship.

Mayuki returned the tree into the ground, this time Olulu’s gaze was turned towards Sheila.

“Sheila-sama..... used humanoid summoning, so....”

Mu~, Olulu was thinking as she put her hand on her chin. Following that, *pon*, she clapped her hands and looked at Sheila with sparkling eyes.

“Sheila-sama is 【Uranus】 -sama?”

“Eu..... c-correct. H-How did you know?”

“After all, it was written in a document 【Uranus】 -sama has four humanoid followers who fight for him. They are also called 【Four Heavenly Kings (Uranus)】 ! Moreover, one of the humanoid has similar figure to the one Sheila-sama summoned!”

“Hee, Olulu is amazing. Looks like you’ve study it well.”

“Of course! Even if I look like this, I love reading book, there’s no history I haven’t read. That’s why I have also read all of the biographies of the past 【Heroes】 and 【Brave men】 .”

“I am not interested in history though! AHAHAHAHA!”

Morrow, Olulu looked at Koram, who declared so, with piercing gaze, then she immediately smiled.

“Princess. As someone who will become a queen in the future, what do you think of your previous words?”

“Eh..... ah, excuse me, Olulu.....?”

“History is the world’s inheritance. If one is from royal family, then it is necessary to learn from the predecessors and having strong desire to create a better country, right? So, what was that? Princess is not interested in history? Aah, I see, let’s study very hard about the history from now on to make Princess more conscious about being a member of royal family! Ee, I don’t mind if Princess declines it. However, if Princess do that, then starting today Princess’s meal will all made of mushroom, okay?”

GOGOGOGOGOGOGOGOGO, a gigantic Hanya could be seen behind Olulu and it made Mayuki rubbed her eyes thinking it was just her imagination. but, she definitely see it.

“I will do it! I will study, so stop with the mushrooooooms!”

Just how much do you hate mushroom, Mayuki wanted to retort so, but recently she come to think such a conversation as fun.

Continuing their walk inside **【Barvalha】**, Mayuki asked around about the information dealer’s location. Because there were a lot of people, there’s no need to look for people to ask for, but everyone she asked made sour looks.

Among them, “You’ll be drained, you know?,” and “It’s more productive to gamble your money, you know?,” were said, and there’s not even one good rumor about the information dealer.

However, everyone she asked said the information dealer’s ability was the best. That made their expectation raised, but the negative parts made them fairly anxious.

Anyway, they decided to meet the information dealer first, so they walked towards the place they were taught, and there’s a house.

They approached the house and rang the thing that seemed to be the bell. Morrow, "Come in~," an energetic voice came from inside. It was a woman's voice.

"Pardon my intrusion," Mayuki said so, opened the door, and went inside. Inside was a counter and on the other side was a woman, smiling as she watched the four.

"Hee~, four girls, how rare~."

The woman, who said so in a rhythm, is quite the beauty. Furthermore, a young one.

(This person..... the information dealer?)

Her atmosphere was different from the information dealers they had met up before. There were also women among them, but mostly old women. And the one before them, no matter how they see her, is a woman at least in her twenties which they never see before even among the male information dealers.

"Oi, you! We are customers here! What's with those elongated words!"

Bishish, Koram pointed at her and said so but,

"Ahaha, sorry~. Still, it's my style so just put up with it, kay~."

The woman lightly ward it off as if it was just a passing wind. Normally, it wasn't an attitude to show to customers, and that made them certain that her personality is a strange one.

"Princess, please calm down."

"B-But, Olulu...."

"Please let me do the talking. After all, if I leave it to Princess, more than the talk wouldn't progress, it will raise unnecessary sparks."

"Uh...."

Dejectedly, Koram drooped her shoulders. *Even though she is a Princess, surely no one will believe that after seeing her current condition*, was what Mayuki thought as she inwardly made a wry smile.

“Nice to meet you. My name is Olulu. Though it is impolite, are you the information dealer?”

“Un, that’s right~. Ah, but I think there’s a little mistake here?”

“Eh?”

“I am not an information dealer~, I am the best information dealer!”

Pachin, she made a wink. Thus not knowing on how to respond, Mayuki and Sheila were speechless. They could not conceal their confusion due to the too friendly attitude. However, Olulu’s expression didn’t change, she smiled, and began to talk.

“That’ll be helpful. After all, no matter who the information dealer we met up until now, none could meet the requirement, so it is something to be happy about. Fufu.”

Olulu and the woman silently watching each other as they smiled. Within the atmosphere where it was hard to speak, the woman chuckled, then laughed.

“I~ see, looks like you are quite the interesting bunch~. Yup, so shall I hear your request now?”

Apparently, there was a struggle between the two which ended with the woman recognizing Olulu.

“Ah, then I need to introduce myself! I am the information dealer, Nobile, my best regards~.”

With a friendly smile, Nobile waved her hand.

“Well then, what kind of information do you want?”

At that moment, Mayuki saw Nobile’s eyes shone with a strange glint. It was the glint just like when a hunter aiming at its prey.

Story 42 Flag-Manufacturing Machine?

“Fumu fumu, so you are in need of information about the person you are looking for right~.”

With Olulu in the center, she told Nobile their purpose of coming here. Nobile observed Mayuki’s party one by one and narrowed her eyes for several times as she did that.

“So? Are the four of you looking for the same person?”

“No, we are not. We have written the features of the person that each of us and the other two are looking for.”

Olulu sent her gaze to Koram, then she took out a sheet of paper from her breast pocket and handed it to Nobile. Nobile looked at the paper in silent and muttered, “I see~,” then she moved her gaze to Mayuki.

Just like Olulu, Mayuki handed a paper with red-haired butler’s characteristic written. Nobile looked over it and, “Eh?,” this time she leaked that in a small voice.

Without missing that, Mayuki asked.

“D-Do you know something?”

Mayuki leaned over the counter and pressed on Nobile.

“Umm~, well, I am an information dealer after all, so I can say I am also specialized in looking for a person, but...”

Nobile spoke as if something was stuck on her throat. Following that, Nobile moved her gaze from the paper towards Mayuki.

“Can I ask you one thing?”

“Ah, yes.”

“I don’t mind if you can’t answer this tho~, what’s your relation with this person?”

“..... I don’t know.”

“..... hahe?”

Nobile was dumbfounded by Mayuki’s answer, then she moved her mouth.

“Y-You don’t know..... eh?”

She understood how Nobile feels. Even though Mayuki wanted the information of the person she was looking for, her answer was saying that she didn’t have any relation to that person. With that, it was the same as searching for an unfamiliar person.

(W-Well, even if they don’t have deep connection, she must have her own reason that she want this information....)

For example, there’s the possibility they were asked to search for that person. In other words, Mayuki was asked to look for this person and she came here to buy that information. Another is, it’s possible that she was trying to obtain information about her killing target. Nobile had experienced taking care of such people for several times before. However, her intuition as an information dealer told her those weren’t the reason Mayuki came here.

She understood Mayuki’s desperation from the conversations up until now. Her desire to meet the person written on this paper by all means was conveyed. Without any negative feeling, she just want to meet him, Nobile could feel that.

Even so, there’s neither the name nor their relation written on the paper. Just what does it mean....

(Somehow, it feels like she has a big reason for it, right~)

Normally, Nobile would not poke her head into the client’s privation, but this matter perked her curiosity.

As for the reason, the characteristics written on the paper were..... red-haired, tail-coated, a servant, capable of using magic that looked like orange and white smoke..... seeing those, a person immediately came into Nobile’s mind.

(No matter how I think about it, this is—————Souji-chan, right~)

Nobile expected the person she imagined should be the right one.

(Red-haired, wearing tail-coat, rather than servant, he is a butler, furthermore this orange and white smoke are probably Souji-chan's [Flame Genesis] magic after all..... just what are their relationship?)

Secretly, Nobile sneak a look at Mayuki.

“Th-That’s..... p-please tell me if you know something about him! Please!”

Mayuki bowed powerfully that her head touched the counter’s surface.

For Nobile, she would sell any kind of information as long as she was paid. However, Nobile was hesitating because it was an information about a person she was considerably close with.

(If Souji-chan is troubled by the information I sell, I am scared of Yoyo-chan’s retaliation..... not, but if this child hurt Yoyo-chan, then I will likely unable to hide my involvement and be killed by Souji-chan....)

Basically, Nobile is a pacifist. She especially made list of people she must not offend, and within that there’s [People of Crowtail’s mansion] written.

Crowtail’s current master would not forgive anyone that tried to put their hand on the people of the mansion. Once, other information dealer sold information about the people of Yoyo’s mansion, and at the time the resident got hurt, the previous head butler, Balmunk, and Souji, those two annihilated the people that hurt the mansion’s resident.

Following that, the information dealer that sold the information could not be seen anymore. Whether that person retiring from information dealing, or.... Thinking that, it’s necessary to treat any information concerning Crowtail carefully.

Seeing Mayuki that keep bowing her head, Nobile thought even if it’ll halt the process a little, she was going to ask Mayuki until she was convinced it is safe.

“For the time being~, can you raise your head?”

“Y-Yes....”

Mayuki’s face was full of worries. Noticing something, Nobile asked a certain thing.

"It's just my guess, but...."

"Wh-What is it?"

"You, do you..... love this person?"

"Eeh!? Ah, th-that's..... umm..... that's..... e..... uu."

Just what is this cute creature, Nobile thought. Maybe because her rather small height, seeing Mayuki fidgeting her body while steam coming from her face, the preeminent destructiveness made Nobile instantly charmed.

"..... d-don't tell me, the girl over there..... love him too?"

At the moment Nobile asked Sheila, who similarly blushing behind Mayuki, *bofuh*, steam greater than Mayuki coming from her head.

"Ny-nynynnyat, nyat can't-! Eu..... eu..... eu."

Already, Nobile was driven by the urge to hug the two due to their loveliness. But, more importantly....

(Souji-chan, you, just what have you done to these girls...?)

Seeing the two's appearances, their dirtied robes told me how much they must have traveled. And it is to look for Souji.

Perhaps, these girls met Souji at the time he went out around the world with Balmunk in his childhood....

(And he raised their love flags.....?)

Nobile inadvertently leaked a sigh towards the red-haired, always smiling butler who wasn't here.

However, it means there'll be no problem if I give them the information, Nobile judged so. *If it is related to love then it'll be a problem Souji can handle, above all....*

(Yoyo-chan's reaction will be nice, right!)

Nobile snickered inwardly. Even the usually prim and perfect human like Yoyo would splendidly crumbled her usual expression if Souji involved. Even her aura turned into a pink one.

(Maa, even if she is the present master, Yoyo-chan is still a girl in her teens after all~)

But one problem came out. Though it was okay to tell them, she didn't know whether the girls could buy the information. Naturally, she would not give it for free. No matter how much Nobile found it interesting to tell them the information, her main priority is the money.

"Nee, little miss?"

"Eh, ah, th-that's..... that's wrong! It's not like I love him, ah, but that doesn't mean I hate him..... umm...."

"Ahh, no no, let's drop that already, kay?"

"..... hohe?"

Mayuki, who was making excuses with reddened face, returned to her senses and their conversation continued.

"I wonder if it'll be okay? But, I am certain that I have information about this person, you know."

"I-Is that true!?"

Light of hope could be seen in Mayuki's eyes.

"Thank god, Mayuki-san!"

Sheila was also happy. The nearby Koram and Olulu were also happy as they smiled.

"How-e-ver! I am an information dealer, OK?"

"Ah, th-that's..... yes."

"What I mean, a compensation of equivalent value is necessary to buy the information, you know."

"..... h-how..... how much?"

Mayuki timidly asked so. Nobile happily raised the corners of her mouth and—————

Story 43 The Compensation for Information

“One million Dras!”

The atmosphere instantly froze. Even Mayuki’s ears could hear *crack*. Morrow, *BAM*, the counter was beaten by something. It’s Koram’s hand.

“You! Even an idiot would think more carefully! O-One million Dras you say, isn’t that too unreasonable for just looking for a person!”

Her complaint was right. Normally, if it was not someone worldwide famous, even the highest market price for information about that person would be around 100,000 if asked on the other information dealers.

That’s why one million..... ten times of that of course would made one speechless

“It is okay if you don’t want that, you know~, I’ll just not sell the information! Ah, the information you want is also around one million or more too, kay~.”

“Wh-! Y-You....”

When Koram clenched her fist,

“Stop it!”

Olulu called out to Koram to stop.

“B-But, Olulu! I can’t even feel any legitimacy from this person!”

“Even so, don’t harm her! Even if she isn’t a proper one, we are having business talk with her! So, if you use violence, it’ll stain your honor and it isn’t something that can be boasted about!”

“..... okay.”

Grinding her teeth in bitterness, Koram could only glared at Nobile. Following that, Olulu apologized to Nobile.

“I am sorry for making such a commotion.”

“I don’t mind~, this kind of thing often happening when I do my job as an information dealer after all!”

Nobile replied so without minding that at all.

“However, we don’t have such a large amount of money in our hands now. May I ask you to reconsider it a little more?”

“U~n, it’s not like it must be in form of money as I am okay with anything that have same value, okay?”

“The same..... value?”

“That’s right. For example, why is the Princess of 【Schneeh Kingdom】 looking for a person..... something like that?”

“Princess? I wonder what are you talking about?”

“Ahaha, that’s a magnificent poker face, but you spill it yourself, you know? After all, that sword..... is the Kingdom’s Sword, Violet, right?”

For a moment, Koram’s face tightened, then she pointed her finger at Nobile.

“Y-You! How did you know about my Violet!”

Those words made Nobile grinned, and Olulu, facepalming, sighed deeply.

“..... Princess, the words just now means you admitted it, you know?”

“Eh? Wh-What do you mean?”

Completely unable to understand it, “?”s were dancing above Koram’s head.

“Ahaha~! That’s makes it easy~! You, the one carrying that Violet, must be 【Schneeh Kingdom】’s third Princess, Koram Hyatt Schneeh-sama, right~”

Seeing Nobile convinced smile, Olulu exhaled as if giving up and,

“That was splendid. But, how did you know Koram-sama here is the third princess?”

“That’s simple, simple~! After all, that sword is pretty famous in the world of information dealers, you know.”

“Is that true?”

“Un. There’s saying the first princess with Kingdom’s Staff, Claberina, the second princess with Kingdom’s Bow, Levanda, and the third princess with Kingdom’s Sword, Violet~.”

“.....”

“The Kingdom’s crest was carved on each of them, so it’s obvious if the crest is seen, you know.”

“B-But, whether that’s real....”

“Please don’t underestimate me~.”

“Eh?”

“..... after all, I live using information, you know?”

Though she was still smiling, irritation was clearly seen inside Nobile’s eyes. Don’t underestimate her was what conveyed. And maybe because Olulu sensed that, she politely bowing and,

“I admire your insight. As expected of the best information dealer..... right?”

“Ahaha~, that’s right, that’s right, that~ is so~!”

Maybe she was feeling good from the praise, Nobile laughed out loud.

“So, what will you do? Previously, we are talking about the compensation~.”

Olulu and Koram faced each other and,

“I will leave it to Princess. But truthfully, we currently don’t have the amount of money she asked. However, I think using our travel’s purpose to compensate the information fee is a good deal, isn’t it?”

“Mu..... what will Olulu do?”

“It’ll be a problem if it is me who decide it. After all, this is Princess’s problem.”

“I see.....”

Koram crossed her arms and shut her eyes. The others were silently watching her. Thus Koram, “Fumu,” muttered with a small nod and,

“I accept it. I don’t care if it is just telling my objective.”

“Is Princess sure about it? After all, telling things to an information dealer is the same as telling it to others. Won’t Princess mind?”

“Umu, I have no objection as long as that person can be found.”

“If Princess says that much then....”

Olulu once again turned towards Nobile,

“It is as you heard, so let me tell you the reason we want such an information.”

“Un. Ah, don’t lie, ‘kay? I have 『Appraising』 magic, so I will throw you back immediately if you lied, you know!”

“You! You think I will lie!? Such an insult- wait, Olulu, it’s hurt if you pinch me there, you know!”

It could be seen that Olulu before the counter was pinching Koram’s back.

“Princess, please be quiet.”

“B-But, Olulu....”

“..... mushroom.”

“O-Okay! Umu! I am going to be a truly silent princess!”

Koram immediately went behind Olulu and kept silent.

“Ahaha! How fun~ny! Un, un, for~ a bit, I have taken interest on you girls!”

When Nobile said so, Olulu replied with, “Sorry for the trouble.”

“Well then~, let me ask this for a precaution~, how much money can you pay for the information? Of course the amount is for each of the information, ‘kay.”

“Yes. We have around 500,000.”

“Fumu fumu.”

Nobile nodded at Olulu's answer. Next, her gaze moved towards Mayuki and Sheila.

"Umm..... we are..... how much is it again?"

Mayuki turned to face Sheila. That was because Sheila was the one in charge of money.

"Eu..... Seila and Mayuki-san, at the very limit, can pay for 500,000 Dras too."

"I~ see~. Well then, the Princess's side will use her travel purpose as the supplement for the payment~, and do you two have something like that too?"

"H-How about our travel's objective..... is it a no?"

"Nn~, I don't think anyone else want that information, kay~. As the demand is low, I wonder can it be used to compensate the remaining 500,000 Dras?"

"Th-There is no such a thing! After all, we are-!"

"Mayuki-san!"

Sheila stopped Mayuki before she could continue her next word. Nobile was smiling, curious about the two's conversation.

"Ah, I am sorry. But, Sheila..... isn't that the only thing we have that we can use to pay?"

"B-But, that is in case of Koram-sama and Olulu-san, but for us to talk about that to an information dealer...."

"Un, I understand. You mean we are going to be brought back if the information is heard, right?"

"Y-Yes."

"However, if we can move ahead..... and meet that person, I...."

"Mayuki-san...."

"Nn~ I am somewhat curious about the brought back thing~, but it can be that I am not interested in it too. So? Depending on the content, I can make you not to pay anything too, you know?"

Her offer was a welcome one. Truthfully, the 500,000 Dras Sheila said was at the very limit amount that they could continued their travel.

Then if they suffered from a trouble, there's the possibility that they wouldn't be able to continue their travel. That's why, it's absolutely better if they could save as much money as possible.

"..... Sheila."

"..... okay. But we must quickly look after him if the talk here is finished."

Just as Sheila said, if they told the information dealer about it, that information would surely arrived at 【Rashtia Kingdom】 . Thus hearing that information, people will definitely come to bring them back.

Mayuki thought that was a natural reaction if the Kingdom's heroes suddenly disappeared. Mayuki didn't know if those people would hear her reason, that's why she wished to meet that person before they'd be brought back.

“So? Have you decide?”

“Yes. Please accept our identities as the information fee.”

“Fu~n, so you are certain that someone will surely ask for your information, right?”

“It is..... absolutely.”

“OK~, it is a deal. Then tell me, the Princess's travel purpose and you two's identities..... now~.”

Story 44 Their Destination

With the sound of door closing, Nobile leaked a sigh of admiration inside the building with no one but her.

“Well~ I would never thought the Princess's travel objective is to look for her first love, right~.”

Recalling about Koram that was just here a little while ago, “Pft,” she laughed.

“Even so, her straightforwardness despite her outward appearance is laughable~”

Her outward appearance was of a beautiful woman who uphold order just like a honorable knight. No such a love affair rumor could be felt from the aura she carried, that's why Nobile completely didn't think she was buying the information for that purpose.

Moreover, Nobile would not get tired from hearing Koram's conversation with the maid called Olulu, and she thought of watching them for a long time while drinking liquor.

However, compared to the two, Mayuki and Sheila's information was several times more astonishing.

“I never thought they are 【Brave Souls Vessels】 , right....”

She had silently summoned Mofusuke to appraise whether there was a lie, but the two groups were saying the truth. And of course Nobile had obtained the information of the success from 【Rashtia Kingdom】's 【Summoning Brave Souls Vessels】.

However, although she heard the name, it didn't interest her and she completely forgotten about it. Nobile had never thought that the two girls were the 【Brave Souls Vessels】.

“People from another world, huh..... the ones who defeated the demon race's leader. But, I know that it was Souji-chan, not Mayuki-chan's party of 【Brave Soul Vessels】, who defeated it..... but I wonder why are Mayuki-chan and Sheila-chan, people from another world, looking for Souji-chan?”

Actually, Nobile didn't hear the purpose of Mayuki and Sheila's travel. She had tried to asked that, but Olulu said that'd be more than the supposed amount of compensation. Mayuki and Sheila's identities were surely more than enough as compensation. Nobile had also obtained the information that the Kingdom was looking for the girls. That's why it was an information that even enough to compensate the one million Dras, but she wanted to ask more only to be interrupted by Olulu.

“Should I say, as expected of Princess's caretaker? I am weak against the kind whose thought couldn't be understood after all~.”

Olulu might have interrupted to protect Mayuki and Sheila which made Nobile thought that was regrettable.

“What to say, I can't just think of when they meet..... Mayuki-chan's group were summoned around half a year ago. And I never got information that Souji-chan was going to 【Rashtia】 during that half a year....”

Thus, about when the girls met Souji....

“What I can think, they met in..... 【Zoan Continent】?”

【Zoan Continent】 , the north continent where the leader of demon race lived. It wouldn't be weird if they met there. After all, the girls had went there to defeat the leader.

But even if they met each other, they weren't related neither they knew his name. In other words, they didn't have any connection. Even so, Mayuki was desperate to meet him. It's possible that at the time, Souji saved Mayuki and Sheila from demon race, right?

“Thus they fell for Souji?”

That was the only think Nobile could thought of. However, was that enough to explain their desperation?

Certainly, Nobile didn't know whether they just wanted to convey their gratitude, but the girls had came here from a distant continent, so was it only to convey their gratitude to a person of this world that they even paid the one million?

“..... thinking normally, that is impossible.”

Doubt were overflowing from Nobile. However, it was the fact Mayuki and Sheila bought the information and now looking for Souji. Following that, there's Mayuki and Sheila's passion towards Souji as someone from opposite gender.

They, who bore the 【Heroic Souls】 inside their bodies and the kingdom's heroes, might have fall for Souji. Thus Nobile's interest sprout as to what was happened between them. Next, the thing she doubted the most was....

“Souji-chan..... just who are you?”

Nobile put her elbow on the counter as she said the question that would not be answered and she lost in her thought.

Having received the information from Nobile, Mayuki's party were in a location slightly away from 【Barvalha】 . It was because they thought they'd be involved with troublesome people again if they were still inside the town.

"What is it, Koram-sama? Did Koram-sama get the needed information?"

Mayuki asked Koram which replied with her satisfied nod.

"Umu, it looks like the one we are looking for had gone to 【Hi no Kuni】 . Moreover, it was said that he lived with someone there."

"Then, are you going to 【Hi no Kuni】 now?"

"Umu, there's an information dealer who is friendly with the previous information dealer in that country, and I was given a letter of introduction. So, I thought of asking there first."

"I see, then although it is regrettable, this is where we separate, right."

"For me, I want to hire excellent subordinates like you two, what do you think?"

"Ahaha, I think that'd be okay if we are going to live in this world for a little longer."

"Really!? Did you hear that, Olulu!? My subordinates is increasing, see! Moreover, the two are 【Brave Souls Vessels】 !"

"Princess, it is still undecided. After all, it is only an "if" talk."

Olulu rebuked the merry Koram.

"Mu..... even so, I want to value our meeting."

"Oya, that's a splendid thinking coming from Princess. By all means, please continue to have such a generous heart from now on too."

"Leave it to me! My heart is even wider than the sea. Ahahahaha!"

Olulu lightly shrugged her shoulders then turned towards Mayuki and Sheila.

“Thank you very much for accompanying us up until now.”

“There’s no need! Even we enjoyed it very much! Right, Sheila?”

“Y-Yes! Sheila prays that we will meet again somewhere!”

“Yes. It is the same for me. Well then, though I am really reluctant to part, Mayuki-san and Sheila-san look to be in a hurry, so this is where we part.”

“Un, thank you, Olulu. Koram-sama too, please stay healthy! I pray that you will meet the one you are looking for!”

“Aa! Me too, I wish Mayuki and Sheila will meet the one you are looking for!”

With this, Mayuki and Sheila went separate way from Koram and Olulu in a good humour. Waving their hands, they moved towards their destination.

“They are interesting people, right, Mayuki-san?”

“Yeah. Surely, we will meet again!”

“Yes! By the way, Mayuki-san, about the place we are going....”

“Un, it is considerably near. Mr. Butler is working in a big mansion of 【Moriarte】 town in <<Nockles Region>>.”

“Mo-Moreover, that name....”

“————— Souji Alkasha.”

The two saw the name written on the paper and gulped. The first time they saw the name, they couldn’t hide their shock. Though his family name was different, the way he was called that was written was familiar to Mayuki and Sheila.

“Asakura Souji..... Souji..... Souji..... yup, I am sure this is not a coincidence, Sheila.”

“Y-Yes. Sheila thought so too!”

note a trivia, Souji previous name is asakura Souji (朝倉想二), his current name is Souji Alkasha/Arukasa (ソージ・アルカーサ), try to read arukasa from the back~

The two were convinced that he was near and they unconsciously raised their pace.

(We will meet..... we will meet soon..... I want to meet you even earlier..... Sou-kun.)

Unable to restrain her impatient, Mayuki strongly grasped the Misanga she got from Souji as she looked straight ahead. Accompanied by Sheila, she advanced towards 【Moriarte】 .

Story 45 The Visit

At the time Mayuki's party obtained their new destination, Souji Alkasha was having one problem.

"U~m, this is troubling~."

"Y-Yeah. When Eu examined it, this problem came out."

Souji was organizing the storehouses along with the newly hired accountant, Eu. There were few kind of storehouses such as the one for perishable goods like vegetables, seasoning, and emergency ration, but one problem occurred inside one of the storehouse, the rice storage. Currently, a large amount of rice was scattered from its bag. As for the reason it happened,

Chu chu chu-

They could see a rat-like creature escaping from inside the bag where it ate the rice. Moreover, this rat possessed small amount of poison which made the rice spoiled and couldn't be eaten even if it was cleaned.

Naturally, Souji's stomach could endure it, but there's no way Yoyo and the other mansion's residents could do that.

Souji examined the storehouse, which made of woods, and a hole was opened below. It was probably opened by the rat. It invaded from there and enjoyed the rice.

The rice storage itself was built in the backyard and the wood had been gradually rotted such as by the rain, and holes began to appear.

This morning, teaching Eu about her work as an accountant as they looked around, it turned into Eu was going to organize the storehouses which made them noticed this situation.

"Like this, we must hurry to fix it, huh."

"Ou! Leave it to me!"

Appearing before the two was Demick, just like Eu, a newly hired gardener with his white teeth displayed. Just as always, an energetic and lively uncle.

“Please don’t appearing all of a sudden. It’s surprised us.”
“Buhaha! My bad, my bad! Well, shall I repair it?”
“Don’t tell me, are you also good at carpentry?”
“Ou! I am good at making things! Maa, the best one is child-making....”
“AAAAaaaah!”
“What’s with the sudden shout?”
“It is not “what”! Just what are you saying before Eu!”

He really was an unbelievable shitty oldman. But, the shitty oldman was smiling, not reflecting at all.

“Buhaha! Don’t mind something that trivial! If your youth is like this, you wouldn’t be able to enjoy your later years, you know? So, let’s loosened yourself a little more!”
“You, haven’t you think that you are too loose?”

Souji said so with cramped cheek, but he was relieved that fortunately Eu didn’t understand what was said at all and only staring at them blankly.

“W-Well then, Demick-san can repair it, right?”
“Ou, I can turn it into a splendid one as long I have the materials~.”
“Hee, I will be looking forward to it.”

The explosive statement made Souji felt the same aura as a certain red-haired head maid, but he decided to believed it because Demick said he had the ability.

“Next, with the disposal of these rice, we need to buy the new supply for it, huh.”
“That’s right. Also, right now, there are things in this mansion that need to be resupplied.”

Eu said so and handed the a paper where furnishing, seasoning, etc were written in details which certainly made him feels it was the time to resupply it.

“E-Eu? Did you confirm all of this?”
“Un..... is it bad?”
“N-No, no! I am only surprised because of Eu’s splendid work! As expected of the accountant acknowledged by Yoyo-ojousama.”

Souji said so while gently patting Eu's head. "Fuwa..... ehehe," Eu laughed as she felt pleasant.

However, Eu truly was excellent. He knew she had exceptional talent in calculation, but the various things she was taught was absorbed, just like dry sand that poured with water. Furthermore, due to her high desire to improve herself, there's no need to repeatedly told her how to do things which helped Souji as her teacher.

"Well then, I shall go to buy them now. Can you help me too, Eu?"

"Un!"

Souji and Eu came to the general store within 【Moriarte】. Of course it was for the sake of shopping, but everyone's gazes were always turned to Eu. Certainly, Eu stood out. A five years old child wearing maid uniform was of course standing out, but Eu's outward appearance made her stood out further.

Her face was covered with half-transparent veil which was the characteristic of Star Jellyfish tribe, and it was beautifully sparkling as it bathed by sunlight. Moreover, she herself was so cute that even made Kaina instinctively wanted to hug her, so people they passed always looked back at her twice or thrice.

"Oh! Ain't it young master Souji! What happened today that you are bring along such a cute child?"

The uncle of the general store said so teasingly. Souji himself was fairly famous within the town. After all, he was the head butler of the only mansion in this town. Besides, he sometimes came to the town to resupply, and his friendship with the townspeople had deepened.

"Ahaha, let me introduce her. This one is the new maid, Eu Sophia."

"E-Eu's best regards!"

Eu bowed in panic. She had taught how to make a greeting, and Souji gave her the passing point although she still converse awkwardly.

“Ooh, I see, I see. Is your Master well?”

“Ee, even now Ojou-sama is working.”

“I see, but, that young girl always work and work. Maa, it can't be helped 'cause of her position tho~.”

What the uncle said was justified. Souji also had thought so and visited Yoyo.

Thus she said, [More than other children at my age, I want to walk towards my dream even a little earlier,] with a truly beautiful smile.

For her, the works she did was for the sake of one of her dreams. That's why, even Souji could not say anything to that.

“Well, if she is healthy, then that's the best. By the way, what do you need today?”

“About that....”

After buying the things needed in the general store,

“Open the storage, purple flame.”

The purple flame that once used in Nobile's store began to appear. Next, to the place he took out the bag from before, this time he put the things they bought inside.

“Ahaha~ young master's magic is as strange as usual~”

The uncle knew about this because he had seen it for so many times. However, Eu was blinking, stiffened.

“O-Onii-chan..... what is that?”

“Aa, now that I think of it, I haven't tell Eu about my magic. Let me tell you once we return to the mansion.”

“R-Really!?”

“Ee, that’s why, let’s quickly finish our shopping!”

“Un.”

Souji’s magic made it possible to always shopping empty-handed.

(Rather, should I just store them inside the flame....)

According to the current situation, he decided it’d be better to store the things they purchased inside the flame from which it would be able to be taken out at any time.

“Where will we go next?”

“We have bought most of it from the general store..... next is wood, huh.”

“Wood?”

“Ee, I was asked by Demick-san. Next, we can reinforce the storage’s surrounding if we have metal plates too, so let’s look for them now.”

“O-Okay!”

He could feel Eu’s tension gradually raised because it looked like she enjoyed the shopping.

(Actually, in Eu’s age, it’d be normal for her to go shopping and playing around with others.)

But there’s a reason she could not do that, and Eu was trying her best to solve it now. Five days had passed since they begun to teach about magic to Eu. The time limit was about to expire, Souji moved his feet as he was thinking it was about the time to consult Yoyo on how they would overcome the problem.

At the time Souji and Eu went to the town to shopping, a person appeared before Crowtail mansion. The person was covered in robe as if to hide its appearance. Its face couldn't be seen as it was covered by hood.

However, its mouth was distorted into crescent.

"I see, so this is the place that brat lived in now..... kukuku."

As if finding it amusing, it entered straight into the mansion's premise without any permission while suppressing its laugh. Thus one person called out to it.

"Oi, you, do you have any business in this mansion?"

That was Demick. Demick was someone who always wore a radiant smile, but he was now made a doubting expression towards the obviously suspicious person in robe.

"..... let me ask you one thing."

"..... what is it?"

"Here, does a brat from Aquatic race called Eu lived here?"

A hoarse voice entered Demick's ears. Thus he understood that the person in robe was a man. Demick rustled his hair and,

"Eu? Aquatic race? The heck is that? You know, I don't understand what are you talking about, but shouldn't you show your face first if you are asking someone?"

"..... kukuku."

The suddenly laughing man made Demick felt unpleasant and frowned.

"Is something funny?"

"Nothing, it is okay if you want to see, but are you prepared for it?"

"Ah?"

Morrow, the man put his hand on his hood, slowly, he showed his face. Following that, bloodshot eyes were looking at Demick, and

“After all, I killed most of those people who saw my face.”

Momentarily, Demick face paled.

Story 46 The Butler Appeared

Walking inside the town, the <<Magic Core>> in Souji’s chest began to heated and pulsing as if someone was calling for him.

(Th-This is..... kh!?)

The reason for this sensation was the ability of the flame he created a few days ago. It was the yellow flame. Simply speaking, the flame’s ability was teleportation.

For example, if the crest made of yellow flame was carved somewhere inside the mansion, Souji would be able to teleport there no matter where he was at the moment.

Moreover, he could understand the physical and mental condition of the person that was touching the crest. However, he could not accurately understand whatever inside the person’s mind. Only emotions that appeared strongly, such as impatience and anger, were transmitted. He had presented a necklace with tag where crest made of yellow flame carved to Yoyo before. It was so that he would be able to rush whenever he sensed Yoyo was in danger. And Yoyo herself gladly took it.

Thus a strong emotion was transmitted by the yellow flame now. It was a mix of anger, contempt, and uneasiness. It was a proof that something must have happened before Yoyo. Besides, he sensed Yoyo was telling him to return.

“Eu, we are going to return to the mansion now!”

“Eh? Ah, did something happen?”

“Something is likely to happen in the mansion.”

“Wh-What does Onii-chan mean?”

“I don’t know! That’s why I am going to return as soon as possible!”

“O-Okay!”

“Become my desired image! Orange Flame!”

An orange-colored flame appeared which only could be rode by two people, and Souji got on top of it. Next, Eu, who saw it for the first time, strongly grasped Souji's hand and boarded the flame despite her confusion.

The truth was, he wanted to teleport instantly, but the only one that would be teleported was Souji himself. That would resulted in him leaving Eu alone.

As a butler, it was necessary for him to give priority to Yoyo and come to her side even earlier, but if he left Eu alone here and something happened to her, he would make Yoyo disappointed.

He could not leave Eu alone in this situation where he didn't know as for when the hitman would come for Eu.

That's why, he decided to return together even if it resulted in him being a little late.

"We are going to fly, so hold on tight!"

"O-OOOOkay!"

Eu clung to Souji's waist. Following that, the flame moved towards the mansion at a tremendous speed.

Yoyo was working inside her study when she heard a scream from the frontyard. Wondering what happened, she immediately looked outside by the window. There was a robe-cladded person and Demick who collapsed before that person.

(..... don't tell me-!?)

Yoyo hurriedly went towards the mansion's entrance with loud footsteps. There were a lot of perplexed maids with expressions of uneasiness. Next, Souji's mother, Kaina, was approaching the collapsed Demick.

"Yo-Yoyoyoyoyo-samaaaaaah!"

From within the crowd, Ninthe clung to her with distorted expression due to fear.

"What happened?"

"N-Ni-Ninthe doesn't know! Su-Suddenly that person, to Demick-san...."

Yoyo turned her gaze towards the robed person. Thus she accurately understood the situation from the characteristic of the person's exposed face.

(He is from..... Landshark tribe, huh. I see, he came for Eu.)

As she was, Yoyo went before the maids and spoke to the that came from Landshark tribe.

"Do you have any business here?"

".....! hou, are you the young, present master in the information?"

A truly hoarse voice. It wasn't the coldness of the voice that made one felt unpleasant, the hoarse voice was just that unpleasantly resounding inside one's body.

"You are someone from Land Shark tribe. In other words, an Aquatic race. So, what's the purpose of you who lived inside the sea to have come here?"

"It's nothing, I am just looking for something."

"..... is it something that made you put your hand on my family member?"

"Kukuku, that's nice words, little girl. You should have noticed it, right? My objective, that is."

Glaring, the man's glare that turned towards her was filled with piercing hostility. It made Ninthe and the other maids trembling in fear, but Yoyo did not flinch at all.

“..... Jack Note.”

“Kuku, see, you knew it already.”

Yoyo was convinced that this man was the hitman coming for Eu. Yoyo moved her gaze towards Demick and Kaina. With blood flowing out of his body, Demick wore a pained expression.

“..... Kaina, how’s Demick?”

“Apparently, something thin had pierced his abdomen.”

“Is it fatal?”

“It is okay for now due to not reaching his vital, but it’ll be dangerous if he is left as is.”

“I see. Bring him here now.”

“Wait’s sec.”

Jack suddenly called them to a stop. Next, he held up his hand and a big water sphere appeared on his hand. It wasn’t just clumping there as it changed into sea urchin-like shape.

Though it was made of water, seeing the pointed parts hardened, it was obvious one’s body would be pierced if hit by that thing.

“I will pierce him if you move.”

Kaina immediately let out flame from her body and stood before Demick.

“Hou, a flame magic-user huh..... kuku, looks like our compatibility is good.”

That’s of course only applied to Jack. He was an enemy with pretty bad compatibility for Kaina. However, Kaina didn’t change her expression and was glaring at Jack.

“That cheap flame or my water, shall we see which is better?”

Jack raised the corners of his mouth in joy, then Yoyo’s words flew towards him.

“Please wait. Jack Note, isn’t Eu your objective?”

“Aa, that’s right. I am hired for that. So, quickly bring out that brat. If you do that, I will hold back.”

“Fufu, even a sea hitman would fall into the ground, huh.”

“..... what did you say?”

Jack’s killing intent surged.

“An assassin is someone whose work is to deprive people from lives. Even so, you accepted kidnapping for such a small amount of money. I wonder can you still boasting that title of yours?”

“..... shut yer trap, lass.”

“Or, have you given up from being a hitman? Does it mean you have fallen that much that you don’t care about you pride and accept any job as long as you paid now?”

Killing intent that surged from Jack’s body made Kaina realized something and,

“Yoyo-sama, get away from there-!?”

Kaina shouted that in desperation, but Jack had already shot the water sphere.

“Die!”

Even frightened, the maids stood before Yoyo to protect her but,

“Don’t worry.”

Yoyo’s words reached everyone. Thus momentarily—————

Black clothing appeared before the girls which was worn by a red-haired person and,

“Devour it, White Flame!”

White flame gushed out from that person's right hand, the white flame extended as if opening its mouth wide and swallowed the incoming water sphere.
Next, that person smiled to assure everyone and spoke.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, Yoyo-ojousama."

Story 47 Souji VS Jack

"Zooooji-zabaaaaaaaah!"

The crying Ninthe immediately clung to Souji's waist. The other maids, though not did what Ninthe do, were obviously relieved by Souji's appearance.
Next, Yoyo, with the usual and unchanging smile, said,

"I have been waiting, my butler."

"I am sorry for being late."

Facing Yoyo, Souji politely bowed. Following that, he turned on his heel and confirmed the situation. His gaze thus turned to look at Demick.

(That injury, it'll be bad if we left it as-is.)

It seemed not too late as Demick was still conscious, but his abdomen was bleeding badly. And, from the amount of blood flowed to the ground, it was necessary to stop his bleeding immediately.

While he thought so, an orange-colored flame descend to Souji's side. The one boarded on it was Eu.

"Eu, please go to where everyone is."

"O-Okay!"

With the disappearance of the orange flame, Eu came to Ninthe's side. Ninthe parted from Souji's waist, came close to Eu, and told her the situation.

“Well then, I am surprised on how you’ve been doing as you like.”

“..... who are you? What did you just do? What was that white thing that swallowed my magic?”

Jack pointed at the white flame.

“Ahaha, how unpleasant. I don’t have any intention to answer, you know?”

Receiving Souji’s words, veins popped on Jack’s forehead. Next, he took off his hood, his bloodshot eyes were glaring at Eu.

“Anyway, give me that brat! That woman too!”

Jack pointed at Yoyo.

“That lass just made a fool out of me! I will make sure she regrets it!”

“Hou, well well, you say something pretty amusing there.”

“Ahh?”

“Just who do you think will regretting?”

Sneering, Souji moved white flame. The flame was going to swallow Jack.

“Tch!”

Jack didn’t keep quiet either, he ran into the vegetable garden.

“Ojou-sama, please help Demick-san before it is too late.”

“Ee, take care.”

Returning a nod at Yoyo, Souji slowly walked towards the vegetable garden. There were various kind of vegetables raised in there, but there was place where the grass overgrown and made it looked like wall, a suitable place to hide.

Walking while watching his surrounding, *bakibaki*, such sound was approaching from his left. Souji promptly jumped back and water ball passed through the place he was a little while ago. As it was, the water ball flew and torn up the vegetables.

“Good grief, do you know how much time it took to raise those?”

Souji said so with anger mixed, but a shadow suddenly covered him. Looking above, he could see Jack.

“Diee-!”

Water ball flew again, and this time Souji used white flame to swallow it again. As-is, the flame was aiming at Jack. However, Jack couldn't be seen anymore.

(Hiding again....?)

At the moment he thought so, Souji's ears heard screams. *Don't tell me*, Souji turned towards the mansion's residents, he saw Jack was coming towards Yoyo. Yoyo herself was currently healing Demick using her 『Tuning』 magic. Yoyo was maximizing Demick's natural healing power.

“First is you, you lass!”

Jack shot water ball again. However, Souji instantly appeared before Yoyo.

“Wh-What the-!?”

Jack's surprise was as natural as it could be. He thought Souji should've been behind him. That followed by the fact of the considerable distance between Souji's location and here. Even so, Souji instantly appeared before him which in turn taken Jack aback. Souji was using the effect of the yellow flame, teleportation, but Jack, who didn't know that, could only wondering what had happened.

When the white flame devoured the water ball, Jack clicked his tongue. Jack moved his hand to his waist and with a clacking sound, he took out a curved sword-like weapon. He was carrying the weapon which couldn't have been seen due to the robe he wore.

"Looks like I better kill you first, huh."

Jack threatened so while glaring at Souji.

"Well, do you think you can do it?"

"Tch, what an irritating brat. I can do at least that much!"

Jack rushed out as he said so. Souji moved the white flame, but Jack's speed was pretty fast. *As expected of an assassin*, Souji thought so.

"How irritating!"

Jack's stomach swollen, then surprisingly, a lot of water came out of his mouth. Furthermore, reversely, the water expanded as if to swallow white flame.

(This is bad!?)

At the moment Souji thought so, the white flame that met the water head on was, *shhhhhh*, vanishing accompanied with that sound.

Actually, the white flame has a part that can be said as its mouth where things would be devoured even if it was water. However, the other parts are extremely weak to water.

It couldn't be helped as it was a flame, but the white flame was the weakest against water among the flames Souji had created.

"It disappeared!"

Smiling eerily in joy, Jack moved towards Souji.

“Become my desired image, Orange Flame!”

Souji instantly created a sword of orange flame and received Jack’s curved sword.

“Tch! So you can also do that!”

Jack was surprised. However, it was also not a good situation for Souji. After all, the orange flame is also weak to water. There’s no problem if it was just a little of it, but it couldn’t maintain its existence against the amount of water from before.

Jack was accustomed on using the curved sword, he was fiercely attacking as if dancing. However, Souji didn’t have any problem on handling his weapon because he was taught by the previous head butler, Balmunk. He responded against the attacks well.

“Damn it! Are you really just a butler!?”

「くそが！ お前ホントに執事なのか！」

Jack’s question was natural. Normally, there should be no butler capable of preventing an assassin’s fierce attacks. He was at a loss of words, because as it was already rare for someone to be capable of using magic, the butler was also proficient in martial arts.

“Of course I am!”

Dokah, Jack’s abdomen was kicked and he was blown away. Following that, smiling, Souji said,

“I am the butler serving in this mansion, anything wrong with that?”

“..... tch.”

Thus Jack’s stomach swollen just like before and water bullets shot out from his mouth. Souji avoid those, but the water bullets pierced the mansion’s windows as they were and the splinters were falling towards Ninthe and Eu below.

Souji instantly used orange flame and the girls were protected from the falling things by an umbrella above them. At the moment he patted his chest in relief, a killing intent came from behind him.

“It’s nice that you looked away, oy.”

Gushuh, the curved sword slashed at his left flank. It wasn’t life threatening as Souji immediately dodged it, but blood sprouted from his abdomen. Souji took a distance while holding his abdomen.

“Kahaha! You let your guard down, red head!”

Morrow, Jack ran towards Yoyo again. However, it was Jack’s mistake to do that. After all, even if Souji could not move, Souji had the teleportation, though just for around Yoyo. Just like before, Souji teleported to Yoyo’s side, but he was surprised by Jack’s next move, inadvertently.

Jack was pretending to come towards Yoyo, he immediately turned towards Eu.

“Kahaha! I will take the brat!”

With accomplished expression, Jack approached Eu. However, words were reaching his ears.

“Ee, looks like the guard had been relaxed..... yours that is.”

“..... hah?”

At the same time as Souji said so, Jack was wrapped by shadow. Instinctively, Jack stopped and looked at the sky. There was the incoming white flame with its mouth wide opened. That’s right, Souji would not go away from Eu without any preparation. He had considered the possibility of such a situation and stood by the white flame vanished by Jack in the sky.

The white flame had certainly vanished by the water from Jack at that time, but it was only a part of it. No, it would be misleading if it was said as “part.”

After all, Souji was capable of creating two flames with his right hand and left hand, respectively. He was capable of creating two different flames at once much less the same ones.

That's why, he used the chance when Jack ran towards the vegetable garden to fire the white flame into the sky.

"Devour him, white flame."

"TCH!"

Jack immediately moved away, but his right arm that carried the curved sword was late by a step thus bitten off by the white flame.

"Guwaah!?"

Even while his face distorted from severe pain, Jack desperately moved away. Blood was spraying from where the right arm was bitten off.

"You can't escape. I will make sure to beat you to a pulp."

However, Jack had understood that the flame was weak against water, so he once again released a large amount of water from his mouth. Souji reacted by immediately raising up the white flame into the sky.

"Sh-Shit! I didn't hear anything about this nonsensical butler!"

Jack made a grand grumble, but there's no light of mercy in Souji's eyes. When Jack thought he'd become the white flame's food if this keeps up, he turned and glared at Eu and Ninthe. Following that, his mouth curved in grin.

"Having come to this, everything is that brat's fault, haahh! Diee!"

Jack created a gigantic water ball which fired towards the two girls

“Sh-!?”

Souji immediately moved the white flame in the sky to try to protect them, but the water ball was faster. Ninthe and Eu paled. However, Ninthe made an unbelievable action. *DONh*, he pushed Eu away. Following that, with a desperate expression,

“Eu-chan! Runnnn!”

Ninthe shielded Eu.

Story 48 Souji Snapped

Being pushed, Eu was rolling on the ground until she was outside the water ball’s range. As such the water ball would not hit Eu. However, it was thanks to who.....?

“N-..... no....”

It was obvious that Ninthe pushed Eu away to protect her. Thus Eu was able to get away, but the threat was about to attack Ninthe now.

“Do-..... don’t....”

Eu felt everything moved in slow motion. Ninthe was desperately shouting for Eu to run away. Souji and the others were looking at them in panic.

Next, Jack was wearing a brutal expression as he was about to kill her, no, Ninthe in this time. Jack should’ve come here to take Eu back to the sea. He himself said so.

In other words, this situation was created by her existence, and Eu was aware of it. She felt that if someone was to die here, then it’d be the same as she was the killer, and the guilt would crush her.

If she didn’t go out from the sea..... if she was able to control her power..... if she didn’t run away from her tribe like that....

This situation would surely not happen. Eu's whole body was trembling, and she immediately saw Ninthe's face. Though Ninthe was frightened, she was _____ smiling. It was also possible that it only looked like a smile to Eu. Eu had found a new friend..... and people that said they were her family. They gladly accepted her even though she isn't a human.

However, now, that Ninthe, who gave priority to Eu's life more than her own, has death approaching her. When Eu seriously thought that, tremendous amount of information flowed into Eu's head.

Eu wasn't able to understand all of the information. However, Eu had one thing she was convinced of for the first time.

Right now, only her power was capable of saving Ninthe. She had been taught properly by Souji. That was, magic is capable of saving.

Grinding her teeth, Eu was aiming at the water ball that come attacking Ninthe. Next, after she deeply inhaled,

“YAAaaaaaaaaah!”

Suddenly, tremendous electrical discharge gushed out of Eu's body and went straight towards the water ball. Thus, after a moment, as if to protect Ninthe, the electrical discharge expanded before her.

It was Eu's magic that Yoyo named as 『Petrification Lightning』 . Its speed was just like a lightning.

PISHlliiih!

The water ball, touching the purple lightning, stopped in its place and petrified. *Goton*, it fell into the ground and rolled. “..... don't..... don't bully my family!”

Eu shouted so from the bottom of her heart, but it just went through Jack's ears.

“Im-..... –possible..... what’s with that power...? I never heard that she is able to petrify magic!”

Unable to believe what he just saw, Jack was agape and stiffened.

“Ee, it is indeed surprising.”

Souji stood before Ninthe, then Ninthe, having lost her consciousness, fell to the ground. It had only been a moment, but she had lost her consciousness from the fear.

Souji quietly lifted Ninthe and carried her as if she was a doll with one hand. Thus, as he was, he went towards Eu and similarly, Eu was carried.

He held the two in each arm as if to express he would not hand them over to whoever it is. As-is, he slowly moved towards Yoyo while saying,

“I never thought that Eu’s magic would bloom in such place. Though it is said people would be able to pull all of their strength when they are in danger, for her case, she activated her magic due to feeling the danger that her family would be killed. It is a joyous thing.”

He smiled at Eu, who was held in his arm. Eu, blushing, was casting her gaze down.

“I also need to thank Ninthe.”

Souji entrusted the two to Kaina, then he turned on his heel to face Jack again.

“Next, the me who completely let my guard down is angry now. After all, just for what did I trained myself....”

It was a fact that he exposed everyone to danger. It was none other because Souji was underestimating his opponent. His carelessness invited such a frightening situation. Exhaling, he looked at Yoyo. Yoyo was glaring at him.

(I have truly made a blunder here..... I need to reflect on it.)

Souji scolded himself in his mind, then he moved his gaze to Jack.

“First, let me thank you. Thanks to you, one of our problem had been cleared.”
“Wh-What are you...?”

Feeling the abnormality in Souji, who was talking indifferently without destroying his smile, a large amount of sweat flowed from Jack’s forehead.

“..... fuu, next is I am sorry. From now on, I will use all of my strength.”
“.....?”
“..... I am going to kill you.”
“kh!?”

The swelling of magic power and killing intent from Souji were released towards Jack.

“Just a little more, Ninthe and Eu would be dead. Besides, didn’t you say you are going to kill Yoyo-ojousama?”
“Ah..... uh..... hih!”

Maybe because he could not endure Souji’s glare, Jack was trying to escape in panic. However, red flame instantly surrounded him.

“Sh-Shit!”

He created water ball and fired it, but the ball was evaporated at the moment it touched the flame.

“Whaa-!? Th-then, how about this!”

Jack’s stomach swelled and he tried to release the water, but no water came out.

“It looks like, even that magic of yours had been exhausted, huh. After all, you keep shooting and shooting without thinking.”

“Hyah!?”

Surprised by Souji who had been behind him before he was aware of it, Jack’s legs gave out. Looking down with ruthless gaze, Souji slowly moved his mouth,

“You’ve stepped over the limit.”

“He-help....”

“Erase him, Red Flame, White Flame.”

Souji only said that, then he disappeared into the flame. Following that, the red flame approached Jack and burned his body.

“GYAaaaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAh!?”

After the red flame, the white flame came and devoured Jack.

“You’ve chose the wrong opponents, mr. Hitman of the sea.”

Saying the words which concluded everything, Souji returned to Yoyo’s side.

“..... uh.”

“Ah, you woke up, Ninthe.”

Ninthe was sleeping on the bed. She was carried to the bed by Souji after she lost her consciousness from protecting Eu.

“ah..... Souji-.....-sama? So-sosososouji-sama!?”

“Ee, it’s me, Souji.”

Hurriedly, Ninthe’s upper body raised, pushing aside the bedding. Souji returned a gentle smile to Ninthe. However, Ninthe was only blinking her eyes from not knowing the situation. Following that, she felt warmth on her left hand and turned her gaze there.

“Eu has been by your side since then.”

That’s right, it was Eu who was grasping Ninthe’s hand. Eu had nursed her and fell asleep as she was, but her hand keeps grasping Ninthe’s.

“Is she..... unhurt?”

“Ee, thanks to Ninthe.”

“Th-That’s good~.”

Relieved, the raised upper-body of Ninthe fell and lied on the bed.

“Ahaha, but please stop being reckless, Ninthe. You scared me there, you know?”

“Ah, haha..... it just that, Ninthe’s body moved by itself.”

“Even Ojou-sama’s face was paled. You will probably completely scolded..... you know?”

“Ehh~ Ninthe doesn’t want that~..... wh-what happened to that person?”

“There’s no need to worry about him. More importantly, Ninthe, thank you for protecting Eu.”

“..... Ehehe. Of course. Ninthe is truly glad that Eu-chan is safe. wait, huh? Souji-sama, why is your cheek red?”

“Umm..... about this....”

Souji’s left cheek was swelling red. Lightly touching it, Souji said,

“This is a punishment from those two....”

Actually, having defeated Jack, Souji was called by Yoyo and Kaina, and he received the whip-of-love punishment from the two. Of course those were unreserved slaps. The reason was simple. He didn't defeat Jack quickly, thus Ninthe and Eu were exposed to danger. Thus he received the punishment as a warning from now on.

"W-Well, it will heal before long."

"Is that so? Then that is good!"

Ninthe made a lovely, happy smile, then she looked at the sleeping Eu. Seeing Ninthe, Souji asked her.

"Listen, Ninthe, what do you think if Eu going to leave from here?"

"N-Ninthe doesn't want that!"

It was a prompt answer. Unconsciously, her upper-body was raised again.

"We are finally getting along, so Ninthe doesn't want to be separated...."

"..... I see."

Souji came to Ninthe's side and gently patted her head.

"Fuwa...."

"Me too..... no, everyone also feels the same as Ninthe."

"Eh? Is that true?"

"Ee."

Alternatively looking at the two faces, Souji made a slight nod. Thus as he was, he went towards the room's door. Reaching to the doorknob, he said one thing to Ninthe.

"Please rest a little more. As for me, I am going to where Yoyo-ojousama is."

"Yes."

Souji opened the door and went towards Yoyo's study.

Story 49 The Remaining Problem

Souji entered Yoyo's study, the topic of their conversation was of course how to solve the problem in the adjacent sea. The thing that could lead to the solution itself was already in their hand, inside the study.

That was the water ball Eu petrified.

"If either my or Yoyo-ojousama's magic is capable of de-petrify it, we will be able to negotiate with the people from Aquatic race."

"Ee, that is so. Souji, how about you try to return it to normal using green flame now?"

"Certainly."

Souji approached the spiky water ball on the ground, held up his right hand and recited, "Heal it, green flame." Morrow, green-colored flame appeared on his right palm, then it wrapped the water ball.

(..... mu? What a powerful magic.)

Unconsciously, Souji was groaning from the strength of Eu's magic that he came to understand when wrapping it with green flame. That it wasn't just a simple petrification. Following that, the spike-parts were de-petrified first, returning into normal water.

The water spilled on the floor and Souji stopped his magic temporarily to confirm it.

"Fuu, it seems I can cure it."

It was a work that needed considerable amount concentration, but Souji was relieved that the water indeed return to normal from its petrified state. With this, they could advance to the final stage without any problem.

"By the way, I have touched it before Souji come and I saw it."

"What does Yoyo-sama means?"

"Certainly, it is a petrifying magic, but it is also a magic that stop the time."

"..... as I thought."

"Did you notice that too?"

“No, but although I didn’t come to a conclusion about time stopping magic just like Ojou-sama, I felt that it wasn’t just a petrifying magic. I see, so Eu’s magic stopped the time of the thing it petrified.”

“It is as you said. It is an extremely unique and powerful magic. If those with power or evil people learned it, they’d likely wanted to have her.”

That’s right, this petrifying magic wasn’t a magic that kill people. It is a godly magic capable of stopping a person’s time and preserves it into the future.

Therefore, if this magic was analyzed, it might be able to give people perpetual youth and longevity. It stopped time, so if the method to just losing the petrifying effect could be found which resulted in the stopping of only aging and growth, the statesmen and upper-class nobles, no, most people would want to obtain it.

“..... it is dangerous.”

“Ee, that’s why I want Eu to not use her magic as much as possible.”

“Well, I will protect her if those kind of people come here.”

“Fufu, it is the same as that time. Souji, you acted as if you are Ninthe and Eu’s father, you know?”

What Yoyo meant by that time was the time Souji snapped when Ninthe and Eu almost got killed by Jack.

“No no, I would rather be called brother....”

He wanted to be pardoned of being called so by a ten years old child like Ninthe. It wasn’t because he hate Ninthe, he just didn’t want to be thought of as a father yet.

“Fufu, please don’t worry. I also would not allow anyone to hurt the people of this mansion.”

Yoyo also liked Ninthe and Eu. She wasn’t a person that would just be silent and overlook those trying to hurt her family.

“With this, we have confirmed the effect of Eu’s magic. The Star Jellyfish tribe will be banished by the other Aquatic race tomorrow. But, the sun has set now, so shall we go there by tomorrow morning?”

“Ee, let’s end this tomorrow, Souji.”

“As you wish, Yoyo-ojousama.”

Tomorrow is the time limit of the one week. If the Star Jellyfish tribe missed the day and unskillfully dealt with it, a fight might broke out in the adjacent sea. That would not only become a problem for those in the sea as it would also influence human who lived by catching the fish, but no one know just how big the spark could be.

Besides, Eu herself wanted to stop it from advancing to that stage. Thus as her family, Souji and Yoyo would use all of their power to make sure it was stopped.

Early morning of the next day. Souji, Yoyo, and Eu, the three were being seen off by the people of the mansion on the mansion's entrance. They were going to where the Star Jellyfish tribe lived. They were almost in the deadline, so something might have happened on the other side, and as such, it was necessary for them to hurry.

“Uh~, Eu-chan, please make sure you return here!”

Separating her hands from Eu's, Ninthe became teary eyed. She was scared that Eu would not return here.

Honestly, it was not known what the path Eu would choose after this is all over. If the problem in the sea was peacefully settled, it was possible that Eu would return to the sea, that was if Eu herself choose it.

Naturally, Souji and the others strongly wish that Eu would remain in the mansion, but it was Yoyo's virtue to not force anyone. It was a decision made by the current master, so Souji could only follow.

Eu also didn't know what kind of thing waiting for here from now on, so she has a perplexed expression. For Eu herself, this mansion was also a place for her to return thus her perplexion.

That was something to be happy about for Souji. This place was nothing but a normal mansion, but it was a happy thing that Eu came to like it. Moreover, he strongly wanted to welcome her back as a family.

“We are going, Eu.”

With Yoyo’s words, Eu reluctantly parted her hand from Ninthe’s. Following that, Souji created a vehicle made of orange flame and moved his gaze to Demick.

“Demick-san is indeed tough.”

“Buhaha! O’course! I also have my own work, so there’s no time for rest!”

“But, you have been sleeping since yesterday.”

“Otto, so you can talk back now, Souji! What? Is it wrong for me to return to normal? Well, it was you, Souji, the one who completely healed me.”

That’s right, after the fight ended, Souji immediately treated Demick. Yoyo’s 『Tuning』 magic wasn’t specialized in healing, so it would take much time to completely heal Demick. As such, Souji came and instantly healed Demick.

“I need to thank you for that! How about this? Next time, we will collect beauties and make a harem festival in the bar, okay?”

“H-Harem festival!?”

“Are you in? You are a man too, right? Though you always have a cool face, manly spirit must be overflowing in your head, right? Let’s go, let’s drink to sleep along with those boing boing.”

With both hands before his chest, Demick made a groping gesture.

“..... b-by the way, what about the bust size?”

“Of course, we will decide it as we search for them. The other day, I saw young women who exceeded ninety, you know?”

“ni-..... ninety..... muu.”

By all means, Souji want to see them with his own eyes now. Souji is a man after all. There’s no way he didn’t have any interest in woman. However, he was busy with training, works and have no chance to meet such a thing up until now, so he couldn’t be silent and overlook it when he heard “harem festival.”

He inadvertently gulped, but immediately, an ice-cold voice that seemed to pierce him came from behind him.

“..... Souji, it seems you are talking about interesting thing?”

Gi gi gi, Souji turned his head, like a robot that forgot to be oiled, to look behind him. Standing silently there, was the smiling Yoyo.

However, he didn't understand why he felt coldness that seemed to freeze him coming from her body. Also, her eyes were surely not smiling.

(D-Don't tell me, she heard our..... talk?)

This is bad, he thought. Yoyo is also a girl in marriageable age. She must be disliked such a talk as a woman, also recently, when Souji praised the figure of woman he met at the town, Yoyo's mood would immediately turned bad.

Young, but acted as the current master, she didn't enjoyed dressing up or shopping like any other girls of the town, so it's possible she envied those woman.

Following that, once the topic came to breast, Souji would surely called to massage her until she was satisfied in the evening. Of course he wasn't massaging her chest. That's the thing that must be emphasized.

Besides, if he was to massage it, it would be rather difficult to massage Yoyo's too modest chest. Anyway, talking about breast was strictly prohibited before Yoyo, so Souji's spirit as a man inadvertently vanished.

“Y-Yoyo-ojousama.....?”

He squeezed those words while cold sweat flowed from his forehead.

“..... Souji?”

“Y-Yes!”

Bishih, he straightened up his back and keeps this pose.

“This evening, massage me for two hours.”

“..... a-as you wish.”

As such, he was going to work until night today too. He was crying inside and *ban*, his back was hit.

“Buhaha! Souji has it hard too, huh!”

Shut up!, he didn't say that. Souji could only glared at the laughing Demick. Drooping his shoulders, Souji got on the orange flame and carefully escorted Yoyo and Eu. He would not forget such a thing as a butler. Afterwards, Yoyo looked towards the others and said,

“Well then, we are going.”

“P-Please be careful!”

“Souji, protect them!”

“Work hard, leave setting it up to me!”

In order, Ninthe, Kaina, and Demick said those words. Rather, Demick needs to shut up. No, Souji didn't thought of thanking him. probably.

Riding on orange flame, the three raised into the sky and flew towards the sea.

Story 50 Negotiation

Arriving before the sea, Souji and the girls were watching the vast sea from the sandy beach.

“O-Oniichan, h-how are we going there?”

Eu asked those in worry. It was a just question. Eu is an Aquatic race, so she was capable of moving freely inside the sea, but Souji and Yoyo couldn't. They couldn't live inside the sea much less conversing there.

“Eu..... should Eu go there alone?”

“No, that's dangerous, so don't.”

Of course it is. The result was clear if Eu went there alone. She'd be captured by Star Jellyfish tribe, handed over to the other Aquatic race's tribes, thus her life would disappear. There's no way such an outrageous choice would be chosen.

"T-Then, how?"

"About that, this is how."

Yoyo was the one entering on the two's conversation. Yoyo touched Souji's body and quietly shut her eyes. Morrow, a large amount of magic power overflowed from Yoyo which surprised Eu.

Following that, that magic power covered Souji's body and gradually seeping into Souji's body. Not understanding anything, Eu tilted her head.

"..... it's over."

"Thank you very much, Ojou-sama."

Seeing Souji bowed his head, Eu said,

"Wh-What did Onee-chan do?"

"Fufu, you will understand once we enter the sea."

With the unchanging, beautiful smile, Yoyo walked towards the sea while accompanied by Souji. Panicky, Eu went after them.

Thus seeing Souji and Yoyo dived into the sea as they were, "Eh!?", Eu shouted so and immediately followed them.

After swimming for a while, Souji and Yoyo arrived at the bottom of the sea. Naturally, their whole bodies were soaked by seawater.

"Umm..... that's...."

Eu was puzzled by the two who were standing at the bottom of the sea with cool faces.

"Fufu, do you still not understand?"

“O-Onee-chan can talk!?”

“Ee, of course we can.”

“Onii-chan too!?”

Eu’s surprise was natural. She heard the two are human from them, and she was taught that it was impossible for human to live inside the sea. The two would not lie to her. She thought so as she was in a blank surprised, stiffened.

“Actually, we are able to do this is thanks to Yoyo-ojousama.”

“..... eh? Thanks to Onee-chan?”

“Ee, that’s right. I have tell you a little about my magic, right?”

“U-Un.”

“Well, with my 『Tuning』 magic, I adjusted the structure of my and Souji’s bodies to the same as yours, an Aquatic race.”

“..... eh, ehh!?”

“Of course it couldn’t always be maintained. That’s why, it is necessary for us to hurry. Can you understand it now?”

“..... a-amazing!?”

“eh?”

Eu abruptly approached Yoyo with sparkling eyes.

“Onee-chan’s magic and Onii-chan’s magic, both are amazing!”

“Ahaha, Eu’s is also amazing, you know.”

“Fufu, Souji is right. Eu, your praise makes me happy, but now is not the time....”

“Ee, it is as you said, Ojou-sama.”

Souji turned his gaze towards their surroundings. Morrow, hostile presences could be felt from the shadows of the boulders and seaweeds.

“First, we must do something about these guys.”

One by one, people from Aquatic race were emerging from the shadows. They were the people whose territory is here.

“You! What are you!? Why are people with human forms okay inside the sea!?”

One man pointed his finger. Souji answered as composed as possible.

“We are indeed human.”

“H-Human.....? Th-then, why did you come here!?”

“We came to negotiate.”

“N-Negotiate..... you say?”

“Yes, if possible, can we meet with your chief?”

“D-Don’t joke! How can we believe suspicious people like you!?”

“That is understandable. However, we are related to the problem you currently have.”

“..... what?”

The man’s attitude obviously changed. That was similar as affirmation.

“Even though I looked like this, I have knowledge in medicinal art.”

“M-Medicinal art.....?”

“Ee, that’s why I came to solve the petrification problem that appeared in this sea.”

“P-Petrification..... wait..... you are human, right?”

“Ee, it is as you said. Anything wrong with that?”

“Th-Then, how did you know? No, to begin with, you should have no relation to a problem of the sea!”

“Of course we have.”

“Wh-What did you say?”

“Actually, it is this child. Does anyone understand it now?”

The man turned his gaze to Eu. Following, the feeling that he didn’t understand anything at first changed into a realization, and his eyes wide opened. Probably, by looking at Eu carefully, he understood that Eu was someone from Star Jellyfish tribe.

“D-D-Don’t tell me..... she is that..... brat?”

“Yes, she is.”

As Souji expected, Eu’s identity was immediately found out. Eu was cowering as she received the man’s glare.

The other people from Aquatic race began to raise their caution as they dead-glared at Eu.

“So, you come here to hand her over?”

“No, not at all.”

“Hah? Th-Then, why are you here?”

“Like I said before, we came here to solve the petrification problem.”

Hearing Souji’s words, the man gritted his teeth then said,

“That problem will be solved if you hand that brat over!”

“Sorry, but you are mistaken. Listen, I am here to cure the petrified people.”

For a moment, the surrounding noise stopped, thus silence shrouded the surrounding. Following that, the one who spoke was indeed the man who talk from before.

“C-Curing petrification..... you say?”

“Ee, I have said it a little while ago that I have knowledge in medicinal art. I am here to help, am I not?”

“..... I can’t believe you.”

“Come again?”

“Of course I can’t believe you! T-To begin with, there’s no proof that brat is the one we are looking for, and even if it really is that brat, I can’t believe you have the cure for the petrified!”

No one could blame the man. That’s why, Souji only needed to show the proof.

“Eu, please petrify my right hand.”

“Eeh!?”

Eu was not the only surprised by this. Except Yoyo, everyone in that place had a chill running down their spines due to Souji’s words.

“..... you can do it, right?”

“B-But, Onii-chan....”

“Don’t worry. Please believe in your magic. Your magic is already become your friend..... no, it is part of your family.”

“..... okay.”

With resolute eyes, Eu didn't even worry about failure and touched Souji's right hand, directly. Following that, inside the space where everyone silently watching at, *bachih bachih*, electrical discharge appeared from the hand Eu used to grasp Souji's hand. Morrow, Souji's right hand was gradually petrifying up until the elbow..... and it stopped.

Seeing that, the surrounding people held their breaths. Mutterings like, "There's no mistake-," "It is her," or "So this is petrifying magic!," leaked.

"Can this be the proof?"

"N-Not yet! I understood that she is the brat we are looking for! But, there's no proof that you can cure it!"

"Ah, you are right. Well then, please follow me now."

Saying so, Souji went towards the surface. The other people, though they felt suspicious, followed after Souji.

All of them had their face appearing on the water's surface. The man said, "What are you going to do here?" Souji thrust and held up high his petrified arm and at the same time, his left hand came out of the surface.

"Heal it, green flame."

Not knowing the green-colored flame appearing on Souji's left palm was his magic, the others were in panic. However, the flame just wrapped Souji's right arm and..... it returned to normal.

"Wh-WhWhWhWhWh-..... h!?"

The man's mouth trembled in amazement and,

"With this, there's no more need for proof, I presume."

When Souji said so, the man downcast as if giving up.

But, the man shook his body and raised his face, glaring at Souji.

“Wh-What are you plotting, human!?”

“.....”

“I just can’t understand! Wh-Why did a human go this far for this brat..... no, to begin with, it is strange for human to be able to talk inside the sea! J-Just what are you? Don’t tell me, you are going to use that power to threaten and control us!”

The man abruptly shouted out the thing he could not understand. He was obviously confused, the others were also puzzled.

If this keeps up, Souji could not ignore the possibility of this man attacking due to confusion. When Souji was thinking on how should he handle it, someone put his hand on the man’s shoulder.

Story 51 De-Petrification

“Ah..... you are....”

Souji remembered that person. It was the man from Whirlpool Scale tribe he met when he came here alone before. At that time, he misunderstood Souji and attacked him.

He thought that the possibility of him suddenly attacking was also high now, so Souji kept his caution to protect Yoyo and Eu by his sides. However, Souji’s caution ended in vain.

“Yoo, sorry about that time, red-hair.”

“..... heh?”

The man hung his head as if he truly felt sorry about it. Following that, the man who had his shoulder patted said a surprising thing.

“Y-Young master! Why are you here!?”

After a few seconds of silent, Souji inadvertently shouted,

“Young masterrrr!!!!?”

No one could blame him for shouting so. Souji had heard that among the Whirlpool Scale tribe, the current chief's son which was the next generation chief was called “Young master.” In other words, the obstinate person, who didn't want to hear Souji's words and attacked him the other day, was the next chief of Whirlpool Scale tribe.

Souji at a loss of words and stiffened from the shock.

“Everyone, please move a little away. I am going to talk to him.”

“Y-Yes!”

With that words, all of them obediently positioned themselves behind the man they called young master. Next, Souji, who watched the man quietly, said,

“S-So you are the Young master.”

“Aa, well, that's true..... sorry about that time. I was slightly irritated by that problem at that time. Thus I attacked you. Afterward, I was scolded by pop! He scold me with, *are you trying to start a war with human by attacking that person all of sudden, you idiot.*”

It seemed the Whirlpool Scale's chief, who heard the details about that time, has a good judgement and character. Certainly, attacking just because the other person wanted to ask something would make the Whirlpool Scale tribe in dangerous position.

And maybe because those were drilled into his head, the man was looking at Souji with a somewhat bitter expression.

“So that's happened. Well, it is good that you understood it now. So, did you come here to ask my reason for coming here too?”

Otherwise, he wouldn't stop his comrades.

“Well yeah. At least I've seen your magic.”

The man took a peek at Eu. Twitch, Eu's body trembled.

“Such a small child, I never thought she is the rumored problem child.”

Scratching his head, the man sighed.

“It is as you said. Also, you will surely understand the reason of why did she petrified people in this adjacent sea if we talk. Furthermore, just as I shown before, I can cure the petrified people.”

The man was watching Souji’s face in silent. He seemed trying to confirm whether Souji was lying.

“..... can you tell me one thing?”

“Yes.”

“Why are you protecting that brat? As you can see, this is problem of Aquatic race. I don’t believe you are that close to that brat who was living in the sea until recently. So, why?”

It was certainly questionable. Until recently, Eu had never go up to the land. It wasn’t a mistake as it was an information from Star Jellyfish tribe. Thus the man couldn’t help to think there’s no way for Eu to be that intimate with human.

It was a fact that not that much time had passed since Eu met Souji and the others. So, what the man said was right on the target. However, receiving those words, Souji shook his head.

“Time isn’t really needed for people to get intimate.”

Souji quietly put his hand on Eu’s head.

“Eu is already part of our family. That’s why, it is natural to help her when she is in trouble.”

The man’s eyes opened wide, next he turned to look at Souji and observed. Eu was embarrassed, but she was looking at Souji in joy. Thus, seeing the two, the man shut his eyes and said,

“..... I understand.”

“Y-Young master!”

“Silent.”

“Uh....”

The man from before roared only to be told to shut up.

“Did you not see anything from them?”

“Hah?”

“Can you do the same as him? To convince us, complete strangers, he used his own arm.”

“..... ah.”

“His purpose was to prove his power, but he used his arm to receive the magic that in just a step it wouldn’t be strange for him to be completely petrified. Normally, no one would do that. It wasn’t an action of someone who didn’t have any trust towards that brat.”

“Th-That’s....”

“Actually, it would be okay to use the nearby seaweed if he just want to prove it. However, he used his own arm. That was to make us understood how he felt about that brat.”

The man’s words were indeed hit the mark. Honestly, even if it wasn’t Souji’s right arm, it was enough to use the seaweed in the surrounding if he want to prove himself.

However, that couldn’t be used to prove the strength of relationship between Souji and Eu.

That’s why, by using his own arm, Souji’s words brought more persuasiveness.

“Besides, they came here with just three of them. Though it is suspicious as to why human could talk inside the sea, they are indeed human. Coming to our territory by just three of them is also to show that they mean no harm to us.”

Souji and Yoyo had indeed calculated that. Foolishly bringing along a lot of human would only create an undesirable result. In addition, the other side would be less cautious by bringing small number of people.

“Everyone, bring Teak and Zond.”

“Y-Young master, are those guys can be believed?”

“Aa, at least they aren’t hostile to us. Oi, red-head!”

“What is it?”

“We are going to bring our petrified comrades. I want you to cure them.”

“Okay, I understand. However, please put them at that reef. My magic isn’t that effective inside the sea.”

Souji didn't say that it was completely ineffective. That's because he could not easily leak out the information of his own magic. Well, it wasn't like he couldn't use it at all....

"Ou, okay. But one thing...."

"Yes?"

"While they are being cured, if you do something to my comrades, I won't just keep silent, okay? To begin with, that brat is the cause here, see?"

The man glared at Souji.

"Ee, please don't worry."

Souji answered calmly.

From surfacing only their faces, Souji, Yoyo, and Eu were standing on the emerged reef now. Before long, two splendidly petrified people came out of the sea, carried by their comrades. The two were laid down on the reef. Souji touched them with each of his hands and immediately began to cure them using green flame.

There were two women who was watching that spectacle in worry. It was possible that the two were either the girlfriends or wives of these petrified men. After a while, the should be petrified fingers and feet of the men began to move with a twitch. At the same time, tears flowed on the women's cheeks.

"Ah..... huh? I was.....?"

"Etto..... where is this?"

The two men opened their eyes and looking at the surrounding, blankly. Following that, the women, crying, hugged the men. From their attitudes, the men were indeed someone special to the women.

The other people from Whirlpool Scale tribe were cheering. Thus, after receiving explanation from their comrades, the two men approached by Eu and,

“E-Eu is sorry!”

She apologized. The two men understood something had happened to them, but seeing Eu desperate apology, they forgave her with, “We’ve been cured, so there’s no more need for apology.”

Next, the person called the chief of Whirlpool Scale tribe appeared. Eu bowed her head to him.

“Well, I don’t mind because my comrades are safe and sound now. Just now, I’ve been in the latest conference of the chiefs. We need to tell this information to the other chiefs too. However, even if it is settled, we still need to clean up the aftermath, you know?”

“I have also thought about that.”

Yoyo was the one who answered so.

“Hoo, may ask who are you?”

“I am sorry for the late introduction. I am Yoyo Yatsugi Crowtail. I wish to express my gratitude to the Patriarch’s generosity.”

“..... fumu, from what I see, you are a noble. What is this child for you?”

“A family member that should be protected.”

“..... you have clear and beautiful eyes. I hope my foolish son would follow your example.”

“Wh-!? Wa-, pops!”

The man shouted at the Patriarch, but the Patriarch completely ignored him and continued,

“Shall we bring the others who were petrified here?”

“Yes, that would be a big help.”

“Umu. Then, we must hurry. The other chiefs are currently preparing to banish the Star Jellyfish tribe after all.”

Saying so, the Patriarch once again entered the sea.

Following that, having heard the story from the chief of Whirlpool Scale tribe, the other chiefs came to an understanding after the Whirlpool Scale tribe’s chief brought the once petrified men. Although half in doubt, one after another, they carried their petrified comrades to the reef.

Next, the petrified people who came one after another were de-petrified by Souji.

“O-Onii-chan. Is Onii-chan..... okay?”

Magic greatly consumed one’s willpower. It would make one fainted if it was overdone, and there’s chance for it to go out of control. Souji himself had his forehead drenched in sweat. But, although Eu anxiously asked him, Souji keeps smiling and,

“Ee, I am okay. After all, Yoyo-ojousama continues to adjust it so the efficiency of my magic won’t drop.”

Currently, Yoyo was touching Souji’s body and was using 『Tuning』 magic on the <<Magic Core>> inside Souji so it would not be interfered by excess magic power. Thanks to her, Souji used only the necessary amount of magic power and the efficiency raised, thus he wasn’t easily exhausted.

Moreover, Yoyo had her own magic power converted into Souji’s, so he could keeps continuing it.

The Aquatic race, who were half in doubt at first, were now overjoyed by their comrades’ de-petrification. Following that, these people were gladly receiving Eu’s apology. However, there’s still some who said that the culprit of this case, Eu, needs to be punished.

The time of being petrified would not return, making some of the surrounding people trembled in sadness and anger. There were also those who returned to the sea while cursing her.

Flinched, but Eu did not stop bowing her head and apologizing. Subconsciously, Eu knew it was her the cause of what happened. Shouldering their anger was also a kind of punishment for Eu. Much time had passed, and the people Eu petrified had successfully de-petrified.

“Fuu~ doing this is indeed tiring.”

“You are right, Souji. I am also quite exhausted.”

Seeing Eu continues to bow her head to the returning people of Aquatic race, Souji and Yoyo,

“Eu is also doing her best, so I will keep working a little more.”

“Ee, there’s still the most important step remained.”

That’s right, it was about the most troublesome point, the Star Jellyfish tribe.

“I will be the one to negotiate with them. After all, I have things I must say to them.”

Seeing Yoyo eyes, Souji instinctively trembled in fear. As for the reason, he noticed the blaze that hidden inside her eyes.

(This is, Ojou-sama is considerably angry....)

She had her reason for being angry. Souji himself was of course understood her reason. After all, if Yoyo wasn’t angry, he would be the one to do it.

“Patriarch, if possible, I want you to accompany us to make the talk advance smoothly, won’t you?”

Yoyo asked the chief of Whirlpool Scale tribe and he gladly agreed. The chief was also wanting to properly solved the problem of this sea.

Story 52 Reunion with Star Jellyfish Tribe

It was a place surrounded by numerous reeves and seaweeds, where the sand was glittering just like jewels as it reflected the sunlight due to high transparency.

A lot of big holes were located on the reeves where a lot of people dwelt in. Those people were the Star Jellyfish tribe, all of them have raiment-like, beautiful objects worn on their heads. It only looked like they were wearing those, but in fact those were their own hair that was transformed.

For the women, it would become longer and more beautiful as they grew up, while the men only have a part of their short hair that transformed. The raiment-like object was called <<Starlight Garment>>, and its beauty was used by the women to enchant the men.

Currently, a lot of people from Star Jellyfish tribe were gathering around Zaiss, the chief, whose <<Starlight Garment>> was waving. All of them had their faces paled, their expressions made it obvious that they were scared about the thing that would happen from now on.

“Shit! Just what is that hitman of the sea doing!”

“R-Right! Those guys are going to come soon!”

“We don’t have much time left!”

Some of them were talking about Jack Note, whom they sent to search for Eu. They believed that Jack would surely look for Eu and solve their current problem.

However, to their regrets, Jack would not return due to Souji’s doing. Not knowing that, the people of Star Jellyfish tribe were driven into stress.

“Ch-Chief! Th-The time is...”

The anxious man was looking at Zaiss who shut his eyes and kept silent. Then, Zaiss quietly open his eyes and moved his mouth.

“..... let’s move out from here.”

“Ch-Chief!?”

Not only the man, the surrounding people were also wrapped in astonishment. None of them want to leave from their home.

“Then what? Are you going to solve it by force? The other party were all of the other tribes of Aquatic race in this sea, you know? If it is done wrongly, then **we** are the one who will be destroyed.”

Unable to object Zaiss's words, all of them kept silent. It was the truth after all. If the other was just one tribe, of course they would choose to fight and win.

However the other party were not just one or two tribes. They wouldn't be able to win once those tribes arrived. To begin with, Star Jellyfish tribe wasn't one of the tribe that specialized in fighting. It would be good if they could make a good fight, but once they lose, they wouldn't be able to bear the sorrow for the dead.

"Ch-Chichichieffff!!!"

At that time, one of their comrade suddenly came with an unusual expression.

"What's happen? D-Don't tell me, they have come!?"

Today was certainly the time limit of that one week, but the sun had not set yet. Zaiss thought they have come far too early.

"Th-Thathathat is..... E-Eu is..... h!?"

The man's words made the surrounding people at a loss for words.

Souji and the other three stepped their feet on the area where Star Jellyfish tribe lived in. All of the people from Star Jellyfish tribe were gathering around their chief as if waiting for them.

(From their complexions, it seems they thought we came here to attack them, huh?)

Souji observed the faces of everyone in this place, all of them were paled with surprise mixed. Among them, there were also those with weapon in hand.

“..... long time no see, Patriarch of Whirlpool Scale tribe.”

That’s right, the chief was looking at the Patriarch, whom asked by Yoyo to accompany them.

“Aa, you seem to be wrapped in a dangerous mood, but I have come here for just a small talk.”
“..... talk..... is it about..... Eu by your side?”

The chief took a look at Eu, but Eu was looking down as if apologizing.

“Let me put it straight to the point. We are going to stop pursuing your responsibility in this matter. This is the consensus reached by all of the other tribes.”
“h!?”

Everyone of Star Jellyfish tribe were stiffened as if time was frozen. Of course they would. They had thought that the Patriarch came to send an ultimatum. They never thought that it would turned into such a good news.

“H-How did this happen, Patriarch?”
“The one who will tell you is the human here.”

Thus Yoyo was urged to talk. Taking one step forward, Yoyo lightly bowed.

“It is the first we meet. I am Yoyo Yatsugi Crowtail.”
“H-How polite. I am the one who served as the chief of this Star Jellyfish tribe, Zaiss.”
“I don’t want to do it in a roundabout way, so let me cut to the case. This is my butler, Souji Alkasha. He had succeeded in de-petrifying those petrified when Eu’s power went out of control.”

That remark made the people from Star Jellyfish tribe began to create a commotion. Zaiss also could not believe it.

“D-De-petrify? S-Such a thing is possible?”

“It is the truth. That’s why I came here to tell you that we won’t pursue this matter further. After all, it is all good if your petrified people are also cured.”

Supplemental explanation was given by Whirlpool Scale tribe’s Patriarch, Zaiss knew that he didn’t have any reason to lie, so

“Th-Then, does it mean..... the problem has been solved?”

“That is right. But, it will truly be solved after the petrified people here are cured.”

Though Yoyo said so, Zaiss’s expression steepened. Thus Yoyo asked him.

“Can you tell me why did you made such an expression?”

“Th-That is because....”

Zaiss’s gaze returned to look at Eu.

“Does she make you curious? I mean, why is she unhurt even after you hired that sea’s hitman? Following that, even after she was safe, why did she came to save you who should be hated by her..... right?”

Maybe because Yoyo’s words hit the mark, Zaiss averted his face, uncomfortably.

“Then, let me answer those. It is because Eu wishes to do so.”

“Eh?”

Not only Zaiss, the others were also listening seriously to Yoyo.

“Eu didn’t want bad thing to happen on you. The origin of this case was indeed her magic power going out of control, so she understood your feelings. However, not only you drove her out, you also hired an assassin to target her for your tribe’s sake. Do you understood how cruel you are now?”

Souji could feel anger gradually becoming stronger in Yoyo's tone. What angered Yoyo were not only they chased the young Eu away for the tribe's sake, they also tried to capture her again, to sacrifice her.

Of course it depended on each person as to whether those were bad things or not. The tribe itself must have their own law, and those actions were necessary if one try to think about it carefully.

However, for Yoyo, those were unforgivable actions. She thought it wasn't a just thing to deprive a comrade's, a family member's life with their own hands.

"If you are adults, then you must protect the children. If it is your comrade, then you should've try to accompany and walk together with him. I don't see any reason that can correct your action of neglecting those things."

"B-But, we would be able to live peacefully if she disappear!"

"Right! Just how much do you think we have suffered because of her!"

The several Star Jellyfish tribe's members began to protest which made Yoyo sharpened her gaze, but surprisingly, Eu moved before Yoyo at the time Yoyo was about to open her mouth. Following that, she bowed her small head.

"E-Eu is sorry! Everything, everything is Eu's fault! Eu is really..... really sorry!"

Eu, who desperately apologizing while her tears flowed, made all of them turned silent as they were at a loss for words. Souji moved to Eu's said, held her thighs, and put her into his shoulder. Next, he moved his gaze towards the Star Jellyfish tribe.

"You might not be able to forgive her even though she apologized. However, everyone with <<Magic Core>> have high possibility of having their magic going out of control, it is just the same as a natural disaster. That's why, when her magic going out of control, the people beside her need a necessary knowledge to be able to subdue it. If only you tried to understand a little more of Eu's condition, examined her magic, and have the feelings to support her, it would likely not to come into this situation."

Unable to object Souji's words at all, they could only averting their faces.

“However, you just assumed Eu as a danger, and drove her out of this tribe so that the damage would not grow further. Thus the Eu, alone, used her out of control magic to protect herself inside the dangerous sea, turning it into a vicious circle. If only you didn’t have the feeling to drive her out and try to understand her, she would someday understood her magic, and those petrified might be released with her own hand.”

However, they only thought of Eu as dangerous and drove her out. Furthermore, they hired that assassin, and Eu would be killed if it was handled poorly. Remembering those made Souji angry.

“Thus, crying and accepting her faults, the girl who desperately apologizing is still treated by a dangerous creature by you?”

Souji’s words pierced the chest of all of the members of Star Jellyfish tribe. No one, nothing was saying anything, only silent flowed. Yoyo grandly shrugged her shoulders and,

“Souji, I don’t want you to take my line.”

“I am sorry, Yoyo-ojousama.”

“Fufu, I will forgive you. However, just as Souji said, can you still blame the person who is the same as you, who was your comrade? If you can, then shall I also act according to my current emotion now?”

Yoyo’s dignified aura was pressuring the Star Jellyfish tribe. There’s no one who was so thoughtless that he would object Yoyo’s words here. Among them, only one person, Zaiss, was coming close to Eu. Thus, just like Eu, he bowed his head.

“I am sorry. I should be the one to protect you, but in the end I chose that for the sake of the tribe, I chose to kill a kin that should be protected.”

“Ch-Chief! Chief is protecting Eu. If chief didn’t protect Eu at that time, Eu would have been..... dead.”

The tribe members, whose emotions erupted, tried to kill Eu. However, the chief stood before her, driving her out of the tribe. He might have thought of it as a way to protect her, but Souji thought that the chief was indeed mistaken.

As the chief, he should be able to create more room for discussion. So, just as Souji said before, if they come to know the phenomenon was caused by magic and tried to ask a well-informed person, they might be able to find someone capable of curing the petrification just like Souji.

Whatever the reason was, it was a mistake to drive her out of the tribe. Though it might be a bad method, they should be able to try to confine Eu, making her avoid contact with others, and in that time, they could examine the cause no matter how long it takes.

But they didn't choose that, they chose to escape using the easy method which resulted in this state.

"I am really..... sorry...."

Zaiss's apology made all of the tribe's members speechless. Thus, the other members, though not all of them, here and there, bowed their heads to Eu.

Seeing that spectacle, Souji looked at Yoyo with a faint smile. Yoyo lightly shrugged her shoulders, then he told Zaiss to carry the petrified people into the reef on the sea surface.

Story 53 One Case Closed

"M-Mother!"

The Star Jellyfish tribe had carried over their petrified people. Among those carried was Eu's mother. With her tears flowing, Eu hugged her petrified mother.

Before long, petrified people were cured by Souji one after another. Those de-petrified were currently embracing their own family with joy filled face.

The last one was Eu's mother.

"Fuu...."

"Are you okay, Souji?"

"Ee, this is the last one after all."

Souji answered Yoyo's question while smiling. He was actually exhausted, but more of his energy sprung out as he thought he wanted to see Eu's happy face.

"Heal it, Green Flame."

Flame with jade-like color appeared on Souji's right palm, then it covered Eu's mother. Anxious, Eu united her in prayer as she watched.

Kachi kachi, the hardened skin regained its softness. Her arm that was damaged by the children of Star Jellyfish tribe was also returned to normal. Of course it was because Souji used his magic to heal that.

"..... E-..... Eu.....?"

"Mozheeeeer!"

Seeing Eu's mother was completely healed, Souji and Yoyo exhaled in relief. However, Eu's mother herself didn't understand what was happening.

Thus Yoyo approached her and told her everything in details.

"I see..... so those happened. That's...."

Eu's mother slowly stood up, turned to look at the others from Star Jellyfish tribe, and bowed.

"I am sorry for what happened."

Seeing her appearance, Souji truly felt that she was an adult. Normally, no, if it was Souji, he would surely not forgive them for banishing his own daughter and hired an assassin to search for her. He absolutely would not bowed his head to them, never.

However, she understood what had happened, thus she bowed. Though Eu did it unconsciously, it was the truth that Eu was the cause. She was only apologizing for what should be apologized. It might also come from her nature. It made Souji felt her strength as a mother.

Following that, not really understanding why she shouted that, the people of Star Jellyfish tribe wore perplexed expressions as they didn't know how they should answer the sudden apology. Furthermore, Eu came to her mother's side and also bowed her head. As such, only fool, who was incapable of reading the mood, would complain in this situation. Fortunately, there was no such a fool here.

Following that, Eu's mother now turned towards Souji and Yoyo, and bowed.

"I am sorry for the late introduction. I am Shee Sophia. In this occasion, you've been looking after my daughter, that's why I am truly grateful to you."

"There's no need, it was on our own decision that we want to protect her whom we took a liking too. Isn't it, Souji?"

"Yes. Eu is already a part of our family after all."

"Onii-chan..... Onee-chan...."

Tears spilled from her eyes. Chuckling, Souji used his hand to wipe her tear.

"Eu, rather than letting your tear flowing, we will be more happy to see you smile, you know?"

"..... un. Ehehe..... thank you."

Her smile was angelic. Though it made Souji instinctively wanted to hug her, he decided to respect himself by stopping because he didn't want to become like Kaina, a pervert.

"I am really happy that such good people are by this child's side."

Shee, the beautiful woman, made a very beautiful smile. Moreover to her outward appearance that was still in the first half of twenties was the <<Starlight Garment>> whose length and beauty were far more than anyone from Star Jellyfish tribe Souji had seen.

Her transparent-like white skin was smooth and her splendid proportion would make one instinctively gulping.

(..... 85..... no, it might be 9-.....)

"Souji?"

Twitch, Souji's body stiffened. He thought he might've unconsciously leaked his voice, so he timidly turned towards the one who called her, Yoyo. Thus he was relieved because her expression was normal.

She must have called out to Souji because he had suddenly turned silent. If it was found out that he was thinking about breasts in this situation, just thinking about it made him shivered.

(I-If she knows, she might uses 『Tuning』 magic and make me diarrhea for a week....)

Thinking so, the thing just now was truly dangerous for him. He leaked a sigh while feeling cold sweat flowing on his back.

“Anyway, about what to do from now on....”

Yoyo tried to ask Shee, but the patriarch of the Whirlpool Scale tribe cut in.

“About that, I must say it first that although this case is certainly closed, it is necessary to give punishment to the cause of this commotion.”

“Let this old me be the one to take that responsibility.”

The one who answered was the chief of Star Jellyfish tribe, Zaiss.

“Hou, may I ask why is it?”

“Eu is part of Star Jellyfish tribe. That’s why, it is natural that I am responsible for her.”

“But, didn’t you banished that child?”

“Th-That’s....”

That’s right, although that couldn’t be said to be applied to Zaiss, the other people from Star Jellyfish tribe had completely abandoned Eu. They tried to deal with this problem by pressing all of the responsibilities to Eu. Thus Zaiss’s words that said he would take responsibilities for her didn’t hold any weight.

“Zaiss-sama, though those were only words, me and this child feel saved by them.”

“Sh-Shee....”

“However, this matter, the ones who guilty are us, parent and child.”

“Y-You are wrong, Shee! To begin with, it wouldn’t not came to this if I was more collected.”

“That might be so. However, that is also something that had passed.”

“Uh....”

That's right, the time that had lost wouldn't be regained no matter how much it was regretted. The thing that had happened cannot be changed.

"Everyone's decision was a correct one for the sake of preserving our tribe. Thus, I am not in the position to say anything about it. After all, I was carelessly petrified even though my daughter was in such a crisis."

"B-But, that was...."

It was something she couldn't help. However, as a mother, there's no such a thing that couldn't be helped. Thus Souji and Yoyo were only watching her decision in silence.

"Besides, I am also a parent. Even if we are from the same tribe, there's no way that I could completely forget that an assassin was hired for my own daughter."

"....."

Not only Zaiss, the others from Star Jellyfish tribe were down cast their gazes. They might be regretting the thing they did, though it was too late.

What Shee said was just. With this commotion that had been caused and how the others had become completely hostile to Eu, it was truly hard for her to continue to live with them.

Therefore, she came to this decision.

"We have been in your care up until now. But here I declare that we will cut our ties with this tribe."

Maybe because Eu understood how her mother came to such a decision, she wasn't that surprised. However, she feels guilty that she caused her mother to take such a decision.

Shee turned towards the patriarch of Whirlpool Scale tribe and,

"We, parent and child, will leave this sea. That's why, I hope there's a middle ground where you can pardon us about this matter."

"..... okay. I will tell this to the other chiefs too."

"Thank you."

Not having anymore business here, Whirlpool Scale tribe's patriarch returned into the sea. Shee had continued to bow her head until the patriarch couldn't be seen anymore, then she once again turned towards Zaiss.

"Eu, say your farewell."

"Y-Yes. U-Umm..... th-thank you for looking after Eu!"

"Eu..... I...."

"Eu is grateful!"

"Eh?"

"A-After all, chief had been looking after Eu's mother when she was petrified, so we could meet again now..... that's why..... thank you very much!"

"..... Eu."

Zaiss hung his head, then with a small voice he muttered, "Sorry." Following that, Shee and Eu bowed their heads again, and they moved towards the beach, riding on the carriage Souji created using his orange flame.

"Let me once again expressed my gratitude. Thank you very much."

Arriving at the beach, Shee once again thanked them.

"I've said it before, there's no need for you to thank me."

Yoyo casually declared so.

"So, what are you going to do from now on?"

"Umm..... honestly, I haven't thought of it."

".....?"

"At that time, I blurted those words because I was irritated by people from my tribe but..... what should we do, Eu?"

"Mother, mother never think ahead."

Unexpectedly, Shee was a woman that didn't think ahead. Towards Shee, Yoyo's eyes sparkled.

“Then, how about the two of you come to officially serve under me?”

“..... eh?”

“That is a good idea, Ojou-sama. Eu has a talent as an accountant, and if Shee-san joined, she would help replenish our maids.”

Souji supplemented.

“E-Excuse me..... i-is that really okay? Rather, an accountant, did Eu worked under you?”

“Un! Eu is charge of accounting!”

“Oh my! Eu already has a successful career before I aware of it! Mother is happy, Eu!”

Shee happily pressed her cheek to Eu’s. Seeing Shee’s appearance would make one smiled. Eu also made a happy smile.

“So? Do I need to ask for an answer?”

“Ah, right. If you are okay with me, then by all means. I want to repay your kindness after all.”

“Eu also want to be together with Onii-chan and the others from the mansion!”

“Ahaha! Thanks, Eu. Ninthe and my mother will absolutely be happy!”

Souji patted Eu’s head. Bashfully, Eu’s cheeks flushed as she smiled. Seeing their appearances, Shee’s eyes were gleaming.

“Ara ara, I see. Age doesn’t matter.”

Shee said unknown words that Souji couldn’t understand. However, Yoyo coughed once, then her gaze turned towards the three.

“It is decided now. From now on, I, Yoyo Yatsugi Crowtail, will become your master. Please do your best to serve under me.”

“Yes!”

“Yes. Me and my daughter will be in your care from now on.”

As such, they gained the best accountant and a person to help replenishing the number of maids. Souji was relieved because his works would become easier with this.

Story 54 New Family Members

Having returned to mansion, they decided to introduce Shee to everyone. Everyone gladly welcomed the new member of this family. For the time being, Shee would be taught about all of the houseworks under Kaina.

Because the two of them were mother of a child, they hit it well and immediately became friendly with each other.

Thus today ended with the introduction, they went into bed early after a light meal. As for the reason, Souji and Yoyo were exhausted.

Although Souji feared that Yoyo was going to ask him to massage her, Yoyo didn't say anything about it and immediately went to her own room to sleep.

By Yoyo's arrangement, tomorrow they would make a welcoming party for the newly hired Eu, Shee, and Demick. It finally could be done because Yoyo had decided to hold it until after Eu's problem was solved.

The next day, Souji noticed pains in his joints as he woke up. It was muscular pain. Moreover, his body felt slightly heavy. Those were the side effect of over-using magic.

He didn't worry about it because it would turn to normal in a few days and he went to water the flowers. Thus he saw Ninthe, Eu, and Shee were watering the flowers.

"Oh? Why is everyone here?"

"Ah, Souji-sama!"

Ninthe came towards him with a sun-like, radiant smile. This child's smile was always heartening.

"Onii-chan, good morning."

"Good morning, Souji-san."

"Good morning," Souji answered Eu and Shee's greetings.

"We thought Souji-sama would still be tired today, so we do the watering in Souji-sama's stead!"
"I see. I am grateful for your thought."

“Ehehe~”

Because Eu has an envying look when he patted Ninthe’s head, Souji also patted Eu’s head thus Eu, “Ehehe,” cutely laughed. Watching and enjoying such a spectacle, Shee said,

“Oh my my, so Ninthe-chan is also a bride candidate..... Eu, do your best!”

It seemed she greatly misunderstood something which made Souji’s cheeks cramped, inadvertently.

Afterwards, the four of them enjoyed watering the flowers as they lively chatted. Then after works were done, night arrived.

There was a big drawing room inside the mansion which arranged as the place for the welcoming party. Souji lined up various kind of dishes on the big, long table which was enclosed by all of the residents of this mansion.

“Well then, let me introduce them again. The three of you, please come ahead.”

Receiving Yoyo’s words, from right to left, Demick, Shee, and Eu came to everyone’s views.

“Then, I am first! I am Demick Lannerway! This time, I am going to serve as this mansion’s gardener. I am also good at making things in general, so tell me if you want something to be made! Ah, Souji, I will also teach you how to grow ideal women.”

“Please mind your words!”

See, Ojou-sama is glaring with a terrible expression! I don’t hate such mood, but it is as long as I am not the subject.

“Buhaha! Souji, there’s no need to worry.”

“Eh?”

“I know. I know the thing that you truly wanted to create.”

“Demick-san....”

That's right. Demick understood even though not much time had passed since they met. What Souji wanted to create was the peace of residents of this mansion, Yoyo's happiness....

"About the thing you want to create, that is..... to create a harem of big breasted women, right?"

"Bfff!?"

Demick dropped a bomb. Thus Souji inadvertently splurged.

"L-Lie..... you said Souji likes big-breast..... for a mother to not know his son's fetish...."

Shut up, you pervert! Rather, don't speak about fetish in front of children!

"I-Is that so? I thought Souji-san likes small children..... then, am I also a target?"

No no no no, please don't joining with them too, Shee-san! But, saying that while blushing will raise my expectation- no, stupid me, don't!

"E-Even Ninthe has prospect to turn into that!"

"E-Eu also will grow up just like mother's!"

N-Nothing will settles if this keeps up! To control this situation, that's right! Only our master, Yoyo-ojousama can do it!

Souji turned to look at Yoyo to ask for help, but he somehow shivered at her smile.

"Souji, massage me today."

"..... c-certainly, my lord."

Souji thought he would be dead if he objected there. Also, he thought of beating Demick some day.

"I am Shee Shopia. I am really happy that I am allowed to work in the mansion managed by Yoyo-sama. There are some that already know, but I am from Star Jellyfish tribe. And beside me is my daughter, Eu, please look after us from now on."

Her very elegant gesture and clear voice made her aura somehow resembled Yoyo's. If one looks carefully, Demick was stealing glances towards her breasts, so Souji decided to completely scold him later.

"Eu is Eu Shopia. Eu will do her best here. B-Best regards!"

The appearance of Eu, who panicky introduce herself, was a pleasing one. Everyone thought so, then they clapped.

"Kya~! Eu-chan is indeed cwu~te! Let me hug you later, kay~!"

Sitting beside Souji, his mother, Kaina, was going out of control. Souji decided not to let her free even after this party ended by giving this pervert so much works so she would keeps quiet. All for the sake of defending the virtue of the innocent little girls.

The welcoming party reached its climax. The should be on welcomed side, Demick, showed his hidden talents, and everyone was laughing.

Thus, having gained new family members, Souji was happy from the bottom of his heart.

(It is indeed a good thing. With this, the number of people in this family has increased.)

It was not like he was without any relative when he was still in Japan, but currently he was truly happy to held such important bonds even though they weren't related by blood.

He had died once, he lost not only his own family, but also his friends and childhood friend.

That's why he wanted to treasure his current life.

(I must thank god for this.)

If he was allowed to be greedy, he wanted his mother, who was becoming more and more perverted and always slacking off, to become a better human. Even so, he also had begun to think of that as something enjoyable. Souji was enjoying this even while he felt the premonition that it would only become busier after this.

And, the last event was Yoyo's musical performance. Everyone was quiet as they were charmed by her performance. Souji's mood also became better, took a mic and tried to sing, but needless to say, Yoyo and the other maids did their best to stop him.

Souji had thought of doing his best to at least sing a song because there'd be a musical performance in the welcoming party.

Several days before Souji received Eu and the other two as part of the family, Mayuki and Sheila had arrived at a certain village. The village was named 【Kixx】 , a very small village. However, there's one thing this village has that no other villages or towns have. That was the rice called <<Tsuyabikari(glossy shine)>>. The villagers did their best to grow <<Tsuyabikari>>, and as its name suggested, the cooked rice was shining like jewels.

Of course the wonderful thing was not only in its appearance as its taste was greatly liked. It was a popular brand of rice that was also exported to the other continents. Souji had went his way to this village and brought a lot of it too.

Thus after hearing this rumor, Mayuki had decided with Sheila that they'd try to eat it if they even come to 【Kixx】 . As Japaneses, they wanted at least try eating rice that was said to be delicious at least once.

"I can't wait~"

"Sheila too, the rice must surely be delicious."

The two were conversing while they looked for restaurant that served rice cuisines. It was a small village, but it must've restaurants.

That was because it was demanded by tourists that came here.

Entering one of the shops, the two immediately asked for the recommended dishes. After waiting for a while, the person of this diner carried two bowls. However, the strange thing was there's only rice in the bowls. They wondered how to eat it....

The boiled rice was certainly white and shining. It stimulated their appetite just by seeing it, but although their saliva was gathering inside their mouth, they still wondered whether it was actually the recommended dish.

Sheila thought so and looked a little puzzled. However, the previous person of the shop came before the two while bringing something.

On the big tray were two plates, and on each of the plates were beef stew-like dishes that were cooked until boiling hot.

Following that, they were told to eat after putting it on the rice. However, even if they didn't told to do so, the two poured all of the beef stew-like dish into the bowl of rice.

It was something they did almost unconsciously. The aroma of the stew-like dishes was just like the fragrant aroma of burnt soy sauce, thus they were driven by impulse for wanting to eat it even earlier once the aroma tickled their nasal cavity.

Moreover, the person of the shop added one egg on top of each bowls. The dish itself was named <<Tsukimi Stew-don>> (tsukimi = enjoying the moon and don=donburi=bowl as in gyudon, oyakodon, etc). The splendid yellow sphere was cooked as it rode on the reddish brown sauce.

Thus the heat made the egg instantly turned into soft-boiled. The appearance that stimulated appetite to the maximum just by seeing it made the hungry duo reached their limit. The two each tried a spoonful.

"Hamu..... muoh!?"

The sauce has a very rich taste of fish. The tickness and how it was seasoned with soy sauce made a great match with the rice.

Blowing as their tongues got a little burnt from that rush, but their stomachs demanded more and more.

Moreover, when the egg also spooned, the mellowness couldn't be endured. Even Sheila, whose appetite was small, keeps carrying the meal to her mouth. Mayuki herself ate with an unexpected swiftness and immediately asked for second.

Once they finished eating, their expressions were in full bliss even though sweats were flowing from their foreheads.

“Hafu~ this thing is too delicious~”

“We might turn fat soon if we live in this village.”

The two were truly satisfied, then they went out of the shop after paying and said their gratitude to the person of the shop.

“Yo~sh! We have ate to our fill, so let's go, Sheila!”

“Yes. Well then, let's go!”

“Un, from the information, we will arrived at **【Moriarte】** after one more town!”

【Moriarte】 was the location of the mansion where Souji work. The two faced each other and nodded.

“Wait for us there, Sou-kun!”

Mayuki thrusted her fist towards the heaven, and went out of the village accompanied by Sheila.

Around that time, **【Rashtia Kingdom】** came to know the location of the suddenly running away Mayuki and Sheila. The King and the other summoned one, Ninomiya Kazuto, were now in a meeting, talking about what to do from now on.

“Kazuto, We want you to somehow bring Mayuki and Sheila back.”

“Me? Well, it is indeed a problem that the two ran away, but wasn’t that information came from 【Dolkia continent】 ? I expected it would be a long journey and there’d be a lot of problems if I go alone....”

“No need to worry about that. Some of the royal guard will go with you.”

The king, Tiley Bruss Rashtia VII had prepared 3 people.

“Oh? Does Raki go too?”

Raki was the person who summoned Mayuki and the other two. A slender man whose appearance was in the latter half of his twenties. He was supposed to look for a method to return Mayuki’s party to their original world.

“He is. After all, it seems there is more detailed data about summoning in 【Dolkia】 . He is going with you there to search on how to return you home.”

“I see. Then, the other two....”

When Kazuto turned his gaze, the other two stood in ceremony. One was prideful woman with model-like figure and dark-green colored hair that reached her waist. With long and narrow eyes, she has a stern expression that made her seemed to never laugh before.

“The long-haired one is Komfa Flinice. Just as you see, she is an expert in sword.”

Kazuto knew her. Though they never talked to each other, she was the subordinate of the Royal Guard’s commander that taught Mayuki’s party on how to fight. Because she was quite the beauty, Kazuto had thought of finding a chance to talk to her.

“The last one was Nanahous Rindow. This Kingdom’s prided magic-user.”

Her light blue colored hair was cut in short cut, and whether it was natural, her hair were curly. She wasn’t tall, and she was also younger than Kazuto. Though she looked young, her round eyes were especially charming.

Kazuto had also seen her for several times. The two were beauty, so Kazuto unconsciously smiled, thinking he would traveled with the two.

“L-Let’s do our best, Kazuto-san!”

“Ah, yeah, you are here too huh.”

Talking with Raki made Kazuko’s mood slightly dampened. He seemed to be disgusted from feeling the heat from Raki, who was strangely motivated.

After taking a glance at Raki, Kazuto approached Komfa and Nanahous. Then, he smiled with the best smile he could.

“Yaa, I am Kazuto. My best regards from now on.”

“Y-Yes! M-Me too!”

Nanahous did her best to answer, but Komfa only took a suspecting glance at Kazuto and,

“..... I am only here as ordered by my King.”

She seemed to be hard to approach. However, even though he made an awkward smile, Kazuto was excited as he thought things would be enjoyable from now.

Afterwards, the four of them went towards 【Dolkia continent】 in the east to bring back Mayuki and Sheila. Whether Mayuki and Sheila able to meet Souji before being found by the quartet or caught by the quartet and brought back first was not something Mayuki could predict.

Following that, not knowing that his childhood friend was going after him, Souji indifferently spent the days.

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End of chapter 2.