

たつくるん

イラスト★パセリ

異世界人の 手引き書 3

Manual of the person from different world

Isekaijin no Tebikisho

Stranger's Handbook

Book 3: Mediator

by Takkurun

Info: [Novel Updates](#)

Chapter 119: The Characters until Now ✖ Contains Spoilers ✖

Zest Gaiyus

Protagonist.

A middle-aged man, 32 years old, with black eyes and black hair.

He married Bea out of mutual love.

He likes to flirt.

He is a Duke and the 1st Rank Imperial Mage. He became an authority figure inside the empire.

He adopted Tsubaki and was able to make a connection with the country of elves.

Beatrice Varnam

Heroine.

A 18 years old young woman with black eyes and black hair.

A Japanese style beauty who gives the impression of matureness.

An expert of black attribute magic.

She married Zest out of mutual love.

She's a duchess.

As a duchess, she's a popular figure that all the women of the empire admire.

Her portrait is selling like crazy.

Toto

A spirit that Zest and Bea created.

She adores her Dad and Mom.

Her outer appearance is that of a 30cm mini Bea.

Recently, she started to read the situation when it comes to 'politics'.

Wisteria

The daughter of Zest and Bea.

Even though she's a baby, she already received a lot of marriage proposals. She's very popular.

However, all the nobles were disheartened by Zest's condition, which says: 'I will never give my daughter to someone that can't beat me!'

In an attempt to exercise their abilities, the black knights often challenge Zest, saying 'Daddy, please give me your daughter!'

Since this became a problem, nowadays the dragons are testing the men's abilities in Zest's place.

When the black knights doubted the possibility to defeat a dragon, Zest knocked one down, bare handed, right in front of them, as a demonstration.

And because of that, the legend of "The duke's domain's demons" spurred.

Razatonia Varnam

The head of the Frontier Count's Household.

A demon-like old geezer with a dark mind.

He's also an expert of the dark attribute magic and is feared in the area.

A frightening and always scheming old man.

He calls Beatrice 'Bea' and is affectionate towards her.

Sonia Varnam

A son-in-law in the Frontier Count's Household.

He's the refreshment of the terrifying Frontier Count's Household.

When he's only with the family he switches to the gentle 'papa' mode.

Normally, he interacts with people while being in his frightening 'Frontier Count' mode.

He's the protagonist's magic teacher and the Magic Division Commander.

Galef Gaiyus

The Knights Commander.

The protagonist's foster father.

He accepted the protagonist for being his successor, but the protagonist also healed his wife.

He is able to have children now.

He feels a debt of gratitude towards his adopted son and always causes a stir about his successor.

He's a loud man who wears a full-plate armor.

An old man with muscle brains who looks like a powerful bandit.

Celica Gaiyus

The protagonist's foster mother.

The Frontier Count's younger sister.

Since the moment the protagonist healed her of infertility, she's always doting him.

She's very supportive of his marriage to her grandniece Beatrice.

Her personality is the spitting image of the Frontier Count's, but she intends to be kind towards the protagonist.

Camel

The Gaiyus' Household's butler.

An old man who manages the servants.

He deeply respects the protagonist who healed madam Celica.

Albert

A male *kemonobito*.

The man called dog knight.

Because he's exceptional, he also serves as the Frontier Count's guard.

Since the 'marking incident' he unnecessarily fears the protagonist.

He marries Meril.

He's a faithful dog that is no match for his 'master' Zest.

Meril

A baron's daughter.

He had to separate from Albert because of the difference in their social status.

Zest helps them and they manage to get married.

She's extremely grateful to Zest.

Suu

Albert's younger sister.

She's the steward of duke Zest's household.

She's serious and exceptional, but she's a bit too fanatic.

There are times when she goes on a rampage.

As expected from Albert's sister.

The Emperor of the Grun Empire

A middle aged handsome man with blond hair and blue eyes.

Conforming to tradition, he cast aside his name after the enthronement.

He was called 'Sarsesh' when he was a child.

No one calls him by this name now since it's considered a blasphemy.

People call him 'his Majesty the Emperor' or simply 'his Majesty'.

Empress Natasha

A beautiful woman with blond hair and blue eyes.

She has a gentle aura and she looks like a soothing 'onee-sama'.

His Majesty is deeply in love with her and won't really show her in front of the public.

The gardener who fixed his eyes on the empress got killed.

The civil official who only passed by the Empress on the corridors, got killed.

The master chef who complimented her cooking skills got killed too.

If you breathe the same air that she breathes, you'll be killed...

This is the extent of the rumors, which show how much his Majesty cares about her.

Imperial princess Tsubaki

The daughter of his Majesty and Natasha.

She has the name of a flower from the legendary country of Japan.

A 12 years old beautiful girl.

She likes the spirit and she admires Beatrice who is the model of it.

She dreams to marry her first love, prince Mars.

Prime Minister Arc

A man in his 50s.

He has the image of a little fatty with brown hair and red eyes.

However, he also acts heartlessly according to his position of a Prime Minister, and he would be capable of murdering his family if that's for the best interest of the country.

He gets along well with the Frontier Count and he visits him every year.

Imperial Mage Rank 4

Lamia Varnam

A mage specialized in medical treatments; Sonia's wife.

Beatrice's mother.

She normally works in the imperial capital.

She's a very indulgent 'mama' towards Bea.

Towards her husband, she also has a 'spartan' attitude and often gives him aggressive responses.

Bicks

Viscount.

The head of domestic affairs.

He's the father of the idiotic noble who 'offered' a marriage proposal to Beatrice.

Unknown cause of death.

Tanya

A middle-aged woman.

The shopkeeper of a Western-style clothes store that shows favor to the Frontier Count's Household.

She also opened a shop that sells all sorts of new selection of goods.

Nowadays, she's an employee of the duke's household.

Viscount Mark

Media's father.

He's a poor man greatly perplexed by his foolish son.

He's grateful to Zest for arranging a marriage for his son, and can't wait to see the face of his grandson.

Media

The heir of the Viscount's Household.

He looks like a beautiful girl, but he's a man.

He's a commander of the Maid's Unit.

He married Tasel.

He claims that he would die for Zest's sake.

Tasel

A former adventurer.

She's a woman that looks like a wild, handsome man.

She falls in love with Media and marries him.

She swears an oath of allegiance to Zest since he's helped her making various arrangements.

Count Raiza

The Commanding General of the Empire's Army.

A 43 years old man with blue hair.

He has a tough, huge body.

The Emperor acknowledged him when he was young and made him a viscount, then a count.

He has an official position now.

He's the Emperor's right-hand man.

Tarminal Kingdom's side

Harnil

Count.

A grandpa who came to the empire as an emissary for the kingdom.

???

The royalty who led the kingdom's army.

His name is unknown.

Herman

A male *kemonobito*.

He opposed the despotic administration in his country and created the Rebel Army.

He admires Albert and he develops an interest for Duke Zest, since he is Albert's master.

He becomes the headman of a fishing village.

Katalina

A cat *kemonobito* and a legal *loli*.

She works for Zest as a civil official.

She's the guys' idol.

She's unpopular among the black knights.

The Holy Country of Lilac

Pope Garbera

The top person of the Holy Country of Lilac.

She's a spirit emerged from a refrigerator magical tool.

She likes Zest, since her owner was a Japanese as well.

Sister Anastacia

A woman who showed up as a messenger.

She speaks an enigmatic language.

She becomes the Priestess of a church on Zest's domain.

She's the person who'll become the next Pope, but she's a piece of junk.

She becomes Zest's adopted daughter, and she will be called 'The conscience of the archduke's household' or 'The last hope'.

The Country of Elves

Prince Mars

Tsubaki's fiancé.

He aims to be the next king, but since he's weak, Zest started to train him.

He seems to be a sharp person, but he has a bad habit of sweet talking women.

Prime Minister Heinz

He's the person who's trying to revive the power of science.

He's a sharp and able person, and even people as good as Kachua lose initiative in front of him.

He needs special attention.

General Caris

The general who belongs to the Prime Minister's faction.

He's smart and he has the highest military power in his country.

However, he doesn't have a wife.....

Kachua

The Royal Court's top mage.

Prince Mars's master.

It appears that she's a conspirator and she's smart.

She's a Lolita, but her actual age is.....

Chapter 120: Strategy Meeting

“Oh, Zest! I was waiting for you.”

“I’m sorry to have made you wait, your Majesty. Considering the situation, please forgive my rudeness.”

We were not inside the audience room, but in a big council room.

The empire’s upper echelons were gathered here at this moment.

Since the legendary dragons were approaching in a swarm, it wasn’t the time for proper etiquette and manners.

“Can someone explain the current situation?”

“I will.”

The one who stood up was Prime Minister Arc.

It’s been a year since I last saw him. He aged quite a bit.....mister Prime Minister.

“The dragons are approaching from the north. A soldier who was watch-keeping in the tower detected them. He first confirmed it with spectacles, then reported to me. It hasn’t passed much time since then, but soon we’ll be able to see the dragons with the naked eye.”

“Exactly how many are they?”

“Twelve. It’s a mix of black and golden dragons.”

Ah, these colors are eerie.....

If you think about it, aren’t these the colors that usually announce a mighty power?

Their number is definitely a threat, but these boss-like colors are a threat as well.

“How much of a military force can we mobilize at the moment?”

“At best, 1500 soldiers. What about duke Zest?”

“I have about 300 people with me..... But we’ll first discuss things with them, right? The dragons finally showed up. There must be a reason behind this.”

“I thought you’d say that. However, I still want to mobilize the soldiers just in case.”

After he said this, Prime Minister Arc left the room.

He carried a bunch of documents with him, as he hurried out.

He went to make adjustments to each department.....He’ll grow even older after this.

“Only military authorities are left, huh? You must go and organize the soldiers. Listen closely, you must absolutely not act without orders!”

“ “ “Yes sir!” “ “

The generals saluted and left the room.

This is serious, all right? I hope they’ll keep that in mind.

“Your Majesty, just to be sure.....”

“Yeah.....I made arrangements for Tsubaki to escape the palace. If the worst case happens, I leave her in your care.”

In case a battle commences, he wants me to take Tsubaki and run away.

This is his last means of protecting the blood of the imperial family.

“In that case, please look after my son too, Zest. He’s studying now in the Zaar Kingdom, the country of *kemonobito*.”

Studying abroad, huh? I bet the real motive is something different.

He was cautious of me, as he let his son leave the country...

“We must negotiate so that things won’t turn..... this way.”

I answered and the Emperor let out a feeble laugh.

“If I trusted you from the beginning.....But on the contrary, this way was better instead. If my son is safe, the empire won’t be finished. And in case I die, please become his guardian and rule the empire as a regent.”

“As you wish. I will certainly act in accordance to your will.”

As we had this exchange, a soldier wearing an armor leaped inside the room.

“I report! A man who claims to be a demon arrived and wants to talk about the current situation!”

The Emperor sent me a glance.

So, you’re leaving this to me, huh?

“Bring him here. Be careful not to show him disrespect.”

“Yes sir!”

And so, the discussion with the demon guy began.

“I am glad to meet you, your Majesty. I am Neebel, the demons’ head. Duke Zest, long time no see.”

The one who entered the council room was Neebel.

Inside the room were now only his Majesty, the Prime Minister, Neebel and I.

A discussion between these four people began.

“The demon race has a boss..... Did you know this, Zest?”

“Yes. We met before.”

Neebel smiled and answered instead, but I couldn’t let my guard down.

He came here for a reason.

It must have something to do with his work as an overseer.

“I’m sorry I couldn’t tell you about this, your Majesty.”

“It’s all right. I’m sure you had a reason for hiding this, Zest.”

“Indeed. I forbade him to speak about it.”

He cut in my conversation with the Emperor, but we couldn’t condemn him for this.

Everyone present sensed that Neebel’s position was the strongest of us all.

“Well now, I am in a hurry this time so let me confirm something right away.”

He didn’t have the same expression as before.

Neebel continued, clad in a bloody aura that made even me feel an electric shock run through my entire body.

His magical power.....was the strongest I encountered until now.

The Prime Minister lost his consciousness in an instant and collapsed.....The Emperor somehow managed to stay awake, enduring the unbearable pressure.

“What are you planning to do.....about the elves’ conspiracy?”

Depending on our answer, we might start killing each other in an instant.

I prepared myself for this, employing my magical power as well.

I don’t intend to make an enemy out of the demon race, but I also have to stand firm.

Reacting at my display of magical power, Neebel turned to face me.

“Why are you surprised, Neebel—*dono*? If you let our that much killing intent, this is the only way I can respond. I am guaranteeing my own safety, so please don’t worry about it.”

“No, I am fine with that. What actually shocked me was the amount of magical power you have.....I never imagined you had this much.....”

Mine and Neebel’s magical power.

We both boosted it, in order to check who was stronger.

At first, I only used magical power, but then I blended in some killing intent as well and it all developed into an intimidation battle.

The Emperor finally collapsed as well, and only the two of us were left in the council room. That’s when we heard a sequence of huge bangs.

“Neebel—*dono*, a preemptive strike.....Whatever the circumstances might be, aren’t you a little impatient?”

“Eh!? I never ordered something like this!”

Neebel quickly shook his head at my words.

I doubted his honesty, but the report of the soldier who come inside the room right after made everything clear.

“Urgent message! The dragons fell inside the castle grounds! However, these dragons are spouting bubbles and are unconscious!! What should we do!?”

The council room fell silent and the soldiers’ tumult could be heard from far away.

The dragons fell from the sky??

“I see, this is what happened!”

Neebel clapped his hands together.

It seems he has an answer.

“Most likely, they were taken by surprise by duke Zest and my magical power display and lost consciousness. At any rate, it’s been a while since they last went out, so when they felt this aggressive magical power.....Hahahahahaha, even though they look like that, they’re quite delicate beings, you know.....?”

Neebel talked like it was the most natural thing in the world, but sweat started to flow down his face.

It appears that the legendary dragons are surprisingly delicate.....

Chapter 121: Dragons and Magic Attributes

“This is what happened, your Majesty. That’s why, I will take command for this matter.”

“Yeah, please do so. But Zest....you should learn to show a bit or restraint. I thought I was going to die.”

The Emperor was completely exhausted; he placed a wet towel on his forehead.

The Prime Minister was still down.

“.....Urm, I’m sorry.”

“Hahaha, duke Zest is quite a daring individual.”

Neebel stroke my shoulder several times, as I apologized to the Emperor.

Don’t pretend you had nothing to do with this! You’re one of the causes for this too, you know?

I really wanted to retort, but it wasn’t the time for this.

I must hurry and collect those dragons.

“Your Majesty, I am in a hurry so...!”

I took Neebel with me and ran out of the council room.

I really wanted to avoid this huge failure.

“Where is the closest one?”

The soldier who delivered the message a few moments ago was now guiding us.

He had a fearless expression and, judging by his way of moving, he was no ordinary person.

“Yes, we should take this passage then...”

In the worst case, I would’ve placed this soldier on my back and ran but.....

This guy....he strengthened his body with magical power.

He ran at fairly great speed too.

“You are rather skilled. Who’s your master?”

“Yes sir! It’s Lamia–*sama*.”

.....Well, he did enter the council room in the midst of our magical power mixed with killing intent contest.

Are all the messenger soldiers trained by mother-in-law, I wonder?

“Mother-in-law’s student?.....If you feel like it, you can come to my domain. I won’t treat you poorly.”

“Thank you very much!”

The soldier started to cry for some reason, as he raised his speed, guiding us to the scene where one of the dragons fell.

Do you really hate it that much that you’d start crying.....My mother-in-law’s training?

We arrived at the scene, where the soldiers encircled a black dragon, their entire bodies trembling.

Although fainted, his body was still huge, about 10 meters long.

It was natural for them to feel scared.

“Lower your weapons. I will deal with him, so step back.”

The soldiers turned around to look at me, then stepped back with an expression of relief on their faces.

“We’re saved. His excellency Zest is here.”

“Good, we can feel relieved now.”

“Dear me....This means we won’t die.”

They sat down, talking unanimously.

Really now! These guys might need some more training.

As I looked at the deplorable soldiers, I approached the black dragon.

It doesn’t seem like he has any external wounds; he’s quite sturdy, as one

would expect.

I touched his face, which was at the level of my full height, and casted some healing magic.

Immediately after, the dragon regained his senses and opened his eyes.

“Did you use healing magic? I shall praise you for this deed, human.....However! Don’t you dare think that you can make me surrender with just that.”

“.....”

“Fufufu, you’re too astonished to talk? That is inevitable. Dragons are the strongest creatures, after all. We aren’t weak as you, humans! You shall quietly obey us!”

The black dragon spoke with a smug face.

He was sitting on his back, with his tail between his feet, sprawling on his belly.....His tail was trembling.

“Neebel–*dono*, is this the dragons’ way of intimidating others?”

“No, it is their resignation posture. This guy is kind of a show-off.”

It appears that there are all sorts of dragons.....

“Oh, Neebel–*dono*! This is great. If possible, I’d prefer to handle this human by myself but.....because of the fall, I hurt my claws, unfortunately. I leave it to you!!”

The dragon said and showed us his claws.

His claws were indeed a bit dirty, but there was no injury whatsoever.

Don’t tell me he won’t fight because of this reason? Aren’t dragons supposed to be strong?

Amazed, I looked at Neebel only to find him greatly embarrassed.

I guess he didn’t expect the dragon be so scared and useless.

The soldiers as well, couldn’t believe their eyes.

“Zest–*sama*, are you all right!?”

In this delicate atmosphere, Bea's voice could be heard.

What? Why is she here?.....Was she worried about me?

Our eyes met, and she smiled as she approached us.

"I'm glad that you're safe, Zest-sama. Everything is all right now.....If you *talk* to them, they're quite understanding."

"We can't defy you, ma'am!"

"We'll follow you, our master!"

"The young lady's husband? He looks strong."

"Toto-san, it hurts."

(Ahahaha, Dad! This lizard can fly!)

Bea said and smiled, carrying her favorite bardiche on her shoulder.....She was accompanied by four black dragons.....

If you *talk* to them, huh?.....They did understand. I know that feeling very well.

It was easy after that.

The black dragons, who became Bea's faithful pets, went to wake up the golden dragons.

They're all on standby in the inner garden now.....

All the golden dragons trembled when they saw Bea.

We weren't able to talk to them at all.

However, when I got close to them, they changed completely.

" " "This magical power! Big bro, we'll follow you!" " "

"Oh my, this magical power feels really good!"

"Hey, hey, you can mount me, you know?"

Yes. These dragons liked me a lot.

As the black dragons loved Bea, the golden dragons became absurdly attached to me.

“Haha, you’re on extremely good terms.....This is great.....”

When Neebel saw this, his eyes lost their light completely.....

Because of his own fault, his intimidation diplomacy failed miserably.

He explained to us that dragons get extremely attached to those who have the same magical power attribute as themselves.

On the contrary, they feel a great revulsion and weakness against those who have an opposite magical power attribute.

That’s why the golden dragons crashed because of Neebel’s dark attribute magical power and the black dragons crashed because of my light attribute magical power.

In this extreme situation, when they saw someone who had a great affinity with their own magical powers.....and a strong magic user on top of that.....It all turned up as you already saw.

.....Hmm? Neebel–*san*, are you crying?

It was you who forgot about this important fact and unleashed all your magical power, remember?

“Anyway.....Thanks to duke Zest’s explanation, I now understand that you don’t support the elves’ plans. I will go back now and leave all this in your care.....Please look after these *children* for a while. They don’t want to go back, so.....”

Neebel left the palace with tottering steps.

Sorrow hanged in the air surrounding him.....He was somewhat pitiful.

I’ll send him a letter and a present later.

After I saw off poor Neebel, I walked towards the council room to report to the Emperor.

Bea and Toto took the black dragons for a walk.

The golden dragons waited obediently in the inner garden, basking in the sun.

“Son-in-law–*dono*, congratulations.”

Mother-in-law greeted me while playing with her iron-ribbed fan.

“Mother-in-law, excuse me but I’m on my way to report to his Majesty……”

“Son-in-law—*dono*? You tried to lure away the messenger soldier I went to great lengths to properly train, didn’t you? I have something to *talk* to you about, so your report can wait.”

She lifted up my chin with her iron fan, and all I could say at that point was a very docile ‘Yes’.

……My mother-in-law was way more scary than the likes of dragons.

I then understood the feelings of that crying messenger soldier……

Chapter 122: Cute Dragons

“I see.....Now that you’ve told me to leave it in your care, I can feel relieved for the time being.”

“Yes. They.....said they needed an arbitrator. Let’s do it, your Majesty.”

After Neebel left the palace on foot, I went to report to the Emperor.

As one would expect, I couldn’t tell him about the overseers.....So I told him instead that I was going to be an arbitrator.

“I understand the matter with the demons. The problem is.....”

The Emperor showed a suspicious expression.

Your Majesty.....Err.....you’ve got it wrong, you know? But I couldn’t say this.

“Will the dragons live on your domain?”

“Yes. If Bea or I are not around, it is too difficult to control them. I’ll take care of the dragons for a while.”

“Is that really so?.....Your strength is increasing again.....”

“Well, it is only temporary. It’s all right.”

It’s not really all right, but it’s no use saying this here.

I’ll just try to somehow deceive him.

“It’s not such a big deal, having a few flying lizards. Besides, in case of an emergency, I’ll welcome the prince on my domain. Isn’t it better to have a strong war potential?”

“Well, if you put it that way.”

“Moreover, we are relatives, so please don’t worry. I won’t betray those whom I call family.”

“Fufu, I have no choice but to trust you. If you’ll ever betray us, the capital will easily surrender. It’s useless to worry about it anyway.”

The Emperor let out a long sigh, the repositioned himself on the chair.

“Understood. The Prime Minister will deal with the uproar. Zest.....you should start getting ready for what’s to come.”

“As you wish.”

I lowered my head then left the council room.

Getting ready for what’s to come.....In short, I must prepare for assaulting the elves’ country.

I have to discuss this matter with the Frontier Count at once.

After I returned to my room, I summoned Suu right away.

We must arrange to send a messenger.

“Did you call for me, master?”

“Suu, make the necessary arrangements to send an urgent messenger to the Frontier Count. I can’t do it alone.”

“Urgent?.....Is this related to the elves?”

“Yeah, I must propose a rough plan as quickly as possible.”

Suu thought about this for a bit, then came up with a strange suggestion.

“If we use a dragon, wouldn’t that be fairly quick?”

“But.....do we even have a reckless guy who can ride that thing and deliver the message.....”

Do we have someone like that?

Yes, I didn’t even have to ask about this because the candidate was already chosen.

“Please appoint my brother for this. He’ll gladly accept it.”

She plainly declared, wearing a dark smile on her face.

“Yes sir! I’ll leave without delay.”

I summoned Albert and he didn’t oppose this plan even one bit.

Are you sure about it? It can be considerably dangerous, you know?

“I, Albert, cannot disagree with your excellency’s command! I’ll fulfill it

admirably!”

Albert declared, then he approached the golden dragon who lay sprawled in the palace’s garden.

This Albert acts rather cool for a change.

However, will this work? Dragons can be indecent, you know?

“Hey, dragon! This is his excellency’s command! If you oppose it, his excellency and the madam will spank you!”

Wait! What’s with his way of persuading him?

You rely upon others to attain your own objective?.....

“Master Zest.....should I let this person mount me?”

The dragon asked, his voice a little shaky.

Are you that scared of a little spanking?.....I’m gradually becoming less human, it seems.

“Yeah. I rely on you two.”

“Good. It can’t be helped if this is master’s request. Oi, *kemonobito*. Get on.”

The dragon leaned over making it easy for Albert to mount him.

It appears that his feet are still trembling.....I decided to just leave him be.

“Hey, dragon, go to the Frontier Count’s domain.....Hurry in that direction.”

“I’ll leave it to you, *kemonobito*. Hold on tight and be careful not to fall down!”

The dragon flied up in an instant.

I saw off the dragon who became extremely distant now and muttered to myself.

“That guy.....where does he plan to go.....without receiving any letter, nor hearing any message?”

“That stupid dog.....I can’t believe he’s my brother.....”

Suu had a disgusted expression on her face and she really looked

frightening.....

Albert returned in hot haste, then left again, but not before being trashed by Suu.

I was told that I could return to my room, so I wasn't present to the actual scene.

However, according to the maids who happened to be present.....Albert was crying.

I'll have to invite him for a drink when he gets back.

I sat on the sofa and tried to devise a plan as I drank some tea when Bea came.

Of course, Toto accompanied her.

"Zest-*sama*, we just came back."

(Dad, we're home!)

"Welcome back, you two. Did you enjoy your walk?"

Both of them were in a great mood.

I didn't really have to ask this, but if I were negligent in dealing with such trivial matters, it could get quite risky.

It can cause a married couple's relationship to grow cold after all.

"Yes, those *children* are honest and cute."

(Yes! They fly so quickly!)

Wait a minute! Is it all right for a pregnant woman to fly like that? It's not like there's a rule against it.....But, normally, it's no good, right?"

"Di-did you fly too? Are you all right, Bea?"

"Please don't worry. I didn't ride them. Only Toto-*chan* and the maids' unit mounted them."

Ah, in this case.....it's all right, I guess.

I was still a bit worried, but since Bea didn't fly with them, I had no problem with it.

They can do whatever they please.

“So, I have a favor to ask, Zest–*sama*.”

(Toto has a favor to ask too!)

All of a sudden Bea twined around my arm and Toto sat on my shoulder.

A favor?.....It's quite rare for both of them to ask me for something.

“What is it? If it's coming from you two, I will allow most things!”

I brushed their heads gently, as Bea informed me with upturned eyes.

“Let's keep the dragons at our place. I already finished persuading them.”

(They all cried with happiness, saying that they wanted to be raised by us!!)

“.....It-it's OK, I guess.”

And so, due to Bea's '*persuasion*' the duke's domain was able to acquire some pets.

Albert, the black knights.....and the maids' unit, only the elites started to ride the dragons for walks.

Later, people started to call them '*The Empire's strongest and worst dragon knights unit*'.

When Neebel found out, he was totally displeased, but that's a different story.

.....Is it all right.....not to return the dragons.....?

Chapter 123: A Sudden Notice

“Hoho, grandson-in-law–*dono*..... I never thought that I would fly into the sky at such an old age.”

“Urm.....Sorry for the trouble.....”

A few hours after Albert departed, he returned with the Frontier Count on the back of the dragon.

In midair, if you fly in a straight line, you can travel unthinkably fast.

These pets are rather useful, aren't they?

“So, the reason you called for me is to discuss the elves' matter, right?”

As expected from the Frontier Count, he's quick to understand things.

I made a sign with my hand and the maids left the room.

Only Suu and I.....and the Frontier Count were left.

Albert went to train with the dragons; this was perfect since he's not suited for such discussions.

“Suu, grandson-in-law–*dono* is going to extend his influence in the country of elves too. This way, the Frontier Count's Household alone won't be able to stop him anymore.”

The Frontier Count held his cup in a hand and said, at which Suu declared with a clear voice.

“I am master's steward. Please talk to my master first, before talking to me. And another thing.....No matter if you're the Frontier Count, in case you harm my master.....you won't be able to return anymore. Please be careful.”

“Hoo, you intend to threaten me? You lass.”

The Frontier Count released his magical power in a clear attempt to intimidate Suu, but she didn't draw back.

In this tense atmosphere, they stared at each other.

“Can you even get rid of me?”

“If my brother, the black knights..... and the maids’ unit attack together, we can win. Since returning to our domain is too troublesome, we’ll deal with you right here. Only Sonia–*sama* and Lamia–*sama* will be left.....But there’s a high possibility that those two would be on master’s side, so something will come out of it.”

Fufufu, I’m glad that the Frontier Count is having fun.

“Hohoho, you passed. Crushing every single threat against your master is the very basics. At this point, you can probably finish me off.”

“Thank you for your guidance.”

The Frontier Count withdrew his magical power and started to laugh.

Suu laughed as well as she prepared another round of tea.

Yes, this was a test.

“After I saw this, I can feel at ease and leave things to you. Grandson-in-law–*dono*, you don’t have to worry about anything while you’re in the elves’ country. You will make a lot of progress.”

The Frontier Count said and smiled, a dark smile that I haven’t seen in a long time.....

And so, our lovely meeting full of smiles ended.

What was already decided.....was that I would accompany prince Mars and go to the elves’ country.

We felt too uneasy to leave everything in prince Mars’ hands.

In this case, it was best if I would go with him.

Another job away from home, huh?.....I’ll be so lonely.

I drank some tea, lamenting my solitude.

The Frontier Count said that he wanted to see Bea, so he left in a hurry towards her room.

Oh dear! He’s such a foolish old geezer.....

I casually looked at the window and my eyes met Albert’s.

.....Hm? This is the third floor, isn't it?

I rubbed my eyes and looked again but I saw nothing.

I let out a sigh of relief but then my eyes met Albert's again.

I opened the window and checked what was going on outside.....

"Ooh, he jumped."

"Lord Albert is first. He jumped up to the third floor."

"I'm next! I'm next!"

"Fuhahaha, I'll spring you up with my tail as much as you want!"

The black knights were having fun with a dragon.

.....Yeah, do whatever you want.

I closed the window quietly and pretended I haven't seen anything.

I decided to use my free time and deal with some letters.

I started with greeting letters from the nobles, and for some reason I even found a petition for exterminating a band of thieves.

I'm not a Jack of all trades, you know? Don't request such things from a duke.....

Still, it's been a while since I last took my time and did paperwork.

Sometimes enjoying a peaceful day is such a good thing.

.....Though, the problem is we only have peaceful days once in a while.

As if responding to my intercranial retort, I heard a violent knocking on my door.

"Ma-ma-ma-ma-master! This is very serious!!"

Suu jumped in the room, her facial expression transformed.

"Calm down. Did more dragons arrive or something? How many are they now?"

I sipped some tea as I scolded the flustered Suu.

Really now, these guys never behave like nobles.....

“Madam collapsed because of a bleeding!!”

“Fuuuuu.....”

I spurt out the tea, which covered Suu in a *poisonous* mist.

“Ooh, grandson-in-law–*dono*! Use your healing magic! No, wipe the blood.....
Aah, Bea.....”

“Madam, fight! You’ll get over this with fighting spirit!”

“Do-do-do-do-doctor? Where’s the doctor? Ah, his excellency the duke is here, so it’s all right!”

When I arrived at Bea’s room, what was happening there was a scene from Hell.

Bea lay down on the bed, surrounded by worried people.

Everyone was upset.

“What happened? Did anyone hurt Bea.....Albert, did you kill the criminal?”

“No, she suddenly collapsed. We don’t know the cause.....maybe a drug or some sort of spell!”

“I was also present and I didn’t sense any magical power. Maybe it was a drug.”

(Dad, Mom is! Mom is!!)

Toto cried and shouted and the Frontier Count was red with anger.

Albert made arrangements to gather all the black knights, his tail fluffy but rigid.

I approached Bea in order to heal her, but she tried hard to squeeze out some words, as she suffered in pain.

“Uh....uuugh, Ze-Zest–*sama*.”

“Bea, your wound is superficial! It’s all right, I’ll definitely save you!!”

I held her hand firmly and told her, but she informed me, her face drenched in cold sweat.

“I’m...I’m giving birth. Please call my mother.”

She's giving birth?.....She said she's giving birth!?
"De.....delivery?! Someone, someone call the baby!!!!"

"Ooh, a baby. Summon a baby!!"

"Oi! Someone bring a baby here!! Use the dragons!"

"Master, how old should this baby be?"

For some reason, this confused gang was preparing to try to abduct a baby.

This chaotic place settled down by the actions of a single person.

"You idiots! Listen up! All men leave the room right now!! I brought the midwife. Leave the rest to us and wait outside, kneeling down on the corridor or something!!!!"

Mother Lamia slapped us, and we went out, kneeling down on the corridor.

I never imagined that I would live the day when the Frontier Count and I knelt down together in a *seiza* position.....It was a premiere.....

Chapter 124: A Noisy Childbirth

“You guys! Don’t stagger there, go boil some water or something!”

All the guys started to move at once when they heard the midwife’s loud words.

In this world midwives have a high status.

Because they deal with all childbirths, their status is strong even against nobles.

On the contrary, if you attack a midwife, you’ll be in real trouble.

“Albert, take care of the water. The Frontier Count and I will standby here after we gather some clean towels. Since only women can enter this room, you should stay here, Suu, and if something happens you’ll contact me right away.”

I struggled to give instructions, my head being still in chaos.

Everyone was walking unsteadily, but it can’t be helped.

The damage from sitting in a *seiza* position was serious.

While I casted some healing magic on the Frontier Count, the maids came carrying a large quantity of sheets and towels.

Oh, they’re prepared for this.

“Your excellency Zest, the news about madam’s delivery have spread inside the entire palace. You can rest assured and wait here.”

“I see. That’s very helpful. I’ll rely on you then.”

I found about this later, but at this time the entire palace affairs were suspended.

The Emperor released an imperial command saying *‘Zest’s wife is our maximum priority. If anyone intrudes they’ll be accused of treason.’*

.....Your Majesty, I won’t forget this favor for a while.

Since the maids abandoned their regular work and were helping us now, the Frontier Count and I had nothing to do.

We sat on the chairs prepared for us on the corridor and waited.

“Fuu, a childbirth, huh?.....I can't believe how useless I am in such moments, right, grandson-in-law—*dono*?”

“Indeed. If it were a battle, I wouldn't have had problems joining it, but when it comes to this I'm completely useless.”

We talked as we drank some tea.

It didn't matter that I have a huge amount of magical power, it was still useless for the delivery.

Waiting and praying was quite tough on me.

The Frontier Count and I waited for several dozens of minutes.

The door opened violently with a bang.

“Why are you carefreely drinking tea!? Go find a magic user who can use healing magic!! It's urgent!!”

The midwife was yelling at us, her expression demonic and her body covered in blood.

Is this..... a dangerous situation?

“How good a magic user do you need? Or should we bring more than one? Maybe a few high-ranking mages?”

“A skilled mage is enough. She's running out of blood, so she's in a dangerous situation right now.”

As I thought.....

I don't know much about giving birth, but I actually thought it was strange for Bea to bleed that much.....

“Frontier Count, who is a famous healing mage in the imperial capital? Let's hurry and contact them!”

“Leave it to me. A good former imperial mage.....Ah! Sonia is back on my domain!!.....We might as well rely on the much-rumored holy woman—*dono* of the Holy Country of Lilac.....”

My master?.....Will he arrive in time if we send someone to get him right now?

With the speed of a dragon he actually might arrive in time!?

“Albert, where is Albert!?”

“Yes sir! What is it, your excellency?”

“Albert, this is an emergency. Go to the Frontier Count’s domain as soon as possible and kidnap father-in-law Sonia!”

“Take this with you! This short dagger is the symbol of the Frontier Count. If you show this to Sonia, he’ll quietly come with you.”

“Yes sir! I’ll take care of it!”

Albert took the dagger and started running.

All I can do is rely on him now.

Next, the holy woman.....But who is she?

“The holy woman—*dono*? Who is this person!?”

“You don’t know? She built a church on your domain.....”

Haaa!? That junky is the holy woman!!!

It-it is certain that she has the magical power and the necessary qualities.....
For the time being I’ll send someone for her too.

“Someone from the maids’ unit!?”

“Yes sir! I, Media, am here for you, your excellency.”

“Media, go bring the junk.....the sister from the duke’s domain. If you explain her the situation, she won’t turn you down. Go!”

“Yes, I will definitely bring her along!”

She jumped off the window and left.

.....This is the third floor, you know? But *she’s* Media so it’s all right, I guess.

Since I heard the sound of a flying dragon, I believe *she’s* still alive.

Please, make it in time.....

While the Frontier Count and I continued to pray, the door opened again.

Mother-in-law Lamia stood here with an imposing stance.

“Zest!! Aren’t you a mage who can use healing magic!? Hurry up and come inside!!”

“ “.....Ah” “

We were still.....everyone was still in a state of confusion.....

“Midwife–*dono*, leave the healing magic to me! I’ll cast it for an entire day if it’s necessary!”

“Leaving your pride aside, hurry up and do it!! Go wash your hands clean first!!”

“Ah, yes.”

Once I entered the room, the battlefield unfolded.

All those sheets and towels that the maids prepared were now completely red.

Bea stretched out on the bed, her face pale.

“Bea, I’ll never let you die. You can be certain of this.”

I spoke those words and released my entire magical power.

I created a mental image where I restored her blood while recovering her physical strength.

I have to save Bea no matter what.....

I have to save my child no matter what.....

As I prayed for their safety, I employed all the magical power I could use.

“Wh-what a magical power.....Are you still feeling all right?”

“I’m fine. If this is enough, I can continue to use this kind of magical power for three days straight. You don’t need to worry about me. Please take care of Bea.”

I continued to use healing magic, as the midwife drew away.

“Midwife–*dono*, this kid has an idiotic amount of magical power, so you don’t need to worry about him. Besides, as a mage he’s stronger than Sonia, so we can feel relieved.”

“He’s stronger than Sonia—*sama*? Ah, so that famous duke is actually this kid? In this case, we can indeed feel relieved.”

The tense atmosphere from moments ago was gone now.

What! What are they talking about?

“Normally, at this point, I would tell you to prepare for a stillbirth, but with this amount of magical power assisting me.....there’s no easier childbirth than this.”

Exactly as the midwife said, the delivery went on perfectly well after that.

“Waah! Waaaah!”

“Ooh, a healthy baby girl. Moreover, she resembles the madam, so she’ll be a great beauty.”

“Bea, you did your best.”

“She’s born.....This-this is my child.....”

The room resounded with the cries of the newborn baby.

Two hours after I entered the room, the delivery ended safely.

“She’s truly the spitting image of Bea. She’ll become a very beautiful woman in future.”

“She’s so warm.....Nice to meet you, my cute baby girl.”

Bea hugged the baby closely at her chest.

Mother-in-law Lamia watched over them affectionately.

“Dear me! I’ll be taking my leave now. Congratulations! I’m glad it all ended well.”

The midwife left the room, her face looking rather tired.

“She’s so cute. I want to give birth too.”

“This feels so good. I must hurry and get married too.”

“I’m....I’m.....I’m so jealous.....And I was thinking about getting married as well.”

The maids’ unit was making a racket too.

Fufu, I'm glad it all ended safely.

“So, son-in-law—*dono*, how long do you plan on being like that? For god's sake, you became anemic just by watching the delivery.....”

“I feel ashamed of myself.”

I laid down on the sofa and gazed at the situation from there.

I actually couldn't take a straight look at *that process*.....

Chapter 125: The Daughter's Name

"Bea, you did great. The baby is adorable.....I won't approve of someone weaker than me taking my girl in marriage."

"Fufu, say what you like but it's a bit too early to think about that."
I recovered from anemia and was now talking with Bea, as the baby slept next to her.

This child is my daughter.....

"She's so little."

"She is. But it's normal for babies to be this little."

(She's bigger than Toto! She's my younger sister, but she's bigger than Toto!)
Toto was a bit troubled by this fact but she, nonetheless, didn't separate from her younger sister for she was too lovely.

It appears that she was completely charmed by the baby.

"However, I'm happy that the delivery ended safely. Everyone was worried, so I'll have to go thank them."

"That's right. Besides, you have to think of a name too."

(Name! What name will you give her!?)

.....A name, huh?

Can I choose it?

"Bea, can I choose the name? Did you also have something in mind?"

"Eh! Will-will you listen to my opinion too!?"

"Why are you even surprised? That's only natural, isn't it?.....Is it perhaps different in this world?"

"Yes, only men are allowed to pick the name for their children. I chose the name for Toto-*chan*, but this girl is the Duke's Household's eldest daughter....."

I see, in this world.....this is customary among nobles.

"I'm a stranger so I don't really mind. Shall we think about it together?"

“Yes! I want to give her a wonderful name.”

(Toto too! Toto will think about it too!)

I spent a wonderful happy time with my newly increased family.

“Grandson-in-law—*dono*, I heard your talk just now. What a wonderful idea to choose the name together with everyone! I shall cooperate as well.”

“Son-in-law—*dono* thinks a lot about his family. I shall cooperate too.”

The ones who opened the door and entered the room were the Frontier Count and mother-in-law Lamia, both their faces covered in smiles.

.....Cooperate? Choose together with everyone?

Who talked about that?

We looked at them blankly, but those two didn't mind it.

“I heard from the maids that, even though it is natural for the father to choose the name.....you want to choose it together with everyone.”

“I, as well, was deeply moved by this, father. Bea has a wonderful husband.”

“I can't believe I will be present when choosing the name for my great-grandchild.”

“.....I, as well, have become a grandma.....Grandma.....”

Both of them had distant looks in their eyes, in a different way, that is. I couldn't think of any plan to deal with these two.

What the hell did the maids' unit tell them.....?

“Mother-in-law, how about calling my daughter ‘Lamia—*sama*’?”

“That is wonderful, Zest—*sama*.”

For the time being, reviving my mother-in-law was my top priority.

It seems that Bea supported me on this so she followed along with my plan.

“Lamia—*sama*?.....Let's choose this then.”

The light returned in my mother-in-law's eyes.

I can check the situation this way.....For now, I'll leave the Count alone.

He's still immersed in something and has no reaction at all.

"Well, how about we start now to properly consult about the name!"

Before Bea and I could complain about why things have turned this way, the Frontier Count came back to life.

"Leave it to me, I have about 108 suggestions!!"

"I can't lose this either! When we chose Bea's name.....we consulted for three days and three nights, so much that Sonia begged us to let him go to sleep!"

And so, the very enjoyable family council for choosing the name of my daughter has started.

"As I said, we must choose a name that is related to Bea."

"No, we must choose a legendary flower's name for my granddaughter."

Two hours have passed since we've started.

The intensity of the fight between the Count and my mother-in-law continued to increase.

We were at the stage of choosing a range first, before getting to the actual name.

"Be-Bea.....Will this ever get settled?"

"I don't know.....I'm starting to feel a bit scared too."

(Dad, I'm sleepy.)

Toto crawled into the bed next to the baby and fell asleep immediately.

I bet Bea is tired too.....She's rubbing her eyes.

"It appears that it'll take some time for this to be settled. You should rest as well, Bea."

"I'll do just that. Please take care of this."

I prepared a futon ¹ for her, then returned to the battlefield.

Dear me.

“Then, we’ll just go with a flower’s name.”

“Yes, this is splendid.”

“Thanks god.....truly.....”

They finally chose the name range, and that was the name of an ancient and legendary flower.

In short, one of the flower names that the former Japanese stranger left behind.

This way, I can participate as well and I think it’s a great idea.

I have no complaints.....I really don’t, but this fight is lasting way too long.

“Then, let’s propose some names. Japanese style names, right?”

“Hahaha, you mean western style name, right?”

Another two hours fight started for choosing either a Japanese style name or a western style one.

It seems that I can’t go to sleep for another long while.

“As I thought, a western style name is better.”

“You’re right, we must choose a western style name.”

“Master, please stay strong. They finally chose something.”

“Suu, I can’t do this anymore.”

In order force my eyes open, I kept on pinching my legs; but this was starting to be insufficient.

I lightly stabbed myself with a sword, then used healing magic as I tried to endure this long fight.

I’ve been through a lot these past hours so I really wanted to sleep.....

“Well now, it’s finally the time we’ve all been waiting for. Let’s propose the names.”

“Hohoho, you shall be astonished by the amount of proposals I have in mind.”

How comes these two are so energetic?

I corrected my posture backed up only by willpower.

However, this was the moment when I remembered something.

A very essential thing.....

The door opened violently with a bang.

We all looked at it simultaneously and saw my master standing in the door.

“Bea! Is Bea all right!!??”

It was the moment when our family council increased by one member.

“She’s adorable. This girl will become a beautiful woman similar to Bea.”

“.....Yes.”

“Right? It makes me remember when I gave birth to Bea.”

“.....Yes.”

“Hoho, you’ll have a lot of hardships in future. You must get rid of all bad insects.”

“.....Yes.”

I have almost no memories of this moment.

According to Suu, at that time I was a living thing which could only muster a ‘Yes’ at fixed intervals.

My memories returned right after that moment.

That was when the door opened again with a huge noise.

“I’ve kept you waiting! I have brought the sister, the holy woman—*dono!*”

“Holy woman.....I am nothing but an equally loved child of God. As the trees don’t compare their sizes, as the winds don’t compete with their strength. We are all like the continuous sound of rainfall. And that is the will of God!”

“AAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH”

“Wh-wh-wh-what’s wrong, grandson-in-law—*dono?*”

“Son-in-law—*dono?* Get a hold of yourself.”

“E-eh? What’s wrong, your excellency?”

“Master, don’t do anything rash!”

“Wh-what happened? Zest–*sama*!? What’s going on!?”

“Waaah.....Waaaaah.....”

(Mom, Mom! My little sister is crying!!)

My spasm continued for a while.

I could no longer.....endure this situation.....

Chapter 126: Naming

“The junky.....Where’s the junky!!?”

“Master, here’s some water.”

I collapsed, emitting this strange voice, and I was afterwards carried in bed.

Suu took care of me, looking worried.

Bea had to take care of the baby, so it can’t be helped that she’s not with me now.

.....But that’s a good thing.

“Did I.....collapse.....?”

“Are you feeling all right? You seemed like you had a nightmare.”

I drank the glass of water without stopping to take a breath and I finally calmed down.

For now, how did the whole situation unfold?

“Suu, tell me what happened.”

“Yes, after master collapsed.....”

I fell senseless right after the junky sister arrived.

I do remember up to that part.

After that, my master Sonia used his observation magic on me and concluded that it all happened due to overwork.

Then I was moved to a bed.

The junky sister went to rest after thanking everybody and Albert showed her to a guest’s room.

Suu told me that she took notes of what the sister said and asked me if I wanted to read them, but I refused.

In any case I won’t understand anything unless I talk to her directly.

After that, my master explained things to the Frontier Count and my mother-in-law and the family council was suspended for the moment.

I see. I now understand that we haven't come to any conclusion yet.

"For the time being I'll go see Bea. If we don't choose a name before them, this will never end."

"That's right. I thought this would be for the best too."

It appears that Suu approved of this as well.

Right, I'll go talk to Bea first.

I quickly went on my way to our room.

"Zest-sama, are you already feeling better?"

(Dad, are you all right?)

These two looked very worried when they saw me enter the room.

But that is understandable; anyone would feel worried when her husband suddenly lets out a strange voice and collapses soon afterwards.

"Yeah, I'm fine. I came because I have something to talk to you Bea."

"Talk? What is it?"

"About the name.....Carrying on with this situation is too troublesome. We might as well choose the name first?"

"About that.....they did trouble you quite a bit.....But you're right, it is better this way."

(Name! Are you choosing it now!?)

As one would expect, Bea was also shocked by this whole situation and she came to approve of my idea.

Maybe she concluded that, unless we did this now, my mental faculties wouldn't hold for much longer.

"Zest-sama is the one supposed to choose the name in the first place. I won't allow anyone to complain about this!"

(Waaai, Dad will choose it!)

Bea was overflowing with a strange power; was she angry or something?

Maybe because her family selfishly intruded in this matter?

“Worries that would make Zest–*sama* collapse.....I will let my mother and grandfather feel them too.....Ufufufufufufufu”

(Ah, Toto must go eat some sweets.)

Toto ran away.

However, I couldn't do the same.

“It-it-it-it's all right. You're prone to worrying, Bea.....But thank you for worrying about me.”

I gently stroke her head and her black, sinister magic power finally settled down.

This was dangerous.....It considerably scared me.

“But do you have any good name?”

“Kind of.....Say, Bea. Is something like the language of flowers handed down in this world?”

“The language of flowers.....? It is the first time I hear about this.”

She held the baby in her arms as she answered me.

It seems that she just changed her diaper.

It just happened.....It's not like the baby peed because of the fright caused by Bea's magic power.

“I see.....In this case.....”

I told her about what the language of flowers meant and about the name I chose.

As she embraced the baby, Bea seemed very pleased with my choice.

“It's wonderful!! No one will be able to complain about this. Ufufu, it is truly a great name.”

“Kya kya”

Both Bea and the baby had faces covered in smiles.

.....This kid.....Can she understand what we're talking about?

Well, it's just a coincidence.....I decided to believe this and hurried to the reception room where the Frontier Count and the others were waiting.

"Everyone, I'm sorry for worrying you. But I'm all right now."

I entered the reception room, filled with energy.

The Frontier Count, my master Sonia and mother-in-law Lamia looked at me.

"Oh, so you're fine? You mustn't overdo it."

"You're such a troublesome son-in-law. You should depend more on the people surrounding you, you know?"

"Zest.....I understand you.....I understand you perfectly, Zest."

It appears that my only ally is my master.

After all, when choosing Bea's name, he endured this fight for three days and three nights.....

I had a hunch that we conveyed our feelings just by looking at each other.

"Also, about the name."

After our ordinary talk, when I broke the ice and mentioned the matter with the name, the atmosphere changed completely.

You guys, how can you get so obsessed because of a name?

However, I cannot lose this fight.

My heart felt very calm.

"To tell you the truth, I have one proposal as well. I think about giving my daughter this name!"

How about it!? I told them!!

Maybe because my words surprised them, the two troublemakers hung their heads down.

Only my master showed an expression of shock.

“Therefore, I will explain to you the na.....”

I couldn't continue. My words wouldn't come out.

I felt an incredible pressure weighting down on me.

“That is great.....If you've gone this far, you might as well continue.”

“Fufu, son-in-law—*dono*.....In case you chose a weird name.....Ufufufu”

Ah, this is a hopeless pattern.....

I ended up leaking a bit, but it was only a little so everything's fine.

Once it dries there'll be no problem.

Assaulted by an overwhelming magic power, I resolved myself.

In case the name is inappropriate, there's nothing waiting for me but death.....Still!!

I clad myself in light attribute magic power and declared to them.

“Do you know about the language of flowers? It is something handed down in my native country, and it refers to the emotion and meaning embedded in a flower's name.”

“There's a word for this?”

“As expected from a stranger. And?”

“My daughter's name is '*Wisteria*'. In Japan, wisteria is a light violet, beautiful flower. And, in the language of flowers, it means '*Gladly received / Never let go*'. What do you think?”

“ “ ” “

How is it? You can't complain about this, can't you?.....You won't complain, right?

The two of them stared at me fixedly without saying any words.

My master's face looked tense too.....If it comes to something hopeless, you'll help me, right?

Just how much time had passed?

The two of them, who stayed frozen in a silent mood up to now, suddenly experienced a reboot.

“Excellent. The Frontier Count’s Household’s women dress in black and red clothes. The light attribute grandson-in-law—*dono*’s child will wear a light purple color.....This is excellent!”

“Wisteria.....It’s great. And I quite like that language of flowers thing! Let’s go with this name!!”

It seems that both of them were extremely pleased with the name I chose.

.....Thank goodness.....I’m glad they liked it.

“Thank god, if your choice ended up being inappropriate.....you already guessed it, right? You were very close to dying, you know, Zest?”

“They’re this much obsessed about something like.....a name.....”

Those two were in a state of excitement, but I ignored them. Then, my master kindly encouraged me.

“Still, looking at their state now, everything seems fine. When this happened to me, it was far more terrible. Good for you that everything ended this way!”

“Is-is that so!? It will end now, right!?”

I’m finally set free.

Because of the happiness I felt, tears came to flow down my face involuntarily.

However, it is my life that won’t allow it to end this way.

“Wisteria, huh? Now we have to choose her nickname.”

“Oh my, father. It is obviously Wis.”

“Hahaha, I tell you, it’s Teria.”

“Ohoho, and I say Wis.....”

It appears that I won’t be set free for another long time.

Can I just say.....I reached the finish line??

Chapter 127: Finally, a Moment of Break

“Can I finally sleep.....?”

After six nightmarish hours have passed, I was finally released.

This is the time it took them only to choose Wisteria’s nickname.

It makes me shiver only thinking about what would’ve happen if I haven’t had already chosen the name.

“Master, thank you for your hard work. Still, young lady Wis?.....It is a great name.”

Yes, at the end of the fierce battle between those two, the nickname Wis was chosen.

‘Like we call Beatrice Bea, following an ancient custom of taking the first half of a name as the nickname, the same we shall do with Wisteria, so we’ll call her Wis!!’

These words spoken by my mother-in-law was the winning move.

“Right. Anyway, they calmed down now.....Do I have anything else scheduled for today?”

“Yes. But it is already evening, so you should rest a bit.”

“Indeed.....Suu, I’ll rest a little here. For some reason, I feel extremely sleepy.....”

I fell asleep on the chair in my office.

“Master? Master! Please wake up, master!”

I opened my eyes for Suu shook me awake.

What? Is it morning already?

“Why the urgency? It doesn’t feel like I slept too much.....”

Outside was pitch dark.

Hm? Did I sleep for an entire day??

“It is still early evening. Not much time has passed but.....you must go report to the Emperor about the delivery.”

“Ah, for this one, I must go there in person, otherwise it’ll be no good.”

It’s true that the Emperor showed concern for this matter as well.

Therefore, I have to go meet him in person.....

I used some healing magic on my tired body, then I started walking towards the Emperor’s chambers.

Because Suu let me sleep for a little bit, I feel a little more comfortable now.

“I’m sorry for coming this late. You helped us considerably, your Majesty. My daughter.....Wisteria was safely born.”

“Ooh, that’s great, Zest! And you also finished choosing the name.”

I was immediately able to meet the Emperor, who was relaxing in his quarters.

The Empress.....is not around, huh?

He’s truly doting on her, so much so that it could be considered an illness.

“However, I never imagined you would come this soon. I surely thought it would take another three days and three nights.”

Three days and three nights.....Did those two also drag the Emperor in the matter of choosing Bea’s name?

The Emperor showed a bitter smile and I could do nothing but apologize.

“Urm, I’m very sorry for that. The Frontier Count and my mother-in-law have caused you trouble.....”

“Hahaha, at that time, I felt I was in hell. The palace’s training grounds became a burnt area. This time, it all ended quite easily.”

“Bu-burnt area? Those two.....they’re really.....”

“Don’t worry about it. Because this is a customary event in the Frontier Count’s Household. I save a budget for this every year. It is funny how the ones who always come apologizing are the sons-in law! This tradition!

Hahahahaha!”

The Emperor was striking his knees, letting out a great laughter.

Apparently, this name struggle in the Frontier Count’s Household is more or less inevitable.

And now, it even became the amusement of the Imperial household.

“The previous Emperor.....During my father’s reign, the town was partially destroyed once, did you know that? The commoners and the nobles alike gambled on which of the two proposals would end up passing, so everything was actually all right.”

“I don’t know what to say.....”

The Frontier Count’s Household is beyond comprehension.

Ah, I also ended up joining that group.....sigh.....

“Well, think of it as a family custom and give up. There’ll be a next time anyway.....I have too much budget saved for this, so when the time comes make it big and flashy, all right?”

I can’t deal with this custom.

I let out a soft sigh, careful not to let the amused Emperor see it.

After I finished reporting to the Emperor, I returned to my room.

I planned to quickly finish some of the paperwork, then go to sleep.

Thinking about this, I looked over the letters when I hear a knock on the door.

“Father, it’s Tsubaki!”

“Father, it’s Mars.”

“Ah, what happened? You come at such a late time.....Well, take a sit.”

I asked Suu to prepare some tea as I listened to what these two had to say.

They sat on the sofa and after they completely harmonized with each other, they continued as follows.

“ “ Congratulations! We are more than happy to hear about the birth of our younger sister!” “

“Haha, what’s with your reserved manners. But thanks.”

Even though I said this, I felt really grateful that these two came here in person to congratulate me.

Younger sister.....so they think about her like that.

“I see, the language of flowers, huh? Such a wonderful source of beautiful names! Wisteria.....she’ll become a great beauty in future.”

“Haha, I must eliminate all the insects who’ll court her.”

“ “Hahahahahaha!” “

The prince and I both laughed harmoniously.

However, Tsubaki didn’t plan to let it end this way.

“Father! I also want such a name!!”

She didn’t have the same smiling face as before; Tsubaki’s expression changed completely and she had now a sullen look on her face.

But I can’t do this. The Emperor chose your name, after all.

“But Tsubaki is such a good name.”

“That is right, father.”

We both sensed that this could turn out rather troublesome, so we cooperated.

It looks like the prince has a strong ability to sense danger as well.

“Still.....It is true that my name is a flower’s name, but I didn’t know about the language of flowers! I really wanted a name with meaning, just like Wisteria!!”

This has already become troublesome.

It is way too dangerous to change the name that his Majesty gave her.

On the other hand, it’s too difficult to explain her away.....

.....Hm? if I remember correctly, Tsubaki also means something in the language of flowers.

“There is one after all!? A meaning for Tsubaki in the language of flowers.”

“ “Eeeeehhh!?” “

“And that is *‘Pride / Reserved kindness’*. This is perfect for you actually.”

“It-it has such a meaning.....”

“This is wonderful, father!”

Shall I continue?

“It is a lovely name that even actresses and dancers use. I also admired your name. Isn’t this great for you, Tsubaki?”

“Is that really so?.....Ufufu, it is indeed great!”

“Father, you did splendidly. Magnificently!!”

Good.....This is truly great.

The two of us overcame the pinch situation.

Ignoring the smiling Tsubaki, we both shook our hands firmly.

Prince Mars took the extremely pleased Tsubaki along, and it was finally the time to go to sleep.

That prince, before leaving, he made a bombshell announcement.....

‘My guardian would like to meet with you tomorrow’

Because this meeting is tomorrow, I won’t worry too much about it now.

I’m already at my limit.

I’ll try my best from tomorrow onward.....So I’ll just go to sleep.....

I collapsed into my bed and lost consciousness instantly.

“I’m sorry, master. Please punish me with this.”

“.....Morning, Suu.”

When I woke up that morning.....a lightly dressed Suu held out to me a horse riding whip.

She slipped it into my hand and dropped to her knees.

What is this situation?

I was in a state of confusion, but she continued to attack me.

“Please! Please hit me, master!”

“Good morning, your excellency Zest. The madam is coming here.....”

Suu and I both looked at Albert as he froze in place.

My fate could change depending on a single word from him.....

Please.....It’s up to you now Albert!!

“Madam, his excellency is still sleeping! You can go in after he wakes up, so please wait here on the sofa!!”

Perfect, Albert! I can deceive her this way!!

I will promote you after this.

Suu and I kept quiet, looking at each other.....Our hearts understood each other at that moment.

(Dad, good morning!! Are you playing horse with Suu? Toto wants to play too!!) “Oh my, this is such an interesting and fun looking horse play! We might need to have a small talk!”

Yes, it was impossible to deceive her.

Chapter 128: Discussing with the Guardian

“In short, Suu herself wanted to be whipped in order to apologize for her failure¹?”

“It is precisely as you said, madam.”

Although Albert’s fine play turned out useless, if we talked to each other in a calm manner, we all understood it.

It was actually very simple.

“Hahaha, Bea. The only things I whip are the horses and Albert.”

“Yes ma’am! It is precisely so.”

Albert instantly agreed with me.

It didn’t mean anything weird though.

“For us, *kemonobito*, this is very important. Being beaten with a whip is extremely humiliating for us. However, if our master, whom we respect and care for, does it, the situation changes completely!”

Right.

For *kemonobito* like Albert and Suu, if I beat them with a whip they’ll actually take pride in it.

It indicates that they are willing to accept this humiliation and the master appreciates their resolution.

It appears to also mean that there’s a very strong bond between master and servant.

“In other words, Suu’s real intention for asking you to hit her with that whip.....”

“Yes, madam. Regarding my master whom I dearly respect, even after I failed him greatly, will he still believe in me? This is the question I wanted an answer for.”

(Hee! *Kemonobito* sure have an interesting way of thinking!) “I see. I also

lacked information. If this is the *kemonobito*'s etiquette, it can't be helped. In case there are others, please tell me beforehand. Are you convinced now, Bea?"

"Yeah, forgive me for jumping to conclusions, Zest-sama."

(!? Should Toto go take a nap?)

Toto, no matter how you look at it, it's still too early.

Doing that right after the delivery is nonetheless bad.

At any rate, this was settled.

"Then.....Can we stand now?"

"Your excellency, I can't feel my feet!"

We stood in a *seiza* position for about three hours.....

The maids' unit lent us a shoulder and we stood up, then, after we finished eating our lunch, the prince came.

He said something about a meeting with his guardian yesterday.

"Father-in-law, his name is Callis and he's the Prime Minister's right hand. His power is slightly lesser than mine.....But still, in the elves' country, he holds a very high position."

".....I see. In terms of power, what rank are you in your country?"

He grinned broadly and answered brimming with self-confidence.

"I am hiding it, but there is only one person.....who is stronger than me! And that is my master, the old hag.....Urm! I can't win against the senior-sama."

"Oh, the second strongest, huh? I see.....In the worst case, we'll have to attack with strength."

Prince Mars' power is at the same level with the maids' unit.

If this makes him the second strongest, releasing my main force will bring us certain victory.

There might not even be needed for Albert to intervene at all.

He sometimes manages to defend against my blows and.....he's become quite

strong.

“For the time being, we’ll talk more about this after I meet with this Callis guy. How’s his character?”

“Yes, he has military power and he’s also fairly smart. However.....”

After I gathered some more information, I prepared for the meeting.

“I am glad to meet you, your excellency, Duke Zest. I am a General in the country of elves and my name is Callis. I am pleased to make your acquaintance.”

“I am Zest, the 1st Rank Imperial Mage of the Grun Empire. There’s no need to call me excellency, it is unnecessary for people coming from a foreign country, right, General Callis?”

“Then, I will call you Duke Zest. Thank you listening to my sudden request today.”

“Don’t worry about it. It’s about my cute son-in-law’s country after all. There’s no need for restraint.”

General Callis had a 180 cm, solidly built physique, so much so that you wouldn’t even believe he was an elf.

He also had a darkish skin color, probably suntan, and he felt exactly like a military person.

As for his age.....Since he’s an elf, I can’t properly judge based on his appearance, but he looks like he’s in his 30s.

His face was finely chiseled and his short golden hair suited him perfectly.

“Then, what is your business with me today?”

After the usual lip service, it was time for the main topic.

This was also the custom in the elves’ country.

“Yes.....To tell you the truth, it is about prince Mars. That prince, since his childhood.....Urm.....”

In short, this is a summary of what he told me.

The prince was raised with excessive care, since he was the long-awaited heir of the royal family.

For that reason, he doesn't have common sense and is usually impolite.

However, this didn't mean that the elves' country had ill intentions for the empire.

And they wouldn't mind if we killed him for his rudeness either.

These were the contents of his talk.

Fufufu, so if I end up killing him, they won't lift a finger?

Or is it that they sent the subject of their hostility to the empire in order to gather their own forces in their country? Is this their ulterior motive?

"I see.....Such a man is now my son-in-law. However, I can't go against the Emperor's decision. Moreover, your own King also approved of this marriage."

"Yes, that is precisely so."

"Then, how about this? It looks rather bad for my daughter Tsubaki to become a widow before even getting married. But, after they are officially married, it will only look like an unfortunate accident. Am I wrong?"

".....Accident?"

"Right. Fortunately, since Tsubaki was adopted into my family, she doesn't have inheritance rights in the Imperial Household anymore. Isn't this rather convenient for you as well?"

"As one would expect from Duke Zest. I see now....."

In short, the prince can't be killed just yet.

After they get married, the prince will die in an 'accident'.

Tsubaki is nothing but an adopted daughter of mine, therefore, the Emperor cannot express any direct opinions on this.

But I do have a say in this, so they better get along with me.

Or something along these lines.

"I don't really know how things will unfold after the accident. However, it

makes it quite easy to use the title of the future Queen, who's nothing but a very young woman who just lost her husband, right?"

"Right.....Even now, we stirred up trouble for the Grun Empire...."

"You obviously did. Forcing that stupid prince onto us is an open defiance against the empire. My black knights, my war maidens' unit.....and my *kemonobito* unit will take the head and attack your country, you know? You stained my honor, after all."

"Yo-you are quite right."

"Moreover, Razatonia Frontier Count's Household will join this war too. The black knights in the main household will happily rage over your country. Ah, even the Holy Country of Lilac will join. After all, you insulted the hero who achieved *spiritification*.....The Pope will be pretty angry."

"Ye-yes! We shall go with your plan, Duke Zest."

General Callis nodded to everything I said, his complexion looking rather pale.

Now, with this, the first stage is over.

"Thank you for your hard work, master."

"Hm? Well, it went just as planned. But they won't compromise more than this."

I can also ask for the empire's support, but it can't be helped.

It has to look like the empire is rejecting the prince after all.

"Still, this was all within my expectations. There's nothing really to be concerned about."

"Understood. As expected from my master."

It feels good to be praised by Suu.

Fufu, I am the type who makes progress with lots of praise.

I drank some tea, feeling in a great mood, but then Suu gave me a letter.

"This is a letter from the demons. Just to be sure, please read it quickly."

Yeah.....Are they telling me in this letter to quickly send back the dragons?

I actually wanted to keep them a little longer.

I opened the bulky letter and read it without delay.

'First Chapter – The Knight and the Master

"Ah, master.....I am a man. And yet, you still say that you like me?"

"It's all right. So what if you're a man? Look at you, just how happy you are."

"Th-that's!!"

"It's not about that, right? Say it properly."

*"My c***k....."*

*"Right. What is wrong with your c***k, Albert?"*

Albert twisted his body in an embarrassing way and Zest stared in agony at the cloak in his burly hand.....'

"It was a cloak!! That absolute moron, why did he ² censor that word!!?"

.....This wasn't a letter, it was a filthy manuscript.

Against my better judgement, I ended up reading up to the last chapter, Chapter 10; and I utterly regretted it.

The title was *'Albert's Pregnancy! Impregnated with Zest's Magic'.....*

I want to die.

Chapter 129: Turn Calamity Into Good Fortune

“Damn it, I read something terrible.....What the hell is this?.....”

I had an awful headache caused by the shock from reading this thing and the lack of sleep. I soon heard a knock on the door of my office.

“Master, you’re pulling an all-nighter again? You should rest a little, otherwise your body will won’t last.....”

Suu, looking worried, prepared some tea for me.

Today, as well, she was dressed in male clothes.

This way, if she entangles with me the impression given by this.....wait, what the heck am I thinking!?

Is this the power of rot and decay? Too scary.

“By the way, master. What were the contents of that letter? Was it an urgent matter?”

“.....Do you want to read it?”

Suu took the letter and started reading it, her eyes turning the size of a chestnut.

Well, I did expect that.

“Master, this is a frightening text.....”

“Right? Right?”

“If you change the names and let it circulate.....It will inflict some terrible damage. Not to mention that for the locked-out elves this will most likely make them pull back. As expected from my master’s thoughtfulness. I, Suu, admire your craftiness.”

“.....Right?”

I had this option too, huh?.....

For a married person, this story could inflict some major damage, but for a single person it could mean a fatal wound. This could turn out to be a useful trap.

“Prepare the paper without delay. Gather as much paper as you can.”

“Yes. I’ll ask Calfa to make the arrangements.”

Great, she is suitable for this task.

Fortunately, General Callis is unmarried; I’ll prepare a good present for him

and the Prime Minister.

They'll cry of happiness.

“Also, you shall ask my son-in-law prince Mars about the Prime Minister’s habits, hobbies and plans and add them all to the story. It will increase the credibility.”

“Fufufu, it’s a wonderful idea. We will mix in information only the high ranked nobles could know, right?”

“Indeed. However, be sure to avoid the things which only son-in-law-dono knows, okay? The only thing I want to achieve with this is.....”

“To split the Prime Minister’s faction.....and destroy their unity, right?”

“When people become suspicious, they start to doubt everyone in their surroundings. If it goes smoothly, then great, but if we fail, we at least spread some shameful rumors.”

“Understood. Did you know master, that you recently started to smile in the same way as the Frontier Count?”

The last remark heavily injured my tofu mental state.....

Was she praising me with that?.....

Suu showed a dark smile, seemingly full of meaning.

“And so, I have a request, your excellency!”

“I see.....”

That afternoon, the festival of visiting nobles started.

The pretext was Bea’s delivery and its celebration.

The real motive however.....

“Please! Take my daughter.....Accept my daughter into the war maidens’ unit!!”

This was the eighth person who asked me the same thing.

My maids’ unit is quite popular now under the name of the war maidens’ unit.

‘I can’t believe that my daughter, who only devoted herself to training and weapons, is now such a fine lady!’

Due to Suu’s strict training, my maids became rather decent, and their parents came to thank me for this, feeling great joy.

The other nobles who heard them made a huge fuss about me accepting their daughters too.

“All right, at first, I’ll have her work for me as a maid. After that, we’ll see.”

“Yes! Thank you very much!”

A talent recycling factory, Duke Zest’s domain.....And so I started to gain more and more capable personnel.....

Great, I have more maids now!?

“You have a strong influence now, master. It is delightful! Please rest assured for I will thoroughly train them.”

Suu laughed and said, but the maids’ unit’s opinions were.....

“Ah, our poor juniors.”

“They’re all fools.”

“They intentionally entered hell.”

“This training was harder than the combat one.....”

“What’s with those words you just used! As punishment, you’ll stand still until tomorrow morning with books placed on your heads.”

“ “ “ “Please forgive us!” “ “ “

Even my master was shocked when he saw Suu’s spartan-like training style.

Thanks goodness I didn’t have to go through that.....Yes, as I thought about this, I drank some more tea.

“Your excellency, excuse me.”

Albert entered my office, sending fluttering glances at the situation on the corridor.

There were about ten new maids waiting there.

It was quite the spectacle.

“What’s the matter?”

“Ah, yes! It is dinner time, so what do you want to do? There are a few newcomers among the black knights too.....so, once in a while.....”

Right, one section of the imperial capital’s elite unit expressed their desire to join the black knights.

They received the Emperor’s permission and I’m planning to attach them to my black knights’ unit.

However, all of them are muscle brains who joined me because they wanted to test their own powers on the duke's domain, already famous for its dragon pets.

“True.....But, last time it was rather awful, so.....”

If they take to that 'Fluffy Paradise' again I won't be able to endure it.

This time, I'd like to pass.

“Your excellency, I did a lot of learning. In order to avoid the riskiness of entering a place without researching about it first!”

“Albert, that is common sense, actually.”

I took a mouthful of tea, as I listened to Albert's talk.

At any rate, I'm sure it'll be a worthless place, so I'll refuse him as soon as he tells me the name of the shop.

“This time, the shop is called 'Well-Established! Flower Garden of the Palace Ladies'. It is a place with tradition that even the hero from the past favored, and this month is the service enhancement month.”

“Circumstances changed. Continue.”

“Yes sir! The women wear uniforms in the so-called Japanese style and they

do all sorts of stuff for you! At this time, for only three gold coins, you'll receive the daimyo course!"

"Albert, we'll go there immediately! Prepare the horses!!"

And so, I took the black knights along and hurried towards that place.

Towards the place that my predecessor left behind, the 'Flower Garden of the Palace Ladies'Senpai, thank you, truly!

"Aah, this is magnificent."

"Your excellency.....I, Albert, am deeply moved."

It was indeed a flower garden.

Beautiful women wearing Japanese style clothes stood up in lines.

I paid for everyone's fees.....Of course, we bought the daimyo course.

The kimonos more or less set in the patterns of this world, but...

They made me remember my home.

Then, the service started.

“Come now, please use this.”

We took the scissors that the girls gave us.

.....We took the scissors.

“Because you chose the daimyo course, you can get as many flowers as you can carry.”

The Flower Garden of the Palace Ladies was a flowers’ shop.....

It is a high class flowers’ shop where you reap the flowers directly from the field.

“Albert, once we return, we’ll need to talk.”

“Yes!”

Alberts was shaking severely, but since I managed to see some dearly missed Japanese style clothes, I’ll forgive him with a light punishment.

I was thinking about these things when I heard the voice of an unexpected person.

“Oh my, isn’t this son-in-law-dono! Do you plan to give these flowers to Bea for your wedding anniversary? Wonderful dedication you’re showing there! But, the date will change very soon.....Will you make it in time?”

It was mother-in-law Lamia.....We-wedding anniversary?

Was it today!? This is very bad!!

“Albert, you did great! Take your time and enjoy this place with the youngsters!!”

I threw towards him a bag of gold coins, grabbed as many flowers as I could and the hurried back to Bea’s place.

Please.....please, let me get there in time.....

Chapter 130: Bea's Feelings

I forgot about my wedding anniversary.

When I was still in Japan.....I heard something about this.

That when the husband forgets about the wedding anniversary, the wife resents him, and the conjugal relations get colder.

“I must avoid this no matter what.....I must get to Bea even one second faster!!”

I clad myself in the entirety of my magic power and ran at top speed through the imperial capital at night.

I heard all sorts of screams but I didn't care.

Since my top priority was Bea, I ignored all that and hurried to get to her room.

“Welcome back, master. Oh? Those flowers?”

“Suu, is Bea still awake?”

I arrived at my room and Suu was waiting there with a surprised expression.

Hm? There's no way Suu doesn't know about my wedding anniversary.

What's going on?

"The madam is drinking some tea on the terrace. She put young lady Wis to sleep after a long cry, so I believe she's taking a break."

"I see.....About the wedding anniversary....."

"Wedding anniversary? Ah, in a few moments and it will be today."

In a few moments?.....Damn you, mother-in-law, you tricked me!?

.....No, she actually showed consideration.

"Understood. I want to be alone with her for a while."

"As you wish."

Grinning, Suu left the room.

'You're anxious to please madam with those flowers, right? I get it', her facial expression was saying this and I wanted her to stop.

"It's been a hard day, isn't it, Bea? Today is our wedding anniversary, right? Please accept these."

“.....Eh?”

Bea was sitting in a chair on the terrace and I approached her from behind and called out to her.

She turned around and I saw that she was crying.

“Wh-wh-wh-wh-what’s wrong, Bea!? Did someone make you cry? I’ll go destroy that person so tell who it is!?”

“Zest-sama.....Zest-samaaaaaaaaaa!!”

Bea jumped at me and continued to cry even louder.

I brushed her hair lightly and waited for her to stop crying.

“Did you calm down?”

“Yes.....But, I didn’t want you to see me like this. It’s too embarrassing.”

The flowers were now scattered about the terrace and we sat down on them.

Actually, to be more precise, Bea was sitting on my lap.

I was sitting cross-legged on the floor, but I was all right since it wasn’t a

particularly cold season.

“What made you feel this sad? Will you tell me?”

“It’s not like I was sad. Urm, ever since before getting birth, I have many moments when I feel this way.....”

Bea started to speak, hesitantly and feeling embarrassed.

If I were to make a summary of what she’s told me, it would be something like this.

About the time her belly started to grow, all these things started.

During the day she felt irritated and during the night she felt like crying.

Apparently, she was repeating this cycle every day.

“That’s why, I didn’t want to burden Zest-sama with something as trivial as this.....”

She was aware of it, but she couldn’t stop.

After the birth, everything was supposed to go back to how things were before.....But she couldn’t put this into words, so Bea continued, while crying.

“But, this time is the baby.....Wis’ cry woke me up and I couldn’t calm down

these feelings anymore.....”

Am I being strange? If I continue to act like this, Zest-sama will start to hate and he'll cast me aside.

It seems that she kept thinking of these things.

“Sigh.....”

Without realizing, I let out a long sigh.

Bea was shocked by my reaction.

“I am sorry. Zest-sama, I will be careful from now on!”

“You're wrong, Bea. This sigh was directed to myself.....Sorry. I'm really sorry for not realizing what you were going through.”

Bea, who wanted to apologize herself, looked at me blankly and I continued to brush her hair lightly.

“Since I am older, I should've paid more attention. We will soon choose a nursing mother so until then I will help you change diapers and everything. Besides, for you to feel this way is not strange at all. It's normal, so don't worry about it. I will never hate you.”

“Is it.....normal? But my mother didn't.....”

“There are individual differences after all. There are women who don’t go through this, but many women actually do. That’s why, there’s no need for you to feel unease, Bea. You only have to depend on me and let me spoil you.”

“But, aren’t you angry? Don’t you hate the me I am right now?”

With her face red and full of tears, Bea looked at me.

I allowed such a young woman to worry about these things all by herself, I am such a shameful man.

“Ah, my only wife is Beatrice. I do love you, and I will from now on too.....No matter what happens, this will never change. On the contrary, if I ever go bald and you will start to hate me, I will still chase after you.”

“Yes.....Yes! Ufufu, it’s all right, though. If Zest-sama ever becomes like that, I will still love you.”

Bea finally smiled and I embraced her, then I kissed her after a long time.

On the terrace illuminated only by moonlight, we started to.....

“Master, excuse me. His Majesty.....”

“Suu. As you can see, I’m right in the middle of something.”

“Suu. Read the situation.”

The both of us were in the middle of relieving the tension that has built between us.

We couldn't stop midway.

“Yes. I do understand, but his Majesty.....”

“If it's a messenger, let them wait. If it's a letter, leave it here.”

“Geez, that Emperor.....I'll ask Toto-chan to send his wig flying again.”

We told Suu as we kept kissing, but it seems like this wasn't the case.

“Urm, his Majesty is here.”

“You two, I'm sorry to intrude.....But will you please stop extinguishing my wig?”

“Well, well, being young is amazing. They do it in such a place even.”

Their Majesties sneaked on the terrace.

We both hurried to stand and salute them.

This is bad, very bad!!

“Please excuse us! Your Majesties!”

“We-we were being impolite!”

“It’s all right. We suddenly intruded anyway. Right?”

“Yes, it’s not an official visit after all.....Please stop the wig thing.”

The Emperor was holding down his head and the Empress was smiling, her face red.

Just when did they even arrive here?

“I feel like I just watched a lovely scene.”

“Yes, if they do it on the terrace.....everyone outside hears it.”

“Please stop the wig thing.”

The Empress and Suu were making a fuss over this.

In this case, I must do something in order not to hurt the Empress’ mood.

“You’ve caught us in an embarrassing situation.....”

“Ah, I never imagined that her Majesty the Empress would hear us.....”

We never had faces as red as now, but the Empress kindly informed us.

“There’s no need at all to feel embarrassed, you know? It was a wonderful talk after all! If he goes bald, you’ll continue to love him, right?”

“Yes, your Majesty the Empress. I’ll love him even bald.”

“If I ever go bald, please take care of me, Bea.”

“.....Again, you’re talking about hair.....again.....”

“Your Majesty the Emperor, you’re slightly off.”

Suu, fix him back.

And so, the curtain raised over the midnight clandestine meeting with their Majesties.

Chapter 131: The Last Stop

“Also, we actually had a reason for visiting you in the middle on the night.”

The Empress smiled as she informed us, but our attention was uncontrollably focused on the Emperor sitting next to her.

He was staring in the direction of the day after tomorrow.....His eyes looked like those of a dead fish.

“I came to you, duke Zest, because I thought you could do something about my hair. What do you say?”

“Ha? Not his Majesty the Emperor’s but your Majesty the Empress’ hair?”

“Come to think of it, you’re always covering it with headdresses.”

“Hair.....headdress.....”

We both followed the Empress in not paying any attention to the Emperor for now.

Because otherwise our conversation wouldn’t advance at all.

She took off her scarf from her head; her hair was too short for a noble.

Noble women in this world have usually long hair that reaches at least their lower backs, but the Empress' hair reached only her shoulders.

"Urm, you used your hair for his Majesty's.....you know, hair thing, right?"

"Aaaah, your Majesty the Empress, you are so kind....."

"Hair thing.....Fufu, you called it hair thing....."

The Emperor was now sitting down on the floor, his body more and more numb, and his usual dignity nonexistent.

He looked nothing more than an ordinary middle-aged man.

"I asked Lamia about it, since her hair is always glossy and smooth, and she told me that duke Zest did it for her. In this case, I thought maybe you could also make my hair grow longer."

I see. So this is why the Empress doesn't usually come out in public!

It was less because of the Emperor's dotting attitude and more because she wanted to hide her short hair.....

"I understand. I will give it a try."

Just a few days ago I did my best and used much of my magic power for Bea's sake.

Normally, my magic power should've dried up, but luckily my magic power isn't that weak.

Rather, a short while after I use it, I feel good again.

As I started to feed my magic power to the Empress' hair, I created a powerful mental image of growing hair.

“Good. It seems to be working.....While we're at this, I might as well make it glossy too.”

“Right. Ah, how would you like it to be, your Majesty? Zest-sama can make your hair straight or curly and fluffy as well.”

Fufu, it's not like I practice on my maids' unit just to put on airs or something.

I can make it look however I want, be it straight or curly.

“Well, in this case, I want it to be long and straight just like duchess Beatrice's hair. I admired it for such a long time!”

“As you wish. What do you think?”

I stopped infusing magic power and moved a bit to the side.

She checked her hair by looking in the mirror that Bea prepared, and she

became exaggeratedly happy.

“This is wonderful! It’s so beautiful and silky.....and perfectly straight! Aah, I yearned for this since I was a child!”

The Empress touched her hair with her hands and frolicked like a young girl.

In this world there’s no such thing as perm treatments.....People with frizzy hair can only yearn for straight hair.

“I am more than happy to have pleased you.”

“Your Majesty, this hairstyle looks great on you.”

“Oh my, but doesn’t it make me look too young?”

The two women started to enjoy a conversation about hair ornaments and hair styles.

Suu evacuated the zone in order not to be dragged into their world.

.....She kind of has a sharp intuition.

“.....Zest. Can you only make the hair grow longer?”

With bloodshot eyes, the middle-aged.....the Emperor drew near.

He didn't have dead eyes anymore.....He looked very serious now.

“It-it is likely that I can make it grow as well.”

“Do it!! I'll never ask you for anything else in my lifetime! I'm begging you!!!”

And so, the Emperor's head returned to its golden days.

I never imagined that he would prostrate himself in front of me.....

Also, I who have saved his head, ended up receiving a new court title.

“I didn't offer you any lands when you adopted princess Tsubaki. The reason for that was for me to test how you would treat Tsubaki as a foster father and how you would bring this marriage problem to a conclusion. I trusted that you wouldn't use this as a bait and that you would unmistakably cope with and solve the situation. In response to this, the Zest who splendidly concluded the marriage problem is worthy of becoming an archduke. Objections are not approved. This is an imperial command.”

The Emperor stood up and held a sword in his hand.

The nobles in the audience hall simultaneously placed one knee on the floor and all made a respectful bow.

“You will also be the Crown Prince's guardian. In case I collapse before handing over the imperial throne, you, archduke Zest, shall give your

guidance.....and devotion to the Crown Prince.”

“I humbly accept the heavy responsibilities of a guardian and an archduke.”

I received the sword from his Majesty, then Prime Minister Arc stood up as planned.

“As the retainers’ representative, I, Prime Minister Arc, will give you our answer. We will follow your Majesty’s imperial command, we will assist archduke Zest and we will pledge an everlasting loyalty to the Crown Prince.”

And so, I was made an archduke in this audience hall.....and I realized that this will undeniably make me busier and busier.....

“Really now, right when I’m supposed to leave for the elves’ country.....My work load will unnecessarily increase again.”

“That’s because the war potential master possesses is abnormal. They might have designated you as archduke and the Crown Prince’s guardian with the ulterior motive of binding you to this place.”

As I processed the congratulatory letters I received from nobles in my office, I talked with Suu.

The Emperor’s choice was about 20% backed by gratitude for healing his baldness and about 80% backed by political reasons.

That cunning old man.....I really can’t let my guard down with him.

“But still, master’s influence increased now. We should be pleased with it.”

“You’re right. Besides, those guys will also return very soon……”

Even as I kept conversing with Suu, my hand didn’t stop.

The returning letters for the nobles must be handwritten, and I must be the one to write all of them.

There were about fifty pages or more, but I wrote them all as I constantly casted healing magic on my hand.

“Your excellency, here’s the report from the intelligence unit.”

About the time I started to get tired of writing letters, I heard a voice from my back.

They finally returned.

“Thank you for your hard work. So, how was the elves’ country?”

“Yes. We made a summary of their war potential and internal administration in these documents. We roughly understood the factions’ organization, so we will be able to protect your excellency when you arrive there.”

I sent the intelligence unit beforehand to investigate the elves’ country.

It would be suicidal to march into an enemy country without any information after all.

I won't be that negligent.

“How about our plan and its presumed errors?”

“Yes. We might increase our ally side with about ten percent. It is all according to plan, so there are no problems here.”

“We can increase our ally side.....Ah, that means there were many opportunists.”

Fufu, is that so?.....I previously thought that it could all turn into a trap, but those guys are nothing more than opportunists.

“Good. Then start preparing for our departure. The country of elves shall return to my son-in-law.”

“Yes, certainly, master!”

“Yes sir! We will protect you from the shadows.”

Everything was prepared.

This way, the Prime Minister's faction in the country of elves is already done

for.

I settled it in a cool manner.

With proud feelings in my chest, I sipped some tea.

However, it is an unwritten rule that won't let it end this easily.

“Your excellency, Prime Minister Arc is here!”

The Prime Minister entered the office accompanied by Albert's cheerful voice.

What's the matter? Another problem?

“Archduke Zest.....Please.....Please do it for me too!”

With teary eyes, the Prime Minister placed his hands on his head.

And there it was.....A shiny, kappa-like head.....

You too.....

Chapter 132: Arrival! The Country Of Elves

“Master, did you listen? About today’s schedule. If you don’t hurry, we won’t make it in time.”

“Unless I misheard it, you said that I have thirty meetings.....”

“You’re so mature, Zest-sama.”

(Dad! I got the diaper!)

I heard Suu’s report in Bea’s room as I changed Wis’ diaper.

Despite me leaving tonight, why is my schedule so packed today!?

“Good, perfect. I made the diaper silkier so that it won’t hurt her skin. Do you like it, Wis?”

“Kya-kya!”

“Oh my, this is great.”

(Dad, she looks incredibly happy! That’s amazing!)

Instead of using baby powder I used healing magic; normally, this would be unthinkable.

But this is the archduke's household so it can't be helped.

"If young lady Wis' maintenance is finished, we should go, master."

".....See you later, everyone."

I left the room with painful reluctance.

From this moment on I have to attend a festival of bald old men.

"It's finally over....."

The operation of restoring the heads of the kneeling old men finally marked its end.

Suu only scheduled a meeting with those nobles who support me.

There were others too on the corridors begging me to heal them, but Albert took them away.

Restoring the heads of all of those people would've been nothing but bullying to me.

"Now, after a short break we will take our leave. Are son-in-law-dono and the others ready?"

“Yes. As soon as master arrives there, we’re ready to leave.”

I rubbed my shoulders as I sipped some tea.

Suu showed consideration and started to massage my shoulders.....Aah, this feels good.

“After I go check on Wis again in Bea’s room we shall leave. I won’t return home for a few days so, if she forgets my face, I’m confident I’ll cry.”

“No one forgets their parent’s face in just a few days.....”

I ignored Suu’s scolding and decided to spend a little more time with my family.

This time, I’m taking only Toto along.

Bea and Wis will return to our domain and take care of the house.

“Then, I should be leaving. Bea, on your way back, please drop by my foster father’s house on the Frontier Count’s domain and introduce them to Wis.”

“Yes, I will make sure to pay them a visit.”

“Kya-kya”

(I’m going together with Dad! It’s been a while!!)

I haven't met recently my foster father Galef and my foster mother Celica, but with this everything will be fine.

I placed Toto on my shoulder and walked towards the square where son-in-law-dono and everyone else were waiting.

“Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa”

“Fatheeeeeeeeeeeer”

“Those two, are way too noisy.”

“You're so right, father.”

“Master, your hair is disheveled.”

(Ahahaha, this is so fast!!)

Two guys were screaming their lungs out.....Prince Mars and General Calis.

Tsubaki and the female soldiers were fully enjoying the air trip with composed expressions.

“Still, this really is fast.....This way, we'll arrive there in a few hours.”

“It would’ve taken us about one month to get there with a boat, father.”

“I can’t believe they’re screaming because of something like this.....Master, they definitely need more training.”

We were relaxing on the back of a dragon.

We were enclosed in a magic barrier so that we didn’t feel the wind too strongly.

This way, I could let everyone mount the dragons without any worrying.

“I’ll die! I’ll diiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiie”

“Motheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeer”

.....Are they really that scared?

They’re lacking some guts.

“Too noisy!! Don’t panic because of something like flying in the sky on the back of a dragon! Are you idiots!? Look at the black nights and the war maidens’ unit! They’re so quiet.....”

“How about it? Do you like the air trip.....? You are quite a good-looking man. In case you like riding me.....I’ll let you do it again, you know?”

“.....A dragon is making advances at me?”

“Gahahaha, isn't it great! You are single anyway!”

“The only one to try to seduce me is a dragon.....”

“So, about those two? The he-female and she-male.”

“You mean, lord Tasel!?”

“Yes, yes, those two are lovely, aren't they!”

“I want to get married too.....Hey, do you know a good man? A dragon is fine too!”

It all turned into an enjoyable picnic.....

And yeah, it was not even close to being quiet.

“Master, it appears that those two fainted.....Let's not pay them any mind.”

“You're right.....Afterwards you must increase the prince's training load. Also, try introducing someone to the girl who said she wanted to meet a dragon even.”

“Yeah, she's way to pitiful.”

“As expected from my father’s units.....Your people can even marry dragons.....”

And so, the enjoyable sky trip was reaching its end.

It all turned out into a formal marriage interview though.....

“Master, I can see the land. We’ll soon be arriving.”

Suu called out to me and I looked over.

But, what she could see as a kemonobito was hidden from a normal human’s eye.

It was already dark.

“I see. We already sent a messenger. We informed them that we’ll be arriving with the dragons.....Suu, it’s all safe, right?”

“Yes, I unmistakably sent a messenger beforehand.”

Good, this should be safe.

We’ll go straight to the capital city then.

“Since it’s already night the commoners shouldn’t be able to see us. Dragon, we’ll go straight to the castle.”

“Understood, my master.”

The huge, black dragon I was riding on, took the lead, followed by ten dragons who let out war cries as we approached the castle grounds.

The elves’ country’s castle.....We drew as near as to see it clearly.

“D-d-d-d-d-dragons! Just what in the world are you doing!? This is the elves’ royal castle!!”

An extremely loud voice resounded, amplified by magic.

Was it in my imagination? It seemed that this voice was trembling.....Also, it was a woman’s voice. Is she feeling nervous or something?

“I’m archduke Zest from the Grun Empire. I’m bringing along my daughter and my son-in-law for the purpose of my daughter’s marriage. Who the hell are you!?”

I also amplified my voice as I gave my answer.

Having done so, a bonfire was lit up in the square in front of the royal castle, illuminating the region.

Right in the middle of that square a small little girl was standing.

“Fo-forgive me. I am Kachua, 1st Rank Royal Mage. Archduke Zest, please land inside this square.”

“Kachua-dono, I understand. I will land first, so you guys should stay away for now. If the nearby soldiers draw near me, consider them a threat and eliminate them.”

I one-sidedly declared and instructed my dragon to land.

It would be too troublesome if they shoot at us from the darkness of the night.

If I'm on the ground, I'm confident I won't lose.

The dragon slowly descended.

After she confirmed it, the little girl approached me.

“Let me greet you again.....I am Kachua, the 1st Rank Royal Mage. Nice to meet you, archduke Zest.”

“Yeah, you can check this. It's a handwritten letter from his Majesty, the Emperor of the Grun Empire.”

I took out the letter and handed it over.

The little girl received it with great care and confirmed the seal on the other side of the envelope.

Her outward appearance is that of a little girl.....However, the magic power she's clad in is fairly exceptional.

She's at least two times stronger than the prince.

She's wearing her long silver hair in two pony tails.

.....This hair style suits her lovely outward appearance.

.....Her chest though.....Yeah, you know.

"Yes, this is indeed his Majesty the Emperor's seal. Welcome archduke Zest. We welcome you to our country."

Kachua placed one of her hand to her chest and saluted me in elven-style.

The nearby soldiers' thirst for blood was also lessening.

"This was quite a dangerous reception. Didn't my messenger arrive here first?"

"Messenger? No, not yet....."

The girl looked bewildered so I believe she really didn't know about it.

She is panicking for treating an important person from a foreign country this rudely.....This is unmistakably so.

“Master, a while back, we passed a ship. Wasn't it the ship our messenger was on, I wonder?”

I became stiff when I heard Suu's murmured suggestion.

Eh? Was it really that slow, the boat my messenger was on!?

It took only an instant with the dragons.....Ah, the boat that should've informed these people of our arrival with the dragons didn't get here yet.....

What should I do?It's way too bad to start all of this with an error all of a sudden.....

The square became still as death; that's when we heard the sound of something dropping down.

It appears that the prince fell down.

“Guho!? Father-in-law?.....What happened to me?.....”

“Wha!? Mars! What did you just do!!!”

Before I could retort, Kachua's riposte resounded all around us.

"An old loli.....?"

"Master, you're saying it out loud."

The prince's painful shrieks were luckily louder than Suu's calm voice.

It appears that this loli is not simply a 1st Rank Royal Mage.....

Chapter 133: Elven-Style Reception

“So.....son-in-law-dono, what is your relationship with her?”

I asked the prince, who got beaten by the little girl.

That Kachua didn't go easy on him.

She didn't care for an instant that the other party was a prince, she aimed straight at his face and released one full power magical punch.

“Yes, father. That old hag.....I mean, Kachua-sama is my master.”

“Fufufu, it's all right to call me an old hag. In any case, after this, we'll have to take our time and talk.”

“Hmm? That magic power was quite the spectacle.”

“Yes. The black knights are making a fuss about letting them fight.....”

“Foster father, I would like to fight too!”

It appears that this might turn out into something troublesome.....

Good, I'll take this course of action then.

“If you want to fight, you’ll have to do it in order.....I’ll do the selection tomorrow, so wait patiently until then.”

I employed my magic power and intimidated them, so they finally quieted down.

Good, I can relax now.

“We caused you trouble, Kachua-dono. Anyway, I’ll rely on you to show me around.”

“What a magic power.....No wonder the dragons obey you.”

Kachua had a shocked expression on her face, but she wasn’t one to talk.

She was rather scary; the 1st Rank Royal Mage who was sent to welcome us, but beat the hell out of the prince, without any warning.

If they tell me that this is the elven-style of welcoming, all I can do is keep silent about it.....

“First, you must be tired from your journey. I will guide you to your rooms, archduke Zest.”

“Yeah, thank you, Kachua-dono.”

(Dad! This granny is strong, right!?)

Haha, through Toto's eye she looks like a granny.....

A granny, huh?.....So she really is that old.

An old hag loli, huh?

“Hohoho, spirit-sama is such an enjoyable person.”

“No, no, she's still very young.....”

Kachua, who was now leading us to our rooms, turned around and a vein popped out on her forehead.

.....Urm.....What's wrong with her?

“Spirit-sama, people usually call me senior, but.....please call me Kachua.”

(Understood, Kachua!)

“Hohohohoho”

(Ahahahahaha)

“Father-in-law, my master utterly despises the words old hag and granny. If

you're careless and say those, gah."

"Mars, who's an old hag?"

Son-in-law-dono got blown away by magic spheres unleashed in a sequence all around his area.

Yeah, so this happens when you say it.

"Son-in-law-dono, there's no fool in our empire who would utter such words to this beautiful young girl. It was a futile advice."

"Mars-sama.....How could you say that to this lovely and sweet person....."

"Hohoho, archduke Zest, you're so good at flattery. To call me a beautiful young girl.....I haven't heard it in hundreds of years. Tsubaki-sama is such an honest and great person too."

(Waa, Kachua's magic is so fast!)

Alongside this energetic group, I followed Kachua as we walked towards the castle.

It appears that the castle was not far away from the square we landed to.

It soon came into our sight, a white castle surrounded by trees.

“However, you, archduke Zest, were the first.....not to make a scene after seeing our elven-style welcoming.”

Inside the castle, as we advanced through a long corridor, Kachua murmured.

Only Toto, Tsubaki, the prince and I were following her now.

The black knights had to take care of the dragon’s relocation.

“Elven-style? You mean that dangerous reception?”

“Hohoho, you say this even though you could have finished off that level of magic power it in an instant.”

Her magic power slowly shook.

Is she going to challenge me?

I also employed my magic power and put myself on guard.

“I never imagined that the archduke could react to my subtle magic power flows.....Is the elves’ country already done for.....?”

She drew in her magic power and, dropping her shoulders, turned around to face me.

“Right, archduke? We might not be a good match, but.....could you endure to

leave this old neck of mine attached?”

“What are you talking about, Kachua-dono? Did you think I want something like your neck?”

The spot we stopped at was right in the middle of the corridor.

There were no rooms around, nor any person.

.....It was the ideal place for a secret talk.

“The current situation in our country was more or less caused by me. I didn’t see through that prime minister’s perseverance, so it all turned out this way.”

Kachua wore a tragic expression on her face as she continued.

“The king is already dead, the queen was seduced by the prime minister.....But still, I can’t just wait patiently for the empire to absorb my country. You want to use Mars as a puppet king and subdue our country, right? Please, dispose of this neck first!”

“Kachua-dono. I don’t intend to do that. Again, the demons also left this matter in my care.”

Kachua pressed her knees against the floor, but I helped her stand up.

“Don’t worry about it. Mars is my son-in-law. I won’t interfere, nor object to

his ruling. Also, I am planning to clean up the prime minister's faction, so, afterwards, I'd like you to help him with his reign."

"But, this way, the empire has nothing to win from this. There's no way a country that doesn't have ulterior motives and cooperates based on good will actually exists."

She's right. Since she's an old hag, she should already know about the sourness and sweetness of life.

She probably saw enough countries moving with filthy ulterior motives.

"I am a stranger from a different world. I established my position in the empire, but I want to secure it. There's the Pope in the Holy Country of Lilac. If Mars will reign over the elves' country, that in itself is enough of a profit to me. I won't let the empire interfere.....Either way, they can easily and quickly erase this entire country. But the empire won't concern itself with its direct governance."

Kachua looked at me fixedly.

I guess she's confirming what I just said inside her head.

Is it the truth or is it a lie?.....Or maybe she's confirming the merits and demerits.

"What if the empire and the country of elves decide to work together temporarily?"

“While the Holy Country of Lilac pins down the country of elves, the empire will cease to exist. To begin with, ten dragons, the black knights, the war maidens and the kemonobito units will engage in attacking them. And I will provide support, employing all my healing magic, you know? Do you think they have any chance of winning this?”

“I see.....It has indeed logic to it. Mars, don't you have anything to tell me?”

The discussion suddenly switched to Mars and he strengthened up his back.

His face taken aback, he let out a loud voice.

“I forgot!! The country of elves is in good health, master-sama!!”

He placed one hand on his chest and declared.

But, after she heard it, Kachua's expression became demonic.

“You stupid disciple!! I told you that in case they become our allies you should use this signal to inform me! You absolute idiot! Thanks to you, I was almost ready to die!”

It appears that they had an arrangement to use a coded signal in case that the empire decided to work together with them.

And because he didn't use the signal, she thought that we were their enemies.....

“Tsubaki, are you really all right with this piece of junk?”

“Father, I’m starting to feel a bit uneasy…….”

(Dad! The snapping sound just now, did something break?)

On the corridor, the screams of my stupid son-in-law resounded indefinitely……

Ah, he’s burning this time……

Chapter 134: Quiet Talk – Katalina’s Busy Schedule

“You do it like this-nya. But, these papers have to be done like this-nya.”

Sigh, I can finally take a break-nya.

After I gave the instructions, I leant against a chair and took a breath.

The duke’s domain.....Half the territory of the former kingdom, managed now by duke Zest.

I alone was entrusted with its internal administration-nya.

“We need a few more bureaucrats-nya.....I wonder if we can find anyone good at this-nya.....”

I feel gratitude towards his excellency Zest-nya.

A commoner cat kemonobito young girl.

He even made someone like me a noble and even entrusted me with such an important official position.

Other feudal lords would never have treated me this way-nya.

But.....this hectic schedule of mine is hell-nya.

“Still, where can I find an excellent capable person.....I know-nya! Maybe that person!!”

That person is definitely excellent-nya!

However, without a good reason she'll never agree-nya.....

“I know! I'll go with this-nya!”

Without delay, I started writing a letter.

“Lord Katalina, you received a letter.”

“I was waiting for that-nya!”

A few days after I sent the letter, the reply came.

A reply containing the acceptance of my invitation-nya!

This way, we'll have more hands at work-nya!

“Also, the sister came here with a different matter.....”

“Ah, perhaps.....it's about the matter we've been talking about-nya. Show her to the reception room-nya.”

I instructed the maid, then made preparations for forwarding the letter.

If his excellency were here, he would definitely succeed with this-nya.

The smirk on my face stiffened as I hurried towards the reception room.

“I have made you wait-nya. Forgive us for the other day-nya.”

I greeted the sister who was waiting in the room.

During madam’s childbirth uproar we caused her many troubles, so I had to start with an apology-nya.

“Fufu, apologies are unnecessary. I, a maiden of God, am pursuing knowledge every day. In this case, all the incidents are the will of God.....Yes, precisely like how a gentle breeze shakes the leaves of trees!”

“.....I understand everything, but the last sentence-nya.”

Maybe because I got used to her, but somehow this junky sister had started to talk properly-nya.

Still, when she’s nervous or when she’s excited, she keeps saying incomprehensible things-nya.

“So, did you come to check on that matter-nya?”

“Yes. If that is completed, the lambs will shed tears of great joy. And we will be one step closer to God’s utopia.....Like a mild fall’s sunlight filtering through trees!”

As ever, the junky sister looked away from her invisible chest.

Because I can barely understand her intentions, I won’t plunge into this-nya.

“It is already 90% complete-nya. Once it’s done, I will inform you right away-nya.”

“Is that so?.....In order for the sunset not to turn into an ultramarine color, we need the resolution to find a clear stream inside a thunderstorm. And that is God’s affection.....Yes! A multistoried building inside the skies! That is good.”

She smiled then returned home.

I didn’t understand anything she said towards the end-nya.....Maybe, she really wants that-nya.

“So, Katalina-chan. What are you scheming?”

“Nya?”

When I returned to my office, Media was waiting there.

Since we become good friends, I know her well.

If she ever concludes that something is not of benefit to his excellency Zest, she won't hesitate to kill even me.

For this reason, we became good friends-nya.

"It's all right-nya. It's a plan that benefits his excellency and can become helpful for our domain-nya."

".....I see. Good then. Ufufu, I went to buy those new baked sweets! Let's eat them together!"

She wore a friendly smile on her face, but she never showed mercy to any of his excellency's foes.

She's truly a follower of his excellency's doctrine.

Just the other day too, when one of the nobles complained about going to such lengths for something like the madam's delivery.....he ended up killed by someone.

I'm sure it was her doing-nya.....

"Media. If I ever become his excellency's enemy, you can kill me without reservation-nya. But in turn....."

“Yeah, me too, if I ever become his excellency’s enemy.....or if you ever conclude that I’m a burden to him, please kill me.”

Right, we became good friends precisely because she’s like this.

Without his excellency, we would’ve never lived a good life.

That’s why, we’ll return the favor-nya.

We won’t let anyone hinder his excellency-nya.

“So, what about your plan?”

As we enjoyed our tea, Media munched on the newly produced baked sweets.

That’s right-nya.....I can explain to her without problems-nya.

“I wrote a letter to Mizuta Mari about his excellency-nya.”

“A letter? Who is this.....Mizuta Mari?”

“She’s an acquaintance of his excellency-nya. She’s a commoner but she’s quite excellent-nya.”

“Did he have such an acquaintance!? Then?”

I drank some tea, then answered her.

“I asked her to write a story about two men who love each other-nya.”

“.....What??”

Well, I expected as much-nya.

I must explain to her, otherwise this thirst for blood of hers might kill me-nya.

“We’ll scatter this story around inside the country of elves, with the prime minister and some of his retainers’ names. Such a shameful story will inflict great damage-nya. To say nothing of the unsociable elves; they will definitely be astonished-nya.”

“So, you’ll use this in our tactics.”

“Moreover, his excellency will most likely comprehend this plot’s effectiveness and riskiness. He will also unmistakably want the sender Mari brought here and guarded-nya.....”

“I see. That person will have to come to our domain. She’s an excellent person, after all.”

“Right-nya. However, since the demons are involved, I couldn’t use normal means-nya. But this way his excellency has got a reason to act too-nya.”

Media finally drew in her killing intent and returned to her usual smile.

It appears that she agrees to this plan-nya.

“Demons? I see. That person is a stranger too, right?.....I now understand why you did this in secret. Ufufu, Katalina-chan, you’re truly a follower of his excellency’s doctrine. Do you plan to quarrel with the demons?”

“I don’t want to be told this by you-nya, Media. And about the demons, we can solve the matter by discussing it with them-nya.”

“Hmm. Well, these kinds of things are your specialty. Right, did the sister come to ask about that matter?”

“You know a lot-nya.....You’re right. She really wants those things-nya.”

“Well that’s to be expected. Don’t you want them too?”

“The breast pads? I don’t need them-nya.....I will ask his excellency about this-nya! If he can heal baldness, then he should be able to make breasts grow too-nya!!”

“Lord Katalina, is that really true!?”

“His excellency is truly a genius.”

“If this is his excellency we’re talking about then it might actually happen.....”

Nya!?!.....Why were so many maids from the maids’ unit hidden here-nya?

You guys have a plentiful chest, so you don’t need that-nya!

Right when I was about to yell this at them my vision distorted.....

Ehh? The world is spinning-nya.....

“Hey, Katalina-chan! What’s wrong!?”

“So-someone, call the sister! Tell her that lord Katalina collapsed!”

“Get a hold of yourself, lord Katalina!!”

“Lord Katalina collapsed.....Lord Katalina collapsed.....Uh.....”

“Hey, why are you collapsing too!?”

Katalina collapsed.....

Unfortunately, time was needed for news about this matter to reach Zest in the country of elves.

And as a result.....This marked the beginning of the afterwards incident.....

Chapter 135: The Mysteries Of The Elves

“And?”

“What’s with your attitude!? I am a glorious high elf! In the human countries, my household is treated as a marquis household!”

This is the second stupid elf I met today.

The one before made a fuss about how he was part of a ‘glorious household’ too.

“I am an archduke. By our awe-inspiring emperor’s imperial command, I came here as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. And you dare challenge me to a verbal argument.....Good, I’ll regard your entire household as an enemy to the empire. Go home and polish your weapons.”

“You-you alone have the authority to do that!?”

“As I said, the emperor authorized me to do this. Oi, we’re going back. Make sure to give him the letter, all right?”

“As you wish, master. High elf-dono? With regards to your marquis household, this is a proclamation of war letter from the empire. Please choose whether you’ll apologize with your head or we’ll start an all-out war.”

Suu gave the signal and the maids’ unit equipped with bardiches entered the room.

It was Bea's idea that ladies should fight with a bardiche.....so, this became the official weapon of the maids' unit.

'Now that we have the same weapon, it's not strange for me to use it.'

Bea told me smiling, but I don't believe it was like that.....

But because I am scared of her, I didn't tell her this.

"Sigh, I never expected to encounter only idiots up to now."

"Yes.....Perhaps they don't understand the meaning of an ambassador."

Furthermore, the elf who made a fuss about his glorious household was beaten full of holes by the maids' unit and taken away.

Since I am the main figure of this whole action, it's not like I want to quarrel with these people.

However, I have no other choice but respond to those who pick a fight with me.

That's because I can't be silent about them looking down on the empire.

"My decision is the empire's decision. I never thought that nobles who don't even understand this would come forth. Is it because they're an isolated

country.....?”

“I am completely shocked, but it can't be helped. If they look down on us to such an extent, there's nothing we can do but retort.”

Looking down on the archduke means picking a fight with me.

Looking down on the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary means going at war with the empire.

That's because the emperor trusted me with all the diplomatic affairs.

Well, I am the representative of his majesty after all.

“It's ridiculous when peace fools end up like this.....Our empire looks kind of cute right now.”

“Even the blockhead nobles in the imperial capital are a bit more decent.”

With a beautiful smile, Suu spits out poisonous words.

However, she prepares the tea with a perfect conduct.

.....Why is it that my vassals all seem to have something broken inside them?

“And, did I receive an invitation from the prime minister yet?”

“I hear that they want to prepare a welcome banquet concomitantly with the wedding ceremony.....But aren't they actually doing some secret maneuvering?”

Normally, there should be a welcoming banquet for the ambassador, but they didn't hold any so far.

In this case, I thought that the prime minister would come in person to meet me.....

“Well, I'm grateful that this way we have more time to gather information and make our own schemes. We have many advantages.....but I don't know what they're plotting.”

“The people in the intelligence unit were very happy that they had genuine work to do. Let's wait for their report.”

That is certainly the most important thing right now.

I nodded and continued to enjoy my tea.

“Your excellency! This is bad news, your excellency!”

“Albert, don't come in from the window.”

“Onii-sama, your manners are way too bad.”

My elegant tea time ended with a thunderous roar.

Clouds of dust scattered around and the room fell apart, but I didn't care.

A dragon crashed into it after all.....I'm actually glad it ended with only this.

"You are Bea's guard. What are you doing here?"

"As I said, your excellency, it's an emergency!! When we were on our way back home, we met a messenger who told us that Katalina collapsed....."

"I see. That's why onii-sama rode a dragon here to deliver the message.....Master, please take Kachua-sama with you and hurry back home. That junky sister's healing abilities are first-class. If this message came our way even though the sister lives on our domain.....there's a high possibility that master's healing magic and the elves' knowledge is needed."

Suu interrupted Albert and informed us in a quick manner of speaking.

She's right. This might be the best course of action, and it's not like I have the time to worry about what to do anyway.

"Albert, you stay here. You will follow Suu's orders and you will protect Tsubaki and Mars. Suu, you are allowed to evacuate if you conclude it is necessary, and you're also allowed to act heartlessly if needed. All right?"

"Yes sir!"

“As you wish, master. Please leave it to us.”

The heartless way.....It's our final measure and it includes using the dragons.

They will create a circle and place Suu and everyone else on my side inside it, then they will use their breaths to wipe everything out.

This castle will vanish in a mere instant.

I do believe that the situation won't turn up this way though.....

I left everything else in Suu's care and walked towards Kachua's place.

Because it was an emergency, I was in my battle mode, employing my entire magic power.

“Kachua-dono, please. Accompany me on a walk.”

“Ar-archduke-dono? All right, all right. Please restrain that magic power now! The maids will collapse!”

She was probably about to take a bath, since I caught Kachua in the process of taking off her outer garments.

She wasn't naked though. She wore something like a tube top and a skirt.

But, a tube top without strings?

How comes it stays fixed?

Half forcefully I took her along to where the dragons were and placed her on top of one.

It'll be all right if I explain her what happened now.

Since Suu will explain things to Tsubaki and son-in-law-dono, it shouldn't become too much of a disturbance.

"I'm sorry, Kachua-dono. The truth is this is an emergency....."

I explained her the situation on top of the dragon.

She understood that this was a matter of life and death for one of my subordinates, and she started to speak, wearing a smile on her face.

"Hohoho, you plunged into my room exhibiting such a magic power and wearing such a threatening face.....I believed you had your reasons, but I didn't expect it to be this. Really now, you're such a threatening person."

"I'm sorry.....I needed your knowledge, the knowledge of an elder elf, no matter what."

The loli baba, wearing a tube top, turned around slowly.

“Archduke-dono. You will stop calling me an elder. I want you to call me Kachua.....Before it all turns into an accident.”

“Kachua-dono, you’re wearing such a lovely outfit. It looks very good on you.....it increases your loveliness and I believe you look even more charming.”

Since the atmosphere became turbulent, I had to praise her clothes and her cuteness.

It was outstandingly effective!

“I know, right? This is a truly elven secret art, infused with our best technologies! It is the latest model too!”

“Hoo.....Even though it doesn’t have any strings, it doesn’t show any signs of slipping off.....Don’t tell me.....that this is one of the elves’ secret arts!?”

“I expected you to notice that. All the tops I wear, they usually come off.

But this one is all right!! To be frank with you, the secret art is.....”

Well, obviously they come off since they must stuck on an invisible chest.

I thought about this as the old loli explained me joyfully.

If your country uses its secret arts on something like this, your country is

about to face its end.....

We descended the dragon; Kachua was now in an extremely good mood.

We arrived at my domain in just a few hours, but I was already worn-out.....

As we landed inside my courtyard, the maids' unit called out to me.

“Please hurry! Lord Katalina.....Not even the sister knows the cause of her collapse.....”

Sobbing, the maids led us to Katalina's private room.

Her face was red and she was moaning in her sleep. All the top brass members of my household were present.

“We used observation magic and it's not an illness. Also, healing magic is not effective.”

Media explained us the situation.

We had no time to extend our greetings right now.

I rushed over to Katalina and used my observation magic, but she was indeed not ill.

“This.....I'll use healing magic.”

I prayed for her to return to her healthy and energetic self as I employed the entirety of my magic power.

However, Katalina's facial expressions didn't change.....

"This is!? If even his excellency's healing magic is useless....."

Media crumbled down to her knees, her sobbing voice resounding in the room. That's when Kachua slowly opened her mouth.

"Dear me! Youngsters nowadays.....don't even know something as simple as this."

All the attention gathered on Kachua, who actually looked the youngest of us all.

This old hag, does she know something?

"Tell me, Kachua-dono! I want to save my subordinate! Please, I'm begging you."

I didn't care about appearances right now.

My domain would be brought to its knees without Katalina around.

I earnestly requested her help, prostrating myself in front of her, not feeling

even one bit of regret.

“Wha!? What are you doing, archduke!? I’ll tell you, so please stop!”

Extremely flustered, she took my hand and made me stand up; the old hag then continued.

“Her mating season aggravated!!”

“ “ “ “ “Ha?” “ “ “ “

Mating season?.....Aggravated?.....Is that so?.....

Chapter 136: An Illness Called Mating Season?

“The kemonobito folk develop at fixed intervals a condition called mating season. Normally, the parents should teach their children about this sign of adulthood, but.....this girl didn't have such parents.”

Kachua continued, ignoring all of us who became speechless.

“Once a year, during that whole period, if single, you should spend your time inside your home. As for the symptoms, it shouldn't exceed a light state of excitement, but.....if you ignore it for several times, then this is what happens. This is quite an often occurrence for stubborn women.”

Kachua explained with a smug face, but the explanation didn't really reach my ears.

Inside my head, I kept exclaiming ‘For such an absurd reason I was called back from the Country of Elves?’.

“That's why, there's no need to worry. Two or three stimulations, and she's back to her former self!”

That's when my heart broke.

I was summoned in a foreign world and tried to survive up until now.

I obeyed the nobles, trained and was forced into a political marriage.....

I made a family, and in order to protect it, I left my family behind and went to the Country of Elves.

Despite me trying my best for so long.....I was called back home for such a reason!?

“U.....uuuu.....uuuuuuuuuuuuuu”

Because of this whole absurd situation, I couldn't stop crying.

I had to refrain from hugging Wis closely and giving her my love and care, and instead I desperately made battle plans.

Mating season.....I crumbled down to my knees and clang to the bed where Katalina slept.

“Archduke-dono really thinks dearly of his subordinates. Were you this worried.....?”

“Your excellency, you'd do this much for your subordinates.....”

“Thanks goodness! Katalina-chan, his excellency did so much for your sake.....”

“Fuuuueeen, thanks god I'm his excellency's subordinate!”

Without knowing my inner thoughts, the people in my surrounding misunderstood me for some reason....

I had no room for correcting them.

“Sorry for being distracted. So, who’s gonna treat her?”

We left Katalina’s private room and gathered inside my office.

According to Kachua, she needed two or three times of relief.....

But the person in question was unconscious.....Someone has to do it.

By the way, the black knights and all the guys were mobilized in a different country.

Only women were left here.....It was quite natural.

“I will. Katalina-chan is my good friend and if I can become her strength then.....”

Media said, announcing her candidacy.

She’s indeed qualified, being her friend and a married person.

The maids’ unit nodded as well.

“Good, I’ll leave it in your care, Media. I’m counting on you.”

“Please leave it to me, your excellency.”

Media bowed and left my office, and I drank tea as I saw her off.

Damn, I returned for such a trivial matter.....

“Someone, stop that idiot!! [She’s a man!!!](#)”

Don’t forget that Media is a he-female.....

“Ha! Come to think of it, she is!”

“I completely forgot!”

“We must stop her quickly!”

“.....Archduke-dono, you surely have some strange subordinates.”

“I’m sorry for their noisiness.....”

There’s no mistaking it that my voice trembled as I answered.

In front of a leader from a foreign country, we greatly embarrassed ourselves.

“All right. Leave it to me. In the past, I was known as the ‘Single’s mass

producer'! I used to calm down the kemonobito folk's pots as well!"

".....Thank you."

"Uh huh. Then, I'll be on my way!"

The loli baba left the room with a nod.

My answer was actually a refusal.....but I wasn't in the mood to tell her that.

Still, what's with that single's mass producer? Is that even all right?

Contrary to my worries, Katalina returned to us safely(?).

She was just as usual but.....

"I have made you worry-nya! But I am all right now-nya!"

All tense, Katalina declared, and that tenseness was the problem.

"I see.....Then, why do you stick closely to Kachua-dono?"

Kachua had dead fish eyes, but Katalina took her hand and firmly entwined it with her own hand.

This is awful.....Without any doubt it is going towards that direction.

“I opened a new gate-nya! Thanks to Kachua onee-sama-nya!!”

“Urm.....It’s inexcusable.....but, since it’s been a long time, I didn’t know when to show restraint.....”

Don’t open that gate!

It’s useless, my dizziness is cruel.....The world is spinning round and round.

Just how should I cope with this situation?

“I am also a woman, but since this happened, I plan to take responsibility!”

“Kachua onee-sama, you’re wonderful-nya!”

The two stared at each other and a pink aura developed between them.

This is already beyond my powers.

“For the time being, Kachua-dono has all sorts of formalities to take care of.....Katalina is also in convalescence and it must be very difficult for her. I’ll take care of this for the time being. I will return in about a month and we’ll decide then what to do. You’re fine with this, right?”

“Yes, I’ll leave it in your care, your excellency.”

“Yea, I have no objections.”

Despite solving one problem, I returned to the Country of Elves carrying a bigger problem in my hands.

The inside of my head was in an extreme situation.....I have to consult with Suu and the Frontier Count.

On my departure, I hit the two embracing individuals with a punch on their heads infused with my most powerful strengthening magic.

Of course, I went easy on them, so they didn't die.....They twitched constantly so I knew that for a fact.

It's all right.

Kachua lost her consciousness and I grabbed her and placed her on top of the dragon.

Their relationship is under consideration, but they nonetheless embraced each other in public, those two idiots.

“U—n, ah, archduke-dono. Why did I fall asleep?”

“Probably fatigue. Take your time and relax.”

“I see, you're right. Yea.....understood.”

“I’ll wake you up once we arrive, so I won’t mind if you want to sleep.”

“It’s a long-awaited air travel. I’ll enjoy the scenery!”

“I see. Last time was night time.....Fully enjoy the trip then, Kachua-dono.”

After that, we traveled as we appropriately matched our talking subjects.

My head was full of questions about how to deal with these two’s relationship.

Katalina wanted to give birth to a child, but.....will she walk the road of girls’ love?

No, I’ll first have to listen to Suu’s advice, who is also a kemonobito, and decide afterwards.

I used healing magic on my stomach, which quickly started to hurt, as I waited for our arrival.

“Welcome back, your excellency!”

“Master, thank you for your hard work!”

I finally arrived back to the Country of Elves.

Because Kachua was in very high spirits during the trip, she was sound asleep now.

The maids were probably used to it, so they shouldered the sleeping Kachua and disappeared somewhere.

.....That woman, she sleeps all the time.

“We didn’t face any problems. At the prince’s instructions, in order to deepen our friendship, we strolled around using the dragons. So, how is lord Katakina?”

“I see, that’s all right. Let’s talk about Katalina’s situation in my room. There’s no threat to her life, but something troublesome happened.”

As I conversed with Suu, we walked towards my room.

For the time being, I had to explain things properly to these two executive staff members of mine.

I cleared out all the people once I got to my room, then I started my explanation.

“.....That’s what happened. What do you think?”

“ “Aah, so her mating season aggravated?” “

They didn’t seem astonished, nor they felt any shock.

Suu and Albert took everything calmly.

Hmm? Does this happen often among the kemonobito folk?

“My mother taught me about this. Lord Katalina didn’t have the chance to find out about this due to the war time.”

“Under those circumstances, the adults were desperate to stay alive, after all.”

The old Tarminal Kingdom persecuted the kemonobito.

Maybe Katalina didn’t have any adult to teach her about this, since she ran away and lived in concealment.

“Then.....does it happen often for women to wake up attracted to the same sex?”

“It mostly happens among women.”

“Men.....you know.....many take care of themselves by themselves.....”

Well, even if you leave men alone, once morning comes.....Of course.

So this is only limited to women? But still.....

“It’s all right, master. It only happens once. There are many of us who experience this after the aggravation, but once they calm themselves, they return to normal.”

“That’s right, your excellency. In the past, when Suu experienced the aggravation herself, she aaaagh!? Gofuu!!”

Froth came out of Albert’s mouth as he collapsed.

Before anyone became aware of it, Suu grasped in her hand the morning star.

“Master, there are things in the world better left unknown. Don’t you think so?”

“It’s precisely as you said.”

Suu laughed as she stepped on Albert’s head, and her smile looked exactly like Bea’s dark smile.

.....Suu-san, is it okay to heal Albert, since he’s having convulsions and everything?

No? You sure? I see.....

Chapter 137: Tactics From Now On

“By the way, Suu. Are you doing it by yourself? Or do you have a partner?”

“.....Forgive me, master. I can't understand the intention of this question.”

It was a pretty understandable question, but it's not like I wanted to sexually harass her.

I asked this because I needed to know if my steward Suu had a intimately close woman to her.

“If my steward has a woman close to her.....I need to consider various things.”

“Ah, so that's what you meant? Please don't worry about it, there's no one.”

“I see.....Suu, this is nothing but a discussion.”

At my words, Suu removed her foot from Albert's head and faced me.

He was still having convulsions, so he was alive. It's all right.

“This time it all ended with a funny story, but this kind of situation might cause a big incident in the future. Therefore, don't you want to write a ‘Kemonobito Folk's Handbook’?”

“A handbook?”

“Yeah, there will be many kemonobito nobles on my domain from now on. In this case, if someone makes a mistake because they didn’t know about some things.....Also, because the other people don’t know about those things either, they will misunderstand each other.”

“I see.....Understood. I am a bit worried about my ability to accomplish this, but I will give my best with all my might. I’ll try writing it.”

And so, Suu wrote the ‘Kemonobito Folk’s Handbook’.

This will end up being a big hit not only on my domain, but on the entire continent.

To the kemonobito people, this became a reference book describing their passed down customs and etiquette.

For the other races, it was an informative book teaching unknown things.

In a way, anyone must have this book.

And because of this book, I also started to write the ‘Stranger’s Handbook’.....

However, I didn’t know at that time.

That because of this handbook, an unnecessary uproar would occur.....

“Well, then? Let’s hear your report.”

I ordered Suu to write the handbook, I healed Albert, and it was now time to reach the main topic.

I placed them on the sofa, and it was time for a report meeting.

“Yes sir! Excepting five golden dragons, I sent the other ones back to our territory. Also, the soldiers stationing here are five black knights and ten war maidens. There are ten more people from the intelligence unit, so we have a total of twenty-five soldiers.”

“I must say that most of them are commanding officers so we have enough of a war potential.”

“I see. What about reinforcements?”

“With the black dragons’ transportation, I planed to mobilise thirty black knights and fifty war maidens.”

“In a few days everything will be prepared.”

“All right.....Supplement the intelligence unit as well. I understand that you all are worried about me, but this time it is an intelligence battle. It’s enough to supplement fifteen black knights and twenty war maidens. Make arrangements to mobilise our entire intelligence force.”

“Yes sir! Understood.”

“As you wish, master.”

For a moment, we drank some tea and took a little break.

Now that we finished with the current conditions of our military affairs, it was time to discuss the current conditions of the secret information gathered so far.

Since I considerably used my head.....I sweetened my tea ever more.

“Next, about the information gathered.”

“I will report.”

Suu took out a bunch of documents.

This was impossible for Albert, so I didn't expect anything from him when it came to this.

Don't look so deplorable, you mongrel.

“To start with, I'll talk about the prime minister's plans. There's no mistaking it. We got access to the undersurface stories.....It is rather good for them to be in a state of isolation. This topic is widely talked about at quite a large-scale.”

“That.....Is the prime minister an idiot?”

“He boasts with self-confidence and pride. He’s this kind of man.....Besides, it’s not like many people approve of him. Most of the elves seem to be taken along by the stream. In short, they’re all peace fools, without any opportunists and independent individuals.”

“In this case, it’ll be easier for us than what we previously planned.”

The two of us were having a serious conversation, while Albert was eating cookies with a crunching sound, next to us.

He had nothing to do.....We’ll be finishing soon, so have a little more patience.

“Therefore, if we suppress the prime minister and engage in a coercion diplomacy, there’s a high possibility that they’ll obediently follow us. As for the queen, she’s out of the question.....She’s something like a sample woman for all the stupid nobles.”

“She’s my son-in-law’s mother. Will he feel at ease if we imprison her?”

“Right. There shouldn’t be a problem.”

“Understood, then we’ll go with this.”

Good. The course of action was decided.

With the intelligence unit playing an active role, there might not a be a need for me to use military force.

“So, how about our little present?”

“Yes. I gave it to the queen’s chief maid, since she seems to manage the castle’s servants. I entrusted her with the distribution method as well.”

“In case there are not enough, I can supplement as many as needed.”

“Don’t worry. I gave her quite a few gold coins. As the report said, she’s the type of person who likes money.....She was extremely cooperative.”

“Did you deliver that to the noble class women?”

“Yeah, the bra was extremely popular. But please don’t worry, I will interact with these women myself as a representative.”

I see.....The servants inside the castle are silenced with money.

The noble women.....The wives of those I’ll be getting to know from now on are already appeased due to the bra.

All is going way too much according to plan that it’s laughable.

“It’s only a matter of time, master. This country is truly peaceful.”

Suu said and laughed, and she looked terrifyingly similar to the Frontier Count.

A workplace where you can't stop laughing.....This laugh was definitely not that.....

Albert, you're spilling cookies, so stop trembling.

You're way too scared of your sister.

"Your excellency.....Don't tell me you're marking this place as well.....This Albert admires you greatly!"

".....Master, it's because of the fatigue....."

As I received the two brothers' various looks.....I peed on myself after such a long time.

Before they told me, I didn't even notice it.....Could I be sick?.....

"Master, it's all right. We won't tell anyone."

"Suu, I'm going to become unnecessarily miserable, so please give me a break."

With a deplorable posture, towel rolled over my hips, I felt quite down.

It was all right recently, so why did I do this with such a timing.....

My mood was the worse as Suu busily prepared a change of clothes for me.

I felt extremely embarrassed.....That's because I wasn't exposed like this before.

And this came to light in front of a woman.....I wanted to die.

"Once you finish changing your clothes, we'll have to leave since an invitation came from the prime minister."

"Yeah....."

Her kind smile like that of a nurse hollowed out my heart in an unnecessary way.

Albert left, saying something like 'In order not to lose to his excellency, I have to train more!'.

I didn't know what was this competition about, but I didn't care about it since he was a mongrel.

I stood in front of Suu who was holding my change of clothes.

Ah, did she already finish preparing them.....I wanted to escape from reality a little longer.

I looked at her but for some reason her expression was dark.

“Master, forgive me. It was my clumsiness.”

“What’s wrong? Don’t worry about this.....You’re less objectionable than me.”

I didn’t know what clumsiness she was talking about, but it must be way better than peeing on oneself.

Besides, I have no qualification to scold her right now.

“I didn’t prepare any underwear for master. Please use this instead.”

She said and held out to me a pair of pink string bikinis.

I watched fixedly what was most likely Suu’s private property.

“Are you telling me to wear these?”

“Forgive me. Now that it already came to this, I have to take responsibility and die.....”

She took out a dagger from her breast pocket and brought it to her neck.

I hurried to sop her arm, but the trace of a light wound was already visible on the nape of her neck.

“Don’t be hasty! I don’t dislike this! I don’t dislike this, but I thought you might!!”

That was a lie.....Wearing something like this was torture.

However, it can’t be helped if it means I’ll lose her otherwise.

“It’s all right, master. There’s no way I dislike this. It’s an honour for me. I just took them off so they’re not chilly. Here.”

“Wouldn’t it be better for them to be a new pair?”

“That is no good. What will we do if that underwear contains chemicals or drugs or something! With these, since I already wore them, there will be no problem, so you can rest assured.”

And so, I equipped myself with a pair of pink string bikinis and was on my way to the prime minister’s house.

Today, I felt I lost all sorts of things.....

I might already be useless as a human being.....

Chapter 138: Prime Minister Heinz' Mansion

“Welcome, Archduke Zest. It’s a pleasure to meet you. I am Heinz and I serve as the prime minister.”

It took about 10 minutes from the castle to get to this gorgeous mansion.

It had a vague Japanese style atmosphere.

And yet, fundamentally, it was a western style building looking quite close to a Japanese house.....It was that sort of a palatial residence.

“Prime minister Heinz. I am Zest.....I’m looking forward to working with you from now on.”

In Japan, this greeting of mine would receive a failing grade, but here in this world it was inevitable.

More than that, my current position forced me to greet him in this manner.

I came to this country in the name of his Majesty the Emperor, so greeting people too politely would conversely be no good.

“It is an honor to be able to invite you here, Archduke-dono. Come now, let’s go inside.”

“Yeah. Albert, let’s go.”

“Yes sir!”

We finished our conversational exchange in the entry hall of the mansion, then Heinz guided us inside.

I only took Albert with me.

I couldn’t bring the maids along.....That would mean something like ‘Your hospitality is insufficient’.

The same goes for guards.....Taking them along would mean something like ‘I don’t trust the likes of you’.

“Oh, so this is the famous Lord Albert? The man said to be the Archduke-dono’s right hand.....”

“Nobles of the empire can’t go out all by themselves. They need someone to entrust with miscellaneous jobs.”

‘Hee, so you took a guard with you.’

‘He’s not a guard. This is a custom among the nobles of the empire, so don’t mind it.’

This was the hidden meaning of our exchange.

Is he casually searching for errors in my conduct or something?

He's quite the sly person.....I should raise the level of my vigilance a little bit.

As I thought about that, we preceded inside the mansion.

We were led to the dining room and the dinner started.

Because we didn't converse during the meal, I concentrated on my manners as I ate.

This was quite easy since my master harshly trained me in this area.

.....Albert was standing behind my back.

He was definitely not a guest, but an attendant of mine, so it was fine this way.

"Now, we can take our time and talk."

As he drank some tea, Heinz said.

We changed rooms after we finished eating dinner, so now we were in the reception office.

Tea was prepared here and we could finally talk about our main goals.

“Right. Heinz-dono, I already understand your intentions. If I can have a reasonable compensation, I’m fine with it.”

“Hooo.....a reasonable compensation?”

The person in front of me.....I observed again prime minister Heinz.

He kept his thin silver hair, like most of elves have, swept back, and his eyes looked sensitive and slender.

His figure was a little fat, and it didn’t look solid but rather chubby.....His face wasn’t that bad, and I couldn’t grasp his age.

If I were to judge by appearances, he looked like he was halfway in his twenties.....The age of elves was truly a puzzling matter.

“I heard from general Kalis. Is the Archduke all right with this?”

“Good or bad, this is a point of compromise, right? As you, prime minister Heinz think about the country of elves.....I think about the empire.....There are no problems here.”

Heinz glanced at Albert.

Well, I understand what you want to say.

“It was you, Heinz-dono, who said that this man was my retainer, right?”

“Hahaha, you’re right.”

“This story is mutually advantageous for us. I won’t say something like trust me, but we can use each other as much as we can.”

“Hooo.....Use each other.....?”

This man’s suspicion was strong, he was also confident and seemed proud of himself.

Then, instead of using empathy which he probably didn’t have, I sparked in him an idea about profit.

Then, precisely because this was profitable for me too, I wanted to appeal to the idea of cooperation.....

“Fufufu, Archduke-dono is quite an impressive individual.”

“Hahaha, not as much as the prime minister-dono.”

Similarly to myself, he is an ambitious person.

This is probably what Heinz thought, as he showed me an extremely villainous smile.

Yeah, there's no way I'm the same kind as you.

"If we are to do this, then what do you, Archduke-dono, assume that will happen next?"

"First, there will be Tsubaki's marriage. It must be done in great fashion so that everyone acknowledges it. Then, shortly after, there will be the national funeral of the king.....Also, there are, of course, different uses for the future queen and the actual queen."

"Shortly after?.....It's like you're assuming that the king is already gone."

"What are you talking about at such late time.....As a matter of course, I already did some underground research. It's not really interesting for me to be looked down on."

"Forgive me for that. However, I have a trump card.....And it's not only enjoyable things, you know?"

"Your trump card is my trump card. You should realize this."

He's probably talking about magi-science. This is certainly his trump card.....

On the contrary, if he achieves that, we will have a just cause to start a war.

With such a meaning, I tried intimidating him with magic power.

This type of person, when he thinks that the other party is below him, he will turn to an obstinate type of interaction.

“I don’t have any intention to ask for the demons’ intervention. However, if you are not satisfied with this plan, there’s a high chance I will do just that. It is not the right time yet, you know?”

“The right time.....”

Indeed.....This guy doesn’t have the power and the time to bring order to the country of elves for now.

If everything goes according to my scheme, I will make the prince king and bring order to this country.

I already understand that I can only go at war together with the demons after the prince gets his throne.

And that’s only if soldiers who use magi-tech show up.

“I’m not saying to become a subordinate country of the empire. If this is profitable for me, you being the true leader of the country of elves is not a problem for me, prime minister-dono.”

“Fufufu, I was quite shocked when I heard general Kalis’ report.....You, Archduke-dono, are truly a dreadful person. Do you plan to sooner or later make the empire yours?”

“Precisely for this reason I don’t have any interest in the country of elves. These are quite the good terms for both of us, right?”

“Is it precisely so. This Heinz will follow the Archduke.”

Heinz lowered his head in a rather forced manner, as she said these words, wearing a faint smile.

You did dare say that, despite this being your goal in the first place.

There’s no wonder that the loli baba was forestalled.....This guy is dangerous.

From today’s discussion I clearly realized that Heinz was a very sly guy.

At first, the conversation progressed with fairly equivalent standpoints.

He then confirmed that he couldn’t treat me as a subordinate of his.

He dealt with me like I was nothing more and nothing less than the ambassador of the empire.

Then, he reconfirmed it when I brought up the matter of the king and the magi-science.

Whether he believed the stories told by general Kalis, and whether I actually knew about magi-science, he was able to confirm now.

The most dangerous of all was the last part though.

When the time is right, does he really intend to start a war against the demons?

Also, does he understand he can't do this right now?

If this is confirmed.....then, this guy, plans to start a massive war in the future.

“We had a valuable discussion today. The entertainment arrangements are ready, so you should go to the inner chambers. I will take my leave now.”

Heinz opened the door to the inner chambers and muttered something.

After that, he lowered his head and left.

.....My job here is still not done, apparently.

“Your excellency, I will first go confirm things.”

“I leave this to you, Albert.”

Albert, who stood behind my back all this time, slowly went towards the door to the inner chambers.

I was relieved that this guy was sturdily built, so much so that he could sometimes dodge my serious punch and take a direct hit from Suu's morning star without dying.

The mongrel opened the door at once and informed me with an astonished expression, looking over his shoulder.

"Your excellency, this is the Eden!"

Let me correct this. As I thought, the morning star inflicted quite an enormous damage.

"Albert, was my healing insufficient?"

"No, I am perfectly sober! Please have a look!"

Albert left the door opened, being somewhat excited.

Inside those rooms, many dog-eared and cat-eared beauties waited for us.....

"Welcome, Masters!"

"There's a handsome dog-kemonobito-nya!"

"Ara, there's no need to feel shy, you know?"

"Let's enjoy ourselves-nya!"

This was indeed an easy to understand honey trap.

Still, I'll be suspected if I refuse this.....But if I accept, I'm too scared of what Bea will do to me.

An extreme decision pressed me, when I heard a cheerful conversation.

"I.....was born for this day....."

"Oh my, you're exaggerating."

"Nyahaha, you're quite interesting-nya."

"Ufufu, this onee-san is happy."

The mongrel was already cheerfully drinking with the army of beautiful ladies.....

When we're back, I'll definitely inform his wife about this.....

But leaving that aside.....What should I do?.....

Chapter 139: A Battle Called Reception

“I’m a dog kemonobito, but I’m herbivorous, you know!”

“A-chan, you’re interesting-nya!”

“No good, I laughed so much that my stomach hurts.....”

“Bu!! A herbivorous dog kemonobito!!”

A-chan, meaning Albert, told the sure thing joke material line ‘*I’m a dog kemonobito, but I’m herbivorous*’ so he gained lots of popularity.

.....As always, I had no idea what was funny about that.

“So?.....Hey! Are you listening?”

“Hey, until when do you plan to keep the monopoly?”

“She’s right! I also need advice!”

In contrast to the laughter from over there, on my side we were having an advice meeting.

In my attempt to escape the honey trap, I used my sales abilities to the max and this was the result.

“Then, that customer, you know?”

“Right, right.....What happened with that customer?”

Their everyday irritation piled up considerably.....So I heard these girls' complaints as I drank some sake.

The sake prepared for us was something similar to whiskey.

It appears that this is a special product from the neighboring Dwarves' Kingdom.

“Zest-sama is so strong! This sake has the reputation of being quite intense.”

“Hm? It truly is intense, but it is a good sake. Can you buy it in this country? I'd like to buy some as souvenirs.”

In the middle of our complaint meeting, the leader of the girls, a dog kemonobito, started to talk.

She's the woman who commanded both the girls sitting at my table and those sitting at Albert's.

She was perhaps in her later twenties? Still, she was older than the other girls.

She was a beautiful woman with gorgeous blue hair which dropped to her

shoulders.

“Besides, prime minister-sama said that you liked beautiful women.....Do you perhaps like older women more?”

“How did you come to the conclusion that I like older women.....Ah, because I went to an air trip with Kachua-dono?”

The women in this room were all beautiful women.

I do think that they're all cute, but unfortunately I can't see them as such.

I'd rather spoil them likewise to a daughter.

“Talking and drinking with these girls is quite enjoyable. However, if we're talking about taste, then I like mature women more.”

“Fufu, it is a good refusal reason.....but I thought that this might happen.”

The woman made a sign and the girls around us withdrew.

In their stead, mature and beautiful army women showed up.

“This way, Zest-sama can enjoy himself as well, right?”

The leader said and laughed, and she somehow resembled Suu.

.....Are you that type as well?

And so, the reception party's second division rushed inside.

“So, I told them...I am a dog kemonobito, but I'm herbivorous!”

“Ahahaha, as expected from A-chan!”

“He said it! The herbivorous line is here!!”

“A-chan is so cool!!”

I couldn't understand why they got so excited.

A-chan was in an absolute good mood as he drank and made merry.

Does he even understand the situation?

“Next! I am next!!”

“You're after me! I am older than you after all!”

“Eh? You, didn't you say you turned seventeen last month?”

It looks like in this world they use the *'I'm seventeen'* practice as well.

I have no problem with this though.....Besides, if I were to interfere, it would most likely hurt me, so letting it go is much safer.

“There’s no need to worry. Even if I use healing magic on everyone present, I’ll still have much of it left. Don’t fight each other and wait patiently.”

“No way! Zest-sama, you’re lovely!”

“Amazing.....My burnt marks are all gone.”

“Eh!? My skin is so smooth now, isn’t it!!!”

My table became a beauty clinic.

I am using healing magic on adult women who all say they’re seventeen.

As for the women with very dry skin, wearing lots and lots of makeup, I changed them all with my magic power to a lively state very much appropriate for the age of seventeen.

“Since I last used cleansing magic, your face has no makeup anymore. Look in the mirror and check.”

“Eeh!? I’m too embarrassed to see my unpainted face.....Hmm, what is this!!! Who is this!?!?”

The self-proclaimed eternal seventeen-year-old was clamoring.

Can I now take a short break? As I thought about this, a woman called out to me.

“You truly.....can do anything.”

“Anything is a bit impossible. I can only do what I can.”

The leader of the girls sat down next to me, and made the girls who were too noisy retire for the moment.

She didn't have the same courtesy smile on her face as before.

She continued, her face now grave.

“Zest-sama, what do you want to do with this country?”

“Nothing really, I am here only to attend my daughter's wedding ceremony.”

“I am the one who.....controls and looks after the girls in the underground world of this country. Can you believe it?”

She wore a faint grin, but this grin was ice cold.

“Your excellency, should I dispose of this woman?”

“Albert, hold down your killing intent for a bit. She’ll lose consciousness.”

Albert was standing behind the woman, expressionless, pointing a sword to her neck.

His face was dangerous.....He was really going to kill her.

“Don’t move, all right? If possible, try not to breathe either. If even for an instant I feel suspicious about you, you’re dead.”

“Albert-sama, you’re exactly like the rumors say. Zest-sama’s right hand.....”

As I thought, she was not an ordinary person.

She was still very composed even though she received Albert’s intense killing intent and a sword was pointed at her neck.

Besides, the girls who remained in the room.....they didn’t even shriek.

“I’ll tell you all just in case, don’t do anything strange, all right? Even though you seem to have battle experience, it doesn’t look like you can win this fight.....Right, Tasel?”

“Precisely. We can finish them off at any time, your excellency.”

Behind my back, a black clothed person was standing.

I knew that the intelligence unit came along, but there was only one person whose position I didn't know.

Tasel was the only person whose presence I couldn't detect.

So, *his maternity leave* ended? I can feel assured now that *he's* here with the reinforcement unit.

"Is everyone inside this room?"

"No, there are five men outside. If it comes to it, we can escape at any time, your excellency."

"I see. So, what do you want to ask me? And also, what do you want to do from now on?"

"His majesty, the King of Elves was a very kind person who received us, the kemonobito people, inside this country. It will be our greatest pleasure to die for his son. Are you an ally of the prime minister?"

"I see. You possess a strong sense of duty that is characteristic to the kemonobito folk. So, even the underground world believes that I'm part of the prime minister's faction.....Fufufu, he's quite loathed, isn't he?"

"There are no fools among the proud kemonobito folk who would follow that guy."

“Hoo.....You really hate the guy, don't you? Then, don't you understand the reason why Albert is following my orders? He's also part of the kemonobito folk, you know?”

“.....Don't say that you're his highness, prince Mars' ally!?”

The girl moved her head energetically and, reacting to this, Albert put more strength into his sword.

Blood started to drip from her neck, but she didn't seem to be bothered by that.

“P-Please! I beg of you.....let us become prince Mars' strength! We will do anything!!”

She said and took off her clothes.

It wasn't only her, all the girls left in the room took off their clothes.

Then, they knelt down in front of me.

“We will do as Zest-sama pleases. We will do anything. We won't refuse any order.....So, please.....please.....”

“We beg of you!”

“Please show mercy!”

“Please save us!”

A bunch of naked girls who begged me to let them serve *‘His highness, prince Mars’*.....

As expected, Albert understood the situation and moved to my side.

I didn’t know that his majesty the king had so much popularity.....Prince Mars has to work hard.

“Don’t worry, I do care about my son-in-law. Therefore, put your clothes back on.....I don’t need this kind of thanking.”

“I see. Your excellency won’t do something like this. At any rate.....”

I informed the girls who stood up, but Albert moved quickly.

He unfastened my belt and pulled my trousers down.

“Look! He’s naturally wearing the marking of deep affection, done by a kemonobito woman! He gladly accepted the deep affection feelings shown by the kemonobito woman through offering him her own worn underwear! Do you need any other reason to trust this person!?”

“This scent!!”

“Aah, it’s like the legend said!”

“He’s a human, but he accepted the deep affection marking.....”

I stood up, revealing these pink string bikinis for everyone to see, and the naked kemonobito women started to worship me.

In such a chaotic room, I stood stock still.....

“Everyone.....Rest assured. Leave everything to me.”

“ “ “ “Yes!! Zest-sama!!” “ “ “

Weeping, I informed the girls, and they started crying as well.

Most likely they were crying for different reasons, but this was a trivial matter.

This was also the moment I acquired some new subordinates.

Weeping, I looked outside the window, and saw that the full moon was bright red today as well.....

I.....might not recover from this.....

Chapter 140: The Forgotten Thing

“We finally returned.....”

I was finally back into my quarters inside the royal castle.

The girls, the kemonobito reception unit, took a different course of action.

There was no way I could take them all back with me, so this was inevitable.

“Welcome back, master.”

“Suu?.....How should I put it, they really were useful.”

“As I thought, a kemonobito reception party took place, right? I figured the prime minister would do something like this.”

Suu nodded with a smug face, and I thought that.....she should really explain things to me more.....

I took a huge mental damage because of this, you know?

“Listen, Suu.....Since the kemonobito folk’s customs are difficult to understand, you should explain things to me beforehand.....”

“At that time, I was in a hurry and I was too embarrassed. But you’re right.....”

I'll hurry with the publication of the handbook. Are the girls from the reception party your subordinates now? In this case, I really must hurry."

Her face slightly red, Suu answered me.

She surely must have been embarrassed to give her panties to a man.

To say nothing of the panties being used.

"Aah, next time be more careful.....Also, did you distribute *that* book?"

"Yes, since we increased the number of personnel in the intelligence unit it all went well. The noble class people should already know about it."

"I see. In this case make preparations for sending a letter."

"Certainly."

That book.....That rotten book about two men.

I changed it to a hot love story between the prime minister and his general.

Suu made the preparations and I started writing the letter.

On one side it was a letter of thanks for today's invitation, and on the other side it was a complaint letter.

'At the time of agreeing to cooperate with you in order to obtain the country of elves, I didn't realize how big of a mistake it was.

Thanks to this, my work has become so much harder to handle!

However, that reception party was the best.....I want to meet those girls again.....'

This was the content of the letter.

The lewd archduke enjoyed the reception party, so he saw the prime minister's error as a good opportunity.

The goal was to make him believe this.

"This way, I can summon those girls without looking too suspicious."

"You're right. You let yourself be caught in his trap, then used this as a pretext to place those girls right inside his nest.....As expected from master."

"Fufu, I never show mercy to my enemies. About how will he deal with the rumors.....it all depends on the prime minister's skills."

"Yes. And if the prime minister manages to deal with the rumors in a clean way, what will we do then?"

“.....At that time, the prime minister will be involved in an unfortunate accident.”

“As you wish. I’ll give orders for Media to come here.”

I nodded, and Suu started to line up a tea set.

Since I drank a little this evening, my belly was rather empty, so this was just right.

Media, huh?.....*She* looks just like a woman and the prime minister will surely be negligent.

And she’ll certainly get rid of him.....

“I’ve thoroughly become a noble as well.....”

A muttered these words for no one to hear.....

As I drank my tea, Suu kept staring at me.

(Dad! Toto is angry!)

I finished writing some detailed instructions for my people, then returned to my bedroom, when I saw Toto glare at me with an angry expression.

Because Toto was always together with Bea....

I forgot that she came with me this time.....

“Toto, today’s little trip was a dangerous one. We’ll spend tomorrow together, all right? That’s why, you don’t have to be this angry.”

(Really? Will we be together tomorrow?)

“Yes, of course. I know. I’ll summon some merchants, so that we can choose a souvenir for Bea together. What do you say?”

(!? We’ll chose a souvenir for Mom!)

I brushed Toto’s hair, as she instantly showed a happy smile, then I took off my clothes in order to change them.

What about the shower?.....I kind of drank tonight, so I’ll just take one in the morning.

(Dad, why are you wearing Suu’s underwear?)

“.....Toto, you must keep this a secret from Mom, all right? I know. I’ll buy you a mountain of sweets tomorrow.”

(Dad, Toto didn’t see anything!)

“Good. You can choose as many sweets as you want.”

I successfully bought her silence with sweets, after which I finished changing my clothes and went to bed.

Today was a difficult day.....

Toto came together with me under the blanket, and she was in high spirits as she kept muttering ‘*Sweets, sweets*’, but she soon fell asleep.

“Good morning, master. A letter came from the prime minister.”

“Hahaha, he was quite fast.”

I finished my morning bath, and as I walked towards my office, Suu waited for me with a grinning face.

.....I’m wearing my own pants today, you know? What are you laughing about?

“Well then, I wonder what he wrote.....”

I opened the letter, sending Suu, who was showing an eerie smile, a glance.

The contents were as expected.

‘I really know nothing about that.

I'm sorry for making trouble for you all of a sudden.....

I made arrangements for those girls to come to your place, so please forgive me.'

This was it.....He must have been in a hurry to write this letter, since I saw ink drips in several places.

“As expected.....It looks like the girls will be here tomorrow. I leave the arrangements to you.”

“Certainly. I'll make the necessary arrangements.”

“Also, summon some merchants. Today.....Toto and I will chose some souvenirs. She'll wake up soon.”

“Understood. When Toto-sama wakes up, should I bring her here?”

“Please do so. Aah, summon some merchants who trade in sweets as well.”

“Sweets?.....Aah, you're bribing her into secrecy? Understood.”

I was found out.....I thought, as I watched Suu leave the room, giggling.

This, will this really not be revealed to Bea?

A woman's intuition is a scary thing after all.....And so, with these thoughts,

my day started.

(Dad, Toto is incredibly happy right now.)

“Thank you very much for your purchase! This amount.....As one would expect, archdukes are something else.”

“Haha.....No matter how you flatter me, I won't buy more than this, you know?”

Judging only by this conversation, it looked like nothing but a pleasant exchange.

However, the problem was the amount and quality of the things I bought.

“Master, are you really all right with this?”

“Suu, these are inevitable expenses.....”

Despite being worried, Suu nodded.....This happens when you use gold coins in units of thousands when doing shopping.

My dominion's yearly budget is about a hundred thousand.....Wait, I shouldn't be thinking about this or I'll lose my mind.

“I understand about the sweets.....but, it seems you bought many souvenirs for madam as well.....”

“It’s not like I feel guilty or anything, you know? I genuinely want to give her many presents!”

(Mom will be very happy!)

Yes, I only want to give her these presents; these are my honest feelings.

I’m definitely not thinking about deceiving her with expensive things!

It’s absolutely different!

“Good. The shopping is over. Now, shall we eat some sweets, Toto?”

(Yes! I’ll start with these!)

“Sigh.....Buying people with things.....I can already see the failure.”

I disregarded this murmuring, as my and Toto’s sweets feast started.

.....It’s all right. This way, Toto won’t talk and Bea will be deceived by all those presents!

With this assumption, I enjoyed my sweets.

“Your excellency, as I thought, you’re working too much.”

“Albert, you’re awake?.....Making a complete come-back in just one day after receiving my punch.....”

As punishment for stripping off my trousers, I knocked him off with one punch, but it appears that he already recovered.

Even though I used a considerable amount of strengthening magic as I hit him.....He really is sturdy.

“Eeh, without this armor, it would’ve meant an instant death. Your excellency’s punch is as one would expect.”

“.....I see. If you’re saying this, then it might be true.”

I thought I hit him on the face.....Is my memory playing tricks on me?

Albert muttered something as he brushed his black armor, then he suddenly turned to face me.

“Apart from this, your excellency, you must relax a little. If you continue in this manner, you will collapse.”

“I enjoyed a sweets feast.....I didn’t work that much, you know?”

I enjoyed my time today playing and eating with Toto, so it was already evening.

Toto was sleeping, being tired from all that playing.....I was also resting inside my office.

“No, since we came to the country of elves, you worked non-stop. I will.....draw you out to the night district.....”

“You fool, you still haven’t learned from your experiences? Last time and the time before last you did nothing but fail miserably!”

“Fufufu, your excellency. I am not that stupid. I do learn from my mistakes!”

“What.....are you talking about?”

Albert took out something like a notebook from his pocket.

No way! This mongrel can actually learn!?

“First of all, I gathered intelligence and narrowed everything down to a few shops, then I personally went to check them out. After the confirmation, I found out that this shop.....has beautiful women of just the right age!!”

With a booming sound effect, the notebook spread vigorously in front of me.

Inside it, this was written with huge letters.

‘High class secret bar – the New World! Many beautiful women, good sake, elves, kemonobito and humans alike are present’

“You can actually do it right if you want to.....Albert, prepare the horses! We’ll depart for the front!”

“Yes sir! I will ask the black knights to accompany us!”

This time for sure, it’ll be all right! There’s no way he will fail this time! I do believe in him!!

Third time lucky.....Believing in these words, I sallied forth towards the twilight district.....

Chapter 141: Party At The Bar

“It’s here, your excellency. At first sight, it looks like a normal civilian house, but this is the entrance to our paradise.”

“It doesn’t have a signboard.....Will this be all right?”

Guided by Albert, we arrived at this shop.

In truth, the building really looked like nothing but a civilian house.....This made my danger senses ring like mad!

“Your excellency, did I ever take you to a weird shop? Unfortunate accidents did happen, but I have never done something so dishonorable!”

“You.....Those two times, are you trying to call those unfortunate accidents?”

The mongrel quickly averted his eyes and knocked at the door to the shop (?).

You rascal.....You deceived me.

A grim middle-aged man showed up from inside.

“Aaan? What are nobles doing to such a place.....Master Albert! You came again?”

“Yes, this job must be difficult for you, mister bodyguard. Today, I brought my master here as well. Quickly, show us inside.”

Bodyguard, huh.....So this is a place that needs someone like this bandit-looking middle-aged man.....

Moreover, with no signboard, it's like this place does business secretly.

This is already the maximum level of danger.

“You came in such a large number.....Let's get you inside right away, he he he.”

His smile looked like that of a bandit boss who aimed at his pray. The bodyguard opened the door slowly.

Instead of a drinking party, won't this become a battlefield, I wonder?

As I felt a considerable level of anxiety, we entered that place.....the place that the mongrel called an utopia.....

“.....Albert.”

“Yes sir! What is it, your excellency?”

“This place is amazing.”

“Thank you for your words!”

The only moment I felt anxious about all this was in the beginning.

Inside the shop, there was another door, and once you opened that, the earthly paradise would spread in front of your eyes.

There was an army of beautiful women and the customer service was perfect.

The sake was delicious as well! This was truly a wonderful place; I had nothing to complain about.

“Is this place entirely reserved for us today?”

“Yes, the people here were very generous. What should we do then?”

This ‘What should we do?’ was asked because, since we were nobles, other people were not allowed to enter the shop for the moment.....It means more like ‘Shall we order as much as we can?’

“Show them consideration. Tell the girls that they can drink and eat as much as they want. Aah, give them some souvenirs as well, all right?”

“As you wish!”

From the table we sat at, Albert lowered his head and left.

We were drinking, only the two of us.

.....I wanted to drink with the girls, but just the other day I drank as much as to feel reluctant now.

“Mistress, let the girls order whatever they want for today. We will pay for everything. I’ll give you something now.....If it’s not enough, I’ll pay you more later.”

“So many gold coins for an advance payment!? Ah, thank you very much!”

In Japan, you usually pay at the end, but in this world, offering an advance payment is common sense.

But when it comes to nobles, they usually pay at the end.

Demanding an advance payment to a noble would be the same as suspecting them, like ‘Hey you, can you even pay for this?’ ...

Since we rented the whole place, if we don’t pay, this shop would suffer a great deficit.

That’s why I wanted to do at least this much.

“And then, this here is not the fare, but our feelings. Divide it among you.”

“It is gladly accepted. Everyone! These are customers who already gave us

gifts and payed us in advance, you know! Feel relieved and make merry!”

“Gifts!?! No way, A-chan, you really were a noble?”

“When nobles come here this is what happens.....I didn’t know that.....”

“Did you know, they’ll give us souvenirs when they leave?”

“Eeh!?! Won’t they come every day, I wonder.....”

Shouts of joy rose up and the party got even more exciting.

At least for today, I wanted to thank the black knights for their service and let them have a great time.

Albert returned, and we both took a mouthful of sake.....Fufu, for some reason, I missed this.

A little while ago, I used to go out with these guys and make merry in bars.

Thinking about those days, I really enjoyed my time here.

“Oh, oh, this sure is looking good. Let us join you.”

A sturdy man showed up to our fun party.

Looking at his garments and expression, he was nothing but a hooligan.

.....What happened to the bodyguard?

“Hey, you guys! The whole place is reserved for today! What is the bodyguard doing?”

The mistress’ voice could be heard; she was the woman who a few moments ago received the payment from Albert.

She was a sexy woman, who seemed to be in her 30s, and because she showed a strong-willed expression, it did have a certain impact.

Still, those guys laughed as they continued.

“Bodyguard? You’re talking about that weakling? Gahahahahaha, he was so damn useless.”

“He was a small fry who got silenced by only one punch from our aniki.”

“Ooh, it looks like they’re drinking some really expensive sake.”

With a giant man, two meters high, in the front, these three guys selfishly sat on a table and started to drink.

Because Albert showed a murderous expression, I stopped him from going to them with a gesture.

For the black knights, these guys will be nothing but an exercise to help digestion.

“You guys, it’s about time your stomachs swelled out, right? Go do some exercise. Leave no proof so that we won’t cause trouble for this shop.”

“Yes, sir! Leave it to us.”

“Still, they sure look weak.”

“Hyahaa! Exercise, exercise!”

The black knights stood up, faces covered in smiles.

Good. It’s great that they’re so into this.

“Ah, urm.....Zest-sama. Is this going to be all right? These guys defeated that bodyguard of ours.....”

“Aah, it’s all right. If he was defeated by those guys.....”

The mistress looked worried, and as I was about to answer her, a weird sound resounded.

I turned around and the giant man pressed down hard on his right arm, which took a wrong turn towards the direction of the day after tomorrow.

.....Don't do it inside the shop, can't you have a little patience?

"I don't care whether you break or slice their arms off, but do it outside."

"Yes, sir! Forgive us."

"Still, this guy sure is fragile....."

"Aaaah, you already broke him? I'll take the other two, all right!?"

"Gyaaaaaaa, uu, my arm.....my arm!"

"A-aniki! Are you all right?"

"You! We are part of a famous bandit group....."

The trio of idiots glared towards me with a threatening look.

Hm? They're not thugs, but bandits?.....In this case, we have to deal with them differently.

"Albert, the situation changed. If they're a bandit group, make them speak and go kill their comrades. We have no reason to keep them alive."

"Leave it to me. On this occasion, the maids.....I mean, the holy maidens unit

will benefit from this. They'll be very happy when they hear about the bandits' extermination training."

Albert stood up and, as he waved his tail happily, he took the trio of idiots with him and left.

If they're really a famous bandits group, we might be able to use this for growing prince Mars' reputation.

"And so, you didn't need to worry, now, did you? Calm down and let's continue drinking."

"Sigh.....Urm, are all the nobles from the empire this strong?"

I looked at the amazed mistress, and, laughing, I continued to drink my sake.

"Your excellency, just to be sure, I sent a black knight to keep watch together with the bodyguard."

"Because of a supposed revenge from the bandits group? I don't think that will happen, but all right."

Albert returned with a refreshed expression, and informed me.

It's true that we can feel more at ease on one's guard.

I thought that they were bluffing, but those idiots really were bandits.

“It’s a small bandits’ group with about thirty people. This won’t even count as exercise for the war maidens.”

“But still, if those girls feel they’ve been left out, they’ll be quite scary afterwards.....So, leave those guys to the war maidens.”

“Smart and strong.....He’s certainly a noble.....”

“Lovely.....Even his ‘I’m a dog kemonobito, but I’m herbivorous’ is lovely.”

“For an elf as myself, that is incomprehensible.....”

“That tail, I’d like to groom it.....”

Smart? Just who in the world are they talking about....

For some reason, A-chan was very popular.

The black knights too got pampered by the girls, saying something like ‘Strong knight-sama! You’re lovely!!’they all fopped.

Maybe it’s time I organize a formal marriage mass meeting for them.....I was too busy so I kind of neglected this.....

I contemplated the fact that my subordinates’ marriageable age got a little overdue, when I heard again load voices coming from the outside.

Good grief.....But, since there's a black knight there, they can't breakthrough.

I thought and drank up my glass of sake, when the door slapped open with a wonderful booming sound.

“Your excellency! For someone like an archduke, throwing a party at a town bar is outrageous!”

The one who showed up dragging along the black knight like he was nothing but trash, was Media.

.....You already came?.....That was fast.

“Don't get mad, Media. Relaxing once in a while is beneficial.”

“No, your excellency. There is something called a standpoint. Drinking with such women at such an outskirts bar is just.....”

“With such women? This surely is a rundown district.....but still, I am very confident in our customer service!”

Normally, the mistress would never talk against a noble, but today she drank a little too much.

Since she was drunk, her real personality surfaced.

“What? You, nothing but a commoner talking to a noble.....Hm?”

“Haaan! Listen, young girl. Even though you’re a noble-sama.....Oh my?”

Media and the mistress got closer and stared at each other.....Or so it appeared.

Both of them stared fixedly at each other and, when they looked up and made eye contact, they embraced each other.

.....What? They like each other even though they’re women?

“My friend.....I never thought I would meet a friend in such a place.”

“Yeah, I’m thankful to the gods for making this possible. My friend.”

“Albert, go eat your teeth!”

“.....Yes sir?”

The two women wept as they embraced each other, but, before long, they separated and looked towards me.

Yeah, I am ready..... Thank you for giving me the time.

“Your excellency, you searched for my dear comrade and found this bar.....I’ll follow you a lifetime!!”

“You have my dear friend as one of your followers.....Please take us too as your subordinates, your excellency! We’ll be very helpful!!”

The two of them looked at me, their faces flushed.....Yes.....’Friend and comrade’

You’re both okamas 1, huh?.....

“Albert, do you have a last request?”

“Yes sir! Because of their smell I thought they were women.....Oh dear me, since the elves’ perfumes are too excellent, Ibuhooooa!!!”

And so, the okama troops and girls-dressed-up-as-men unit from the country of elves migrated to the archduke’s dominion.

Later, because of this, a great pleasure quartier was built on my dominion, and my capital city became the empire’s greatest metropolis.....

At this time, however, I felt nothing but extremely sad for knowing that more perverts came under my command.....

I want ‘normal’ subordinates and citizens.....

Chapter 142: Returning Home For A Short Time

“Prime minister-dono.....At such an important time, a very interesting rumor is spreading.”

“Yes, that is.....”

“Men love, huh?.....Being too concerned about this rumor, nobles don't come visiting anymore, right?.....Our plan will precede unhindered, right?”

“.....Yes, but, urm.....”

“As a counter-measure against this rumor, would it be a little better if I become a lustful and lewd archduke? The focus might more or less stray from you.”

“Ar-archduke Zest, thank you very much, truly.....”

“Hahaha, I never thought that my friends will end up dragging me down.....How comes it is always me?”

“I'm really sorry!!”

A few days passed since that okama corps incident.

I finally returned to my senses.....

‘Such beautiful women were in fact men’ – the shock was just too big.

“So, don’t tell me, prime minister-dono,that you actually believe that I truly desire women and that was in fact the reason I asked for those girls?”

“Of course I don’t believe that! I am being saved by archduke Zest’s consideration after all!”

Prime minister Heinz visited my private quarters and he was very apologetic.

At first, he wanted to let the people know that ‘The archduke has a lewd heart, so I summoned the reception girls for him again’.....

However, unexpectedly, the elves had a keen interest in the ‘Prime minister loves men’ rumor.

“I see. So you do get that. Then, again, why didn’t you prepare your subordinates to act against this rumor.....What’s the meaning of this?”

“I can’t even give you a proper answer.”

Heinz lowered his head, cold sweat pouring down his face.

That book was much more offensive than I thought, so we have to decentralize this rumor by spreading another one about ‘Archduke Zest, loving women too much!’....

.....Otherwise, Heinz' fall would be too quick.

“Sh-shall we call this an unexpected issue.....?”

“The only ones to make use of this ‘unexpected issue’ thing are the nobles. It is precisely the leader of the country who must cope with unexpected issues.....If you were a noble of the empire, all that would be left of you by now would be your head, you know?”

“It’s as you said, my foresight was a bit too optimistic.”

“You don’t get a second change. For the time being, I’ll be playing around with those girls, so I’ll leave the wedding ceremony arrangements to you, all right? If I am to make a move, you’re the one who’s gonna fall.”

“I am truly extremely sorry!!”

The blue-faced prime minister Heinz, bowed many times before leaving the room.

Suu entered afterwards, like she just changed places with him, and informed me while grinning.

“You got yourself caught in his trap, and now you absorbed yourself in sarcasm.....As expected from my master. This Suu admires you greatly.”

“Actually, that was only a play.....”

“Moreover, you can now welcome those girls with your arms wide open.....Master, you can’t exploit them, all right?”

“As I said, it was only a play.....”

“If it was only a play, then I will report this to the madam.”

“Please don’t.”

I’m sorry, all right.....I just wanted to vent a little.....But, it’s not like I want women or something!

“I was a bit distracted, but those girls are different. I simply want them as my citizens, as my subordinates, nothing more.”

“Fufufu, I understand, master. However, the girls are definitely a reason for concern. You should return home for now and talk to the madam.”

Yeah.....it’s true that I’m free now and there’s still time until the wedding ceremony.....I’ll go back for a little while then.

I also want to see Wis!

“You’re right, I’ll do just that! Will you be able to handle everything if I go home for two days?”

“We don’t have any matters that must be dealt with urgently, so you can take your time.”

Suu, you truly are excellent.....

You do break occasionally, but I can’t believe you’re actually related to Albert.

“Lord Media is here as well, so the mongrel.....I mean, Albert, you can take him with you. Of course, you can take Toto-sama with you as well!”

“Call him brother, all right.....Are you two still fighting?”

Because of that okama corps incident, Suu got extremely mad at Albert.

Still, the reason she got angry was very Suu-like.....

‘You brought master to such a shop.....He’s an archduke, so you should’ve brought the entire shop here!!’

It’s all right to drink with women, and it’s also all right if they’re okamas, since she’s used to Media.

Occasionally, it is also all right to fool around with the guys.

However, going out is prohibited! Summon everyone here!! Or so was the argument.

Because of my noble status, I can't go out as freely as before.

"I feel like crying when I think that Albert is my brother. I can only call him a mongrel. Anyway, leaving this aside, I'll go prepare your departure."

Suu made a beautiful bow and left the room.

She probably went to prepare my stuff which were in the neighboring room.

Well, I'll try consoling her later.....She's a little too pitiful.

"For the time being, don't look outside the window. If Suu sees you, she'll flip, all right?"

".....Ooorrrrhhhh!"

"You're no pigeon! You big idiot!!"

Albert, whose temple was dented by the paperweight I threw at him, dropped to the ground.

Well, he's sturdy, so he won't die or anything.....

"Oh my, as expected from your excellency. You immediately sensed my presence.....and that attack! If I didn't have this armor, I would've died instantly."

“I see. If you’re saying this, it might be true.”

(Dad! The mongrel is all red! He’s covered in blood!)

Albert laughed heartily, even though blood still poured out of his head.

.....Was that a joke? I don’t really get the kemonobito people’s jokes.

We were now on top of a dragon, on our way back to my dominion, and we relaxed as we fooled around.

We weren’t worried at all since no one could hear us up in the sky.

We could talk serious matters and we could also talk about our nostalgic time spent together in the Frontier Count’s household.

“Say, Albert. We’ve known each other for a very long time now.”

“You’re right.....Time sure flies.”

“Don’t you have any wish?”

“I am happy with being able to stay by your excellency’s side. You are my master after all.”

“I see.....I will make you a marquis and leave the border with the Holy Country of Lilac in your care. Become my shield, all right?”

“Wha!?! A marquis?”

Still covered in blood, Albert turned his head with unrestrained vigor.

Hey, are you all right? When you turned your head, blood oozed out again.

“Truth be told, I’d like to make you a duke, but, since we’re not blood related, the marquis title is your limit.....I’m sorry.”

“It’s not that. The marquis status is just too high! If you make a kemonobito like me into a marquis, the nobles in the imperial capital will.....”

“I won’t let them complain about it. This is about my life after all.....If the empire attacks me, you’ll be my reinforcement, and if the Holy Country attacks me, you’ll be my wall. Who else can I entrust with such an important duty? You’re the only one. I’m counting on you, all right?”

“.....This Albert, no.....my entire family will become your excellency’s shield. I will definitely meet your expectations!”

Good. I’ll feel relieved if Albert, whom I’ve known for a long time, will protect my border.

Even if I die, he will definitely help my children.

Among the kemonobito folk.....the dog kemonobito are particularly loyal.

“Yeah, I leave it to you.By the way, you.....”

“Yes, your excellency.”

“That blood is dangerous, you know? Should I heal you?”

“Hahaha, such a good joke. For a knight, a wound of this level should heal just by fighting spirit alone!”

With unclear eyes, Albert answered me, his eyes looking in the wrong direction.

You.....You can't see anything, can you.....?

He laughed once again, then the mongrel lost his senses.....Maybe I should've told him that blood loss is a dangerous thing.....

(Dad, as I thought, you should perhaps choose a more capable person for this job.)

Dad also thinks so.....

As I brushed Toto's hair, I really thought that from the bottom of my heart.

We finally had an interesting conversation, but the mongrel's personality traits were hard to beat.

When I'm together with him, something will definitely happen.....Or so I feel.

We arrived at my dominion and descended in my courtyard.

We left the country of elves first thing in the afternoon and arrived here in the evening.

This way I can take my time and show my affection to Wis, and I can also make out with Bea.....

With such thoughts in mind, I opened the door to my office.

There, I saw Katalina and Bea doing paperwork together.

Aah, they are still working.....Does Bea feel better now?

I was about to say 'I'm home!', but Bea was faster, and told me, not moving from her chair.

"Oh my? You came back? It would've been much better to stay there in the country of elves. Besides, you came home without sending us a notice beforehand.....And you call yourself a noble?"

There she was, with that nostalgic cold look, her frowned face and that dark magical power surrounding her.....The witch was here again.

.....Eh? What's this?? What's with this reaction?

“We-welcome back-nya, your excellency the archduke! Madam was waiting for you as well-nya!”

“Katalina, I didn't really wait for him. Shut up and continue working. I will be leaving my seat for a bit.....Zest-sama came back after all. Good grief, my entire schedule is going amiss!”

Katalina nodded right away, feeling pressured by Bea's full use of dark magic power.

There's no way she could go against that thing.....I was once subdued by it too.

Bea threw the documents in her hand on top of the desk quite violently, she walked towards me with determined steps and took out her iron fan.

“Zest-sama, we should have a little talk. I am busy so I don't need your reply. Follow me quietly.”

“Yes ma'am!”

(Ah, Toto wants to eat some snacks! I must hurry!)

And so, I was taken captive by Bea, who returned to her dark state from during our engagement period.

Will I.....be coming alive out of this?

Chapter 143: Bea's Unusualness

“What’s wrong? Stop making that face. Even though I am very busy, I said that we must talk, didn’t I?”

With her iron-ribbed fan in her hand, she lifted up my chin.

Aah, this is mother Lamia’s favorite technique.....But this is not the point.

Something seems off now, doesn’t it? It’s not necessary for her to pressure everyone in her surrounding in this manner.

Still, Bea is spreading dark magic power in all directions.....Hmm? Will this perhaps work again?

“Bea, thank you for taking care of the household while I was gone. It must have been difficult for you.....How is your physical condition?”

I asked her, as I casted a certain spell.

This was a safe question even in case she was angry, and if everything goes as I expect it to, then!

“Words of thanks are unnecessary. Besides, I can’t be called a noble if my physical condition gets bad because of something like this. Good grief, you’re only stating the obvious.....Maybe you lack a little bit of noble self-awareness?”

'Aww! Because Zest-sama is so kind. I am all right, I am full of energy, you know? Besides, since I am Zest-sama's wife, taking care of things is only natural!'

She stared at me like I was a cockroach, as she said this.

Aah, I have no doubts.....She's back to her former self.....

But what was the trigger? No, first we have to take refuge in our private quarters, otherwise Katalina and the others might die from the stress.

"Hahaha, you're right. Then, shall we move to a room where we can be just the two of us?"

"What are you doing? I can walk by myself."

'Eeh, pri-princess-carry?.....Everyone is looking though.....'

"I want to do this. I was too lonely because I didn't see you, Bea. Forgive my selfishness."

".....Then, it can't be helped."

'Was Zest-sama lonely too? Ufufu, in this case, I'll forgive you.'

With enmity in her eyes, Bea covered half of her face with her fan, as I carried her in my arms.

If strangers were to see her, they would judge her expression as being enraged.....But I already knew.

She was just hiding her embarrassment.

“Katalina, leave me and Bea alone for a while. If someone intrudes, I’ll feed them to the dragons.”

“Since the dragons might damage their stomachs, it’s better to let the intruders be their playthings instead.”

‘You can’t feed your followers to the dragons! I will warn the dragons, so let’s forgive them with only a training match, okay?’

Yes, yes. The translation went as smoothly as before.

As I thought, Bea really is a kind person.

“I see, we’ll do that then. Bea’s a very kind person after all.”

Bea turned completely red, as I kissed her forehead, then we left the office.

“.....His excellency is amazing-nya. He called the current madam a kind person, he must have a high level of tolerance-nya.”

“I was too scared to even move.”

“She didn’t even tell us not to intervene, but we couldn’t go near her.....”

I heard Katalina and the others’ words somewhere in the back, as I hurried to my private quarters.

“Now, Bea. How is it? Do you have self-awareness?”

“I do.....I am not a child after all. Also, I can sit by myself.”

‘I knew from everyone’s reactions. But leaving this aside.....I wonder if he will let me sit on his l-lap?’

With a face like broken domino pieces, Bea sat on my lap hesitantly.

Since the tsundere Bea, that only I knew, came back to life, the tension was extremely high.

As I brushed her silky hair, I asked as nicely as I could.

“In this position, I can feel your warmth, Bea, so I kind of like it. Also, when did this start?”

“In this case, it can’t be helped. Let me think.....About two days ago or so.”

‘I’m embarrassed but I’ll endure it! Zest-sams is such a spoiled child!’

“Two days ago?.....You’re not feeling sick or anything, right?”

“Yes, I feel great.”

‘Fufu, you worry too much.’

Bea laughed and her face looked like she was planning my murder or something.

If people who didn’t know what I knew were to see her, her smile would definitely look so dark that they would start crying.

However, the cause is unknown, huh?.....It’s good that there’s no problem with her physical condition.....Except that it isn’t good!!

Should I ask Toto about this? When I think about it, Bea changed right after Toto showed up.

I didn’t have much time to think because my clothes were pulled down suddenly.

“Zest-sama? Who are you thinking about in front of your wife?”

‘I understand that you’re worrying about my current condition, but you said it in front of everyone, that they weren’t allowed to disturb us.....I was so embarrassed I could die!’

Why was she embarrassed?

.....Ah!! I see. We're just the two of us in a room that cannot be entered! My words meant something like don't interrupt a couple's business.....I've done it this time.

"So-sorry. I didn't do it on purpose, but I let them misunderstand my words."

"Was it a misunderstanding?"

'Was it a misunderstanding?'

Bea's outer and inner voices harmonized as she asked me, and I couldn't resist her.

As I felt the warmth of her arms twined around my neck, Bea and I became one.....

"Your excellency, I'm sorry to disturb you when you're tired.....Toto-sama wants to talk to you."

"Stop the tired thing. If Bea hears you, you'll become rust on her bardiche! All right, Albert?"

A little time passed since we finished our business, and I was drinking tea when the revived mongrel came to inform me.

At this precise moment I felt big-hearted, so I wouldn't get angry because of something like this.

And since Bea was asleep in the next room, he was safe.

“Bring Toto here then. It's perfect since I also wanted to talk to her.”

“Yes sir! Right away!.....Are you really not tired? As I thought, your excellency has amazing stamina.”

Hahaha, Albert laughed, as he went to bring Toto to me.

Does he not know the word delicacy? Is this a trait of all kemonobito people?

I'll have Suu finish that handbook quickly.....Otherwise, you never know when you step on a land mine.

I was amazed, but still kept pouring tea for myself, as I waited for them to come back.

“We kept you waiting!”

(Dad, you had a lot of fun last night, right!)

With a bright smile on her face, Toto informed me in a telepathic message.

This is the mongrel's doing.

“Albert, you fool, what are you teaching Toto!?”

“Your excellency, it’s a misunderstanding! I didn’t say anything!!”

(It wasn’t the mongrel. The Garbera fridge taught me! That in case Mom and Dad went to sleep together, I should say this to you.)

That fridge did something unnecessary.....Since she’ll be coming to the wedding ceremony, I’ll tell her a thing or two.

However, it wasn’t the mongrel.....I did him wrong.

Sorry.....But this word never came out.

(The mongrel said to the black knights that if you train three times per night it is perfect and you end up working hard until morning! Dad, what did they train for?)

“Toto, close your eyes and cover your ears for a little bit.”

(All right! I’ll keep them closed tightly!)

“Albert, I told you not to bring Toto to your drinking parties, didn’t I?”

“But I didn’t! Toto-sama mixed up with us before we could even notice *gyoufu!!!*”

I hit the mongrel right in his neck with a strengthened punch encompassing my entire magic power.

He spited out foam and was convulsing, but he was still alive, so it was okay.

The foam coming out of his mouth was mixed with blood, but he was all right.....I placed Toto on my shoulder and I brushed her hair, as she still kept her eyes closed.

(Can I open my eyes now? Besides, Dad, what did you train for last night?)

“.....Cu-curry.....It’s a Japanese dish, you know?”

For some reason, I had to bring in this world the existence of curry.....

I couldn’t think of anything else to answer her.....

Chapter 144: Increasing Work Arrangements

“.....I see. So, if Bea stays away from you, she returns to her older self, is that right, Toto?”

(Yes! Mom’s dark magic is too strong after all.)

I physically silenced Albert, then Toto explained me about Bea’s situation.

It appears that if Toto stays close to her, everything is all right.....

“So nothing is wrong with her body in particular?”

(No, she’s all right! Since that isn’t an illness. Mom and I don’t usually get sick.)

“I see.....Then, will you stay with Bea, Toto? I love both Beas, but in her current situation she might remember the past, so she will be sad. Don’t you think that she’ll be too pitiful that way?”

(Understood. I will stay close to Mom!)

Toto answered me as she chewed on a cookie.

As always, she’s in a very good mood when she eats sweets.

I honestly regret that the tsundere, dark Bea will disappear, but it can't be helped since this affects the administration of my territory.

(Fufufu, you care about Mom a lot, right, Dad!?)

“Of course I do. I love you and Wis too, but as my daughters. Bea is the only one I love as a woman. When you'll grow up, you'll understand this, Toto.”

Toto, who sat directly on top of the table, looked at me, and her expression changed from a cute smile to a broad grin.

.....She looks indeed like a mini Bea, but I wonder what happened?

I was about to ask her, but then I felt something warm around my neck.

“When I was finally able to get some good sleep.....I woke up because of your noisiness. Obviously, you will take responsibility for this, right, Zest-sama?”

‘Zest-sama, you're saying such things even when I'm not around.....I'm embarrassed, but very happy!’

I was hugged from behind, and I couldn't move around.

Bea's face looked like she was glaring at a molester, but her actions were quite the contrary.

She hugged me and rubbed her cheeks on my face.

Her clothes.....As one would expect, she was wearing some.....But, she was wearing thin night-clothes than made my heart race.

“Bea, in this case, shall we go to sleep together? We can talk detailed stuff tomorrow.”

(Then, Toto will clean up around here and go sleep with Wis! Good night.)

Toto understood the situation and sent a magic bullet into Albert in order to move him.

Which reminds me that he didn't wake up at all after receiving a punch in the neck from me....Is he all right?

.....Well, this is Albert, so I bet he's all right.

For now, I'll just ignore everything else.....Bea's eyes are saying '*I won't let you fall asleep!*' so I must work hard.

“Well then, Katalina. This last period was quite difficult for you. Bea will be back to herself in a few days, so don't worry about this. Also, since we will have some new citizens, I'll leave the arrangements to you. Everything is written in these documents, so please look them over.”

“Certainly-nya. This is helpful-nya.”

“There are also some business plans among those documents. Your work load

will increase, but.....Was the Mizuta Mari incident your doing?”

“Nya!? Ye-yes.”

“Well, I’ll ignore it this time. Just in case, next time, let me know about something like this beforehand, all right? I also sent a letter to the demons, so she’ll be here soon. If we don’t put a bell around her neck, she can be quite dangerous. You do understand, right?”

“Yes. I’ll make arrangements for a few people from the intelligence unit to always stay next to her-nya. They’ll be doing this under the pretext of guarding her. As for her treatment, will it be all right to treat her as your excellency’s precious retainer-nya?”

In my office, Katalina and I were having a business meeting.

Since yesterday I fully replenished my Bea ingredient, I was now in perfect form.

“Do that. Ah, I will promote both you and Albert. I’ll also leave these preparations to you, all right? Albert will become a marquis and you will become a count.”

“Yes, understood.....Nyanya!?”

“You do all my internal administration. My dominion includes that kemonobito fishing village as well.....Since I also plan to build a harbor, that will become our first source of income.”

“Wa-wait a second-nya, please! Me a count-nya??”

Katalina dropped the documents she had in her hands and asked me hurriedly.

“Are you perhaps discontent? I can only name one marquis, and that will be Albert.....I know. You will also be Wis’ nanny. You have to endure this now.”

“Nya!? Young lady Wis’ nanny!?”

She gathered half of those documents, but dropped them again when she heard this.

Oi oi, are you that astonished?

“You’re the only one I can ask this to. Listen! Supposing that something happens to me, you will become Wis’ guardian and continue to manage my dominion. Bea and Suu both agree with me on this. Also, when Wis becomes an adult, please help her when she needs.”

“Of, of course I will-nya! I have absolutely no problem with helping the children of your excellency-nya!”

“I’ll leave it to you then! Also, I have one more favor to ask.”

“Yes. Ask me anything-nya.”

“In case Wis turns out to be someone unfitted for an archduchess.....send her to a remote village. You will have the authorization to do this, so it'll be up to your judgement.”

“.....Do you understand what you're saying-nya?”

Katalina gave up on gathering the documents, and stared at me with a serious expression.

Precisely because I do, I have to say this.

“Albert is as he is. Even if Wis turns out to be a blockhead, he'll follow her nonetheless. Suu is the same. She will never agree to force Wis to retire early. As for Bea.....It will be impossible for her to keep her daughter away from power, precisely because she's strongly conscious as a noblewoman. However, this way, the people will have to suffer, you know?”

“.....”

“Therefore, you are the only one who can do this. One of the reasons my archduke's household hasn't employed the intelligence unit is this. Economic strength and the intelligence unit.....These will be your powers. This way, neither Bea, nor Albert.....nor Wis will be able to take you lightly.”

“Are you sure about this-nya? It is dangerous to offer so much power to your subordinates, you know that-nya?”

“I am doing this precisely because my subordinate warned me that this is dangerous. Since I am a jumped-up person, my household’s honor or status are not important to me. I only want my family to be able to live safely. Therefore, I’ll rely on you.....It’ll be a nightmare if a civil war starts in the future. So, if my family can continue to live quietly, then that is fine with me.....I am leaving this in your care then, all right?”

“I will definitely protect your excellency’s family-nya! Therefore, there is nothing to worry about-nya!”

Katalina said and looked at me, then she continued as she looked me straight in the eyes.

“First, I will educate young lady Wis in order to become a wonderful ruler-nya. I won’t let anyone interfere with this-nya.”

“Yeah, I entrusted you with this precisely because you know what pain is. It’s up to you now.”

“It’s just that.....”

“What? Is there a problem?”

Her face looked a little worried as she continued.

“I’m a little worried about lord Albert becoming a marquis.....Mainly with a domestic affairs’ meaning.”

“Ev-everything will be all right if you often rotate the officials.....”

“But.....Ah! I just thought of something great-nya! There’s a perfect person for this job-nya!”

“Who is it? Who’s the convenient person you’re talking about?”

“It’s Meril-sama! Lord Albert’s wife, Meril-sama is perfect for this-nya. That lady graduated the nobles’ school as the head of her class-nya. She was also invited by the Frontier Count’s household to work there as a civil official, so she truly is a talented woman-nya! We must immediately summon her and discuss this matter-nya!”

“In this case, summon Meril. We must probe her quickly, since she’s also busy with raising her children.”

The moment I said this, the door opened vigorously with a bang.

As I feared, it was Albert.

“Please wait, your excellency. I know that this might be rude, but I have to say it. You enjoyed yourself too, didn’t you, your excellency? I also enjoyed myself without knowing they were men!? Therefore, my wife.....Meril.....Please keep this a secret from her!! If you say this is impossible, then I’ll offer you my head right away!!”

“Your excellency, what is he talking about-nya? Enjoying yourself with men?”

“Albert, I’ll put you to rest with one punch. Come closer.”

And so, the mongrel destroyed the serious mood.....However, the damage didn’t stop at that point.

“.....Zest-sama.....Did you enjoy yourself with men? I do want to know the details.”

(Dad! Toto didn’t say anything! It was the dog who talked!)

Toto, if you say this now, you only make it worse.....

Chapter 145: Albert's Depression

“Zest-sama, you are an important nobleman, you know? Therefore, you must be careful so that this does not happen again. Going out in the city is not what nobles do.”

‘I’m more shocked that you thought I would get angry because of this, than of the subject itself.....I must become a little more gentle, otherwise he’ll hate me!’

(Dad, is the mongrel still alive?)

For the sin to have mistook men for women when he guided us to that shop, Albert received my punch and collapsed.

I didn’t do it because he exposed our secret incident though.

“You’re right. I’m sorry. I’ll weight the situation better from now on.....”

“Also, do you always feel like going out because you don’t want to drink with me? Well, you probably lost your interest in me already, since I come from a countryside noble household.”

‘I really want to drink sake with him sometime.....Maybe I am not charming enough.....’

(!? He moved! Amazing! The mongrel sure is sturdy!)

Toto, that was a convulsion, so it's rather a dangerous sign, you know?

Since I'd be troubled if he died, I used healing magic on him.

"Losing interest in you, Bea, is impossible. Let's take our time and have a couple of drinks together this evening. I can stay here for one more day or so."

".....Right. It can't be helped then, I'll keep you company since I'm your wife and everything. So, we'll be together this evening.....Only thinking about it made me feel sick, therefore you'll have to excuse me now."

'Yeeey! I must go prepare for tonight!!'

Bea said and took Toto with her as she quickly left the room.

Will she prepare some evening snacks or something? In this case, I must be careful not to eat too much this afternoon.

Since I finished healing the mongrel, I sat on a chair.

I have not done any work yet, so I must finish this now.

"Fuu. He looks considerably better now, but it's still scary-nya."

"Your excellency, I was very close to death this time.....Excuse me, but it appears that I lack sufficient training!"

Katalina saw the whole incident from beginning to end, so she was now pulling back a little. And there was Albert, who just made a recovery.

You, that's what you apologize for?

"From now on, everything will slowly return to normal. I will trouble you for a little while, Katalina, but I'm relying on you. Albert, you must think a little before talking."

"Don't worry about it-nya."

"Your excellency, there are things I can do and things I cannot do. Thinking before speaking is extremely difficult for me!"

With a rather fresh and clear expression, the mongrel just called himself a fool.

It can't be helped now that he said this.

"I see.....Then, I will entrust Meril with this. It appears that she's quite an excellent woman, so I'll have her train you."

"We can safely leave this in Meril-sama's hands-nya."

"Wha!? Will you tell this to my wife too?"

When I was about to tell him that this wasn't the case, someone knocked on the door.

It seems like she arrived.

"Excuse me. Meril-sama is here."

"Let her in."

"Certainly!"

A few minutes after we heard the reply, Meril entered the room.

Albert's face turned ashen.....Are you that scared of her?

"Meril-sama is a very strict person-nya. She's actually famous for being particularly severe with men-nya."

"That is wonderful! She's perfect for your education, Albert. You're becoming a marquis after all, so you have to give up."

".....Yes sir."

Even his ears hanged down, and I felt that this despondent and defeated Albert was kind of charming.

I have no interest in men, but I might have animal instincts or something.

Thinking about such stupid things, the woman who was strict with the above-mentioned man entered the room.

“It’s been a long time, your excellency Zest. I am Meril, Albert’s wife.”

She said and lowered her head.

She had reddish blond hair and loose curls.

Her face was gentle and she looked like a nurse.

Is Albert perhaps strange for fearing such a woman?

“It’s been a while, Meril. Is everything going smoothly with child raising? Isn’t it too much for your physical condition?”

“Thanks to you, everything is going smoothly. My son and I, we’re both too energetic even.”

“I see. Health is the most important thing. Don’t hesitate to call me in case something troubles you.”

“Thank you for your words, it is an honor for me.”

It doesn’t matter that she’s Albert’s wife, first we must do some idle talk.

This was the noble people's conversation flow.

On the contrary, talking about the main topic all of a sudden would be too impolite.

It's safe to do this with your subordinates, but this woman was still nothing but the wife of my subordinate.

"By the way, Meril. I have various things to discuss with you today. Also, it's not going to be a bad talk."

The four of us sat at a table, and I waited for the right timing to break the ice and talk about the main problem.

Since she has a small child, she probably doesn't want to be away from home for too long.

"The truth is, I am thinking to make Albert a marquis.....However, there are no problems with his armed might or loyalty, but....."

"Forgive me!"

I only went to say this far, but Meril lowered her head energetically.

So, did she already understand the problem?

"Because this mongrel is a fool, you're probably worried about internal

politics and social life, am I right? Please rest assured. I will work as a civil official. Also, I will firmly educate him at home.”

“Err, when you said mongrel did you refer to me?”

“Who gave you permission to talk? If you want to talk in front of his excellency, you must first ask for permission. If you don’t even know this, you will cause problems for his excellency.”

“Right, right.”

“Besides, do you even know why this was no good? That’s because a superior is having a conversation. Interrupting it from the side is very disrespectful, you know?”

I watched as Albert got scolded, and checked Katalina too.

She drank tea as she nodded continuously.

I see now. This woman is very strict when it comes to manners.

“You did understand, right? If you did, then start preparing for *that!*”

“He-here?”

The nurse-san glared at the troubled Albert and took something out.

.....Urm, isn't it a breach of manners for a woman to take something out from a breast pocket?

This troubled me deeply, but I didn't say anything.

That's because I never thought she would take out a thorned whip from that spot.

"Zest-sama, do you know about the kemonobito folk's expression of affection?"

"Yo-you use a whip for that, right? Go ahead, go ahead."

"I don't mind it either-nya. Please go ahead-nya."

Because the permission was given unanimously, the mongrel had no other choice but to sit on the floor in a seiza position.

Are you all right? Your face is ghastly pale, you know? Do you hate it that much?

"Then, excuse me. Well now, let's confirm our affection as you repeat what you just learned!"

".....I'm counting on you."

With a smile on her face like that of a holy woman, Meril wielded the whip,

and as she hit him vigorously enough that blood oozed out, Albert kept on replying *'Thank you very much!'*.

I drank tea as I watched this strange spectacle.

“Say, Katalina.....Was this within your expectation?”

“As one would expect, this was unforeseen-nya. But, this way he'll definitely remember this-nya.”

I looked at Katalina, who kept her calm but was in fact trembling, and I thought again.

The reason why there are few kemonobito nobles is also for this strange practice.

At first sight, it looks very abnormal.

I must hurry Suu to finish that handbook.....But I didn't have time to keep thinking of this.....

“Then, the last repetition.”

“I cannot interrupt the conversation of someone who has a superior court rank!!”

“You did good. Let's stop here then.”

“Thank you very much!”

The animal training.....I mean, the expression of affection ended.

Meril sweated a little, though she soon returned to her gentle smile.

You can't even imagine that she just a moment ago hit her husband with a whip.....Which is her true nature, I wonder?

“For the time being, we'll go with this plan. Also, I don't mind if you bring your child to the office with you.”

“Eeh!? Something like that.....Is it really all right with you-nya?”

“My child? Your excellency, that is.....but.....”

Aah, so you don't usually bring your children to your work place in this world?

Then, I'll add this to the features of my dominion.

“A nursery school.....Let's make preparations to build a place where many children are taken care of and where people work as educators. A territory with few children has no future. Let's put this in practice on my dominion, so that people won't worry about having children anymore.”

“I see-nya. Your excellency expresses the importance of population-nya.”

“A nursery school?.....Leaving nobles aside, this is more than welcome for commoners.”

“I will also introduce the maternity leave. Such trivial concerns will bring prosperity to my dominion.....”

We were about to have a very unlikely good talk, when someone knocked on the door with just the usual timing.

Incidentally, the mongrel used up all his strength and was currently knocked out.

“Your excellency, the sister came to see you.....What shall we do?”

.....Since I troubled her during Bea’s delivery, I can’t ignore her now.

I ordered for the junky sister to be led to the reception room.

.....Again.....It is time for a cryptanalysis.

Chapter 146: A Trap Called Custom

“Katalina, come with me. Meril, what will you do? Are you going back for now?”

“No, I have something to talk with you.....Could I wait here?”

“All right. I’ll be back as soon as the meeting with the sister ends, so you can take your time and relax until then.”

She sat right next to the still collapsed Albert; I took Katalina with me and went to the reception room.

Being alone with the sister in a locked room is kind of scary.

To say nothing of the fact that she’s the next Pope-sama.....I’m glad Katalina is here.

“We’ve kept you waiting. Sister.....You helped us a lot during Bea’s delivery.”

“Thank you for your consideration-nya.”

This was a proud way of talking but it can’t be helped for an archduke.

Instead, Katalina said an expression of thanks.

If I were to say it, it would've been all sorts of problematic.

“No, it was only natural since this was God’s intent. The trees in which small birds take shelter from rain don’t say anything. The same goes for the huge trees which look up at the clear sky. Also, the dark clouds let the rain fall above the ground evenly.....Your excellency, Archduke Zest, what do you think of this rain?”

I was confused by the junky talk just now.

Moreover, I was asked a question.....I have no idea what to answer.

On the side, Katalina’s eyes were wide open. It seems that she didn’t understand either.

“Right. The rain?.....It brings blessings, but, at the same time, it also brings calamity. In short, it has a bipolar meaning, right? Sister, do you have any word of advice for me?”

Shocked, Katalina turned around to look at me.

You get surprised too easily, you know? I just said this casually. I didn’t understand a thing the sister said, so don’t get your hopes too high.

“You are just like Pope-sama described you in the letter.....This was a wonderful answer. A miracle born from God’s power.”

She said and made a praying pose.

It appears that my answer was correct.....Oi, understanding your words and giving you an answer turns this into a miracle?

Besides, did she receive a letter from that fridge?

“In a house where land beings and sea beings coexist, trials will often happen. The sea dwellers can’t always grant water. Also, it can’t be said that the sea people don’t need water!”

This....I can’t catch up with her words.....

Still, she kind of seems different today, doesn’t she? She looks like she wants to convey something important to me, but I have no clue about the meaning.

“Trials, huh?.....Katalina, what do you think?”

“Nya!?”

Maybe because the sister looked at her, wearing a rare serious expression on her face, or maybe because I suddenly brought her into this discussion, Katalina’s shoulders shook a little.

“Ri-right-nya. Let’s deal with them immediately, your excellency.”

“As expected from Katalina. Sister, please rest assured.”

“Aah! I feel like the first time when I entered a chapel. The wind which slides over the calm water surface and swings the trees’ leaves must feel this way too. In delight, the forest trees grow new buds. Even though it’s not necessary.”

At Katalina’s reply, the sister returned this, smiling and nodding.....She was probably very pleased.....Probably.

Is this something that we have to hurry to deal with? This I understood clearly.

Since lately, I am quite in close terms with the sister, she came to warn me, I wonder?

“So, what did she mean in the end? I didn’t understand a thing!”

“.....Me too.....I didn’t understand what she said-nya!”

“.....”

“.....”

Alone in the reception room, Katalina and I stared at each other without saying a word.

“I can’t criticize you since I didn’t understand either, but.....there must have been other ways to answer that question. The way you did, it seemed like we completely understood the situation, you know?”

“Forgive me-nya. She looked different than usual so I felt agitated.....”

We returned to my office, but the problem wasn't resolved.

And I can't go the sister to ask her about this again.....This is troubling.

“Your excellency. You seem busy so we can talk another day if you want.”

Meril said in a low voice.

No, no. Since I'm going back to the country of elves, we have to talk now, otherwise I don't know when we can do this again.

“It's all right. We'll do this now. This problem won't get solved no matter how much we worry about it, so don't mind it.”

“Understood. I said I wanted to consult with you, but in fact it is about me and Albert's married couple's business.”

Without thinking, I spurt out the tea inside my mouth.

Katalina coughed too.

Ma-married couple's business.....What the heck is she trying to say.....

“Your excellency, are you all right?”

“Listen, Meril. Are YOU all right? Talking about a married couple’s business, you know.”

“So this is what they call a natural airhead-nya! It’s scary-nya!”

She gapped at my and Katalina’s words, but she seemed to understand the meaning, because her face turned bright red.

Flustered, she kept waving her hands and she talked.

“It-it’s different! I wanted to say marital relationship.”

“Hm? How is this different? You two got married because you liked each other, didn’t you?”

“Yes. Since I am a human, I learned a little about the kemonobito people’s customs, for his sake. However, I can’t put up with this anymore.”

“Yeah. Many couples of humans and kemonobito on our territory don’t seem to get along too well-nya.”

Is that so? Well, there are many mixed couples on my territory.

Also, I got reports recently that this has started to give birth to all sorts of problems.

I never imagined that a noble like Meril would ever talk about this.

“Well, calm down now. Why do you think like this? Did Albert cheat on you? Should I cut off one of his arms?”

“No, it is my fault! He did nothing wrong!”

She cried as she took out the whip from her chest region.

As I said before, that place is not a container.

“This is the cause. I can’t put up with whipping him anymore. I hate it.”

“.....Well, they have some frightening customs.”

“You didn’t seem happy before, your face looked rather hollow-nya.”

“Katalina, what will happen if you stop using the whip? From the kemonobito folk’s point of view?”

“That’s.....Being all right while getting whipped is also for display-nya. It’s impossible not to do it-nya. But, if not a whip, then something painful is all right too-nya.”

“I see.....So you have to hit hard? You can’t do it lightly?”

“Among kemonobito, it is an unspoken agreement that they go easy on each

other. However, since humans usually hit them hard, this result often turns out-nya.”

“Eeh!? You can hit them lightly too!?”

Surprised, Meril stood up and she shouted.

“That’s right-nya. Even though it looks like the partner hits hard, the agreement is that they go easy on the other-nya. Still, a kemonobito will never talk about this-nya. It’s.....because our race’s pride-nya.”

“I can’t believe this.....I thought that my affection for Albert will be perceived depending on how strong I hit him.....”

“Well, men want to honor such things-nya. It’s really a troublesome custom-nya.”

“Then, maybe if you’ll tell me more about it.....”

“It’s prohibited for other people to talk about it-nya. This is a married couple’s talk, so, if I say more than a piece of advice, I’d be treated like I’m meddling into something that is none of my business-nya.”

Such a troublesome custom.....It’s full of traps.....

We must do something, otherwise it might turn ugly.

“A display, huh?.....For example, if we created something like this.....”

I explained my plan to both of them.

I folded a piece of paper and explained, and the girls sat down, listening to me.

Once I created and used that thing in practice, their excitement rose to a climax.

“This is amazing-nya! We must mass-produce this right away-nya!”

“This way I’ll be all right too! Thank you very much, your excellency!”

“I know I came up with this myself, but is this truly enough to solve this matter?”

Because they were kind of too happy, I pulled back a little. The girls’ tension was at a max level.

“This is a ground-breaking invention-nya. Your excellency, this means hope for all the mixed couples-nya!”

“If I had this from the beginning, we wouldn’t have come to this.....Your excellency, please give your permission for all couples on your dominion to use this thing!”

“Ah, yeah. I don’t mind. Everyone can use this to their heart’s content. Is this all? Then, I’d like to go to Bea and Whis’ place if you don’t mind.....”

“Please, please-nya.”

“We won’t let anyone intrude. Please take your time and relax.”

And so, I managed to spend the rest of my time here with my family. This refreshed my spirit.

The time spent with my wife and holding my baby in my arms.....In order to protect his happiness, I’ll have to deal with the country of elves quickly!

I thought about this again.

Several days later, by the time I left for the country of elves, the new item was announced in grand fashion all throughout my dominion.

At that time, the following announcement was spread and it addressed everyone in my name, causing a major uproar.

And.....this is also connected to the incident that happened later.....

‘This is to inform all mixed couples

I know about the kemonobito folk’s custom to use a whip on the partner in order to show sincerity and bravery.

We must value this custom and we need to tell the future generations about it.

However, hitting the partner with a whip is halfhearted.

Since I prepared for you a new weapon from a different world, you will use it to show your affection even more.

This doesn't mean you will cast aside tradition. This will become the new tradition and custom on my entire dominion. Therefore, worrying is useless.

Take the initiative and use this at your hearts' content, as a custom in the Tarminal region.

However, be warned that during the use, loud voices will come out.

Grun Empire, Archduke, 1st Rank Imperial Mage, Zest-Gaiyus-Tarminal'

"Oi, this means the end of us!"

"Yeah, a weapon from a different world.....I'll definitely die."

"Until now we were close to that too.....What will happen from now on....."

In order to confirm the use and strength of this new weapon, a few people were called and gathered in front of my mansion.

The one selected were all married kemonobito people.

They all had human wives and husbands.

They all stood in rows with pale faces.

In front of them, the fully armed black knights and war maidens prepared their weapons.

“Are you ready-nya? Then, start-nya!”

At Katalina’s order, they all wielded their weapons simultaneously.

These were trained elite soldiers.....They couldn’t even compare to the wives and husbands of the people gathered here.

However, this was his excellency’s orders so no one could oppose this.....The participants quickly gritted their teeth.

Zbaaan!!

A dry excellent sound drifted about the entire plaza.

The onlookers and the participants’ spouses covered their faces.

This sound.....sounded like nothing they've heard before.

The participants can't possibly be all right after this.....

".....Hmm?"

"I-I am alive?"

"Eh? Did something happen just now?"

The black knights holding the weapons murmured to the blankly looking participants.

"This is the foreign weapon that his excellency created. There is no better thing to show one's spirit other than this. Its power is precisely as you felt it. This is his excellency's consideration towards you.....From now on, this is what your partners will use."

Dumbfounded, the participants received the new weapon and they started to slowly comprehend this unthinkable situation.

"This doesn't hurt as much as the whip!"

"Aah, there's not even a need to go easy on us!"

"This way we can protect our kemonobito pride!!"

“From now on the whip is banned-nya! This new weapon, the harisen, will be used for the kemonobito folk’s custom-nya!”

“ “ “ “Your excellency archduke Zest, banzai!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” “ “ “

The savior of mixed couples.....If we are to get married, then we better go live on the archduke’s dominion!

Such rumors spread, which became the trigger of the explosive population growth on my territory; people started to immigrate here from many nations.

Chapter 147: A new mansion

"Yareyare, we finally returned to the elven country. Albert"

"Your excellency, I'm really thankful. Thanks to you I'm saved"

When I returned to the country of elves, once we got off the plaza, instead of the castle, we were guided to a mansion in one corner of the city, but it is quite a mansion? It wasn't quite a territory mansion, but it was more luxurious and bigger than a nobility mansion of the imperial capital

"Do not mind, if you can work with a piece of mind, then this is nothing"

"Ha!"

While Albert was formally saluting me, I entered the mansion. Prince Mars and Tsubaki welcomed me at the entrance.

"Thank you for your trouble, this is a nice residence."

"Welcome back, foster father. The prime minister agreed to arrange it for you."

"Thanks for your hard work, father-in-law. That old hag... Master said it was better to have a mansion, so we arranged it."

Fumu... Since my subordinates increased, Kachua wants a place where we are

able to scheme, and prime minister's interests matched since he wanted to apologize for his situation however, this kind of mansion aren't usually vacant.

"So... Who was the original owner of this mansion?"

"Yes, this was my mansion...but I don't need it anymore."

The prince that answered while looking down a bit.

Really? If you become a king then you won't any use for this house... I wonder if you remembered your father's death.

"Actually, I built a new mansion! One that is suitable for receiving Tsubaki, and draws a line with this old-fashioned mansion... Guughho!!"

"Really, prince Mars. We cannot give such an old-fashioned mansion to foster father. Surely, this must be a misunderstanding."

She made a single blow to his stomach with a smile on her face.

You got a lot of work ahead of you, Tsubaki.

"That's right, I guess he needs to be more considerate... my son-in-law that is. You need to avoid saying unnecessary things"

"Ye... Yes, i will be careful."

"Foster father, I will thoroughly educate him! I will make use of the iron fan that I received from foster mother"

At formal places with the iron fan, at informal places with the bardiche, it seems the custom was successfully passed down... Good luck, my son-in-law.

"Your excellency is that okay? about the iron fan of the next queen..."

"Albert, about Bea's gift? you weren't about to say something against it... were you?"

"Yes! It's extremely suitable, I was wondering if prince Mars needed to be appropriately equipped as his excellency son-in-law"

"I guess so... he'll probably be."

While having such exchange, three men were headed towards the living room with a heavy footsteps.

"Hey, Albert, can you hear it?"

"Yes! I can hear it. Your excellency, please take care."

"Huh? I don't hear anything."

"Foster father can strengthen his hearing with magical power, there should not be anyone in this office. "

We arrive in front of the office, and stop in front of the door.

There seems to be a suspicious individual inside... to be able to sneak inside this mansion one must have considerable ability.

Battle maids, black knights and the intelligence unit are stationed here.

Any normal person would be found immediately and killed

"There is just one person, isn't that careless? Albert, protect Tsubaki, the other party looks weaker than me, but it looks like it will be difficult. You guys probably wouldn't be able to win."

"Yes! i will concentrate on defense. Lady Tsubaki, Prince Mars please get behind me."

Albert prepares to withdraw the sword from his waist.

Huh? Were you able to strengthen your body with magical power?! Well done!!

"Isn't that a really difficult technique? You're the first person i see that uses it aside from master... Well done"

"Because I decided to become your Excellency's shield. If i can't at least manage this then I'm disqualified."

"Beautiful control of magical power! It's amazing, Albert."

"Tsu!?A-Albert can do this too!!"

The two in the back of Albert become stunned.

Why? It was a little frustrating... I guess i can't call him a mongrel anymore.

"Okay, lets proceed."

I watch Albert just before opening the door.

He nodded, and I opened my door and jumped in while strengthening my magical power!

What I saw there... was a fridge settled in the middle of a luxurious room...

"... What are you doing here?"

Making *Garann* sounds it turns around. A Refrigerator.

There is no doubt ... this guy is Garbera...

"This... fellow... It moves..."

"The... the magic tool moved by itself... What is it?"

"You two, please fall back! It's dangerous."

Albert stays vigilant, but if it's this guy then it's alright.

Prince Mars, stop what you're saying since it's rude.

"It's Zest! at last you returned, I've been waiting!"

"I-it talked!?"

"It's a girl?!"

"I-is it one of your excellency's acquaintances?"

To Garbera speaking while making a rattling sound, this guys are surprised.

Well, it's only natural when a refrigerator speaks and moves like this.

"Yeah, you don't need to be on guard because I know this guy. Why are you here? Garbera."

"It is awful! Even though a girl is crying, they ignore her! It's a devil!"

A fridge that rattles while moving the door with a pitter-patter

As usual it is a surreal sight ... and even if it is said that she is crying, how should I judge?

"Gerbera, even if I am told that you're crying, it seems to me that you're just rattling and the door just fluttering?"

"That's it! The sound is automatic ice making! That is my tears!"

"I-is that so? So the ice spilling since a little while ago... that... Cheer up."

"Well, I will forgive you. Instead, I want you to defrost me later!"

Was it in a good mood? the rattling sounds disappeared when Garbera talks.

Three people with dot eyes were watching behind me.

Aa, I guess they need an explanation. But the things about the Pope must remain hidden.

"Everyone, this is Garbera the Spirit. She's also a friend of Toto."

"Nice to meet you, I'm Garbera, you can also call me Pope!"

Hey, is it okay to say that? There is no meaning to try to cover it now...

With the remarks that seemed to be extraordinarily confusing, the office was wrapped in silence.

"Were you Pope Garbera? I'm sorry I did something impolite, I'm Crown Prince Mars. This is my fiancée..."

"I'm Zest adoptive daughter Tsubaki, nice to meet you."

"I'm Garbera. My best regards to both of you! I usually don't speak like this because of my appearance like grandmother... but it's alright if you're Zest's children."

Perhaps it is in a good mood, the refrigerator seems to have fun speaking

I have to introduce him too.

"Garbera, this is my right hand man."

"I'm Albert, your Holiness."

"Nice to meet you! Make sure you protect Zest."

It is a mysterious the sight of nobles greeting a refrigerator, the other party is the Pope though...

I guess this type of situations are bound to happen if I'm to maintain a close relationship with sacred country Lilac

"Pope Garbera being a spirit is a secret, treat it with utmost confidentiality"

""Yes!""

"Certainly, foster father."

"So, why was Garbera in this room? this is unusual..."

"Oh, I will explain that. I came as a magic tool pretending to be a gift from the Holy Country of Lilac."

Oh so she just mimicked a magic tool and came here...

Mimicry... What?

"It was hard! i was touched in the butt, i was really embarrassed but I endured it!"

Where is her ass? I need a moment to process all this.

And there shouldn't any idiot who is pleased by touching a refrigerator's ass.

"We-well... that was awful... Although now I understand the circumstances, why go through such a thing? Is something the matter?"

The refrigerator opens its doors with a *pakatsu*

Maybe she just remembered

"That's right! There was something i wanted to tell directly to you!"

The refrigerator tells me with her open door towards me while spreading cold.

"Congratulations! Zest's daughter... Wisteria was chosen to be the spirit princess! So the spirits will always be by Zest's and Bea's side. They'll be able to befriend Wis that way! Everybody wins!"

I felt like being hit by a cold wind...

Spirits... their princess??

My daughter who seems to have been recognized as a mysterious princess...
What will happen to Wis' future?

I... I do not seem to be able to escape from hardship

Chapter 148: Wis' title

"So, Gerbera. Princess of the Spirit? What is that exactly?"

We sat on the sofa take out the pudding from the fridge and sit

It's not a time to eat... But Garbera was pretty insistent about it,

so I will eat while I ask.

"Ufufu, Spirit princess is someone who can use both light and dark magic! Being near her is really comfortable."

She says while rocking the meat compartment with a rattling sound.

... No, I wonder if this counts as puffing her chest.

"So, when she becomes a princess... will there be something like constraints or obligations?"

"There's not such a thing! It just means that she's someone whom all spirits will cherish."

Oh, then I welcome it.

Something like having her fiancée arranged or the like, It seems it isn't

something like that.

"Really. Then, is it okay if she has a normal life?"

"That's right. If the spirits can come and play with her, they'll be really happy!"

"It will be fine if it is about that. I will convey it to my territory as well."

"Please do. I wish to meet her soon!"

There's a rattling sound, it seems that Garbera's ice making is at full throttle.

... Didn't you say that the ice making was your tears? Ahh, I don't feel like making a tsukkomi anymore

"I understood the gist of the story, but did you really come to this country just for that?"

"Since I was invited to the wedding it was just right. I couldn't refuse since it is the wedding of Zest's adopted daughter."

The refrigerator said while making another pudding.

It seems that it is just in Tsubaki's strike zone, her momentum while eating is terrifying.

"Oh, there's one more thing to tell you"

"... It won't be something more surprising than the thing of the spirit princess just now, will it?"

While closing its door with a *batan* the refrigerator says with even more power in its words

"In Lilac Wisteria will be acknowledged as a spirit shrine maiden. That child's enemies will be the enemies of the holy country of Lilac! She will definitely be safe!"

"... I guess that can't be refused."

With this, His majesty the emperor will have his worries increased by one.

This time it is not my fault, His majesty will have to give up on this one.

"Master, please slow down. To make an agreement of protection with the holy country of Lilac just after returning... Do you plan on waging war against the empire?"

"Suu, what are you expecting from me..."

After the refrigerator drops a bomb, we start talking about the future inside the office

Prince and Tsubaki said "We are afraid that this conversation is too big for us, we will go back for today." and exited.

I guess... they just dumped the whole trouble to me.

"Then, you should immediately inform the imperial capital. Even the appearance of the spirit princess is important. There is a need to acknowledge the new holy country's "spirit shrine maiden" It's the first time there's one since the legendary saint of the scriptures. Unless you send Albert as messenger to notify His majesty the emperor, this will become troublesome."

"T-to be such an important thing... It seems my studies in religion were not enough."

I saw Suu appealing with a serious look, it made me realize the importance of the situation.

The sole religion of this world are the teachings of the holy country of Lilac.

Just thinking that my daughter will be put in the same position as the saint in their scriptures makes me shudder.

"Perhaps, isn't this too outrageous?"

"It is, so we must proceed accordingly"

"That's right... in the empire they are too conscious of powerful beings, but the elf country there shouldn't be any problems."

"Your friendship with the holy country is already firmly established. Some people will start to say that there is no need to belong to the empire with this. Even more, there is an increasing number of aristocrats that try to draw close to Master. And isn't there's already a long line of people that wish to arrange a marriage with young lady Wis?"

"If someone wants to marry Wis, they will have to beat me first. I will never approve it!"

"Master, that kind of line will make you disliked by your daughter. Please be careful."

Suu told me while she was preparing tea.

So I will be hated... Yosh, lets try to defeat the challenger in secret.

"I will avoid being disliked. So, what comes after notifying His Majesty?"

"Likewise we need to inform lord Katalina, and the Frontier Count. I guess there will be a need for various preparations."

"Understood. I will write a letter for His Majesty. I will entrust the rest to you."

"Certainly!"

With this I guess we can wrap up the matters regarding Wis for the time

being.

Although it became troublesome, if we regard it in terms of her safety safety, it will be perfect.

"What about the report from the intelligence unit?"

"Yes, the Prime Minister seems to be busy preparing for the wedding. He can not deal with our movements at the moment. It seems that 50% of the nobles supporting the prime minister can be taken in"

She picks up paper from her pocket and starts reporting

Since Suu basically keeps track of everything, it has become easy since she can brief me on everything.

"If thing goes on like this, the problems of the country of elves will be easily solved. However, the Prime Minister doesn't seem like the kind of person that will lose without fighting. He prepares carefully to have certain victory, his latest setbacks will make him more cautious... negligence is forbidden."

"Do you think he has a hidden card...?"

Because I am trying to aim at the royalty of one country, I wonder if I am confident enough.

It is certainly dangerous to get careless.

"Besides the intelligence troops, the new recruits... are they being useful?"

"The cross dressers? They are quite excellent. They are perfect for information gathering and plotting."

That's right... their etiquette is top notch, and judging from appearances alone, they are beautiful.

Many would be attracted to them... Only to suffer serious damage when they find the truth.

It is horrible just to think about it.

"There might be a problem with having cross dressers at our territory. What is their interaction with the rest of my people like?"

"They are doing fine under the supervision of lord Media and lord Tasel."

"That's fine. give them my praises for their good job."

"I will definitely convey your words."

I have one cookie and drink tea.

Sweet things are great when one's tired.

"Is there anything else?"

"There are a lot of applications for visits from high-ranking aristocrats in other countries attending the wedding ceremony. Please check back later."

The list she handed up was really heavy.

Do i need to meet so many? Isn't it okay to reduce the list?

"They were all carefully selected, we can't reduce them anymore."

"Oh, okay."

After coming back to the country of elves, for a while it seems that it has become an interview festival

It seems it will continue until Tsubaki's wedding... Haa~...

"..."

"Thank you for your hard work. All the visits are now completed ... for today's minute portion"

It really is! When you look at the schedule at hand, there is still much more!

Even though those are my thoughts, my voice doesn't come out

20 meetings are too many for a single day...

"Hey, about the amount of meetings per day..."

"If you reduce them you will not finish in time for the wedding. I'm thinking about Master."

"if we make a ball instead of meetings, I could speak to all of them in one stroke."

"You would have to dance with the ladies. Wouldn't that make it an extra effort?"

As you said ... Becoming so tired with just the male, if I have to also attend their female partners, I will certainly die.

"Ask for the meetings."

"Certainly."

Suu prepares black tea... or not, it is a herbal tea.

Ohh... It has a healing fragroance.

"This is good. My fatigue seems to be lighter."

"It is a gift from His Majesty the Emperor. It is for alleviating worries."

Majesty! Thank you!

With this, it will be a little bit easier.

"I should write a thank you letter."

"It seems it came with a request to arrange a fiancée for young lady Wis."

"... There's no need for a thank you letter."

"Understood."

Albert delivered my letter as a messenger, it seems he collapsed to his knees the moment he read it.

It seems the letter that was handed to His Majesty made him to age at least 10 years.

"You, absolutely stop the rebellion."

It was written with a shaky handwriting.

Your Majesty, I'm already doing that so please be relieved.

"Apart from the joke, Wis' marriage partner may be royalty"

"Would that be so strange? Anyway it's okay, that is still a talk for the future."

"Political marriage... I have my doubts since it was not a thing in my former world, will she be able to find happiness?"

"Master, Didn't you also married for political reasons? Are you not happy?"

That was That was the case, but now I love Bea, I am thinking too much?

"It's useless to be worried she will find a person you like without permission, worrying is just a waste. Young lady Wis will say "This man is good!" will you be able to go against it then?"

"...That's impossible. I won't concede."

"Then you have to think about that moment. Won't that overprotection will case her to hate you?"

"I see ... Girls are difficult."

While doing such a conversation, I will also check the schedule for tomorrow.

I wake up in the morning and have meetings until I go to bed.

When listening to the voice of Sue who reads the next interview partner, it becomes noisy at the other side of the door for some reason.

"Excuse me, Your Excellency. Court mage Kachua wants to meet you."

"May I come in? Don't refuse me, let me get through."

"Yes!"

While saluting, Albert left the room, Kachua came in at once.

She seems to be breathless though, is it something urgent?

"Sorry for barging in at such a time. But by any means listen to me!"

Ignoring noble etiquette, she suddenly brings up the main theme.

Is it that urgent?

I guess I'm about to find out.

"What's the matter? What made Kachua to hurry like that?"

Kachua who took a deep breath to adjust it stared straight at me and said

"I'd like you to make me a daughter of the Grand Duke Zest! As a daughter, I want you to stay by your side!"

No one present was ready for the words of this loli-granny and we all ended up frozen solid.

Is it your purpose to become a family member? Or do you want to escape from the elves' country? No, if that was the case, wasn't it enough to ask for asylum?

Albert was the first person to utter a word.

"Your excellency... will there be candles for birthday cake? In that case Kachua's cake might need to be as big as the hall."

Albert, that's not the main problem here.

Chapter 149: Towards the wedding ceremony

"So you received a letter from Pope Garbera telling you to act as an escort in the position of my daughter... Is that right?"

"As a daughter of the Archduke, I will persevere! As for the country of elves, As long as Archduke Zest is alive everything will be alright."

"Master, is this really okay?"

"Fufu~, aiming to reach new heights aren't you?"

When I asked the reason for Kachua to barge in and request to become my adoptive daughter, she gave me a reason I could not refuse.

It seems it was a request from the refrigerator... But Kachua also got her reasons.

"It can't be helped, since it is Garbera's request... And Albert, you don't know what you are talking about so shut up."

"Indeed I've known her since the olden days. You cannot refuse this request."

Kachua says while folding her arms, but aren't those her true thoughts?

I saw the letter from the refrigerator for sure but... That's not the only reason.

Aside from me taking care of the country of elves, the adoption also serves for her self-protection.

"Well, setting aside the official reason... Shall we hear the true reason, My daughter."

"Ah, it's been hundreds of years since someone has called me his daughter."

This granny is that is reminiscing with a light feeling will become my daughter... hundreds of years, how old are you really.

I asses the situation while using healing magic on Albert whose face has swollen to more than double of its original size.

This mongrel obviously became like this after being blown away by Kachua.

"Kachua be a good child and tell me."

Even after I finished the treatment there was no response from the loli, so I turned around and spoke.

Thinking that she was still in the middle of reminiscing her face had actually turned serious.

Was it a mistake to treat her as a child?

"Once more, i want you to say it."

"...Be a good child and tell me."

"While calling my name, do it once again while patting my head!"

I wonder whether she's getting angry or not!

Such a difficult loli... Do you like being treated like a child that much?

"Kachua, be a good child and tell me."

"Okay! I want to marry soon and have children. But in the elven country there are only old partners, so archduke Zest... no, papa, i believe that if I'm with you I'll be able to get married to a young man!"}

I feel my head hurt... to be the father this granny and being called "papa" like that.

The one that taught her such word... it could only be that refrigerator.

Moreover, her main goal seem to be that I find her a fiancée.

"Hey Kachua, is that the real reason for us to become parent and child? to become my adoptive daughter for such reason..."

"Such a reason? What a thing to say! Every single day, those old men come to

me asking for me to become their second wife, men don't understand that feeling. Really, how old do they think you are, uh?"

The reason is ridiculous.

You are probably the older one...

"Besides, papa has few pieces for political marriage, isn't it fine for me to become one?"

"I won't deny it. But, is it okay?"

"Certainly, there's that part about politics. But even so... I'm a girl too!"

I wonder if there are many girls like you.

I want to be praised since I was able to digest this conversation.

"Finally there is a person who I can entrust the affairs of the country of elves. For the first time I can focus on finding a partner and raising a child! If I miss this opportunity I... I..."

"Master, this is too pitiful to keep hearing."

"Your excellency, we must do something. When I think that your daughter has been single for several hundreds of years, tears won't stop flowing... Please, be lenient."

"... No need to cry, I understood. I will adopt her."

In front of the three tearful people, I could only agree.

The loli-granny that has been single for hundreds of years, has become my adopted daughter like this.

...

"Master, Albert is back from the imperial capital. Here's the letter from His Majesty."

About Kachua's adoption, Albert became a messenger again to inform the imperial capital.

Nowadays important news are becoming common sale.

But these news might be bad for His majesty's stomach.

"Got it, I have trouble you with consecutive travels to the imperial capital. It's fine if you take it easy for a while."

"Yes! I appreciate your kind words, I will rest for a bit."

In this short while, Albert has flown back and forth to the imperial capital, as one would expect he's already worn out.

He exited the office with a bad complexion.

There seems to be no verbal message... Was everything written in the letter?

I open the envelope and confirm its contents

Good job!

Since elves' first court magician is now your adopted daughter, are you in need of a marriage partner for her?

My son is unmarried, are you interested?

The empire's ties with the country of elves and also our bonds will be deepened! Look forward to it.

It's different from last time, His Majesty seems mostly pleased.

It's too early to talk about Wis' marriage, it's a possibility I am afraid of.

Even if one is to be married with an adopted daughter, it is enough for deterrence and ties.

"Is there another child besides His Majesty's heir?"

"No, as far as i know the Crown Prince is His Majesty's only son."

Suu answered while preparing black tea as if saying it was something ordinary

... Is he pretending to make Kachua the Empress? that must not be it.

Or else, I wonder if he'll present an illegitimate child.

"Maintain this matter as a secret. It might become a ruckus if information gets out about an illegitimate child."

"Certainly, I will do so. Should we keep it a secret even from lady Kachua?"

"That will probably be for the best. If she learns about the matter she will probably grab a dragon and charge to meet her partner."

"Master's daughters tend to be tomboyish. We must make sure Lady Wis to be a graceful lady."

"It will be okay, Katalina is her nanny, she will give Wis appropriate education."

"Lord Katalina is also a master of martial arts..."

"" ... ""

Maybe I made the wrong decision... Thinking like that, the day in the country

of elves ended.

...

"Master, tomorrow is finally the day of lady Tsubaki's wedding ceremony. She will be coming today."

"Here? To this residence? What for?"

Suu told me this after I finished the interviews with foreign nobles and came back to the office.

The mansion prepared by Prince Mars is big and the number of rooms is reasonable.

Tsubaki lives in her room accompanied by an exclusive maid.

"Master, it is the custom for when a woman gets married. Did you forget?"

"... I thought that matter didn't concern me anymore."

I answer while drinking tea, she lets out a sigh.

It's a shame to see her that disappointed.

"In the night before the wedding ceremony parent and child sleep together. Even adopted children are not exception, are they?"

"Indeed, Bea said master was crying at that time."

For master to act like that, it isn't hard to imagine.

Being such a doting father to Bea... should I invite him to drink together?

"Therefore, make preparations, please."

"What is there to prepare? It's fine if we just arrange another bed."

'Haa~' just like that Suu lets out a big sigh without even trying to conceal it.

Oi, it's bad to do that in front of your master... Maybe I am too weak-willed?

"Aren't you going to sleep in the same bed? Sleeping separately is meaningless. Master, Master Sonia should have taught you this."

"Wait, I haven't heard about that! Master Sonia never told me that much."

Kyoton Suu was really surprised, but her face tightens quickly as if she noticed something.

"Usually this is the duty of the mother so maybe that's why you were not told. Please be relieved, I will teach you for now."

"That's not what I'm worried about..."

"When the mother is not present, it is common for the father to participate as a substitute. Of course, since the rest of the family will participate... This time there will be three people."

"Well, is that so? Is that normal? When you say three people, Tsubaki, Kachua, and me... What kind of combination is that."

While holding such a thought in my head, the door is knocked and Media comes in.

She is supposed to be escorting Tsubaki, so probably this has to do with tonight's event.

"Your Excellency, congratulations for today! Please enjoy this last night."

"Hey, Media, is it okay for a male parent to stay with her daughter? Is that normal?"

I'm probably feeling shaken.

Why you ask, normally things such as common sense are unrelated to Media, still I decided to cross-examine with her.

"Huh? Oh, It's alright. The night before the wedding ceremony is considered a family party. There's nothing to complain or be suspicious about."

"Is it really alright? I wouldn't want to be scolded by Bea later on..."

"There's nothing to worry about. Even servants and maids participate in the eve of the wedding. Of course only women. With the exception of His Excellency who is the only male that can participate."

Is that so, doesn't this sound like a nightmare-like thing where the female servants and members from the family gather together!

If that's the case Bea won't get angry... probably.

"I even prepared new night clothes for tonight. Ah, I'm looking forward to it."

Saying so while laughing, Media starts discussing tonight's schedule with Suu.

It seems she has planned to some extent beforehand, and she exited the room after a few minutes.

While listening to the conversation, it seems that it is an event where you spend the last night as single at home at home while eating sweets.

There must be people who do the same thing in Japan, but it is not at customs level.

"Master, is there something on your mind?"

"I was just thinking that the customs of this world are interesting. There are

still things I don't know about."

Drinking the new tea that Suu just prepared, I breathe out.

But i felt that I was forgetting something.

Suu seems to be the same, she's making a difficult face.

""...Ah!""

We raised their voices at exactly the same time, ran to the door and opened it wildly.

"Someone get that fool, Media! Tell that fool that he cannot participate in tonight's event!"

"Someone, retrieve Lord Media's night clothes! Hurry up!"

A few minutes later, Media who was bitten by a dragon, was brought back to the office.

"Y-Your Excellency. I... understood... Therefore... to be... handled in a dragon's... mouth... it's unreasonable... unless it's lord Albert"

Media managed to say that much while being covered in her own blood and twitching.

For now I apply her healing magic... Unless discretion is taught from this time, some deceased will comes out... I'm sorry Media

Chapter 150: Enjoyable wedding eve ceremony

"You guys. It is no good if you play with others with the same roughness as you play with Albert."

"Hahaha, she was full of blood with just a bit of play-biting. Media still lacks training."

After treating Media's wounds, I was preaching the dragons in the mansion's courtyard.

for my subordinates it can be considered a form of training, but it would be bad if one of the foreign nobles that come to visit me ends up being play-bitten.

... Was that really play-biting? At least it is so in Albert's eyes.

"Albert, do not think on your standards. Even black knights will be hurt if they are attacked by the dragons"

"Your Excellency, that's a matter of the past. Now, most of the recruits have mastered body strengthening, so they will not be injured so easily."

"Is that so, I guess it is safe then... Huh?"

"Therefore, the black knights have mastered the magic of physical strengthening. It is not as good as mine, but if it is to the degree of a dragon's play-biting they will be unscathed."

Albert starts saying something dreadful.

In the empire's army strengthening magic is considered standard only at general class.

This is something that I learned after some time... this was the first magic that master taught me.

This isn't at the level of spartan training anymore.

Such a terrible master, really...

"I-is that so? Everyone is truly doing their best."

"Yes, I'm arranging a corps unit of "Dragon Knights" with people selected by the dragons. If give the order, they will show you that they can bring sown one or two cities by themselves!"

Albert was telling me this while making a smug face.

"How reliable. I'll be having high expectations."

"I'm thankful for your words!"

I decide to return to my room, leaving Albert who is sanding still in a saluting pose.

Having such an excess of war potential, it goes without saying that it won't lessen my headache.

I will get an earful from His majesty again...

...

"Thank you for your hard work, Master."

When I return to the office, Suu welcomes me.

It is the evening... No, it's right to say that it is already night.

"It's almost time for 'that' right? Let's finish work for today."

"It's the eve of the ceremony, Master. The preparations are underway, please go take a bath and change your clothes."

Let's obey and head to the bath.

It will be frightening to defy female-based events.

For no reason will I go against it.

The maid wash my body in the bath, but I'm no longer embarrassed by it.

It's amazing that I've gotten used to it...

...

"Oh? That was quite fast. Fufu, master is also looking forward to it, huh?"

"Yes. This seems to be an important event for female nobles. The maids were talking with passion about it."

I went back to my room and was called by Sue who was waiting.

The maids who helped me with bathing firmly spoke about the importance of tonight's ceremony.

Although it's only done by upper aristocracy, it seems it is something they yearn for.

"Since it is a form of yearning for noble women, so everyone is interested in it."

"I see. Nevertheless, why aren't you in sleepwear?"

That's right... I was expecting to see Suu in her pink pajamas.

She usually wears man clothings except for her pink nightwear... which isn't

there.

"I am a steward, master. My first priority is serving the household. Of course I will also participate."

"Is that so... Well, sorry for the trouble"

When she told me that, I apologized without thinking.

It wasn't because I was surprised by her menacing looks.

Unexpectedly, it was because it caught me off guard the nice odor coming from Suu who also just got out of the bath, and I was afraid of becoming too excited.

"There's no need to apologize. Now, let's go"

"O-Oh, I see."

Suu will not be the only one... Tonight's fight will be a long one...

Wait, There should only be Tsubaki, and Kachua! That should not be exciting!

I opened the door while thinking so, and was welcomed by the maiden troops in pajamas

"Fufufu, it is the beginning of a fun night."

Suu was laughing while saying this, but her eyes weren't

...Yeah, let's run away after all... that's what I swore in my heart.

"So, what happened after that?!"

"Err... then prince Mars said 'I love you' and the pendants..."

""""KYA~~!""""

It's something like that.

The night before the ceremony is a girls' party who become noisy disregarding social status.

... I'm completely out of place.

Tsubaki is telling stories to everyone, I'll just quietly suppress my presence.

If I get dragged, not even my bones will remain

"So that's the case. The words of an experienced person are certainly a good reference."

"Yeah, age doesn't matter in love, right? I have to work hard."

"Isn't it alright for Suu? Aren't there many men that wish to marriage you were you not a steward?"

"Tsubaki is still above me in this... getting a prince."

They have already disregarded any kind of polite speech.

More and more, I feel at a disadvantage... let's move gently to the corner of the room.

"Experienced, huh... Lets see, I would like to hear stories of papa!"

"Oh, that's right, Your Excellency... No, Zest, do you have any stories?"

"Fufufu, today it's not rude."

"I'd like to hear dear foster father's stories about his secret married life."

It seems it's finally come.

I'm flanked by war maidens on each side, and get dragged like a prisoner... over to the bed.

"Come now, papa. Resistance is useless!"

"Where did you fall in love with Beatrice?"

"Is the origin of Wis' name truly from your world?"

"Are you interested in Suu? You are always with such a cute girl."

Women keep coming up at me.

Honestly, there's a nice smell, it's soft, I wonder if it's actually a very happy situation.

... At least if I wasn't bombarded with questions.

However it seems that I can't just refuse and just keep being an observer.

Then, shall I answer carefully while keeping certain things to myself?

"Alright... Do you really want me to speak? Between Bea and me there's more than common love! You better not draw back even if you listen, absolutely don't!"

"KYA--!"

"Such a bold man"

"I wonder if it's true he carries Suu's panties around."

"Huh? Was Zest a Kemonobito?"

Like this, the public execution began.

The battle against Bea's suitors.

Toto's birth, and Tsubaki's engagement.

While trying to make it vague, Suu comes and explains in detail... you are too meticulous...

"It is not allowed to speak lazily at the eve of the marriage ceremony. You should firmly tell the actual facts. Besides, it is custom to keep secret the conversation in the eve of the marriage ceremony until the graveyard. There's no need to worry."

Is that so... Is it useless...?

But if it is meant to keep it confidential... Lets tell them everything! I've already made up my mind.

Due to my frank speech, the shrills and screams continued until morning...

"Good morning, foster father."

"Oh, good morning. You look tired. Come, I'll cast healing magic."

It seem that Tsubaki fell asleep at some point.

I never want to attend such a ceremony again, but I want to participate when it's for Wis... Would Bea accept? I need to consult this.

Kachua... will she be able to get married? leaving that aside, today is Tsubaki's wedding.

It will be bad if the main person of the wedding ceremony has dark circles in her eyes.

I stroke her head while applying healing magic.

"Well, Tsubaki. If you are ever unhappy yo can go back. If you send me a letter, I will come to pick you up on a dragon."

"Ufufu, foster father, is that a thing to say in the wedding day? I am fine."

Tsubaki, whose head I had been stroking for a while even after the magic light went off, softly bowed her head.

"Thanks to foster father, I can marry prince Mars. Really... Thank you very much."

"There were various things, but it was fun. You are my daughter. You can rely on me if something happens, alright? Become happy."

"Yes...Yes..."

Tsubaki starts shedding tears, but time doesn't wait for the bride.

The maids come to pick her up in a hurry

"Here, I treated your eyes again. Now go and dress up beautifully."

"Yes, thank you for the help."

While I see Tsubaki off after bowing deeply her head, I feel like I start to understand a bit of my parents' feelings.

Since Tsubaki is adopted, When I am with Wis, I'm confident of going mad.

"After master finishes crying, you should also get ready and change clothes. The bride's father is also busy, right?"

"I'm not crying. Get ready my change of clothes."

"...I got it. I will help you."

I don't have with me the usual maids, but i finish changing with Suu's help.

I did not sleep at all, but one sleepless night won't be a problem.

It will be alright somehow.

"Today the wedding is scheduled..."

After changing clothes, Suu reads the schedule after arriving at the office.

It is the familiar beginning of a day.

I listen to her voice while drinking tea.

"Because it is a wedding for ten days from today... there are not other plans. That's all."

Apparently, I'm still sleeping.

I drink the rest of the hot tea at once

"I'm sorry, repeat that again."

"Yes. I said that the wedding ceremony will last for ten days from today. Elves are a long lived race... For them this seems like a moment."

"Suu... will it go on the whole day? won't that be too much?"

She took a glance at her documents once more and answered with a smile.

"That's right. It seems to be the greatest disgrace to leave on the way, so please be careful."

Elf style wedding...

At the royal wedding ceremony, the event which is said someone exits as a corpse each time began...

Chapter 151: Elf style wedding

"... It will start soon... Hahh~, various hardships come with this marriage ceremony."

I was stuck in doing a greeting like event with each of the elven security guards.

I have not even arrived at the venue yet.

"... Like this, we express our heartfelt pleasure."

"I'm grateful for your feelings."

The elven security guard leaves the room while bowing deeply his head.

I should have heard his name, but I can't remember it anymore.

"Hey Suu, this is the waiting room right? Since we are waiting for the marriage ceremony, this must be the waiting room, right?"

"That's right, master. I'm certain that the elven wedding will last for 10 days. They are being polite... too polite."

That's right... too polite.

Since our arrival at the waiting room, I began greeting all the people that will be aiding this time. Finally, the last guard greeting was finished.

"They told me that this would be such a joyous event, but this is not the case."

"I was also surprised. You might as well ask lady Kachua to make an elf handbook."

"By the way, what is Kachua doing?"

"She is in a separate room. A woman needs arrangements. It is different from master that just wears his military uniform."

Is that so, men and women are different... I'm grateful to be spared from such arrangements.

Why does the woman take so much time to prepare?

If I could unravel that mystery, I would get a Nobel prize.

"Master, please don't make that kind of face in front of madam or the ladies. It's too easy to read. Men and women move with different timeflows. So you just have to come to terms with it."

"... It can't be helped if the flow of time is different."

It's an explanation that one can't possibly deny.

But, if I think so, I can understand a little... It took three hours just to choose clothes, that was torture to me.

"Excuse me. Grun empire ambassador ▪ First royal magician, His Excellency the archduke Zest Gaius. The bride and groom are ready. Please come to the venue."

I almost can't tell my tongue twister-like title said in one stroke, this maid is quite... You, aren't you from the maiden corps?!

"We infiltrated to act in case the worst case happens. That person's subordinates are around His excellency and lady Kachua. Since lady Tsubaki is getting royalty treatment, that's why..."

"It can't be helped. Conversely, make sure the preparations are ready in my surroundings."

"We made sure that only the bravest and most beautiful are around His Excellency. If we can't do it, the dragons may come to play during the ceremony."

"...My preference for beauty shouldn't spread any further..."

"Besides, the executives of elves are in the venue. It is a good opportunity to eliminate hindrances."

"Let's deal with that while looking at the situation. I want to disturb Tsubaki's wedding as little as possible."

"I am aware. I will clean up quietly, so do not worry."

"Tell Media and Tasel to do things gradually."

I will leave the work behind the scenes under the control of those two.

I'll have to give them a reward next time.

"Certainly. Well, master, let's head to the venue."

Like this, the nightmare-like wedding began.

"It is very pleasing to unite both bloodlines. By her being the adopted daughter of His Excellency who also achieved spiritification, it make

s this extraordinarily wonderful."

"Really."

"I've lived for four hundred years, but I haven't been this happy."

"I see."

The elders' greetings continues for a long time.

I would like you to spare me from giving a proper reply.

There is a reason for this.

"Then, I will excuse me. Congratulations."

"Oh, thank you for your kind words."

He looks like a twenty years old youth bowing his head after the greeting.

But he's an elder elf. Their longevity is really terrible.

And there's something else.

"From a little while ago I felt like I've greeted repeatedly with the same person... the same slender build, the same silver hair, the same way of speaking..."

"His excellency thinks so too? I was actually feeling the same."

While making this exchange with Suu, the next person appears from the waiting queue.

"Congratulations today. It is a pleasing event... Recently it is hard to see elven kids. I wonder if one will come soon."

"Are you a midwife? Did you have the feeling of emptiness by the lack of children?"

"Huh, How did you know? Have we met before?"

It's bulls eye... there's no mistake.

"Suu, aren't they faint?"

"There's no mistake. The attendance was supposed to be arranged by the prime minister, so this might be sort of harassment."

Three hours after the wedding ceremony started.

I was underestimating the opponent with them being elderly people... It is simple, but the damage is considerably big!

"I'm going crazy... Can something be done about this?"

"Even if you ask... They are elders, giving a rude response will affect your prestige."

Damn it! It is quite a troublesome trap... this isn't so simple after all.

From the opening of the wedding that lasts ten days, this might cause a mistake later if I'm not careful.

Bring it on, prime minister.

"However, my mental strength is going to decrease with this as it is."

"Lady Kachua should arrive soon. Let's leave it to her."

I guess that's the only option... I have to give up and wait for her appearance.

I drink a thick-looking black tea, let's endure it somehow.

Yes, I decided in my heart.

...

"Papa, what do you think about this clothes. It's been a long time, I wonder if I look cute?"

Soon I heard a voice that sounded like a goddess to me that was drove to the limit.

I am saved ... After complimenting her clothes, lets push everything else to her.

I think so and look back on the direction of the voice.

"Oh, Kachua. You... really... look good."

It was unavoidable for my words to be stuck up.

This granny, appeared with an outrageous appearance.

"Right, right. Does papa likes it too? This is a costume that the refrigerator's owner liked too. He was saying something like it's a 'magical girl'"

Pink mini skirt, and fluttering accessories.

Thoroughly equipped with knee-high socks.

"It is nostalgic. That guy who was delighted to see me dress like this died, it's already hundreds of years ... I remember it as if it was yesterday."

"Oh, did you get acquainted with people from the other world?"

"We were more than acquaintances, that man and me, together with the refrigerator, traveled along. In those days, I was young, so I wore these clothes, and devoted myself to magic. It's nostalgic."

Sitting on my lap, the granny starts nodding.

Does that mean, that is an old costume? It looks in really good conditions...

"Hmmm? Papa, are you wondering about my dress? Since I just made this

one, I can make one with a different color if you like, what color do you want?"

"O-oh, pink is fine... That's not it, I would like if you'd tell me such important things sooner. You only told me that you can't decline Garbera's words."

"I wasn't going to hide it, but I didn't find the chance to say it. It is the first time you ask me about it too."

"Well, let's hear it in detail later But for now can you do something about this?"

That's it, I point the long queue with my chin.

When Kachua looked over there, she said while sighing.

"Foolish youngsters! Return home and count your tree rings!! Who thought this was a retirement! Take them home quickly!"

The elven maids that heard Kachua's shout began moving at once.

Prince Mars who was looking at the state of things was trembling with his face turned away

You bastard, aren't you laughing? Taking it easy because it's someone else's problem... Later, I will take him to Albert for training.

"I'm saved, Kachua. Listening to the same greeting endlessly was draining my

spirit dry."

"Papa is too polite. Since you're an archduke, it doesn't matter even if you act a bit haughty."

Kachua who sits back on my knees, starts eating the food served.

There are various dishes arranged on my table.

Definitely not the amount of meal meant for one person.

"By the way... Is it okay to leave your seat midway?"

"Papa, were you planning to keep sitting for ten days? If you do such a thing, your hips will break."

My ass was probably broken before beginning.

Is this an elf joke? or else, are elves' rears broken already?

There is no way to ascertain... If I tell her to show me her ass to check, I will be killed by Bea.

"Th-that's right. I thought it was strange."

"It's free time while the bride and groom are changing. It will be tough if you do not take a break in the meantime."

... Wait, what about the rest?

"Well, this time it's short and easy for the bride guests. If both sides were already friendly with each other, the marriage ceremony would last for a month."

"Hey, Kachua. Is it bad unless you sit here other than that?"

"Isn't it natural? Today is meant for relatives and local guests. Tomorrow we welcome international guests. There is still a long way to go."

"Wait wait, are only the principals and relatives to participate today?"

Kachua continued while laughing at what she saw as common sense.

"Because of that it was difficult to get married with a different race. Papa can participate while using healing magic, so there's no problem! In addition..."

"Is there still something else?"

"Since this time it is a royal wedding ceremony, there is a celebration ceremony even in the barracks. Soon the queen will interact with the honor guest, alternating afterwards. The ball will begin at night, so you will go over there as well. Oh, there are officials' banquets... Afterwards there are meetings in the city and meetings where the influential people gather. Well, there's no problem since dad is one. It's worrying since fatigue sometimes results in someone's death... Dad? What's wrong?"

It is exactly a fatigue feast, I understand.

Why, stupid elves, doing this event every once in a while...

While holding down my pained head, I thought it was pretty serious.

This time I might really end up dying...

Chapter 152: Queen's expectationn

"Well, isn't the day about to end?"

"Looks like it. I guess this room is near so we can pass the night."

Beginning with the "foolish youngsters" as opponents, the day with the murder-like schedule has finished at last.

After the first half of the day, my memory gets hazy.

"Papa, this is a sleeping room. You can get comfortable and restore your physical strength."

Kachua in her underwear says this while lying on a gorgeous chaise lounge. 1

I'm not sure if it is fortunate or unfortunate... but she doesn't have any sex appeal.

"I'm relieved that i won't have to pass a sleepless night... What about the bride and the groom?"

On the other side of the room, Tsubaki and prince Mars were lying each on a chaise lounge with dead eyes.

"Master? Since it would be troublesome for them to sleep together before the ceremony is over, this is a matter of course. Also, isn't it rude to see so

much of single women?"

Suu says so, but she is also lying down.

... As expected, we already feel like dying.

"Even if you tell me not to see, it will be in line of sight if they are sleeping nearby. And since Kachua is my daughter, she probably doesn't mind."

"If one doesn't want to be seen, one should wear something. Right now, I rather be as comfortable as possible."

Even then, don't just spread your legs.

You are a girl, are not you? At least that's what you say.

"So, what's the schedule for tomorrow?"

"Yes. Tomorrow is the correspondence of the soldiers and influential people in the city by the queen in turn. There is planned to be an information exchange with the queen whom will come soon..."

When that was said, the door opened.

Because this room is off limits except for relatives, those who can come in are limited.

"Haa ... well, at this age a wedding ceremony is harsh. Oh, you do not have to rise like that. If courtesy was held during a wedding ceremony, elves would not last."

A sexy elf with silver hair says that as she starts to take off her luxurious dress.

After she's left on her underwear, she lies down on a chaise lounge opposite from me.

"Surprised? This is an elven introduction. Formality is unneeded in the relatives lounge. I guess one can see a person's true heart in such extreme conditions. Well, this is a really ancient custom though."

"... Lets proceed, then. I am Tsubaki's foster father, Zest. I'm also acting as Kachua's foster father."

"Fufu, still using that kind of tone. Well I guess I have to get used to it. I'm the mother of that idiot son over there. Elisha is the name... also known as the queen."

"Is it... normal? So, can I call you Elisia?"

"No need to be so stiff. Since this place is for one to act as in home... won't it be strange if one is too serious?"

She starts laughing while covering her mouth.

Her height is about 170 cm and has the body of a model.

I see... I can easily see the Prime minister falling for her.

"No way Kachua will be anyones daughter. This must means you can be trusted."

"Oh, Elisha? He can be trusted. You can speak with papa."

Kachua says this as she rolls on her belly to face us.

You... you should at least close your legs, you granny.

"Really. Hey, Zest. The prime minister's faction changed the former king's policies. that foolish prince thought that i succumbed t

o their plot, while in truth I just played the role."

"I see. You worked hard."

"Fufu, i won't tell you to trust me all of a sudden. Please decide during this wedding. Just remember this, I will cooperate with you. We want to keep watch on Mars."

"I will take your word for now. For the time being, I want to focus on getting through the wedding ceremony."

"You really are cautious. Oh well. That's right, about the inheriting meeting..."

"Suu, I entrust it to you."

"Please leave it to me, master."

Well... How much of what this queen said was true.

Will the intelligence unit need to make its move?... While having such thought our interview continues.

Needless to say that I had to heal Suu in the middle, I might as well act as medical staff for everyone.

If I leave it to Suu, there won't be any problems.

'Are you the steward steward!? You are really capable! would you work for my country? Are not you interested in being a second lady?'

While refusing the scouting of such queen, the meeting continues.

Mars who was staring at Suu, groaned when Tsubaki used an iron claw on him after i resurrected her with healing magic.

You still don't understand...

"... That's all there is to it. You truly possess a good judgment."

"Thank you very much. But my lord is my only master.

"Elisha5, if you ask too much you will become papa enemy. Lets leave it at that."

Does Kachua have the higher position in their relationship?6

I wish i hadn't asked, but I was defeated by curiosity.

"What kind of relationship does Kachua have with Elisha?"

"Oh, Kachua was my tutor. I can't get to change our relationship since I was a child."

"There's also the thing of me changing Elisha's diapers. It's nostalgic... at that time there were few female high elves. I was appointed to make Elisha a fine queen who was decided to become the King's fiancée from the time she was born..."

The stories of old people sure are long... Now Kachua can't be stopped.

Thus her story lasted all night, and the second day of the wedding ceremony began...

"It's a pleasure."

"May the spirits guide you."

"Let's give a prayer of gratitude to God."

It's basically a simple job to talk to these three.

What? Is it really easy?

... It is if you can do it with a tired mind, putting a smile while listening to a boring story.

"Suu, Aren't your facial muscles twitching?"

"Master, it's a smile. A laugh with fighting spirit."

What kind of reasoning is that... There's a limit to psychology tricks as well.

When I look over my shoulder, I don't see an unreasonable Albert, in his place there's Suu.

She's quite tired as well.

"Suu, extend your hand."

"...Ha?"

I forcibly hold her hand and apply a healing spell.

I can treat almost any kind of fatigue myself.

But she can't.

"If you collapse, the dragons might as well cause an accident. Please hang in there a little longer."

"Thank you very much, master. But doing this here might cause an accident... It could be misunderstood as you having fun."

Rather, wouldn't this country disappear?

While having such dangerous thoughts, it happened.

"Hah! Are you telling me that this man that's just flirting around is the strongest in the empire? Then, I must be the strongest warrior of the continent!"

The man comes near while pushing around the soldiers that are trying to stop him.

He's a muscle Daruma that has a height of 190cm 7

"Hick... Hey, great Mr. 'Sword of the Empire'. Are you strong? I'm also the one called to be the strongest in the country of elves... Stronger than Caris8 who's a follower of the prime minister.

Ho, addressing general Caris like that.9

And this magical power and intimidation aura... they are the real thing.

"P-please stop it! Masui10, how much have you been drinking?"

"General, stop him!!"

"Such a bad drunk..."

The surrounding soldiers can do nothing but watch from a distance.

Well, it's probably impossible for them... The difference in their powers is so big that there's no way to win normally.

"I will not seek retribution for your sins. This is a party after all... this tiny bit of merry making is fine, such a nice guy."

"Master, you have a wonderful smile on your face."

It can't be helped.

I finally have an event to vent.

Lets take plenty of time and let the rest of the schedule go away.

"This is probably not known in the country of elves... I was originally adopted by the captain of a certain territory. In the past, there was such a fuss everyday, so i don't mind, be relieved."

While talking with a smile, the surroundings fills with an air of relief.

At least that's what I think.

The punishment for fighting against a key figure from another country is often death penalty.

At worst, all people concerned plus the family of the offender might receive capital punishment.

"However... What will happen if such a man says such things? Do you understand what happens next?"

Showing such a magical power all of a sudden, I can't just go and nervously say 'stop it'.

Let me show you a bit of my own magical power.

"Now as we are in the middle of a party, there will not be any crime charges. I Zest, swear it in this place. So be at ease..."

*Boom*11 a roaring sound makes me stop my speech.

There was smoke rising in the place where the man earlier was doing his intimidation.

The war maidens gather around me with tightened expressions.

They seem to have noticed... There is a monstrous presence lurking inside the smoke.

Even though they were working attending the drunk guests just now, they easily enter in working mode.

"You guys make some distance. Take Suu with you."

They silently nod, while making a circular formation around Suu, they begin to fall back.

Confirming that, I Start to fully use strengthening magic.

"Fuhahahaha, what a wonderful magic power! If you claim to be the strongest, this much is a must!"

It came out of the smoke, with long deep blue hair carrying a giant axe on its shoulder.

A female kemonobito... a dog kemonobito.

Wearing a leather armor with lots of scratches, she can't be seen as anything but a warrior.

"Won't this be a good side show for the party? Now, play with me! Zest!"

Saying it with such a belligerent smile, this person with her hair tied with a cord is so unreasonable.

... such a big world... for there to be such a strong warrior.

"Well, fine by me. Let me hear your name."12

I pull out my sword that was brought by one of the war maidens and take my stance.

The evacuation was done while we were having the exchange, and we were able to secure enough space.

Even if it gets somewhat heated, the damage will be small.

"Oh, didn't I name myself? Hey, this isn't a duel to death. Isn't this just like a sport for kemonobito? Lets take it easy."

She says while swaying lightly such a big axe with just one hand.

Well, it seems she isn't here with the intention of killing... is that really true?

Somehow, she gives the image of a child that really wants to play.

"Are you just a fool who really wants to fight... well alright. Either way it won't be good if I don't crush that pride of yours."

It has been decided.

My sword pointed at the other party, words weren't needed anymore.

Even if I say so myself, it's been a while since I felt like this.

Being soaked in the words... my mood was at its peak.

"Beast king, what are you doing in such a place!? Isn't the marriage celebration is until tomorrow?"

"If we can take this person I promise I will go obediently..."

"Hey! Her Majesty the Beast King is here! Over here!"

I guess we have to stop.

The kemonobito kingdom's... Beast King is a woman.

I called her Majesty a fool, but please pardon me since this is a party.

She seems to sparkle, I thought from the bottom of my heart.

"Please wipe your tears, master. They really stand out."

Stop, Suu, you are just stabbing deeper...

Chapter 153: Her Majesty the Beast King and settlement

"For my rudeness, I apologize from the bottom of my heart."

It's the first time in a long time that I've earnestly apologized.

I called a "fool" the ruler of a country, I don't have any excuses.

If it comes to worst this could result in a war.

After that strongest elf became a stain on the crater where she landed, we went to a preparation room to have a conversation.

As expected, I can't leave the matter with the ruler of the kemonobito country, Her Majesty the Beast King alone.

"Hmmm? It's a party, right? Then, isn't it natural to forget formalities?"

"Her Majesty, that way of thinking is from the kemonobito country."

The older sister Beast King who is playing with her blue hair.

She looks like a beautiful, tall model in her late twenties, but one shouldn't be deceived.

She is a monster that wields a big axe with such a fine arm.

"Politeness and manners are emphasized in other countries. There's no such a thing as understanding each other with fists."

The one preaching to the Beast King is a woman that came as an envoy from the kemonobito country for the marriage ceremony.

She's a tomboyish woman with the same blue hair as the Beast King in a short cut.

It's visible that she's a woman though, since she has breasts.

"This is the reason I was against this. It was obvious that this would happen if Her Majesty the Beast King accompanied me. Really, it seems that only your body grows up... Any dignity as a ruler is yet to appear..."

"Ok ok, I entrust you the difficult things. Besides that, Zest! Lets fight!"

"Unfortunately, it is bad for me to battle against Her Majesty the Beast King. Moreover, since I am in the middle of celebrating a wedding ceremony, I can not respond to Her Highness's expectations."

The older sister Beast King was leaning on her chair, seemingly disappointed.

... This would normally be unreasonable.

"Is it not okay? Your Majesty. This is the normal response. Is it not our country the abnormal one? This is a conference room with chairs and a desk. This is not a stone stage where one can just simply fight."

"It's a drag to talk, why can't we just settle it as if we were in our country?"

"As I said, that is not normal..."

... I definitely don't want to go to that country.

In short, isn't it a country with people like Albert and the Black Knights?

It's easy to imagine the amount of retorting I would have to do.

I'm thinking this while watching the short haired older sister preach... But i will still go.

It was due my carelessness that resulted in this situation in the first place.

"I am sorry for the disturbance, Your Excellency Zest. I will introduce myself again. I am from the kemonobito country, Griffon Kingdom's prime minister, my name is Emilia1... now..."

After the sermon is over, Emilia stretched her back and said.

"This one is the Beast King, Her Majesty Elenora2"

"Elenora is fine. I don't care about naming formalities... Not after I found a long awaited chance for a good fight."

She introduced herself with a smug face, the Beast King Elenora seems to be in a good mood.

Though I can sense even a bit of dignity with the way she leant against her chair.

"Let me greet you once more. I am the Grun empire archduke, first court magician Zest Gaiyus. Is it okay to prepare some tea? Both of you should moisten your throat."

When I send a signal with my eyes, Suu gives a greeting while bowing.

"I am Suu, archduke Zest's steward. I will be preparing the refreshments."

There's no way for the king to be the one preparing the tea for the other party.

It would be unfavourable if it is refused... Well, it shouldn't be a problem with Her Majesty.

"I entrust it to you."

"A pleasure."

Hearing the expected answers, Suu prepares tea for everyone.

Prime Minister Emilia, watched Suu's hands as she did, but obviously we won't get offended.

It is natural to watch out for poisoning.

Her Majesty is the first one to pick up one of the three cup's from the table.

Then Prime Minister Emilia, and I picked up the last one.

They start drinking after confirming that I tasted it first.

"It seems the rumors are true, you actually have a kemonobito woman as your steward. I heard that humans look down on us, is this really okay? For a noble... moreover the figure of an archduke to act like this."

"It's not like Her Majesty says. Just like Emilia is your prime minister, there should be no problem in Suu being my steward."

"Fufu, Emilia is my little sister. She has my full trust. On the other hand, Zest and Suu aren't connected whatsoever by blood, right? So, can you say that you can fully trust her?"

"She is an excellent woman. Being from another race is just part of her individuality. And even if we are not connected by blood, there is no one more trustworthy than her."

"Yes, until this life of mine is exhausted... No my descendants will obey master even after this life of mine is exhausted."

When Suu, says this while lowering her head, Her Majesty the Beast King watches her with glittering eyes.

At that moment the door opens with a loud bang.

"Your Excellency, this Albert shall assist you! Together, we will kill the enemy with no problems!"³

"Papa, Kachua is ready to cast her best magic!"

With their eyes bloodshot, those two froze in place after barging in.

I guess that's because they saw us get along having tea.

Her majesty, please don't smile while grabbing your axe.

"To assist..."

"Best magic..."

"You two, sit there in seiza."

I place my cup on the table, and stand up.

I can see two kemonobito collapsed in the hallway through the door that was left open.

You fools, didn't kill the, right? Are they alright?

... It seem I have to apologize for a second time today... A second apology in dogeza.

"Hahaha, good good. I won't blame the men that are worried about their lord. This is a matter of fact as the Beast King, as it is a natural behaviour for kemonobito. Rather, lets praise them."

"Your Majesty, I request you to put down your axe, please. Since there were no deaths, I understand your forgiveness. However, it will be improper for it to become a battle."

The prime minister promptly scolded Her Majesty the Beast King before starting a fight.

Little sister, hang in there... I feel a great sense of affinity.

"I'm sorry, Prime Minister Emilia. Since it's been a while, I forgot about the Beast King's magic power."

"Stop it, miss Kachua! Just call me Emilia like in the past. Otherwise I would get scolded by the late king."

"If you say so, it will also be easier for me. You two who were so small have become splendid... It's such a shame the early death of that mischievous lad, but her daughters have become this splendid..."

"I remember the time when I was little and father brought us to the country of elves. When we returned he said: 'I want to fight miss Kachua again'."

"Fufufu, such a honorable fighter. We were fighting buddies and drinking buddies... For that fellow to go ahead and pass away."

"Miss Kachua..."

This should be an atmosphere that makes one spill tears from the story being narrated.

But, isn't your conversation strange?

Aren't you saying that you were fighting buddies with the previous Beast King, who you are also calling mischievous lad?

I'm appalled by the wideness of this granny's countenance.

"I remembered! the predecessor said: 'I thought I would die! I thought it might be possible to gain control of the country of elves, but it will be impossible while that granny is alive.', wasn't that kachua?! I believed her to be a granny in her golden days... But you look surprisingly young."

"... A granny?"

"Your Majesty, to talk about an internal talk to outsiders..."

"Prime minister, lady Kachua's forehead vein is popping, please take distance from the danger."

Standing up while swaying, Kachua enveloped herself in magical power.

The Beast King who saw this, prepared her axe with a smile on her face.

Albert who made a good decision rarely seen from him, evacuated the prime minister... Yeah, that's a really good decision.

"Hohohoho, miss Beast King, it seems you already forgot the time when you ended crying while saying: "I'm sorry, older sister Kachua." When I hit your buttocks."

"Eleonora is fine, hundreds years-old older sister. You know? One's thinking changes as a Beast King. In Griffon kingdom it's thought as useless to dialogue with an opponent. So we should just skip words... right?"

"Hohohoho!"

"Hahaha!"

Their magic power was strong enough to crack the cobblestone floor.

If they go at it as is, the wedding ceremony might end in an accident.

Hehe... I've been patient like this... I've been patient since it is my daughter's wedding... These idiots!

Isn't it fine to not be patient anymore? Kemonobito seem to have a meat miso brain...

"Suu, I'm going for a bit."

"... Don't be too hard on them."

Okay, it seems I've got Suu's permission.

Now I just have to make arrangements with the prime minister.

"Hey, prime minister. Is this one really Her Majesty the Beast King? Isn't she just a female soldier that's naming herself Beast King?"

"Huh? archduke Zest, what..."

"Aren't you the honorable messenger sent as an envoy to the country of elves? In that case you shouldn't be mistaken. However, since my eyes can't see very well due to the cloud of dust from a while back... That being the case, one would have to look closely to clearly be sure that she is indeed Her Majesty the Beast King."

The prime minister ponders quietly while looking me in the eye.

After thinking various things, she replied.

"Could you immobilize that self-proclaimed Beast King without harming her? I won't be able to tell unless I look at her closely. It is okay with this kind of flow ... "

"Entrust the rest to me. There's the need for a bit of punishment... One shouldn't be allowed to behave rudely to Her Majesty the Beast King. And she's impersonating the Beast King."

"Prime minister, when His Excellency shows that kind of look, he becomes dangerous, please hide behind me."

After confirming that the prime minister was hidden behind Albert, I fully unleash my magical power.

Unlike, the wait-and-see from a while ago, now I'm really going at full throttle.

"What!? What a ridiculous magical power!!"

"Oh, shoot4! This isn't the usual papa! This is different!"

When the two turned her head to look, it was already too late.

I've already closed up the distance... Only master and Albert are able to move

at this speed.

With both hands enveloped in magic power, I firmly grasp both of their faces.

Being able to make the dragons show their belly in apology, I'm proud of my iron claw technique.

"Self-proclaimed Beast King, the prime minister is unsure whether you are the real thing. For you to come obediently, should I use a bit of strength? Also, Kachua, aren't you the elven country's first royal magician, and my adopted daughter? Think about your position a bit more."

"Emilia! Y-your sister is dying! I apologize! I'll really become obedient!!"

"Papa! My eyes, My eyes will pop out! I'm sorry!!"

"Well, it is hard for my ears to hear after the two of you roaring, and unleashing your magical power a moment ago... Could you repeat that again?"

"Archduke zest, I understood! I will not fight!!"

"Kachua will be a good daughter for papa!!"

"Prime minister, Albert, could you hear it?"

"Wha!? Err..."

"Yes! I could not hear it!"

"As I thought... My hearing seems to be a bit poor."

""Gyaaaaaaaa""

Creaking sounds resounded in the room, both voices continued to apologize, and cry for the next thirty minutes.

After the second day, people already have lost it.

While thinking as such... I put more power into my hands.

Chapter 154: Beast King's fiancée

“Emilia, is my head okay?”

“There doesn't seem to be any outward abnormality. Your Majesty, what do you think about archduke Zest knowing he is so strong?”

“Yes! Won't he become my fiancée...”

“Good, it is a relief that your thought circuits work as usual. I am speechless.”

The prime minister is making a fool out of the interiors of Beast King's head with a lovely smile on her face.

The person herself seems to be satisfied with her treatment, it makes one pity her...

“It seems she's definitely Her Majesty the Beast King. Well, a soldier wouldn't ever think of impersonating her anyway. Hey, Kachua.”

“Yes. What is it, papa?”

“Lady Kachua, here is a handkerchief, please wipe your face.”

Kachua cried so much because of the iron claw that her face is now tear stained, and has a runny nose.

She was blowing hard on the handkerchief that Suu casually gave her.

“Nevertheless... How much do I owe to the prime minister, to do such a rude thing to Her Majesty the Beast King. I sincerely apologize.”

“What? What for?”

“Please forgive him, Your Majesty. The archduke only acted like he did because I requested so.”

While the look on the Beast King's face was that of astonishment, the prime minister was completely blue.

She knows we are in a delicate situation.

“There's nothing to be worried about, why are you apologizing?”

“... It is a formality.”

“It is embarrassing.”

This time the prime minister got a bright red face.
It seems it's useless to be roundabout about this.

"Your Majesty, with the incident that just happened... Do you understand that with just one mistake it could have ended in war?"

"...Wha!?"

It's useless... Who made such a child a king!?

"I stopped Your Majesty by the request from the prime minister. With the use of force. Do you understand up to here?"

"Yes. Certainly I, and... big sister Kachua were about to fight. And neither of us thought of stopping."

"However, you are clearly Her Majesty the Beast King... Aren't you the king? of course I must apologize so I can be forgiven."

"But I'm the one that was defeated, so I'm the one in the wrong, right?"

I'm starting to feel a headache while hearing her, but it is possible to endure since I'm used to Albert.

I'm also using a rude manner of speech, but I guess this brat won't understand unless I use simple words.

I'm already considerably tired...

"For the time being we need a scenario where I need to apologize. Otherwise it would go something like... 'The prime minister from Gryphon has deceived us, she tarnished His excellency's honor. Her Majesty the Beast King must be involved in this too. No, this surely must be a conspiracy by the Gryphon Kingdom! All while archduke Zest is an ambassador in the country of elves. However, the Beast King is a coward that attacks by surprise. Moreover, the prime minister must have tricked archduke Zest in all this. Such a country can not be trusted. Let's both defeat the Gryphon Kingdom!' How would you resolve that?"

"Eh!? Isn't that mostly made up?"

"Yes, that's right. It's just a false accusation. This is the kind of things done in the background for military and economical power are an everyday thing for nobles, when it's done between large countries it is called diplomacy."(TLN:)

"But I don't..."

"Since I understand the mindset of the kemonobito, I know that this isn't the

behavior of Her Majesty. Since the pride of the kemonobito wouldn't allow you to break promises, and respect strength. Isn't that right?"

"That's right, since that's the kemonobito pride."

She nods with satisfaction.

That's how this muscleheaded idiot says it.

"Nevertheless, for other races negotiations and dialogue are needed. You as a king must be able to cope with all this."

"Yes. Understood."

...Really? Do you really understand?

I reply with a smile, but my heart is full of anxiety.

"Incidentally, are you going to tell someone about this incident?"

"Oh, there's no way I won't tell this to everyone! Archduke Zest is even stronger than what the rumors tell! By all means, My husband..."

"Prime minister, I'm begging you... If Her Majesty the King is left alone, this will cause an uproar."

"I have a headache. Since that's my sister's nature I wanted to keep her inside our country... but since the strong one rules the kemonobito, I'm unable to do anything."

Inside my heart I feel sorry for Emilia.

She started calling "sister" to Her Majesty, I guess she thinking something among the lines of: "What to do? She will likely tell everyone about this."

"Prime minister, it might be to meddlesome to ask about another country's affairs, but I guess I'm already involved anyways. What kind of education was given to the Beast King?"

"I'm so ashamed I have no words to answer."

"What is it? You've been talking about difficult things all this time!"

The beast King became noisy after running out of patience, but here is someone that is at the limit of his patience.

For such a brat to be a king... Aren't my hands full enough with the education of the fool prince?

"Shut up! Children who are unable to understand what's been talked about

should remain silent! With just those words one might end up getting killed!!”(TLN:)

Normally one wouldn't say such foolish things to a king. But the situation right now leave me no other choice.

“Is that okay? If the exchange just now gets leaked, there will be great problems. It would be a good chance for those that are against me. I will be put under vigilance, and bad rumors would easily spread.”

Yes, such interactions are okay in private. Under the condition that they are kept as a secret. But I'm too worried that this brat will spill the beans.

“It's a scheme made by archduke Zest to betray Gryphon Kingdom and the Grunn Empire. He intends to provoke a war... What if those rumors spread? Will you be able to handle it?”

Since the Beast King became silent, it seems that she understood. No, there's still the chance that she didn't understand what I said at all...

“The king of a country has the power to kill a large number of people just by his words. Just a bit...”

“Those are nostalgic words... the former beast king used to say 'you don't understand that one can lose his life with just one of your words' while being angry.”

“Archduke Zest, I apologize in advance. My sister has a face that says that she is about to spout nonsense.”(TLN:)

I have an unpleasant premonition about her words, however Albert, and Suu are fast to react.

Both of them firmly cover their ears... They make it clear they won't be hearing this.

“I have decided! Let's take archduke Zest to the Gryphon Kingdom! Only he will become my husband! About Grun Empire, let's inmediately...”

“My sister is absolutely useless!”

“Papa, it seems that my hearing's been failing lately.”

“I'm also tired of this constant buzz in my ears.”

While prime minister Emilia is scolding Her Majesty with the looks of a demon, we just silently watch.

... This doesn't seem to be settled anytime soon.

"I don't want to! Archduke Zest is really strong and majestic. And wouldn't he be an excellent leader? Is there any other man like him!?"

"He is a foreign authority, and you can't expect to marry an already married archduke! There's nothing but problems with that idea!"

Even after nagging her for 30 minutes this doesn't end.
We can just resign ourselves to have a tea break.

"However, how can we reach a compromise?"

"Your excellency! rather than that, in regards to the Gryphon Kingdom in the map..."

"Albert, that is really foolish as expected..."

"Lord Albert please be silent. You are a bother."

Albert who was told by his sister that he's a nuisance is feeling down, however I have no time to make a follow up.
This quarrel won't end until Her Majesty the Beast King can make a compromise somewhere.

"Is there someone that can replace me?"

"Albert is strong enough, but he's already married."

"In terms of intelligence there's Sir Katalina or lady Kachua... but they're women..."

"... In short, a man who is single, capable of fighting with me and has high intelligence"

"Ha? Is there a person like that?"

"Master, you don't say..."

"How about the Frontier Count Razatonia? He is a bit elder, but he is single right now and really strong. Furthermore, he can plot as much as you want!"

"Grun Empire's Shield... There's certainly no problems with him, but His majesty the Emperor won't permit it at all."

"If not as a son-in-law, as a husband certainly... The frontier shield himself..."

Suu begins making calculations with an evil face for some reason.

It will certainly be favorable for my territory where there are many kemonobito if I can become distantly related with the Beast King...

Though it seems dangerous to have a direct relationship with this king with the brain of a child.

“I wish Albert’s son was a bit bigger...”

“!?! That’s it, master! Let’s make Albert’s son the future son-in-law!”

“OH, there was that kind of move!”

“... Engaging my baby son? What a honor!! Your Excellency, I can’t thank you enough!!”

Wait, isn’t your reasoning strange?

Making Albert’s son the fiancée with him being such a fool... It should be okay... the other side is in a similar situation after all.

“But, will it be okay with the kemonobito to engage a royalty just like this?”

“It is wonderful, this is the dream of every kemonobito man.”

“For a woman is useless, but if it is a man, he can boast about it, and with the partner being her Majesty... This Albert is only able to show his gratitude!!”

“S-so it’s like that. However, it’s still not fixed. First we need to convince Her Majesty the Beast King...”

“Master, please do your best”

“It all depends on papa’s persuasion.”

“I will dance at once from my emotions.”

It seems my task is already decided.

‘Make Albert’s son Her Majesty the Beast King’s fiancée! That will solve all our problems!’

In order to achieve this, I slowly approach the two kemonobito sisters who are quarreling...

“Hey, archduke Zest. It seems your current wife is the young lady from the frontier territory. Wouldn’t I be better suited to be together with you?”

“P-please stop, your Majesty! Such things...”

That’s the first thing she says when I get close.

Prime minister Emilia has a pitiful face full of fatigue.

“The bare minimum requirement for my wife is to be strong enough. I’m

worried that her Majesty won't be able to win even against Albert."

"Hah? That young lady of yours is like that? If you say to such extent..."

"The black dragons show their belly in submission to her, moreover... Albert, how would you confront Bea in a one-on-one?"

"Yes! the moment madam glares at me with her dark magic emanating I can only submit!"

"Is that so. Dark attribute magicians are scary. Once I saw frontier count Razatonia in his youth from a distance and, I thought I would leak my pants. Mama is said to have a rare talent in dark magic... I would never think of fighting against her."

When the frontier count is clad in black magic at full throttle, it's a complete horror.

Bea has a similar amount of magical power... I guess it's only me that can resist it upfront because of my light magic.

"Would her Majesty the Beast King be able to win against my wife whom these two can claim they are unable to win? I think it's impossible. And although I'm being highly assessed... I'm afraid I'm just a human in the prime of his life. In the future I'll probably just get weaker."

"Mumumu, but... with you being that strong, it won't matter that much if you get older."

"Sister, you should just give up, with his wife being such a powerful dark magician, it would just be reckless to fight."

If she acknowledges Bea's strength, she won't be able to claim me as her husband.

Though it seems she hasn't given up yet.

"Therefore, considering this, don't you agree that Albert strength is outstanding? He is the man who got this strength after training. It's possible to say that he is hardworking, and also a natural genius."

"I will admit that. It would normally be impossible to find such a strong soldier."

As expected from the muscle-head, this might be a quick talk.

"Then... wouldn't you agree to raise, this genius' son?"

"...What do you mean?"

“With a young kemonobito, there’s room for development. If we can drill into him the foundations of fighting, he can become her Majesty’s ideal man.”

“Hee, to rise a young man to my liking? that sounds nice...”

“Older sistes, please wipe your drool.”

It seems that the Beast King is about to bite the bait.

She will get a really young fiancé after all.

‘Lets call this off since there’s not a good prospect.’

It would have ended like that with one mistake, good thing there was a sacrifice to take my place.

If Albert’s son is against this... No, a young man will easily fall in love since the Beast king is a beautiful woman.

Even more so if he is a kemonobito since they adore the Beast King.

“Well then, lets arrange it like that. Is that okay prime minister Emilia?”

“I will have to trouble you with this. As long as her Majesty the Beast King agrees with this.”

“Battle genius child... younger... to my liking... a young man....”

The Beast King Elenora is staring into empty space, while the prime minister seems to be relieved

With the consent from the prime minister, this case becomes solved.

Im releived, this was really troublesome.

I thought i finally had a moment to catch my breath, but then the news arrived.

“This is an emergency! The prime minister from the elven country Heinz(TLN:) is making a fuss saying that his Excellency Zest and lady Kachua have betrayed the empire, and that they are conspiring with the Beast King to usurp the elven country’s throne!”

When Media barged in the room and said this, everyone inside froze in their place.

To turn out like this at this timing... That bastard really did it.

Inside the room where only the rough breathing from Media was heard.

It was Tasel from the intelligence unit that broke the atmosphere.

“Your excellency, it seems that the background work has been succesful and the elves aren’t buying into prime minister Heinz words. Shoukdn’t you hurry

and make a statement at the banquet hall?”

“Understood. I will hurry to the banquet hall.”

Like this, we all rush to the banquet hall.

Immediately after this the troubles in the elven country were settled.

Notes:

1. And this is why I'm grateful for living the life of a lazy commoner :P↩
2. I feel this is the fastest time in which Zest has snapped twice in a row.↩
3. Behold my ability to translate something I didn't understand by inferring from the context :p↩
4. Was this his name? ↩

Chapter 155: Prime Minister Heinz's trump card

“Albert, take the black knights and surround the place. This will be just a defense measure, but in the worst case scenario, you're allowed to kill prime minister Heinz.”

“Yes! We'll certainly bring him down.”

“Kachua, I entrust Tsubaki's safety to you. I will also leave the war maidens to you.”

“Understood.”

“Suu, stay by my side. I will protect you.”

“Certainly, If I get in the way, please forsake me.”

“The intelligence unit will be in charge of escorting the Beast King's group... Be sure to keep an eye on anyone that shows an unusual behaviors. I'll deal with this.”

“By your will.”

While walking to the hall, I give instructions quickly. The last instructions for the intelligence forces, I gave them in a voice that wouldn't reach the Beast King of course. She's really a fool, and it would be risky if she was to do something foolish. In the worst case scenario I'll try to come to an agreement with prime minister Heinz.

“Fuhahahaha, how imposing. Is this the real face of archduke Zest?”

“Your Majesty, you are being watched, please be quiet.”

Muscle brain older sister and intellectual younger sister. They were making the usual display inside the hall... Shouldn't you be more vigilant?

“What in the world is this fuss about?! Prime minister Heinz would you care to explain?”

When I arrive at the hall, everyone is in an uproar.

If the prime minister makes such remarks while the envoys from various countries are gathered, it will become like this.

The black knights keep reinforcing my surroundings, and draw near the prime minister.

“The traitor, archduke Zest has come! You guys, what are you doing?! Capture him!!”

The prime minister raised a loud voice inside the hall, but the elven soldiers were confused.

Tsubaki, and prince Mars are seated behind the prime minister, are they okay? Though the only one near them seems to be a maid...

To call me a betrayer out of nowhere. To receive such a bad treatment... to treat me like that. What an unreasonable thing to do. They would just consider it an act of hostility.”

“I warn the people inside the hall! Subordinate of archduke Zest, Captain of the dragon knights Albert. Anyone that draws near his Excellency will be killed!”

Albert raises his sword with strengthening magic at full throttle. The black knights following him also strengthen themselves in the same way. ... you guys... have gotten stronger

“Is that the sword of the empire...?”

“Albert? Is that sir Albert?!”

“You guys, absolutely don’t act hostile!”

With the foreign envoys talking in a loud voice, I gradually move closer to prime minister Heinz.

Oh, the refrigerator looks like a granny again.

Since she’s in her white garments from the holy country, it’s easy to find her

“You, why are you not listening to my orders?! What is general Caris doing?!!”

When we arrived at the stage, Heinz was making a lot of noise with his face completely red.

Standing by my side a member from the intelligence unit whispers to me.

“General Caris is being dealt by lord Media. Will it become an accident?”

“No, he tried to seduce Media, and she responded with violence. Convey this.”

“By your will.”

Media works fast... It seems we won't have to deal with general Caris after this.

The intelligence member... This voice seem to be Tasel's.

He's hiding his face with a black cloth, so I can only judge by his voice.

After making sure he's gone, I talk to Heinz.

“It seems that general Caris got drunk, and tried to make impolite advances on one of the war maidens. To do such a thing to a married woman... As one would expect from one of the excellent prime minister Heinz's followers.”

“That is...! You, how dare you be so shameless?! Where's the evidence for such accusation?!”

“What evidence? Isn't the victim testimony enough? Aren't you able to trust your subordinate testimony? Ah, though in prime minister's case his subordinate is his lover, right?”

“In any case this is something you bastard arranged! How dare such a rumour...”

Heinz is furious, the surroundings are sending him various looks. The high officials from the country of elves are sending him cold glances. The refrigerator's kingdom seems to be fully on my side and the white knights and black knights are talking between themselves with grins on their faces. You guys really look happy all together. Although, her Majesty the Beast King seems to be the problem...

“It's really regrettable that our Gryphon Kingdom is treated as a coward. We advocate the legitimacy of archduke Zest with our kemonobito pride.”

Oh, Isn't her Majesty the Best King amazing?! How is she able to speak such difficult words... No, it doesn't seem to be the case Prime minister Emilia said those words standing behind the Beast King, while the latter moved her mouth pretending a speech in an act of ventriloquism. ... I wish prime minister Emilia would become the Beast King.

“Kemonobito pride... Even her Majesty goes that far...”

“Prime minister Heinz can't be trusted.”

“There's also those books being sold.”

His situation doesn't look good.

Well, it's difficult to regain credibility in such a short time.

Even so, to make such accusations right now, I wonder if he has a trump card... or maybe he had no timing whatsoever.

"The Holy Country Lilac will also back archduke Zest. Lady Wisteria is the spirit shrine maiden. We'll regard as an enemy to anyone that acts hostile against her father, the archduke Zest."

""""We are the shrine maiden guards, under the word of her Eminence the Pope.""""

The holy knights troupe looked like sisters in a praying pose with a gentle expression, and a fierce smile on their faces.

They're all making the same terrifying expression... This shouldn't be the place to display such hostility...

"Even the Pope..."

"Spirit shrine maiden!? Isn't that just a legend!?"

"If it's real, then we certainly don't want to oppose the believers."

It seems that not only the foreign envoys, but the elves also stop being indecisive and join our side.

With this, prime minister Heinz is completely isolated.

He wouldn't be able to maintain the same composure

"Your position doesn't look good, Heinz."

It seems the prime minister Heinz isn't maintaining appearances anymore. It's clear that everyone else inside the hall is supporting me now.

With Kachua staying near Tsubaki, no more problems should arise.

However, Heinz's expression changed from one of anger to an eerie laughter.

"Fufufu, I certainly thought... I thought I could use the situation with the beast king to turn things around. With the kemonobito nature, it would obviously end in a fight with you. The matter about the spirit shrine maiden was completely unexpected. This is my loss."

Certainly, that Beast King will fight with pleasure with me, though it's scary for me.

By the way, the person in question is being grabbed from the scruff of the neck by the prime minister Emilia... She never learns.

Seeing Heinz expression changed from anger to laughter, I didn't lower my guard.

A man like him isn't one to fight lost battles.

He must still believe that he can turn the situation around.

"However, I succeeded in gathering the envoys of each country here. Even if it's as enemies, this was my main purpose."

After saying this, Heinz started to take off his robes while grinning.

Under his civil official robes, a full-body silver armor appeared.

Though it might be an exaggeration to call it an armor.

the design is more like a wetsuit.

"Once, the Demon King wore this to battle... with this armour he kicked off the armies of many countries. This magical armour made with an ancient metal is capable of nullifying any physical attack. Fufufufu, I will show you its strength here."

I guess that's his trump card

So the Demon King used that armour? I send an eye signal to Albert.

He's a really talented person on the battlefield.

Silently from behind Heinz, he slashed with magical strengthening at full throttle.

A genuine strike with full force.

It might be enough to cause a fatal wound to a dragon.

However, such a blow didn't reach Heinz.

The strike capable of cutting one in two was stopped just before making contact with the armor making a *Gwy~n* sound.

"Wha-!?"

"Get away, Albert!!"

Albert, who was astonished, immediately took distance as soon as he heard me.

At that moment, a red magic circle with five meters of diameter appeared

underneath Heinz.

“Collect and flame of purgatory! Flame storm!!”

Kachua activated her magic the moment it was completed. After the magic circle shined more brightly, black flames appeared, and swallowed Heinz.

Oi oi, Is it fine to release such a flashy magic indoors!?

As I worry, it seems that Kachua thought about it since the surroundings look undamaged.

The black flames are raging inside the magic circle though.

“Suu, do you know about that magic?”

“It seems to be a magic handed down in the country of elves. A dragon tried to test this magic before, and it ended up melting its scales.”

To the point of being able to melt a dragon’s scale... There’s no comparison with a former 3rd court magician.

When the heavy breathing lowers her hands, the flame surrounding Heinz disappears.

Behind the now gone flames, Heinz’s figure appears standing straight.

“This is absurd... How did he remain unhurt inside the flames?!”

“Your Excellency, is this person really strong?”

Kachua and Albert become flustered.

As if making fun of these two, Heinz’s face was full of composure.

“Fufu, this armor is able to receive elder Kachua’s black flame and lord Albert’s strike. No one is able to stop me now... Fufufu, fuhahahahaha!!”

Heinz was raising a laughter in the center of the hall.
We could only watch silently.

Chapter 156 Armor's weakness

“Unhurt against the sword of the empire sir Albert, archduke Zest's strongest subordinate, and the beast king second to none¹! Fuhahahaha, As I thought, this is the proof that this armor is the strongest! The devil king wouldn't have been afraid of anything.”

In front of the laughing Heinz, two people were panting on their knees. They weren't the only ones... the holy knights, and the black knights teamed up to launch their consecutive attacks without any real result.

“Lady Kachua seems to be out of magic power... What should we do, master?”
“Hey, Suu. Have none of you truly noticed? Or are you just pretending?”

While she was making a surprised face with a *Kyoton*, behind her, without giving up on her plans, the her Majesty the Beast King Elenora could be seen swinging her axe while trying to cut her objective in two. She doesn't seem to learn.²

Is having muscles for brains a racial trait?

“Have you tried using appraisal magic on that armor?”
“Naturally. It was impossible for me to appraise it.”

“...Really. Then, is it impossible unless one got enough magical power? No, is this a characteristic of light attribute...?”

“Master what did you see?”

“What to do, your Excellency?”

While talking, Albert rushes to my side, and both siblings looks at me with the same expression.

They really look like siblings right now.

“When you line up like that, you really look like siblings.”
“Master, you really are taking it easy... Haah. What is the weak point?”
“...?... Oh, as expected from your Excellency! to be so relaxed.”

Albert makes his own judgment without understanding anything at all.

“Oh, thanks for your troubles. Everyone, please come.”

In a certain sense, only the parties involved remain at the hall. Only those related to the Holy Country of Lilac, and the Beast King men. Also the war maidens, and the black knights.

Oh, the elven Queen Elisha is also here.

We all sit around the table that Suu prepared, we need to decide what to do next.

“So, is it possible to defeat Heinz?”

Queen Elisha was the first to bring it up.

As the incident happened in this country, and the queen being the top authority in the current time, she naturally was in charge of taking care of it.

Although he is in a state where he can't move, he can't be leaved as it is.

“Well, the armor seems to consume a massive amount of magic power. It would be impossible for that man to activate it again. So in normal conditions... it would be possible.”

“In that case, may I ask archduke Zest to take care of it?”

“I do not mind, but there is a problem... To tell you the truth due to the properties of the armor's structure, its weak point attribute will change according to the affinities of the user. Furthermore, even without the effect of absolute defense, it has the ability to greatly strengthen the user's abilities. If I fight, it is possible to defeat him... but the conflict might end destroying half of the castle.”

“Ha!? Is that even possible!?”

It certainly has attacks invalidation, but it seems it wasn't thought against bindings... so unreasonable.

Moreover, he can't speak right now since Suu stuffed a cloth into his mouth. But when he becomes able to move again, this degree of restraints will be easily broken... hard to say if it's a strong or weak opponent.

“Furthermore, it seems this fellow possesses the light attribute. The same as me... So attacking from the front would make the surrounding's damage to increase. The weak point is darkness attribute, so who inside the country of elves...”

“Haa... There’s no one with the darkness attribute in my country. What about the holy kingdom or the Gryphon country?”

The queen asks while dropping her shoulders, but the other to respond in a negative.

“There’s no one in the holy country.”

“It’s regrettable that there’s no one in my kingdom.”

As you can imagine, those were the words from the fridge, and prime minister Emilia.

The beast King is eating the snacks prepared by Suu, and is not listening at all.

“In that case, do you want to bring Bea from my territory... Or maybe you would want to ask the frontier count for help? With a dragon hurrying it would take some hours...”

“In the meantime, would you suppress him, archduke Zest?”

“With just that... Let’s also move the holy knights.”

“Hahahihohefuho!”³

“Your Majesty, please do not speak with your mouth full.”

Just as prime minister Emilia tried to give tea to the Beast King Elenora... that suddenly happened.

At first, it felt as if the temperature of the hall dropped a little. But that was only the beginning.

If we use an analogy... it felt like a moonless dark night. If despair had a color, it would be that color. Such a black overwhelming presence overflowed from the hall door.

“Hah!?”

“Your Majesty, please escape!”

“Wha-! This intimidation!!”

“Oh, Toto’s presence?”

“Suu, hide behind me.”

“Master, please apologize at once.”

The queen’s legs gave in, while prime minister Emilia was shaking with a deep blue face.

The Beast King prepared her axe while shaking, the refrigerator had a relaxed face.

And then... their figures slowly appeared in front of us.

“Zest-sama... I heard from Albert, and Tsubaki.”

‘Oh, Zest-sama. I’m really glad that you are okay’

Koton... koton her steps resound as she walks closer.

Glancing at Heinz, he is foaming from his mouth, showing the white of his eyes. With it being his weakness, he becomes like this from such a strong aura of the darkness attribute.

“To ruin my cute daughter’s wedding... And a man with such preferences tried to attack Zest-sama.”⁴

‘So stupid... Ufu.’

(Ah, dad! Mom seriously got angry, lets not disturb her.)

It can be understood just by looking. It’s at the level where the aura can be cut with a knife.

I patted Toto’s head who flew towards me, and sat on my shoulder.

“To try stealing Zest-sama from me... Moreover he is a man...”

‘Only for me... Zest-sama is only mine...’

With a high-pitched *kyiin* resounding, Bea’s magical power warped around her body.

The pitch black magical power wrapping her whole body rose like steam.

“You need some education!”

‘I will never forgive you!’

Bea wore her magical power like a shinigami’s mantle.

She’s using her magic strengthening in serious mode... like this he can beat Albert into a pulp, and make the dragons show their belly in submission.

Her right hand is holding a black sphere made of darkness magic compressed to the utmost releasing a *gigigigigi* sound.

It sounded like the devil’s voice announcing the end of the world. Meanwhile, the shinigami turned towards with a smile on her face, waiting for my answer.

“I love Bea.”

(Mom, take care!)

“Ufufu, I will be on my way.”

‘I won’t leave even the bones.’

While walking, the marble floor made a scrapping sound caused by her magical power.

Bea is completely under the impression that Heinz tried to steal me from her.

... I can’t stop her I can’t possibly go against her.

I can only pray for Heinz to not die.

“Oh, everyone, some might already know, but just in case, she is my wife Bea.”

“Toto, it’s been a while. Want some cookies?”

(I want! It’s been a long time, Garbera!)

“I will take good care of Tsubaki, so is it possible to get along? Please!?”

“Impossible... I can’t picture myself winning against her...”

“Sister, Gryphon will get destroyed!! Please stop!!”

Except for one, every leader of each country is in a state of mayhem.

I understand that feeling... Bea is really scary in that state.

Actually I also leaked a little bit.

“Master, how about leaving the rest to the madam and have a cup of tea?”

“Lets do that, as expeted it is scary... I’m already tired...”

While Heinz’s screams echoed out, our tea ceremony resumed.

It’s unreasonable to try to stop her.

I don’t want to die yet.

“By the way, why is Bea here?”⁵

“Since the envoys from each country have arrived, it was arranged for the madam to come, as both parents are supposed to attend just for today.”

“... Is that so.”

I have to find out from where did that armor came from, and report it to the demons.

Bea, please don’t kill him.

I was praying while drinking my tea that didn't have any taste...

Notes:

1. Guessing on this one since it's really unclear what/who it is apart from being the beast king's.↵
2. I hope I'm not getting too liberal in this TL↵
3. Beats me, full mouth Japanese is well beyond my capabilities.↵
4. As in a gay man trying to sexually assault Zest, the raws used pretty graphic language about this but I feel it is out of character for Bea, am I wrong?↵
5. Thank goodness, I was starting to think I missed this explanation somewhere↵

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