

花野リサ

原作 桜あげは

キャラクター原案 ひだかなみ

1

転生失が
少女漫画の
白豚令嬢
だった

Tenseisaki ga
Shoujomanga no
Shirobuta Reijou
datta

Tensei Saki ga Shoujo Manga no Shiro Buta Reijou datta

-I Reincarnated as a White Pig Noble's Daughter from a Shoujo Manga-

**- Volume 1 -
12 Years Old**

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- STORY -

I recalled memories of my past life after Grandfather told me my engagement was annulled. At the same time, I realized this world was the same world as in my favorite shoujo manga. The villainess who exhausted every method possible to bully the heroine... I reincarnated as that villainess' chubby follower. I shook upon remembering the future lined up for her. When the villainess' evil deeds came to light, she pinned all her crimes on Britney. I was a character that gets executed.

To reliably avoid this, I must not become the villainess' follower. As this villainess only keeps those who are exceptionally uglier than her by her side, I may be able to do something if I slim up. For now, let's go on a diet!

Chapter 1

This transmigration point is really too much

Receiving an annulment in my engagement via grandfather was the moment memories of my past life surfaced within me. In the same frame, I got to know that this place was the same world as my favourite shoujo manga in my previous life; “Meriru and the Gate of the Palace”.

I am currently a character within that story, Britany Hakusu, the daughter of an Earl. A side character that disappears halfway through the story.

Weighing over 80 kilos at the age of twelve, the obese child, Britany. Likes sweets and food, hates exercising, she was your ordinary chubby, female character. White skin, loose fat, black hair, exaggerated curls, and blue eyes, thinned out by her fat, but most of all, has an astoundingly bad personality.

She was named the white pig opposer amongst the readers. No, no villainess, but white pig. I took a good look at this body, not like my own... the stomach's so bloated that the legs weren't in view.

There's nothing drawn on a mob character's upbringing in the storyline, but now that I'm Britany, I have a good understanding:

This fat with a corrupted personality, of course your engagement will get annulled!!

Meriru and the Gate of the Palace.

The life-time popular shoujo manga's content was, more or less, very cliché. The girl name Meriru who lived downtown was found to be the missing princess. Being 'received in' by the palace, she confronts many problems and grows. It was your typical storyline. Bullied by her half-sisters and other girls from the nobles, she starts in love with the prince of another country (love triangle included!), gets over the death of her beloved big brother, and finally, becomes the queen.

This cliché, easy to understand development brought, not only the acceptance of teenage girls, but former ones (aka ladies) as well. Being the university student with

a hobby of reading manga and web novels, I was no exception to this.

Popular as it was, it was decided they make a serialization on the second part, after Meriru became the queen. Not that I know the contents since my life dropped before they released.

In the manga, I, Britany's standing, was a follower of Meriru's mean sister. Waving her big body and personally goes bully Meriru, she was the symbol of those nasty girls. However, this stupid and pitiful Britany disappears halfway through the story. When the prince was close to finding out all these actions, Meriru's sister pushed everything on to Britany, and threw her away. Britany gets executed, the Earl family falls into decline.

Getting executed is no joke. Needless to say, I definitely don't want to walk the path of getting betrayed, then executed on top. Of course I'll try to avoid it at all costs, I'm thinking of the ways to do so too.

The followers of the villainess; Meriru's older sister, all have something in common.

- They were all exceedingly more uglier than her
- Have the same mind and soul; be wonderful lackeys and make her shine in comparison

Meriru's sister has good looks, but when gathered together with the royal family, she is 'normal' in comparison. She's uncomfortable with this fact, minding it a lot. Other than disliking Meriru's' background, she also despised the fact that Meriru, who's from downtown, is more beautiful than her, hence, her treatment towards Meriru.

Chubby sub-character Britany is probably a big contribution to heightening Meriru's sister's self-esteem, so...

"For now, let's lose some weight and extinguish the execution flag. As long as I don't become one of her followers, it'll be fine..."

I determined myself to lose half my weight before my debut, there'll be at least a few years before then. Meriru's first attendance to the ball happens much later, there is still room to share.

Chapter 2

The past of White Pig Opposer

I have no parents in this life. The family head, Earl Hakusu, my father, eloped with the wife of another man. Anything after that was a mystery. Feeling insulted, mother cut all ties with the Earl's family, returned home, and remarried with another noble. This was possible as her family stood higher than the Earl's.

This shoujo manga's world places more importance in practicality than love when dealing with marriages. But with changes in each era, marrying for love is currently increasing. Although similar to how Europe was like in the past, not everything was the same. It *is* the fantasy world in a shoujo manga after all, a belief set on our heroine, Meriru, would definitely marry for love in the end.

The one who's currently managing the Hakusu family is my grandfather; Sarusu Hakusu. Grandmother has already passed away. Being the nice guy he is, grandfather is really unreliable at times, often being swindled, getting tripped over other people's debts, and pushed to buy extravagant goods. As a person, he's a very nice, awesome, grandfather, but as the head, he is very unsuitable. We become challenged financially thanks to him.

This is the ruler of a remote region we're talking about, a place full of mountains and seas; the complete definition of a countryside with no specialty goods. We were previously well-known for good horses, but their importance is lowering due to the lack of any big wars proceeding. The place is, more or less a port, but the surrounding's so full of rocks, that there's no pretty views available. Money aren't gonna increase if no work is done on it either.

My engagement, although annulled, was, of course, political. Their side was to tranquilize their influence as a ruler, ours was to get financial support. By the way, it was planned for my cousin to take over the Hakusu household so, there's no concerns for a heir. The compensation for this annulment was quiet an amount. It would've been better for Hakusu's household if I married into their place, but it can't e helped if their side rejected. I can imagine the reason for annulment, the other side's son probably saw Britany's figure and was really against it. We haven't met in person but it is wide-

spread that Britany's fat and having a bad personality.

Receiving the news via grandfather, I stared at my reflection in a big mirror. Britany's figure is... bad enough to make even me want to annul any engagement if I were the guy. We're talking weighing over 80 kilos at the age of twelve, face reaching out to the neck, heavy body odour, the perfect role for making other people's eyes sore. Being constantly doted by grandfather on top of that created a self-orientated personality that can't see the world. Hobbies are having meals and afternoon tea, splurging on new dresses and bullying servants... a real problem child.

Living like that as a daily routine before having remembered everything brought me to deep depression. But, this will not help, nothing is going to become better, it's what already happened, and therefore, too late...

Let's go on a diet and withdraw ourselves from execution first, then recover relationship with servants, cultivate myself as a fine lady of the Earl's family. I need to help grandfather with managing the place too. What difficult and distant looking plans they are...

I thought of following the:

Get shocked from engagement annulment → Trip to search for one's self → Open up and start a new path.

Unfortunately, however, there was no such option. This fatty who knows nothing of the world is bound to get lost, either that, or get caught by some shady uncle and get sold. Not only that, the me who has yet to have my debut holds no skills whatsoever. Britany is the ordinary out of the ordinary, and depending on the case, a sad fatty with lower competence compared to the ordinary. And... As the daughter of the Hakusu, I don't have the guts to throw away the responsibility. Nobles were actually people who held great importance in their roles.

My plan of losing weight to not attract Meriru's sister became rather plain like so. As a normal lady of the Earl's family, I shall live a normal second life. That was my goal.

Chapter 3

I cannot see through this cousin of mine

I started dieting on the next day. First was to approach the cook, we were in the relationship where we often spoke with one another. The reason's simple, Britany, the person with nothing better to do, often goes for taste-testing snacks and gives remarks of the food. There are also times where she orders for more food or seconds for meals and snacks. This is normally done via servants but this chubby must talk, in detail, directly. It must've been some good disturbance to the cook.

In short, Britany is a girl who loves to eat. Her attitude concerning food is, therefore, not normal. I immediately headed for the kitchen.

"...due to that, please lower the amount of food in servings, concentrating on vegetables and healthy goods as base... As for snacks and supper, I'll stop starting from today"

The words that came out of this Chubby girl was too out of the world that made the fit, middle aged cook form a doubtful expression on his face. Well, that would be the normal reaction. I prepared a reason just for this.

"To bear for... this time's engagement annulment"

"Is that so... Even so, Ojou-sama, even your speech has changed"

"I, I want to farewell the me I was before"

After remembering everything, I just feel odd using Britany's stereotypical ojou-sama styled speech. Other than that, there's the fact that I want to act as different as possible to how Britany was before.

Fatty Britany will be reborn from today onwards.

Now that I reported to the cook, it's time to exercise! I have lessons with my tutor in the afternoon, and of course, I plan to take it. Britany always skipped.

Taking off my dress, change into something lightweight, and start running in this

pointlessly big garden. Being placed in a remote region, the earl's household holds a large block of land. A country with four seasons, currently autumn, the best season for exercising.

Even so, this body sure is heavy...

The higher the body weight, the more the body rejects exercising. With just a bit of action, the weight of the body becomes shackles that shakes. Finding the chubby running the gardener became wide-eyed, passing by the maids, they giggle.

Oi, I see you over there.

However, there was no one in the place who can approach this selfish, fastidious and troublesome lady... No, there was one.

“What are you doing in a place like this, Britany?”

I heard a soft voice, soothing the ears travelling through the wind. Looking in that direction, my cousin Ryuze who lives in the same mansion came this way, waving his hand.

Ryuze is, my father's sister – Auntie's son, grandfather's adopted son. In other words, the next head of Hakusu. Having the same black colour as Britany, eyes like the deep blue sea, he's falls within the beautiful boy category. Several years ago, he was in the capital attending to a noble's school. Right now, living in the same place as me, he studies to be the future head.

In the country, those who become head of households as primarily male. It is only when it can't be helped, or as a measure against something, that a woman becomes the lord. In my case, there is Ryuze so there aren't any problems. 5 years my senior, he is an outstanding young man out, and as a person from the Hakusu house, very decent. Honestly, he's stands more firmly than grandfather, has a nice face, good personality.

Britany, unable to discern oneself, was in love with this cousin, calling him 'Onii-sama' while sticking like glue, blocking him from any maids and servants that are fond of him. This love of mine cooling down now that I remembered everything is almost mysterious. My past life's memories has more influence that Britany's will.

“Hello, Ryuze-oniisama... Don't mind me, I'm currently in the process of dieting to thin up” I replied him while still half catching my breath.

“Diet!?”

“Yes. I noticed the other day after having my engagement annulled, I must thin up”

However, being so full of sweat after just one round around the garden... one more round and I'll be jelly.

How unathletic are you, Britany!!?

“Something like running... Britany's already cute enough even if she doesn't do it”

“...Do you really mean that?”

“Of course”

Ryuze sparkled his blue eyes with a smile, looking not the least bit insincere.

I cannot read this cousin... To actually call this white pig constantly taking deep breathes, cute. This *nice* part of him is a bit of a pain. By the way, this person doesn't appear in that shoujo manga, probably...

“Onii-sama, please leave me alone. No matter who says what, I've already decided to thin up”

To avoid being executed is one reason, but I, myself, won't stand being such a fatty. Being one is the symbol of slackness, regardless of what the surroundings think, that is how I view it. I've always loathed people who are slack. Giving it my all, getting in the university of my choice, even my job hunt was successful... Why did I get in an accident, die, then get reborn as such a fatty? It's a nightmare!!

And why is the reincarnation point a villainess white pig? Isn't it normally the heroine or a beautiful villainess? To actually debut as a mob character after reincarnating, I haven't heard of it once. I complained in my heart while resuming my run again.

“Should I run together with Britany then?”

The cousin who was observing me threw out some unbelievable words.

“EEH!? But isn't Onii-sama busy...?”

“Today's work and study, everything's finished. Of course, swordsmanship practice too”

“...Isn't that remarkable”

As I thought, Ryuze is too outstanding.

Chapter 4

This attachment towards food is extreme

After taking a run with cousin, I immediately returned to my room and changed. I was soaked from top to bottom. Why... Even though Ryuze had a refreshed expression on his face with not a drop of sweat.

Although I want to wash up, this world doesn't have convenient showers and baths like my previous one. Baths are set once per day. The maids gets the water ready in the tub, you soak in it and wash up... no, get washed up.

Even an Earl's daughter gets this treatment. It sure makes one want to push for knowledge on what those with lower ranks do.

"Aah, the stench... stench from sweat, stench from body"

The problems to my worries tend to never run out.

I have lessons after this. Attending to class with such stench makes me sorry for the tutor. Honestly, I didn't think it'll be *that* bad... Britany's body stench, to be feared.

Changing into a dress, I had a maid tend my sweaty hair that smelled, and sat in front the desk. Today's lessons is on history and embroidery. Although it's the Britany who's bad at studying, with the revival of these memories, these lessons should be manageable.

The lessons taken by the study hater, Britany, is limited to history, embroidery, manners, dance, poetry and music lessons. However, competent people can pinpointedly guess. History lessons became nap time, lousy at embroidery, the minimum required manners are obtained, but dancing made the teacher fractured through her steps. Her talents in poems is catastrophic, singing and playing instruments is already on the level of polluting. The starting 'enthusiastic' teachers was now without a spec of it thanks to Britany's superb ways.

"If only my memories returned to me sooner..."

Regrets are there, but it's already too late. There's only the path of intent studying. Not that I think it'll make a difference in lessons like poetry and music that requires talent.

After my history and embroidery lessons, I headed to the dining room for dinner. The Earl's family requires all family members to eat dinner together. Even though I say all members, it's only a small meal totalling three people: grandfather, Ryuze, and me. The servants are, of course, present as well, but all of them are stuck to the wall, killing any form of indication to their existence.

Overall, I did pretty well for my lessons. My history teacher, an uncle in his 40s was worried if I had eaten something wrong. The young lady in charge of teaching embroidery saw her student's sudden improvement and concluded my bloom in talent with joy. Leaving that aside, I plan on asking grandfather for more classes. As someone of an earl's family, I would like to know at least the basics of geography, economics and politics.

Grandfather and Ryuze's eyeballs were both fixated on the meal prepared for me that's lying on the table, constantly twinkling their eyes as though they were hallucinating. Today's meals were, as requested, vegetables based, healthy, low in fat, and small in proportion.

"Britany, what's the matter? Is your stomach unwell?" He sent worried gazes in this find that his granddaughter suddenly had such a small appetite.

Your wrong, it's not like that, grandfather.

"I'm perfectly fine, just starting on a diet. Having too much fat isn't good for the body so, I'm going to thin up." I replied in a haste.

It's probably better not to touch the subject of the engagement annulment. The fact that his granddaughter got dumped gave him more of a shock than the person herself.

"But... you'll get hungry with a meal like that. Let's get some sweets prepared for you later."

Count Sarusu Hakusu is extremely doting on his grandchildren. However, this gentleness is currently backfiring. Having sweets during the night is out of question. I definitely can't have any more weight increases.

“I am fine, grandfather. Just your feelings are enough”

It's a bit painful to reject his good will, but it can't be helped. I'll ignorantly stuff my cheeks with vegetables like a caterpillar.

And finally, night time, my long-awaited bath. I have my big body get washed by the servants. Although I feel a bit reluctant to get washed like this after remembering everything, as an earl's daughter, all that can be done is give up. Even so, it must be hard to wash such a big body... requiring two servants to wash every nook and cranny. All that sweat during the day would probably get washed off like this, sadly, the body stench won't.

However, I can't call for too much extravagance. I'm already more well off as an earl's daughter. The servants who're washing can only wipe me with a wet towel, nothing else. Getting out of the bath, changing into my sleepwear then lying down on the bed...

“I'm hungry...”

The body of a fatty immediately starts to desire food. Although expected, but Britany's body just won't get satisfied with healthy goods. It did always get stuffed sweets inside during dinner and supper, there's no way that meal just then would be enough.

Guuguu, it called in a big voice like the cry of a toad's.

“En-Endure...”

Today's running and healthy menu would all be for naught if I eat something now. We cannot attract Meriru's sister with this ugly, fat filled body.

When I close my eyes, what comes to mind is sweet cakes, juicy steak... Ugh... I want to eat... but no! I can't!

I eventually fell into sleep, ignoring the voice of my heart.

In the middle of the night, I woke up by a loud cry of a toad's. Apparently, this stomach was ringing all night long.

“Ah, a-re...?”

Looking around the place, a sense of discomfort rose within me.

“This, this isn’t my room. It’s the kitchen...”

Without knowing when, I have left my room and came to the kitchen. What’s in front, was the storage room for ingredients. P-Perhaps...?! I urgently checked my hands and mouth in case I was eating something unconsciously. There was nothing in my hand, nothing around my mouth, no taste to my tongue... Okay! Safe!

I quickly scrambled back to my room.

What fearful sleepwalking!

What fearful tenacity for food!!

Chapter 5

White pig and cousin's long ride (1)

I was woken up by the refreshing voice of my cousin the next day. Although ugly and fat, Britany is still a girl. Ryuze did not enter this girl's room, but called from behind the door.

"Britany doesn't have any lessons for today right? Do you want to go out for a bit? on a horse"

"I shall get prepared immediately! Ryuze-oniisama!"

Going out on a trip can be good exercising, a precious opportunity for this shut-in. After remembering everything, Britany's emotions are fading within me, roughly from my previous self's will. Of course, my memories as Britany is still there, instincts too, like going heading to for the kitchen in the middle of the night.

"Now... preparations complete"

The me who changed into an easy to move in dress immediately headed for Ryuze's direction.

"Oyaa, is something the matter? Your reasonably fast at preparing today. It's rare for you to accept my invitation to head out too"

What are you saying when you're the one who sent the invitation, onii-sama... but considering how Britany has always acted, I can't blame him. Britany the shut-in, hates going out, and if she is going out, she takes half a day to prepared. Even though such an appearance wouldn't change no matter how much you dress up, really, the me I was till now, was an idiot. Irregardless of grandfather, it's a mystery why Ryuze still remains so nice to me.

"I'm thinking of heading towards a close-by mountain on a horse for today" He said with a refreshing smile on his face.

"My, I sure look forward to it"

"And about that, I'm thinking of going by riding a horse"

“My, sure fills me with unease”

This is, of course, due to the fact that Britany’s an obese lady weighing over 80 kilos. The horses in this territory generally, can carry the load of around 100 to 140 kilos. Even if Ryuze was 70 kilos, the total sum would equal 150. The horse would get flattened. This fatty doesn’t know horse riding so ridding alone is out too.

“No need to worry, I’ll be taking a horse born in a foreign country, the strong bread. It’s even fine with carrying a load of 180 kilos so it’s fine if we both ride on it. It docile too, not scary.”

I become relieved after hearing these words that notes it’s fine even for this obese body.

“That must be true then? Even if this me with a heavy body, the horse will really be fine right?”

Ryuze looked a bit surprised at my words. Ahh, that’s right, I forgot something important. The Britany up until then has never once admitted that she’s fat. Racking that big body of hers, she extorts the surrounding people to call her beautiful. Worrying about a horse was, of course, something she would not do. She probably wouldn’t even have noticed the meaning behinds Ryuze’s words. Britany was just that... No, the way I was before was just that full of stupidity.

“No, I didn’t mean it that way... I meant that it’ll be fine even if we ride together” Ryuze followed up his cousin in a haste.

“No need for concern, I’m aware that I’m fatter than normal girls my age. If the horse is fine then that’s good. Let’s go”

“A-Aahh, okay”

The horse that was prepared was, like Ryuze said, not a horse from this territory. Earl Hakusu’s household’s horses are mostly long legged and fast. Foreign horses are, although slow, healthy and can carry heavy luggage... apparently.

Ryuze got this one from a friend as he wished to cross-breed between the two types. Not having a clear understanding of this was the fault of how Britany always acted; skipping lessons on territorial studies. Now that it comes to this, I truly mourn for myself.

“Britany... somehow your atmosphere’s changed”

“Is that so?”

“Un, suddenly starting a run, changing the contents of your meals to the extreme... It looks like you haven’t been eating your favourite sweets too”

“Ma-maa, recently, I took a waking to the importance of health. My engagement was annulled too... Things can’t go on like this, I thought” I mumbled, lowering my voice at each word.

A large, black, sturdy horse is present, fastened in the corner of the garden.

“Yoisho-tto” He lifted me up on top of the horse.

And surprise! He lifted this 80 kilo’d me with ease!

“Ryuze-oniisama sure has muscles, to be able to lift me...”

“I trained my body when I was in the capital, and Britany’s very light you know?”

It’s a lie. No matter how gentlemanly Ryuze-oniisama is, these words are overdoing it.

The last time I rode a horse was as a young child. After adding fat to fat, two people riding a horse became impossible. Even so, I still can’t control the thought filled with possibility that the horse would get flattened.

The horse walked for a while and stopped until it reached the bottom of the mountain. The surroundings were full of grasslands. The short grass flutters along with the wind. This place was, a bit further away from town, and very quiet. The little mountain soaring in front, is more or less, a volcano apparently. Be that as it may, it’s remained for hundreds of years like so, without erupting. Even small volcanic activities weren’t occurring.

Taking me down from the horse, Ryuze was attentive on whether my thighs were sore or not.

“No need for concerns, it was a fun ride, thank you very much, Ryuze-oniisama”

The fat on Britany’s butt must have softened the stress. Not much pain was felt during the ride either.

Chapter 6

White pig and cousin's long ride (2)

Standing next to Ryuze after having gotten down, I looked around my surroundings. There was a pond close by here, the horse went as it pleased, and drank some water.

“There are a lot of ponds here...”

“Yeah, a lot of water was probably collected after the volcanic eruption. Although I say that, the water that’s actually drinkable is very limited, it is within the zone of the volcano. There’s lots of components that’s mixed with the water. The pond that the horse is drinking from will probably be alright.”

“Heeh, horses sure are capable”

Other than the transparent pond the horse was drinking from, there are muddy, reddish brown ponds too. Having got my interest caught, I approached the corner of the pond and stuck my hand in. The water within the pond was warmed up to a good temperature. Although it comes with a slight smell of rusty iron...

“It’s kind of like a hot spring”

“Oyaa, Britany knows of hot springs?”

“...Yes, um, I think I read a book with something like that”

A normal lady, especially a shut-in like Britany, would probably have no way of knowing something like a natural hot spring. I used whatever explanation that worked.

“Is that it... Certainly, there are hot springs in the capital too. Unlike here, the seaside gets boiled there”

The warm water looks as though it’s going to gush out of the pond. Warm Bubbles are formed in-between the cracks of small rocks.

“Ano... is it possible to draw this water to town?”

“Eh? What’s the matter, all of a sudden...”

“Etto, I thought it’d be useable as bathing water”

His eyes looked at me as though saying what's this fatty on about? But it can't be helped. This place probably never had the concept of using water from hot springs. It doesn't even have a conduit after all!

There wasn't any depiction on hot springs in the manga either. The only concept for baths is boil water, put in tub. Regardless of it being the capital or outskirts, there may be those that soak in a natural hot spring, but it's definitely not deciphered as a typical action to do.

"Britany sure says strange things... Although I there are often scenes were animals use them, to actually use it as a substitute for baths..."

"Etto, leaving nobles aside, commoners don't actually take baths, right? Even in winter, they only wipe themselves with cold, wet clothes. Don't you think it's cold, unhygienic and bad for the body?"

There are a lot of people who die from sickness in the winter, especially in lands that are extremely cold during that season. Although I'm expressing such a reasonable excuse, in truth, all I want is to bath whenever I exercise without hesitation. Protecting the health of people while I'm at it, isn't that killing two birds with one stone?

I proposed making public bathhouses to Ryuze. I think there was such thing in the past for Europe too. The me who's lacking in skill, did not know the particular details though.

"Even if we make those, there's no guarantee that the commoners will use them. Unlike us, they have never bathed before. Wouldn't it become a wasted effort? And, to engineer and establish such a system requires money, we're quite a poor place"

"...I guess so, you are quiet right"

"By the way, close to the residence, there's an area of hot water arising from underground... it's too hot to use for water fields, there's volcanic components mixed in the water so no one's using it either. The stream that flows from there, does Britany want?"

"Eh, I want! It does lies within our area, right?"

"Of course, within the mansion's premises. Let's consult with grandfather once we get back"

Ryuze is, as I thought, really soft on me. It still remains a mystery why he is so nice to this fatty.

“Britany, although we can’t draw from the hot springs, there are plans to put our area’s conduit in order. I too, want to improve the sanitary conditions in this land. I studied in the capital for that purpose. Right now... just unable to put a hand on it due to the lack of funds”

“Was that so... as expected of Ryuze-oniisama”

“...You really have changed, completely like a different person”

“I-is that so...”

“It is. Previously, you only stayed in your room, eating sweets, never even thought about the territory, more like...”

“More like...?”

I pressed for the sequel. He averted my eyes and swallowed his words. Un. Definitely an insult of some sort.

“Anyways, to see to you grow like this, I’m very happy”

“...Thank you very much?”

“If it’s the you right now, I’ll have a piece of mind when you marry out”

“Eh...?”

I stared at my cousin in bewilderment.

“Ah, I meant in several years, of course. Your only twelve”

“That was a shock...”

“But, sooner or later... you’ll have to leave this place”

“I know. Having a political marriage is, my role... I’ll try wherever practical to marry into a rich family”

I doubtfully gazed at him as I replied.

Someone as perspective as him couldn’t not have noticed Britany’s affection towards him, right? If he said those lines knowing that, I will need to reassess this male cousin of mine... He is, by no means, a Ryuze-oniisama that’s *only* nice.

Chapter 7

White pig and cousin's long trip (3)

"In reality, I was planning to have you leave this place soon. I want to succeed the title as soon as possible. Grandfather will worry about your position as long as you remain here and not want to vacate the position. Grandfather is nice, and as a person, very great, but he's not suitable as the head" He said, staring at me before continuing, "An acquaintance's younger sister was looking for a companion. I was planning to recommend you. Allowances would be supplied, it'll link to you growth too, that's what I thought. Grandfather approved to this too"

"Companion? To whom?"

"This country's first princess, Angela's"

The name that popped out took my breath away... It appeared! Angela!! This is the character that appears in *Meriru and the gate of the palace*, the name of the older sister who bullied the heroine. I see... that's how Britany became Angela's follower. I didn't think the flag will rise this fast... what a dreadful world of a shoujo manga. I shook these fat legs of mine and appealed to this cousin.

"Onii-sama, I... don't want to go to the capital! If I must leave then please, by some other way!!"

"But..."

"Please. Other than going to the capital, anything's fine!!"

"Britany... you're that against going to the capital?"

Receiving his question, I nodded vigorously with the short neck that I had.

"...That bad? I thought it was a nice opportunity"

"I don't want to! But... is it hard to refuse now?"

"That's fine. There are a lot of people who want to wait upon princess so, it's only in the sounding out stage"

"Is that so... the please tell them *Britany's too much of an idiot that it'll be discourteous to have her by the princess's side*. Ah... but there'll be a large sum of remuneration if I go to the capital, right? Then..."

This area is, already really low in producing income, added to that is grandfather's poor management, there's only stacks of debts. I won't be able to get my hands on the money if the offer's rejected.

"Ahh, you don't need to worry about that. It's only decided for your allowance, it'll be great if your able to get into a good relationship with the princess... something like that"

"It really won't become a loss to Ryuze-oniisama?"

"It won't, won't. The acquaintance I was talking about was the crown prince. I used to get along with him quite well, it won't be a problem even if I don't reach out for the princess"

"If that's so, I..."

"Un, you don't have to go if you're against it so much"

However, if I'm remain here, Ryuze can't inherit the position. Grandfather will worry about me... Thing's would probably have been different if I had parents. The young heat of the Hakusu household, my father, ran off with a married woman, my mother divorced father and married another guy...

Grandfather is working as the head for Ryuze to inherit but, his parents are a bit greedy, Ryuze's obtainable profits as the heir is very limited. Grandfather is worried that they'll ignore my existence.

"My thoughts are starting to change too, looking at the way you are now"

"Ryuze-oniisama?"

He looked straight into my eyes, slightly narrowing them. The sky behind him slowly started to change from pale blue to grey.

"Looks like the weather's going to turn bad... Let's start heading back"

"Yes..."

Like how I came here, Ryuze carried me up, went up himself, and headed back. Horse... I'm sorry yet again...

Ryuze continued his talk on the way back.

"I'll reject the offer this time. However, I want to become the head as soon as possible, I can't wait for you forever"

"Yes, that's true"

He's quite right about that. He can't become the head as long as I remain the mansion.

"So, I have a proposal"

"What proposal?"

"For three years... until Britany's fifteenth birthday, if Britany manages to find a suitable engagement partner, I won't send you to the capital. Until then, I'll look after you studying for what's required of an earl"

"Until fifteen... and if I can't?"

"You'll be sent to the capital as planned, to Angela, or another high ranked noble's side"

My cousin was looking out for me in his own way. However, cousin, this proposal is almost impossible to fulfil.

Chapter 8

White pig and cousin's promise

“Onii-sama... can't you at least make it till 17?”

Absurd conditions should be consulted on, I nagged for a longer time frame. However, he, with a grim face, replied,

“Britany, I'm not asking you to marry, but to find a potential engagement partner. I don't think it's a bad deal, not hard either”

Like how he said, it might not be something hard... *if* Britany was born a pretty lady with a pure heart. But reality is harsh, something like a fatty from a poor place only limits extreme cases from the other party, a high ranked male of age, with a reasonable amount of gold, and has a fetish for fatties. Such a selection criteria, the possibility of finding one is beyond low.

“This proposal... I can't not accept... right?”

“Truthfully, I was planning to send you to the capital regardless of how much you argue, but looking at the you now, I thought that there still might be a chance for an engagement”

“Ryuze-oniisama, if, I agreed to this proposal, fleet by three years, successfully coaxing grandfather that I won't leave, what would you have done?”

“It'll happen if the time comes, I'll be very troubled, but... If Britany's going that way, I'll have my ways too”

“...It's a joke. Onii-sama, your eyes are scary”

I averted my eyes from his and took a deep sigh. As I thought, onii-sama isn't a brother who's only nice. Treating such a can't be helped cousin, it'll be bearable if there was a time limit, even if I obtained that hot spring on a whim, he'll immediately turn back to before. His kindness, must be based full of calculations.

Hahh... it still hurts a little.

Even *I* am still a child. I want someone to be nice to me without any calculations. All

the more if it's from a blood related cousin. However, taking into account how Britany has always acted, it really cannot be helped. I would've long cut ties if I were him.

"I understand, I try my best to find an engagement partner... Although I think it'll be hard"

Even if I fail, I just need counter-measures to not become Angela's follower. It should be do-able. Thinning up, smoothing skin, it'll be full of difficulties though.

Britany's body was able to withstand the picnic on a horse. The body started to sweat all over... Uwah... To have to hold Britany in this circumstance... I sympathize Ryuze.

Even I know, my current body is full of stench from the sweat. Mixed with my original body stench, gives off a sour stench. My dress is wet from the dress too, the fat sways up and down at the horse's movement... However, Ryuze carried my with not a word of complaint. It's this part of him that's gentlemanly.

He might only think that I'm in the way of him inheriting the title but not actually hate me, myself... No, maybe that's too hopeful of an expectation. I decided to not hold onto this fleeting hope and look at reality in the eyes.

Chapter 9

The Truth Behind the Engagement

Returning to the mansion, there was grandfather greeting me in a flustered state. There was a visitor for me, apparently. After thanking Ryuze, my body full of sweat, I changed and put in order, a suitable appearance for receiving a guest.

In the guest room, there sat a familiar gentleman and a sulking youth. Both were neatly dressed but exuding an aura of nervousness. The gentleman was a friend of grandfather's another head of an Earl's family. He visits our mansion every now and then. The child beside him was probably his son. They have the same green eyes and blond hair that comes with a shade of orange. The me who hurriedly got here, was helplessly breathing roughly, catching my breath. Even a little moment becomes a burden to Britany's body. Being urged by grandfather, I take my seat. Britany's gigantic butt, there off, took two people's worth of space on the sofa.

"For this occasion, what discourtesy my son did... I had him rather late and probably doted on him too much for such a thing to happen"

From the earnest apology this gentleman was giving, I was immediately able to guess his purpose for coming here. This gentleman, was the one who proposed my engagement, and also the one who broke it one-sidedly. Anger is welling up at *why* such a person is invited into our mansion but, coming from the good-hearted grandfather, I doubt he can flat-out ignore a friend. And... how much this person is shrinking in apology *did* make him pitiable. Incidentally, what *did* he mean by his son's discourtesy...?

"Although it's embarrassing to say, but this talk on annulment... I only knew of it yesterday"

I turned my head to one side in question to his words.

"To tell you the truth, half a month ago, I was absent from the residence due to visits to capital and territorial inspections. The matter with this engagement annulment, was done by my son, without notice, at that time... so..."

The gentleman appealed to grandfather in hopes to make this engagement annulment as though it never happened.

“Even if you say that... Britany was really hurt by this case, not even willing to eat... poor thing...”

Grandfather, you are wrong, it's a normal diet... He was misunderstanding the reason of his granddaughter's light eating.

“Lady Britany... truly, I'm very sorry”

A gentleman, facing me, deeply bowing, is, as one would expect, a bit pitiful.

“Please raise your head. About this case, I pay no mind to it” I said with a smile.

However, from the outset, all that could be seen is a fatty with a weird smile. He only withered away in response. It hurts a little...

“Please don't mind me and have a good talk with grandfather. I'll go along with the decision you two agreed on”

Yoisho, I lifted this heavy butt and went out the room. The talk will probably be easier to proceed without the dumped person in question. Nevertheless... That son, he probably really disliked having to be engaged to me. So much so to aim for his parent's absence to send an annulment. It's not that I don't understand how he feels if I was in his position. Even I'd was to annul it if I were to nearly get engaged with a superior fatty. Personality's bad and body stinks too... but looking into the position of a household's, I don't think I'll actually put it into practice.

“Now, I wonder where this'll head to...”

If that boy becomes my fiancé, Ryuze's condition will be met. That's fine. However, the other party's probably in never-ending denial. That's rich in its own way with a line in place.

The me who was released from the guest room then decided to head for the hot spring Ryuze previous mentioned. The smell I'm currently dispersing is very severe, I'd like to secretly soak in the springs if possible.

The hot springs was located within our mansion's premises. The grounds of our earl's house was, like in any countryside, *big*. There's forests, rivers, and caves, so having a hot spring wouldn't be weird.

"Fu... Fu... Fwu..."

I pushed my wash inside the premises, endlessly forming sweat. Although I was handed a rough map, the place sure is far... and, it's hot. If it's a normal person, they probably wouldn't have so much trouble just to reach there, however, I am a white pig opposer, one very lacking in exercise.

Kuuh... If only I can ride a horse... Should I practice horse-riding...?

I took quite some time to reach the hot spring in deep breaths. If I say, in conclusion, there *is* a hot spring... There is one, but...

"What *is* this..."

From the cracks of the rock wall, flows something like a spring... However, nothing like a catcher for bathing is there, the water only flows down to the ground, then river. It might be due to the components of the water, making colour of the stream change.

The surrounding water in the river, you wouldn't normally use it so it's fine but... the hot spring sure is a waste...

Touching the water, although the temperature is a bit high, it's not something unbearable, draining the source partially is possible. Now that I think of it, on the way here, there was a small dried up pool. That was a 'pond substitute' that grandfather made for me; a shallow pond. However, Britany, as the one who hated moving, rarely ever used it. It became a useless good now that its dried up.

Pulling this spring to that artificial pool, then using the river as a flow... it may be do-able. They are close to one another, but even though I say that, it still requires a conduit. I don't have the knowledge nor skills to make one. Even knowledge on public works, domestic affairs, medical science, business, cooking... I know none of them... only the world's origin based on the story of a shoujo manga.

Can I only ask Ryuze-oniisama...? No, but I doubt he'll approve of me making a conduit to past time... Although it's not large-scale, it's still, only Britany's selfishness...

“Hah...”

My own incompetence is becoming detestable.

While I was making a deep sigh, suddenly, a shadow rose before my eyes.

Chapter 10

Ex-Fiancé hates Fatties

“...Nh?”

Raising my head, I saw a blond with shades of orange in his hair standing in front of me, my ex-fiancé, also the son of the Earl's house that one-sidedly annulled our engagement. Although still a kid right now, he's definitely an owner of promising looks in the future.

“Ano... Do you want something from me?”

There's a bit of distance from here to the mansion. Using my previous world's standards, it's a one-way trip that takes around 5 minutes. He must've had something to say, walking this distance. I tilted my head with the fat neck that's united with the chin I had. Un, not cute at all, ex-fiancé's giving a complicated look too.

“I'm, unwilling” He said, the first thing out of his mouth.

“Ha...”

“Father and Count decided to having the engagement running again”

“...Is that so”

“I won't accept a white pig like you as a bride coming over to our place”

“Even if you tell me that, it's not like the daughter of the earl's family has the right to decide... Things like that, please tell them to grandfather, not me”

To show your repugnance so straight like that, it's actually refreshing, but at the same time, makes you recognize him as a typical, sheltered, boy from a rich family. I didn't have a younger brother in my previous life before, but, if I did, it probably felt like this.

“Damn it, why is someone like me, with this white pig... Oi, you, go tell count that you want the engagement annulled”

“Why?”

“Count is famous for being doting towards his grandchildren. He might reconsider it, if it's from you... You too, wouldn't want to be engaged to someone who hates you right?”

“I see, that may be so but...”

I have no plans to obediently listen to what he says. In exchange for this engagement, our household can receive various favours. A white pig and various favours... there's no need to compare which is better. I, myself, am surprised for having such course of thought. Something like how useable another person is, I have never thought of it before. This is probably the influence after living as Britany for many years.

“I can't promise you anything, but I can go negotiate with grandfather. However, I have a condition”

“Condition, you say...?”

“It's not something hard, it'll be like playing tricks to you”

Ex-fiance's territory is abundant, a great place blessed with obtainable minerals, rich soil. Unlike Earl Hakusu's territory, it's revenue is uha-uha full. A place with perfect water maintenance like the one Ryuze wanted to put into practice. Expenses like this probably wouldn't hurt nor itch him at all.

“This place, I want a waterway drained from here”

“What are you saying?”

“In exchange for annulling the engagement, please make a conduit for Earl Hakusu's territory”

“Don't talk of the impossible! To outfit an entire territory's water system, how much labour and gold do you think that'll cost!?”

Ex-fiancé's brain was more upright than I thought. Although I was just giving it a try because I had nothing to lose, my feelings got the better of me and slipped in the issue with our territory's conduit too. But it's fine this way, at least he knows the effort and required people to manage water systems. At worst, even as an engagement partner, he wouldn't be a lag.

“Are you familiar with public works?”

“Our territory's developing works for public projects. As someone born the feudal lord's family, I'm at least studying the minimum required knowledge”

“If so, can you lend me a hand and that bit of wisdom? I want to tamper this garden a bit, but I don't know of the information required. It'd be awkward to trouble the servants with me tampering the garden too...”

“It'll depend on the scale, if it's a bit, then manageable... You don't feel bad to trouble me then?”

“Ara, this is a condition for trade, no?” I said as I laughed in a gufu-gufu rhythm. The other party just blatantly gave a frown.

I will admit that Britany’s smile is ugly. I want laugh like those ufufu ladies, but, because of this body, it became gufufu instead.

“The contents of tempering is simple. You see the water gushing out from between the rocks? I want it drained to the artificial pool that we passed on the way here, and the water overflowing in that pool to be washed to a nearby river”

“...If it’s something like that, it won’t take too much labour, and can probably be easily done”

“Maa, thank you very much. I do have some other requests later on, but they're all be simple like this one. I’ll be in your care”

It might’ve been due to my ready collaboration with the engagement annulment place that he was satisfied and co-operative with tempering the garden.

“I’ll report to grandfather about wanting to annul the engagement but the final decision *is* still in the hands of his...”

Even if I tell him, if he doesn’t agree, no annulment would be happening. And... even though I *am* going to tell him, my own wish would be that this engagement remains continued. I have to find a potential partner within three years that *why*. There’s nothing bad with keeping more chances, even if, the other party is someone who hates the fat Britany from the bottom of his heart.

While brainwashing this honest boy the same age as I, I successfully pulled him in to the hot spring plan.

“By the way, you... smell of sweat”

“That may be so, I did move around a lot today”

“I don’t like filthy women, nor lazy pigs”

“I think most men in this world would think the same. Me too, I hate smelly fatties full of sweat”

The words of criticism from the boy with no mercy were no other than the truth. Even I don’t like unhygienic, lazy people. Someone like Britany, I hate the most!

Chapter 11

First Meeting with Fiancé – Richard

The picture in my fiancé's history portfolio was a beautiful, slender girl with black, curly hair, blue eyes. I, Richard Asutaru, fell in love with her at first sight. I first knew of this engagement on the day after my thirteenth birthday. At first, although bewildered, I thought it might have been good to marry such a bride. It might've even been an honour to do so. The girl in the portrait showed her beauty, wisdom and virtuous personality.

Her name was Britany Hakusu, the granddaughter of father's good friend in the neighbouring territory, Earl Hakusu. It will probably be more difficult in the future for us to meet in person. I wanted to meet her, with these eyes, see her, as soon as possible. So... I secretly went to find her.

Fortunately, that day, she went out. If you ask how I was able to find her, it was a servant who called out to her.

"Britany-sama, we have the table and chair prepared over here"

It looks as though she was planning to have a picnic close to the mansion. By the way, to avoid trespassing, I stealthily discussed this with the Earl beforehand. He seemed to be happy with my actions and warmly cooperated. I hid behind a tree, watching over Britany and their picnic.

It's a lie! Is this really the same girl as the one in that picture?!

What was there was a white female pig, completely different from the one in the drawing. I thought I was wrong, but the maids who call upon her is the proof that she, without a doubt, is my engagement partner. I fell into deep despair.

No, wait. Maybe... although her outward appearance is hopeless, she may be a clean, pure, angel inside. The Earl too, said that, and was very doting.

Earl Hakusu's doting-ness towards his grandchildren was famous throughout the

nobles. His words revolved around his grandchildren being like angels... However, what reached my ears instead, was some impossible words.

“Ah, I won’t be fond of something like this! The maid over there! Yes, you! Ugly!”

Britany reprimanded, pointing at a maid, levels higher than her in appearance.

Oi, oi, aren’t you the ugly one?

The maid’s appearance was, very much, in the norms. She wasn’t beautiful, nor fat, and had a sense of cleanliness.

“Do you think having tea can be done with so few snacks!? Hurry up and add supplements! I’ll report to grandfather!”

“I-I am deeply sorry! I’ll immediately go get some more!”

Purposely tripping who was heading off in a haste, she raised her voice in a laugh like a toad’s. My engagement partner was, not only appearance, but horrifying on the inside too.

No! I don’t want to marry something like that!

Returning home, I, in all seriousness, pleaded to father. I don’t want to get engaged to Britany, I said. However, these words became nothing to his ears. His son being engaged to the granddaughter of his best friend, he was more than happy for it. I was truly left with nothing but despair!

I had nightmares every night after that. Nightmares of white pigs appearing, a white pig spreading out it’s hug ass to me, laughing gufufufu.

Engagements, scary... Big fatties, scary...

My engagement with Britany became the biggest trauma in my heart. Then, later, I aimed for father’s absence to put this engagement annulment into practice. I lost 5 kilos in one week due to these continuous nightmares, draining my sleep. If this carries on, I’ll become invalid...

However, the situation got detected by the father who forcefully took me over to the Earl Hakusu’s mansion. And once again, I met the fearful fatty, Britany. That person

was, as always, with an ugly cover. Not only that, her body exuding a smell full of sweat. There was nothing good, this white pig...

I was made to apologize to Britany... It was humiliation. It's this fatty we're talking about, surely, she'll start insulting. However, this ill-natured lady said, instead, some surprising words.

"Please raise your head. About this case, I pay no mind to it" She said, giving a smile.

Ominous... Just what is she planning?

"You don't have to mind me, please have a nice chat about this with grandfather. I'll go by the decision you two agree on"

The Britany to entrusted everything to the earl so readily, turned her back, and quickly left the room. I was nothing but bewildered.

No, that doesn't matter. If it goes on like this, I'll get engaged to this fatty again... I need to prevent *at least* that. The talk between the two earls started after that so I decided to chase after Britany instead. The Earl and father most likely thought I had a change of heart, they weren't really against me chasing after her.

After advancing for a while, I detected Britany standing by herself, in front of a rocky area.

What's she doing in a place like this?

After approaching her while having such questions, I found her covered in a sour smell of sweat... As a lady of the Earl's family... No, as a woman, she's already finished. Noticing my presence, Britany tilted her fat neck 90o and looked this way.

"...Did you want something from me?"

Aah, there's so much I want to say... I let my thoughts out to my heart's content, venting to her.

"...Is that so"

However, the opposition's expression remained the same, holding the gut still, replied calmly. I thought she might get frenzy, but it looks like there was no need for such

worry. I informed her my wish to annul the engagement and requested her cooperation. She skimmed through, telling me to talk with the Earl instead with ease.

“Although I can’t promise anything, I’ll try mention it to grandfather. However, I have a condition”

“Condition, you say?”

“It’s not something hard, it’ll be like playing tricks to you”

The condition she pulled out was amongst the lines of draining water from this hot spring to an artificial pool. When she talked about the Earl’s territory’s water conduit... I was really pulled back. However, if it was something like this level of tempering the garden, the people and money required is little. It seems like she has some other requests too, but if they’re the same level as this one, I can hear it out. I got on Britany’s proposal. This fatty is quite good at comprehending others.

“By the way, you... stink of sweat”

Having my endurance on its limits, I honestly told her my thoughts.

“That may be so. I did move around quite a bit today”

“I am not fond of unhygienic women, lazy pigs too”

“I think most guys in the world would think that way. I, too, hate smelly fatties full of sweat”

Then why aren’t you exerting effort to thin up, or deodorizing? I *loath* people who only talk. As I thought, me and Britany are just incompatible.

Chapter 12

Counter-measures against Stench are in Consideration

The name of my fiancé was Richard Asutaru, apparently. He's the second son of grandfather's friend, Earl Asutaru and aspires to work in the castle as a knight in the future. However, due to the weak constitution of the eldest son, there was also the possibility of him having to succeed the territory. To know these things about your fiancé only now... Britany must've had a great lack of interested towards him.

It is the first time we've actually met in person, so... and there was the fact with Britany only having eyes for Ryuze-oniisama too... Now that it came to this, that cousin was popped in a maze of 'what was good about him again?'. It was probably the gentleness and face he had. The Britany who constantly picked on the servants, was, of course, hated by them, and within the small world Britany had, the only allies she had was probably grandfather and Ryuze.

Now's the time to put in effort, me! Right now, I'm only twelve, despite the specs being terribly low. Even with Britany's body, a lot can still be done! Although I don't know why, but if it's for the sake of doing over one's life in the world of my favourite manga, I must devote myself!

Several days later, Richard sent some people for the hot spring project. Work was going well and will be finished in three days' time. With this, Britany can be released from that smelly sweat of hers. I had a hut built near that pool too, as a changing room. I used the completed hot spring water at once. The water overflowed from the entrance of this body's large mass.

"Haa~ It's paradise, hot springs are the best!"

However, I noticed... although I brought a towel, there was no soap. Yes, soaps do not exist in this world. The extent of how much body stench Britany can get rid of with just bathing is *very* limited. I strongly wish for a soap! There, I remembered my previous self making soap as a hobby. If I had the materials, making them wasn't

impossible. The ingredients were oil, water, caustic soda and a hydration room. Obtaining the first two probably won't be a problem but... caustic soda... is there such a thing here?!

I searched, re-mobilizing the knowledge of my past self. Long, long, ago, in the Department in the Coast of the Mediterranean Sea, there was history of soap being made of seaweed lye and olive oil... if I remembered correctly...

I wonder if it's obtainable in our domain's sea...

I thanked the pool workers, offering them to give the hot spring water a try, as I enquired about the ways to obtain seaweed. Like that, I found out that one of the youths was working away from home, from a family living at the seaside. His home, apparently deals with seaweed, the deal to buy some was dealt with ease.

After the completion of project, I also had everyone from the trades section of the construction work have a dip in the pool as thanks. The response was more favourable than I had expected. One day, when the territory successfully manages its conduit, I would want to spread the goodness of hot springs to the people.

Half a month later, I successfully gathered all the ingredients for soap making. I immediately borrowed the kitchen and started making. Olive oil from the kitchen was used, the seaweed was from our territory's too. The smell was injected from perfume oil. The previous Britany purchased them in large amounts for the servants to use when giving her a massage. There is quite a lot left.

The cooks gave the gutsu-gutsu fat girl that was making something in the corner of the kitchen hopeless gazes, but said nothing.

After multiple attempts, finally, a successful soap was completed. Pouring on slimy elements in a model, it'll take around for weeks to dry. Within the time required for the soap to be finished, I dieted as hard as I could. Due to the hot springs, the washing-me servants are released. At first, there was no one who used the pool, but recently, I started catching sight of female servants heading over here and there. The male servants who're in charge of cleaning seem to be using it too.

For the case with Richard's engagement annulment, I, as promised, gave my *thoughts* to grandfather. And the grandfather who originally had a bad impression on Richard, immediately agreed. Although the engagement *was* annulled, the ties with Richard and them was not cut. There *are* financial considerations and a lot of work we want

the other side to carry. And... I did remember recently... but I think Richard appeared as a side character in that manga before, as a follower of the prince. I should get along with him for a higher survival rate.

Maa, the other side would probably be really against that idea.

Britany's figure, did not slim a bit. As the result of effort, the body *did* fall from the weight of 80 kilos to 75. However, the weight did not shrink any more after that. If the exercise was too extreme, Britany's body wouldn't be able to stand it, destroying the body's condition in an instant. That was the bother, because while staying in bed, the weight would increase back again. Repeating the days of studying, exercising and bathing, the time previously taken for sweet intake, tea, and supper was lost. I am putting in effort, but since Richard's case, there has been no talks on engagement proposals.

The promise for a three year time period with Ryuze-oniisama, although there's still time, it sure makes me insecure... Like this, I spend my days accumulating anxiety.

Chapter 13

I would like to repair my relationship with the servants

At last the soap finished drying.

After exercising I immediately entered the hot spring to test it. When I got it wet a little and rubbed it, it bubbled properly.

A light soapy smell and bubbles wrapped around Britney's large figure.

Because the soap uses essential oils from a rose, a floral fragrance spread throughout the hot spring. The soap making is a success.

In my previous life I heard that it was a bad idea to wash your hair with hot spring water, so I had boiled some water in the mansion and carried it out here. Carrying the heavy water basin made for some good weight training as well.

Naturally there is no shampoo in this world either, so I would like to prepare some soon.

On my way back to the mansion after leaving the hot springs, I encountered Ryuze coming home from work.

Recently, he has been running east and west to try and change this unprofitable Hakusu earldom.

"Are, Britney, you smell nice. Did you get a massage?"

"Ryuze-oniisama, this comes from the smell of the soap I used in the hot spring."

"Soap?"

"Eeto, something that makes dirt on the body fall off..."

As I explain the soap, Ryuze seems to be interested. I handed him some of the soap I was carrying.

Little did I know, this event would singlehandedly change my destiny.

After I started washing with soap, the amount of criticism I got about my smell seems to have decreased.

I evolved from a sour-smelling fatty to a floral-smelling fatty.



Two months have passed since my memory came back, but since my previous conduct had been so unpleasant the servants still keep a distance from me.

Even though some of the servants use the hot spring occasionally, I don't have a relationship with them where I can hear their impressions. Although the soap placed in the hot spring seems to be decreasing, I can't learn about its ease of use.

They have been thoroughly bullied until now, so suddenly asking them to change their attitude seems impossible.

(Ahh, Britney you idiot! Why did I have to bully the servants!)

It had started after I heard the employees talking about my appearance behind my back.

I recalled a past memory.

After that chance eavesdropping, Britney was hurt and crying and tattled about their gossip to grandfather. Thereupon, grandfather strongly warned the servants who were spreading gossip to stop or they would be fired from their jobs.

Looking upon this scene, Britney thought "I am powerful... with my authority I can do anything I want to the servants."

Thus the bullying of the servants by the white pig Earl's daughter began.

One by one Britney fired the servants who spoke ill of her. Eventually Britney concluded in her head that "all the servants are the allies of those who spoke ill of me,"

and on that premise she began bullying them.

Before long, bullying the servants became a habit, and it escalated into a way to deal with stress.

But, Britney's revenge went too far.

At this late hour saying "sorry" and apologizing would not be enough to excuse me. Striving to improve the relationship now would be premature.

I cannot help but curse myself for timidly peeping at them from the corner of the hallway.

In low spirits, I headed towards the garden.

As I had time before the afternoon history lesson, I took a walk. A moderate stroll improves your ability to concentrate and also makes a light exercise.

However, after taking one step into the garden a round object flew towards me, splendidly hitting my gigantic round face.

"Gufuu-"

I involuntarily screamed and crouched down in that spot.

Thereupon, from the garden many shadows shuffled forwards and surrounded me.

"Are you alright? I'm sorry."

"Uwaa, how incredibly fat!"

"That looks painful, it went flying-!"

Several voices addressed me simultaneously, belonging to around ten of the servant's children.

(Oi, who was it that said I was fat? If you had said that to the old me, that would have been a huge mistake.)

The Earl of Hakusu household's rules are loose compared to others, and while their

parents are working, children who can't stay at home are brought to the mansion.

However, while it helps, sometimes the children are left unattended.

They have too much free time, and like this play with the other servant's children in the garden.

I picked up the round object rolling on the ground and gave it to them. It's identity, a cow's bladder.

Since there are no balls in this world, instead a cow or pig's bladder is inflated to be used.

Watching the children play, a flash of inspiration hit me.

(Even if it's impossible with the servants, if I can become friendly with their children...)

Currently they are extremely bored. Although they are chasing the ball for now, there are several who look unmotivated.

Rather than leaving them futilely playing around, wouldn't it be possible to teach them something?

(It would be useful in the future, I will keep that in mind. If all goes well, my relationship with the servants could improve.)

In that way, my indirect strategy to improve relations began.

I have about one hour to spend before class starts. "Nee, all of you. Why not study with me?" I suggested to them and a couple children looked interested. I headed with them to the Earl estate's library. As for the rest of the children... they ran away.

The children following me were one boy and one girl. Both are small and delicate children who don't like exercise.

The small blond boy is ten years old and his name is Ryan. The chestnut haired girl is the eleven years old Maria.

They looked at me with fluttering eyes full of nervousness. Perhaps, they know the

identity of Britney.

“Thank you for gathering. From here on, this Britney will instruct you. Yoroshiku.”

They cannot read and write letters, and of course neither could they do simple calculations. They are also completely inadequate in manners.

First, after teaching them the way to hold a pen and the general idea of numbers, I will instruct them how to write letters. The numerals are the same as used in Japan, but the literacy rate is low because there are few who can read.

I was a bit worried, but as soon as I proposed “I will instruct you” they surprisingly quickly got on board my proposal. It looks like these children are better with studying than exercise.

On that day in this house, those children were able to write their numbers from one to one hundred.

Translator's Corner:

Hi all!

I decided to pick up Tensei Saki ga Shoujo Manga no Shiro Buta Reijou datta. I'm a new translator so please bear with me as I get the kinks out.

I changed Britany -> Britney since it makes more sense to me. Also, where applicable I will post “jii-sama” and “ojii-sama” instead of grandfather-sama since the latter looks odd to me. I left it as “grandfather” when it was 祖父 (Sofu) and changed it when it was 祖父様 (Jii-sama) or お祖父様 (Ojii-sama).

Chapter 14

Cousin and Soap and Oily Hair Measures

“Well then, tomorrow we will study addition and characters besides the numbers. Memorize what I taught today. Be sure not to forget it, okay?”

I finished teaching the children and headed towards my lessons for the day.

History and embroidery, manners and dance, poetry and music. After my memories had returned the lessons became interesting, and my understanding of the country's origin and its religion progressed.

In my embroidery classes, somehow I've gotten to the point where my work is passable. In dance, poetry, and music, however, no matter how hard I try I'm not improving.

(If I can reach an average level where I'm not ashamed, that would be good.)

Why am I aiming for only this level? It's a question of talent.

After lessons, I thought about my acne-ridden face.

Although I've decreased by 5 kilos (TLN: 11 lbs), my pimply skin remains in an incredibly unsightly state. My hair also remains damaged with split ends aplenty.

(I may not be able to get engaged just by getting thinner. Britney, you have too many faults...)

In my previous life, I had heard that lemon water was good for clearing up acne.

Lemon water. If using as a rinse, use once or a twice a week. The acidity in the juice will flatten the outer layer of your hair, eliminating frizz. It also removes excess oil, helps restore your scalp's pH balance, and cleans your scalp of dead skin. No idea if any of this is true...

Since I can't expect to find skin lotion for acne and similar products in this world, I decided to drink lemon water every day.

Lemons are a little expensive, but it seems I can buy them from the neighboring territory. The cooks purchased some that were available in town and stored them in the kitchen.

From there, I tried to make something like a rinse with the same materials. It is a simple thing where I added lemon juice to hot water. If I like, adding herbs might be nice as well.

Until now, Britney's hair had to be forcibly brushed into place and held there with oil.

In this world people wash their hair very infrequently, and even when it was washed only water was used. In other words, Britney's hair gleamed from the considerable amount of oil.

(I want to make shampoo...)

I headed towards the dinner table while I thought about my past life's preferences.



In the dining room, there was a pleasant smell from Ryuze sitting next to me.

My cousin always smells good, but this time rather than perfume he has a natural soap scent. Apparently, he used the handmade soap I gave him.

It seems Ryuze noticed me smelling him. He smiled refreshingly, turned to me, and said

"I tried using the soap Britney had made. It is good."

I was pleased that I was praised, and let out a *gufugufu* laugh.

This cousin of mine is a little scary since I can't tell what he's thinking. However, being praised made me purely happy.

"After trying it, I sent some to a friend in the royal capital."

"Gufui-! Geho geho-!" *(TLN: Choking and coughing sounds)*

From the words that followed, I unintentionally spit out the soup in my mouth.

That friend Ryuze is talking about, is probably the crown prince. Judging by what I know of their relationship in the royal academy, they seem to be considerably close.

“W, why did you send my handmade soap to such a person-!?”

In contrast to me who become flustered and raised my voice, he responded calmly.

“It removed dirt and grime to a remarkable degree, leaving a pleasant smell behind... by all means I wanted to introduce it. If all goes well, it might become a source of revenue for this region.”

“Eh-?”

“Britney, isn’t it an amazing invention? I think that it could be used not only in the bathroom, but also in medical settings where hygiene is important. From before, Britney was also concerned about hygiene, were you not?”

“T, that’s true... when we went horse riding together, I told you such a story. I believe washing your hands is critical to prevent illnesses.”

It was just soap I made as a countermeasure against my stench, but it has become a considerably big deal.

(To be honest, it was amateur work... I did not think about it to that extent.)

To the trembling me, Ryuze continued to talk.

“By the way, is there any remaining inventory of the soap?”

“There are a few remaining, but since I had originally made it just for myself its a small amount. The stock of materials to make them is low too.”

“What materials did you use to make it?”

“Seaweed lye from our territory, olive oil from the neighboring territory, and essential oils from roses from the neighboring territory.”



Lye (Sodium Hydroxide, gotten from plant or animal ashes. A strong alkali which is highly soluble in water producing caustic basic solutions.)



Olive Oil



Essential Oil from a Rose

“...I lament that your engagement to Ricardo was broken.”

“I, I am sorry.”

I understood what Ryuze was saying.

Had the engagement between me and him held strong, they might have been flexible and let us purchase materials cheaply.

“But, olive oil could be replaced by grape seed oil which we can obtain from our own territory.”



Grape Seed Oil

Grape seed oil, as its name suggests, can be taken from grape seeds.

The Hakusu territory has a lot of barren land, but recently wine production has begun to flourish thanks to Ryuze’s activity.

“Well then... to the best of your ability, please use materials from our territory. I would like to mass produce it.”

Somehow, this became a serious endeavor.

“In that case, I will write a workable recipe. I will begin making grape seed oil soap from tomorrow on too.”

“Aa, thank you. By all means I request you to.”

Thus, in the Hakusu earldom, large scale production of soap began.



After that, I worked hard to produce soap in my free time. Rather than “production,” it might be better to call it “research.”

Leaving the successful recipes in Ryuze’s care, my responsibility was to explore materials and create new recipes.

While I continued soap production, and routinely taught the children, my remaining free time was devoted towards dieting. Including my own studies in that, I am exhausted every day.

However, because Ryuze expected it of me, I could not complain. Were I to make him angry, it would become a huge problem once I went to the royal capital.

As I was thinking such things, my cousin approached.

“Britney, how goes the development of new soap?”

“Ee, it has been largely successful. Over here I have used essential oils of lavender and rosemary which can be grown anywhere. If these can be harvested from our territory we can significantly reduce the cost of raw materials. With material costs lowered, would we have enough capital to plant olives? If a lot of olives are produced, we could use some of them for olive oil correct?”



Essential Oil from Lavender



Essential Oil from Rosemary

“Un, I will get things moving there. Even so...”

Unexpectedly, Ryuze’s hand extended towards me and touched my hair.

“Recently, your hair has become smoother and softer, huh?”

“...!”

Looking at me who has become stiff with shock, Ryuze smiled and said “for suddenly touching a lady’s hair, I’m sorry.” Doing whatever he wants, does this guy think a smile will forgive it?

(An ikemen’s advantage, huh...)

Were I the former Britney, I would have fainted in delight.

I collected myself, and explained the rinse I made. Although, calling it a rinse is somewhat questionable.

“On my hair, I have been applying lemon juice. I use it when washing my hair at the hot spring.”

“It seems, the hot spring you made in the garden has become popular among the servants too. Would it be alright if I used it from time to time as well?”

“Ee, of course. Because the servants use it at night, I use it at other times.”

“Then, let me use it sometime as well. Lemons will grow in our barren land, so it might

be possible to grow a lot in our territory.”

“Th, that’s right...”

Ryuze said that he would like to draw a waterway to the Hakusu earldom, but hasn’t been able to yet because he lacked capital.

Somehow or other, his hopes to enrich this area, have become synonymous with me.

Chapter 15

I don't want to have a tea party!

Three months have passed since my memory returned.

As usual I am teaching the children, and on the side I have continued my beauty products research.

The soap has had a positive effect on my body, and the lemon has made my hair silky and smooth. Lately, my acne has even begun to decrease.

However, my body's weight still has hardly diminished. From 75 kilos (*TLN: 165 lbs*) it has hardly decreased...

(Why!?! I have decreased the size of my meals, and I have been exercising.)

It's a mystery. My upper arm and butt are still puyo puyo. (*TLN: jelly-like*)

(...Would it be good to build muscles?)

Increasing muscle sinew will increase calorie consumption. It will also temper my body and improve my posture, and in my previous life the television said it would lead to longer life. Those are all positive reasons.

I decided to add weight training to my normal exercise.

(Speaking of muscles, protein.)

The concept of protein does not exist in this world, but there are soy beans and dairy products. Eating more of those should be good for protein intake. Beyond that, meat and eggs would be good to eat.

"Yosh. I'll do my best!"

The children were adding and subtracting water using a barrel and a dumbbell. Adding or subtracting water to the barrel would raise or lower the dumbbell

respectively.

Rather than offering a tsukkomi to my sudden eccentric behavior, the children continued silently studying. They're good kids.

One of the boys, Ryan, is a genius at studying. In the blink of an eye he had mastered reading and writing. Now, I lend him books from the library that I read when I was young.

Ryuze and grandfather already know that I am teaching the children. Even when I lend out a book, they don't have any complaints.

"Ojou-sama, the book you lent me this time was funny. Thank you very much."

"That's good. Jaa, read this next."

"There is a little thickness to it, I'm glad. This will be worth reading."

Ryan's eyes were sparking.

I am not that fond of children, but after inviting these two to study, I think that Ryan and Maria are very cute. Even though I call them children, that is only from the perspective of my previous life. As Britney now I'm not that separated from them in years...

Until now, Britney hasn't had any friends the same age.

There have been few opportunities to make friends with noble's daughters of the same age, and even if there had been a chance, they would have quickly put distance between us. Perhaps it was impossible to keep in touch with a self-centered white pig.

Because of this and that I was lonely, so spending time with the children is a good diversion.

After studying I research soap, but when I looked outside the research room that Ryuze had given me, I saw Maria looking in curiously.

When our eyes met, she came in with an awkward appearance.

"I smelled something good... please don't mind me."

“Aa, this is the smell of soap. If you’d like, want to make it together?”

“Eh, but-”

“I am always researching by myself... if I had an assistant I would be helped.”

After telling her that, Maria rolled up her sleeves and entered the room.

I don’t need anyone for manual labor, but having a conversation partner while working would be fun.

(After all she is a girl, and has an interest in things like soap.)

Maria, once she entered the room, looked at the many herbs and essential oils lined up on the interior.

“How to make soap is a trade secret. Right now, only Ryuze-oniisama, some of his subordinates, and I know how.”

“I understand! I will not tell anyone what I’ve seen here!”

Be that as it may, the seaweed is already made into lye. The only thing left to do is placing it in a pot so there’s no worry of anything being leaked...

Maria seems to enjoy making the soap. I tried placing in honey and the essential oil of chamomile that she liked into the soap.



Honey



Essential Oil of Chamomile

After that, I had her pour it into a mold.

Ryuze had prepared a storage shelf in a place with good air flow so it would dry faster.

After my cousin had started helping, work become so much easier...

Once the soap was finished solidifying, I decided to give it to Maria.

Through deepening our relationship like this, Maria had told me she wanted to work for the Earl's estate in the future.

She is still only eleven years old, and to serve me she would need a good maid's education. Still, that's a matter for the future.

(I'm happy to increase my number of allies, but I'm worried that Maria would be isolated among the current maids...)

Her mother is a maid that takes care of laundry, and probably hates Britney. The majority of the maids do after all. Maria's dream has many obstacles.

(I don't have an exclusive maid right now, so I will ask Ojii-sama if I could offer that position to Maria.)

However, that action backfired on me.

My grandfather told me "rather than making a commoner your friend, you should make friends among nobility."

Although I said nothing of it, talks of gathering noble's daughters for a tea party at our estate began.

"Y, you're mistaken Jii-sama. I don't want to have a tea party with the other noble's daughters!"

In a panic I interrupted his speech. It is still too much of a hurdle to become friends with the other noble's daughters.

Based on my malicious childhood, it was easy to predict the other noble's daughters would look down on me.

(Besides, I don't want to expose this chubby unattractive figure to other girls...)

The eyes of contempt directed at me when I was younger came to mind.

In those days, even though I was thinner than I am now, the noble's daughters still ridiculed a Britney that was only a bit chubby. Hiding their mouths with folding fans, they exchanged glances and chuckled to each other.

Although I was not laughed at directly, it was more than enough for the dull me to understand.

Thinking back now... the foundation of Britney's ill temper and her complex about her figure were probably obtained at that time.

"I will prepare lots of Britney's favorite sweets~."

My grandfather could not read the situation, and continued fussing over the tea party. Perhaps that slowness was hereditary and had been inherited by the previous me.

"No, I told you I was on a diet. I will not eat sweets!"

I involuntarily raised my voice.

I was desperately trying to make progress, but my doting grandfather, who should have been my number one ally, was a hindrance instead.

"Britney, why are you so obstinately not eating sweets? As I thought, was it because your engagement was broken off?"

“No, it’s for health. The illness of being fat... I have found my body’s figure disagreeable. I want to become thin.”

“You don’t have to push yourself so much... But I’m troubled. I have already sent out written invitations...”

Hearing those words, my entire conscious was painted white.

(Ojii-sama, what have you done while I wasn’t looking-!)

I was driven by an impulse to hold my head and cry out.

Chapter 16

It was supposed to be a cliché hot spring prank

A serious thing had been decided without me knowing it. How many years had it been since the last tea party was held at our estate?

In the first place, will any noble's daughters accept the invitation?

(I have nothing but anxiety about this.)

In order to relax, I went to the hot spring while in distress.

Nobody uses this place during the daytime, and it is surrounded by walls on all four sides to be invisible from the outside.

Water is drawn from outside the wall upon request.

I also prepared spaces inside to wash and undress.

It would be troublesome if people used soap inside the hot spring itself, so I drew bathing instructions for the servants and stuck it on the wall.

After washing my body and entering the hot spring, with a zaa zaa sound the water was raised and hot water overflowed to the outside.

Britney's volume hasn't seemed to decrease yet.

(What should I do...)

I have barely gotten slimmer. My weight just repeatedly decreases and increases.



After getting out of the hot spring, while I was changing clothes the entrance unexpectedly opened.

Surprised I looked over there, to see Ryuze standing stock still with his blue eyes wide open. I also stood frozen while holding my dress under my arms.

“S, sorry, Britney. I didn’t think anyone was inside.”

He hurriedly closed the door, but that didn’t solve my rigidity.

I was wearing underwear and an undershirt, but even so I didn’t want someone of the opposite sex to see me in that state.

(So embarrassing...!)

Letting my figure which is close to naked be seen is embarrassing, but it’s more embarrassing to expose this unsightly flabby body to someone else.

How troublesome!

If it were a typical hot spring prank it might be a heart-throbbing experience, but here there wasn’t a trace of it!

(...Rather, Ryuze-oniisama was the victim. He was the one who got an eyeful of my unsightly self.)

After I finished putting on the dress and went outside, Ryuze who was waiting his turn apologized once again.

“Sorry, I should have confirmed it properly.”

“I apologize as well. You saw such an unsightly thing...”

...Ryuze took a no comment approach.

Next time, I resolved myself to hang a “in-use” tag on the entrance door.

The servants had divided themselves into men and women time slots, so this problem has not happened until now.

“By the way, Britney. The lemon “rinse” you created is fantastic. I will plant lemons extensively in our territory. It may lead to a substantial increase in our territory’s revenue.”

I have placed the soap and lemon water I created in the bathroom. They are there to use for anyone taking a bath.

Ryuze also seems to have used it, and his hair appears much more silky and shiny than before.

“Lemons seem to be grown from fairly robust trees, so there should be no problems raising them in our territory.” (Britney)

“I believe in the adjacent territory that lemons are widely grown, but I wonder how expensive the trees which are nearly fully grown will be~” (Ryuze)

“...Yeahhh, if we could buy them cheaply that would be good.” (Britney)

I thought of my former fiancé, Ricardo, the son of the Earl who governs the neighboring territory.

(I wonder if he will cooperate with us?)

Ricardo gave a feeling of “if you want something, you only need request it,” but there is a high probability that the requests for the previous matter had evened the slate, and it will be expensive this time.

Nevertheless, I decided to contact him since I had nothing to lose.

Chapter 17

I don't have a suitable dress

The negotiations with Ricardo succeeded. It seems the other side had heard about how I said something to grandfather to break off the engagement, and was appreciative.

I began to get tired of the lemon rinse, so I started to make one using limes and plums instead.



Lime Juice (Left) and Plum Juice (Right)

Recently, it seems the servants working in the kitchen had become accustomed to my eccentricity.

“Britney. It seems the lemon trees from the neighboring territory have arrived.”

While I was making a rinse in my manufacturing room, my cousin Ryuze entered.

It seems that a large amount of lemon trees will be planted near the shoreline. In addition, taking this opportunity a few olive trees were sent as well.

Ricardo was a lot more generous than I thought.

“Around two weeks from now, I will visit a lemon field for inspections. Would Britney like to go with me?”

“I would really like to go, but Ojii-sama had suddenly planned a tea party... it overlaps with that date.”

“So that’s the case, it can’t be helped. Britney likes tea parties after all.”

Apparently, it seems that Ryuze held the misunderstanding that I like tea parties.

I’m reluctant to let that misunderstanding continue, so lets quickly give an explanation.

“...Ojii-sama was concerned how I was getting along with the servant’s children. He thought it would be good for me to make friends among the noble’s daughters. I don’t have any confidence that I will be able to however.”

Due to my past faux pas, I am sure I will be met with enmity.

Besides, a past tea party was the origin of my chubbiness. In truth, I want to refuse the tea party... but, as the written invitations have already been sent out I cannot do so for risk of damaging Ojii-sama’s honor.

At the very least, I will request the cook to make some healthy treats.

“Aa, I see. Onii-sama, I had made a shampoo but...”

“One moment, what is that?”

“Its like a soap for washing your hair.”

“I see. I would like to try it, so would you please leave some in the hot spring?”

“Understood.”

The shampoo I made in my free time uses oil, essential oil, and honey.

The food of this world is nearly the same as my previous life’s. However, what can be collected in our territory is limited.

Adzuki beans, brown cane sugar, table salt and whatnot can be used as a substitute, so it might be good to make a shampoo using them instead.



Adzuki beans (Left), Brown cane sugar (Center), Table salt (Right)

After parting from Ryuze, I headed to my room to decide on a dress to use for the upcoming tea party.

However, after looking inside the closet I recalled a serious problem.

“Oh no! Britney’s tastes in clothing were the absolute worst!”

Inside the closet, dresses with a disgusting shape were crowded together.

A bright red dress, with a purple, blue, and black ribbon...



Bright red dress + Purple, blue, and black ribbons

A shocking pink skirt, with green lace...



Shocking pink skirt (probably floor-length) + Green lace

A yellow coat, with blue artificial flowers...



Yellow coat + Blue artificial flowers

(It's game over...)

Up to now, I had worn things like that when I went out to greet people. Recalling memories of the past me, I dove into bed and rolled around it in agony.

I must do something about these dresses which symbolize my dark past.

(Although I say that, I don't have the luxury of time to choose any other dresses.)

Needless to say, Britney's dresses are custom made. More or less for this Earl's daughter, there are no commercially available dresses that would fit her.

I began to lose all hope.

(Since it's come to this, I must remake my dress myself.)

Fortunately, I have some skill with handicrafts.

(Nothing can be done with this portion, I will need to enlist the aid of my embroidery tutor.)

I chose a dress with relatively good fabric and without delay started to remake it. I first removed any unnecessary decorations by cutting them off with scissors.

The color of the dress I chose was a moss green that fits the autumn season. However, there were bright red ribbons and showy golden lace scattered about it. When wearing it, the chubby Britney looked like a Christmas tree.



Christmas Tree Dress

Taking the eccentric decorations, I changed them to a decoration that was easy on the eyes.

(For the lace, lets use a black color.)

While I was sewing with prickly needles, the maids in charge of clothing came around.

“Ojou-sama, concerning the dress to wear to the tea party... eeto, what are you doing?”

“I’m remaking a dress. I couldn’t find anything that could be worn to the tea party.”

“I see. With that in mind, how do you intend to alter it?”

“I am going to remove all of the ribbons and change the color of the lace to a more subdued color.”

Fortunately, it does not involve very complex embroidery.

Looking at the maids with the faint hope that they would help me, on the contrary their reactions were terrible.

“Ara maa, why are you doing such a troublesome thing. This other dress is perfectly fine already isn’t it? It’s the same green color.”

The dress the maid picked up was emerald green with light blue and yellow roses inlaid within it. Just which costume party did you take that dress from?



Left + Right = Lovely

“...Are you seriously saying that?”

“Is it not lovely? I think it fits you perfectly Ojou-sama.”

Aa, I’m sick of this.

(Are you saying strange clothes are suitable enough for a pig?)

The former Britney would have received their suggestions as they were.

My actions up to now have been terrible, but the attitude of the maids are also terrible.

“I understand. Because I am not confident in my sense, lets go consult with Ryuze-oniisama. Although you say that dress is good, lets see what Onii-sama thinks.”

A fox borrowing the power of a tiger, a piglet borrowing the power of Ryuze.

After taking out my cousin’s name, the complexion of the maids changed.

(Oi oi, the other party will notice if you change your attitude so much.)

The ill-tempered Britney seems to have considerably more clout.

I vaguely understood it.

Chapter 18

My former fiancé has a good nose

“That’s enough. I will ask another servant in charge of clothing to help instead.”

I opened the door to drive the maids out of the room.

Once open, I saw my cousin standing there with a plastered-on friendly smile.

“O, onii-sama...?”

“Britney, there is a visitor for you but... are you in the middle of something?”

The complexion of the maids got worse.

Absolutely listen to me...! I called it the piglet borrowing the power of Ryuze, but really it’s worse!

“N, no, nothing in particular.”

“Hmm? As for my thoughts on this dress, I also don’t think highly of it. You all seem to have no sense, so I suppose we will be employing other people to help Britney with her clothes. For until now, I suppose I thank you?”

While smiling like an angel, Ryuze delivers a terrifying decision.

(This is... roundabout resignation advice?)

Mixed in among the maids, I trembled with fear.

“It seems that you all pilfered some of grandmother’s ornaments and sold them. It’s natural you would be discharged.”

Apparently, the maids were stealing grandmother’s belongings.

“I traced my way back from the seller. I found several other maids who were related

to the crime, so they have been discharged as well. Ojii-sama has no objections either.”

My cousin said that in a refreshing manner, and took my hand to leave the room.

“A, ano, Onii-sama...”

“Their actions were unpardonable.”

“However, are replacement servants easy to gather?”

“It is alright. I have already finished interviewing their replacements.”

Although I inquired that to Ryuze, it seems I was not to blame for their discharge... thank goodness.

Led to the drawing room, I saw an orange head with a displeased expression. It is the son of the neighboring lord, my former fiancé Ricardo.

“Thank you for waiting. Eeto, what is your business today, Ricardo-sama?”

“Aa. Today, I have something that I wanted to tell you. This is the end of my transactions with you. We have already paid a large amount of consultation money to the Earl of Hakusu household, and provided support among other things. Having lent my assistance, I have contributed to the agriculture of this territory... I think further aid would be excessive, no?”

“...Y, you’re quite right.”

Although, there are still many things we would like the neighboring territory to assist with. I would prefer not to sever ties.

But, I also understand Ricardo’s desire to cut off ties here.

“In that case, may we barter in the future?”

I timidly uttered that.

“Specifically, what would you be exchanging? In the first place, does your territory hold something that would be worth bartering on a territory’s scale?”

“Eeto, Ahaha...”

One exists. However, I do not know if Ricardo would want it.

While I was troubled, my former fiancé opened his mouth.

“You don’t reek today. Instead there is a nice floral smell.”

“...It’s because I washed myself thoroughly using the hot spring.”

I was somewhat looked down upon, but I was happy to be positively assessed.

Also, as the topic of the hot springs came up, it is easy to segue into the critical topic.

“Well, I removed my scent using a groundbreaking invention that removes bad smells. If I offer you some, might we be able to get your assistance in the future?”

“It depends on the content, but I am interested in that invention.”

“It’s called soap, but...”

“Is that not the product that has recently become popular in the royal capital?”

“Eh...?”

This is the first I’ve heard it became popular in the royal capital.

Before I knew it, the amateurish product I made on my own became something with immense expectations.

Without minding the baffled me, Ricardo looked at me and opened his mouth.

“Speaking of which... you, have you lost some weight? Compared to the last time we met, your face looks a bit smaller.”

“...I, is that so? I have only lost a little weight so far.”

“Did you do something?”

“I am dieting. I changed my meals, started exercising...”

Ricardo merely muttered “is that so,” but didn’t say anything in particular beyond that.

(What was that?)

He ended the talk there, saying he had to leave to talk with Ryuze.

After which, it seems those two will go for a ride.

...Un, I also want to be able to ride a horse.

At my last measurement, I weighed approximately 70 kilos (154 pounds). *(TLN: Good job, Britney! In three months or so you’ve gone down from 22 pounds from 176 (80 kilos). To avoid health complications it’s safe to lose 2 pounds per week, so losing 22 pounds in 13 weeks (3 months) barely falls short of the 26 max you could lose. If it was 4 months, with a max of 34 pounds, that’s still not bad.)*

Coming this far, the effects of dieting have begun to show up.

(Nevertheless, I still have yet to leave the level of being chubby.)

I have been able to remove 10 kilos (22 pounds) from my original weight.

(30 kilos (66 pounds) remain, lets do our best, Britney!) *(TLN: 33 weeks, or 7.6 months minimum. I suppose once she turns thirteen years old, she will stop being chubby (Chapter 35).)*

I fired myself up once again to continue my diet.

Chapter 19

My Possessed Cousin (Ryuze's PoV)

When I was five years old, my cousin Britney was born.

I still remember that black-haired, blue-eyed baby who smiled at me on our first meeting. Britney back then was a really sweet child.

But once my cousin turned three, her parents left the household one after the other. Only two remained behind, Britney and grandfather.

I wonder if she felt helpless. From that time on, Britney became obsessed with food as if to drive off the loneliness. Even when I went to see her, she was often eating sweets.

I was living with my parents at that time in a different estate from the Earl's, but when I visited grandfather and saw Britney who was five, I was shocked at how much her figure had changed.

What I found was not a cute little girl, but a self-centered piglet.

Before I knew, grandfather had started spoiling her. The face of former angel was completely gone.

Once I turned thirteen, I went to school in the royal capital for three years.

I am worried about grandfather and Britney, but for the sake of the earldom's future I had to leave.

The earldom where I live is not very wealthy. In this remote region, nature is the only redeeming feature.

Our produce consisted primarily of livestock ranching, and along the coast we had a fishing industry.

It seems agriculture is difficult here because the land contains many nutrient-poor slopes.

Originally the territory made money by exporting horses, but recently horses haven't been selling. After the war ended and peace was restored, the demand for horses has gradually diminished.

In the Hakusu Earldom, the horses are swift-footed and strong-willed. However, in this era of peace horses with a calm temperament are preferred.

Until I went to the royal capital I had no clue about such things. Although I was still a child, there were too many things I was ignorant of.

A short time after entering the academy, I became good friends with the crown prince.

We both frequented the campus library, and after some time he began to talk to me.

I was nervous around the refined prince, but he was surprisingly friendly and easy to talk to. After getting on good terms with his followers and forming a strong bond to the prince, I graduated from the academy.

From the start, it was only a place you could attend from the ages of thirteen until sixteen. I wanted to remain in the royal capital for a little longer, but I had something I needed to do. Unlike nobles living in the royal capital, I bore on my shoulders the heavy responsibility to protect our remote territory. This responsibility is too heavy, it's painful...

Returning back to the Hakusu earldom, my cousin had put on even more weight.

Britney at this time was eleven years old. However, the dignity of a noble's daughter of that age could not be found. *(TLN: So, when Ryuze returned home at 16 or 17 years old, Britney was 11. For the present time, Ryuze must be 17 or 18 years old.)*

(What in the world happened during these three years I was away?)

The territory, which from the start was not affluent, had become even more destitute.

My grandfather was losing money hand over fist, getting cheated out of money through fraudsters, and being strangled by predatory relatives. After parting with so much money, before I knew it our territory was in debt.

The territory's citizens are good, but grandfather is not suited for administration.

Returning the topic to Britney, not only had she grown fat, but her personality had become crooked. Before I left a part of her had been self-centered, but now her personality had grown worse.

The quality of the servants had declined, with the exception of the kitchen staff. My parents are just as unsuited to administrate the territory, and have averted their eyes from the situation. They were thinking of nothing but living in luxury.

Upon my return, I was obliged to repay the debts as soon as possible. I stayed at grandfather's to take up the title of the feudal lord, and ran about doing my best to improve the territory's financial situation.

Fortunately the neighboring territory's lord is grandfather's friend and an upright human being, and supported my back as I fought alone.

He was aware of our house's poor condition without me asking him.

Despite the poor situation, there were some who continued spending money to maintain their extravagant lifestyle. Chief among them, was Britney.

Every day she requested more sweets than she could possibly eat, stocked up on dresses in bad taste, and bought large amounts of oil for her massages.

I mildly cautioned her, but nothing got through.

Of all things, my cousin began looking at me with eyes of longing.

I had many things I needed to do, with not enough time for it all, and taking care of a stupid cousin was not something I could do. As such, I left her state as it was.

(Quickly, someone please take her as their bride.)

Were the top spendthrift to leave, our money situation would begin to improve.

While I was away, Britney had only done one good thing. That is, the quality of the earldom's cooks improved greatly.

Britney was a considerable gourmet. Thanks to her speaking out about the cooking, the quality of the Hakusu earldom's cooking became much more refined. The quality was even better than the royal capital's.

Even though the quality of the servants was worsening, the skilled kitchen staff remained largely unchanged. Rather, if I've heard correctly, the kitchen staff's skill have improved greatly. It put my cousin in a more positive light.

But, Britney made sure to swiftly destroy that feeling.

One day, Britney's engagement to the second son of the neighboring territory's Astaru earldom was decided.

In exchange for his son's engagement to my cousin, the Earl of Astaru would provide aid to our territory. Those were the terms of the engagement.

His close friend, grandfather, was delighted to hear this. However, the crucial Britney was apathetic.

I prepared a flawless personal history for her, and began secretly preparing for Britney's engagement announcement. *(TLN: This is the marriage candidate letter he had, where it lied and said Britney was thin and of good personality.)*

However, after a little while something beyond my expectations happened.

The second son of the Earl himself, the engagement partner, informed us that he would like to annul the engagement. Instead, he would prepare a large amount of consolation fees and other various things.

As a result of examining the cause, I found that he had come to our estate personally to confirm what he saw in her personal history.

In spite of the big announcement, I had planned to not let him and Britney meet until he could not escape... Ojii-sama, why did you let them meet!?

Later the Earl of Astaru himself came by and said that his sons declaration to break off the engagement was invalid, but in the end that declaration was ineffective.

The consolation fee was quite splendid, but the spendthrift Britney remained at our estate. Somebody, anybody, please take her.

A letter from the crown prince arrived for the troubled me. Its contents mentioned he was looking for companions for his younger sister.

(...This is it.)

The moment I saw it, I immediately thought of using it to drive off my troublesome cousin.

Speaking of Britney, my cousin... Lately, her state has been strange.

The amount of food she eats at dinner changed drastically, she has quit eating between meals altogether, and she has tempered her extravagant spending. Moreover, she has even begun running around the garden.

Perhaps, she had received a greater shock than I thought from the broken off engagement. The contents of her conversations have become more decent and upright as well.

(Did you eat something bad?)

Along with her going outside, the amount of time it takes to prepare her clothes has changed greatly.

Although Britney used to leave everything up to the maids, recently she has begun dressing herself.

Talking about hot springs and health issues, she really is an entirely different person from before. I wonder what strange thing caused her to change so drastically...?

I talked to her about how the crown prince's younger sister was recruiting companions. Until now I was worried that sending Britney to the capital would be a huge embarrassment for our earldom, but if she remains as she is now, it should be alright...

All of a sudden, Britney's expression changed.

"Onii-sama, I... I don't want to go to the royal capital! If I need to leave the house, I would like to leave some other way!"

See looked frightened of something. I wonder, are you afraid of the royal capital?

In deference to my cousin who looks so terrified of going to the royal capital, I will put this topic on hold.

If Britney remains possessed by whatever has hold of her, and continues to not spend extravagantly, she won't be a burden to this territory.

However, that is only for a short while.

In order to succeed the Earl, the existence of Britney is an obstacle. As long as she remains here, grandfather will not relinquish his position as lord.

He dotes on Britney from the bottom of his heart.

My social position is low, so it is difficult to vie for the position as lord. I need to succeed grandfather before he changes his mind.

Sooner or later, I will need my cousin to leave the earldom.

Thus, I told Britney that within three years she needs to find a fiancé.

I know that is a tough condition for my cousin as she is now. But, I also have hopes that she will be able to do it.

As much as possible, I would like to be kind to my family.

If, for some reason Britney becomes a spendthrift once more, I will swiftly send her off to the royal capital.



From there after, Britney remained possessed by something.

She continued losing weight, earnestly attended her tutor's lessons, and before I knew she had built a hot spring in the garden.

As well, she began to manufacture "soap" using the kitchen. According to Britney, this "soap" is something that causes dirt and fungus to fall off the body. It seems to be useful for laundry and dish-washing as well.

After I got a hold of my cousin's invention, I immediately tried to sell it at the royal capital. There, I quickly got a response from the crown prince. He would like to purchase a large quantity of soap from our territory.

Telling this success to Britney, she was incredibly surprised, but said she would cooperate with the soap's production and research.

As otherwise production would not be able to catch up to demand, I will receive recipes from Britney and build facilities to make soap. Of course, I will only hire those I can trust, and can maintain secrecy about the soap's production.

When I introduced the soap to the royal capital, it seems it can be sold for a substantial price. Since the amount being circulated is presently insufficient, the primary buyers are nobility and wealthy merchants.

The Hakusu earldom's debt is likely to be repaid in full due to Britney's invention.

As I now had leeway to reform the residence, I purged the estate of the poor quality servants.

In the kitchen, the chefs who have newly awakened to healthy dishes, are improving their skills every day.

Sometimes, Britney seems to slip out of her room around midnight to search for food. Eating solely healthy food every day seems to have made her hungry.

Recently she has said she wants to be skinnier, but since I know how much she loves to eat, I will continue to turn a blind eye to her weight.

Chapter 20

Tea Party and One of the Followers

At last, the day of the tea party came.

Somehow I managed to remake the dress after enlisting the help of my private tutor, and a newly-hired maid put it on me.

The dark-colored moss green dress with black lace adequately slimmed down how this white pig looked.



Something like one of these three dresses?

The invited noble's daughters would normally all be oujo-samas from the neighboring territories, but this time there were new participants.

Ricardo's younger female cousin visited from the neighboring territory, and the noble's daughter from the other adjacent territory visited as well.

Incidentally, the Astaru earldom's and the neighboring territory's noble's daughters, were also characters in the manga.

Lined up with Britney, they were devote followers of Angela. Her name was Nora. (TLN: *Fun fact, Nora's name is derived from "honor."*)

The earl's daughter Nora was the compliment of Britney, a tall and underweight girl. She had small almond-shaped eyes, tawny unruly hair that could not be held in place, and was covered in freckles.

And just like Britney, she was a disagreeable woman who tormented the protagonist.

(Unlike Britney though, she doesn't die in the story.)

Even though she didn't die, she met the same fate as Angela at the end of the story. Of course, her household collapsed at the end.

Britney and Nora were often treated as a set, but I would rather not engage with her if I could help it. Nora has as terrible an attitude as the past Britney.

I would like to refrain from any actions that put me in contact with the protagonist-hating Angela.

The noble's daughters finished arriving, and in the estate's courtyard the trying tea party began.

"Thank you for the invitation, Britney. It's been a while since I last saw you... I see you are as well-fed as ever. Your health makes me quite envious."

One of the noble's daughters broke the ice with a suppressed chuckle. The noble's daughters on either side of her covered their mouths with fans and gave a niya niya laugh.

(Oh be quiet, I've been losing weight!)

Aa, I want to scream...

Surprisingly, Nora, who should be as ill-tempered as the others, did not take that opportunity to ridicule me. Sitting on a chair, she silently hung her head facing downwards.

(Somehow, the impression I get from her is different.)

Astaru's niece, who was named Lily, changed the topic to dispel the unpleasant mood.

Just like Ricardo, she possesses blond hair with a tint of orange. Even though she is a

year younger than me, she seems to have a firm grasp on life.

“Britney-sama, I was looking forward to meeting you. I had heard many things about you from my cousin Ricardo.”

“I am honored to meet you too. I am obliged to Ricardo-sama who takes care of me well.”

Ricardo, what kind of stories about me have you told her? In any case, they were probably along the lines of how enormous a fatty I am...

“My cousin got a present from Britney-sama. For such a valuable gift, thank you very much.”

“Ee, ie...” (*TLN: Not at all.*)

Perhaps she was talking about the soap I give Ricardo as a bribe. After that time he came by to pick up a few more, and seems to have distributed them to his acquaintances.

Placed on the table were my approved afternoon snacks, dried fruit. Apart from that, the usual confectioneries were prepared. Inviting guests without having them prepared would reflect badly on us.

The three ill-tempered noble’s daughters started getting excited about them. Honestly, doing anything other than belittling me saves me...

I am talking with Lily, but Nora looks lonely by herself. I don’t want to involve myself with her much, but as a host I have to give her a welcoming reception.

I resolved myself, and began to address Nora.

“Nora-sama as well, thank you very much for your attendance.”

“Eh, ah, yes... it, it is I who should be saying that.”

She timidly responded, and in low confidence lowered her gaze to the ground. Somehow, the image I had of her is differs greatly.

Far from being a high-handed malicious noble’s daughter, she seems to be quite docile.

In the manga Nora's trademark was her hair that was tied up high, but right now her tawny hair is casually done up and hangs over her right shoulder. Her black dress as well, seemed a size too small and her ankles could be seen.

I wonder, perhaps she doesn't own any dresses of the correct size...?

Instead of this, I would have been less surprised had she brought a lap blanket.

"Nora-sama, ano..."

When I called out to Nora a second time, she vigorously interrupted me.

"Ah, I, I'm sorry! I, I, this gorgeous setting, I'm poor with... I, get really nervous!"

Covering her face, and furthermore trying to shrink down in her seat, I'm having trouble seeing her as Britney's fellow follower.

(I just wanted to ask if she would like a lap blanket...)

At Nora's withering state, I exchanged glances with Lily.

But, before I could do anything, the malicious noble's daughters saw her withering state and looked at her like easy prey. They began teasing her about her dress.

"Aara, Nora-sama. Today, you have a simple dress like always. Since I have already reached my final height, I am envious of you who is still growing."

"How vulgar, your ankles can be seen. As I thought, those living in the furthest territories are different. It does not come close to Britney-sama from before, but it is an innovative fashion."

She briefly glanced at me.

(At any rate, this is also a rural territory, my preference for clothes was really bad!)

But, these noble's daughters also live nearby. Although they are slightly more centralized, they are also from rural areas.

The urban noble's daughters from the manga, sparkled much more than them.

“ .. ”

Nora who was hanging her head in shame could not refute it, allowing the present conversation to continue unabated.

“Nora-sama. If you would, please take this lap blanket.”

I exchanged glances with one of the on-duty maids, and handed her a slightly long lap blanket. The maid was only recently hired by my cousin, but for understanding my intentions just with a glance, they are considerably excellent.

After a short time, the tea party safely finished, and the malicious noble’s daughters returned home at once. For leaving so quickly after their attitude, I feel grateful.

(Un, as I thought I won’t be able to become friends with them...)

In contrast, I was able to hold quite a pleasant conversation with Lily.

“Britney-sama, today’s tea party was very pleasant. Thank you very much. Next time, please visit our house when we host a tea party.”

Lily was really precious, a very upright honest child.

She seems to be a fan of the soap I made, so I gave her a freshly-made one as a souvenir.

Nora was the only one who had yet to leave. Apparently, it seems a rock-slide occurred, and since the road was blocked she could not return.

In the territory where Nora lives, they are surrounded by impassable rugged mountains.

Their specialty seems to be ore and minerals, but lately the ore veins have begun to deplete. They have few other industries, just like the Hakusu earldom, so they seem to be even more destitute than us.

They say it will take some time to clear away the fallen rocks, so until then Nora will be staying with us.

Chapter 21

Friendship with the Fellow Follower

Accompanying Nora who can't return due to the fallen rocks incident, we walked down the estate's hallway. This was to guide her to her guest room.

It's evening right now, but there is still some time before the sun sets.

"A, ano, Britney-sama, for the inconvenience, I, I apologize."

"Please don't refrain yourself. I don't have many opportunities to talk to noble's daughters of the same age like this, so I'd be glad if you talked without reserve."

Nora is still trembling nervously.

I wonder what has her so nervous?

(Perhaps, is she afraid of Britney...?)

Due to my foolish behavior in the past, it is likely that rumors of me being an ill-tempered white pig noble's daughter were leaked to the nearby territories.

However, Nora doesn't seem to be frightened by me. Nervously she raised her face, and muttered with a small voice.

"...Today, for the lap blanket, thank you very much."

"Not at all, I wish I had noticed sooner. For letting you feel uncomfortable at a tea party hosted by our house, I'm sorry."

"N, no way...! Britney-sama has no need to apologize!"

Looking flustered, she stopped walking in the middle of the hallway.

"Our Earl's household is not very affluent and so I own few dresses. And because my height continues to grow, I don't have any dresses that are long enough. I had added a

hem, but on the way here it came off.”

“That’s quite unfortunate.”

“I, I’m no good. I’m bad at gathering with other noble’s daughters. Because, everyone else is so tiny and cute, and they don’t have freckles like me, nor tragic frizzy hair, and they have wide open eyes and are dressed beautifully... Aa, even though this is the first time I’m meeting Britney I said so much, I, I’m sorry.”

I could see none of the high-handed, malicious, tall girl I expected in her. All I could see was a reserved girl with low self confidence standing there.

I can sympathize with Nora’s low self confidence, and I feel like lending her a hand.

It’s dangerous to get involved with any of the girls from the manga. I understand that.

But, I wanted to get along with Nora nonetheless.

(Why did such a docile child grow up to be so malicious? For this meek Nora to change so much, just what in the world happened...?)

In the original work when she appeared, Merrill was sixteen years old and at the royal palace.

In the manga, Nora was as mean as Britney from the beginning to the end.

(Ah, I don’t even know what I’m thinking about at a time like this. For now, lets give the girl some guidance.)

I lead Nora to our guest room.

The guest rooms of our destitute Earl’s estate are neatly arranged, but not that luxurious. However in this case that is good, and should help her calm down a little.

As soon as I finished leading Nora to her room, grandfather came by to give his greetings.

“How do you do, Nora-sama? I heard you had an accident with falling rocks, what a misfortune.”

“E, Earl-sama, I am very thankful for today. For housing me on such short notice, thank you very much.”

“Don’t mind it. For getting along well with Britney, thank you.”

Grandfather looked happy seeing me get along with another noble’s daughter.

By the way, Ryuze is away from home right now to inspect the lemon fields.

“Well then, Britney. How about inviting her to your favorite hot spring?”

After my grandfather gave that recommendation in high spirits, Nora and I headed towards the hot springs. The servants use the hot springs at night, but there is still a little time until then.

After Nora opened the door to the hot springs, Nora let out a rare loud voice.

“It’s amazing, this hot spring. Britney-sama, this is so unusual... Ah, I’m sorry! I did not mean anything by that...”

“I knew Nora-sama didn’t have any ill will saying that. Also, I don’t mind if you address me as Britney without honorifics.”

“Ah, well, me as well... call me Nora. You don’t need to use honorifics with me either.”

“Well then, I will take you up on that. Nora, shall we enter the hot springs?”

“Ehhh? B, but...”

Nora timidly looked down at her body.

“I will help you change your clothes.”

“That’s not it, I can change my clothes on my own. It’s just, I don’t want others to see my body much.”

“Compared to my body, I think Nora’s body looks smart, but... if you find it disagreeable, I don’t mind waiting outside.”

“Britney, do you dislike your body’s shape as well?”

“Very much so. After all, it’s so round! Even today, the gang of three malicious noble’s daughters were disgusted by it.”

“I see... me too. I hate this tall seedy-looking figure of mine. Even though I’m still a child, I am taller than most adult women, and because my limbs are so lanky and continue to grow, I can’t fit into any dresses. When I want to look a little shorter, I have to stoop over.”

“...I understand your feelings, but stooping over is no good. I think having correct posture is important.”

Maybe it’s because she minded her height so much, but Nora has something of a hunchback. Because of her bad posture, her self confidence has become much lower. Human beings with low self confidence are easy targets for those with malicious intent.

In response, Nora just silently nodded her head.

“Certainly, I’m always told that, and the other noble’s daughters keep attacking me because of it. I don’t think Britney is wrong. But, being so bold is difficult. And now, my posture has become a bad habit... I, I don’t have any confidence in myself.”

From the Nora in the manga, this Nora made a remark that is 180 degrees opposite from my expectations.

“Nora, in that case, lets pursue beauty together.”

“Eh-?”

“I, for some reason, need to find a fiancé before I turn fifteen-years-old. Therefore, my intention is to first become thinner and beautiful... Well, there are limits to how much I can improve my face.”

“That’s amazing, I want to become more beautiful than my current self too. For the time being, lets enter the hot spring together.”

We entered the hot spring together, washed our bodies with soap, and used shampoo and rinse.

Although Nora is concerned about her tall body, compared to me I must yield to her

outstanding figure.

(In this world it seems small and delicate girls are preferred, but I'm sure there are men out there that prefer Nora's build.)

The tall Nora with her long arms and legs looks like a model. But, her figure is not without issues.

"Nora, aren't you too thin? It looks like your bones are showing through."

On Nora's underweight body, here and there you can see the bones beneath her skin.

"Aa, that, I don't want to grow any taller so I have been restricting my diet."

"...That's no good. You're still in your growth period, you need your nutrition."

I played innocent about my own shortcomings and advised Nora.

In Britney's case, it is better to restrict my diet a little.

"Besides that, I try not to sleep past dawn... I'm trying various things. I wonder if I should try that way of thinking?"

Certainly, in my previous life I saw on the internet that "restricting your diet will prevent growth hormones from being released, causing your body to stop growing taller." But, I still think that is no good for your body.

Looking at the current Nora, I think it would be better to stop dieting soon.

(Even though she looks like skin and bones, and right now she looks so drowsy. After this, I will request the cook to make a special menu for Nora.)

In this way, both Nora and I, the villainess' followers, became good friends just like in the original story.

From here on out, we promised to exchange beauty advice in the future.

...I drew one step closer to my destruction end, will I be okay?

Chapter 22

The crown prince arrived incognito

Nora safely returned to her territory, and Ryuze returned from inspecting the lemon field.

The lemons were growing up without worry.

I continued to live as I had been, and nothing special in particular happened.

“Britney, you will be thirteen years old soon.”

“Yes, that’s right...”

As always, there hasn’t even been a hint of me finding a fiancé.

“If its alright, would you please start participating in parties every now and then?”

“Eh... Parties?”

It seems in this world, social debuts occur much earlier.

“Yes. I was worried if it was the former you, but since you have been living uprightly recently... it should be okay for you to go full swing to start looking for a fiancé. If you remain secluded in this territory, your options will be limited.”

“Eeto...”

“If you wait to give your social debut normally, it will pass the time limit we agreed upon.”

“...”

In the manga’s version of this world, social debuts usually happen once a girl turns sixteen years old.

However, at Britney's age she is allowed to participate in tea parties and other parties.

Thus far I have only gone to tea parties with fellow noble's daughters, but at normal parties I would be able to meet noble's sons, and I might be able to see my friends as well.

Like that Ryuze has been invited to parties here and there, but he seems to be unable to attend any since he's been so busy.

...Right now, he seems to be doing his best to restore our territory.

"I will attend the party with you, so please do earnestly consider it."

Putting his good-looking ikemen face to use, Ryuze smiled at me. But still...

(Ryuze-oniisama, your face and voice aren't matching.)

His eyes and way of speaking were saying "I won't allow you to refuse to participate."

...Recently, I have been able to read my cousin's true intentions better.



Well then, it seems that the manga version of this world also had something like cosmetics.

Among the nobility, skin whitening makeup seems to be recommended. However, they recommend using it in moderation. Until a little while ago, Britney had been applying the makeup so heavily she looked like a ghost.

However, inside the cosmetic products they use crude materials. In addition to using grain flour products, lead is mixed into them. Lead, of course, is toxic to human body.

(...I wish that like in my previous life, they would label cosmetics with the ingredients used so that I could avoid harmful ones.)

It seems, this is also something I will need to make myself. I won't cover myself as thickly with makeup as I did as a child, but attending without any makeup on would be questionable.

This world was a tough place where “children need to wear at least a minimal amount of makeup to attend parties.”

I recalled my previous life’s preferences once more.

(If I remember correctly... foundation should be made using corn starch, clay, and titanium dioxide, but... those materials would be hard to find, huh~?)



Corn Starch



Bentonite Clay (A type of clay used in foundation)



Titanium Dioxide (A natural white pigment used in foods, sunscreen, etc)

I wonder how I should go about finding titanium dioxide. Nothing about it exists in literature.

For the time being, I will make the powder using natural ingredients.

(After that, I need something to make my complexion prettier... Un, I suppose I need to make handmade face lotion too.)

My weight seems to have decreased somewhat again. I feel like my legs have gotten thinner again.

(For now, let's aim to be a clever, slightly chubby girl. I will absolutely catch a fiancé for myself and avoid the death penalty!)

Having declared this to myself, I returned to my laboratory.

Thereupon, I saw a strange blond-haired man loitering in front of the room.

I call it blond, but unlike Ricardo's hair which looks somewhat orange, his was a pure golden color.

(Who is that?)

At first I thought he was a trespasser, but he's dressed too nicely for that. Maybe he's a guest of grandfather's?

While I was thinking that, the man slowly turned around to face me.

"...!"

This person, I've seen him before!

His face was a perfect match for one I knew in my previous life.

The blond-haired man in front of me, he's the crown prince of this country, Marlow.

He is the protagonist Merrill's and the villainess Angela's older brother.

(Why is this person in our estate? By all rights, he is someone who should never be here.)

But he is Ryuze-oniisama's friend... No way, did Ryuze invite him?)

In the few pages of the manga where he appears, the crown prince Marlow was a gentle flawless person.

However, during the story he will die protecting the protagonist Merrill from an assassin.

If I remember, he dies even before Britney does.

This was done so that Merrill had a clear path to succeed the throne.

"Yaa, pardon my intrusion. Are you the cousin I've heard so much about from Ryuze?"

"Y, yes, I am Britney. For knowing who I am, I feel honored."

Looking at me who was nervously humbling myself, the crown prince awkwardly chuckled.

"Iya, do you already know I am?"

"Y, yes... you are my cousin's friend from school, your highness the crown prince right? Somehow, your aura is different from others."

I do my best to speak politely, using my cheat previous life's knowledge as well as I can.

I wonder if you didn't contact Ryuze or grandfather, and are here incognito?

I have not heard anything about him visiting our estate.

"I am sorry for visiting so suddenly. However, I really wanted to meet you.

"Me, you say?"

"Aa. I was curious who the "cousin that invented soap" Ryuze was talking about was."

...I am not such a wonderful person that the crown prince himself would need to visit.

All I did, was make amateurish work using my previous life's knowledge.

“Ah right, I brought presents with me. If you would like, please eat them.”

With a friendly smile, he handed over a box with cute writing on it.

“T, thank you very much. T, this is?”

“During our student days, Ryuze would say “my cousin is a big fan of sweets.” Knowing that, I brought many baked sweets for you.”

“...Maa, you specially remembered something like that. That makes me glad.”

Baked sweets, of course, are the natural enemy of a diet.

Iya, I personally love them, and baked sweets themselves haven’t committed any crime but...

(Uwa, this, what am I going to do? I can’t eat them as I am now...)

While I was talking with the crown prince, Ryuze came by.

“Your highness Marlow, this is where you were. I had been searching for you in the garden.”

“Aa, Ryuze. I was just talking with your cousin a little. She differs a little from the noble’s daughter you told me about before.”

“...She went through her growth period rather quickly. Leaving that aside, let me show you the soap laboratory.”

(Just now, did you try to dodge the topic?)

What in the world was the crown prince going to say... I’m somehow very curious.

In addition to the soap I created, Ryuze had increased our wine production and has been selectively breeding horses, both of which increase our steady income. As expected of Ryuze.

Recently, we have been researching ways to process lemons, so I casually appealed my previous life’s favorite “lemon yogurt.”

The Hakusu earldom has a thriving cattle ranching industry, so creating yogurt and cheese is not an issue.

Inside the laboratory, the crown prince is showing great interest in the instruments and materials it contains.

(With how much he's looking around, it's good the recipe isn't here now.)

He is greedily looking at the drying soap, but... they have not hardened yet.

"Britney, will you not come to the royal capital?"

"Eh...?"

I was surprised by the crown prince's sudden words and blinked in disbelief.

"In the royal capital, there is a place for you to carry an active role. I think you would be able to spread your knowledge further there."

(But also in that place, is the flag to become Angela's follower-!)

Naturally, I affixed a thin smile to my face, and declined his proposal.

Chapter 23

The flags to head to the royal capital are too numerous!

“I am very much still a novice. I am much too timid to go to such a place as I am now, and would definitely commit a blunder.”

“I heard that you had turned down the matter about becoming my younger sister’s companion. Ryuze had said “Britney is too much of an idiot, she would certainly make a mess of things if she attended to princess-sama.””

I looked up at my cousin Ryuze who was loitering nearby.

(No way, you actually told him my response? I thought I stressed not to...)

...Ryuze was silently smiling... I guess I actually can’t read him at all.

Lately, this guy hasn’t been making good faces towards me.

“From the time I knew Ryuze at school, what I had been told about you made those words seem reasonable... but looking at you now, I think you would be fine.”

A beautiful smile from the crown prince was directed towards me.

Rather than a doki doki feeling however, I felt like running away after I compared it to my huge face.

(If I lose weight, will my face also become a bit smaller? If it’s still huge even then, what should I do?)

After being damaged seeing the crown prince’s beautiful face, I resolved to add face slimming exercises to my schedule after returning to the mansion.

Nevertheless, I found it hard to compose myself while surrounded by the glittering crown prince and Ryuze.

“Your Highness, if you would like, today please have dinner with us...”

“Aa, the famous Hakusu earldom’s cooking.”

This is the first I’ve heard our house’s cooking is famous. I have had little opportunity to eat anything else, so I had no idea.

(Or rather, are we really going to have a meal with the crown prince Marlow? Seriously?)

I later found out, that the matter about the crown prince visiting was supposed to be told to me by grandfather.

It seems he had forgotten to tell me with usual carelessness. Ojii-sama, I won’t forgive you!

The evening meal’s menu, as expected, was commonly shared by everyone. Other than the crown prince himself, his retainers were served as well.

For the first time in a long while, lined up on the table was something other than the usual healthy meals.

“Iya, Britney is surprisingly a light eater. I thought she would eat more.”

Blinking his long eyelashes that covered his big eyes, the crown prince Marlow inadvertently said rude things. I don’t think he held any ill will?

“Is that so? I usually eat about this much for my meals.”

I nonchalantly answered his question. Even though I only started eating this little after I began to diet, it’s not a lie!

Once again, my cousin took a no comment approach.

The crown prince praised our dishes seriously, so Ryuze and grandfather were in a good mood.

“By the way, I invited Britney to the royal capital but...”

I had hoped he forgot, but the crown prince Marlow brought up the topic once more.

(Why. Why do you want me to head to the royal capital so badly?)

My grandfather listened in high spirits. I stared imploringly at Ryuze.

“Britney...”

“O, Onii-sama~...”

Ryuze gave a little sigh, and the crown prince Marlow turned around to face us.

“My humblest apologies... but right now, no matter how much Britney wants to she cannot go to the royal capital. There is the soap she’s creating among other matters.”

“Umu, I see. However, would leaving for a short period be fine?”

“A short period, you say?”

“I am sure you already know Ryuze, but soon I will be hosting a small-scale party in the royal capital. There will be young noble’s sons and daughters who have not made their social debut yet. I would really like Britney to participate.”

“...Britney as well, you say?”

“Ryuze’s participation is already decided, but I’d like you to bring your younger cousin.”

Hearing that it’s okay to bring me along, Ryuze’s heart seems to be swaying.

Originally, he was going to have me participate in another party. However just now, it became a party in the royal capital.

“I have heard the second son of the Astaru earldom will also participate. With Britney’s friend there, there should be no problems. This party would also be a good opportunity to introduce new products developed by the Hakusu earldom.”

“Well then, I will accept your offer.”

Without looking my way, my cousin accepted the offer.

(Just a minute, Onii-sama! Why did you just arbitrarily decide my participation

without consulting me!?)

The crown prince floated a smile as if to say “Ryuze’s such a miser.”

(...Onii-sama, were you always such a miser?)

Certainly money is a big deal to him, but I never thought my elegant Onii-sama would be so easily taken by it. Suddenly, troubles I had no idea about appeared...

Since it can’t be helped, I began to prepare to participate in the party. Luckily, the two I got along well with at the tea party, Lily and Nora, are invited as well.



Although we had fired a large number of servants, none of them were parents of the children I was teaching.

Ryan and Maria are safe.

As the working environment of the estate improved, Maria began to work as a maid. A natural talent, she quickly improved.

Maria’s mother is a laundry maid, but Maria was assigned as a waitress. In her free time, as usual she comes to the soap laboratory often.

As for Ryan, he began to teach the basics to the other servant’s children. Among the children that arrived with the new maids, it seems there were a few among them that were interested in studying.

Although Ryan is still only ten years old, the other children call him “sensei.”

Chapter 24

A question from my cousin

The crown prince that had come incognito safely returned to the royal capital, and the day of the royal capital's party drew nearer.

However, there is only a little time left, so I slipped out of my room at midnight to the laboratory to research face lotion.

While I'm working on cosmetics, I can't forget to continue weight training and my face slimming exercises.

What I'm using now is floral water, which is much too simple of a face lotion.

In order to make essential oils in this world, producers steam herb leaves and flowers, and collect the vaporized essential oils. At that time, the final liquid becomes two layers.

There is the oil part which is the essential oil, and the other part is floral water.

However, until now, floral water has been discarded by producers as a byproduct of the essential oil. What a waste!

With that being the case, I purchased the unused floral water at a low price, and will use it to make face lotion.

For sensitive skin use lavender, for dry skin use german chamomile, and for oily skin use rosemary. The effectiveness of the herb changes depending on the skin's condition.

Britney, of course, needs an anti-acne face lotion for oily skin...

"Gufufufufu"

With a bashabasha (splashing) sound I bedaubed the face lotion, feeling good to be moisturized. Because there are no emulsions (liquid latex) available, I am

moisturizing with natural oils. Well, since I originally had oily skin I didn't need to use a lot.

Generally speaking, jojoba oil and olive oil have a moisturizing effect, and argan oil and almond oil are good for skin whitening. For oily skin, I am using grape seed oil since it is plentiful in the Hakusu earldom.



Jojoba Oil



Argan Oil



Almond Oil

In Japan, I regularly used camellia oil and coconut oil on my hair.



Camellia Oil



Coconut Oil

However, since the face lotion and oils used are natural, they need to remain fresh to be used. If left alone, it will spoil as it oxidizes over time.

It is very inconvenient.

Right now, I weigh 65 kilos (143 pounds). I am just one breath away from a slightly chubby 60 kilos (132 pounds) body.

Incidentally, Britney is not very tall. She has yet to even reach 150 centimeters (4'11")...

As for the gift I got from the crown prince, I distributed it among the servant's children once he had left. It seems to have had a bribing effect, and they are somewhat nicer to me than they had been before. Next time, let's try giving them soap and face lotion.

It is impossible to slim down before the party. But at the very least I want to look as thin as possible, so I should choose my dress and everything wisely.

The next morning, I went to Ryuze's room to intrude on him who holds the earldom's purse strings.

Of course, it's for the sake of buying a new dress. Until now Britney had arbitrarily ordered them without check, but after my memory came back and I learned the true face of my cousin, I am too afraid to use large amounts of money on my own...

Although I look like this, I have the dainty heart of a songbird.

"Good morning, Onii-sama. I need to have an earnest talk with you."

"Good morning, Britney. For you to consult with me, this is unusual."

With refined movements my cousin moved towards the couch, before sitting down. He was taught it by the crown prince, but he really deserves his title the "black haired young noble." It seems he was considerably well-liked by the noble's daughters.

"Ano desu ne, this time, I want to talk about a matter relating to the party in the royal capital but..."

"I see, what is it?"

"Sono, I wanted a new dress for it..."

"....."

Somewhat, my cousin looked at me with a smile that didn't his eyes. It's eerie, I'm scared-!

"Because my previous tastes were terrible, I don't have a suitable dress... I am troubled because it would be difficult to remake any of my old ones. Of course, I'm not requesting an expensive dress."

"Fufufu, I understand. Recently, Britney has become much slimmer. I will head to the royal capital to find a new dress."

"Thank you so much!"

Ryuze's expression returned to a gentle one. Perhaps, was he testing me?

"On that matter, Britney, what kind of dress would you like?"

"Eeto... one in a dark color. Something like black or navy blue, which would make my body look thinner even if just by a little."

"I will make arrangements with a craftsman. Because tax revenues have increased considerably this year, we don't have to worry much about the price."

"...Onii-sama's wine production and horse-rearing are going well I suppose?"

"There is also that, but its also largely due to Britney's activities. Precisely because of that... you don't need to select a cheap dress, choose whichever dress you like. Due to your help we are nearly free of debt, and soon we will be able to begin constructing the waterway."

My cousin is steadily improving the earldom.

"Onii-sama is amazing. Among our relatives, I think only Onii-sama is earnestly thinking about improving the Hakusu earldom. I can say with confidence, that uncle-sama and aunt-sama are indifferent to it."

"That's true. Until I went to the royal capital, I was like that as well... I was a spoiled child living in luxury."

"Ryuze-oniisama was? That's unexpected."

"There was a period where I was like that. My parents lived like that, and I thought I should live the same way they did."

"Once you arrived at the royal capital, you sure did a lot of studying."

"Aa. Therefore, after I become Earl, I will stop my parents from spending extravagantly and keep them uninvolved in the territory's administration. I will make grandfather completely retire as well."

It seems, Ryuze is preparing to take on the burden of this territory on his own.

"Ano, Onii-sama..."

“Britney, would you be willing to become my ally?”

I have the same ocean-blue eyes as Ryuze, but the eyes he was showing me were much more earnest.

Somehow, this felt like a crossroads. The last crossroads my cousin who was so disappointed in me, would offer.

If I don't go along with Ryuze's intentions, I will be cut off as well. The same as his parents and grandfather.

My cousin has that resolution.

“I don't have any intentions to oppose Onii-sama's plans. Recently as you can see, I have gained some muscles. If it's just a slight burden, I think I will be able to shoulder it.”

To that reply, Ryuze refreshingly... eh?

That's not a refreshing smile at all. Instead, he floated one that was complacent and slightly dark.

Chapter 25

I don't hold any ambition

“O, Onii-sama?”

I thought I had been getting along with my cousin, and I've always been beside him. And yet...

(This smile Onii-sama has, this is the first I've seen it...)

Ryuze always wears a gentle, refreshing smile which could disarm anyone.

To that haughty Britney as well, he always showed a smile full of affection. Willingly holding in his arms that greasy, sweaty body without batting an eyelid. He was that kind of person.

However, the expression he has on now looks much more natural on him.

As I thought, the usual soft smile my cousin had on was not his true face.

“I wish I hadn't heard you say that but... Well, so be it. You don't seem to have any ambition after all.”

“O, of course I don't.”

“Well then, as we had planned in the beginning, you will be doing your best to get married, right?”

As he starts speaking his true intentions, I suppose I'm glad he's not trying to cut me off like the rest.

It seems he deemed me a little trustworthy.

“I understand. Until I find a fiancé and become their wife, I will do my best in this territory.”

“If you are truly my ally, there are other ways.”

“Nn? Is it alright if I don’t find a fiancé?”

“Presently, it would be better for you to quickly marry into another family. Please do your best to make an influential connection.”

“What pressure-! Please don’t unreasonably give so much pressure on my social debut!”

I unintentionally spoke my true feelings.

(This is bad, Onii-sama had only been feigning friendliness in front of me.)

There were even deeper layers behind Ryuze’s smile.

“Britney. You, have a considerably fascinating character inside, huh.”

“Gfuu, Gufufufu.”

I thought to misdirect him by laughing, but it seems my smiling face is as uncanny as ever.

Aa, I don’t want to be here anymore.

“I know you have been making great efforts recently. The soap you had invented really saved me. For that matter, I am thankful.”

“...Onii-sama, the wine and horses you’ve produced seem to give much more stable tax revenue though.”

“It is better to have a wide range of income sources. That shampoo and rinse won’t keep for a long time is their only downside.”

“Uu, that’s true. The latest version of shampoo uses the same mixture of honey and essential oils I use in the soap but... it only keeps for about a month. The rinse is the same way, and every time I see it I feel like I have to use it. Therefore, growing more lemons is very important.”

“Maa, lemons are used because they’re effective.”

Before I knew it, we began talking about work.

“In any case, do your best at the upcoming party. I would like to nominate Ricardo, but...”

“He’s unreasonable because he had dumped me in the past. That said, even I would like if our connection to the Astaru earldom wasn’t cut off.”

“I see. When he came by the other day, I thought I felt a pulse between you two.”

That’s definitely a lie! I gave a tsukkomi in my mind as I left my cousin’s room.

As I was wishfully thinking about giving that response... that’s right, isn’t it?

(...Nn?)

Which reminds me, Ryuze had said “you don’t appear to have any ambition after all.”

Due to my recent activity, was he worried I was aiming to become the next Earl?

(I’m probably overthinking it. I don’t think there’s any way I could take over from Onii-sama.)

Very few female Earls appear in this world.

In the absence of a male Earl, sometimes it seems a woman would take the place of Earl, but normally in the case where there’s no male successor the woman’s husband would become Earl.

(That said, although it was a considerable while ago, there was a story where all of the male successors were fools, and exceptionally a woman was nominated... I learned that in my history classes.)

At any rate, that should be irrelevant to the Hakusu earldom.

Chapter 26

My former fiancé is behaving suspiciously

After listening to Ryuze, there seems to be the concept of something like a patent in this world just like in the manga.

However, in this country they questionably expire after three years, and their contents differ a little from Japan's. Although they're somewhat half-baked, they are cheap and still give a monopoly for three years.

I thought it might be nice to patent the soap and shampoo I had made... but before I knew it Ryuze had already filed a patent. Moreover, it's in my name.

I wouldn't have minded if he filed it under his name, but it seems my cousin has a considerable amount of integrity.

If it's just three years, I see no problems with it since I will still be in the Hakusu earldom.

The gentle afternoon light gives a calming feeling to the grasslands.

Right now, I am in a four-seater horse-drawn carriage from our earldom. There are other carriages travelling with us, but they are for the servants.

At last, the day of the party in the royal capital is drawing near.

Ryuze and Nora are travelling with me in this carriage. Because it was alright to attend with friends, I invited Nora and Lily to go.

Nora was kind and agreed to go with me, but Lily seems to have already made plans to go with Ricardo.

And so, the three of us from similar remote areas, decided to go to the royal capital.

Nora traveled all the way from the neighboring territory, through the Hakusu earldom, and then through the Astaru earldom.

Just like last time, Nora looks at Ryuze with a dazed expression. Her cheeks were a bit red, and her eyes were moist.

I understand your feelings, but I can't recommend this cousin to you. The only thing that's refreshing about him is his appearance.

"Nora-sama, I heard that your region had thought up a new specialty."

In response to Ryuze's question, Nora nervously responded.

"Ee, thanks to Britney... sama. The mud we harvest from our territory is of good quality, and is good for beauty. Otou-sama has been promoting sales by offering samples to noble's wives, and they seem to be received favorably."

According to Nora, in parts of her territory people long ago painted mud on their skin to keep it pretty. Hearing that I thought the mud could be sold and suggested that to her.

They had a huge amount of mud, but nobody thought of selling it.

However, once I put it into a nice container and started promoting it, nobility highly concerned with beauty immediately started using mud packs. It seems a boom of sorts began.

Incidentally... From Nora, I have been receiving mud for free.

The mud packs have seemed to increase their territory's income, so Nora had gotten a beautiful new dress. It was a good dress in a calming yellow shade with small embroidered flowers. We will change into our dresses once we arrived at the royal capital, but until then we are wearing casual clothes.



Yellow Dress with Embroidered Flowers. Nora's might have sleeves.

My dress was a dark blue like the ocean at night with simple lace. As planned, it is designed to make me look slimmer.



Dark Blue Dress with Lace. Britney's is likely floor-length

Incidentally, my current weight has slowly dropped to 60 kilos (132 pounds).

It was worth the effort of dieting every day, and I've finally succeeded in becoming only slightly chubby. Although my appearance is still chubby, it has reached the point where small changes in weight will have a drastic change in appearance.

I wonder if I should review my eating habits and continue washing myself with soap?

My body produces almost no body odor now.

My hair is shiny, and my skin is youthful and smooth. Well, those are because I'm currently twelve years old.

(With this, is it enough? Will I be able to find a fiancé candidate with my appearance improved this much?)

However, that small self confidence I had collapsed with a gara gara (rattling) sound the moment I saw Astaru earldom's Lily.

Our degrees of perfection as a pretty woman were fundamentally different.

I'm sorry, I got carried away. Even though I'm just a white pig.

"Britney-sama, Nora-sama, I'm so glad to see you again!"

Lily the adorable thing came towards us with a quick pace.

The fluttering mint green dress oddly suits her. Furthermore, as expected of the Astaru earldom... although it's a dress for casual wear, it looks very gorgeous.



Mint Green Dress.



Maybe more like this?

Lily also took notice of Ryuze and adorned a slightly reddened face.

(Here's another noble's daughter that's being deceived...)

Once at Ricardo's estate we took a little break.

The Earl of Astaru and his wife greeted us, but upon seeing me their eyes seemed a little uncomfortable.

By the way, the Earl's wife is considerably younger than the Earl.

Ricardo's brother who has a weak constitution seems to be doing poorly, and could not leave his room today.

Since I was freely allowed access to the garden, I decided going out to exercise.

I was stuck in the carriage the entire trip, so I couldn't help but want to move my body.

The two noble's daughters took up camp near Ryuze. Disregarding Lily, I was a bit surprised at Nora's assertiveness.

While I was walking in the garden, for some reason Ricardo came along. Because I was alone, perhaps he felt sorry for me.

"Ara, Ricardo-sama. Gokigenyou." (TLN: A polite noble-like way to say hello.)

“Aa. The other day I was saved since you preferentially gave me soaps. You have my thanks.”

“Not at all, mutual cooperation is a terribly important thing. We are much obliged from the matters with the lemons and olives, and we were hoping to receive assistance building a waterway in the Hakusu earldom.”

“Maa, my territory is only a step ahead of yours in building a waterway... by the way...”

“What is it?”

For some reason, Ricardo began to fidget nervously as if it was hard to say.

“...I heard from your cousin Ryuze. It seems you were bullied for a long time by your servants. I didn't know, so it seems I got the wrong impression of you.”

“The servants?”

I couldn't understand what he meant, so I inclined my fat neck tilting my head to the side.

“A, ano? Ricardo-sama? Being bullied by the servants, what do you mean by that...?”

“It's fine, you don't need to remember that. I understand you stood up to them as best you could... For holding a misunderstanding for so long, I'm sorry.”

“etto, ano...”

“It's in the past now, but I wanted to convey that. See you.”

Ricardo went back to the mansion looking satisfied.

However, I have no idea what he was talking about.

(Onii-sama, what in the world did you tell Ricardo?)

Somehow, it seems Ricardo's attitude is softening.

(Maa, that's fine. If I can build favorable relationships, that will help a lot.)

I don't understand what he was talking about, but I decided to leave it alone.

Chapter 27

I'm sorry my butt's so big

We stayed one night at the Astaru earldom's estate, and the next morning we departed for the royal capital.

Including all of the guards and servants, it became a relatively large caravan. However, it's reassuring to have the Astaru earldom's servants accompany us.

We split the men and women into two carriages, so I feel a little relieved.

Although the Astaru earldom's carriage can seat six people, all five of us could ride together. However, because of Britney's butt it was clear I would take up two seats in the carriage.

I know its impossible to call me anything other than a white pig, but openly treating me like one is a little harsh. I am an existence that always bothers other people in narrow places...

It takes four days by carriage to reach the royal capital, and during that time I can't exercise. *(TLN: Judging by the distance a carriage travels per day, Ricardo's estate is about 100 km (62 miles) from the royal capital. That's about the width of Japan from East to West.)*

(I absolutely will not snack between meals!)

Sending a sidelong glance towards Nora and Lily who were happily stuffing their cheeks, I steeled my heart and looked out the window.

The Astaru earldom has lots of flat fertile land and agriculture is flourishing. The fields on both sides of the road seem to go on forever.

While taking breaks at inns along the way, we arrived at the royal capital as planned.

All of the royal capital's roads are paved with stone, and the number of people in each house differs greatly from the Hakusu earldom. A canal system existed, and the roads intersected in such a way they made the city look like a Go board.

The party will be held tomorrow, so there is still some time. Until then, we are supposed to stay in a guest room in the castle.

“Yaa, I’m glad you came.”

Once we arrived at the castle in the afternoon, the crown prince Marlow specially greeted us.

Ryuze started talking to him as you would a close friend, and the rest of us stood there waving our hands with a glad expression.

“Britney must be worn-out. Until the party commences please rest. I will make arrangements to prepare the royal capital’s specialty sweets for the guest rooms.”

The prince still seems to hold his misunderstanding. He completely thinks I’m a chubby sweets fanatic.

(Lets give the candy to Nora and Lily... I do like sweets though.)

It would be terrible if I couldn’t fit into my dress once it comes time for the party. Even now due to the long carriage ride my legs have swelled and will barely fit.

Nora and Lily who saw crown prince Marlow once again dyed their cheeks red.

Certainly, he has a well-ordered look. The crown prince, Ryuze, and Ricardo standing side-by-side makes for a lovely image.

“Your Highness the crown prince, this is a face lotion made using our earldom’s flowers.”

I had heard from Ryuze that the crown prince wants a lot of our territory’s face lotion, so

I prepared a suitable present. I had no idea about his skin’s quality, so for now I chose a safe rose face lotion to present him.

“Aa, thank you, Britney! I wanted this!”

“As there are many other kinds as well, if you like this one please let me know and I can send it again.”

“By all means I ask that of you! I also request soap, shampoo and hair oil! And then...”

Ryuze smiles at the crown prince who’s placing additional orders.

“Thank you very much Your Highness for your large order. If Your Highness the crown prince is using it, our territory’s products will increase in prestige.”

“Umu. With that being the case, I would be happy to give you the mark of a royal purveyor... I envy you Ryuze, you have excellent cousins.”

The eyes of crown prince Marlow briefly glanced back towards a part of the castle.

Following his eyes, I saw a group of suspicious women dressed like Kurokos. They started walking towards the back of the building in succession. *(TLN: Literally “black child.” Stagehands dressed all in black in traditional Japanese theatre.)*



Kuroko Outfit



Kuroko moving a prop on a stage

(...Over there, what in the world?)

Noticing that I was wondering about them, the crown prince had a wry smile and opened his mouth.

“Those are my younger sister’s maids. I don’t really understand it, but they are always wearing that.”

“...Is that so?”

The sister he’s talking about is the manga’s villainess noble’s daughter, Angela. At the present time, the protagonist Merrill should still be in the lower part of the city living as a commoner.

I guess she dressed them like Kurokos so they wouldn’t stand out more than her.

(On the contrary, they are more intrusive than ever but...)

As always, I want nothing to do with Angela. With stiff movements I averted my eyes from the Kurokos.

Chapter 28

The west garden and my former Fiancé

We arrived at the castle, and after parting with crown prince Marlow, we were guided to our rooms. One person per room, it's a considerably nice reception. Nora and Lily and I are next-door neighbors. Ryuze and Ricardo have rooms on the floor above us.

Since we arrived at the castle in the afternoon, and were guided to our rooms soon after, it was still bright outside. From my room on the second floor I could see the castle's west garden. Although we passed them on the way, this big castle has beautiful gardens scattered here and there.

If I had to say, the west garden had a non-showy, calming image. Rather than large showy roses and fancy fountains, there were small flowers and various kinds of herbs planted in a greenhouse.

...Right. They have the luxury of growing every kind of herb in the country in this garden, this place is indeed to my liking.

I confirmed with a castle servant that I was free to enter and exit the west garden as I pleased. Without delay, I started wandering around the garden.

Entering the greenhouse in the garden, I studied the various plants that were being grown.

Since there are many herbs here that aren't normally grown in this area, they are probably brought from another place and transplanted. Although the flowers aren't blooming, common mallow and marigold-like flowers are growing. It's the end of autumn now – although it's a greenhouse, it seems there are technical problems, and the flower blossoms will finish falling sometime later.



Common Mallow



Marigold

In my original world I think the greenhouse was invented in a later period, so the level of civilization in this shoujo manga world might be different depending on the object.

A short time later, the door to the castle opened and Ricardo came out.

As I heard from Ryuze, since Ricardo is the second son until now he hasn't visited the royal capital. Since he hasn't made any acquaintances yet, he seems to be burdened with lots of free time.

Once he saw me, he approached saying "What, you came here too?"

"What are you looking at with such enthusiasm?"

"This garden herb. There are a lot of varieties here that can't be found in the Hakusu earldom."

"There are a few flowers but... most of them look like weeds."

Certainly, lots of herbs look like weeds, and some herbs are even sturdier than weeds.

In my previous life when the peppermint proliferated too much in my garden, I have the memory of getting flustered and uprooting a large quantity of them.

“Most likely, someone in the castle is growing them in order to make herbal tea. As for this, I believe it to be a type of nettle. It has the effects of anemia and asthma prevention. This garden has lots of useful herbs.”



Stinging Nettle

“I see. What else is here?”

For example, in the corner of the greenhouse... that stinky thing growing in the corner is a chameleon plant (*Hottuynia Cordata*), and has an anti-poison effect. Over here is a plant called thyme which is used for disinfection.”



Chameleon Plant (Hottuynia Cordata). They also come with red- and orange-tinted leaves.



Thyme

“I’m surprised. You are well-informed about all kinds of medicinal plants.”

“Ee, maa... be that as it may, I still don’t know the effects of all these medicinal plants. I only know the most common ones.”

In my previous life there was a time when I was fascinated with herbs useful for beauty. Thanks to that, I am aware of the most famous varieties.

While I was talking about herbs, Ricardo stared at me fixedly.

“You, have you gotten thinner again?”

“Eeto... I’m continuing my diet.”

As I replied, Ricardo’s face clouded over a little.

Grandfather is still angry that the engagement was broken off, and may still be complaining that it’s Ricardo’s fault that I’m dieting.

“...I see. By the way, Hakusu earldom’s reijou.” *(TLN: Reijou = “noble’s daughter.” Most reviews thought this was okay so I’m going to try it out like this.)*

“What is it?”

“After this, you will be running a territory the same as I. When are you going to stop using formal speech with me?”

“Formal?”

“Aa, stop using honorifics for me (Ore) when we’re in a private place. I don’t mind you calling me just “Ricardo.””

“Eh~? W, well then, please call me just “Britney” as well. As we mutually improve our territories, let’s do our best!” (Ganbarimashou)

“...keigo.” (TLN: *Formal language*)

“L, let’s do our best!” (Ganbaraou)

Due to this and that, the distance between Ricardo and I shrunk a little... maybe.

I’m happy that we will continue to have good relations as we manage our territories in the future, but I’m bewildered by his change in attitude since our first meeting.

(...I thought he was a high-handed young master, but is he actually a shy boy? No, it’s somewhat different.)

During our first meeting I was told “I hate it,” so I don’t think his attitude will vary too much.

After walking together with Ricardo in the garden, we separated and returned to our rooms. After such a long walk I needed to massage my feet.

As expected of a castle’s garden, there’s no way I could run around it. However, I could still do weight training inside my room. The maid I brought from the earldom seems happy and restless to have come to the castle.

To be honest, it’s troublesome to go to the party, but I must persevere to find a fiancé!

I took my mind off the party, and fired myself up to exercise.

Nevertheless, who is using the herbs from that garden... I’m somewhat curious about it.

Chapter 29

White Pig and the Royal Capital's Party

It was noon of the day of the party.

Held in the central garden, it was comparatively small-scale yet still utterly extravagant.

As there were many young participants, it was held around noon rather than in the evening.

Young men who I've never seen before are seen chatting with each other. Around the edges of the garden, Reijous are eagerly observing them. (TLN: *Reijou* = noble's daughter.)

As you'd expect, Ryuze is surrounded by a large number of reijous. Lily is amazing for naturally mixing in among them. In the far back Nora is surrounding Ryuze as well. I spotted her fluttering, frilly light pink color dress.

(Nora! Why, why are you wearing that dress?)

The design emphasizes childish cuteness, and Nora's exceptionally attractive figure isn't shown at all. That design coupled with her height looks unbalanced and stands out in a bad way.

It's too bad she isn't wearing the same dress as when we were travelling. She seems to be worried about the surrounding gazes, and just like the first time we met she has a nervous attitude.

While observing my friends and standing nearby Ryuze who's my only family member in attendance, something unexpectedly collided with my body.

"Uwa-...?"

I firmly planted my feet to avoid falling. Looking around, I saw a nobleman boy scowling at me. He looks a little older than Ricardo, but a bit younger than Ryuze.

“You’re an obstacle to traffic, fatty! With such an ugly fat body, you have a lot of nerve showing up to a party sponsored by His Highness the crown prince!”

Even though he collided with me, he did not apologize and instead started to quarrel with me. He’s the worst.

He said so much, but I was actually asked to participate directly from the His Highness the crown prince.

“In the first place, why are you even participating? This is a place to look for future fiancé candidates... No way, you, do you actually expect someone to propose to you with such a fat figure?”

What the-! My participation, and whether I’m fat or not, are none of your concern!

In the first place, that you’re bullying a young girl in public makes you the worst!

I played innocent about the age of my previous life, and locked eyes with the hateful man in front of me. Does he expect me to remain silent after saying so much?

I opened my mouth to retort, but a shadow moved in front of me before I could utter a word.

“Noisy... What are you shouting in such a place?”

Protectively standing in front of me was Ricardo, my former fiancé.

I don’t know who our opponent is, but the Astaru house is wealthy and has strong influence in the royal capital. There should be few nobles that could pick a fight with Ricardo.

It’s different from the Hakusu earldom which is destitute and only barely avoided bankruptcy... even though they’re both earldoms.

“Aa, the noble son of the Astaru household... This white pig woman was a nuisance blocking the path.”

He probably doesn’t know Ricardo is acquainted with me. This boy uttered his claim with such confidence while pointing at me. The surrounding young nobility also leaked stifled laughs.

This world is too cold to chubby people...

However, the next words Ricardo uttered surprised them all.

“She’s blocking the path? That’s funny, no matter which way I look, I see many other paths you could take?”

Certainly, I wasn’t standing in the pathway. There is a narrow passageway near the table where the entrance and food is lined up, but the place I’m standing is in the middle of the square and people can easily get past me without trouble.

“But, don’t you think she’s an eyesore? There’s such an ugly woman attending the party of His Highness the crown prince.”

“So you’re saying that she’s an eyesore, huh? She was directly invited by His Highness the crown prince... Are you criticizing His Highness Marlow’s actions?”

“What the-!”

Ricardo looks somewhat superior.

“With that being the case, if you keep uttering such false accusations, you will greatly lose face.”

Spouting off that last remark, Ricardo grabbed my hand and quickly left the area.

Chapter 30

The Villainess Appears

“A, ano, Ricardo?”

I raised a voice of embarrassment to my former fiancé who was forcibly dragging me with him.

After hearing his name called Ricardo stopped in a place with few people and opened his mouth.

“Omae... what horrible things were you allowing them to say to you?” *(TLN: Omae = rude/forceful way to say “you.” Ricardo often uses Omae.)*

He’s probably talking about the man from before. However, that doesn’t mean that I was going to take that abuse silently.

“You butted in before I was able to talk back.”

“...I see.”

“But, thank you for protecting me. I didn’t have any allies in that place, so you saved me. Before I knew it Ryuze-oniisama was a little ways separated from me and men I didn’t know had surrounded me and started to abuse me. What a harsh situation...”

Although I’ve become somewhat resistant to the pig treatment, I don’t want to be one-sidedly spoken ill of.

“I think the other side already knew of you.”

At Ricardo’s words, I inclined my neck which had become a little thinner than before.

“...What do you mean?”

“That guy was the eldest son of Viscount Dan... do you follow me?”

I felt dejected hearing that name.

It was a very familiar one.

“...It’s my first time meeting him, but that’s the son of the house my father eloped with.”
(TLN: *Britney’s step-brother.*)

I remembered a story I heard during my childhood... It seems my father’s elopement partner was the mother of that quarrelsome man from before.

Honestly, it makes me want to ask what he’s jealous of.

“Since your figure stands out, it seems he decided to quarrel with you there. I hear that your father and his second wife’s relationship isn’t going smoothly.”

Nevertheless, if you complain to his daughter, me, I will be troubled.

“I will start looking into the circumstances of other houses.”

“I heard of it by chance. Nevertheless if you come to a place like this, you need to research the circumstances of the other houses a little more. Ryuze is an expert at this, so you should ask him.”

“I, is that so... Un, I’ll do my best.”

Certainly, I had a feeling Ryuze knows a lot. I don’t want to make an excessive amount of enemies.

“Beyond that... Since you have lost both your parents, you probably don’t need to worry too much about the curious stares you get.”

Suddenly looking to the side, Ricardo said that with a brusque tone.

What’s this? Is this his way of encouraging me?

“Etto... Thank you.”

With a bright red face, I thanked my former fiancé once.

After all, Ricardo appears to have a shy personality.

(But, compared to when I was told “I hate you,” this is a positive change... Good boy~.)

The other side may have originally hated me, but now I see him in a similar light as Ryan and Maria.



After that I accompanied my cousin Ryuze and exchanged greetings with the other participants.

(Onii-sama, I wish you moved a little earlier. Had you done so, I wouldn't have gotten involved with a strange guy.)

Ricardo had promptly reported the abuse from the viscount's son to Ryuze. I saw a terrifying aura...

As I was thinking that and walking around with Ryuze, the entire venue suddenly fell into commotion. The crown prince Marlow arrived.

And, behind him, with straight, perfectly done-up hair and wearing frilly deep pink clothing...

(She's here! Angela's here!)

The shoujo manga's villainess arrived.

It's my first time seeing her since arriving in this world, but comparing her to crown prince Marlow, she has a considerably plain face.

Each part was somewhat small, and she wasn't very tall. Because her hair is the same pale blond as the crown prince's, the differences between them become all the more striking.

(This is... unpleasant I suppose.)

Every time there's an event, if she is compared like this to her beautiful older brother the crown prince, her personality will become more and more warped. This will occur even more so once her younger sister of the same sex Merrill arrives.

I as well when going around with Ryuze was looked at with eyes like “she's Ryuze's

cousin and yet..." I received a little shock.

As part of the royal family, I have no doubt she is under a lot of stress being exposed to the eyes of people on a daily basis.

(...I mean, I sympathize with Angela. However, the princess who makes all her maids Kuroko is not normal!)

Moreover, just like Nora with her dress, her dark pink dress does not suit her at all!

In Angela's case, the dress is too glamorous and showy that her existence itself was drowned out. Her current state is a perfect example of the clothes wearing her, rather than her wearing the clothes.

Angela was primly standing behind the crown prince Marlow, but most of the guest's eyes were firmly concentrated on her older brother the prince.

Her violet eyes held a weak presence, and were merely directed forwards without showing any emotion.

Chapter 31

The Princess' Invitation

After giving his greetings to the aristocrats, the crown prince Marlow approached Ryuze with a smile.

“Yaa, Ryuze and Britney!”

Although it's said they were on good terms while they attended the royal capital's academy, seeing them like this they are truly close. Ryuze has on a natural smile he rarely shows at home.

However, I wish they didn't roll me up in their conversation.

Being called out so intimately by the crown prince it was futile to try and stop attention from gathering on me.

I heard whispers to the like of “That fatty, she's close to the crown prince?” and “At best, she's a tag-along to Ryuze-sama?” among other things. I heard lots of selfish speculation.

...As much as possible I don't want to stand out, so please don't spread rumors about me.

I had attended the party to search for a fiancé, but as expected the reaction from the men is cold. Furthermore, from the dressed-up city reijous I could hear chuckling and the villainess Angela appeared!

I seriously don't have any luck, do I? I felt somewhat miserable.

(What am I even doing here?)

Advertising the soap and other products has been adequately done by Ryuze, while all I've done is stand next to him without being helpful. Maa, there isn't much persuasive power when a twelve year old child speaks about it anyway.

While I was meekly standing next to my cousin, crown prince Marlow unexpectedly shifted the conversation from Ryuze to me.

“By the way, Britney! How did you like the castle’s west garden?”

“The garden? You mean the area where various herbs were planted?”

“I saw you went to see them. Those are entirely my collection. I even specifically assigned all of your rooms in a location where you could see them.”

“Eeto, I heard that we were freely allowed to enter and exit it... without thinking too much I went out and entered the garden.”

“Aa, I thought that it would interest you! You are a kindred soul!”

“Eh-...?”

“I really want to talk to you about it, but there’s no time right now. Afterwards by all means let me share with you my collection! Lets brainstorm applications for them later!”

“Eh? Ano?”

Without me understanding what was going on, the crown prince Marlow took my hands and shook them up and down.

He willfully acknowledged me as a kindred soul... but what kind of conversation was this?

(He’s shown interest in soap, face lotion and the like, but that’s definitely unusual for boys.)

Even so, I wish you wouldn’t give this kind of talk in public.

(See! Even Angela is looking over here!)

I sensed her violet eyes looking fixedly at me. I hope this isn’t a flag to become her follower.

At the same time that the crown prince turned back to talk again with Ryuze, Angela

who was behind him also moved.

“How do you do? I hear you are called Britney. You seem to be quite close to Onii-sama.”

(Hiii-, she talked to me!!)

There is no way to reject the princess who determinedly started talking with me. She even called me by name...

“Not at all... we only met recently. It seems he is on good terms with my cousin and we met through him.”

“It’s unusual for Onii-sama to have such a face. If you don’t mind, would you be friends with me?”

If there are any aristocrats here able to refuse the princess’ direct invitation, I would love to meet them... As for me, it’s impossible.

The princess who was satisfied with my reply meaningfully lifted the edges of her lips which were covered by a wine red lipstick that also didn’t match her. It was noticeably odd only around her mouth and made her seem like a specter. I’m going to be eaten!

“That’s right. You seem to be getting along well with Onii-sama, so there’s something I want to hear from you by all means.”

“...What is it?”

“I don’t want to say it here, so come to my room later. Absolutely make sure to come!”

“...Okay.”

While saying that, I was screaming in my mind.

(AHHH, I’m such an idiot! Why am I answering normally!?)

But, I have no choice but to accept a royalty’s request here.

(Once again, I’ve taken another step towards the destruction path...)



As soon as the party was over, a Kuroko maid came for me and guided me to Angela's room. The princess seems to have already returned to her room and was waiting for me.

Nora noticed something wrong with me, and worriedly came with me.

Angela's room seems to be at the sunniest place on the east side of the castle.

Several types of plain plants are planted in the east garden like the west garden, but the Kuroko maid says that they are all poisonous.

Just like in the shoujo manga, Angela is the same age as Britney. However, even at the age of twelve it seems she's already become worthy of being the villainess.

We stopped in front of Angela's room so the maid could call out to her. Thereupon, we were permitted entry right away.

It seems Nora who came with me was also permitted to enter... With us three together, it's becoming more and more like the original work.

"I was waiting for your arrival."

In a black, white, and red room where I couldn't calm down was Angela wearing a dark pink dress. The plain-faced girl became cheerful upon seeing us.

"Both of you, please make yourself at home."

After being guided to a bright red couch, we nervously sat down. The Kuroko maid served us some black tea.

"Well then, without any delay... Britney, I have something I want to ask you."

"What is it?"

I suppose this is where I will be asked to become her follower. While my heart went pitter-patter, Angela began to speak.

"According to what I've heard, in contrast to your figure you seem to be well-informed

about beauty.”

“Eh? Beauty?”

I reflexively asked that to her unexpected question.

However, a voice of consent came from beside me. It is Nora.

“Ee, that’s right. Britney has been creating a variety of beauty products in the Hakusu earldom.”

Nora leaned forward in excitement and appealed to Angela.

As a friend she might be intending to market her friend to the princess with good will. However, that’s unnecessary care.

I want to be released from here as soon as possible after being labelled as “not useful.” After that, I never want to get involved with Angela ever again.

I wanted to say “I don’t have such a thing” but Angela opened her mouth before I was able to.

“Well then, what did you think upon seeing me today? I would like to hear your honest impressions.”

The princess with her done-up pale golden hair batted her violet eyes while asking an unreasonable question.

I was at a loss for words and started to think for a while.

(That is... how should I answer that?)

Were I the shoujo manga’s Britney, I would surely start sucking up to her here. Even in the manga, Britney excessively stood up to say “How wonderful~, how beautiful~” to the villainess.

However, I do not want to become one of Angela’s followers... should I give my true opinion?

She’s only twelve years old and if I hurt Angela’s mood I will be kicked out of the room.

(Alright. I will honestly state my opinion.)

I resolved myself, and called out to Angela.

“Your Highness the princess, I would like to speak frankly.”

“Ee, I allow it.”

“...Today’s clothes did not suit Your Highness the princess in the slightest.”

Chapter 32

The Maiden's Aspiration and Gossip

Silence fell upon the room.

The Kuroko maid sensed the disquieting air settling upon the room and stealthily exited the room.

My heart aches to tell my honest impressions to a girl of twelve years old, but I want to avoid the death route.

For a little, let's humble myself...

"I told you my honest impressions, but I'm sorry if I damaged the mood. I can leave the room if you'd like..."

"Just a minute, please wait! What about this dress do you say doesn't suit me? This dark pink color is fashionable in the royal capital, and there are a lot of cute frills. The maids and nobles I met today all praised me... and yet!"

Angela's face turned bright red and she leaned forwards to protest to me.

...This girl, she's the same as the former Britney.

She was given compulsory words of "beautiful" and soaked in fleeting happiness with fictional compliments.

However, somewhere you should have noticed that it's not true.

However, she didn't seem to be confident at the party, and expressly called me so I could offer my opinion.

While the party at the royal capital was said to be a casual gathering for only young nobles, the actual situation was a tough place for appraisal and rating.

"Your Highness the princess, even without me sharing it you knew the truth, right?"

“What are you talking about?”

“I don’t like saying such horrible things, but I don’t think it’s good to continue valuing yourself using pleasantries. In actuality you desire something else, correct?”

Angela caught her breath, so it seems I hit the bull’s-eye.

Without overlooking that reaction, I continued speaking.

“Do you want to become beautiful? To not receive imitation compliments, but for your surroundings to praise you from the heart? Are you satisfied as things are now?”

After the princess remained silent, I slowly got up from my seat to leave the room.

Were I to remain in the room, it would only make Angela feel uncomfortable.

However, as I stood up she called out to stop me.

“Please wait! I still haven’t heard your response to my previous question! Please teach me the reason why this dress doesn’t suit me!”

Angela, who became emotional, was glaring at me with a *furu furu* sound while trembling. (TLN: *furu furu* = *frou-frou* = a rustling noise made by someone walking in a dress.)

Until I answered her question I couldn’t leave this place.

(I need to say something without delay so I can escape from this place.)

I obediently answered Angela’s question.

“Your Highness the princess... Just like Nora here, you failed to select a dress that suited you.”

“What do you mean? Even though this dress was made by an artisan in the royal capital?”

“Ee, it’s no mistake that the dress is a good one. It is a lightly fluttering dress like a flower and I admire it. I understand your feelings. However, sadly, such a dress does not suit the likes of us...”

As I said that, Angela and Nora were simultaneously taken aback.

“W, what-!”

“That, how blunt...”

I understand their feelings well.

The past Britney also had a period where she yearned for a lovely pink fluttering dress.

I think there are a lot of girls that secretly yearn for that.

However, it's sad but those types of dresses choose the person they're worn by.

When someone who doesn't suit the dress wears it, it just curiously floats without being worn well.

It's the dream of young girls to be covered with frills, but at the same time there was a blatant cruelty.

“First of all, Your Highness the princess, your dress drowns out your refined, tidy nature. Rather than dark and deep colors, I think bright colors would suit you better... Even if it's the same pink color, were Nora to wear it it would suit her better.”

Despite being the villainess, Angela has a visage that better suits light pastel colors.

Although she has a little snug, plain face, the shape is arranged somewhat favorably. Were she to embrace her tidy and mysterious figure, there is a possibility of becoming beautiful in the future.

“Next, Nora. I'm sorry to say, but the frilly pink dress does not suit your dignified presence. Were you to wear a stylish chic dress instead, I think that not only men but even women would be captivated.”

“Britney...”

“And lastly, with my body's figure, hair, and eye color... pink does not suit me at all. Maa, I'm chubby so it's out of the question anyway.”

After all, we're the villainess trio – a maiden's aspiration only suits a pretty girl with a

soft atmosphere like the protagonist Merrill.

It seems this is the first time it's been clearly said to her. It looks like Angela received quite a shock.

“...Britney. Were you the princess' costume clerk, what color dress would you have me wear?”

“It's only the view of an amateur, but probably the same light violet color as your eyes. Besides that I would choose a bright color for your lipstick, and have you wear your hair a little more loosely.”

In my previous life I had a similar plain face like Angela.

To say it clearly, compared to a Yamato Nadeshiko, I was like a knockoff kokeshi doll... Due to that, I studied as much as I could to become fashion-conscious.



Kokeshi Doll

Humans are creatures that judge others by their outwards appearance.

When you talk to someone for the first time, it's said that appearance accounts for more than half of their first impression. The remaining amount is decided by your wording and voice, with the contents of the conversation affecting it by less than ten percent.

If your appearance is judged as “disliked” it's your loss. Britney surely fails there but...

“...I see. That's a considerably interesting argument. That much is sufficient.”

Angela breathed a sigh and picked up her teacup. Now without delay, I will take Nora and leave the princess' room.

(With this, Angela must hate me. Perhaps the possibility of becoming a follower has completely disappeared.)

With that thought, I made preparations to head to my guest room.

"Nora, I'm sorry. I said a lot of bad things about your dress."

"No worries, I vaguely realized that it did not suit me well. As I thought, what I like and what looks good on me differ... My maids told me "it suits you," but it seems they were just trying to butter me up. Receiving Britney's honest words makes me feel refreshed."

"Nevertheless, I'm sorry."

"Fufu... Then, next time could you help me choose my dress?"

"...If you're okay with me."

"Then it's decided. Beyond that, I'd like you to tell me what type of woman Ryuze-sama likes."

As I thought, Nora seems to hold affection for my cousin Ryuze.

"...As for that person, I think it would be better to pass on him."

"What~, are you jealous~? Britney, do you long for Ryuze-sama as well?"

"Don't be absurd, I wouldn't even think of marrying that man. Since you don't know the true nature of Ryuze-oniisama, you can still say such a thing. That person is..."

Once we arrived in front of the guest room, still engaging in girl's talk, Nora's face gradually paled.

"What's wrong, Nora?"

Somehow it seems she's looking behind me but...

(Is there something there?)

With an uneasy feeling I looked over my shoulder. Standing there with a refreshing smile was my cousin...!

Chapter 33

The Crown Prince's Secret

"Fufu... It wounds me to get rejected so plainly like that. Hey~, Britney."

Losing the mental battle to the pressure from Ryuze's smile, I floated a stiff smile.

"Gu, Gufufu... It's a joke, Ryuze-oniisama. I'm proud of my cousin so there's no way I'd so thoroughly reject him."

"That's right isn't it? My cute Britney could never do such a thing. By the way, the crown prince Marlow was searching for you. He wanted me to tell you to come to his room."

"...I, I understand. Where should I go in order to meet His Highness the crown prince?"

"Aa, it's alright. A guide is coming to assist you. See?"

Looking in the direction Ryuze points I see two chamberlains standing.

"Right away, I'll be off. Nora, see you later."

I escaped as soon as I was able to get away from my scary smiling cousin.

I'm nervous to go to the crown prince's place, but it's much better than staying next to Ryuze right now.

I progressed down a beautifully polished, wide corridor, and stood before a remarkably large door.

The chamberlain left me for a moment in front of the door, and a short while later I received permission to enter.

It seems this room was made to entertain guests of the crown prince.

"Britney! I've been waiting!"

Elegantly standing up from a couch in the innermost part and walking over here was none other than the dazzlingly blond-haired crown prince Marlow himself.

“It seems you were caught by Angela before meeting me. Did anything happen?”

“Ee, nothing in particular... she just wanted to ask about her dress.”

“That’s good. She’s a woman that doesn’t go easy on people she doesn’t like.”

He nonchalantly said that, but sweat started to form on my back.

(What do I do... I uttered unspeakable things to Angela. I’m afraid of her retaliation...)

Without noticing my change, the crown prince Marlow continued the conversation at his own pace.

“That’s right, I brought along my collection. In the royal castle I don’t have many friends I can talk about my hobbies with. I’m so glad that Britney is here.”

“Ano, what is your collection?”

“It’s this. I’ve picked and dried herbs from the west garden.”

With a slender finger like an icefish (*Salangidae*) the prince pointed at a few tall tables from the direction he came.



Salangidae Sashimi (Raw Japanese Icefish)

Rising up, the crown prince urged me to follow him to the tables.

Over there was a splendid collection of herbs from around the country.

The herbs were classified with attention to detail and were preserved in an excellent state.

“With Britney’s expertise, are you able to put any of these to use?”

“Ee, of course. Nevertheless, I’m surprised Your Highness the crown prince is rearing herbs... what kind of thing did you want to use them for?”

“My primary concern is improving the population’s health. Recently I have also been interested in using them for herbal teas and have an interest in soaps and face lotions... although since this is unusual for a man, my surroundings aren’t too receptive of my hobbies.”

“I don’t think it’s odd at all. Regardless of sex, I think it’s a good thing your sense of beauty is high.”

In modern Japan there are soaps and face lotions meant for men. There are even male beauty salons.

I think almost everyone prefers those who take care of their outwards appearance rather than those who don’t care about their appearance at all.

“I’m happy you say so. I’ve only been able to confide this hobby to people I’m close with but... as I thought, you are an oddball character as well. To further explain myself, I prefer knitting to sword training, and herb cultivation and beauty product research to hunting.”

“You’re also able to knit?”

“It’s not at the level of a professional, but I think it’s reasonable to call me relatively skilled?”

I see, the crown prince Marlow seems to be a somewhat unique prince-sama.

(...The so called, maiden character?)

Although he doesn’t cook since he’s royalty, he is skilled at embroidery, and has talent in music, painting and poetry.

That reminds me. Even in the shoujo manga he was a skilled pianist, and was seen playing stringed instruments as well.

“I’m envious. Although recently I’ve become somewhat proficient at embroidery, I’m not great at those kinds of things. Despite my attempts I’m still poor with poetry and music...”

“You should continue practicing poetry. In this country you see poetry frequently used in love letters.”

“Is that so? That’s the first I’ve heard of it.”

“It might still be too early for Britney. Well, as practice, why not write something here?”

As he said that, one of the crown prince Marlow’s servants offered me a pen and paper.

The paper technology of this world is still developing. Nevertheless the quality still isn’t that great...

Since the level of civilization is somewhat irregular, I was a bit confused when my memory first returned.

With the pen in my hand, I recalled a lesson from my tutor and wrote a thank you poem for this party.

(After all I still don’t have a partner to send a love letter to...)

My private tutor’s evaluation was quite severe, but I think it’s more a question of feelings.

I should write it from my heart... probably.

(There aren’t many chances to get evaluated by the crown prince who specializes in poetry after all.)

Once I finished my poem and handed it to the crown prince Marlow, his eyes lit up and began to sparkle.

Although it was a thank you poem, it’s a little embarrassing to see it read before my eyes.

“Fumu, this is splendid!”

“Ehh-?”

“What an original choice of words! What novel assembly! This is the first time I’ve seen this poetry!”

“I, is that so?”

“This... I absolutely want to show it to Ryuze and Ricardo as well.”

“No way, that’s too embarrassing.”

I was praised by the crown prince who’s good at the arts, so I’m in a good mood.

“Britney. Please call me familiarly as Marlow. You are a kindred soul.”

“...Haa, it’s an honor. Marlow-sama.”

However, this crown prince-sama... he is truly unusual.

The older brother-like character he was in the shoujo manga was probably only his public face.

After that for a short while, we talked together about our mutual hobby.

“Marlow-sama, I think it’s wonderful that you are researching medicinal plants on your own.”

“I’m glad you think so. The castle’s doctors too have been amazed by the assortment of products I’ve developed.”

“However, for the sake of keeping yourself healthy and protected, aren’t there any safety precautions you could take?”

In the shoujo manga, his cause of death was a stab wound from an assassin. No matter how many herbs he assembles, he won’t be able to prevent his death with them.

The incident occurs several years in the future, but I think it’d be better to start being cautious now.

“Hahaha, Britney is kind. As you request, after this I will take special care with my guard.”

It’s a mystery to how seriously he received my words, but the crown prince consented with a smile.

Chapter 34

Returning by Carriage and My Talent for Poetry

The crown prince Marlow shared with me a sample of every variety in his collection. What an exceedingly generous prince-sama.

Ryuze appeared saying he had things to do with the crown prince, and together with Ricardo they headed to my cousin and former fiancé's floor.

As those two left the room, they seemed to be talking about something.

Without realizing it, the crown prince and I simultaneously looked back at each other.

"Your Highness, is it enough with this?"

"Aa, I had a good time."

After responding, the crown prince rumaged around in his pocket and took out a piece of paper.

That paper was very familiar to me. It's the paper I wrote a poem on just a short while ago.

"Look at this, it's a poem that Britney sent to me!"

"W, wait a moment! Your Highness the crown prince!"

Of all things, the crown prince Marlow showed my work to Ryuze.

It should be fine since he spoke well of it but still...

"Bufu-!"

"Gu-!"

However, the two's reaction differed from my expectations. It's a little strange.

Ryuze's flawless smile was twitching.

As well, Ricardo... why did you turn away and start trembling?

"No, I think it's a masterpiece."

My cousin was looking downwards a little, but consented with the crown prince... but I get the feeling he wasn't praising me.

Ricardo seems to be trembling so much that he's unable to even comment.

The crown prince Marlow floated a satisfied smile and put my work back into his pocket.

It seems I had by chance touched prince-sama's heartstrings, but my talent for poetry remained the same as ever.

(...I just added something to my dark history.)

At this late hour, it's impossible to regain the poem from the crown prince Marlow.

I pray that that work will never again be seen by others.

In this way, after I became friends with the crown prince and angered the princess, we got back on the carriage to return to our territory.

Crown prince Marlow wanted me to stay, but I'm too afraid of Angela to remain in the castle.

I want to resume my diet at our territory, and marry someone in a safe place.

A small controversy occurred once we got on the carriage to return home.

Ricardo's cousin Lily wanted to ride together with Ryuze. After hearing that, Nora requested the same.

In the end, one of the returning carriages was decided to be Ryuze, Lily, and Nora.

"Onii-sama, you're truly popular with women aren't you?"

Towards the niya niya smiling me my cousin responded with a smile.

“Fufu, does Britney also want to ride with me? Unfortunately, it seems we already over capacity.”

“Gu-...!”

I feel he indirectly told me I couldn't ride with them because my butt was too big.

Curse you, Ryuze...! I won't forgive you for this!

(Rather than Ryuze, I feel better riding with Ricardo.)

He's a bit shy, but at his roots he's a nice guy.

He used to dislike me, but after this period of time it seems we get along better now.

“Ricardo, I'm in your care.”

“Aa...”

Ricardo responded, but after seeing my face he turned to the side and started chuckling.

Apparently, it seems the contents of my poem have yet to leave his mind. His body bent over and started trembling.

I don't understand what tickled his funny bone...



In the pointlessly large carriage we sat face-to-face.

“Could you calm down? Please stop looking at someone else's face and bursting into laughter.”

“But~, you, fu, fufu, that was so...”

“His Highness the crown prince said that it was splendid.”

“That person has a somewhat unique sense.”

Because Ricardo had hated me, I thought that there would be a delicate air in the carriage, but it seems that was needless anxiety.

“Haa, various things had occurred, but I’m relieved to safely return home.”

“Is that so? As for me, I think it would be good to further my studies. Next year I’ve made plans to stay at the royal capital and will attend the same school that Ryuze did.”

“T, that’s right huh...”

Once you turn thirteen you can enroll at the royal capital’s academy.

However, only nobility and a few rich sons are allowed to.

Since girls in this country get lessons from private tutors, there is no public school.

“I see~, I will miss you.”

“...Although you say “lonely” what you really mean is you’re said the person doing you favors is going away.”

“Don’t say such things~” *(TLN: Said in all katakana)*

Although, Ricardo seems to be a little troubled.

It was inconvenient in various ways that the partner who could dependently do anything I request was disappearing.

“Maa, during the long vacations during summer and winter I will return home.”

Along the way home, Ricardo taught me various things.

The traits of the districts we passed, the differences in the building’s construction, literary knowledge about cultivating land, etcetera... Although he’s the same age, his knowledge is too abundant to be compared with the lazy Britney.

“Thank you for teaching me various things. Ricardo’s a good person.”

“Hmm. You just have too many things you don’t know.”

“Until now I have not gone out much. When I return I think I will learn horseback riding... I can’t take a long ride by myself, but I think if I’m accompanied by an attendant I could go to nearby places.”

“That sounds like it’d be permitted. I hear the Hakusu earldom produces a lot of horses, so I think it would be fine.”

Somehow, I feel I’m on better terms with Ricardo. I’m glad.

That was our trip back home.



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