

Tensei Saki ga Shoujo Manga no Shiro Buta Reijou datta

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

**- Volume 5 -
16 Years Old**

**-Author-
Sakura Ageha**

**-Illustrator-
Hidaka Nami**

[fox's coffee time]

Chapter 101

The Start of the Manga, Arrival of Destined Spring

In the spring, my age was now the same as the Britney that appeared in the manga, currently I was heading to the capital city as per Angela's invitation.

Likewise, Nora who was also invited would also stay in the palace as the princess' companion.

Just like the manga, the trio of bad guys was born.

(First, let's organize the current situation.)

Nora and I decided to live in a mansion prepared in the immediate vicinity of the castle and would commute to the palace from there.

Before everything else started, there would be big events like social debut.

(Besides, I have to work for Hakusu earldom both in the capital city and the territory...)

From now on, my livelihood entailed me to go back and forth.

(Since I can contribute to the territory, I'm happy and fine with it.)

Right now, the noted products of the territory were wine, which was a special product of the territory, and cosmetics products using adlay grown in the territory.



TN: Wine vineyard



TN: Adlai (Coix lacryma-jobi L.) is an indigenous crop introduced in Africa as staple food. Also known as Adlay or Job's tears, it also grows in tropical parts of Southern and Eastern Asia. Adlai is mainly eaten as a staple food substitute for rice and corn.



TN: Adlay extract can be applied as inhibitor of melanogenesis and can also act as a natural antioxidant in skin care products

I also started a business of making and selling accessories featuring newly mined gems from Nora's territory.

Since the minimum reconstruction had been completed, I would be returning the borrowed platoon to Prince Marlow.

There were also the reinforcements, the prince was now a benefactor of Hakusu territory.

Construction of waterway in the territory was going well, the construction itself would start in this spring.

First of all, we would build a main location and gradually spread it from there. Of course, tap water would be separated from sewage.

Besides, the former Earl Astor said that he wanted to spread the hot spring culture. Since it's difficult to finance in our territory, we decided to start the prospect in Astor territory.



After the battle, Astor territory was exhausted, but their original reserves were different. It seemed that they had enough budget to build hot springs.

The former Earl Astor continued working corporately with Lily's parents.

The former earl and Lily's father were brothers, but unlike the earl's sons, these two brothers had good relationship.

By the way, the beautiful Lily also refrained from her social debut, and would depart to the capital city with us.

(Since she's so cute, she shouldn't have any difficulties finding a marriage partner... but it might be a difficult time for people involved with Astor earldom now.)

Ricardo had already returned to the capital city and graduated from school, but he was subjected to criticisms from his surroundings.

Some sensible aristocrats were nice to him but others would indiscriminately insult him.

Although he was the one who stopped his brother's actions, he was pitifully in a painful situation.

I had corresponded with Ricardo, so I was able to quickly know the present condition of the capital city.

Ricardo and Lucas seemed to get along well as usual.

However, it seemed that they did not meet each other as much as before to avoid the speculative thought of “the northern country and Astor earldom are communicating with each other”.

(When I arrive there, I want lend my power to Ricardo even a little.)

Ricardo also informed me about the state of the northern country from Lucas.

The fifth prince who became the hostage said “That older sister, there’s no way she can imitate such a large thing. Perhaps one of my siblings is pulling the strings from behind the scene.”, it was such disturbing words.

By the way, his parents had already casted off the princess who was the main offender. As I said before, the princess was now missing... she was no longer a problem.

Regarding Angela’s engagement, it was currently on hold. As her sister was going to attend the next party, it seemed that state of affairs was currently being observed.

Of course, there was more news. It seemed that the prince of the southern country was coming to this country.

The king of the southern country who saw the relation of the northern country and our country seemed to think “my son too can be matched with the princess...”, so it’s currently being considered.

For the time being, with studying abroad as the reason, the prince was treated as a guest of the royal family. The southern country had princes and no princess.

(Nonetheless, the hostage Lucas is also treated as “a foreign student”. So it might be similar to him?)

By being engaged to a nearby country, their bloodlines would be connected and they would become relatives, as such they could cooperate with each other.

There were also invasions of the northern country, when the king sensed the impending crisis becoming worse, he accepted the southern country’s proposal.

(The prince of the southern country is also a character of the manga...)

He's an ikemen hero character created to compete with northern prince Lucas for Merrill.

To be frank, he was such a person.

By the way, his personality was somewhat frivolous, but that's just his outward appearance. Inside, he's a person whose force of personality could compete with Lucas and Ryuze. Maa, the prince was such a person.

The prince of the south was not directly involved with Britney's execution.

However, in the manga, he was positively involved in gathering evidence of Angela's corps' mean harassment.

(It will be better to be alert, but the situation has changed and I won't be executed suddenly.)

I was not a white pig anymore.

My body weight had continued to decrease while I was focused on my work, and I was now in the same state as when I was skinnier after the boot camp.

Caution was necessary so as to not return to my former figure.

Chapter 102

Social Debut of Young Ladies

Social debut in this country referred to an event when a young lady of age 16 years old had an audience with the king.

There were some differences from country to country, but here it's a set of large-scale debut party and the audience with the king.

Daughters who would have their social debut would go to the capital city beforehand and prepared for the occasion.

At those times, there was no specification for clothes, but their hair would be decorated with white flowers.

That's the landmark of the young girls having their social debuts.

There were parts similar to my original world, but it was mixed with culture unique to this country.

The names were called one by one, and they would have audience with the king. After that, they would participate in the parties.

As soon as I had the audience, I was accompanied by Ryuze and was walking through the venue.

It was the culture of this country, in such an occasion, I had to be accompanied by a male of my house.

On the opposite side, Nora was walking with her father.

Lily was with her parents. Ricardo was also standing by her side.

The three people of Astor from Astor earldom were uncomfortable with the unfriendly air.

The moment I moved and tried to talk, the dance had begun.

[Britney.]

My cousin prompted me and I took his hand. It was a rule that the first dance had to be with family.

Ryuze led me in the dance with practiced hands. I didn't want to admit, but his dancing skill was perfect.

Meanwhile, although I was tone-deaf, I miraculously did not step on his feet.

(There's no reason to be scared of stepping on his feet. Ryuze-niisama has always been skillful since the olden days.)

I felt gazes from the surroundings. It was surely the powerful amorous gaze from young ladies towards Ryuze.

They must be waiting to dance with Ryuze after our dance was finished.

[Onii-sama, you're still as popular as usual. The young ladies are passionately looking at you.]

[Fufu, what? Are you jealous?]

[Ha...? It's not like that. Look, the song is about to finish.]

[Britney, can you honor me to be your next partner?]

[Ricardo is over there. I have not decided to dance again or not, but I want to try to call out to him. There's such a thing, but I want to show to the surroundings that our relationship with Astor earldom is still good.]

[Un, is that so.]

[The loss we received in the conflict was great, and there were victims. The mastermind from northern country and Millard cannot be forgiven, to be honest... but Ricardo is different.]

Saying so, my cousin gently nodded.

[I am also planning to speak to Miss Lily. Why don't we go together?]

[Yes...]

After we finished dancing, we looked at Ricardo.

In any case, the ladies aiming for Ryuze were carefully observing his behavior.

In order to not be called out, we placed a small distance from them.

Just a little, it's invisible to the strange group.

Although Lily was tremendously cute, since she's a daughter of Astor, even after her dance with her father was over, no other person tried to actively talk to her.

There were a few men who tried to call out to her, but they were worried about Astor earldom's reputation.

In such a situation, I called her dignifiedly.

[Lily-! It's been a while.]

Lily, who noticed me, waved her hand to me, she then saw Ryuze walking behind me and blushed. She also made her social debut.

Wearing fluffy hair ornaments and white dress of the same colour, she looked nervous.

(That honest reaction is also cute...)

Although I was a year younger than her, she made her debut the same year as Nora and I as it would be better to have acquaintances.

Her family was facing harsh criticism right now, but that sort of thing couldn't be predicted.

That's why, her father was in a hurry about his daughter's happiness. He wanted his beloved daughter to get married as soon as possible... and, it seemed to be getting desperate.

Ryuze, who greeted Lily's father who was the current Earl Astor, invited her to a dance

without any hesitation and gallantly escorted her. The men who only looked at Lily had regretful expression.

(Good job, Ryuze-niisama.)

The young ladies' line of sight was still pursuing Ryuze... eh, Nora!?

(She's mixed with that group of young ladies!?)

The father who was support to escort Nora was...

Aa, he was standing frozen at the end of the young ladies group. He's a bit pitiable.

By the way, Marlow and Angela were about to appear when the crowd became excited.

Probably, the heroine Merrill was about to be introduced.

Chapter 103

Reunion with Tension, Fanfare

As I greeted Lily's father, my gaze wandered to Ricardo who stood nearby.

He looked as gallant as ever, he became more adult-like as he grew. The face of a strong self-assertive child had completely disappeared.

Because of the various things that had occurred in the capital city, I could feel a slight shadow in his atmosphere that was pure and straight.

Perhaps that shadow was because of his sorrow, but I thought that he had a mystique sex appeal now.

[Ricardo, tha, that, such a nice day today...]

[...I have to say a good greeting regardless or anything!]

[Britney?]

[A, I want to see you. Err, that.]

Since I confessed that I liked him last time we met, I became embarrassed and behaved suspiciously in front of him.

(Aa, my head feels like it's steaming.)

He looked at me and extended his hand to me while feeling shocked.

[While I'm not in a position to say such thing, if it's alright, will you dance with me for a song?]

[I, I too, came for that... I think I can dance better now compared to before.]

I was relieved that he was as kind as usual. Ricardo was Ricardo after all.

I started dancing with him at the corner at the venue, not at the noticeable center.

Many people's eyes were concentrated on the prominent Ryuze and Lily, so I was able to dance even with my severe lack of dancing skill.

[Ricardo, you're good at dancing.]

[Is that so? You too, your movement has stabilized a little.]

There were a lot of things I would like to talk about, and it all rushed out from my mouth.

[I decided to live in the capital city. I have to go back and forth from my territory, but I can meet you again.]

[Don't overdo it, I'm sorry... I'm so disappointing.]

[Not at all. I am who I am now thanks to Ricardo.]

If he didn't help me, I wouldn't be the way I was now.

We were very young back then, so he might have extended his hand at a whim. But without him, our territory's hot spring wouldn't be created and soap wouldn't have born.

I wouldn't have the opportunity to engage in various other developments without leaving any achievements.

Ricardo and I wouldn't be on cordial terms.

[That is why, thank you, Ricardo.]

I answered while carefully stepping, Ricardo's body then became closer to me.

His face had become red.

[...At times like this, I feel shy when I look at that kind of expression you know? Generally, Britney is the one that helps me, so I'm the one who owes you.]

Together with him, my face became hotter. Besides, our distance was becoming closer.

Feeling shy, I staggered and stepped on Ricardo's foot.

[Are you alright? Do you want to rest?]

[E, aa, un, all, all right. That's fine.]

I myself did not know what I was talking about, but I nodded hurriedly.

At the end of the song, Ricardo escorted me out of the dancing circle.

[You seem tired, so let's take a rest at the corner.]

As Lily's father said so, we moved to the edge of the venue. There's a space to take a break, so we sat there and relaxed.

Most participants were dancing, so there were not much people near us.

[Thank you, Ricardo.]

[No, I too, want to talk peacefully with you, just the two of us.]

[Me too.]

[Is that so. Britney, I...]

Our distance became closer and the atmosphere between us was good...

A loud fanfare rang in the hall and drowned out Ricardo's voice.

Chapter 104

Appearance of Heroine and Resentment of Villainess

[Announcing His Highness the crown prince and Her Highness the princess!]

An exaggerated announcement flowed and the tune changed.

From the big staircase that led to the venue hall, Prince Marlow and Princess Angela came down side by side.

Marlow was wearing a pure white princely clothes, while Angela wore an elegant violet dress with laces that seemed to flow.

(Merrill... isn't here. Maybe she will be individually introduced later.)

Then the king appeared and dignifiedly headed towards in between Marlow and Angela.

By the way, the king was an attractive middle-aged man that looked similar to Marlow.

He then said "I have another daughter" and "I will introduce her in this occasion" to the participants of this party.

In the banquet hall, silence suddenly fell.

I thought that there were other aristocrats who were aware of Merrill, but everyone seriously listened to the king's story.

After a while, the host announced the appearance of another princess.

[Announcing the second princess Her Highness Merrill...!]

Again the magnificent fanfare echoed and announced the appearance of the heroine.

(The manga should have started a while ago.)

I re-thought about the manga.

It had been 4 years since my memories returned... of course, I had forgotten the details after 4 years so I had recorded all of the contents of the manga in my diary shortly after my memories came back.

I wrote down everything as far as I could recall, but since I did not copied down everything about the manga, I was somewhat uneasy.

According to it, the first story of the manga had already begun.

Merrill's mother fell ill and she was raised in a fatherless family before she was taken in as a princess.

Merrill, who received minimal education as a royalty, would meet her brother, sister and father for the first time at the castle.

(She was given a gentle smile by her older brother while she was verbally abused by her malicious older sister...)

In the story, the king had normal contact with Merrill. He was not particularly doting nor did he have a low opinion on her.

In such a situation, she was introduced today.

(...To this point, it's the same as the manga.)

The current Angela wouldn't unreasonably hit Merrill, so the relationship between the sisters might be going well.

Merrill whose name was called descended down the stairs.

She wore the social debut ornaments, the white flower hair ornaments, while wearing a light pink dress. She had a dignified aura.

Her movement was awkward was probably because she was nervous. But she had a smile on her face...

(So, so beautiful-!!) (TN: Raw says bishojou.)

She was a beautiful princess that appeared in the manga.

Her soft, undulating golden hair was of the same colour as her siblings, she had pale skin pigment and her rosy coloured eyes contained a strong will.

Merrill, who finished descending the stairs safely, elegantly smiled as was her habit, and sweetly walked like a fairy to Prince Marlow's side.

The nobles who saw her sighed in admiration.

(Beautiful brother and sister...)

Her figure lining up beside Prince Marlow was like a painting.

The daughters who also had their social debut now gazed cautiously at her and became conscious of her.

Since her appearance stood out so much, they couldn't rival her.

Even though she was just standing, her atmosphere looked gorgeous.

I felt that barriers that couldn't be overcome with effort alone existed, and such reality was confronted.

[My daughter Merrill.]

At the same time the king introduced her, the pretty girl gracefully curtsied towards the crowd.

She didn't say anything, perhaps she had been told "don't say anything unnecessary" before.

After the greetings, Merrill exited with the king, leaving on Prince Marlow and Angela on the spot.

Observing the surrounding nobles hurriedly... Angela who found me directly approached me.

[Britney, you finally come to see me? I was waiting for this day you know?]

[...Angela-sama, it has been a while.]

[I'm happy that you're fine. I'm also delighted that I can see you anytime from this spring. There are a lot of things I want to tell you. Yes, a lot, fufufufu...]

Although Angela took out her fan and laughed lightly, her eyes were dark.

It seemed to contain darkness.

(It's because of Merrill right?)

Marlow also came and began talking to Ricardo.

I then asked Angela.

[Angela-sama, your sister just appeared. What kind of person is she?]

After a blink, Angela replied while lowering her voice.

[That's right, she's a strange child. I feel tired when we're together.]

[Does that mean that she's a lively person?]

[No, that's not it... she's a type that irritates other people's nerves.]

As I thought, Merrill was a person that Angela wanted to avoid.

[...Err, is your sister unkind?]

[You'll know when you meet her. She has no bad intention, but she's the type to stab people with a good-intentioned knife. I wonder if all commoners have that kind of personality.]

Angela's information was somewhat subtle. I didn't know well about Merrill's inner personality.

However, it seemed that she was not good at being a younger sister.

(I hope it won't be like the manga...)

I was a little uneasy about the future development.

Chapter 105

Early Spring Garden and a Warm Embrace

Angela had to go around the venue so she immediately went away.

[Kuh... I have much more to tell you! Can you come to the castle at a later date! You absolutely have to!]

When Angela left, Marlow moved hastily as if to chase her.

[Britney, let's meet again at the castle! By the way, you are a bit thinner recently, aren't you?]

After saying so, the brother sister pair left like a storm.

At the same time the two disappeared, I talked to Ricardo.

[Britney, why don't we go outside for a while?]

[Alright. Ryuze-niisama doesn't seem to have finished dancing.]

Ryuze who was hugely popular was dancing with one girl after another. His current partner was Nora.

Since I didn't have any particular offer, Ricardo and I were at the corner.

It might be because Ryuze had casually spread the story that I was not good at dancing.

(At the ball of social debut, I don't want to cause injuries to people.)

We asked Lily's father to give our message to Ryuze and then went out to the garden next to the venue.

By the way, it seemed that the beautiful Lily was called out by other men.

She was dancing around at the center of the hall.



[Since its early spring, it's a little cold. I'm sorry.]

When we went out to the garden, Ricardo draped his coat on my shoulders.

(The dresses of this world are surprisingly sleeveless. Maa, it's a fantasy shojou manga, so it's not all that surprising.)

My dress was a sleeveless white dress.

The ladies who had their social debut often wore white dresses since they're a safe choice.

[But this way, you'll be cold...]

[I'm wearing long sleeves so it's okay. Britney, your hand.]

Ricardo awkwardly held out his hand and grasped my left hand. We took a walk in the garden in that state.

It was still too early in season for roses, which were the specialty of the castle, but the buds of spring flowers decorated the flower beds beside the road.

Perhaps a lot of people were more interested in dancing, or the garden was too wide, but there were no people around us.

[Have you been doing well in Hakusu territory?]

[Un. I've been busy handling the aftermath of the incident and helping with the new business. How about you?]

[Aa, I too have been busy helping out Astor territory, and Lily's parents are taking over. After that, I have successfully graduated from the academy.]

[Is that so. It's hard to graduate from that academy right? I heard that many people had dropped out despite managing to get admitted.]

[In order to be someone befitting you, I have to be able to do that much. I will advance my career in the castle from now on. Since the way of becoming the earl was closed, I

have to renegotiate with Ryuze.]

[I will appeal to onii-sama too. It would be nice for him to know that I can earn a profit even when I'm with you. Let's think about what we can do.]

[That's true. If you say so, I'll do my best to obtain a territory so that you can use a good portion of it in the future.]

[Are you going to be a knight?]

[No, I thought so at first... but just being a knight hired by the castle won't allow me to take you as my wife. In another way — I want to build my position as a court noble. There is a way for a knight to obtain achievements and bestowed with territory, but it's difficult since our country is peaceful now. Rather, it's troubling if war and other similar events occur.]

In the world of the manga, court nobles live in the capital city, not at their territory.

In general, they lived in the capital city without ever living in their territories since these nominated aristocrats went back and forth the castle.

I would be near Angela as her follower from now on as well.

In the past, there were several court noblemen that became excellent close aids of the king and prince; they were then bestowed with career advancement and small plot of land. Ricardo seemed to intent to aim for it.

Doing secret maneuvers to create a war, gaining achievements as a knight... thinking about that, that thought was like a pitiful poison in this current situation.

[First of all, I have to be recognized by Ryuze.]

[That's true.]

Ricardo and I thought about my cousin who was too difficult, I then heaved a deep sigh.

It would be a difficult and long journey.

[I have resolved many times that it would be better if we separate. But the moment we

meet, that resolve instantly crumbled... I sure am deplorable.]

[No, if you arbitrarily break our relationship off, I will be shocked!]

[Certainly, I too will be pained if such a thing occurred to me.]

[Let's work hard together rather than thinking such painful things.]

[Aa. Before that, I have something I want to ask you a little.]

[E, what is it?]

[I will continue to try my best, so I want you to support me even a little. That...]

Ricardo, whose gaze wandered aimlessly, tried to tactfully tell me.

[...Right now, can I hug you?]

[E, eeh!?!]

[It's no good after all. We're not engaged yet. I said something unreasonable.]

[It's, it's not reasonable! Rather, I, I feel happy, that.]

Ricardo's green eyes looked at me who felt embarrassed and said so in a muddled way.

[Is it okay?]

[...Of, of course.]

With a smile, he stretched his arms awkwardly and gently enveloped me.

(...It's so warm.)

From the hall a bit far away, dance music flowed as usual.

Meanwhile, I circled my arms around Ricardo's waist.

Chapter 106

Villainess Princess' Maidenly Heart

After the social debut party had safely ended, it was the next day after I returned to my residence—

Resting my cheek on the window of the room, I remembered the incident at the party.

Just thinking of what had happened with Ricardo, my face became hot quickly.

[Britney-sama, what are you doing since a while ago? You keep making different expressions.]

It was my maid Maria who said so.

We became closer since I was a 12 years old, and now I had asked her to accompany me to the capital city. She was my personal maid.

Since we had been together for a long while, I was friendly with her. When there's no one in the vicinity, we would engage in frivolous talks.

[It's nothing.]

[...Is that so? Well then, a letter from the princess has just arrived, so I'll leave it here.]

[Thank you.]

I picked up the letter from Maria and checked the content.

The letter from Angela urged me to come to the castle as soon as possible.

(I should do so quickly. Otherwise it'll become troublesome later.)

Although her personality had improved, Angela was still Angela. Nothing good would occur if I kept her waiting.

I decided to visit her right then.



The next day, I visited the castle that was only 20 minutes of walking from my residence.

I was guided by the princess' personal kuroko maids and went inside Angela's room that was in welcome mode.

It seemed that after Angela's reformation, the maids' costumes became free, but the kuroko costumes seemed to be useful for some reason, so eventually the clothing was returned back to original.

(It's okay not to use make-up, and it seems to be warmer than maid uniform during winter and early spring.)

When I entered the room, Angela and Nora were comfortably relaxing inside.

It seemed that these two people were close friends now.

[Britney! I have been waiting for you!]

While Angela urged me to sit on the couch, the kuroko maids prepared the tea and then stood by the wall.

(...Somehow, they're like ninjas.)

Since the princess had reformed and the turnover rate of the maids declined, the maids turned into genuine kurokos with extreme skills.

[By the way, both of you, do you already know about my engagement?]

Hearing her words, I silently nodded.

Looking at Nora who was tilting her head, it seemed that she was not informed about this.

[Following the invasion of the northern country, His Majesty is planning to engage the northern prince either with me or my sister.]

[...!]

[At the same time, since there's a probing from the southern country, the one who won't be engaged to the northern prince will be engaged to the southern prince.]

[In other words, Angela-sama and Merrill-sama will be engaged to the northern prince and southern prince.]

[Ee, but, I feel depressed...]

Angela casted her eyes down. Her long eyelash extensions shadowed her pale violet eyes.

[You saw my sister didn't you?]

To this, Nora answered.

[Ee, she is very lovely. To think there's such a woman in this world.]

I could read where this talk would flow to.

[Yes. The two princes will probably think exactly the same thing. And they will want Merrill as a fiancée rather than me. Both of them want my younger sister, I'm sure I will be the leftover. Thinking that way, I feel uneasy and miserable...]

[Angela-sama, whatever the circumstances, that is...]

I tried to interpose hurriedly, but the girl's thoughts wouldn't yield.

[No, it surely will! Just like otou-sama and onii-sama!]

[Err, His Majesty and Prince Marlow?]

[Ee. Men like such women don't they? Only that child is cared for...]

Angela was completely sulking.

[You already met the northern prince Lucas right?]

[Ee. That man doesn't seem to be interested in me. He's entranced with Merrill instead.]

[...]

Certainly, even in the manga, Lucas liked Merrill at once. Currently, he's only attracted to her looks.

[Well, have you met the southern prince?]

[No, not yet. But won't he be the same? After all, appearance is everything, no matter how beautifully disguised I am, I won't be able to compare with the real thing.]

[Angela-sama...]

Nora and I encouraged the worried girl.

Nonetheless, it's a story that we fully sympathized with, and we could understand Angela's misery.

Since Nora and I were not confident about our natural appearance.

[But in terms of conditions, I think Angela-sama is better. Merrill-sama's appearance is beautiful, but she has a commoner background. If I were to choose, a genuine princess is more preferable...]

[What I want is not such dry politics! For my betrothal, I want to be loved genuinely!]

It seemed that Angela wanted to be selected for factors other than her title.

(She's a royalty, but her thoughts on that area are clear...)

The first princess was maidenly in a strange manner.

Chapter 107

The Southern Princes is Sauntering Inside

The chat with Angela was over and I headed to the eastern garden.

As I walked in the castle, I promised the macho platoon previously sent by Prince Marlow to participate in their training — which was a boot camp.

Living in the capital city tended to cause lack of exercise.

I also invited Nora, but she refused as expected.

[To train together with the soldiers, Britney sure is a curious one.]

[Even if I'm in the capital city, my physical condition will rebound back if I don't keep exercising.]

[I think that Britney who is constantly working hard is amazing. I admire it but it's impossible for me, see you later then. I would like to see Ryuze-sama, so can I visit your residence some time?]

[Un, of course. See you later!]

I separated from Nora, went through the eastern garden and headed towards the soldiers' training ground.

The members of the macho platoon were under direct supervision from Prince Marlow, and they always trained here.

[It's been a long time, everyone! I am indebted for the matter of Hakusu territory!]

When I turned up, the members of the platoon welcomed me.

[Miss Britney, it's been a long time! I'm glad that you're in good health! Maa, no need to humble yourself, I would be happy if you can easefully contact me.]

The preparation was already in place. For the activity, they all had changed into clothes that were easy to move in.

It seemed that I could use the soldiers' changing room freely.

[Nobody is passing here at this time, so it's no problem to exercise with us. If a beautiful girl is accompanying us, we will be more motivated!]

By saying so, the platoon members looked at me with glittering eyes.

(...Although I seemingly look beautiful, it's because of cosmetics.)

Still, being told that I was beautiful didn't feel bad.

I switched my clothes in the changing room and started the boot camp.

[Please teach us the training of Hakusu earldom!]

[That's okay, but it's hard you know?]

[That's what we wish for! We are the crown prince's subordinates, we have to be better!]

[Well then, hard mode it is.]

As they wanted, I instructed them on the physical training feared by the Hakusu earldom's soldiers.

By the way, I had mastered these during my past diet.

My grandfather's men had said "You've accomplished the hell training at unusual speed! As expected of Salus-sama's grandchild!", they praised me that way. By the way, Salus was my grandfather's name.

They were excellent soldiers of the castle, but they were struggling with the completely unfamiliar movements.

After exercising for a while, I felt someone's gaze.

The platoon members also felt the same, everyone turned their heads towards that direction.

A young man appeared from the road leading to the eastern garden.

It was a young man wearing unfamiliar oriental clothes, his flowing red hair was tied back.

However, he looked extremely familiar.

(...The southern prince? Why is he here?)

Yes, he was one of the heroes that appeared in the manga.

As a central figure of the story, his appearance was well-featured.

Unlike Lucas with his slender and delicate body, this one was moderately well-built, and although he didn't look like it, his personality had an open impression.

(His name, certainly... is Emirya. He's supposed to be the third prince of southern country.)

I informed the platoon members in a low voice. Disturbance spread among the members.

[Why is the southern prince wandering around the castle alone...!?!]

[We, we don't know...!]

While we were secretly confused, the prince came nearer.

[Oya, you guys are doing interesting things. What kind of training is that?]

[Err...]

[Aa, pardon me. I am the third prince of southern country, Emirya Gaza Casteles. Since I will be here in the royal palace, best regards.]

Rather than friendly, he's more like over-familiar.

However, because of the bright atmosphere he was wearing, it didn't seem unpleasant.

He seemed to be interested in the boot camp, his amber eyes were sparkling.

The captain stepped ahead and respectfully explained.

(To be honest, I don't want to stand out. I'm saved since the captain is the one doing the explaining.)

While I was thinking such things, the prince's gaze turned towards me.

[Hmm, there's a female! Does this country hire female soldiers?]

It was decided that I would stand out since I was mixed with the all-male platoon.

(If possible, I want to be ignored. It's not very elegant for a female to train together with soldiers.)

I didn't want to be concerned with it, but since I had no other choice, I gave him my name.

[...Err, my name is Britney Hakusu. This time, I am allowed to participate in the training especially by the kindness of this platoon.]

[Hee, a member of Hakusu earldom...]

[You know about my house?]

[About that, somewhat. Your territory has been rapidly rising in power these days, so I've been studying about it when I came to this country. For you, there are other reasons though.]

[...I am curious.]

[You are the girl who spreads the correct use of musk right? Before that, didn't the undiluted solution imported from our country is used as it is?]

[Aa, that's me. Certainly in the past, animal-based perfumes were popular in this country.]

[I can't believe it. Without processing, the musk is used as perfume!]

He seemed to be interested in the perfumery circumstances of this country.

[That's right, you all, do you know anything about the two princesses? I'm planning on meeting them.]

Prince Emirya, who had just arrived at the castle a while ago, had time before meeting with the princesses, so he seemed to have been wandering around the castle freely. Regardless of inside the building, it seemed that he thought that there would be no problem with the garden.

Since they only had contact with the crown prince usually, the platoon was confused.

There's no choice but for me to speak.

[Regarding Princess Merrill, I only saw her at the party the other day, so I can't say anything. For Princess Angela... err, she is my straightforward friend with interesting thoughts.]

To be honest, I would like to honestly say my thoughts... but I didn't want to mention her disadvantages poorly.

Although she had become fairer compared to before, she did things at her own pace as usual... but when I was singing, she helped me out, so she had her good parts.

[Is that so, I'm looking forward to it. I love interesting things and this training looks very interesting... to my regret, it's time already. Let me join you next time!]

He smiled while saying that he would come again and left.

(E...? He's coming again!?)

Chapter 108

Surprising Character and Surprising Change

TN: Following the suggestions, I decided on Emiryra instead. Emil or Emile would be wrong since the “ya” part was omitted.

I unexpectedly met with Prince Emiryra and began talking with him afterwards.

Emiryra Gaza Casteles was the third prince of the southern country and one of the main characters in the manga.

Right now, he was staying in this country to marry either Angela or Merrill.

He had a very active personality and I had met him in the castle afterwards.

(I had thought about not being involved.)

He was a prince, so I couldn't behave rudely.

The subjects were about the boot camp of the southern country and about the special products of each country.

Those were interesting topics for me too.

[...Hee, so there's aloe in the southern country.]

[Un, it's warm there after all. You know about aloe? It can be harvested in my country, candelabra aloe and aloe vera.]

[As expected, they're used as medicines.]

[The stomach medicine is bitter. And it can be used as paint when burned... do you want it?]

[I'd like to use it for spots and freckles prevention, so I certainly want it, but I don't

have the connections to obtain aloe from southern country. It's only about raw materials of perfumes like musk that our domain deals with the southern country.]

[If you don't mind, shall I arrange it? As an exchange with Hakusu territory's soap.]

Soap seemed to be introduced to the royal family of southern country.

It seemed because we launched off soap when we traded for musk.

[But, for a prince to do so...]

[It's fine. My older brother was saying that he wanted me to give his regards to you. As much as possible, I have been told to provide convenience.]

Following Emirya's words, I tilted my head.

I had never met the other princes of southern country, and I couldn't remember why he would say his "regards" to me.

Emirya also smiled wryly because he also felt it.

[My older brother — the second prince, has a part that's somewhat similar to you. He was the first to find the use of musk and aloe was also spread by him. Besides, he also cooked dishes with various spices and he created many mysterious things. It's just like when you made soap and cosmetics.]

Soap and face lotion from Hakusu territory.

Those were spread by Ryuze, but somehow Prince Emirya had concluded that I was the one who created them.

[Then, there is a message from my older brother for you.]

[A message?]

[Well, "If you are the same as me, it must be a pain to be in your current position. Feel free to escape to the south when it seems that you are about to die.", that's his message. There're also "if you miss Japanese food, I hope you come and visit", "since I'm not a man knowledgeable with beauty products, I definitely want to spread the beauty culture of middle country in the southern country" ...]

[...!!]

That alone was enough. I understood who Emirya's brother was.

(Japanese food... he's a Japanese person like me!? And he knows about the original Britney!?)

I didn't know what means he used, but the second prince knew about me.

He judged comprehensively that I was different from the original and from the invention of soap, so he decided that I was a reincarnated Japanese person. Certainly, that shjou manga only circulated in Japan.

However, Prince Emirya didn't mention the memories of previous life, so the second prince might have blurred the details about reincarnation.

Since the southern country and Hakusu territory were far away, it would be hard to think about probing me... but recently I had went to the capital city more often.

So I might have been secretly investigated by officials of southern country.

(From now on... let's be more careful about my surroundings.)

By the way, the country where we were now was called "middle country" by other countries. It's just around the middle of the continent.

The main countries of this continent were the northern country, the middle country, the southern country and the eastern country. There's a western country across the sea.

Other small states were scattered around.

(I suppose he's an unexpected ally. I would like to see him if possible, but it's impossible in reality.)

Aside from being completely trustworthy, the second prince seemed to be friendly to me since we're fellow reincarnates.

[By the way, is Prince Emirya friendly with your older brothers?]

[There are three of us, but all of us are friendly with each other. My middle brother mediates everyone's relationships. Some of our retainers antagonize each other, but we are united and didn't fight.]

The brothers of southern country didn't have terrible relationships like the northern country.

(If nothing can be done, I'll rely on his help. That and I want to trade aloe.)

From what I heard, the second prince seemed to be good in cooking.

Since he was a prince, he must have surprised his surroundings by developing interesting food one after another.

[Ano, maybe... has Prince Emiryra planned on meeting me from the beginning?]

[That's right, since my older brother is concerned about you. I was lucky to meet you by chance in the castle.]

[In this world, we never know what will happen.]

I noticed a possibility.

(Maybe there are other reincarnates other than me and him. Maybe the difference of this world's culture can be explained?)

If there were other reincarnated Japanese people, and had spread the knowledge of their past life in their field of interest... perhaps it led to the current status.

There's no way to prove it, and I wouldn't go out of my own speculations.

(This is the world of a shojou manga.)

After considering, I asked Prince Emiryra.

[Prince Emiryra, have you already met the princesses?]

[Aa, I also met with Prince Lucas.]

I'd like to ask which one did he like, but I didn't want to get entangled with politics.

Prince Emiryra wouldn't say anything thoughtless.

I decided to refrain from asking, but the prince unexpectedly advanced the story.

[Princess Angela is an interesting woman, just like as you said. Princess Merrill is a beautiful woman... Prince Lucas seemed to be raising the temperature.]

Lucas' attitude was understandable.

(Not just Angela, even this prince has noticed.)

The prince who was attracted to physical appearance picked Merrill.

[I prefer Princess Angela though. Maa, it's good that our opinions didn't cause each other to suffer.]

[...Is that so?]

[It is. What do you think, isn't Princess Angela better?]

[In a political significance... is it?]

Certainly, objectively, the first princess Angela's value was high.

(She is raised as a princess so she's a true princess.)

The personality that ruined things was improved to some extent thanks to Prince Marlow's education.

(For me, I'd like to support Angela.)

Saying something or other, Angela had called me her friend. To me, she was also an important friend. I didn't want her to be sad and miserable.

If Prince Emiryra chose Angela, she wouldn't be a leftover. However...

Angela didn't want some dry politic maneuvers and wished for love instead!

[Of course, that is right. Personally, I prefer her more.]

[E...?]

Unintentionally, I stared at him.

(What did he mean? What's different from the original...!?)

While I was disturbed, Prince Emiryra smiled as if he was having fun.

[If there's no big problem in the contents, I as the third prince usually will choose Princess Angela. Personally, I find it to be fun to play around with something, so to speak. Maa, it seems that I made her a little angry when we first met.]

As his said so, his amber eyes were sparkling.

(What did Prince Emiryra do!?)

In my mind, my feeling of relief "that's good!" and my unease "is it alright!?" were jumbled together.

Chapter 109

The Second Princess Who Appeared at the Noblewomen Association

[Kiiih! That rude southern prince, I won't forgive him!]

Today, Angela was angry.

Even this day, I was called by her to visit the castle as usual.

I was told that she wanted to hold a cosmetics meeting so that we could get along well with noblewomen who just came for cultural exchange.

Of course, rather than Angela, it would be me who would prepare various things and explain about cheat make-ups...

(I'll do it since it's an opportunity to sell our products.)

Besides, it's a good thing since those noble young ladies would be on more cordial terms with Angela. She was doing well with those girls who just had their social debuts.

The villainess princess in the manga had no friends, let alone any close friends. She only had affiliated minions connected with similar interests.

Considering that, I thought that it was a great progress.

(Even so, what did Emirya-sama do?)

It's rare for Angela to reveal so much of her anger recently.

[Did he do something unpleasant?]

[It was fine when we were introduced. However, when it's just the two of us, he told me "you're as lovely as a flower" just like that!]

[...What's wrong with that?]

[He's a liar, I'm not as exceptional as a flower! Why did he has to be alone with me when there's Merrill? Merrill is more like a flower, I'm a wildflower...!]

This became complicated.

[I don't need a lip service like being told that I'm lovely. Anyway, only my position and bloodline are the targets.]

[Angela-sama, please calm down. Prince Emirya may really like you.]

[No, that's not true. I have a premonition that after marriage, we will be a couple that only goes through the motions of being husband and wife and conceiving children out of duty.]

Emirya and Angela seemed to be unmatched really early.

[So, you got angry?]

[That's not all. After insulting me "as lovely as a flower", that prince... he kissed the back of my hand! He said "I want to be with you more"...!]

[E...?]

[He acted so frivolous and disgusting!]

According to the standards of this country... kissing the back of the hand was more like a pretentious greeting.

Beside the "I want to be with you more", I thought that he just wanted to talk more with Angela.

[So, Angela-sama, what did you do?]

[I told him not to make fun of me!]

Angela huffed and turned away.

(This is bad.)

However, her face was slightly red in colour.

(Since it doesn't seem as bad she makes, maybe it turned out well.)

Although I couldn't say much about other people, the root of Angela's complex seemed deep.



A few days later when I got called to the castle, the other noblewomen who were staying at the capital city were excited about make-up fraud.

The people invited to the party this time, were ladies with noble ranking of earl and higher who just had their social debuts, such as Nora who was staying at the capital city and Lily who would be at the capital city for a while longer.

Lily who was fiddling with her fluffy hair was cute enough even if she didn't use make-up.

Still, it's normal to pursue more beauty.

[If the hook is big, I can get a good son-in-law. Anyone is fine as long he's an ikemen with excellent character!]

Lily who said such a thing, her expression was cloudy. I knew the reason.

Lily, who was the only daughter of the new Earl Astor, must take in a son-in-law.

Therefore, it was impossible for her to be engaged with Ryuze who she had longed for. Since Ryuze was the lord of Hakusu territory, he would never be a son-in-law of another territory.

Whatever the case, Ryuze and Lily never would be connected. It made felt a little complicated when I thought about it.

The other daughters were a daughter of a marquis from southern territory Miranda (a little dark-skinned), and a daughter of marquis Elphis (has plump body) that Nora mistook for me during the masquerade ball.

The daughter of marquis Elphis with her plump figure was rarely seen at parties

before her social debut, she only attended the masquerade ball since she could hide her identity. Somehow, I understood that feeling.

[Miss Britney, please think of a make-up method that fits me. Since I'm from a southern territory, as you can see, I have dark skin... cosmetics strangely feel out of place. Can it be more natural?]

[In that case, rather than a pale pink make-up like this one, something with bold colours will suit you better. If you don't want to be very flashy, you can use brown or gold for your eye shadow. For your cheeks and lips, orange colour is safe. Then, since it's unnatural to heavily use white powder... please use colours that match your natural skin colour.]

I asked a nearby maid to apply make-up on Miranda. Meanwhile, I also taught the small face make-up tips to Elphis.

I already passed on the cosmetic methods to Angela and Nora. Lily was already beautiful even without make-up, so I applied an adult-like make-up that I wouldn't normally do.

When the four people were getting excited, a bell-like voice came from the entrance.

[Ano? Onee-sama, my individual classes are over, may I join in the meeting?]

We all looked to the direction of the voice.

There, a beautiful girl with shoulder-length loose wavy blonde hair was standing... it's Merrill.

(She appeared, Merrill!)

It seemed that Merrill, the second princess, was also invited to the cosmetics conference today.

However, since she had her lessons, she had to join mid-way.

Although her status became that of a princess, there were many things she had to study.

[Here, this is my sister Merrill.]

Angela introduced Merrill to everyone. It had been a while since I saw her at the social debut.

[Nice to meet you, my name is Merrill. Please treat me well.]

Un, she's beautiful as usual...

Because of her temperament, everyone's tensions were dissolved.

The friendly Lily greeted the nervous Merrill. As usual, she's a good girl.

[Miss Merrill, nice to meet you, my name is Lily Astor. If you don't mind, why don't we enjoy cosmetics together?]

[Ah, you are from Astor family... ee, best regards.]

Following Lily, everyone greeted her. It seemed that Merrill's tension gradually loosened.

Even with Angela, although she was somewhat awkward, it's didn't seem bad... that's what it looked like.

It was when I felt that way. From the mouth of Merrill, she remarked something that destroyed the atmosphere of this place.

[But, I don't use make-up. Although it can't be helped when it's absolutely necessary.]

Silence fell on the spot, but she kept talking.

[It's somewhat like painting the skin. Noble children of this country use make-up, that's not good. Natural beauty that one is born with is the best.]

From there, Merrill spoke about "I used mother's cosmetics when I was a child, but it felt sticky and uncomfortable" and "it felt like my skin is blocked".

Other girls were overwhelmed by her.

[Besides, in our age, we can shine enough even without using make-up. It's wrong to unnaturally cover our face. What's important is the contents, not the appearance!]

The air of the cosmetics fraud group froze.

I understood what she wanted to say, and I knew some of those opinions were correct.

But we wanted to assert. You never had a hard time with your looks, just as you said.

If we had specs comparable to Merrill, we would be beautiful enough without make-up.

However, it didn't apply to the people here except for Lily.

Everyone had their complex, and they wanted to be more beautiful even if just a little.

In this manga, this world's civilization was not as advanced, and it could be said that the happiness of young ladies was decided by marriage.

It was a strategy for women to grab a happy future by pretending to be more beautiful in order to have better partners.

(Also, is Merrill aware of it? To deny Angela's entire make-up fraud association.)

Other ladies had unpleasant facial expressions.

However, Angela bounced back early. It seemed that she's used to her sister's behavior.

[...E, everyone, let's finish our make-up, it's time for tea.]

With her voice, everyone said "that's right", and began to move.

However, one way or another, the atmosphere became delicate. Even Lily was flustered.

Angela endured with a stiff smile.

[He, here... this is a special tea from the southern territory where Miranda lives.]

[Maa, how lovely! Such a nice scent!]

[I understand! Its sweet scent is its characteristic!]

Miranda was a little delighted, and the tension was elevated.

The subtle air had finally calmed down.

Girls talk about recent trends gradually spread. Among them, of course, stories related to love affair were also included.

[Fufu, as I thought, the Earl of the North is so dreamy. I'm so envious of you, Britney. Has he decided on a companion?]

[No. There were marriage interviews, but he's not engaged yet.]

[Maa! That's good news!]

Miranda's, Elphis' and Nora's tension went up. It seemed that they were excited that such a superior ikemen was still a bachelor.

But Merrill stood up quickly.

[...I have a thought. Rather than this kind of talk, we should talk more about politics and economy. Even women should focus on those topics from now on.]

Again, the atmosphere cooled down.

Merrill did not have any ill will, but her straightforwardness left a bad taste.

(Not to mention that we're not interested in those topics. Dare to say, it's not the time for such topics.)

Originally, women gathered information in such casual conversations.

Trends lead to economic talks, love affairs lead to political topics. Maa, these talks didn't have such contents.

Today's gathering was not a party to discuss about politics and economy, it's a fraud make-up meeting...

(There are many stories, but the princess and daughters of marquises study seriously. Since they're upper aristocrats, they're usually clever. We just don't directly talk about that.)

Angela whose tea party was destroyed was trembling.

Bad, this was bad.

(Angela, calm down...!)

But this time, a savior appeared.

[Yaa, sorry to intrude.]

The figures who showed themselves at this tea party were Lucas, Emirya and Marlow. The daughters hurriedly curtsied.

[I heard that my sisters are gathering here.]

Prince Marlow said so, Lucas and Emirya greeted us.

The daughters who saw the three of them blushed moderately.

Nonetheless, they were out of range, so they wouldn't actively move.

(Un, I understand. They're above the clouds.)

Even so, we were saved. Really saved!

Chapter 110

Tea Party Crusher and Quietly Wise Young Lady

The tea party resumed with the princes.

Lucas sat near Merrill while Emirya was smiling next to Angela.

Angela was occupied and her behavior was aloof though she was blushing, but she didn't reject him.

Looking at the situation, the daughters in this place also seemed to recognize some of the circumstances.

The northern prince chose Merrill while the southern prince picked Angela.

By the way, Prince Marlow sat between me and Elphis.

(The appearance of Elphis suited his preference.)

This crown prince preferred women with plump body.

Elphis herself didn't aim for royalty, but I thought that a marquis house wouldn't be unnatural to be connected with royalty.

However, Elphis was speaking with Angela. So Marlow spoke to me.

[Britney, Prince Emirya brought a lot of souvenirs. The plants are dried, but they're only found in the southern country.]

[How interesting.]

While we were talking about our hobbies, Emirya also cut into the conversation.

[Prince Marlow, just call me Emirya. Please call me comfortably.]

[Aa, well then, just call me Marlow.]

The southern prince appealed for a good relationship with the middle prince.

And for some reason, the three of us were discussing the use of the southern plants together...

[In southern country, we use every parts of the plant for cooking. Besides, they have other uses.]

[That's right! Even now I collect plants from various places, but my herb tea collection seems to increase even more.]

[But there's a problem about freshness. As plants harvested locally will naturally wither when transported here, they have to be transported as seedlings. Still, the climate may not be suitable and it may be useless.]

[Umu, herb teas are dried, so there's no problem...]

[Anyway, we should order it.]

[That's right.]

When the talk was settled, we listened to other conversations.

Then, Nora and Merrill had difficult atmosphere between them.

[Err, so... that kind of things...]

[No, it's true! I read reports from various places as part of my study. Your territory is manipulating the price of items in the market by adjusting the output of ore. Isn't this a bad thing?]

Apparently, they were talking about ores that could be found in Nora's territory.

[I can't say anything... I'm a woman after all.]

Nora said so evasively.

She helped her parents in the territory so she knew the circumstances... but since it seemed troublesome, she escaped by saying that she's a female.

However, Merrill had interpreted it differently.

[You can't have that kind of attitude. One shouldn't use their gender as an excuse and neglect from being diligent in self-study. I told earlier, it's time for women to be more active.]

That said, Merrill began to develop more arguments.

It's true that Nora's territory was adjusting their mining, but it prevented depletion of resources due to excessive digging and preventing from repeating past failures. By no means were they unfairly raising the value.

Her family dug out in the mines and got nothing, so they were in poverty.

Recently, new ores and new mines had been discovered, but they were cautious not to repeat the same mistakes. Now they were starting another industry.

Besides, a lot of ores were in the market, and they were careful not to cause the price to crash for important revenue resources.

(Considering consumers, it's best to get it cheap at any time. However ores have limits, and even such circumstances can't be ignored.)

I wanted to be uninvolved, but the opponent was a princess that's a former commoner. In other words, she's above my status.

It's not a good idea to oppose Merrill in the current status.

Britney in the manga could bully the princess so much because she had Angela's backing.

I looked at Marlow for help. He seemed to have accurately picked up my intention.

[Merrill, each region has their own circumstances. Let's study in the future about that.]

[But, onii-sama...]

Angela finally stood up when Merrill objected.

[Be considerate Merrill. You are making my guests uncomfortable. Besides, are you

trying to talk back against onii-sama?]

[...O, onee-sama?]

Merrill was trembling. She could argue against her brother, but she seemed unable to say anything against her sister.

[Angela, Merrill has just entered the palace, so she doesn't know anything yet. She will take a little more time to get used to things.]

[That's true. However, no matter who it is, I am in trouble if her attitude is like this. With this, I can't show her in front of others.]

Hearing those words, Merrill hung her head in shame.

[I, I'm sorry. I, I didn't mean to... I'm sorry to make you uncomfortable. Excuse me.]

She stood up with teary eyes and rushed outside. Lucas chased her.

(The cleaning up is passed to other people?)

The remaining members sat with a sensitive atmosphere.

[Everyone, forgive me. I didn't educate her enough.]

Angela apologized with a tired face.

I felt sorry for her. Merrill was a big deal in a way.

Prince Marlow also apologized.

[Both of you, please lift your face.]

[We know it's not your fault.]

Miranda and Elphis comforted Angela who was especially depressed.

They were friends after Angela's rehabilitation.

Both of them stayed in the capital city for a while, so it seemed the three of them often

met.

These daughters were Angela's friends.

(It seems that Angela doesn't mind Marlow-sama's sweetness. I think that she needs to be educated vigorously...)

But, it was not from ill will.

I received such impression from at the tea party today.

However, unlike such Angela, there's a daughter who had the look of wisdom.

(Nora...!?)

Since she's looking down, nobody noticed her, but I could perfectly see that my friend was grinding her teeth.

After a while, the tea party was concluded, Nora and I left the venue together.

Miranda and Elphis also went off.

Angela was accompanied by Prince Marlow and Prince Emirya.

I saw them from a distance and soothed Nora who was next to me.

Chapter 111

The Topic of Engagement Came Before I Knew It

Nora suddenly came to my place of residence in the capital city.

Her anger at Merrill was not settled in a day.

Such a fierce anger from the normally discreet Nora was a surprise for me.

As I directed her to the parlour, she brought up yesterday's events.

[I can't believe that princess. Not knowing anything, but she just rushed over things.]

[...That's true.]

[It's impossible for me. When I see a girl like that, it makes me so irritated!]

Nora barked while she tugged at her hair as was her habit.

[Maa, Princess Merrill just became a princess. I guess she will be quieter after a while.]

[Britney, you are too optimistic. A woman like that, she won't ever stop butting in!]

[Rea, really?]

[You too will become involved with her. I'm absolutely confident that she's a child that will never listen to other people's opinion.]

[Indeed, that's a problem.]

It's unbearable if she were to speak about Hakusu territory's industry.

[Since she strangely has influence, it will be more troublesome. Since the content of her insistence is just a theory on the desk, her words doesn't have any weight.]

[Certainly...]

[Besides, what's with her! I don't need make-up she says! Is she making fun of my ugliness!? As if a woman like me can be beautiful without using make-up, "what an ugly fashion, what's with her style", I'll be mocked like that. And if I don't use make-up, I will be told that "such an ugly style, she must have lacked the effort to use make-up"!]

I myself had greatly experienced that.

It was a fact that I was greatly hurt when people mocked me when I was fat. "Such a fatty, and yet she's searching for a fiancée in this party?", I was abused like that.

[For her to think like this, she has a difficult personality that lacks self-awareness. With appearance and personality like that, she's beyond saving...! But, it can't be helped. No one has reached out to me until I got this far! I wanted someone to save me sooner!]

Nora's voice contained a lot of grudge.

[Before I came to the capital city, there was a chance to meet several girls and neighborhood gentlemen under the pretext of searching for a fiancée. I was called by an acquaintance of mine whose age is close to me to participate in it.]

[Was the fiancée search unpleasant?]

[Ee! I was just called to make her appear better! That woman, to invite an engagement proposal for her daughter, she wanted her to be surrounded by uglier people!]

[...Hey, aren't you being pessimistic?]

[No, I understand. I was actually miserable. Among the men, there was a man who talked to me a lot, just one man.]

[Then, isn't it fine?]

[His reason is the problem. Later, I heard from the grapevine, "she's ugly so she listens to anything", "I compromised since beautiful people are highly sought after and has selfish personality", that was the reason I was chosen.]

[What's with that rude reasoning!?!]

[Right!? In this world, it's not possible for me to compete with natural beauty! No

matter how much I use make-up, there's no way for me to break the limit! If the appearance is shut out, the content can be seen. I don't have confidence in my personality though!]

Merrill seemed to have stepped on the landmine that was already smoldering.

Unlike someone who was honestly praised and brought up in a carefree way, humans who had been beaten up by themselves were somewhat distorted inside due to their complexes including me.

Disregarding that, I was able to understand the feeling that it's unpleasant to be pointed out "the content is more important" by someone beautiful.

[Britney, you have Ricardo as a wonderful companion.]

Nora didn't know the relationship between Ricardo and I in detail.

However, ever since the masquerade ball, and due to our usual good relations, she would occasionally say something like this.

[Not really. Though he had applied for engagement, it's put on hold by Ryuzeniisama... and with the incident with Astor earldom, it can be opposed.]

[Is that so? I've been thinking that you are doing well since you are quite close to each other.]

[I also want to be engaged with Ricardo. Only this much...]

When I casted down my eyes, Nora firmly grasped my hands.

[Nora?]

[I support you two!]

[Anyways! Ricardo is in a difficult position right now. If he proved himself, I think that our engagement can be reinstated. He won't succeed Astor earldom anymore, but knowing the crown prince, he should be able to obtain a reasonable position.]

[Tha, that's true.]

Nora became her usual mild-mannered self, but I couldn't hide my embarrassment.

However, while she didn't show it, I understood that she's still carrying her resentment.

(When I met Nora the first time, I wondered why she became such a malicious woman in the manga. From the start, she might have been containing a grudge...)

Looking at the current Nora, Merrill was the trigger and I remembered that there was a development where she made a rampage.

(I've lost weight, and Ryuze-niisama is still alive. Angela's personality has become better. However, I can't be careless.)

At the moment, Merrill triggered the situation.

I felt such anxiety.

After a while, Ryuze peered into the room.

For a while, my cousin had returned to our territory, but currently he was on a business trip in the capital city.

Nora's eyes shone up as if her frustration a while ago was a lie.

[Ryuze-sama, I'm glad to see you.]

Her voice was a pitch higher.

[Oya, Miss Nora, it's been a while since the social debut.]

[Yes. That time, thank you for dancing with me.]

[Me too.]

After speaking with Ryuze, Nora's frustration had calmed down and she regained her composure.

She was refreshed and her expression was calm.

(Thank you Ryuze-niisama... Nora has returned back to normal.)

Even when he just came, he had unintentionally helped me.

[Ah right, Britney, the business transaction with the southern prince has earnestly begun.]

[That's nice, it will be helpful since there are a lot of things I want.]

Regarding the interaction with Prince Emirya, I had reported it to Ryuze. He had moved in response to that.

Alas, as Merrill pointed out, this country was a little conservative.

Although women could ask for a business talk, it's possible that they would be denied from negotiation and they would need to face hardships first.

Even if we accumulated achievements, someone like me who just freshly debuted could be turned away.

So it's faster for my cousin to handle the exchanges outside our territory.

[I owe it to Britney. I have never thought of being close with the southern prince.]

[Regarding that, me too. There's a strange circumstances.]

Talking about boot camps and perfumes, Ryuze seemed interested as the corner of his mouth quirked up.

[Hee, so that's it. If there's an opportunity, I would like to invite him to our territory.]

[Right! The main part of our waterways is steadily being completed and the development of fruit wine that you are promoting is also on track.]

[True. The alcohol containing the carbonated water from the spring that you had discovered is also popular. For the barren land, agriculture is also gradually developed by figuring out how to plant crops.]



TN: Carbonated Alcohol



TN: Soda Spring



TN: Planting crops in barren land

[With the collaboration with Astor earldom, we're also improving our highway. If we can create a shortcut to the capital city, our territory can become a tourist destination. In that case, hot springs.]

[...Maa, hot springs are among the list. If we have enough funds that is.]

[Onii-sama, you're finally willing to spread hot springs...!]

[I got a little room for money.]

Since the post treatment of the incident finished earlier than expected, we still had some budget left.

[That's right. Engagement proposals for you just came.]

[...Engagement proposal, is it.]

Ryuze pointed his blue eyes towards me while gauging my reaction.

(If possible, I would like to wait a bit for such talk. There's Ricardo too.)

I tried to say so, but Ryuze replied with a sparkling smile before I could.

[Of course, I refused everything.]

Chapter 112

Cousin's Proposal and Confusion

Sitting on a chair, I gaped at my cousin who was on the other side of the table.

[To refuse the engagement proposals without my input, isn't that tyranny?]

[It's because I can't afford to put my cute cousin in a strange spot as someone's wife.]

[You're saying something insincere again.]

While sighing, I looked at Ryuze.

My cousin had a nonchalant face, drinking the black tea that had cooled down on the table.

[It's not a lie. I feel like I don't want you to go anywhere else. As it is, I want you to stay in the Hakusu territory.]

[That's because you'll be in trouble if you don't have an easy to use assistant. If I become an old maid that's too late to get married, can it be called reigning in the Hakusu territory?]

[U-n, that's not what I mean. What I want to say is...]

Ryuze who spoke a little inarticulately turned his well-featured face towards me.

[Britney, if you're willing... would you like to be engaged to me?]

[...Onii-sama, have you lost your mind?]

Since I heard such unexpected words, my eyesight turned black and white. My brain processor couldn't keep up with it.

[I'm five years older than you, but your mental age is older than me right? It's good to think about it.]

Ryuze's age was 21 years old currently. It's a marriageable age for men in this country.

(It's about time for him to find a partner.)

Actually, Ryuze received a great amount of engagement proposals.

Even if he refused, a lot of young daughters would still send fishing hooks since they wouldn't give up.

[But we're cousins...]

[It's not uncommon for cousins to be married. Besides, if you marry me, won't it be easier compared to marrying into an unknown household?]

[Maa, certainly.]

Ryuze knew about my past, so it's a lot easier. It's unknown whether he actually believed it or not, but he knew about the premise of my Japan's memory.

That's why, even if I talked absurdly, he would listen to me for the time being, and if I proposed something that could be use, he would turn it into a commodity.

This environment made it easy.

Nonetheless, my cousin had never leaked my past life to anyone else.

It's unrealistic, but in the unlikely event that a man who believed it appeared, I would be in danger.

After I revealed it in the past, I was told not to say the same thing to others.

[It's me who understands your value more than anyone else.]

[It may be so.]

[Since it's Britney, I think we can get along well.]

[No, no, I will not give in. A lot of portraits of young ladies are sent to you right? You can choose from among them.]

[I too will not give in. I want you.]

I kept talking to Ryuze who kept saying such outrageous words.

[Still, please don't lose your mind and think again.]

My cousin seemed to regain his calmness when I examined him, but he seemed unlikely to change his mind.

[At that time, the case of Ricardo's engagement proposal being on hold...]

[Needless to say, Ricardo can no longer succeed Astor earldom. I won't consider the engagement.]

[...!]

I took a shock as if my head was hit by a blunt object.

(That's...)

If I was told at the beginning when my memory just came back, I would have accepted my cousin's words.

However, I was attracted to Ricardo so much now.

I knew that young ladies were disqualified to think such selfish things, but being married to other people was unimaginable to me, it's not just limited to Ryuze.

(Don't give up, I won't give up. I have to find a clue.)

I couldn't betray Ricardo.

Ryuze kept speaking not knowing my conflict.

[Britney, is it not good to be engaged to me?]

That said, I peered into his ocean coloured eyes.

(If I am to marry Ryuze-niisama...)

It seemed that an invariant life would be waiting for me.

It's better than marrying into an unknown household, but I couldn't imagine a couple life with Ryuze.

(Generally, does onii-sama like me?)

Britney before my memory returned, she often send amorous glances towards him.

Nevertheless, my cousin ignored it splendidly.

[It's overdoing it to marry me for the territory...]

Ryuze, who stood up from his seat, walked towards me as tilted his head.

[It's not particularly overdoing it.]

[But that doesn't mean that you like me right? If you want a young lady who can cooperatively manage the territory with you, I'm sure you can find someone else.]

[Britney, so it's no good with me?]

[That's not it. At least, a favourite woman...]

[I'm fine with you though.]

[Please don't tease me. I'm serious...! Guho...!?!]

My cousin, who was next to me now, bent down to look into my eyes and grasp my cheeks with his hands.

Thanks to that, a strange sound came from my mouth.

[I'm serious. I won't tell such a joke.]

[That's a lie... because, onii-sama is...]

He was not interested in Britney at all.

[Britney, whatever you think, I prefer the current you and can't think of being engaged

to anyone else except for you.]

[...]

I, who couldn't answer anything momentarily, carried a confectionary prepared on the table to my mouth as if to falsify myself.

What I got was a sweet tart with plenty of cream.



[When you escape to food, I know that you're escaping from reality. I won't say to decide soon, so I want you to think a little.]

As if to soothe me, Ryuze stroke my head.

[...I, I understand.]

Since we always stayed together, my cousin knew the meanings of my action well.

It's my bad habit to escape to food as soon as my stress rose and I got confused.

(Being engaged to onii-sama is not bad either. If it's impossible with Ricardo.)

Even if it's hopeless, I still couldn't give up on him.

As long as Ricardo thought of me, I couldn't forsake the future of us being together.

(I can't believe that Ryuze-niisama favours me.)

Usually, he's strict with me.

(Sometimes, he would help me nonchalantly.)

Suddenly, I remembered the conversation with Millard.

Ryuze at that time, he said that if I was raped, he would engage me to him.

(No way, he's serious...!?)

I realized his past words were facts, and I became confused.

[By the way, let's change the story.]

[Ye, yes!?!]

Feeling worried about me who ceased to act, Ryuze changed the topic. To be honest, I felt thankful.

[It seems that the tea party with Princess Merrill is difficult. Miss Nora was desolated.]

It seemed that Nora's cry was heard by Ryuze who was in the same building.

[Ee, maa. She's slightly peculiar... perhaps, I don't think she's interested in cosmetics products which is our main products.]

At any rate, she boasted that she didn't use make-up.

[I thought I could use her as a new advertisement channel. That's a pity.]

[That's, that's right. I don't know what will happen in the future, but it's difficult now. I wish she has a product that she likes.]

[Fufu, it's written on your face. You don't want to get involved much. It's fine, there's no need for you to push yourself. Currently, Prince Marlow and Princess Angela are enough.]

Whether he was making use of the mood or not, today's Ryuze was sweet to me.

Chapter 113

Unexpected Consultation Partner

After the engagement talk with Ryuze, every day I had everlasting troubles.

I worked diligently in my room day after day.

(It's hard for me to find someone who can consult me.)

I couldn't say such a thing to Ricardo, and if I told my doting ojii-sama, he will largely support it. Maria too would probably agree.

Ojii-sama would miss me if I were to marry into another household, while Maria and the other maids were Ryuze's followers.

Although I could consult with Nora if it's an ordinary troublesome thing, it's too scary to tell her about the engagement. Lily was the same case.

After all, they're both infatuated with Ryuze.

On the other hand, it's impossible to consult with Marlow or Angela.

It's not a story that could be shared with royalty.

(It seems that I can only think about it and reach a conclusion by myself.)

Groaning, I reached for the donuts placed on the table.



It's a souvenir from Prince Marlow who came to see Ryuze the other day. It was handed over to me with a smile for some reason, so I brought it to my room.

He gave me the sweets thoughtlessly.

(However, I can't think about it myself. There are other things to ponder about...)

The first on the list was the actions of the protagonist.

Princess Merrill's actions evoked various ripples in the royal palace as soon as possible.

The men's receptions were good, but many of the women had animosity towards her. It's easy to make enemies of the same gender.

[I pity Princess Angela. She must have troubles.]

[I cannot abide by her attitude!]

[I wonder if we should move for Angela-sama. It would be better to let that girl know the way of royal castle at once...]

In the castle, young ladies said such things.

Every time I heard such stories, I stopped them.

It might become Angela's responsibility if things went bad.

Right now, Angela was teaching Merrill with her utmost effort. It's not that effective though...

Currently, Merrill had steadily made more enemies, and the young ladies who had animosity towards her quickly drew close to Angela who was her rival candidate and unconsciously flattered her.

(They shouldn't use Angela's name without permission at all.)

In this way, it felt that the first princess was leading them and was bullying her sister.

(I think the members I often meet in the castle are fine, but I don't know what the

other young ladies are thinking.)

There's no need to hurriedly put up a fight against Merrill, but there might be people who had already acted.

(This way, it may become a bullying development like in the manga...)

And in the worst case, Angela would be condemned. Nora and I who were close to her were also in danger.

Considering such a thing, my hand unconsciously extended towards the donuts.

(Not, not good! I will rebound again!)

In order to cut off the hazy feeling in my chest, I went to the castle in the afternoon.

I stopped my work, even if I met Ryuze, I don't know how to talk to him.

No, I understood in my mind that I had to face him, but I wanted time to think first.



As I stepped into the east wing of the castle, I heard a voice that I knew.

[O, Britney-chan! You came to a nice place!]

When I turned towards the voice, I saw the smiling face of Prince Emirya.

[Good afternoon, does Prince Emirya also have a business to do here?]

[Aa, un. I came to see Princess Angela... but I was shut out again.]

[...Is that so.]

This prince was a candidate for Angela's fiancée.

He favoured the first princess Angela, Angela also didn't feel that the situation was all that bad, but Angela wasn't being honest, she would often obstinately say words that she didn't really mean towards Prince Emirya.

However, this tolerant red haired prince could perceive it, so it's not a big problem.

Even today, he had been kicked out by Angela.

Emirya seemed to be enjoying himself.

[By the way, Britney, regarding trade, thank you for contacting your cousin. I thought you were going to move yourself.]

[It's faster for me to ask my cousin compared to me doing so publicly.]

[...This country is dreadful. You seem to be more suited for living in the southern country.]

Rather than living abroad, it's easier to live here while agreeing with the norm.

I tried to say so when I became aware.

In order to keep such a life, it's better to get engaged with Ryuze.

(Even if I am to marry, I don't know whether I can continue my current life or not.)

Even if I were to marry Ricardo, a different world would be waiting for me.

What was the wife of a court nobleman, what I should do; I couldn't visualize the future clearly so it made me greatly anxious.

(But I like Ricardo...)

While I was worried about my enlightenment, Emirya glanced towards me.

[What's wrong, Britney? Is there a problem?]

[No, it's not a big deal.]

[I'll listen if you don't mind. I'm currently free and things will be easier if you talk to an uninvolved third party.]

[...No, but...]

[E, maybe, it's related to me!?!]

[No, it's not! Prince Emirya is completely unrelated!]

[Then, you can talk to me right?]

Eventually, I was cornered, so I told him about my troubles on the condition of not telling anyone else.

Chapter 114

Seething Jealousy

[Hee, I see. That shrewd Earl of the North has a surprising weak point.]

Ignoring what Emirya had pointed out, I was anxious whether it was good to consult with him this early.

[I think Britney knows only your territory and the capital city, so don't you think it's better to see the wider world? At great pains, you are at a position where you can move freely. If you have various experiences, some things can become visible.]

[Err, but I can't move unlimitedly right? If I migrate, it will incur expenses.]

If I spent money uselessly, my cousin's coldest gaze would be mercilessly directed at me.

[Then, I'll do something about it!]

[No, no, therefore...]

With such conversation, we saw 3 people we knew well in the courtyard from the corridor window.

Ricardo, Lucas and... Merrill!

(What are they doing in such a place?)

Emirya also noticed them when he sideways glanced to that direction.

[Prince Lucas and Princess Merrill. The other person is...]

[That is my friend, Ricardo, the second son of the original Earl Astor.]

[Aa, so that's who he is.]

[Do you know him?]

[He's the friend of my future brother-in-law. I never talked with him, but I saw him once before.]

From outside perspective, they seemed to be on cordial terms.

Lucas as well as Merrill looked happy.

(U-n, they're dazzling.)

The two protagonists of the manga, as well as Ricardo. Looking at the glitteringly perfect three people, I felt somewhat thrilled.

It's as if the story was about to start moving.

[Princess Merrill is a pretty interesting girl.]

[...Is that so. Prince Emirya, what about her that you think is interesting?]

[Her straight personality that's not afraid of anyone. And her actions to try new ideas.]

Certainly, since she's the heroine of a girl's manga, Merrill's personality was straightforward. She's not two-faced no matter who the other party was, and she had a cheerful and lovely heroine temperament.

Just like during the tea party before, she had new ideas.

Though it was somewhat a problem, I believed Prince Marlow and Angela could manage it.

Emirya who was leaning against the window continued to talk.

[It's also interesting that she got a lot of followers so soon after she entered the castle.]

[Followers, is it?]

[Powerful and influential men who adore her. They are headed by Princess Merrill and are supporting her various activities.]

[I see.]

[That said, the wives regard her as a serpent... that's the impression.]

The husband was watered down by a young lass. As a wife, it wouldn't be amusing.

(I... I don't want Ricardo to be madly in love with Merrill.)

While thinking such things, my gaze moved towards the three people again.

Then, I saw Merrill clapping Ricardo's shoulder over and over again.

Reflexively, I looked twice.

(Ee...!? Isn't she touching him too much?)

In this country, men and women of approximate age were strictly prohibited from touching each other. Except for those with intimate relationships, it was highly frowned upon.

For people of this country, those who were close enough to touch each other like that were seen as a close companion equal to that of a fiancée. It was even stricter for a woman who already had her social debut.

I was raised as a young lady of Hakusu earldom for many years, so such a sense was already rooted in me.

(That Merrill... of all things, she was touching Ricardo.)

Inside myself, a little bit of syrupy feeling was bubbling up.

This was jealousy.

I knew it was useless, but my frustration was overflowing.

Meanwhile, Merrill repeatedly touched Ricardo in a friendly way.

Looking at Lucas, he seemed to be a little troubled.

He might be puzzled by the behavior of his fiancée candidate.

Merrill did not have any ill will, but maybe she just didn't care since she grew up as a commoner.

(But...)

I didn't want her to touch Ricardo like that.

I didn't want her to act so suggestively in spite of having a decided fiancée.

Mostly, why was she touching Ricardo. It would be nice if Lucas was sticky with her just like in the manga. Merrill was...

(No good, no good... when I think about that, I will look like the original. I have to calm down.)

I didn't want to think such ugly things.

I took a deep breath and calmed my mind. I felt restless, but I wanted to ignore my irritation.

I took my eyes off the scene, repeatedly took deep breaths, and somehow returned to my normal condition.

[Are you alright, Britney? Do you have trouble breathing?]

[E...? No, they're just ordinary deep breaths!]

[I see, it's good that you're fine. Hey, why don't we approach them?]

[Ee!?!]

[Let's go!]

I was pushily coerced by Prince Emirya and I couldn't refuse, so we headed to the courtyard.

Chapter 115

Misunderstanding and Just the Two of Them

The courtyard in the afternoon was wrapped in a gentle atmosphere.

However, an out of season storm was brewing in my mind.

Lead by Prince Emiryra, I approached Ricardo.

After the talk with Ryuze, it was awkward to face Ricardo.

(I should be careful not to behave suspiciously. Ricardo doesn't know my talk with Ryuze-niisama.)

Since he was working so hard, I didn't want to unnecessarily worry him.

Prince Emiryra spoke to the three of them who was talking.

[Oya, what are you going talking about so merrily?]

Then, the three people turned towards us at the same time.

[Prince Emiryra and Britney, good afternoon.]

Lucas who smiled like a good person welcomed us.

Ricardo smiled softly at me when he saw me, my heartbeat became faster reflexively.

I also gave a small smile to him.

[Good afternoon. By chance we saw the three of you from the window.]

When I spoke, Prince Emiryra joined me from the side.

[True, true. So we came here spontaneously. I was going to talk with Princess Angela, but I offended her again... so she shut me out.]

Lucas laughed quietly as Emirya shrugged his shoulders.

[Again? You really don't learn, why are you teasing her anyway?]

[I have not done such a thing. I just praised her that she's beautiful today too, but her face became red and she got angry.]

...Although he said so, Prince Emirya seemed to enjoy Angela's reaction. His amber eyes were laughing.

Lucas who heard his story opened his mouth while he had an amazed expression.

[Look, you know that that's not good.]

[But I'm progressing. I was kicked out in 20 seconds before, but recently she can stay with me for 2 minutes you know?]

[...That's a progress?]

These two people seemed quite close. Even in manga, they were good friends with a good rival-like relationship, so they might be getting along with each other.

[By the way, what are you all talking about so happily?]

To Emirya's question, Merrill responded with pride.

[Fufu, it's about the management of the king's direct control. When I asked Ricardo about what kind of things Astor territory are doing, it's really interesting!]

It seemed that Merrill was excited.

(...It was stupid of me to feel jealous.)

But she kept talking sensitive words afterwards.

[Ricardo told me anything in detail. He's very honest and nice!]

When I heard Merrill's words, the gloomy feeling resurfaced. However, I was called from my side and the feeling dispersed.

[It's been a while, Britney. Have you changed recently?]

It was Ricardo who talked to me.

I was happy to see him, but I had a complex feeling in my heart.

[Un, I'm fine Ricardo. Particularly... what change are you talking about?]

I answered with an ambiguous smile.

(Not good, it's pretty awkward...!)

I liked Ricardo and was glad that I could talk to him, but the reality of the engagement objection reared its head in my mind.

[...What is it, Britney? You seem strange.]

[Nothing, gufufu.]

Hearing my fake laugh, Ricardo's green eyes narrowed.

[No matter how I look at it, it doesn't seem like nothing. I don't know what happen, but please don't hesitate to say it to me.]

[No, that...]

When I hurriedly tried to smooth it over, Ricardo pulled my hand forcibly.

[Excuse me. I have to talk with Britney for a while so I will remove myself.]

Lucas nodded to Ricardo's foolishly honest words.

[Do as you like. We'll be here since there are some things I would like to talk about.]

[Sorry, I will return soon.]

While holding my hand, Ricardo took me out to the corridor which passed through the courtyard.

Leaning on the corridor's pillars, the two people faced each other, Ricardo then began

to break the ice.

[Did I hurt your feelings?]

To his unexpected reaction, I hastily denied it.

[No! That's not it, Ricardo did nothing wrong!? It's not your fault!]

[But...]

Since I concealed it further, Ricardo seemed to misunderstand in an unlikely direction and became troubled.

(Even though I intended to be silent.)

I couldn't conceal my unrest, so I told him everything in order to avoid misunderstandings.

[As a matter of fact...]

I told him what happened with Ryuze.

[Sorry, Ricardo.]

After I told him the story, I felt sorry since I thought I had hurt him, but Ricardo seemed unexpectedly calm.

[So it was as I thought. Just a little, I felt that Ryuze thought of you. Though the person himself denied it.]

[...E, when was that?]

[It was the summer when you were 14 years old. That was when he put my engagement proposal on hold.]

[So long ago!?!]

[I wasn't sure. Even though you two are living together, Ryuze who didn't really realize it was great. If I am not able to do it... I would have given up all thoughts about it.]

I thought that Ricardo's honesty was good.

[But, I see. I'm relieved that I'm not disliked.]

Although Ricardo was smiling, it was not a situation where one could feel secure.

Ryuze was trying to deny our engagement. Or rather, he had done so.

In my mind, my impatience became stronger.

[A while ago, I had consulted with Prince Emirya, though I told him not to tell anybody else. I was told that it would be better for me to see the wide world once. Although I didn't hear it in detail, I think his idea has merit. I want to do it... if I can get onii-sama's permission.]

[From my point of view, Prince Emirya seems to direct you somewhere. If so, I want to accompany you. You can try to say it to him.]

[But, is it fine?]

[Since you're feeling worried, I also want to be with you. You may be unaware of it, but you're fairly popular among men.]

[No, that's a misunderstanding.]

Certainly, when I lost weight for a while, there was a time when I attracted the attentions of men when I wore make-up.

However, after I rebounded, the truth had spread and the men who were interested in me completely lost their interest from a white pig lady. Lucas was a good example.

[But, Ryuze and even Prince Marlow are interested in you.]

[...Marlow-sama simply has a chubby fetishism. Ryuze-niisama... maa, I was surprised by it.]

[What did you say to Ryuze?]

[Maa, nothing. I was upset since our engagement was denied, so I want to think about it a little... it's difficult for onii-sama too, and I think I have to face it properly.]

[Since you're bearing that in mind, it might be nice to take up Prince Emirya's advice.]

[Un...]

[I think I will meet Ryuze again and face him directly.]

[Thank you, Ricardo.]

When the misunderstanding was solved and the conclusion came out, we returned to Lucas.

The protagonists of the manga were still having a merry conversation.

Chapter 116

Travelling Can Be Called as Being Made to Take Part in Something However

Following Emirya's proposal, Ricardo and I told him that Ricardo would like to accompany me.

[Hee, so Ricardo's coming too? He's welcome of course.]

The third prince of southern country was grinning at me while he talked. It seemed that our relationship was interesting to him.

Then, Merrill who heard the story from nearby cut in.

[Hey, what are you talking about? Can you tell me?]

[Of course, Princess Merrill.]

Emirya began to explain to Merrill what he proposed to me. Of course, this romantic situation was turned upside down.

[...So, I decided to invite the both of them to the southern country.]

It seemed that it was pointed out that going to the southern country was necessary in order to see the wider world.

We had not talked about the concrete stuff, so this was the first time I heard the details.

(Come to think of it, Prince Emirya had coerced me to go to the southern country before. It seems useful for the exchange of products, and if I ask Ryuze-niisama, he may give me his permission.)

As I thought about it, Merrill rushed to Emirya and took both of his hands.

[I would like to join!]

[E...?]

It seemed that Emirya was surprised by this. Lucas was watching while smiling wryly.

[That's true. But you have to get your father's permission...]

[Leave it to me! I'll make sure to persuade him!]

Merrill whose rose-coloured eyes were shining brightly confidently told him so.

(...Merrill is also joining?)

Lucas began to fidget since Merrill, his fiancée candidate, wanted to go.

However, as a hostage, he wouldn't be able to go out easily now. He looked at Merrill anxiously.

Members who would accompany the trip to Emirya's country were likely to increase.

(Angela won't want to come. As for Prince Marlow, he will certainly want to join...)

Marlow was very interested in foreign herbs.

(And there's Ryuze-niisama. Uu, I have to get his permission.)

I was a bit depressed, but I couldn't go without my guardian's permission. Ryuze was my guardian.

In this conservative country, girls were less likely to act arbitrarily against their parents.

Merrill was simply happy to go with Ricardo. "I'm so happy, can you tell me more?", while talking about it, she also touched Ricardo's arm.

(Again...!?)

I didn't mind. But I worried that Ricardo's and Lucas' friendship would crash.

(Okay, I will do my best and get the permission!)

After raising my spirit and leaving the castle, I went back to the mansion and headed to Ryuze's room.

I proceeded slowly through the corridor and stopped in front of my cousin's room.

[Onii-sama, I want to talk!]

A while after I knocked, the hard door made of oak opened and Ryuze came out a little.

[Britney, this is unusual. Even though you have not approached me these days. What's wrong?]

It seemed that I took my distance since I felt awkward.

My cousin invited me to his room and beckoned me to sit on the sofa.

[Tha, thanks.]

[Do you find a new customer? I don't think you will reply the engagement proposal in such a short time.]

...I was being read.

[Ee, maa, that's about it. I'll have to properly answer you too.]

[You don't have to rush. However, I'll feel lonely if you reject me.]

As his blue eyes looked at me, guilt welled up in me.

[I'm, I'm sorry... I was not refusing you, I was just troubled by your touch.]

[It was my honest feeling though.]

[Well, the thing is, there's something I would like to consult with you.]

[What is it... is it bad news?]

[No, no? Since Prince Emirya invited me to the southern country, I would like to go there.]

[...Isn't it bad to go with just Prince Emirya?]

[The ones who would like to go are Prince Emirya and Prince Lucas, Princess Merrill and Ricardo, and also me. Although the amount may increase or decrease...]

[Oh? Ricardo is also going?]

Ryuze's eyes gently narrowed and my heart shrank. This was bad.

[A-... I recall an urgent business.]

I stood up from my side, turned around and dashed to the door.

However, my superior cousin had forestalled it, and the way outside was kicked close with his long leg. With this, I couldn't go outside.

[Maa, maa, you should go a little slower.]

[Onii-sama, it is indecent to close the door in such a manner.]

[Fufu, sorry? My legs are longer...]

What a disagreeable person.

(And, I... I'm his cousin, but my legs aren't long. So unfair!)

I gave up on escaping and stepped back to the middle of the room.

[Hey, for the trip to the south, can you let me join?]

[Ha...?]

[At great pains, I can now go to the southern country.]

While he smiled sweetly, I couldn't refuse the compelling power of his smile, so I couldn't help but nod.

Chapter 117

Crown Prince's Refreshments and Tragedy

After all, it was decided that the members of this trip to the southern country were Emirya, Marlow, Merrill, Ricardo, Ryuze and I.

After preparing for the trip, we all gathered at the castle and left together.

Prince Marlow was Merrill's supervisor. This second princess with various problems also often listened to what her brother said.

Lucas was not allowed to go out, Angela said "I'm not joining this joke of a long trip", eventually the members were decided.

[I don't want to be engaged with a man who is infatuated with my sister. Britney, you, keep a close eye on that guy!]

...And, the first princess had sternly ordered so.

Something or other, it was inevitable that Angela was anxious about Emirya.

Prior to departure, Ricardo opened his mouth while glancing at Ryuze.

[Ryuze, you also came.]

[Fufufu, is there something wrong with me joining?]

[...No, nothing in particular.]

We rode three carriages that could fit in 4 people. With 2 people in each carriage, it was spacious inside.

Of course, there were other carriages for our servants and escorts that were accompanying us.

[Which coach should I ride?]

Ryuze replied to me who asked so.

[Britney, you should ride with Princess Merrill. Since both of you are fellow women, you should be able to get along with each other right?]

(Ee!?)

I secretly turned a protesting expression towards my cousin who dropped the bomb.

Being alone with Merrill, rather than getting along with each other, I would only be full of anxiety. Half a day lapsing without any conversation... when it came to things, I would have various troubles.

[If you would rather to stay with family, why not ride with me?]

[That's wonderful!]

I expected to go on a date with Ricardo, but it didn't seem promising.

(I understand, but... onii-sama, he's obstructing me.)

I was going on a trip with Ricardo despite the opposition of our engagement.

(It can't be helped, let's try hard to keep a conversation with Merrill.)

It was Emirya who gave me a helping hand when I made up my determination.

[For the beginning, Princess Merrill, Britney and I will ride on the same carriage.]

[Prince Emirya...]

[Princess Merrill and Britney had never spoken to each other personally. As for me, since I often talk to both of them, I will accompany them at first. Prince Marlow, since you have been handling government affairs until the last minute, it would be nice if you can take a good rest.]

Due to Emirya's exquisite advice, the three of us were decided to ride on the same carriage.

[Well then, Ricardo, let's start the journey okay?]

[A, aa...]

Ryuze smiled sweetly and sent his indomitable gaze to Ricardo.

(Ricardo, good luck.)

In that carriage, Ricardo and Ryuze-niisama rode together... I was worried, but there's nothing I could do.

I would do something immediately to help, I left that message to Ricardo and got on the carriage. Among the members, the youngest and the one with lowest position had no right to decide things.

The horse-drawn carriage departed from the castle gate and began to move through the castle town. I was a bit nervous so I looked at the outside scenery.

This trip would take a week to arrive at the border city which was located at the northernmost territory of the southern country; we would then stay a couple of days in the neighborhood before returning back.

In the carriage, Emirya opened his mouth.

[Ah right, the condition of my second brother. By all means, he would like to see Britney, so he would be coming to the border town too. If you don't mind, I would like you to see him.]

[The second brother, that?]

[That's right...]

Emirya's second brother had the memory of his previous life just like me.

Moreover, he's probably a Japanese person since he knew the content of the manga "Merrill and the Royal Castle Gate".

I myself wanted to meet him if I could.

He was now the second prince of the southern country, using the knowledge of his previous life for his country.

His younger brother said that his specialty was cooking.

Especially, it seemed that his cuisine utilizing the herbs of southern country was so exquisite that the chefs of the royal castle lost their words.

[Ee, if we can meet, then...]

[There's no need for you to worry, he's a very kind person.]

Emirya seemed to really like his second brother. His facial expression when talking about him was soft.

[I'm also interested in Emirya's older brother. To cook even though he's royalty, he's wonderful!]

Merrill said so while her eyes shone.

She, the princess, was close friends of Lucas and Emirya, so she called them without honorifics.

For some daughters, it brought tremendous displeasure.

[Aa, by the way, Britney.]

[...What is it?]

[Marlow-nisama brought refreshments for you. Since we ride on the same carriage, I can hand it over to you.]

Merrill then handed me a big cloth bag.

(Some time ago, I thought that it was a big baggage but... it's refreshments for me! I have a bad feeling about this.)

I could guess the content.

[Along the way, you won't feel hungry. Onii-sama is such a good friend with Britney.]

[...Thank, thank you very much. I am honored that the crown prince is worried about me.]

When I opened the huge bag I received, it was just as I guessed, it was full of baked confectionaries.

[Since it's brought with so much trouble, let's enjoy it everyone! Right, right!?!]

I won't be the only one that got fat! The beautiful Merrill would also be involved, gufufu!

With a somewhat sleazebag idea, I finally finished distributing the sweets to everyone including Ricardo and Ryuze, so I had completely forgotten.

In this world of manga, there are strange people who won't grow fat no matter how much they eat like Ryuze and Lily...!

And the members of this trip also belonged of that category...!

—After a week, when we nearly arrived at our destination, a tragedy happened suddenly.

—Biri, biribiribiribiribiri-!

[Kyaa——!]

I made a terrible sound when changing my clothes, my underwear... the inseam was splendidly torn.

(Even though it is a fine design, it got torn-!?)

I thought of making an opponent of the protagonist of the manga, so this might be my punishment.

Merrill who was the only other woman in this trip became worried about me.

[Are you alright? I would like to lend you mine but... the size is not right.]

Her words were gentle, but it was one word too many.

(I know that Merrill's underwear is an eternal SS size...)

While my knees dropped to the ground, I replied to her.

[It's not a problem, Princess Merrill. I have a spare underwear available.]

But it was the same size as the one that got torn. There's a possibility that the same tragedy would be repeated.

Anyway, my weight had increased sharply in the past week...!

I couldn't even throw away the confectionaries given by Prince Marlow, having said that, I couldn't even press it to other people, so I distributed it to Merrill and our servants... but it's a two-fold trap by Prince Marlow!

First of all, the sweets passed to me were "sweets of the day"!

Merrill was entrusted with other huge bags and brought them to the carriage every day.

And then, that girl said "it's fine to eat a little" (actually, the other members of the trip other than me wouldn't get fat at all even if they ate a lot of sweets), so I ate at the same pace as my surroundings, I got fat after that.

I had not gotten on a scale, but I was quite chubbier than before.

(Although it's only been a week...! Why is it like this...!)

After that, my maid Maria who accompanied me sewed back the torn underwear, but Ryuze who heard it later laughed out loud...

[Stupid Ryuze-niisama, why don't you go bald!]

I told him the prohibited words.

Then, my cousin's usual expression stiffened.

Actually, our grandfather's head was very clean with not a single hair.

I knew that Ryuze was secretly worrying about his future hair.

When I saw my silent cousin, my stomach soured a little.

Such being the case, I entered the southern country while in my chubby form.

Chapter 118

A Rival Declaration, No Way!

The border city was located in between the southern country and middle country.

This place that faced the ocean was also developed as the base of trade.

The bright sunshine peculiar to southern country and the slightly mixed up atmosphere made us feel at ease.

Even if my weight rebounded again due to the confectionaries.

When we arrived at our destination, we got off from the carriages.

[Good. U-n, as I thought, this body is heavy.]

Alighting down behind me, Merrill smiled at me brightly like a sun.

[It's alright, you're not fat enough to worry about it! Aren't you cute the way you are?]

In this society, when girls say "cute~" to other girls, the comment was entirely unreliable.

Merrill's line was on that level.

[Besides, they say that girls who are slightly plumper are cute! I think so too!]

I didn't want to be told so by a beautiful girl with a forever slim body.

I kept my silence and had a fake smile.

(I understand that she's not a bad girl but... she's lacking in delicacy.)

The crown prince who got off from the next carriage was in a great mood.

[Britney! You look healthier today more than ever!]

[.....Gufu.]

Emirya had a surprised expression when he looked at me who became chubby at a short period of time.

Ryuze pointed to Marlow “please don’t give sweets to Britney anymore”, it’s like being stabbed by a nail. Seeing Marlow frivolously laughing, the comment didn’t stick to him at all.

Ricardo cared about me gently as unchangingly as always.

[It was a long trip, are you okay?]

[Un, thank you. Ricardo, how about you?]

[I’m sturdy, so there’s no problem.]

While we were talking, Merrill ran up to Ricardo and began to ask questions about the things she saw along the way.

(...Why is she asking Ricardo instead of Marlow-sama?)

Ricardo politely and honestly answered her questions.

It was me who had complicated feelings again.

Our place of residence in this border town was one of the houses owned by the governor of this area, including this town.

Since the crown prince and a princess were accompanying us, the warm reception was amazing.

For now, Merrill was not running around recklessly and calmly entered the mansion.

When I settled in my prepared room, I secretly started my diet.

It only took a moment to get fat, but strict effort was necessary to lose weight. That was the human body.

One could easily lose weight simply by ○○... if there’s truly something like that,

humanity would have the bodies of models. Incidentally, there were no foul skills like liposuction in this world.

TN: Liposuction, or simply lipo, is a type of cosmetic surgery that removes fat from the human body in an attempt to change its shape. Evidence does not support an effect on weight beyond a couple of months and it does not appear to affect obesity related problems. So it's actually useless for Britney even if it exists.

(Uu, I wonder how I can become chubby so fast...)

It's probably the fate of a chubby character, but it's really painful for a young lady.

Merrill then came into my room for some reason. I didn't have any plans until tonight so I was free.

[Hey, Britney, let's talk together!]

[Ye, yes...]

It was also the same case for Angela, I couldn't refuse a direct invitation from a princess for no reason.

[A, the thing is...]

Merrill whose doll-like long eyelashes were trembling a little laid it down.

[I want Britney to be my friend. I, I don't have any female friend...]

(...No wonder.)

[Unlike other people, you don't gaze at me with strange eyes, and we also chatted normally in the carriage.]

(Maa, that's true. Other girls loathe Merrill after all.)

When Merrill entered the room, my maid Maria began preparing tea.

We guided the princess to a sofa, and I sat down on an opposite sofa.

(However, what should I talk about?)

If I handled it poorly, Merrill's fighting spirit would catch fire and the daunting incident at make-up association would repeat again.

Then, Merrill cheerfully started a topic.

[Hey, Britney, have you fallen in love?]

[Buuf...!]

Hearing that, I spat out the tea in my mouth.

What was she saying so abruptly, this princess.

[Lo, love is it...?]

[That's right. My engagement partner has been decided, but I'm in love.]

[Ee!?!]

Suddenly, I was surprised by what Merrill had said, and a bad feeling arose in my heart.

I wished that she would shut her mouth, but Merrill kept talking with a smile.

[I, that... on this trip, I came to like Ricardo.]

[...!? Is, is that so.]

During the trip, I had such a feeling for some reason.

That Merrill liking Ricardo was obvious.

However, if people were to know about this, her feelings wouldn't be accepted.

(How does she feel about Lucas?)

I waited for Merrill's next words.

[Lucas is kind to me but, what to say... it feels like a blind devotion. I don't know what he's thinking and I still feel like he doesn't really understand me.]

[I see.]

Certainly, Lucas had that part.

Clearly, right now he's just intoxicated by Merrill's appearance.

[So, why don't you try to have a mutual understanding with Lucas-sama?]

[Well, love is not that simple. I wonder what to say... first of all, it's instinct! It's impossible to reason.]

[...Is Princess Merrill intending to put that love into action?]

[I would like to do so, but when I think about my surroundings, I feel troubled.]

I was concerned about the friendship between Lucas and Ricardo.

(But, I guess this means that I can't say anything about others.)

I replaced Merrill's situation with myself.

Currently, Ryuze wanted to be engaged with me, and objectively, he's the best candidate to be my husband.

Still, I couldn't give up my feelings on Ricardo, and the current trip was due to my lingering affection.

(After all, I can't criticize Merrill.)

It's certainly easier to choose Ryuze, and I would be lucky to have such a handsome partner, but... to me, he's a family.

He was my important cousin, but it's uncomfortable to me if he's my fiancée.

[That's right, Britney! Can you support my love during this trip?]

[Ee?]

I looked at Merrill.

I knew it's better to follow the princess' proposal.

The aristocracy was the royalty's retainer, and it's better to avoid any bad situations by rejecting the request of the second princess.

However, by all means I couldn't agree with her, I didn't want to.

(...I can't afford for Merrill to have a relationship with Ricardo.)

While watching the beautiful girl in front of me, I timidly opened my mouth.

[Ano, Princess Merrill, I'm afraid I cannot do so.]

[Why? Because it's against the engagement decided by the country?]

[There's also that... but it's because I don't want to do so.]

[What do you mean?]

[I, I like him too, so I can't support your love...!]

I declared so while blushing, Merrill then gazed at me quietly.

[Maa! Maa, maa!]

Her rose coloured eyes that were framed by long eye-lashes were opened wide.

[Oh, so that's how it is! I'm really sorry, Britney!]

I thought that there was a better way to say it, but I couldn't stay calm when Ricardo was involved.

(Spontaneously, I told her the fact honestly... I wonder if it's okay.)

Merrill continued to say a series of "maa, maa, maa!", she seemed excited.

After a while, she settled down, her thin hands enveloped in white gloves then grasped my thick hands.

[I understand your feelings. From now on, we are rivals! Let's work hard and fight fair

and square!]

[...Ha, haa.]

I was puzzled from being unilaterally declared as a love rival.

(Merrill is my love rival, I won't lose to her!)

For the beautiful Merrill, surely she had more suitors than others, but it became like this for some reason.

(That's right, Ricardo is gentle, and he's really nice.)

I didn't think that the sincere Ricardo would betray me easily, but my opponent was a beautiful heroine.

Moreover, she's a royalty.

I felt insecure just a little bit.

Chapter 119

Another Transmigrator and Brotherly Love

The day after being declared as a rival by Merrill, we would meet the second prince of southern country.

(To think there's a chance to meet that person.)

The name of the second prince was Serunya. He's currently 20 years old, 2 years older than Emirya.

(He has a gentle personality, and he loves cooking.)

And just like me, he had transmigrated into this world of manga from Japan.

He got in touch with me "I want to talk directly, so I'm coming with Emirya".

According to what I heard, Ricardo and Ryuze had talked separately with him last night.

Although he was a former Japanese, he's a prince now. I entered the room where Serunya was waiting while feeling nervous.

Serunya who noticed me stood up with a full smile.

Although he had the same red hair and amber eyes as Emirya, his hair was short and he wore glasses, he had a somewhat unobtrusive and gentle atmosphere.

[A, are you Miss Britney...?]

He who saw me asked so as an opening. I affirmed his words with a small voice.

(That's right. My current form is the Britney from the manga.)

While holding a small grudge against Prince Marlow, I sat down firmly on the couch.

I sank into the cushion deeply, and Emirya's body who was sitting next to me became slanted.

[U-n, I'll sit here instead.]

That said, he moved to a single chair.

(I'm sorry, this is so shameful...)

I thought that I should move to a single chair too, but the chair that Emirya sat on was small, I didn't think that it would fit my big butt.

When I thought such a thing, Serunya spoke to me.

[I wanted to meet you, Miss Britney! I am Serunya, the second prince.]

[It, it is I who should say so. It's a pleasure to meet you, my name is Britney Hakusu.]

Although a handshake was a greeting, I was so anxious that the gloves I was wearing became damp with sweat.

[However, in the report I received, I heard that you are not that similar to the original. How did it become like this?]

Emirya answered that question.

[She got fat on the way here. Since Prince Marlow attacked her with sweets. That person, he seems to like Britney who has become chubby.]

[I see, so he has such a preference.]

I was listening to their conversation with salty feelings.

(Even so, Prince Serunya has an unusual way of speaking.)

The way an otaku spoke in my previous life was distinctive, so I felt a little nostalgia about my life in Japan.

While observing Serunya, I moved my eyes to the table in front of me.

There were unusual forms of plants.

[Ano, Prince Serunya, these are...]

[These? I was free while I was waiting, so I was devising a new cuisine. Since I'm propagating it in the southern country, I made Asian style cuisine that suits this country.]

That said, Serunya introduced me to the plants.

[These are all herbs that can be harvested in the southern country. This one is called dill and can be used to eliminate the smell of fish. Have you seen it in Japan? This is coriander or otherwise known as cilantro, it also has detoxification effect.]



TN: Above is dill while below is cilantro.

[I see, the southern country has many plants that grow in warm region.]

[In terms of our original world, the climate is similar to Southeast Asia and the cooking also has the influence of Southeast Asia cuisine.]

[A, chameleon plant. This also grows in our country.]



TN: Houttuynia cordata, also known as fish mint, fish leaf, rainbow plant, chameleon plant, heart leaf, fish wort, Chinese lizard tail, or bishop's weed, is one of two species in the genus Houttuynia. It is a flowering plant native to Japan, Korea, southern China, and Southeast Asia. It grows in moist, shady locations.

[That's delicious when it's rolled in rice paper with boiled meat or fish! You can prevent food poisoning due to its antibacterial effect!]



TN: Fresh spring rolls using chameleon plant.

Serunya's commentary gradually became more heated, it was clear that he loved cooking.

I began to worry that we're leaving Emirya out.

After I asked him softly, he smiled as if he didn't mind it.

[I'm also happy since my older brother looks happy, so please don't mind me and speak as much as you want. Britney is the only one that my older brother can tell about

his past.]

Emirya looked at the cheerful Serunya.

(He really loves his older brother.)

Looking at them, they had a pleasant state of affairs.

[That's right, aren't you interested in southern country's medicinal plants? I showed them to Prince Marlow yesterday.]

[Medicinal herbs...? I'm interested!]

Looking at me who got excited, Emirya cut into the conversation.

[Since it's a big deal, please don't share it. As they're dried, I think you can bring it back to the middle country.]

[That's a good idea. If you don't mind, I'd like Miss Britney to use them in your beauty products invention! And, by all means, please prioritize our country...!]

While talking, the servant came inside while carrying the plants.

A large wooden box containing several types of dried herbs.

[This brown one is cinnamon. I've been spreading it as confectionary recently! This star anise matches meat dishes!]





[I see, I see. These will be useful. Antioxidant effect can be expected from cinnamon, while star anise has blood circulation promoting effect. For cinnamon, I can talk with onii-sama to mix it with wine.]

We would then sell it as hot mulled wine in winter.



[It seems that star anise can be used for soap, and it can also be utilized for toothpaste.]





[I see! What a good idea.]

There were things similar to toothpaste in this world. It's a bit old-fashioned, but it's commonly made from mixing table salt with mint leaves.



Incidentally, things like pig's hair and horse's hair were used to make toothbrushes, and toothpicks were also common.

(Mint is common, but a new fragrance may be good...)

The servant brought a new box. Inside, there were several kinds of beans, aloes and coconuts.

[You can't take it home, but you can use as much as you like while you're here! You can exchange it with hot wine if you can. There is a lot of rain in the southern country, so it's hard to grow grapes here.]

[With pleasure.]

[A, I want to drink hot wine too! Let me buy it when it's completed!]

[Yes, thank you very much. I shall gift you some later.]

This way, we had a great talk about wine for a while.

[That's right, how far has the story progressed?]

Serunya asked such a thing.

Emirya was also there, but he didn't seem to worry.

[Please don't hold back because of me. Due to my older brother, I'm used to such things.]

[...Is, is that so?]

[Un. Since I'm sent over there, he gave me various information as it is dangerous.]

Certainly, being connected with Merrill, Emirya and Lucas were sometimes involved in danger.

Serunya would have certainly told his brother.

(That's reassuring enough.)

The course of the manga became increasingly unpredictable.

[I am not in a particularly dangerous position. Angela-sama is on good terms with Marlow-sama now, and she had not done anything aggressive to Princess Merrill.]

[Then, you seem to be able to evade the execution. Also for Emirya, if something happen that warrants for a detailed confirmation of truth, so long as Miss Britney doesn't really do any reckless deeds, you can rest assured.]

For a moment, Serunya's kindhearted smile disappeared.

[Gu, gufufu... there is no plan to do such a thing, so please be relieved.]

[No need to be frightened, Emirya seems to like Angela-sama. So far, the southern

country shall be waiting watchfully.]

Serunya with his knowledge of manga seemed like he wouldn't actively interfere here.

However, it would be a different case if his beloved brother would be involved in the incident.

Chapter 120

The Second Prince and Strange Question (Ricardo P.O.V)

The day before Britney met with Serunya.

On the first day I arrived at the border city, I — Ricardo was talking to Ryuze.

Ryuze was a good fellow but he was really frightening when he was one's enemy. I was keenly aware of it during this trip.

[...So, Ricardo, I was talking about engagement with Britney. She doesn't seem to be giving up on her relationship with you though.]

[Is, is that so.]

Ryuze who showed questionable restraint seemed more childish than usual.

(I thought that he's more composed than people of his age, but to think that he has such a side.)

I had unconsciously admired Ryuze, so I had set him as my target.

However, the Earl of the North who was prosperous now was a human.

(From what Ryuze is saying, Britney hasn't changed her mind about me.)

It was clearly understood, so my feelings became a little calmer.

I didn't notice, but it seemed that my heart was getting frayed.

It was probably because I felt frustrated that I couldn't be on the same carriage as Britney and talk with her.

As we talked, Serunya, the second prince of southern country, appeared.

Emirya's older brother was the one who invited us this time.

It was the first time we met, but he had a friendly smile.

[Welcome to the southern country. I just caught sight of Ryuze-dono and Ricardo-dono. I am Serunya, the second prince of this country.]

Addressed by the second prince, we greeted him with a smile.

Serunya wore glasses and he seemed to be as friendly as his brother.

According to the information I examined before our trip, he seemed to be the same age as Prince Marlow.

[Thank you for inviting us this time.]

Along with Ryuze, I greeted him. Since he was a royalty of another country, I felt a little nervous.

[Let's not be so formal. I feel glad to meet you all, and I hope we can be on cordial terms while having an enjoyable time.]

So, we started talking "on cordial terms", but the topic was new information about each other's country and territory management.

[By the way, it seems that Ryuze-dono's cousin has made a lot of interesting inventions.]

[Ee, Britney has always helped me. I'm proud to be her cousin.]

Ryuze was smiling. It had profound meaning.

[That's a good thing. Just...]

Serunya, who dropped his voice, glanced at us with hidden meaning.

[This is a little complicated, but how much do you know about her?]

I didn't understand his meaning, and I tilted my head.

Ryuze raised one eyebrow and asked Serunya. His expression was soft enough.

[Excuse me, but I don't understand what you mean. To what extent... are your words implying? Can you tell us in a specific way?]

[I'm sorry, but let's change the question. Have heard something about her past life — her “past memories”?]

I was still confused, but Ryuze reacted to this question.

He feigned his posture to be relaxed, but I knew him well. In my eyes, he looked slightly wary of the prince.

[Past memories, is it?]

[Ee, when I sum up the stories I heard from my brother, I conclude that she is the same as me. We remember the memories of our previous life.]

Ryuze kept smiling.

However, it seemed that he knew something about Serunya's absurd story.

(...What? Prince Serunya has the memories of his previous life? Britney too?)

Since it was only me that was clueless about it, I felt strangely impatient.

Whether the story of the previous life was true or not, Ryuze retorted nothing.

(What on earth is Britney?)

Serunya, who was watching our situation, kept talking.

[I said too much. For people who are close to Miss Britney, I thought that you want to know about her... on top of that, I thought that you want to help her.]

To be honest, I was not in a good mood.

Why did Serunya, a complete stranger, know a lot about Britney?

(...Even though they had never met each other before.)

It was as if the second prince knew everything, it made me harbor a complicated

feeling.

(Does Britney have something that she never told me about? And Ryuze knows about it?)

Then, Serunya went away as he had other business.

A series of stories that seemed like that it was only a joke. But...

For some reason, knowing that it was only me that did not know anything about it, an irrational impatience welled up inside me.

Chapter 121

The Return Trip and Dangerous Omen

A few days after that, Serunya and I talked a lot.

The approach to take advantage of our original world's knowledge and transactions of each other's products were among the topics.

The next day onwards, we had discussions with Marlow and Ryuze.

As the crown prince's assistant, Ricardo was diligently working.

Emirya looked at his favourite brother with sparkling eyes, while Merrill was chided by Marlow whenever she made a disturbing remark that caused bewilderment to the surroundings.

Also, the cuisine of southern country was exquisite after it was influenced by Serunya!

When nostalgic Japanese food came out, it was enough to make me cry.

(This reproducibility! As expected of Prince Serunya!)

Other members curiously tasted the foreign cuisine.

Hakusu earldom also couldn't be defeated.

Sometimes, Ryuze and Ricardo seemed like they had something they wanted to say when they saw me...

(What's wrong?)

If they had something to say, I wanted them to say it clearly.

But when I looked at them, they gently averted their eyes.

Such fulfilling days had passed — the day we left the country then came.

Looking at the sky covered with grey clouds, Ryuze had a difficult expression.

[Prince Marlow, the weather seems like it will worsen. Should we change our schedule? On the way back, we had to travel on cliff-side roads...]

[Still, we can't remain in a foreign country. If I change the schedule, we will add extra work to our southern territory. The work I have to do when we return has also pretty much accumulated.]

To them with troubled face, Serunya then said.

[If you are in a hurry... it will be a long way round, but there's a safe detour route. Emirya, please show them the way there.]

[Very well, aniu. I had passed that route many times before.]

Emirya who replied with a bright smile then started to consult the travel plan with Marlow and Ryuze.

Suddenly, my eyes went to Ricardo. I then approached him to accost him.

[Ricardo, this is troubling. If it's near a cliff, there's a danger of the ground breaking loose and resulting in landslides.]

[That's true. When we crossed the mountain before, the path was certainly steep. But we will be okay if we use a detour... the problem is how long the journey will take.]

The crown prince and a princess were members of our party. It would be best not to move too far away from our schedule.

Normally, we would go through a predefined course after previewing.

Listening to Serunya's story, it seemed likely that we would have to detour.

(Prince Emirya seems to be familiar with that route, so I think it'll be safe.)

While watching the state for a while, Ricardo glanced towards me.

[Hey, Britney.]

[Yes?]

[That...]

A moment before Ricardo could further open his mouth—

[Ricardo! There's a village famous with beekeeping along the route of detour! Prince Serunya recommended us to stop by there to try its cuisine! Britney, you're curious too right!?!]

The conversation was broken by Merrill who interfered.

Ricardo withdrew his question and smiled as if nothing had happened.

[What are you talking about a while ago, Ricardo?]

[Nothing. I'll tell you next time.]

It seemed that it was not an urgent matter.

We joined Merrill and talked about honey.



Eventually, it was decided to go along Serunya's plan, so we would take a detour to go back to our country.

It would be a serious matter if it rained on our journey, so it was a quick judgment.

The way to halfway of the road was the same as when we came.

After entering the mountain, there was a crossroads a little ahead from the entrance, and we would be able to detour when we turned to the right.

By the way, if we went to the left, we would go through the cliff road shortcut that we took when we came.

We stayed overnight in the beekeeping village that was a purveyor to Serunya, and then we merged back to our original path.

I rode the carriage with Merrill, I had a lot to say to her.

Shaken by the rattles of the horse-drawn carriage, we went along the gentle-sloping mountain road. I looked outside the window, but it had not rained yet.

The cold wind blew on my cheeks, and a flock of birds was flying low.

[What's the matter, Britney?]

[I think it's going to rain. It seems like it's going to pour soon.]

[You're familiar with the weather?]

[For people who grow up in the countryside, good weather is essential.]

Nonetheless, Merrill didn't seem to be interested in rain.

Looking outside the window restlessly, I enjoyed the mountain path.

[Hey, Britney. Do you know that there is a place where we can get delicious spring water around here? Prince Serunya told me. A waterfront where locals go... eh? Is that the one?]

Following Merrill's gaze, there was a small spring.

[Is that it?]

[I think so, but there's no water. No water seems to gush out from the ground.]

[That's true, the edge of the road...]

I was trying to say it. That it was a sign of landslides.

I asked a subordinate of the crown prince to hurriedly contact my cousin.

There were many mountain roads in Hakusu territory. As there were places where sediment damages would occur during heavy rain, we knew the risk that would occur.

[It would be better if we hurry our pace and quickly take our detour road.]

Looking at the cloudy sky that had changed from grey to black, I grasped my hands tightly.

(I hope nothing happens, but I have a bad feeling.)

Eventually, my anxiety went true.

Chapter 122

Rolling White Pig

Ryuze who received my verbal message directed the horse carriages to travel on the mountain path at a considerably higher speed.

When we arrived at the crossroad, it was then when the rain began to fall.

[Okay, turn right here... n?]

I saw an unknown horse carriage heading to the left.

The left path was a steep road overlooking the cliffs, if it rained like this, the sight would be bad and it would be dangerous.

Merrill also noticed it; she pushed herself out of the window and called out to the unknown carriage.

[The carriage there, stop! That way is dangerous!]

However, the carriage continued onwards. It may had not heard her.

[Wait, stop!]

Then the next moment... Merrill did something ridiculous.

With her legs hanging out of the window, she jumped out of the carriage. Lifting the skirt of her dress, she then rushed towards the carriage with a speed unthinkable of a princess.

[Prin, Princess Merrill~!?!]

Other than me, the escort knights and attendants also screamed.

(I'm careless...! I should have thought about this possibility...!)

While ordinary princesses wouldn't do this, Merrill was a heroine of a manga full of justice and action power, not to mention that she was a commoner until recently!

In each story, she often surprised her surroundings with her frequent reckless actions.

[Please follow Princess Merrill! We have to inform Prince Marlow!]

I asked a nearby knight, I then sent a messenger to Marlow's carriage and waited for that woman to return.

There's no option to leave the princess behind in this place.

Merrill ran to the left path and seemed to have caught up with the carriage at last. She then appealed loudly to the coachman.

But the coachman didn't hear her, he drove away from Merrill.

He didn't think that the other party was a princess. The royal family's face profile could only be easily seen in television in my past life.

The knight caught up with Merrill, but she stubbornly didn't move from her spot.

Since the opponent was a princess, it seemed that the knight couldn't bring Merrill back with force.

(I have no choice...)

If we lingered further, the rain would intensify and the risk increased.

I hurried to help with dragging Merrill back.

The passengers of the unknown carriage were a small boy and two mothers who took him. The coachman was a middle-aged man who looked stubborn.

(For now, let's bring them back to our carriage. Four people are on board and my fellow passenger is Merrill. They shouldn't complain even if they're together.)

I caught up with Merrill and told her to return to our carriage.

[The rain is getting heavier and it's dangerous to be beside the cliff.]

[But... Britney!]

[Let's bring them to our carriage and proceed along the detour, it should be fine.]

[That, that's true. Let's do that!]

The woman's mind seemed to be trembling. But the coachman showed his disapproval.

[I want to get to the destination and finish this job quickly! The weather is going to get worse soon, so it's troublesome!]

The coachman seemed to have a rough temperament.

He was red-faced and spat to the road... he was someone that couldn't be called elegant even as a compliment.

This guy seemed to be that kind of man.

(Moreover, he wants to finish his job...)

I decided to protect the women.

We didn't have the time to preach the man here. Large raindrops were coming down one after another and we could hear a distant thunder.

[Then, I will pay their fare. Then won't your work end?]

[Oh... then, how about this?]

As expected, the coachman overcharged the fare, but it wasn't that much.

As I was in a hurry, I asked Maria who came to me due to being worried to pay him.

[Well, let's return to our carriage!]

I tried to leave the place quickly after I said so, but there was a person who kept standing there. It's Merrill!

[No good. That coachman, he's going forward to that cliff. I have to stop him!]

[I, I understand. You go back to the carriage first...]

At that time, part of the loose ground of the cliff collapsed due to rain, and the road behind the wheels of the carriage was thrown to air.

Unfortunately, Merrill was in the vicinity.

Being caught up in the carriage sliding down the slope of the cliff, I grasped Merrill's hand when she fell down the slope.

But...

[Aa!?!]

The worst thing was that my scaffolding collapsed and I was about to be thrown down the muddy slope.

I threw away Merrill, who I managed to grab, out of the way. She landed on the flatland and did not fall.

However, I wasn't saved. Inclining forward, I could see the trees growing nearer.

I couldn't ask for help, and I fell down the slope.

Chapter 123

Rain and Distress and First Discoverer

After rolling down for a while, I crashed into a large bush of leaves and stopped. My whole body was plastered with mud.

(Uu... so painful. Good thing I didn't hit a hard tree or a rock.)

I braced my hand on the ground and lifted my body up. I didn't know where I was.

(When I rolled down, it seems that I got away a bit from the top of the cliff where everyone was. I can't see the top of the cliff from where I am.)

Although I shouted "I'm alright-!", I couldn't hear any reply. My voice was drowned out by the sound of rain.

(How far have I fallen? I have to go back soon and tell them that I'm fine.)

But when I tried to walk, I felt a sharp stab of pain on my foot.

[Wha, what?]

Looking down, my leg was swollen red just right after my knee.

(Ee, this is terrible!? Let's move while avoiding putting a strain on this leg for the time being.)

The rain became increasingly violent and my surrounding was becoming dark.

I walked while searching for a shelter, I could hardly move due to my swollen leg though.

I wanted to mourn about my unfortunate circumstances, but I couldn't afford to stop moving.

It was dangerous to move in the dark, and even a search party would only be

dispatched tomorrow.

It was impossible to move along the mountain path with this leg and return to the original path. I didn't know the road, and I couldn't move when it's dark.

I thought that it's better not to move that much, and it would be better to get through the night safely. Although I was disheartened, I was alone.

(I troubled Marlow-sama and Ryuze-niisama...)

Surely, they were stuck because of me.

I was in a hurry, but I felt sorry for myself.

(I hope they will send a search party and I can return back quickly. I don't want to bother them any further.)

As the swelling of my foot getting worse and worse, I applied a splint with the ribbon of my dress and a nearby branch.

(I'm in trouble if I have a broken bone.)

In addition to self-defense, I learned first aid from my grandfather.

When Hakusu territory was attacked by the soldiers of northern country, I knew the importance of initial response to injuries.

Fortunately, there was a large tree that could shield me from rain and wind. The entrance was narrow, but it had decayed and the inside was hollow, so it could fit in two adults.

I packed in my body inside and waited for the rain to be over.

(Alright, I managed to fit my butt in! I don't know what to do if I can't fit in the entrance and became stuck.)

I squeezed my muddy dress, took off my heavy coat and leaned back on the tree.

I was cold and wet, but I didn't have a tool to make fire, and the branches of trees that could become firewood were wet with rain.

I didn't know how to make a fire in such conditions, so I could only wait until morning came.



How long had time passed...

It was late at night, my surrounding was completely dark, but then I felt little signs of living being, so I raised my face slowly.

Something was approaching. It was mixed with the sound of rain, but I could hear small footsteps.

I became frightened, so I curled in further and trembled in the back of the tree hollow.

(What if it's a wild beast? There is no way for me to fight if it discovers a plump prey like me.)

Anybody would find it to be unpleasant if they're eaten by a wild beast in the mountain alone.

I felt anxious, I wanted to blame Merrill who was the cause, and various unpleasant feelings were brewing like a storm.

However, my strongest feeling was that I wanted to see someone.

(...Ricardo.)

The footsteps stopped near my tree. It's hopeless, there's no way I could fight with this injured leg.

When I prepared myself and looked back to the entrance, a familiar voice called me.

[Britney?]

When I peeked outside the entrance, I saw a person holding a lamplight in the darkness. On the back of the body, they were carrying huge luggage.

(It's a lie, why is he here?)

Covered by a rain hood that was dark enough to blend in the dark night, the person called me — it was Ricardo.

[Wha, Rica... ho, how?]

[O, calm down. It's alright.]

While I was confused, Ricardo placed his hand on my cheek and said "it's alright", seeing his smiling face, I felt like I would cry at any moment.

[Have you been looking for me? How are you able to find me?]

[Aa, from the point where you rolled down, I could roughly estimate where you would fall. Princess Merrill explained the situation in detail. But it took a while to get down here.]

I had thrust her away with all my strength, but I felt relieved that she was safe.

[I was lucky to find fresh footprints as I was searching the area. And there was a lot under this tree.]

[Wasn't it hard to find footprints in the dark? It's raining too... thank you very much.]

One change, and Ricardo could have been caught in an accident.

(No, unlike me with my heavy body, he seems to be prepared!)

He dropped his large luggage to the ground and he took out a simple tent framework from inside.

Due to its small size, it seemed to be able to be assembled between trees.

I received a lamplight from him and the hollow of the tree was illuminated. I wondered if I should go out, but my huge butt could be stuck in the entrance and my leg was hurting so much, so this position was my limit.

I was worried about my leg, but I felt relieved that I was not alone in this wilderness.

[Ricardo, are you alone?]

[Aa, other members can't come. They're the crown prince and second princess after all. Ryuze wanted to join me, but Prince Marlow stopped him.]

[...Tha, that's right. If something happens to onii-sama, it will be bad to Hakusu earldom.]

[For that point, I am free. I was stopped, but I forced them. The search party can only move when it's bright.]

After finishing setting up the tent, he took out a cylindrical object this time and lighted it with a stone he brought.

[That is?]

[It's a signal fire. I was told to light it when I discover you or when I meet an accident. Since it might not be visible in this darkness, I would light it up tomorrow morning. I brought about five in total. I came here in advance, but other relief party will come tomorrow.]

[That one?]

[It's a portable meal, the knights gave this to me. Prince Marlow tried to pack a large amount of confectionaries in my luggage...]

[U, un.]

Although it's a bit crushed, objects like these were also packed. Although I fell down, I laughed at this occasion.

Ricardo who threw a large amount of luggage into the tent turned to me, illuminating the inside of the tree.

[Britney, can I come inside? If we spread out a rug, it should be calmer inside the tree compared to the tent.]

[Of course, it's impossible to fit in a large baggage, but it can fit in two people.]

Moving to the back, Ricardo took off his wet hood and smoothly came in while carrying the rug. It's a big difference from me who had struggled to come inside due to my big butt.

Inside, there was little extra space as there were two of us. I could feel Ricardo's presence beside me and my heart pulsed loudly.

Chapter 124

Shocking Rainy Day and Bombshell Remark

Ricardo came inside bringing the lamplight and the inside of the tree was then quietly illuminated.

[Britney, is your leg injured?]

[Un, maybe. It's swollen so much that I can't move it.]

[You rolled down from that height, so it might be a bone fracture.]

I sat so as to not be a burden, but the swelling of my leg drew attention... I thought that he was right.

Ricardo, who was anxiously fixing my first-aid, suddenly looked at me and then diverted his gaze.

[I noticed it. Britney, that, your clothes...]

When Ricardo pointed it out, I looked down at my appearance. My clothes had gotten wet due to the rain, so it was now a little transparent.

[Hyaa!]

In a hurry, I concealed the front of my body with my arms, but what should I do if he saw the three tiers of my belly? I regretted that I had taken off my coat.

Ricardo, ever the gentleman, averted his eyes and timidly presented me his coat before talking.

[You, you should use this... how should I put it, your whole body is soaked. I brought clothes with me, so you should change them.]

Ricardo came out from inside the tree and went inside the simple tent; he took out a large cloth and simple clothes from his luggage and then threw them towards me.

[I absolutely won't look, so change your clothes for the time being. I'll be in the tent.]

[U, un. Thank you.]

The clothes he gave me were a simple one piece and a thick coat. It seemed that Maria had prepared them.

I thought that walking down the mountain road while carrying these things would be quite heavy.

I piled my wet clothes on the corner and wiped my wet body with the cloth; I then wore the new clothes and called Ricardo.

(I'm saved since I wore a dress that opens in front... it took me a while because of this leg.)



TN: Something like this.

Ricardo brought out two thick sheets of cloth from the tent, he then shyly entered the hollow of the tree.

[Wrap yourself with this, you should be a little warmer then.]

Ricardo also wrapped a sheet around himself and sat next to me.

I had changed my clothes and donned the thick cloth, but it was a bit cold. It seemed that it's getting chillier.

[Err, Ricardo, are you cold?]

[Aa, I'm fine...]

[If we stick closer a little more, maybe it'll be warmer?]

[...!? Tha, that's right!]

I scooted nearer to Ricardo.

It's not perfect, but it's warmer than being alone.

Just like me who was being nervous, Ricardo was also feeling awkward.

[...I think it's warmer this way.]

That said, this time it was Ricardo who came closer to me.

It's like being glued together... he's embracing me from behind.

(Hyaaaa! Wait, what should I do!!)

While I felt happy, at the same time, I wanted to escape, and now I felt flustered on what to do.

(I'm more lightly dressed than usual, and Ricardo's arms are surrounding me!)

It's as if I was being filled to the limit.

His body temperature was transmitted to me through our clothes, and he caressed my head.

[Britney, I was really worried. I'm glad that you're fine.]

He exhaled a small warm sigh, and Ricardo's whisper came to my ears from behind.

I turned my head back to look at him and smiled.

[Sorry, Ricardo. I'm really grateful.]

Our eyes connected suddenly and we shut our mouth. A soft silence fell.

His green eyes that were illuminated by the light of the lamp neared me, and something warm touched my lips.

After a short moment had passed, I finally understood that I was being kissed by Ricardo.

I was so suddenly surprised that my body stiffened.

[Sorry, Britney... I surprised you. When I see your face, I can't control my feelings.]

I saw that he was feeling apologetic and nervous, I also blinked rapidly.

[...Ano, I don't dislike it at all. Why are you apologizing?]

Words that I thought in my mind unintentionally leaked from my mouth.

(I said something bold...! Won't he think of me as a vulgar child?)

Ricardo's gaze met mine again, he then hugged me tightly while he blushed.

[Britney, I love you. I will bring you back without fail.]

[Un, thank you, Ricardo.]

[But... just for a little bit, I want to stay with you longer.]

He muttered with a voice so faint that it dissolved in the darkness.

His face was that of a young boy that was a little mischievous.

(Ricardo, he's more aggressive than usual.)

It's improper, but I was also happy to be together with him like this. We won't be able to stick together like this when we went back.

Although we were embarrassed for a while, Ricardo than suddenly opened his mouth.

[...I have something to ask you.]

I smiled as I listened to him, but I froze when I heard his next words.

[Do you remember your “past memories”?]

[...!?!]

How did Ricardo know those words-!?

Chapter 125

A Waiting Person and a Plan to Start (Ryuze P.O.V)

In a peaceful mountain village where rain fell, I — Ryuze Hakusu, was eating while being under house arrest.

In the darkness, I couldn't relax and looked at the scenery outside.

(I'm concerned about Britney and Ricardo. I hope they're safe.)

I wanted to go out right now and search for Britney, by I was stopped by Prince Marlow and Prince Emirya.

My current status of "Earl Hakusu" did not allow me to do selfish actions in dangerous places.

If something happened to me if I went into the mountain on a rainy night with low visibility... Hakusu earldom wouldn't be able to stand.

For example, if Britney and I died, there were no other people who could succeed the territory.

My parents were in jail and Britney's father was missing. If my grandfather was gone, worst case scenario was that our house would be broken.

There were voices saying "you have to get married and have a heir" from my surroundings... thinking about that, it was something that couldn't be delayed.

I was a little envious of Ricardo who went out alone as soon as he prepared the luggage.

He was an aide candidate for Prince Marlow, but it was a position that had many alternative candidates.

(I... couldn't go.)

Because I knew the weight of the responsibility that I bore on my shoulders. I couldn't even rush to my precious cousin.

We were already ready to move first thing tomorrow morning.

(Thinking to my limits, I entrusted Ricardo... I hope it's alright.)

After all, the only thing I could do was to pray for Britney's safety after she rolled down the cliff.

Although it was near the crossroad and the inclination was not that steep, she seemed to have fallen down to the bottom, so I couldn't see Britney's situation from the top of the cliff.

In an unknown place, left alone in the mountains at night, how was she faring?

Please, I wished that she was safe. In an effort to manage my restlessness, I forcefully thought of other things.

The one that came to my mind was the words of the second prince, Serunya.

He seemed familiar with Britney who had nothing to do with him.

I had never given any information from my side, and just by examining her normally, such a story wouldn't be found out. The story of Britney's previous life...

(It was only me that knew such a thing.)

Once, she herself told me.

It was not good for Britney to spread the existence of her past life's memories.

If the surroundings were to know the truth, surely people would aim for her.

They would seek knowledge of a world with civilization that was far more advanced than ours.

I myself only half trusted it, but now it was clear that Britney was not an ordinary 16

years old girl.

So, knowing her memory, I had to be careful in choosing her engagement partner.

(...The way it is, it's better for her to stay at home. In many ways.)

Serunya seemed to have no special thought about Britney..."I want you to help her" was what he said.

And at that time he revealed that he too had his previous life's memories.

His knowledge seemed to be the reason why the southern country was advancing rapidly.

At the moment, Serunya seemed to use his knowledge to peacefully develop his country, but in a sense, he's a threat. The same could be said for Britney.

The majority of her knowledge seemed to be about people's health and beauty.

However, there were many times when she showed that her knowledge wasn't just about those.

At the time of waterway construction, she said "I would like to make a canal that goes out of the lake in the middle of Hakusu territory to the ocean near the capital". Also, when the highway was improved, she said "I want to make a station that was useable by anyone".

With the station, the information transmission between the center and rural areas of the territory became much prompter.

But, Britney said that it was not such a station.

(Rather than a simplified station dedicated for messengers used for emergency contacts... it seems like it's a transportation station for ordinary people.)

I would investigate traffic volume and other factors after the highway road was built, and then I would consider about it.

(But from where did she think about it... no, in Britney's previous world, such a thing is normal.)

Many ordinary using hot springs and baths on usual basis, overflowing amount of unknown cosmetic products, and if one went to the station and paid the money, anyone could go to certain places anytime. A world where literacy rate was high and mathematics with large amount of digits could be easily done even by children.

In such a place, a big canal or something similar would be normal. If the same thing happened in this country, there were certainly many merits. Though it was a problem of Hakusu territory.

For example, if the canal was formed, the burden of luggage and people's transportation to the capital city would be greatly reduced. Currently our ships carried the goods to the capital city, but the sea of western territory was rough... transportation was greatly delayed depending on weather and season.

Because of that, I went to the capital city mainly by land, but it took a long time.

Rejecting the ocean route to the capital city, we had to go through the canals of Astor territory a little, but they would be willing to cooperate since they're friendly to us.

Either way, cooperation with other territories and a lot of funds were essential. It was difficult to implement now.

Unlike the canal, the highway road would be constructed nationwide soon. It was something of different magnitude from the maintenance of Hakusu territory's highway... it was a plan to connect the north of the country, the capital city and the south of the country with one huge road.

However, many feudal lords were disagreeing with where the road was passing over.

All the lords of each region wanted the highway road to pass through their territories, as human traffic would then increase causing their territories to flourish.

(Hakusu earldom is at the end point of the frontier and it doesn't really matter all that much to me since the highway road will certainly pass through our territory... the other territories are desperate to be transit points of the highway road though.)

From the convenience of transportation, Astor territory was the best choice. However, some lords wanted to curve the highway so that it would pass their territories while some said that including their territories as detours would be putting the cart before the horse.

Prince Marlow was fumbling with the plan, and his head seemed to be worried about it. The current trip to the southern country was also for observation purposes.

By the way, the north side of the country had already been visited.

As the schedule was pushing, he and Princess Merrill along with Prince Emirya would depart first.

(Anyway, I just wish for Britney to be safe...)

I thought that this me who couldn't do anything was worthless.

Chapter 126

Past Memories and Growth of Former Fiancee

In the rainy dark mountain, me who was hugging my knee was very confused.

(Wait, wait a moment-! How does Ricardo know about my past memories?)

I flutteringly glanced at Ricardo, but I couldn't read anything from his expression.

I didn't know why he asked it, so I just directly asked back.

[A, ano... past memories? Did someone tell you something?]

Regarding my past memories, the only person I had ever told was Ryuze.

I wondered if he was the one that told Ricardo.

(Or perhaps, it's Prince Serunya?)

But I didn't know why he bothered to tell Ricardo.

Ricardo stared at me silently, but he opened his mouth a little hesitantly.

[To be honest, Prince Serunya knows about Britney well, I was a little shaken when he said such a thing. Ryuze, for some reason, wasn't disturbed.]

[Is, is that so. So it's Prince Serunya...]

It seemed that he had said unnecessary things.

It's an unbelievable story, and there's no benefit in exposing it, so I kept silent about it.

After talking to Ryuze, he also said "don't spread it too much" to me.

[Then, he said something about Britney needing help. I don't know why he said such

things abruptly.]

[...That's true.]

Perhaps, he was concerned that I would be executed just like in the manga, but I didn't want my information to be spread indiscriminately. In my head, I pondered on whether I should tell Ricardo or not.

When I glanced at Ricardo's face, his face profile that was illuminated by the light seemed depressed. Perhaps he was really worried...?

(Certainly, if one is on the opposite standpoint, they will be worried, huh?)

I didn't know if he would believe it.

However, if for argument's sake that Ricardo knew about my past memories, I was absolutely certain that he wouldn't look at me as if I was dangerous. I shouldn't be hated by him.

So I decided to tell him the truth.

[Hey, Ricardo. I... really have my past life's memories. It seems like a lie, but those memories came back shortly after I was informed of you breaking off our engagement back when we were young. I made soap, perfume and other beauty items based on my knowledge of that life. I had told Ryuze-niisama before, but I don't know whether he believes me or not.]

[It's certainly an absurd story, but... I believe you.]

Ricardo was totally accepting my story.

I was the one who began to talk, but I never thought that he would believe me so obediently.

After that, he told me.

[If it's true, then you shouldn't spread it unnecessarily. Most people won't believe it, but some may want to use you.]

[Un. That's right, Prince Serunya has memories of his past life too. He has the memories

of a same country of a different world... so he might have been worried about me.]

I wondered if I should tell Ricardo about the manga, specifically about Britney's execution.

The reality had already differed so much from the manga.

Angela was reformed and Ryuze was safe.

I should be wary of my execution, but other concerns had been drastically reduced.

(I'd rather keep it silent. Even if I tell him about the manga, he will be confused.)

Above all, it's hard to explain.

First of all, I had to explain to him about Japanese culture and what "girl's manga" really was. It was endlessly troublesome.

[Sorry about keeping it silent, Ricardo. It's not that I don't want you to know me, but I just didn't feel the need to bother you about it.]

[I see. But it's nice to be able to know the truth. It feels complicated when Ryuze and a complete stranger like Prince Serunya know while I was the only one that didn't know about you.]

That said, Ricardo buried his face on my nape.

(Somehow, his actions are steadily getting bolder...)

When I peeked behind, Ricardo laughed as if he was in trouble.

[Don't worry, I won't do anything. Weren't we engaged before?... Though it's being opposed.]

[I, I'm not worried about that!?!]

Ricardo was a bit clumsy, but he was kind and gentlemanly.

That's why I liked him that way.

[You... trust me.]

[Of course! We've known each other for more than 4 years.]

[I'm pleased about your feelings, but I feel a bit complicated. If possible, I wish to carry you and kidnap you away from here. I know I shouldn't think like this.]

[I'm pretty heavy right now, so won't it be hard to carry me?]

Once, Ricardo carried me when my weight was 80 kilograms... heavy things were heavy.

It was embarrassing that I was heavy for Ricardo to carry, even though it was his own fault.

[I habitually train, so I can carry you alone. I'll carry you on my back when we return.]

As he grew up, Ricardo seemed to have more leeway. My heart was pounding in my chest even though my mental age was supposed to be older than him.

[That's why, don't worry.]

While he said those encouraging words, he hugged me closer.

Chapter 127

Rescued White Pig Lady

Encouraged by Ricardo, I mysteriously got more energetic.

[...Un!]

[Then why don't you sleep even if just a bit. It's okay to snore you know?]

[But, how about you?]

[I'll look out as much as possible. You should sleep so that your physical condition doesn't deteriorate tomorrow. I have more physical strength, and I can manage to get up.]

[Thank you.]

Since my leg was injured, I must not let my physical condition to worsen and became a burden on the way home.

I decided to go along with Ricardo's words and fell asleep.

Early the next morning, I felt chilly and woke up. Unnoticed, the sound of rain had stopped.

No living thing had started to move yet, it was a quiet morning.

I felt a warm body temperature from behind me, and I remembered that I fell asleep while being embraced by Ricardo yesterday. He seemed to be leaning on me; his shoulders were a bit heavy.

When I gently moved my line of sight to him... it seemed that he had fallen asleep while burying his face on my shoulder.

[...Eh, he fell asleep? He did walk down the mountain path to help me, so he must have gotten tired.]

When I thought that it was pleasant, Ricardo who reacted to my voice raised his head slowly.

[U... Britney? I'm not asleep, I'm awake. I was just resting a little.]

[Resting a little? Thanks to you, I could sleep nicely.]

[So you're saying that you're awake? I was really awake a little while ago. It's getting brighter now, I should light up the signal flare.]

Ricardo went out of the tree hollow and brought out 3 signal flares from the tent.

He ignited them all using the fire starter tool and placed them across the tent.

[What kind of tool is that?]

When I called out Ricardo from inside the tree hollow, he came back and explained it.

[It seems that horse excrement is contained in it. It's a large cylinder, but the amount of smoke and burning time are minimal. In truth, it seems to be combined with flammable leaves and other things.]

[I hope our safety can be communicated.]

[If the rescue party doesn't come, I'll carry you so don't worry. Britney doesn't have to be anxious about your leg.]

The reliable Ricardo looked at my leg with his green eyes, his face showed a difficult expression.

[It's swollen red. Will it worsen when you're carried?]

[I think its fine since it's below my knee... n?]

When I looked up at the sky from inside the tree hollow, I could see a lot of smoke going up.

[...It's probably the smoke of signal fire from the other side. They probably saw our sign.]

[I see, so the rescue party will come right?]

[Aa, that's right.]

Ricardo smiled to assure me and turned his gaze towards the depths of the trees.

A while later, the sun had approached its peak, I could hear people's voices from a little away.

When Ricardo responded quickly by generating more smoke, the voices gradually approached. The rescue party was here.

I could hear the sound of plants that was wet from rain being pushed apart, and the sound of footsteps on the muddy ground.

[We're here!]

When Ricardo raised his voice, the footsteps became louder.

Soon, Ryuze and several soldiers appeared.

[Ricardo, Britney! You're both safe... you're injured?]

Ricardo answered Ryuze's question.

[Britney might have broken her leg. It's swollen and red.]

[All right. Let's bring you both to the nearby village immediately.]

I tried to get out from the tree hollow... but my butt got stuck on the entrance.

(So hateful-! It's so embarrassing in front of a lot of people!)

Ricardo pulled me out and Ryuze came over.

[Are you alright? Your leg is injured?]

[Yes, it hurts and I can't move it.]

[As Ricardo had said, it might be a bone fracture. Britney, did you apply first aid?]

[I did. Afterwards, Ricardo neatly treated it again.]

Ryuze lifted me up even though I was tremendously fat right now, we then turned back to the direction they came from.

[Thank you, Ricardo. Thanks to you, Britney is saved.]

[No need to worry... I couldn't stand still. I did it arbitrarily.]

Ricardo reluctantly separated from me.

(I... perhaps I want to stay with him for a while longer.)

Chapter 128

Stop the Lap Hug Please

After returning to the beekeeping village, I had my leg properly treated.

It seemed to be broken after all. It would take one month to heal...

I had things in my mind such as the beekeeping techniques of this village, but since the schedule was already delayed, I couldn't continue my observation.

(If I have the opportunity, let's ask Prince Emirya.)

We departed from the village after I obtained the minimum necessary information.

Ryuze, Ricardo and I were boarding the same carriage, while Maria was on another carriage.

Marlow, Merrill and Emirya had already departed from the village due to the schedule. That's understandable...

There's also the matter about engagement, and it's a little awkward for the three of us to be in the same carriage.

However, the two of them seemed surprisingly normal. Moreover...

[...Onii-sama, this position is dangerous. Won't this break your legs?]

I was now sitting on Ryuze's lap while being hugged by him for some reason!

Ryuze's argument was that stability would be hard due to my leg injury, but this position made me unable to calm down.

Although I was supported firmly, I felt afraid and Ryuze's knees would press onto me according to some tempo.

I didn't want to increase the number of broken bones.

[Ryuze, let's release Britney sooner.]

While I was in trouble, Ricardo came to my help.

[It's fine, my knees are not that weak. Besides, according to the size of this carriage... won't Ricardo and I sit side by side while Britney occupy two seats alone? I'm worried since her leg is broken, so I am supporting her.]

Ryuze shrugged his shoulders, as if saying that this was the most efficient.

Certainly, it would be narrow if one of them was to sit side by side with my fat butt.

(...Wait, isn't this weird! What Ryuze-niisama said was straightforward at first, but the theory is obviously strange! I can sit alone normally!)

Moreover, it's not just Ryuze who developed such weird theory.

Ricardo who was sitting opposite of us bent his body forwards.

[Then, I will support her this time! Won't it be hard if it's just Ryuze alone?]

Although I was being cautious of Ryuze's lap hug, I did the same thing to Ricardo when he said such a thing.

[Aren't you tired after searching and protecting Britney? You may take a good rest while in the carriage.]

[No, Ryuze. You had arranged the rescue team and preparing for our return trip. You should rest now, I'll look after Britney.]

They were being considerate for their opponent and tried to take the heavy luggage = me.

[Ano, I'm alright sitting alone though? I won't fall off from the carriage seat.]

[...Britney, are you seriously saying that?]

[That's right, you just rolled down the cliff.]

For some reason, the two of them were kindred spirits in this situation.

It seemed that I was the strange one for saying it.

[No, but... aren't you tired? Really, I'm fine, you guys should sleep even just a little!]

[...With Britney on my lap, I feel like I can sleep in relief.]

[Me, me too!]

[That's why it's no good with the two of you! The carriage's center of gravity will tilt and your laps...]

[The carriage is fine. Besides, I said it many times before, but my lap is alright.]

[I, I habitually train! I won't be hurt easily!]

Already, it seemed that I could only choose to sit on either of their laps.

(...I want to cry.)

In order to not break their bones at the very least, I could only propose to seat on their laps alternatively.

(I absolutely have to lose weight.)

I didn't want to experience such unpleasant heart-throbbing situation like this again.

I pledged to lose my weight steadily.



It took a while, but in more than a week, we arrived at the capital city of the middle country.

Since I broke my leg, I was taken to my room at once.

When I sat on my bed while being supported by Ryuze, Merrill popped out from outside of the door.

[Britney! I'm glad that you came back safely!]

Her nature was honest, she took my hands with tears in her big eyes.

[I'm sorry, Britney. It's all because I didn't move from that spot...]

[No, its' my fault. I didn't mean to fall down. I caused inconvenience to other people...]

[No, no. If I kept my calm, I know I shouldn't have gone there. I knew what my action would bring about, but I moved according to my emotions at that time.]

While she did behave erratically, Merrill was by no means a fool or ill-natured.

She grew up day by day just like in the manga, and she could reflect on her mistakes just like this time.

Until now, I had subconsciously disliked Merrill.

In the manga, she was sometimes the enemy of Britney, not to mention of her casual attitude and behavior towards Ricardo.

But... her content was really straightforward, and she would reflect on her actions.

(Perhaps a day will come when I can get along with her...)

Somehow, I thought such a thing.

Chapter 129

It's Severe for a White Pig on Crutches

Returning to the castle, I got to live a life on crutches for a while.

(Ugugu, my body is heavy and my sides hurt. These crutches won't break right?)

While thinking such things, at least walking around the castle could cause me to lose some weight.

After I climbed up the stairs while panting heavily, I became exhausted and stopped in the middle of a corridor.

[Gufuuu, this is impossible...]

I couldn't support my weight, so I sat down suddenly with my back against the wall.

Fortunately there's nobody around, so this shameful sight wasn't seen... or so I thought.

[Oya? If it isn't Britney.]

Very near me, a terribly familiar voice came. Lifting my face, it was the beautiful blonde prince... the culprit who fattened me was standing in front of me.

[Marlow-sama... good day.]

[Britney, why are you sitting in such a place?]

[Gufufu, I'm taking a break. Don't mind me.]

I would thank him very much if he left me alone, but that excellent crown prince instead sat beside me.

[...Is it fine for Marlow-sama to sit on the ground?]

[I don't care since no one is watching. Britney seems to be in trouble since you can't

use one of your legs. Shall I support you?]

[No, isn't it better if you don't? Right now, my weight is over 60 kilograms. Marlow-sama doesn't train your body all that much right?]

[Umu, yes... but, I'll watch over you until you settle down. I have finished my work today. That's right, would you like something to eat?]

[...No! You really don't have to mind me!!]

I couldn't reduce my results up till now into nothing. So I respectfully refused food.

[By the way, why is Marlow-sama passing through this place with few people?]

[U-n, the thing is, I ran away from the minister.]

[E? Ran away...?]

[I'm already at marriageable age, so my surroundings have been constantly telling me to get married.]

[Ryuze-niisama is also the same... men sure have it tough.]

[What are you saying, aren't you the same? The marriageable age for women in this country is 16 years old. Angela and Merrill are actually getting engaged.]

Marlow's words were right. I was currently having trouble about that direction.

Although there was a talk about getting engaged to Ryuze, I couldn't accept it yet. Although I was given time extension, I couldn't prolong it forever.

[Since you're running away from the minister, does that mean that you don't want to get married?]

[It's not that I don't want to... I just want more time. In truth, I understand that I shouldn't run away.]

I was worried about the same things myself... I saw an unexpected aspect of the excellent prince.

[That's true isn't it. Maa, there's nothing one can do against feelings.]

[If I can get engaged to Britney, I can happily go to the minister.]

[Again, such a joke.]

[...No, it's not a joke.]

The ends of Marlow's eyes lowered for some reason and his violet eyes were staring at me.

[Britney is the only one who willingly suggests various proposals without showing any disappointment about my hobby. Besides, I think that your current body shape is wonderful.]

[...E, I'm not very happy about it. I want to lose weight.]

Unintentionally, my real motive came out from my mouth.

Then, Marlow shrugged his shoulders as if in regret.

[I think that your present appearance is also wonderful. Beside, for me, I don't like every fat woman there is. Because it's Britney, I want to make you fat!]

[E, no, that's very troubling.]

I mumbled my excuse to cut down his passion.

[Besides, I am nothing but a young lady of a countryside earldom. Since Marlow-sama is the crown prince, your partner should be one with higher status.]

[Aa, that's true. But if I can, I want Britney to be the crown princess. I am at ease with you and it's fun to be with you.]

Nonetheless, Marlow didn't seem to be truly serious. He could do anything with one command, such as my treatment.

(If I become the crown princess, I feel like I won't ever lose weight for my whole life.)

Nevertheless, the opportunities to be exposed to public eyes would increase...

(That's mortifying...)

In various ways, engagement with Marlow may be impossible. That's what I thought.

[By the way, Marlow-sama, aren't you a bit tired? You don't seem as energetic as usual.]

[Aa... for Britney to see it, how disappointing. There are some disputes within the castle.]

[Is that so. For those to occur as soon as we returned from the southern country, it must be terrible.]

[It's the case about where the new highway will pass in the country. It's not turning out smoothly, so Ryuze and I are currently working hard.]

[Onii-sama too?]

[It's unrelated to him, but he's been helping me a little.]

I was worried if Ryuze would collapse again. That cousin of mine, one way or another, he had the tendency to overdo himself.

Apart from that, new concerns had emerged.

(Eh, didn't the part about the highway also appear in the manga?)

I didn't have my diary about the details of the manga on hand, but I remembered about it and reconsidered about the story.

Certainly, conspiracies had begun to move in places unknown to Merrill.

Since an aristocrat wanted the highway to go through his territory, he did various wrongdoings... I was sure that the content was such.

(Marlow-sama, who was entrusted of the highway project by the king, rejected the proposal of the nobleman. Realistically, the highway would have to go around a long way to get there.)

However, that man was the type to give priority towards his own benefits rather than thinking practically... in order to change the already decided course of the highway, he

used high-handed means.

He blatantly approached Angela who was rebelling against Marlow. And Angela exhibited her villainess part here. Britney was supposed to do a little secret maneuvering as an underling.

But a disaster happened in the middle of the dispute.

Merrill was attacked by the bad nobleman's underlings, and Marlow who defended her was murdered.

The time when the problem occurred was close to now.

Chapter 130

A White Pig Becoming the Crown Princess is Impossible

[By the way, Marlow-sama. Have you been practicing self-defense nowadays?]

[Aa, the one that Britney taught me a while ago. I can do it now without any problem.]

[Please be careful of suspicious people. And then...]

I spoke to that point.

In truth, I wanted to say “protect yourself before protecting other people”, but if that’s the case, then Merrill would die in the manga. It’s a difficult problem.

(If I was there... no, I can only save them at the expense of my sacrifice. Do I have to call Ryuze-niisama?)

My grandfather and cousin were pretty reliable on battle.

It was around winter when the crown prince was killed in the manga, currently the season was summer.

The capital was showing the aspect that it would have a heat wave as soon as possible, and the inside of the castle was also hot especially for a fat person.

(...By the way, why was Merrill likely to be killed?)

When I remembered the situation that occurred in the manga well, I realized the fact that Merrill was involved in the highway incident.

(That’s it! Merrill, who has noticed what the bad nobleman is doing, went to investigate alone!)

Normally, the nobleman’s suspicious behavior would be informed to someone, but

Merrill who didn't know about the details of the highway problem became curious and behaved recklessly by searching about the enemy alone.

In the middle of the investigation, she was suspected by the enemy and an assassin was sent to destroy the evidence.

Normally one wouldn't kill a princess suddenly. That might be the case, but I would like to avoid that scenario as much as possible.

(This current world is not of the same state as the manga. But there's a possibility that the same incident will occur.)

Actually, when I was 12 years old, there's a talk about being Angela's companion, and when the northern country attacked, Ryuze was in a bit of a pinch. Ricardo was Marlow's follower.

(Even Merrill appeared as a princess properly.)

It was a situation that one couldn't be negligent about, and it's not enough to just protect Marlow.

As I talked about the highway, things were moving to the manga's plot.

(It's important to protect Marlow-sama, but stopping Merrill is even more important... if, that child rushes head first into a dangerous situation, one after another, other people might also be in danger.)

While I was thinking alone, Marlow watched at me strangely.

[Britney, what's the matter? Are you unwell?]

[No, I'm fine. I've rested a bit, so I'll be returning to my room.]

When Marlow lend me a hand since I tried to get up with difficulty, he staggered.

A delicate man like him couldn't support my weight.

(...Somehow, I apologize.)

I felt uncomfortable, so I apologized to him, and then I cheerfully... no, I left the place

while breathing heavily and showing a disgraceful sight.

[Britney.]

Just as I was leaving, Marlow spoke to me.

[What I said earlier, I'm pretty serious about it.]

[Ha, serious?]

[About the engagement. I won't be pushy about it. But depending on your answer, I'm going to move.]

[...!]

The face of Marlow, who saw me reflexively lost on words, was serious.

[However... unfortunately there's not much time. It will be impossible to escape from the minister.]

[...I understand Marlow-sama's circumstances. But I won't serve as the crown princess.]

[Britney's working ability, Ryuze also highly values it right?]

[No, what I'm currently doing is totally different from a crown princess' duties... my duties consists only as Ryuze-niisama's follow-up.]

[I don't want to say much of this kind of thing, but how about as a concubine?]

[...No, honesty is also difficult. This isn't a good story, I apologize.]

The future of being with Marlow didn't seem realistic.

He looked at me and said "is that so" while showing a troubled face.

[I understand Britney's answer. You can think about it a bit more!]

[Ye, yes!]

I refused the engagement proposal from him to his face.

I'd like to carry out a big operation to protect Marlow and Merrill, but... it's a little awkward.

(I have to manage it by winter somehow...! For the time being, let's postpone Marlow-sama. Let's take measures against Merrill who is the primary cause!)

I decided so, and then I headed towards Merrill while panting heavily.

The energetic Merrill preferred being outside rather than being inside the castle. In addition, her favourite place was the garden at the front of the castle; it was the biggest and most gorgeous garden. Un, she seemed to be there.

[A, she's there! Merrill-dono...]

I tried to rush towards her, but as it was, I stopped walking to proceed towards her.

[E, eh?]

In the middle of the garden surrounded by colourful flowers illuminated by the bright sunlight, the beautiful blonde princess... was in the process of being crammed by an army of young women with atrocious facial expressions.

Chapter 131

The Rampaging Young Lady Made It Worse

It's a scene of bullying by the same sex that often appeared in shoujou manga.

Ignoring, saying bad things that could be heard, and spreading unlikely rumours. Just like that, Merrill was bullied in various ways in the manga.

[Princess Merrill, you should be moderate and not get cocky.]

[That's right. Sending amorous glances to my fiancée... such a royalty is unheard of.]

[Well, well, it can't be helped. Her mother was just a lowly maid after all.]

[Ara, ara, that's true. That maid was a bold one, to be involved with His Majesty despite her social standing. Ufufu, as I thought, blood is indisputable right?]

[Like mother like daughter, it seems that the both of you are good at snatching away men with partners? Isn't it disgusting?]

There were about 10 ladies who were giggling while holding their fans. Merrill was alone.

There was no one other than me nearby, while Merrill was isolated and helpless.

[It seems that you are close to Ryuze-sama and Ricardo-sama even though you have a fiancée. What on earth are you thinking I wonder?]

That said, a single girl came out ahead. Looking at her appearance, I then gaped.

(E... Nora!? What are you doing!?)

Her standing position was like the boss of the group, Nora had put Merrill in trouble.

Merrill was looking at the group with straight eyes. It was an appearance of a brave heroine.

(What has she perpetrated about this time?)

From a long time ago, Nora was angry at Merrill, but she did not take any direct action. I was sure that there's a reason why her patience had broken this time.

While I was wondering whether I should come out or not while I continued to peep, the young ladies continued.

[Generally, you're being insensitive! For Nora-sama who failed in finding a marriage interview, how could you possibly say something as terrible as "you should have more self-confidence".]

[I just wanted to encourage her, I wasn't insulting her...]

[We don't want to hear such words from a person like you! Princess Merrill, what do you know about us? Not just Nora-sama, my fiancée has hurt my feelings by comparing me to you! The others here are also like this...]

[Even if you say so, I have not done anything!]

After Merrill's objection, the group of young ladies increased their momentum.

[You seemed to have handed handmade refreshments to the knight order? The men were overjoyed.]

[The bureaucrats also received similar refreshments.]

[Among some disappointed nobles, Marlow-sama seems to disregard Merrill-sama and the queen... it seems that some stupid story like that had come out.]

[Why don't you understand your social standing?]

Merrill's complexion was getting worse when she heard their words.

[Such a thing, I just wanted to get along with everyone. Since they often take care of us in the castle, I just gave them refreshments as consideration.]

[You want to make friends with men who had fiancées? It seems that Princess Merrill is a woman without fidelity just like the rumours!]

In the garden, the young lady's "ohoho" loud laughter resounded.

I moved to quell the situation for the time being.

(I'm not Merrill's ally. I want to avoid the manga's direction, but I have to warn off Nora from bullying the princess.)

Merrill was the second princess, even though she grew up in downtown and her common sense was off. Nora might land herself in trouble later.

[Nora, you're here!]

I pretended to be as natural as possible and called out to her.

[I heard that you're in the castle, so I came to see you...]

Nora, who saw me, changed her thin, freckled face's bad expression into a smile.

[Britney! Did you walk here even though you're on crutches? I would have gone to your room if you call me!]

[Gufufu, I just want a little exercise.]

Due to my intrusion, the young ladies left respectively.

Perhaps they were thinking that it was not good to attack Merrill in front of me, especially since I was on close terms with Marlow and Angela.

(...Angela unexpectedly doesn't attack Merrill.)

It seemed that she was getting irritated due to the numerous incidents, but she bore it patiently and only complained.

Not just Marlow, it was also because of her fiancée Emirya. I thought that Angela was being saved even though she was embarrassed by Emirya's goodwill.

So she was able to accept herself as it was.

With Emirya here, she now had more composure, so it's possible for her to think calmly.

(Since she's a shy person in strange places, she could only take an unfriendly attitude in front of Prince Emirya.)

By nature, Angela was a calm and intelligent princess unless her blood was rising to her head, and she also had kindness towards her friends.

In the manga, it seemed that her feelings were beyond her control and she got dyed with her evil deeds, but generally she behaved excellently. It's only because Marlow was too outstanding, so she was not evaluated so.

I took Nora from the garden and led her to my room.

[Britney, are you alright? You're really out of breath.]

[I'm fine, Nora. This is also an exercise.]

I struggled up the stairs and eventually reached my room.

Chapter 132

Chapter 133

Chapter 134

Chapter 135

Chapter 136

Chapter 137

Chapter 138

Chapter 139

Chapter 140

Chapter 141

Chapter 142

Chapter 143

Chapter 144

Chapter 145

Chapter 146

Chapter 147



PDF by: traitorAZEN