

Tenseishichattayo!

転生しちゃったよ

ヘッドホン侍
Headphonesamurai

いや、
ごめん



I'VE BEEN REINCARNATED
(WELL, SORRY)

– Tenseishichatta Yo (Iya, Gomen) –

- Volume 1 -

COMFORTABLE CHILDHOOD

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hyp

[Translated by: Pumlated]

– SYNOPSIS –

After a god screws up and accidentally takes high schooler Shou's life, he offers him reincarnation with a gift to make up for it. Shou asks to retain all his old memories for the new life. Shou is reborn as Will, a noble's son in a world where magic use is common and involves knowledge of kanji characters. With all his memories, he's a brilliant toddler, and when he experiments with magic, he finds that he has an amazing talent for it! What's more, though he was smart but unloved in his old life, in his new life he has a mother and a father who both love him deeply. His future as Will is looking very bright and cool!



Shou



New Born Will



Toddler Will



3~4 Years Old Will



8 Years Old Will



Mother



Father



John Sensei



Zen



Selphy

Sub-Characters



God



Terao



Mr Gori-Macho, Zelda Sensei



Shadow(s)

From the left : Mr Tall, Ms Delicate 'Onee-San' and Mr Average



Onee San – Chiffon



Buhual & Bibinyaru



Mi Sociunnov



Kiro



Calius



Freya



Yuria



Varino-Sensei

CHAPTER 1

PROLOGUE THE VIEW IS BETTER FROM THE TOP...?

That day, was a stunningly sunny day even though it was the rainy season, which put me in a good mood since morning.

The place was away from the city, where you would need to change trains to get to. The countryside-ish slightly worn station was only crowded in the mornings and evenings, due to students commuting to and from school.

Most of the state schools were situated here as the land was cheap.

Luckily, even if I went to one of the schools here, the distance was not that I would need to take a bus from the nearest station.

I would die if I was forced to exercise this much in the morning.

Come to think of it, I wouldn't even choose that kind of school in the first place. Right.

Ah.. But the weather was so good today, so good that I felt like skipping all the way. The little sweat I had told me that summer was coming, made me happy. Blanking out as I walked, someone tapped me from behind.

“Shou, good morning!”

“Hm? Ah, morning Terao.”

Ehh.. Why was it not a girl from my class... was not that I was thinking. I was not thinking about it!

Terao.

My best friend. I only came to know him when I entered high school but due to our personality being similar, we got close fast.

“What's with that face?”

You must be thinking about something rude like ah, why is it Terao, right?”

“Ah. I was exposed.”

I laughed but reality was cruel.

That dude was popular. That dude was what they called an 'Ikemen'. [TN: Handsome] That dude was. Stop with the 'That dude' thing? Couldn't be helped, that was how I spoke ill of him.

"Ah... I am jealous of your looks."

Compared to the sunny sky, my heart was drizzling a bit.

"What's that? Really...you alllllways say that kind of stuff, I'm so tired of hearing it."

Terao said with a serious face. This daily conversation was almost a template for us. To the fact that you could call this as our greeting to each other.

But...uh.

Even though I said that all the time, Terao was still kind to me. That must be why he was so popular.

He could strike up a conversation with girls easily.. See, he was greeting them right now. Not discriminating to anyone, friendly, yet not frivolous and kind... That was Terao.

And there was me.

I didn't want to admit it but it seemed that I was hated.

Every time I greeted them, they would say something in a tiny voice before turning red and running away. If I ever wanted to chat with them in the classroom, someone would come over and drag them away somewhere.

What was so different about me and that guy!!!?

...Must be the face.

Oh. While ranting in my heart, Terao was looking at me with a strange look.

"It..It's nothing."

Saying that so suddenly was just like admitting that there was something! Should not have said that...

But Terao just said " Okay. " with a smile. What a gentleman. I needed to learn this.

As I was nodding that the fact I had a good example by my side...

A vase fell.

...hm? Eh?

CHAPTER 2

THE FIELD OF FLOWERS

The world often changed.

That was because we made the 'world' up.

The thing we called 'World', in reality, could not be seen nor heard.

Which was why, we made up our own 'world' with the things we saw and our memories.

In short, as long as you were alive, the 'world' would grow bigger. Normally, that was. There existed people whose 'world' got smaller instead. What the heck, that's me. Oh, whatever. What I wanted to say was, besides the 'world' that I knew, there were definitely other 'worlds' out there.

In other words.

.....Where...was I?

I only knew that this was a very narrow place. For some reason, my field of vision was all dark and I felt like I was wrapped up and floating.

It seemed like I had arrived at a 'world' I had never seen before. In short, another world. Without making it short, it was still another world. Wha.....haaa.

To affect the way I grasped what a 'world' was only if I had been through it once as a human. Since textbooks usually did not teach about other worlds...They didn't.

Yep.

Going straight to the point.

.....That dude who was god said so.

Which meant I was on the path of being reincarnated into another world.

Could I backtrack? I was going to do that.

...Heck, who I was asking anyway...



The vase hit my head directly.

The world started spinning in slow-motion.

The vase touched the top of my head, little by little, as the pressure was felt, my skull cracked.

I died...!

As I was thinking that, I realized my surroundings were a field of flowers. This was heaven? But I was sure I had not been through the wheel of reincarnation or King Enma or the last judgement?

Dying was surprising boring.

Having died by a vase, I really did not want to wake up amidst a field of flowers. My head was not full of flowers! And I started meaningless arguments with myself.

... While I was doing that, the field of flowers disappeared, leaving behind blinding white space all around.

“I am really so sorry!! ” *[TN: He’s doing old man’s speech]*

And suddenly someone jumped and knelt in front of me... An old man.

[TN: He was doing dogeza]

Erm... What was with this situation?

“Erm, what is happening? Please raise your head.”

For now, I went along with the situation. An explanation would be good now.

“You would forgive me?”

The old man raised his head in a snap, eyes sparkling.

.....

.....Not amused.

I was not feeling happy despite the fact I was in heaven.

“This is not heaven.”

The old man said. Hm? Have you stopped apologizing? Or rather, this person, was he reading my thoughts?

“I am not a human but a god.”

...For. Real?

It must be since I was in a heaven-like-space.

“Please don’t tell me... that I died because of...you?”

I asked, remembering the web novel I was into at the moment.

“Yes, it is.”

He puffed out his chest.

...This guy.....He was definitely not regretting this!

“Please listen to my reason?”

I was tired of retorting. I sighed.

“Eh... Ah, my beard caught onto the plants without my knowing..”

.....His beard.

The reason for my death was his beard, because of his beard.
My shoulders sagged.

“.....And? What should I do?”

I hugged my head, giving up.

“...You accepted that pretty fast.”

God said, shocked as he looked at me with eyes peeking from underneath his long eyebrows.

“Ah...Haa... Even if I make a fuss.. Though I cannot forgive you for causing my death with a smile, being angry doesn’t mean you can send me back, right?”

At that, God looked at me, still shocked.

“Even so, normally one would still fight against this fact.”

Ah. That was right.

It must be because I was a lonely existence.

My sigh got seen by God.

“And, what’s gonna happen to me?”

“Sorry, but you can either choose to reincarnate or disappear.”

I was not disappearing! That’s horrible!

“... I’ll reincarnate.”

At that answer, God nodded deeply and said ” This time really... “. I did not pay attention to most of it but it ended with ” To truly apologize, I will grant you any of your wishes.”

...In that case... I did not want to be hated as like my previous life.

...Experience...I would keep it.

“I want to have all of my memories of this former life.”

“Is that all?”

“If I ask too much it’s scary.”

I laughed bitterly.

Tongue-Cut Sparrow was the biggest trauma from my childhood.

[TM: It’s a folktale, search it up.]

“I see.”

God smiled gently upon hearing that.

“And so. Let’s send you on your way.”

At that, my body was wrapped in a warm glow.
...Ah, right, there was something I would like to say.

《 Side: God 》

“Please shave your beard.”

The young man wrapped in light disappeared from the white space.

The young man wrapped in light disappeared from the white space.

“Hmm, the beard eh..”

God happily twirled his beard around his fingers and started playing with it.

“What an amusing fellow. I wanted to grant him [cheats] but did not get to. Such a small wish too. Makes me seemed like the bad guy here.”

Laughing, god handed down an order.

“For now, let’s just make all of his abilities maximum.”



《 Side: Shou 》

And so, we returned to the beginning of this chapter.

.....!!!!

Suddenly, my world started shrinking. My head was splitting and it felt like something was pulling me along.

Wuuuuuahhhh...pain!I am dying...

Then. Light.

“Gkyaaaaaaaaaaaaa (It hurtsssssssss)!!!”

....Ah, can it be that it was my delivery just now?

CHAPTER 3

A BIT REGRETFUL, BUT STILL THANKFUL

“Gkyaaaaaaaaaaaaa (It hurtsssssssss)!!!”

And a wonderful birthing cry was done by me.

Hey, it seriously hurt! I mean, imagine the huge force dealt to this soft baby’s skull! For a moment I saw the field of flowers again. Or rather, the vase.. that made me depressed.

But being out in the open with the light after a long time made me dizzy. I could not even differentiate between left and right....Was that a nurse? Or a midwife? In my blurry vision, I saw that I was carried by a plump hand and dipped into lukewarm water.

Ah, was that the baby’s first bath? Hmm....so comfortable.

The blood sticking all over my body was the proof of a mother’s effort but to tell the truth, I would really rather choose it not sticking.

“> < ≥ ∞ + ± % £ & # \$ ”

Said the plum woman as she looked at me...Wah... Of course, I had no idea what she was saying. Ah, what a failure. I should have asked god to bless me with an ability in languages....

Oh well, no use crying over spilled milk. It was better not to be able to speak fluently all of a sudden as it might seem weird. I didn’t remember having any difficulty in learning Japanese so no worries!

As I was thinking that, I suddenly felt like I was floating, like someone was lifting me up. I could feel the soft fingers upon my back.

“※ ¯ ¢ \$ ¥ # 、 # ¢ # ` ° ” —”

...Yep, I was able to comprehend that they were happy. I was then passed to a person who seemed to be my mother and she looked at me. But, even with this distance, I was unable to see her face clearly. I had thought that it was because of just being born and

the brightness made me unable to see but it didn't seem like it. Come to think of it, were a baby's eyes really bad? I felt like I had heard that before...

But just from the atmosphere, I knew she was delighted. From her gentle embrace, I could feel that I was being handled with great care. Just that, made me feel so happy and blissful that I smiled.

“#◇◎£¢≥、ウイル、&*@%£%, Will”

It was a beautiful voice that sounded like a bell ringing. I had heard it being repeated a few times so I came to understand that, yes, my name was Will.

Being spoken to in a valuable manner made me realized that this was what parent's love felt like. Recognizing this feeling which I was unable to feel in the previous world made me feel warm.

Even though I was killed, concerning this result I felt a little grateful towards the god. As I was thinking about this, in the warmth, I suddenly felt drowsy. Ah, I kinda still wanted to bask in this warmth....

The Shou....Will now, who tried to resist, fell defeat to the body of a baby.

CHAPTER 4

THE FIRST BARRIER

Ah.

And I woke up. Hm, I was hungry. Which meant, oh crap, I felt like crying. But I was not going to cry! A real man does not cry!

“....Waah.”

.... I was not crying.

I was only sweating a bit through my eyes, and I was somehow still trying to bear it. And then, my limbs that I still could not fully control started to wiggle about.

What soft futon. [TN: A kind of japan mattress] Ah no, it should be a bed? I was not complaining, it was just that I felt like I was laying at a higher height like a bed than a futon.

Twisting my neck, which was still unable to support my head, sideways, I just barely managed to look down. As I thought, I was laying at a certain height, and it looked like the entire house was covered in basic red and brown tones. Dimly, I could make out the white walls. The ceiling was white too.

Ah, I forgot to say ‘It is a ceiling I have never seen before’. All the main characters in the novels I read said that. To think I missed out on this chance to say it.... How regretful.

Trying to divert my attention by thinking about these things, my body started to complain about my empty stomach.

“...Wah.”

No! Please endure, me! It is embarrassing for an adult to rely on another adult!

“...ahh”

.....I could not hold it in anymore!

“Wahhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

What forceful cries I made. Ah, I cried. This was embarrassing. But thinking about it, I was a baby. Whatever, I gave up.

Yep, knowing when to give up was important. Because from now on the rumored period of time was coming. The super embarrassing period....

“%£%@ 彡 ▲ ▽ ☆ —?”

As I thought, my Mother’s voice was heard and I could dimly see her standing in front of me. She carried me up gently and while I was surprised, something was pushed into my mouth and I reflexively started sucking.

Oohhh!

...Aaahh, no..., erm...This was instinct, I had no ulterior motives, please forgive me. ...Man, who was I explaining to anyway. While I was thinking about all these things, my body was feeding and I became full.

Haaa, I drank a lot. Eh? The word used was wrong? It could not be helped, my mind was in chaos. Because in my previous life I was avoided by the ladies so I had no immunity towards them. I..I was not making a weird face... was I?

It felt good drinking milk....

.....

Yep, giving up was important! Yep!

I finished drinking, so I was all right now but I was not going to be all right if you didn’t put me down now!! Trying to appeal, I looked at the dim face that I recognized and smiled.

Woah.

I was brought up in front of her body to lean against it. She patted my back gently. Pon Pon. Oh, Mother was trying to make me burp right?

“.....Burp.”

This was a little embarrassing. But I was trying hard not to vomit milk. Good job, me.

And when I thought she was going to place me back onto the bed, she held me in her arms and started swaying.

“▽ & >” * & # %£¢¢”

I had no idea what she was talking about but she said quite a bit.

Ahh.....I was sleepy.....

CHAPTER 5

I AM BACK

I still could not lift my neck.

How many days had it been since I was born?

After training everyday, I could finally move my hands, feet and fingers consciously.

But.....

“A....E....Eee....Uuu....U....”

I still could not pronounce correctly. That was why every morning when I woke up at the same time as my mother, I practiced speaking like this while Mother was getting ready. And I was actually trying to say ‘A, E, I, O, U’. [TN: Japanese A, I, U, E, O, pronunciation is Ah, Ii, Wu, Eh, Oh.]

Or rather, it was difficult to move. I could wiggle my hands and feet but I still could not turn over.

“Oh my, are you already awake Will?”

The door opened and Mother looked down with a surprised face.

Ah yes, this was my recent breakthrough. I did not know if it was because I was a baby, but an astounding memory manifested and I came to understand what people surrounding me were saying. Also, I came to understand different things as my vision got clearer.

“Uh!”

Let’s reply for now. Normal babies did reply somehow or other so it was not unusual to do so.....I thought.

“Will rarely cries. What a good boy~♪”

Mother said, as she lifted me up. My Mother’s name seemed to be Lily.

Yes, come to think of it.

I had already gotten used to it so I could have ‘ breakfast’ without any sense of discomfort. And I came to realize, thanks to my vision clearing, a certain truth.

....My mother was a real beauty....!

Pale and smooth skin like a child, beautiful plump pink lips, perfectly balanced outlines, big and round eyes with a beautiful nose that were all perfectly arranged.

‘ If this is not beauty then what is?! ‘ kind of feeling.

This made me enthusiastic and happy about my promising future but by some chance I might look like my Father.

As I had yet to met my father, there was nothing I could say.

Ah, as my Father had yet to appear for days now, I grew worried if this would turn out to be a complicated family or not. Then, about 3 days ago, a maid-like person spoke to Mother.

“Congratulations Madam, it seems like Master has finished his patrol of the territory and is rushing back home as fast as he can.”

I, too, was relieved. And happy. Because in this world, both of my parents were around. On this occasion, I would like to say that it seemed like this was a Noble’s House. Further on that note, my dad seemed to be a Knight. A Noble and a Knight....the combination of an Ikemen. My hope raised.

About this country or world, I had heard nothing so I had no knowledge but the interior of my house looked European-ish so it would most likely be that.

“....Nnn mu.”

I said, as I released my mouth from my Mother’s.....

“Oh, are you full, Will?”

“Nn.”

And while this exchange was going on....

“Ohhhh! Will! This guy, is he born?!”

The door slammed open and a loud voice was heard.

“My, are you back Gion? This is your father, Will.... Here, Gion.”

I was then passed to Gion, my Father, by my delighted Mother.

“I am your Father, Will~”

What a nice smile. Which caused me to smile as well.

But.

What normal face!!!

Looking closer, he looked like me in my previous life.....

Oi god, this was the first time I felt despair.

CHAPTER 6

MOTHER, GIVING BIRTH

“Gkyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!”

Such was the pain that I almost fainted.

My first time giving birth.

With the others encouraging me, I finally managed to push the baby out through the birth canal after great pains but I had also reached my limit.

My vision went slightly hazy.

Then, a robust baby’s first cry reached my ears and snapped me out of it.Ah, I wondered if the baby would turn out to be as naughty as that person. As I thought about it, the corners of my mouth went up.

Mary, the Head Maid, gently carried my child over to his first bath and washed him carefully. That wrinkled face...was so cute.

It must be my imagination acting up because my baby looked like he enjoyed and was feeling very comfortable in that bath.

“What a healthy boy.”

Mary delightfully said, as she looked at my son. She then carried that tiny him from the bath and brought him over to my side.

“Look, it’s your mother~”

Mary looked so happy, like he was her own son.

I stared fixedly at my son and tears started welling up.It must be my imagination at work again because he looked like he was making a strange (puzzled) face.

His face was really wrinkled...but so so cute.

Oh my...?

“Are you laughing I wonder. Will, my adorable son. That is your name, Will.”

The first child that was blessed to me and that person.
Such happiness. Such overflowing love.

I called his name over and over, trying to let him know, even just a little, about my feelings.

And then, Will, with a face full of happiness, started dozing off. This time, it was definitely not my imagination.

“Nice to meet you, my cute precious Will.”

CHAPTER 7

NURSING FOR THE FIRST TIME

Eventually, Will fell asleep with a face full of happiness. Although he was really cute when he was awake, he was really cute when he was asleep too. Though wrinkled, he really looked like that person. The chances of him growing up with a well-featured face in the future was high.

I could not wait for Will to open his eyes.

I lowered Will, who was sleeping soundly in my arms, onto the bed. Well then, the level of tiredness of having just given birth was high but do not underestimate the strength of a mother!

...I entered the room next to my bedroom and even though the day was still bright, I changed into my night dress.

It was no good. I was really tired.

Sitting on the sofa, I relaxed.

“Gyaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Suddenly, a loud voice could be heard from the room next door. Oh my, Will was awake. I snapped up from the sofa, trying not to make a sound, opened the connecting door between the rooms and rushed over to Will’s side.

“I wonder if he is hungry...?”

I looked into his crib and saw that even though Will stopped crying immediately, he was sporting a sad face. I was sorry to keep you waiting.

As this was my first time nursing, I was nervous. I wondered if he was drinking it all right.

But this was a good thing as I did not have to worry about food for a while. Ah...was that the wrong word to use?

After drinking silently for a while, Will smiled, looking like he was satisfied, and opened his mouth. Was it my imagination that he seemed to look at me, smiling, looking like he was trying to say that he was already done?It must be.

I mean, he was just born moments ago! Hmm....but if that was really the case, my child was a genius!

I followed the advice of Mary, who was my Senpai in both life and motherhood (even though she would never admit it), and timidly moved him to my left shoulder. Erm... I was to pat his back gently I thought. After a few pats, Will burped.

“...Burp.”

That was it....?

If I was not mistaken, usually the first time a child would vomit out milk... My child was excellent!

“Are you full, Will?”

Even though he could not understand yet, it was important to keep talking to him. That was why I would keep talking to him about trifling matters. With all my love.

After a while, Will started to get sleepy.

Oh my, this child was doing things at his own pace.

Really, why was he so cute?

CHAPTER 8

I WILL TRY MY BEST

Having seen my Father's plain features a while back, I received an unfathomable shock.

"Will really looks like you, dear."

That comment from Mother sent me over the edge.
Why did I not ask god to make me a Ikemen?!
How regretful.

But, come to think of it, having a handsome face might not mean anything. I mean, just look at how my plain-looking Father could get Mother. Father just taught me that in this world, a face was not all that was! (So rude)

Thinking about it, in my previous life, there was a person who was popular even though his face, sorry for saying, was not one of the best out there. That was why, face, even though this was just me escaping from reality using just a simple reason, as long as I made an effort, would not mean a thing! Yes, I was just trying to make life simpler for myself.

Yep. This time, in this world, I would try my best!

I said, Mother, Father.

I knew you had not met each other for a while now, but would you mind not flirting with each other here?!

My broken heart was breaking even more...

I would try my best!

[TN: Now, this next passage I don't really understand but it seems like he is playing a connecting game...]

Ah, 'My broken heart' sounded like what a foreigner would use.

Let's play with that....starting with 'Foreigner', 'Headaches hurt', 'The First of the first',

‘The feet of Pig’s feet’ till the last was ‘A foot that looks like a foot of a Serow’.

The last one was slightly wrong. According to my friend’s opinion, ‘A foot that looks like a foot of a Serow’ meant a foot was attached to the head, torso and limbs of a Serow, the meaning of boundless grotesque. [TN: Real meaning, to compliment on someone’s legs as long and strong like a wild goat’s. It’s supposed to be a good thing...I think]

Thinking of it now, why was I thinking about such stupid and meaningless stuff? That must be because I was trying to distract myself.

By my side, a weird atmosphere drifted in the air. Don’t you dare drift over here. I would punch someone.

All right! Situations such like this meant sleeping. Sleep.....



After desperately hypnotizing myself, I fell asleep. When I came to, soft white light shining through the window made me understand that it’s morning.

Next to me was....Nice, it looked like they had already woken up.

Recently, I came to understand what my body was trying to tell me and I also managed to have self-control. I began to daydream, ignoring my hungry stomach.

It took me a long time to get to here. I tried my best.

It had just only been a few days? See here, calling for somebody by crying for a Japanese like me was so embarrassing that I could not bring myself to do it, even though I knew I should not. It took so long~

Saying that, I was pleased with myself being able to stay calm in spite of hunger.

Currently the sphere of my life revolved around this room like ‘THE☆HIKIKOMORI’, it had only been a few days after I was born so there was no helping it. The room next door seemed like a place to change or to relax. This room seemed to be the bedroom with 2 doors, 1 to go out into the corridor and another which connected to the room next door.

In the middle of this ridiculously huge room was a ridiculously huge bed where my parents slept and right across, to the side of room next door was my baby crib. As my neck still could not support my head, this was fine as I could not move but once I could, I would want to leave this room.

Madam, I wanted information.

But, the first barrier was this fence... This safety design of installing fence around the crib to prevented a baby from falling! To me this was an unwelcome favor.

However, seeing this European-ish room, didn't it mean that Nobles and Knights exist in this world?! Was this not exciting?!

Don't get excited! Don't think that this is a Fantasy world!

That was why, I was trying hard to get my neck to support my head and so, I started doing training with my hands and feet. As well as vocal exercises.

"Ga...Uu...I...Wu...U..."

It would look like I was only wriggling my limbs about.

"Shashuishu...shesho!" *[TN: Japanese alphabets – Sa line, Sa Shi Su Se So.]*

I was weak at the 'Sa' line....

"Oh, Will is wriggling about! Are you already awake? Are you crying?"

The door opened and Father walked in.

I could hear his footsteps about 3 times as he walked on the carpet and carried me up. It must be because I was so small right now but Father looked so huge. No...His height must be over 180cm. And though I said he looked like me from the previous life, there was some fantasy elements mixed in. Because his face looked Caucasian. That silky silver hair with green eyes. 'Who is this chuunibyō?' kind of feeling. I mean, silver hair and green eyes!

But his face was plain so what a pity.

"Your mother is still changing so let's wait for her while you play with papa~"

He said happily, stroking his face against mine. It was good that you were happy but, touch! That stubble of yours hurt, Father!

“Sha yuu beii bobaaree!! ” (Shave your beard properly!)

I used all of my strength to resist as I wiggled my arms and feet about and yelled but my short limbs could not reach him so the critical hits kept on coming.

“Ooh! See your father made you so happy, Will?”

Plus, not being able to speak properly made him misunderstand~!!

Damn it...I had to practice my pronunciation from now on! I would try my best!

After that I was completely exhausted and so I obediently played with Father until Mother arrived.

I... would try my best!!

CHAPTER 9

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN WORDS, GET A PICTURE BOOK!

The boring days were over.

That's right! I could finally lift my head!!

And then, I learned how to crawl immediately due to the result of me doing muscle training frantically every day. Now, I could even do 'bye bye' movements.

Yep, I was so moved when I could first turn myself. It was my most emotional moment since my reincarnation that I could just cry...

But, from here on now it would be difficult. Why? Because I was under 24 hours surveillance. By Mother. By Mary San. By all the other maids.

Talking about them, they loved to make silly faces as they looked at me while going "So cute! So cute that I can just eat him!" and pinched my cheeks. To tell the truth, they were really scary. Mah, to the plain looking me, this might just be the only time I was going to get this treatment.

And so I would slip under their surveillance and escape from the room....which had to happen after I could break out from my crib.

This. Annoying. Fence!

I wanted to climb over it but as the strength in my legs was lacking, I sadly gave up. This would be impossible till I had the strength to stand. And so, in my disappointment, I moped around.

While glaring at the fence.

And then, I realized something.

There was a door on the fence! The lock was fashioned like some wooden puzzle ring to prevent babies from opening it. However! I had this (brain)!

I pointed to the sky, setting it as my victory pose and grinned.

The result.

So easy.

It was a little scary going down but relying on the special strength of a baby's grip, I somehow managed to reach the floor.

“Hmpt.”

I looked at the crib and waved bye-bye while laughing.
Yep, what a sense of achievement.

But I could not afford to stand here carelessly anymore. Because I made use of the time where everyone was busy doing their chores to slip out.



And so, after many cycles of infiltration, after so much sweat and tears, I finally conquered this huge house! What great job I did since I was not once found by anyone. Please praise me. Could it be that I actually had the talent to become a spy?

And I made a big discovery.

We had a room that was filled with so many books that it could be called a mini library! This discovery to me, who wanted knowledge, made me so excited!

But!

I hit a huge roadblock.

I...could not read the words of this world!!

And so, I was planning to use 'that'.

I grabbed the thing that was placed at the entrance of the library with my mouth. Yes, I looked like a dog but there was no choice, this was the most efficient.... To the crawling me.



“Oh my, are you awake, Will?”

Today, my gorgeous Mother, as always, came in from the room next door at the perfect timing. Whew....That was dangerous.

“Uh.”

And then, I took out the thing I got hold of. Yes, I was going to use ‘that’.

“A picture book? Why is it here? I wonder if Mary brought it to you... Would you like to read it, Will?”

To Mother who made up a random reason on her own, I did a victory pose mentally. With a ‘ Yes! I was waiting for this! ‘ meaning behind, I replied happily.

“Uh♪”



“And happily ever after.”

To tell the truth, the story was awful. It started with ‘Once upon a time’, a Grandpa and Grandma who wanted to leave their life of poverty behind, found an abandoned child, picked him up and raised him and suddenly their magic talent went through the roof and they became rich and saved the world, kind of story.

What the heck was that. Somewhere in the middle suddenly magic entered the story. As soon as I thought this story was going to be like Japanese folk tales with some kind of morals to be learnt and suddenly things just took a turn towards fantasy!

Such unexpected development just made me want to tsukkomi. *[TN: Retort]*

Ah, but thanks to that I memorized the alphabets. But man, a baby’s brain was awesome. I thought I would have trouble memorizing if it was symbols like Hiragana *[TN:Japanese alphabets]* but it turned out to be stuff like (english) alphabets so it was easy.

“Ta..Ooo.”

I thought I would at least say thank you to Mother.

“You are the most welcome.”

Mother smiled.

...It got through...!

This is the rumored bond between a mother and child?

And so, from now on, my daily activities consisted of muscle training, pronunciation training, infiltration investigations and book reading over and over.

CHAPTER 10

I CAME TO UNDERSTAND VARIOUS THINGS

A few months had passed since I could lift my head up. Just a little more to go before I turned 1 year old. I learned to stand and could now use my hands to grab stuff. I also came to know more about this world. For example, this world did not have a name. Thinking about it, it was not all that weird. My previous world was named 'Earth' but that was actually the name of a planet, and not the actual name of the world.

Meh, all that I learned were all from the books I could read anyway.

For one, there was magic in this world!

Yep. I had thought the story in the Picture Book was ridiculous but it turned out to be a rather famous fairy tale. In short, magic existed in this world and everyone could use it! Although talent was another thing.

My excitement just soared through the roof when I learned about it. I was sure anyone would agree with me feeling like shouting 'HERE IT IS!!! '.

And so, from today, I would be experimenting. Even though the maids were going to run around looking for me, who had escaped from the crib, but I didn't care! I had a huge task ahead of me now!

"Alrighty!"

Sitting in the library alone, I felt my excitement rising as I held a book in my hand.

『Magic That Even Monkeys Understand Elementary』

What a title. You didn't know if the author was trying to make a pun or not. It was really amazing that this book, with a title that treated people like idiots, was the compression of the eternal dreams Earthlings ever had. Excited, I opened the book and began to slowly, carefully read it.

"Yep,yeup."

That was not me fumbling with my words.

『 The basics of Magic

1. Let's Sense Magic : Mana is all around you and in you.
2. Let's Manipulate Magic : If you can feel the mana, imagine it flowing. After getting used to it, try gathering it in your hand.
3. Let's try Using Magic : Mana and Incantations are needed. To know more about Incantations, please go to the next page 'Chapter 2 : Incantations'! 』

Yep, yep. How orthodox!

This was really fantasy! I mean, it was word for word from the web novel I read!
...The imagination of Earthlings was incredible.

And so, I started to practice according to the book. As I had my previous memories, I had already grasped the meaning of point 1. This warm feeling inside and outside must be 'Mana'.

And erm...Next was to imagine the flow...

It was like I grew a new organ. Kinda like 'I grew a 6th toe!'. Anyway, even if the mana was drifting about, a part of me could still recognize it.

Hm...hm..hmmmm...

As I was having trouble with it, suddenly I felt like a nerve had been unlock and the Mana started moving.

Yes, here it comes!

This must be what they mean by feeling the flow. I felt like ClaXX from HeiXX, GiXX Of The Alps. This must be the same feeling as how XXare first being able to walk.

[TN: Classic Japanese Anime, Hedi, Girl of the Alps.]

"Mumumu..."

For the first time, I gathered Mana, which felt ticklish yet soft – a very unusual sensation, into my hand. The temperature of it was not hot, yet it felt warm. Was Mana something like life force? The warmth it produced felt like the life force, or part of it.

I scattered the gathered Mana and turned to the next page.

『 ~Chapter 2 : Incantations~

To activate magic, either incantations or Magic formation is needed. Chantless incantation exists but that needs a freaking amount of Mana!

And now, you would need to know your attribute. It's important!

As not to dry up your Mana, let's remember the incantations.

Magic formations is also written in this book, try it if you are free.

But they are difficult to draw, and if you have the time to draw, saying them will be loads faster so incantations is recommended ☆ 』

What was with this introduction? What a flippant attitude. I mean, '..recommended ☆'... My sight shifted down the page.

...Eh?

[火]...?

I started to doubt my eyes. The formation and incantation that were written was in Japanese no matter how you saw it. No, it could not be. I looked at the explanation.

『 [火 (Fire)] : Pronunciation ヒ (He) [TN: Japanese, Hi]

To create fire. Depending on the amount of mana you use, the output will be different. Beginner = This! Let's try doing it immediately! 』

Yep, it was not my eyes. LOL Japanese. LOL Kanji.

What was this double standards.

I was stunned for a few seconds but bouncing back quick was one of the few good traits I possessed.

I pulled myself together and started reading the detailed explanation.

『 First, things to note before chanting! Everybody's attribute is different. The basis is 1 attribute per person, if you have 2, let's go, court's level! For magic outside your attribute, if you find yourself unable to activate it even with incantations or it ends up shabby, don't be disappointed! There is always the next time! Don't go bluffing yourself

that you got the incantation wrong. 』

What was it with this tone? It was really annoying.

Ooh, the basic attributes were Fire, Water, Earth, Wind..., and Light, Shadow, Air etc. There was even unidentified attributes. The research being done on that was freaking difficult so that was unrelated to monkeys.

...Oi, author, what the heck were you doing. It was horrible how you treated readers like monkeys. Yes, I knew the title of your book was 'Magic Even Monkeys Can Understand'. Even so!

...Whatever. Let's pull myself together and try doing it!

Pretending to be cool, I did a meaningless cough. I then stretched out my hand and started to gather mana the size of a ping-pong ball.

“[Fire]”

I chanted, looking at the ball of mana. With a 'Pong!', a fireball the size of a ping-pong ball appeared in the air.

Here it is!!!!!!!

Congratulations!! Thank you!!

I could use magic!

In my excitement, the fireball began to fall. ...Oops, how dangerous...

Calming myself, I began analyzing. First of all, it looked like my attribute was Fire. I was relieved. I did think about me failing to use magic. Come to think of it, all of the novels I read talked about the importance of imagination.

“[Fire]”

Once again, I gathered mana the size of a ping-pong ball in my hands, using imagination as I chanted. Then, a loud 'poof!' and a fireball the size of a volley ball appeared!

“Wah!”

Shocked, I extinguished the fire ball. Because, this body of mine was still at the level of a 1 year old! Holding a fireball the size of a volley ball was too close to my face!

But as I thought, imagination was important. Coming to understand that, I gathered mana in the air instead of my hand this time round. Which reminded me, if I added oxygen carefully, would the flame turn blue? Let's try. I imagined a gas burner as I chanted and as I thought, a blue flamed fireball appeared.

“Awesome!”

I exclaimed unintentionally. Yep, I did not fumble with my words. I began to wonder if the fireball could be moved and I tried moving it.

It looked like the haunted houses in a theme park ♪

As I was having fun experimenting, time was ticking away. It was about time to return to my room or people were really going to get worried. I looked outside the window and checked the position of the sun. It was time for lunch~ Lunch~♪

But I got caught up in the moment and made a dragon shaped fireball. Please don't say anything chuunibyō like a fire dragon!

I opened the door a little to check if anyone was in the corridor before I went out of the library. Ah, even if I called it a library, it was just one of the rooms in the house. Mah, it did have bookshelves that reached all the way to the ceiling.

After this I would not need to sneak out of my room for a while. I could just train in my room!



“My, Will! Where so you keep disappearing off to~!”

Mother was there when I returned. In the room next to the bedroom.

“Really...Being so alike to that person in places you really do not need to.”

Mother said, sighing while sporting a happy look. That pierced deep into my heart. I knew...I had this plain-looking face...but to say that to a 1 year old...

“Mather.”

I said, trying to lift myself up.

“Yes, Will?”

“Can chu use machic?”

I sounded awkward and like an idiot but I was trying! Seeing that I was 1 year old please give some leeway!

“Oh my, why all of a sudden?”

Mother was a little shocked at the question.

“Becasue, it is witten in the pictchu book.”

Whatever worked.

“Arara, it is because of that you went out?”

Mother crouched down, looking amused.

...Damn it, my mother was gorgeous. Trying to hide my feelings, I nodded.

“Is that so? That is my Will!”

Mother stroked my head delightfully. Even though this inner me was a high schooler who felt a little embarrassed, it felt really pleasant so I had a silly smile on.

“Haha.”

Laughing to hide my embarrassment, Mother lifted her hand that stroked me.

“[Water]!”

She chanted. Why all of a sudden?!

“Wahhhhh!”

I cried, emotional. Let’s move aside the fact that Mother always did things suddenly.

Rather than that, it was beautiful. The water produced from magic, was floating in the air.

“It is too soon to be surprised.”

Mother laughed as she looked at me.

“Your father is so much better.”

Eh...for real?

CHAPTER 11

SEEMS LIKE FATHER IS AMAZING

“Your father is so much more brilliant at it.”

Mother, you’ve got a really beautiful smile on.

...That was not it! Father was a lot more brilliant? That silly and plain Father?

“Reelly?”

I hoped you would forgive me for making such a doubtful face.

“Are you doubting it, Will? Really, this child..”

Ah, exposed. I laughed, trying to cover it up.

“Your father is a ‘Double’ you know.”

“...Doublru?”

Ah, I kinda get it know. But that Father was...

As I was thinking of rude things, the door opened suddenly. And while I was shocked at that, I was lifted up that shocked me even more.

“Here we go! Your father is amazing you know.”

He said, as he rubbed his face against mine. Ah, Father shaved his beard. Must be because I said it hurt earlier on.

“Oh my, are you not at the office?”

“Yeah, my work for today is finished as there are not much paperwork.”

This conversation was taking place over my head.

Ah, that meant I must be lifted up by Father, carried and had my face rubbed against his.

...This idiotic doting father? Awesome? Were you kidding me?

“What isu doublru?”

Since I was born, I could finally reach my father and so I avoided him wanting to pinch my face. The doting idio...Father, with a look of regret, carried me over to the sofa and began speaking happily.

“Being interested in magic already Will? You are my son indeed!”

“He is also mine you know!”

Yep, it began like this and since this was taking longer then expected, I shall cut it all out.

As the book had written, there were attributes in magic and basically, each person had 1. But, as I thought, Father seemed to be a ‘Double’ elite who possessed 2 attributes. By the way, his attributes were Fire, which was the most common, and Wind.

It seemed that he stayed at his father’s, my grandfather, friend’s place and trained. And there, he contributed to the nation and was scouted by the knights. Now, he had become the leader of the knights.

By the way, the friend of grandfather’s was a well-known adventurer in this nation.

...What was with this cheat-like bastard.

We had the same plain looks so what was with this gap in status?

“Father issu awesome!”

But, I was still proud of the fact that my father was so brilliant that even the country acknowledged it. Besides, what a fantasy it was, from an adventurer, to become a knight.

Simulated by that word, my brain had already reached a fever state.

“Ahahahaha, that’s right, I am awesome!”

Father looked so happy. Since he was in a good mood, there was a chance! Let’s get cocky and use the ultimate tactic, ‘Upturn eyes’!

“Father, I wanchu use magic too!”

“Is that so, you want to be like Father, don’t you, Will?”

“Father, can I do chuow?”

“Hm, Will. Right now your mana isn’t enough, how about waiting till you are older?”

Saying that, Father rubbed my head, messing up my hair.

Eh...? But I had enough... It must be that by the mana I had, the results would end up shabby anyway so it would be better not to try.

“Then, when chu I ruent? ” (When can I learn?)

Man, did I fumble with the words but I didn’t mind, the more important thing was the result.

“Will is a good boy so I really want to teach you, but the mana required to activate magic is more then what a 1 year old child can produce. How about waiting till Will is 10?”

Father persuaded me.

...Hm? ...What did he say just now? I did not have the mana required to activate magic?
...I believed that Father was not lying so that must be the common knowledge of this world.

...But...eh...I just did it...?

Taken aback, I stared at my hand. I could still feel the mana.
Could it be that I...was amazing?

I looked up at Father and smiled.

“Okay! Will wait!”

Hehehehe...Let me surprise you! I was gonna become the Master of Magic!

After that, it went without saying that I was once again, ‘assaulted’ by Father with his face... Sob sob...

CHAPTER 12

I CANNOT BELIEVE IT

It was a few days after I came to know about Father's cheat like existence.

My 1st birthday.

We had a small party in the house. I received a picture book from Mother and a doll from Mary San. Hm, to tell the truth I did not really need those.

But the fact that my birthday was being celebrated by anyone had already made me very happy....Let's keep it a secret that I instinctively embraced Mother.

Due to his work, Father had to rush over to the edge of his territory as soon as possible.

"Wait for me and look forward to it!"

With that and a smile, Father left. Ah no, he was not dead yet.

I had a bad feeling about this....Let's just wait without any anticipation.

I trained sneakily and was able to use fire magic quite easily now.

There had been a few close shaves though, like how suddenly someone would enter the room. I would cancel the magic once I heard the door opened and the important part was to put on a nonchalant face.

I really did seem to have a talent in spying. Hehe.

And so I would be trying a new skill today!

After hearing the fact that Father was a 'Double', I had hopes of being one myself. Since the incantations were in Japanese, I did not need to go through the trouble to read the book. And so, I sat on the sofa and murmured softly.

"[水]" [TN: Water, japanese Mizu]

As a matter of fact, I could actually cast fire chantlessly. It had been some time since I chanted so I was a little nervous. A cute 'Pong!' sounded and a ball of water appeared, floating in the air.

I did it! That's amazing! We were indeed father and son, I was a 'Double' too!

"Yay!"

I was so happy that, against my better judgment, jumped on the sofa. Getting ahead, without thinking, I began to cast magic of other attributes continuously.

"[土]! [風]! [光]! [闇]!" *[TN: Here we go.. Earth, wind, light, dark / shadow. Japanese, Do, Fu, Hikari, Yami.]*

Balls began to appear in a 'Pong pong pong pong' rhythm.

...Eh?

The Result.

I can cast them all !

"For real..?"

The feeling was so unreal that I laughed. This was a dream! ...Was how I tried to escape but in front of my eyes, cubes of earth, spiral of wind, ball of light and something like a ball of blackness were floating in the air.

"...unt I awesome?"

I muttered, dumbfounded for a moment. Finally I came to my senses and, when all 4 balls of magic disappeared, did I accept reality.

"CHEAT CAME!!!!!!!!!"

I yelled. Wasn't it awesome?! How fun! Because the incantations were in Japanese, if I said it badly I would sound like the blue tanuki.

I trembled, excited. In the heat of the moment I punched the air.

And then, I remembered.

...hm? I was supposed to have not...received any [cheat] from god...

But the fact that I was stuck in that pose was my retribution.

The door opened with a 'gassha' and Mary San entered. Just nice, I was standing right in front of that door.

Our eyes met.

“.....”

“.....Young Master Will.....”

I knew what you want to say so please don't say it! Please don't say I was embarrassing!

“Mary San...whatsu uppu?”

I looked up at Mary as I slowly lowered my raised fist. Trying to stop something, I cocked my head to the side like a child.

I would definitely not say that Mary let out a snort of laughter and turned her back on me, something she rarely did.

How awful! Please give me some leeway seeing that I was just a year old child!

...Ah. A Noble's kid would not do this kind of action.. I would take care not to do it again.

“...Cough. Young Master, your lunch is prepared in the dining room.”

“Okay, I am going...”

The trembling Mary San who was trying to bear her laughter and the depressed me.Let's not be bothered about it.

Mary San held my hand and we began walking towards the idiotically huge room.

Yes, I had weaned! How's that! Was I fast or what! Though it was still only baby food but I was glad I weaned before I got addicted.

Walking down the long corridor, we arrived in front of the dining room and Mary San opened the door.

“Thank chu...”

At the moment I said it, something lunged towards me. I backed up by reflex but sadly, I was caught.

“Father...”

“Ooh, I am back!”

Aah, I had a bad feeling about this. Why not just telling me that Father was back, I thought as I looked at Mary San. Our eyes met. ...Ah.

“Have you waited long, Will? Father has brought back a huge present!”

Father beamed.

“Loads of coupons for playing with Father!”

“Hiyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

My unpleasant premonition came true!



Will [Your beard hurts!]

Father [Ah, sorry.]

Will [High up high up is scary! (It's embarrassing)]

Father [No need to be reserve!]

Will [NoAh.]

Father [That's it!]

Will [Kyaaaaaaaa!!!]

Father [Okay! Next is hide and seek!]

After a few minutes.

Will [.....Exhausted.]

Will is then determined to train his body.

CHAPTER 13

MARY SAN'S DIARY

I was working as a head maid of Beryl House, for the pride of the nation, a Noble and a Knight's Leader, Gion Sama, for a few years. But...

A few days ago, the heir, Williams Sama, was born.

Williams-Beryl Sama.

He inherited the silky and soft silver hair from Master and the green eyes from Madam. His eyes shone brightly like the gemstone of the sun, Peridot.

His long and thin eyes, strong nose and small cute lips. *[TN: As for his eyes, remember that they are closed.]* All perfectly balanced and arranged on his face. There was no doubt...his beauty would exceed Master's....cough.

A few days ago, his first birthday came and he welcomed it in the cutest way possible.

The other day, he was surrounded by the other maids, who kept saying how cute he was and even pinched his cheeks. How unbelievable, I wanted to do it to-.... cough.

And that Young Master Will was no other but a genius! Beautiful and clever, and since he was the son of the now-defeated Master Gion, his athlete abilities must be good! Why was he such a genius?

To be specific; firstly was his language ability.

Before he could even support his head, he seemed to be able to understand our words. I had a feeling he could understand and even answered me whenever I spoke to him. And in these few days, he could already carry a normal conversation.

However, Young Master ...

Time to time would sing some strange songs.

"A, E, I, O, U" [Japanese Ah, Ii, Uu, Eh, Oh]

He would sing with that 5 tones like there was a regularity to it....Maybe there was some meaning to it?

But, this perfect Young Master, had a flaw!

He loved to wander! Leaving your eyes from him even a moment, he would slip off somewhere, using those skillful baby hands of his.

Good grief...I wondered where he wandered off to everyday.

Tomorrow, Master was expected to return from his investigations of the territory. I wondered if I needed to get up early tomorrow...Well then, it was time for me to head to bed.

I wondered what reaction Young Master would give tomorrow... How exciting.



“Yawn..”

I had a good sleep.

A maid’s morning started early. However, I was the head so I was not allowed to sleep in late.

Which reminded me, it seemed like Young Master had not been wandering around these few days. It started after Master talked to Young Master about something.

I cracked my neck and got down from the bed, putting my shoes on. Standing in front of the mirror, I tied my long hair up the way it usually was tied.

...Sigh, I was getting older...I could see crow’s feet...

It was inevitable since I turned 40 years old, I could only accept it.



I wanted to inform Young Master that Master was returning today but was stopped. ‘It’s a surprise!’ he went, in high spirits.

I ended up having some free time before I was to call on Young Master for lunch.

“Mary San isu busy with wirk. I am fine bi meself so it’su okay to finish yuor werk fiist.”

Was what Young Master said, so I could only play with him after finishing all the housework.

He had said it in a polite way but it seemed to have an underlying meaning to it.

I needed to finish all my housework fast so I could play!

I walked briskly towards the room next to Master and Madam's bedroom.

“!!!”

I was able to hear Young Master's ecstatic voice from inside the room even when I was in the corridor! How rare!

I wondered what he was doing! I was going to participate as well!

'Knock knock'.

I lightly knocked on the door and pushed it open....

“.....”

“.....Young Master.....”

My eyes met with Young Master who was raising his fist up in a pose happily.

How cute! Too cute!

As I temporarily went speechless..

“Mary San...whatsu uppu?”

He said as he slowly lowered his raised arm and looked up at me. Yaaa, how dangerous. I must be showing what I was thinking on my face...

And then Young Master tilted his head.

Ah, my nose bled.

Without thinking, I turned my back on him.

“...Cough. Young Master, your lunch is prepared in the dining room.”

“Okay, I am going...”

...Too cute. What was it with this kind of torture?!

I trembled from the thought of wanting to hug him tight.

Think zen thoughts...zen...

Reaching the dining room, I opened the door.

“Thank chu...”

Young Master was a kind soul who never forgot to thank me, a maid. But his lisp was too cute.

Our eyes met when he was being hugged by Master... Too cute!

He must have been looking forward to playing with Master!

CHAPTER 14

BIRTHDAY! DEBUT! (FIRST PART)

A child's work was to play, to eat and to sleep.

I bade farewell to the 1 year of being a kid which I enjoyed very much.

In that year I played with Father in the garden sometimes, had Mary San read pictures books to me, played building blocks with Mother. And also practicing magic when no one was looking.

It seemed like in this world, the growth of the body was faster as compared and nowadays, I was eating what adults were eating. Eating food that Nobles ate.

But somehow even though the ingredients were high-grade, there were times when the taste was so bland that I yearned for a stronger, junk-food like taste.

Which I felt was such a pity.

And that kind of me was finally turning 3 years old today!

Finally! 3 years old!

Actually, upon coming into this world, I made a promise with myself. 3 years old, it was 3 years old. When I could finally show my thirst for knowledge as well as speech and conduct. As I had memories of my previous world, I came to the conclusion that it would not be strange for a child to have a thirst of knowledge at 3 years old.

Honestly, hearing all about Father's hero's tale and gossips about the nation from the maids made me unable to stop thinking about it!

And finally the day which I could do something came and I was so excited.

Ah, no, it was that I was excited about the party or looking forward to the presents or stuff like that. I was not.

And that kind of me is finally turning 3 today!

Finally! 3 years old!

Actually, upon coming into this world, I made a promise with myself. 3 years old, it is 3 years old. When I can finally show my thirst for knowledge as well as speech and conduct. As I have memories of my previous world, I came to the conclusion that it would not be strange for a child to have a thirst of knowledge at 3.

Honestly, hearing all about Father's hero's tale and gossips about the nation from the maids made me unable to stop thinking about it!

And finally the day which I can do something came and I am so excited.

Ah, no, it is that I am excited about the party or looking forward to the presents or stuff like that. I am not.



“Young Master.”

Mary San took my hand and opened the huge door.

“Good luck.”

With that, we entered the room. I gave a small nod, and looked in front of me. A red curtain filled my sight. Splendor gold ornament embellished it, a rare sight in our house.

And if I turned my head a little, what entered my sight would be people, people, people....

Yes, today was my birthday party slash debut party.

3 years old debuting was a little early but when I heard about it, my first impression was that it must be a custom among Nobles.

Tentatively, it was the birthday of the eldest son of a distinguished family so a magnificent buffet was held, where the likes of Nation's high ranking officers and Nobles were invited.

...Uwah, how very noble-ish... Even though I was a Noble as well...

Did I have to do courtesy calls? To become a Tanuki to find out what was their intentions? *[TN: Meaning using sly methods to gauge their intentions or what they are thinking.]* Well, I had been worrying about all these things but it turned out that because I was only 3 years old, my duty was only to do the introductory speech at the beginning.

Ah, I was relieved.

And thus, I was at the stage of a ballroom-like room in my house, standing at the side, behind the curtains, waiting for my turn.

...I was not..nervous..not but since I was only 3 years old, I could pretend to be innocent. Thinking of ridiculous excuses like that, I could remain somewhat calm.

There was no royalty here. There was no state officers here. Everyone was a pumpkin!

Yes, pumpkin...no, that person might be an egg that looked like a pumpkin. Oh, I was about to burst into laughter, and thanks to that, my nervousness lessened.

Thank so much, Egg-like Uncle. In my heart, you were THE Humpty-Dumpty.

And as I was thinking about rude stuff like that, Father finished his greetings and my name was called on stage.

On the palm of my hand, I wrote 'EGG' 3 times and swallowed it down. I steeled myself and walked out of the curtain and onto the stage. *[TN: Japanese custom is to write people, 人, 3 times on the palm and swallowed it down to prevent nervousness.]*

“Oooh!”

Immediately all eyes were on me and astonished gasps could be heard.

...E,eh?! Eh, eh, was there something wrong with me? Was there something stuck on me? It could not be, were my clothes torn?

The EGG I just swallowed felt like it exploded somewhere inside me but somehow, I managed to control my expression and walked to the center of the stage slowly, minding my posture.

I faced the front.

I could see the Egg (-like Uncle). ...Phew...I felt more composed.

“As introduced, I am Williams-Beryl. Today is my birthday party for celebrating me becoming 3 years old and I am really grateful to all of you for accepting the invitation. I hope you can enjoy yourselves and hope you have a great chime.”

Commotion stirred among the guests.

Uwah...Damn it, I fumbled!

Wasn't it fine, I was only 3 years old! ...Of course, I guessed a Noble had to really do it properly...

I controlled the urge to hang my head and mustered the last of my energy. Pasting a pleasant smile on my face, I slowly and elegantly bowed.

“And so, let the feast start.”

With that one sentence from Father, the room became brighter.

...It must be light magic.

I bowed once more, to the noisy guests who held wine or appetizers in their hand, and walked back backstage.

...Hahhhh....I was tired.

As I released a deep sigh, the door opened and I met eyes with Mary San.

“.....”

“You worked hard, Young Master. It was a wonderful speech.”

...I fumbled though.

But I accepted Mary San's compliment honestly. ...I think it was okay to not rub salt into my wounds.

“Thank you.”

I smiled, finally relaxed, and entered the room.

CHAPTER 15

BIRTHDAY! DEBUT! (LAST PART)

After the speech, my 3 years old body started to yearn for sleep so I was led by Mary San, as she held my hand, back into the bedroom. And I had totally no memory of getting changed...

It was bright outside the window before I realized it. I must have slept through the entire night just like that.

...What a disgrace...

...How embarrassing...

...It must be because the party was held at night. It could not be helped because I was only 3 years old! Yep, that's right! I also did not fumble with my words yesterday because I was 3 years old.

I crawled to the edge of the bed, being careful not to wake my parents, who were sleeping besides me. Climbing down from the bed without making a sound was almost impossible for me at this point.

Why? Wasn't it obvious that it was because this bed was ridiculously big and high? I really felt like asking how many people it was planned for.

After much effort, I finally got down from the bed and put on my shoes, which was beautifully lined up along with the others.

...Man, it was really small...Every time I looked at my feet I would always be amazed by the smallness of it.

Slowly, slowly.

With stealthy steps, I headed towards the door connecting to the room next door. Turning the knob without making a sound, I opened the door.

Yep, let's change.

I got out of my pajamas casually and took out from the closet a white shirt, black vest and black pants. I was worried that I would hate my clothes if they ended up being very noble-ish but it was unfounded. Their sense was actually quite good. Aside from the medieval style.

The material, as expected as a Noble, was quite good. At first, I was really nervous about wearing it. What if I dirtied it? ...But I got used to it now...

“Yawn..”

I sat on the sofa, yawning. As my legs could not reach the ground, I just swung them aimlessly.

“Funfunfunfunfunfu~m ♪”

It was not because I was looking forward to family party later on. The humming was because of... that. It was because I had nothing to do.

This period where my parents were still asleep and the maids were busy with the housework was always my free time. I often used it to practice my magic.

Chantlessly, I casted magic of all attributes and moved them about. It was really fun recently as my control got better. Let's try hitting them like a game of billiards.

Come to think of it.....

And suddenly I thought of the blue Tanuki. That darkness attribute...looked like that. The novels I read had the same thing as well...

Struck with an idea, I executed it immediately.

First of all, I made a figure-like thing from earth magic.

“[Subspace]~!”

With the blue Tanuki in mind, I tried chanting it slow as well as dragging the sound out...

“Did it work...?”

For now, a black-like stuff appeared in front of my eyes. All right, let's experiment with it.

I placed the clay figure into it. The subspace disappeared. I cast it again.

"I did it...!"

It worked! It seemed like I could put 1 clay figure into it. This time round, I made 10 figures at once and tried putting it in.

It went it.

YEAHHHHHHHHH!!!

I did it!!!!!!

Overjoyed, I wiggled on the sofa. I continued like that for a while.

....I got tired. So I relaxed myself on the sofa.

With this, my Blue Tanuki plan took a step forward. As I sat there, bathing in my satisfaction, someone knocked on the door.

"Come in."

The door opened with a swish and Mary San entered. In her hands was her usual equipment for the morning, a broom, pail and a dust cloth.

"Mary San, good morning."

"Good morning, Young Master.Please call me if you are awake. Please let the maids dress you up."

I was told by the other maids as well but honestly, with my previous memories this was too embarrassing.

It was torture.

"Eh...But you are all so busy in the morning, it just does not feel right."

I said, using thoughtfulness as an excuse but...

"This is our job or rather we are working because of Young Master so please do not

worry about it. Please do not take our job away!”

And I was petitioned against.

“Okay, then, from the next time onwards.”

I would not call though.

I smiled, trying to push Mary San to agree. I was sly?

Not at all! This was self-defense!

The maids were scary! Plus, it was embarrassing!

Smiling, Mary San began to clean the room. Actually, it was supposed to be done before I woke up but I woke up early today.

....It’s not like I woke up because I was excited...

Watching Mary San’s movement from the sofa, I started to feel drowsy and began to doze off.



“...ster, Young Master. Preparations are ready. Let us go, Young Master.”

In the end, I fell asleep...

Mary San woke me up, standing from across the sofa. I put on the shoes I didn’t remember kicking off, took Mary San’s hand and went out of the room.

It was a secret that I was fidgety as I walked along the corridor.

Like usual, Mary San opened the huge door leading to the dining room.

“””” Happy Birthday! (Young Master) “”””

Who were waiting there, were Father, Mother and the rest of the maids. They congratulated me all at once.

“Thank you!”

I then decided, that today, to be the 3 years old I was, and leaped into my parents’

arms.

I could feel the warmth of a family.



Father : What Present would you like?

Will : ...Hmm...A book.

Father : I see, a picture book! What kind do you like?

Will : Not a picture book, a book. I want a dictionary.

Father :

Mother :I wonder what should I give.

Will : I want to play with Mother!

Mother : Ah ra, Will♪

Father :

CHAPTER 16

THE SON OF BERYL HOUSE (14 POV)

Tonight, I was invited to the birthday party for the son of the famous Beryl's house.

The head of a distinguished family as well as the leader of the knights, Gion Sama. Well known of his intellect and also his strength, as was seen by the military. A person I greatly respected.

My name is John Veltor.

I was born in a mid-class noble house and was currently a scholar. Even if I said so myself, I thought I could be considered as clever. But my house could be said as rotten.

My father was deplorable and my foolish brothers followed his footsteps. They squeezed tax money out of their subjects and spent it on pleasure. How shameless. As the 2nd son, I could do nothing. It was frustrating so to become someone who could stand up to that, I abandoned my house. Now, I was working hard as a scholar.

Gion Sama, whom I respected. As rumors went, he imposed good governance across his territory and when I met him in person, I trembled at his wiseness. How could such a perfect person exist?

.....But....

I often heard rumors about Beryl's house's child.

That he was a genius.

That he was a prodigy.

Gion Sama said that too...It was unimaginable.

He was a strict person for better or worst.

But he was a parent after all.

This was disappointing. I felt like going home.

Possessing great intellect, was very reliable, that was why...

The person standing on the stage talking, was that really Gion Sama?

Certainly, standing in front of a crowd at only 3 years old was a little impressive but at most that meant his growth was faster than other children.

In the end, this was just fond parents showing off their child, I thought as I looked up at the stage.

“””” OOH! “”””

The young child walked out from the curtains. And the event hall was filled with commotion.

I too, unintentionally held my breath.

....It was like an angel had appeared. Soft silky silver hair, that ended a little below his ears, swayed along the wind, green transparent pupils that stared gently yet with focus, he walked out with an air of composure. All of his well-featured parts were perfectly arranged on his face, like a miracle.

And most of all, the aura surrounding him.
You would not think he was just 3 years old.

His eyes, shining with intellect, faced the front.

“As introduced, I am Williams-Beryl. Today is my birthday party for celebrating me becoming 3 years old and I am really grateful to all of you for accepting the invitation. I hope you can enjoy yourselves and hope you have a great chime.”

What in the world this was.

That speech with no hesitation, you would not believe a 3 years old child said it. He was a genius...no, a prodigy. Now I finally understood what Gion Sama said.

And then, he smiled gently.
An ANGEL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A commotion stirred up again, Gion Sama said something but I could take nothing in now.

Lighting had struck me.

I wanted to talk to the child, Williams Sama, so badly that I could not stand it.

CHAPTER 17

FATHER AND DOUBTS

I walked along the long and wide corridor. Even now I still could not get used to the feeling of walking on the soft carpet. I mean, stepping on this luxurious-like carpet with shoes on...Wasn't it scary?

Walking with my short legs, I finally reached the end. I knocked on the conspicuously huge door on the right.

Acknowledgment was heard coming from inside and so I stretched myself reaching for the knob and used my entire body to push the door open.

"Father."

The room was filled with stacks of papers and was framed by bookshelves all around. Yes, this room was Father's office and he was sitting right in the middle of the room.

"Ooh, Will, you have come."

Father was mostly buried in papers that were stacked high on his table and could be seen between the cracks.

Please tidy up.

I was looking at him from a distance but it seemed like he was really busy.

Father was one of the rare few feudal lords who imposed good governance across his territory. Once he succeeded the position, he reduced the taxes greatly and earned the public's support. He also solved problems like from a disaster or about the soil.

It was natural that he needed to merge all information about all the different places in his territory. However, I was proud of Father who was buried in it.

"Father, why did you call for me?"

This morning, Father told me to meet him at this time. As I rarely got to enter this

room, I was looking around.

“Hey Will, if you look around that much you are going to twist your neck off.”

Father laughed, got out from behind the mountain and stroked my head.

“No I won’t!”

I did not do that much looking around! Although it was true that I was charmed by the shelves of Spells Books...I had been acting more and more like a child these few days, let’s be more careful.

I let out the air that I used to puff my cheeks with.

“So what is the matter?”

I looked up at Father. Damn, he was tall! ...He was definitely taller than 180cm. Maybe more like 190cm. It was because I was only 3 years old, but being looked down on really made me feel annoyed...

Don’t say that I was small-minded!

I would definitely grow taller in the future and leave Father in the dust!

“Ah, I was just thinking it’s about time to hire a tutor for you.”

According to Father, the norm for nobles to hiring a tutor to teach about things like common knowledge, political movements, writing and math was usually when a child turned 5 years old. He must have thought I was ready.

...Well, the inner me was $17 + 3$ so I was an adult already.

Come to think of it, it seemed like my appeal about wanting to study finally got through. Ah, it was tiring, appealing while acting like 3 years old. I could get knowledge from reading on my own but it was rather difficult to explain when people asked so I was aiming for this development!

Of course, I agreed with a force as if to say ” Yeah! I have been waiting for this! “.

“But Will, why are you in such a rush to study?”

My intention that was conveyed to my Father perfectly made him ask about the reason. It could be said that it was because of my thirst for knowledge but to tell the truth, there was another reason for it.

“Father is always busy right? I will study and help Father.”

Touched, my Father started tearing.

This was quite embarrassing but it was true that I was proud of my busy Father and I genuinely wanted to help him with his work.

His looks were average so I wondered if this must be what they called charisma....

My father was clever and his brain turned fast. To the extent that scholars would take their hats off to him. Plus he was a ‘double’ magician. There was only 2 magicians in the royal court that were also ‘Double’ so it was not an exaggeration to say he was a great magician.

And, he became a knight due to his achievements and now, a knight’s leader. In short, he could be said to be the best in the nation. According to the maids’ gossips, Father was revered as the nation’s hero.

If he walked on the street, it would be drowned in ladies’ voices. ...Although his looks were average.

Ah, even he had silly intentions sometimes but he was still my pride and someone who I yearned to become. Popular even with average looks! ...At the very least, not to be disliked as in my previous world...

“Thank you, Will.”

Said Father who finally stopped crying and kept on stroking my head.

With the inner me being 20 years old, I was embarrassed, but this warmth that I had not experience before in my previous life made me happy so in the end, I came to like the stroking.

“It is my duty!”

Bashfully, I stuck my chest out and laughed.

...It was okay to laugh, wasn't it? It might look childish but I was a child.

"Ahh, thank you! And, about the tutor..."

Father looked troubled.

"What is the matter?"

"Ah, no, I don't know much about the person himself... but he is definitely one of the guests at your birthday party."

It was rare to see Father hesitating.

"Rather than saying he is a scholar working at the Royal Castle, it might be more fitting to call him a researcher... He is not a bad person but..."

"Eccentric?"

Father paused again.

"Ah...eccentric...Hmm...How I should explain. As the 2nd son of Viscount Veltor, he abandoned the family name... Sorry, the application was too sudden so I was not very clear on the details. A person who took great care of me in the Royal Castle told me about his great desire to work here as your tutor."

"...Not Veltor himself?"

"Ah no...erm, would you understand if I said there's heavy taxes involved...?"

....I see.

I might have looked at him with reproachful eyes. Flustering, Father mumbled " No matter who recommended him, hiring a strange man is... "

"Hmm....?"

I murmured before turning around to face Father with a smile. That person who took care of Father must be one that was of a higher rank... Oh well, as long as I got to study. Besides, I shouldn't be willful.

"Father, it's okay, I understand."

With a face that screamed 'I was saved', Father grabbed both of my hands.

“Oh! Try your best!”

As of now, the road of knowledge seemed to be full of difficulties.

CHAPTER 18

IT'S GOOD I'M BETRAYED (FIRST PART)

It was me who agreed for him to be the tutor, but he seemed to come from a really problematic family.

Home tutor — Was he planning to use the role of an educator as a connection to the Beryl's House, or, he just took notice of what a shameful performance I put up at the party and wanted to put me right....

Since it was all unclear at the moment, the only thing I was certain was that he would really be teaching me. Being 3 years old, I did not think he would be flattering me.

...It must be so. No, if I didn't believe in that I could not go on.

The person who took care of Father must be someone of a higher rank so I took pity and agreed, I could not possibly take it back now...

It would be so uncool.

Since that day, I visited Father's office and asked to borrow some documents about my tutor's family for information...

I could not back off here! I had to do it properly! Do not turn into a wimp!

The man who expressed his deep desire to become my home tutor this time was John Veltor.

He seemed to be the 2nd son of Viscount Veltor but as he had already abandoned his family name, I did not see any connections he had with his family now. Now, he was doing research in the Royal Court as a researcher and scholar. He also seemed to hold a position as an assistant.

But, the problem was Veltor's House.

The present head of the family was John's father, and it seemed that the next head was decided to be his older brother. The territory they ruled was one that had the heaviest tax in the entire nation. That was poor judgment no matter who looked at it. Plus, they

squandered money away like water. Luxurious furnishings, branded clothing, gemstones. As for food, they only ate meat of the highest grade.

What an irony, when you compared the pointless gaudiness of the residence with the worn-out village.

According to Father's documents, villagers from Veltor's territory moving over (here) had been increasing yearly.

What a picture perfect example of a heinous noble.

I closed my open mouth, looking at such cliché villains. It seemed that they had connections with the black market and dealt with slave trading as well.

Did John Veltor abandon his family after seeing all that? Or, despite being the 2nd son, possessed the ambition for greatness and reached for the Royal Court?

I definitely wanted to think that it was the former. Without thinking, I shuddered. And because of that, Father asked if I could read all that documents and I panicked.

With " Because everybody often read picture books to me. ", I managed to pull one over his eyes.

Father's sharp.

And so, I was very nervous about this home tutor.

That man, was coming right now.

...Ah...This was so worrying...You didn't really need to come you know? Yep. Ah, would he be a willful bastard who left in the middle of it on a whim?

So in that situation, sitting beside Father in the drawing room, I could not help but fidgeted.

".....Are you okay, Will? If you don't want it we can stop it now..."

Father said, turning his worried eyes on me.

“It’s okay.”

I puffed my chest, stuck my thumbs out and placed my left hand on my waist. And my stiff smile was just my way of showing affection.

Yes, I did not have cold feet.

Not me.

“Master.”

Mary San, the head maid, opened the door silently.

“Ah, has he arrived?”

And just like that, Father wiped his face clean of all uneasiness and stood, face full of smiles.

As expected of Father~!

What fast facial switch! A wolf in sheep’s clothing!

[TN: Japanese is ‘A cat is good at pretending!’]

I had to start learning if I wanted to help Father out in the future. Yosh, sheep’s clothing if there was a customer...Note taken.

I walked unsteadily behind Father down the long corridor till I reached the entry hall.



With my heart beating, I cracked open the door a smidge and peeked inside. The black double doors opened inwards and I could see a face.

“Welcome. Thank you for specially making your way down today. Please, come in.”

The smiling Father was an escort and the man, who Father invited, entered....

For a while, I was stunned. This was surprising.

Seeing that he was the 2nd son of a family of corrupted nobles, my image was of a

round, fat, ugly, pig looking bastard...the one who appeared was normal, no, possessing a well-balanced-figure man.

His silky black hair was tied up low at the back, on top of his upturned black eyes lay a pair of glasses. And through his glasses, which was resting on the bridge of his nose, was his intellectual eyes, like they were emphasizing on how clever he was.

I could not help but shout secretly in my heart, 'Here comes the megane [*TN: Glasses*] character!!!'.

Plus, despite of being a scholar, he had a well toned/balanced muscular body. He was not as tall as Father but his legs were long.

And I looked at my own feet.

....I, I was only 3 years old so I still had a long way to go!!

And when I realized it, Father and Mr.John had walked away. Panicking, I chased after them with my short legs. I felt slightly humiliated...sob.

And once John entered the drawing room, he sat across from Father and me, with a desk between us.

"This time, thank you so much for inviting me to come in as an educator position! Once I came to know that I am accepted, I am so grateful that I came flying over!"

Said John, just when Father was about to invite him to have a seat.

His eyes were sparkling.

He looked just like a kid who just came face to face with his Hero.I felt that before too, when I was at that age.

I smiled and looked at John Veltor, who, for some reason, fell silent.

"...Please pardon my rudeness. I got too excited and forgot my manners."

With that, he gave an ambiguous smile and sat down.

...That's great, he did not seem like a bad person.

Father seemed to be having the same thoughts as our eyes met.

"Nn, Veltor Sama... John Dono?"

"Yes!"

Just like a dog. He seemed to really revere Father. But, his eyes had been flickering over to me now and then. As I thought, he was interested in me who was to become his student.

"Yes, John Dono. You will accept the position of being the Home Tutor to my son, Will?"

I looked at the two, bewildered by how different my Father sounded as compared to his usual self.

"Yes, with great pleasure."

"We will be in your care from now on. Would it be fine for you to stay here?"

"Y..Yes!"

John replied, full of emotions and with a face of satisfaction.

...I thought we could get along well together.

While I was thinking about that, Father went 'Well, I will leave this with you.' and went out of the drawing room, leaving only the 2 of us and Mary-San alone.

I exchanged looks with Mary San, and with an elegant smile, she faced John.

"John Sama, may I show you the way to Will Sama's room?"

CHAPTER 19

IT'S GOOD I'M BETRAYED (LAST PART)

Right in the middle, a thick, huge table stood.
On the wall across, a huge window.
It gave the entire room a bright impression.
This was the room I had just received.

John and I were sitting opposite, facing each other at the table.

“Ah, Mary San, thank you.”

Mary San made tea and as it was, left the room.

“.....”
“.....”

How awkward.

Somehow, John was making a stiff face as he looked at me, coupled that with his upturned eyes, he looked scary.

“...Erm...”

When I spoke, he jumped and softened his nervous expression.

“Ah, I am sorry.”

He smiled, embarrassed and looked straight at me.

“I unknowingly got nervous. As you know, I am John Veltor, and I will be working as your tutor from today onward.”

Oh...A gentleman...

Till now, he had defied all of my expectations. His soft manner, polite tone of speaking,

none of it said 'prideful wicked noble'.

I put down my guard and relaxed my tensed body.
...I was sorry for misunderstanding you.

With that meaning in mind, I bowed my head.

"Yes, I will be in your care. I am Williams Beryl, please call me Will."

When I said that, John looked shocked.
...Hm? Did I do anything weird?

For the time being, I could not think of anything so I just continued.

"Erm, what should I call Veltor Sama?"

And John's shocked expression changed into a good humored smile.

"You can call me however you prefer. Only..."

With that, he had a seemingly wry smile and a mischievous expression.

"..not Veltor please."

Ah, I see.

I finally believed that, indeed, this man, as rumors said, had abandoned his family name. Right now, he seemed like an honest and gentlemanly fellow and I could not sense any bad vibes from him nor did he seem like the type who used flattery.

In fact, he felt a bit like a puppy...

Ah...I couldn't deny the possibility that he might be a sly fox...

According to my instinct, he was not a bad guy.

Happy by this fact, my face was full of smiles.

"Then, John Sensei! Would that be all right?"

Hey, if it's a tutor, then it could not be anything other than Sensei right!

Once I said that, John Sensei beamed at me.

...What was this sense of defeat? Hm.

He was beautiful. He was handsome. He was a bespectacled Ikemen prodigy.

...And also a gentleman.

It might had been he was nervous before. Now that I looked at him again, the first impression was not wrong. He was really an Ikemen. This was the first time I felt an intimacy with a black pupil, black haired person ever since I arrived in this world.

Grrr.... I was jealous.

It's okay! In the future even with an average face I would be popular!

“By the way, Will Sama.”

I nearly drowned in the tears of my thoughts before John Sensei's voice pulled me back to reality.

“John Sensei, please stop with the ‘Sama.’”

Again with the formal tone! As a tutor we were going to be together for a long time to come and if we were to be this formal, my upper lip was going to go stiff! Ah, this was not a pun...you there, don't say that it's cold! *[TN: Cold jokes = pun...get it?]* It was an accident, just an accident.

“Then... Will San”

“Will alone is fine.”

“...Eh...That is a bit...”

“It's okay because you are my Sensei!”

I was getting slightly impatient. With a slightly troubled face, Sensei finally agreed to call me Will.

“Ah yes Sensei, what is the matter?”

I remembered he wanted to say something. John Sensei's expression turned serious.

“Ah. It's just..If you don't mind me asking, it is a little early for a 3 years old to have a

tutor. I was wondering if you made this request or was it Sir Gion's idea?"

This person's eyes sparkled whenever the topic was about Father. He really seemed to admire Father. Me too, apart from his face, aimed to be like Father.

Sorry for dashing your hope...

I gave a small bitter smile.

"No, it was me who requested."

John Sensei looked very shocked.

...Yep, I was sorry for betraying your expectations...

But Sensei too, betrayed my expectations so I was not in the wrong!

"It's Will's...? But why? I don't mean to be rude but boys at your age usually only think about having fun."

"I don't know anything. I am proud seeing Father so needed (busy) but as for me, I can't help with anything..."

I looked at Sensei with a mischievous glint in my eyes.

"...And I am frustrated with that."

With a shocked expression, Sensei sat there, stunned.

...Sorry.

I said something outrageous, didn't I? But there was no choice, it's true! I could never understand the conversations carried on over my head and it was so vexing.

"So that is why.."

After a while, a happy smile floated up on Sensei's face.

"Well then, let's study hard as soon as possible, shall we, Will?"

What a good smile you had there, John Sensei.

...Eh....is this person possible...a Spartan 'S'....?

I, whose expectations were splendidly betrayed.

CHAPTER 20

FIRST LESSON

“And so, shall we begin the lesson?”

Asking with a smile, Sensei, for some reason, took a thick book out of his bag.

“Yes!”

On this side, that smile looked really ominous so I gave a vigorous reply. I did not know if it was because of my willingness to study came through to him but Sensei nodded, satisfied.

“And so, to begin with, the necessity for any form of learning, let us start with learning how to read and write.”

“Oh, there is no need to.”

I learned how to read and write a long time ago.

Since I answered straight away, John Sensei was surprised for an instance.

That’s of course! Do not look down on the specs of a child’s brain!

“...I see. Then let us start with mathematics, addition and subtraction.”

“I probably could do that too.”

This time I was directed a stunned expression.

I was not trying to be smart...ah, it was true that usually one would learn all those at 3 years old so he must definitely think that I was bluffing.

“I can really do it.”

Looking down on me, a gentle smile appeared on John Sensei’s face.

Ahhhh...please don’t look at me with those tepid eyes!

“Well then, please solve these for me.”

Pulling himself together, John Sensei took a few pieces of paper from inside a bulky book and passed it to me.

“Yes, Sensei.”

Taking a pen out of my breast pocket, I looked at the paper that was handed to me and saw math questions lined up.

There are a few that were graphics questions, just like a school test.

Since I said I could do it meant that I had to solve this easily right? What was this punishment?

I glanced at John Sensei and our eyes met. It was difficult to do this with someone watching...

I prepared myself and began to solve the questions silently.

Since the questions were prepared for kids, I, who had prepared for high school examinations, could solve it easily.... But man, if this was kid's level, this world's studies level was so high...

Since everything looked mid-european-ish, I had underestimated you.

After 20 minutes and with all the correct answers, I handed the paper back to John Sensei.

With wide eyes and a pensive look, John Sensei asked.

“...You are done?”

Come to think of it, calculations in this world might not be the same as my previous world...and I felt a tinge of uneasiness. The possibility that I did not think of made me started panicking.

What if all he saw was nonsensical calculations written on the paper....? Nervous, I looked at Sensei, frowning.

“...You have..done it. ...Well done, Will.”

After checking for a period of time, John Sensei looked up with a smile. However, his face showed a moment of worry.

...I wondered what's wrong?

"But...What am I going to do? I thought I would be teaching reading and writing and now, I do not have enough materials to continue."

He murmured and I finally got it. So he was worried about that. If that's the case, we would do that!

I then smiled at Sensei.

"In that case, I want to know more about John Sensei!"

CHAPTER 21

JOHN SENSEI

“Well then..I want to know more about John-sensei!”

I said vigorously, and John-sensei smiled bitterly, as if pressured.

“Certainly, no problem. But I am nothing special?”

“That’s okay!”

I smiled at the approval I had gotten.

Lifting his shoulders for a moment as if he said ‘Oh well..’, John-sensei returned his book into his bag and turned towards me.

“Well then, feel free.”

He took his glasses off and gave a small smile, as if he was trying to hide the shadows reflected in his eyes.

“How old is Sensei?”

“...Ah, you wanted to ask about these things? 26 years old.”

He gave a wry smile.

“Then...Do you have a girlfriend or a fiancée?”

He looked younger than his age. With his appearance, it would be normal for him to have 1 or 2 women!

With interest and anticipation, I leaned forward.

“... Unfortunately, I am focusing on studies and research right now.”

This was unexpected.

I thought his kind would be unable to leave a woman alone...

John-sensei had a faraway look in his eyes.

“...hen, then, Sensei is currently a court scholar right? What research are you doing now?”

I panicked and averted the subject.

“Oh, are you willing to listen, Will? I am researching on magic, and in addition, incantations and magic circles. And also arithmetic when I am free.”

To tell the truth, he was such a multi-person that I was shocked. Incantations and magic circles were the norm but in addition to that, arithmetic too... That was not something for when you were free!

But, my admiration was taken as me not having understood what was just said.

“Ah, Will have not learned about magic..Incantations and magic circles are..”
“I did.”

I stopped Sensei who was beginning to explain.

“And that, again, why?”

Shocked, John-sensei looked at me, immensely curious. Amused, I lowered my voice and placed my finger across my lips and grinned.

“Sensei, let’s keep it a secret from everyone else.”

Going along, Sensei lowered his body and leaned close.

“I went to the library on my own and read the spell books.”

How was that.

I pointed and winked.

“Hoh, that is..”

Amused, a mischievous smile floated on his face as he took another book out of his bag. I saw that book before.

“Ah, that’s the book.”

“『Magic That Even Monkeys Understand Elementary』, good choice. It was in my plans to read this to you. It seems that you have taken it off the ‘Homework’ list.”

“I.. I see.”

Erm, I did think that the author was rather horrible... however, it seemed like there was no problem with the explanations in the book...

That was the only response I could think of..

“However the tone (of the book) leaves much to be desired.”

Sensei said, smiling wryly.

...As I thought, the problem lay in the tone.

“What are you researching about incantations and magic circles (squares)?”

“Magic circles have regularity or rules but what about incantations? For example, to produce fire, 《火》, but to produce a fire arrow, 《火矢》 [TN: *Kasen / Hiya.*] is required. Magic circles are to be so as well.”

...Wow, we could have a collaboration.

This must be fate. It was the correct choice to have meet this person. More so, ever since I was born, there had been no one within the residence that was on the same wavelength as me. Even though John, at the age of 26 years old, was considered as an adult, with my inner age of 20 years old, not much of an age gap was felt...was what I thought.

“My, what a delightful face you have on, Will. Did I get you interested?”

As I was thinking about it, it seemed to have been shown on my face as well.

“Yes!”

I replied energetically. By no means could I say that I was thinking about becoming friends with Sensei. Mah, I was not lying about being interested though.

And then, John-sensei gave a really happy face and laughed.

“I..see. Fufu...hahahaha!”

Sensei grabbed his stomach.

I was stunned.

...Wh, what happened?

What was with this person? Did he hit his head or something? No, did I say anything amusing...? Nothing was coming to mind.

“W..why are you laughing?”

“Are you not asking (about that)?”

With a delighted face while laughing, John-sensei gave off a refreshing aura.

CHAPTER 22

JOHN SENSEI AND THE BOY

The boy was in a single-mother family.

The boy was in a single-mother family.

His mother worked overtime everyday. The difficulties of raising a child single-handedly and doing her job was proving to be more difficult then she thought causing her spirit to wear away everyday.

The boy's mother was beautiful.

But

That day, the boy's mother returned home late after her overtime.

"Welcome home."

The boy who turned 8 years old honestly waited for his mother to come home every night.

Just so to give his mother warm food after working hard everyday for his sake.

"..... I'm home."

The dinner prepared by the boy was splendid. So good that he could open a restaurant.

The boy, since young, had been trying his best with the housework.

In order to lessen his mother's burden.

In order to get a smile from her.

In order to get praised by her.

In order to get approval from her.

But no matter how he tried his best, his mother never smiled at him. Never ever praised him. She even treated him like he was not even there.

Today was the same. His mother did not smile, did not say that the food was delicious and simply went to bed with a darkened face.

Even so, the boy never did once blame his mother.

Because the boy knew how many difficulties his mother had faced.

The boy had a thought.

Anyone could do housework. It was the boy himself who had not tried his best.

And so the boy tried harder.

His studies. Sports.

He tried hard as like in the past. He got full marks every time. Before he realized, he had already studied all the way till university level.

Without slacking at housework.

He would fold the clothes neatly, clean every nook and corner, cook delicious dinner every night, get full marks in every test.

And all he got was a " Right."

It was a wearisome, short reply.

A reply that did not recognize the effort the boy put in.

And even so, the boy did never once blame his mother.

It happened on a certain day.

The boy's mother fainted.

She was admitted into the hospital but no cause could be found. She was already skinny and yet she got skinnier day by day.

The boy devoted his time in taking care of her.

And even so never once had his mother looked at him.

The final day came.

It was a rare day where his mother was smiling self-deprecatingly which caused the boy to involuntarily ask.

"Mum, why do you hate me?"

The boy knew it in his heart.

Why his mother never once looked at him no matter how hard he tried.

The boy's mother smiled a gentle self-deprecating smile.

"I hate that face of yours."

The boy's mother knew in her heart that the boy was not in the wrong.

In fact she was even thankful towards him. If she ever managed to be frank to him.

In the end, anger took over her.

Every time she looked at his face she would remember her divorced husband.

And now she was looking at that person's eyes.

"I'm sorry."

The hoarse mumble of the boy's mother did not reach him. For he had left the hospital room.

The next day, it was the first time the boy was not in the hospital room.

Then, as if it was at her own choice, the boy's mother breathed her last.

With a graceful smile that not even the boy had even seen on her face.

"So it was because of this face."

The boy clenched his fist.

"This face....."

And he decided.

To live strongly.

That even with his face there wouldn't be a problem.



“.....It’s a dream.”

He awakened by his rough breathing.

Looking outside the window, the sky was still somewhat dark, looking like it’s a little before dawn.

But it had been some time since he had that dream.

.....He thought he managed to forget about it.

Laughing self-mockingly, he got up.

Careful not to wake his parents who were sleeping on either side of him, he got out of the bed and walked down the corridor.

“Fuwaaaaa”

He let out a huge yawn as he headed towards his own room.

It must have been because of the conversation yesterday that he had that dream.

In a rare low spirited moment, Will turned the door knob.



“Are you not going to ask?”

With a happy face as he laughed, John-sensei asked. With just that sentence, I immediately understood what he was trying to ask.

When I first said that I wanted to learn more about Sensei, he had shown a troubled expression that I now understood.

To tell the truth, I was interested.

As I was thinking about it, John-sensei thought I was stunned by the question and began to speak.

“...Will would know about my family situation. You should be interested to know

more.”

John-sensei, who had always given off a fun aura, began to exude deep pressure. With his sharp stare and his serious expression, he looked straight at me.

My instinct told me not to turn away from this.

“There is no need to ask, is it? John-sensei is John-sensei.”

Suppressing my trembling voice, I stared back.

And John-sensei exchanged his sharp stare for a self-deprecating smile.

“I can teach, but only that I cannot do.”

With just that, I understood.

No, I might have somehow predicted this.

No matter how close our age might be, or the somewhat closeness I felt, to a person he just met...

John-sensei continued.

“I am the 2nd son, which is why I cannot succeed my Father as the Duke. And Will should know this as well, my father is a foolish man.”

With that, for a moment, John-sensei’s spinning eyes showed a familiar pain-like expression.

“When I was young, I tried too hard to attract my indifferent parent’s attention. Calligraphy, mathematics, magic, sword.”

He laughed, his shoulders raised.

“But, no matter how I tried, Father never showed his affections. In the end, it backfired instead.”

Giving a deep sign, Sensei, for some reason, smiled.

“...And so, as I learned, I came to understand. What a foolish, stupid family I have. To

continue clinging onto such a thing, I, myself would turn into an idiot.”

Sensei smiled, evident pain in his face.

“But, even if I wanted to change things, I could not. I am too powerless. Now, all I can do, is gain more power.”

Power — Status.

So that was why he left his house and served the Royal Court.

“I realized that, to leave unsightly extravagance, to protect the citizens, the same status is needed.”

And the self-deprecating John-sensei, was smiling brilliantly now.

“Which is why, Will, let us study strictly from now on.”



With that, he passed me a thick book.

It seemed to be a book on the connections of the Nobles in this country. Family name, territory, and who it was, were all written in detail.

.....Was I to memorize everything in it?.....

He was definitely a super ‘S’!!!!

As I cried out, I continued to advance on reading it. Having this person as my Sensei, it might be my good fortune. I gave a small smile at that.

Mother, it might be for the best that I was reincarnated.

CHAPTER 23

IT'S GOOD I'M BETRAYED

(FIRST PART – JOHN POV)

As I walked into William-sama's room, apart from the thick table that exuded a composed and dignified aura, the whole room felt bright and airy.

"Ah, Mary-san, thank you."

William-sama gave his thanks for the tea brought by a woman who seemed to be a maid. For the time being, he was as expected, a polite and level-headed person.

"....."

"....."

But I was troubled.

Even if this was my wish, I could not seem to find any word to start a conversation. Besides, I found myself much more nervous than I thought I would be that I froze.

It should be me, the elder, to break the ice. And even if I had thought of various things, my mind went blank ever since I came in.

"...Erm..."

William-sama said, timidly.

What a disgrace, showing such a (frozen) face. Perhaps, I might be seen as glaring at him.

"Ah, I am sorry."

Embarrassed, I coughed.

This time, I made sure to focus on William-sama before I opened my mouth.

....Relax, relax.

“I unknowingly got nervous. As you know, I am John Veltor, and I will be working as your tutor from today onward.”

Trying to avoid a scary impression, I carefully paid attention to my words as I introduced myself. And then, William-sama returned with a graceful greeting.

“Yes, I will be in your care. I am Williams Beryl, please call me Will.”

At the birthday debut, I did think about the possibility that he had memorized that speech. I still found it difficult to believe that a 3 years old kid could talk like that.

But, once I came here, I was convinced.

Yes, it was William-sama who prepared that speech. It was too shocking.

“Erm, what should I call Veltor-sama?”

As I was called out, my attention snapped back.

This was getting interesting, I could not help but give in to my mischievous side.

“You can call me however you prefer. Only...”

Well then, how would this young genius react to this? As I was thinking about that, I instinctively smiled.

“..not Veltor please.”

I had thrown my family name away.

Since I, who was born into the problematic Veltor house, was to undertake the position of an educator role, I wanted to, at least relay this to Williams-sama and of course, Gion-sama.

And above all, how he would react upon understanding my words. I did feel sorry for testing him but most of all, I was amused.

William-sama immediately gave a smile and replied.

“Then, John-sensei! Would that be all right?”

The reply, that was more than what I expected, was slightly jaw-dropping.'

.....I could only say that he was indeed a genius.

It was a reply that he understood that I was uninterested in power, house name or currying favor just by my words alone.

"Yes please, I look forward to working with you."

With no relations to with my family, he narrowed the relation down to a personal level by simply using my name and attaching 'Sensei' to it. Wonderful. It was wonderful how he exceeded my expectations.

To be able to teach this person, I was glad I left my house. I might be a fortunate person.

Unconsciously, I began talking, being in a good mood.

"By the way, Will-sama."

With that, Will showed a displeased face.

"John-sensei, please stop with the 'Sama'."

What a humble attitude.

To tell the truth, although Beryl and Veltor family sounded alike, they could not even be compared against.

Veltor being a Viscount house, Beryl being a Duke house.

In addition, the name of Veltor house was at the bottom. In comparison, Beryl house, in addition to Gion-sama's activities and his good ruling with, had the reputation of being the best in the country. They were also a family that had a long standing history. Really, towards that person....I only had admiration.

In the end, the relationship with me was not of noble standing but instead, a pure student and teacher one.

“Then... Will-san”

“Will alone is fine.”

“...Eh...That is a bit...”

“It’s okay because you are my Sensei!”

As I thought.

It was difficult to suppress my instinct to smile. Even if I tried to resist, he had insisted to call him Will with a compelling attitude. This made it very clear that we were a teacher and student.

“Ah yes Sensei, what is the matter?”

Will said, as he remembered that I wanted to say something.

“Ah. It’s just..If you don’t mind me asking, it is a little early for a 3 years old kid to have a tutor. I was wondering if you made this request or was it Sir Gion’s idea?”

Really, how did Gion-sama educate? I really could not imagine.

But, Will smiled bitterly and answered.

“No, it was me who requested.”

Ah, really, today, no matter how many hearts I had, they would not be enough.

“It’s Will’s...? But why? I don’t mean to be rude but boys at your age usually only think about having fun.”

“I don’t know anything. I am proud seeing Father so needed (busy) but as for me, I can’t help with anything...”

I remembered that I was shocked by the mischievous tone Will had used.

“...And I am frustrated with that.”

Really.....This person.

Was a genius to the extent that you would be amazed.

And I wondered if this was fate. I kept feeling that it was.

“So that is why..”

I had become the tutor of this person.

With the ability I had, I wondered if it would be enough.

“Well then, let’s study hard as soon as possible, shall we, Will?”

CHAPTER 24

FIRST LESSON (JOHN'S POV)

“Well then, shall we begin the lesson?”

I took out the textbooks I prepared from my bag.

“Yes!”

I was really looking forward to teaching that I unconsciously had a grin on my face. It was as if Will sensed it, he gave an energetic answer back. This person was really interesting. I nodded, feeling a sense of duty.

“And so, to begin with, the necessity for any form of learning, let us start with learning how to read and write.”

“Oh, there is no need to.”

I was just about to take out the sheet of alphabets from the book when Will gave an inappropriate laugh. It could not be.. By no means.. Even if you entered the academy, they would start with learning the alphabets..

“...I see. Then let us start with mathematics, addition and subtraction.”

“I probably could do that too.”

Will said instantly.

He must be kidding?!

Even if he entered the academy, he would have nothing to learn! ...I wondered what the methods of teaching Gion-sama were using..

It seemed like my doubt had shown up on my face.

“I can really do it.”

Will murmured, feeling a little disgruntled.

I wondered if Will had a haughty side too...Just in case..

If he saw how high this wall was, maybe he would have the motivation to study. I smiled, having thought of a good idea.

“Well then, please solve these for me.”

Having said that, I took out the paper that the scholars went through when they sat for the Royal Court examinations.

“Yes, Sensei.”

Will took out a pen from his breast pocket and looked at the questions. But he immediately looked up and our eyes met. He smiled and turned away, beginning to work the paper.

I watched the skill of the 3 years old kid tackling the questions silently.

....He was solving it.

....No, no, but these mathematical questions...

As I tried my best to get my slow-processing brain to accept this fact, Will was advancing on the questions.

...Was there no question that stumped him...?

He just casually solved the graphic math questions that took me a long and hard time to understand.

...What a person.

I was shaking. Was he really 3 years old...?

It was impossible, this had already exceeded my ability to understand.

“...You are done?”

But that cute neck-tilting look.

Instantly, my shoulders relaxed.

“...You have..done it. ...Well done, Will.”

I just accepted an outrageous person as a student. How troubling, I would soon have

nothing to teach him. But even with my troubled face, I could not help but feel happy.

“But...What am I going to do? I thought I would be teaching reading and writing and now, I do not have enough materials to continue.”

I murmured.

It was then. Will who heard it gave me a face full of smiles and said.

“In that case, I want to know more about John-sensei!”

Ahh...Even him...

In the end, it was still all about my House... Instantly, my mood dampened as I got ready for the incoming questions.

But, all Will asked was questions related to [Me].

I cannot helped but laughed.

Really...honestly, this person..... Was more then what I had ever expected. My expectations were betrayed in the best possible way.

I wondered why, that this 3 years old child could understand my words and feelings.

At the end of the day, I had a feeling that I somehow just made a small friendship.

CHAPTER 25

THINGS I LEARNED

As expected, John-sensei is a spartan 'S' Megane character.

Sobbing as I finally memorized the book that was passed to me that day, I began to hate Sensei when he came in for class this afternoon.

“Oh? Did I say to memorize the entire book?”

Don't feign ignorance-!

Though yes, he never said that. But! Even if he did not say anything, the unsaid pressure was obvious!

I tried my best to put the tiny pieces of my broken heart back together. Normally, one would only start lessons when they were older but my inner age was 20 years old. It would affect my pride if I could not even memorize it.

....Man, this world's (study) level was ridiculously high..

...Plus, when I heard about Sensei's research in court and was excited for it..

“Magic? What nonsense are you talking about? Do not make light of it. Please complete your basic studies before asking.”

Completely stunned, every time I saw that face, I thought I was going to cry.

As Sensei dropped his facade, I, recently, began to drop mine, 3 years old mask, as well.

Ah...Might be thanks to that, I felt that we somewhat became friends... At least that was what I thought.

In these 3 months, I learned about this world's geography, history, religion, etc.

To my relief, at least the passing of time was the same. A year is 365 days, 1 day is 24 hours. If that was different, it would be hell studying for history.

It had really been a long 3 months... I thought as I snapped the thick book shut. Then, a knock was heard.

“Come in.”

“Please excuse me. Hello, Will.”

The one who entered was the rumored John-sensei.

“Eh? Is it the time for lessons already?”

“Yes, it is. Oh, are you revising?”

“...Kinda.”

Wasn't it you who gave me this homework in the first place?! My reproachful eyes turned towards him for an instant and our eyes met. As the stare was getting scary, I broke it off.

“Well then, since you did revise, here are some questions.”

“...Yes.”

My thoughts might have been read as Sensei spoke up at the perfect timing.

...Sigh, was I too easy to read? I needed to be careful. As a Noble, this was a disadvantage! I clenched my fist, having the motivation in the wrong areas.

“What is the name of this country?”

“Elzmu Kingdom...”

In this world, there was 1 discovered continent. The name was Ranaa. It was rumored that there were others.

In Ranaa, there lay 4 kingdoms.

They were nicely separated into North, South, East and West.

North – Hattuo

South – Dyuvu

East – Elzmu.

West – Hadazerl

Elzmu sounded like Azuma [TN: East Japan] so that's East. Hadazerl sounded like a cross between Left [TN: Hidari] and West [TN: Sei] so I remembered it as such.

Hattuo just sounded like North. It was a militant nation and its emperor, Kvita Hattuo, took over at the age of 53 years old. The climate there seemed to be very cold which caused them to focus on developing magic tools as crops could not grow.

They were rumored to have 'Magic Fields' which held much 'Mana Stones', stones that were packed with mana, the fuel for magic tools. And with that, it was the most of the Nation's revenue.

Hattuo felt just like an industry nation of a dictator from my previous world. Instead of the manufacture and oil, it was magic's tools and mana stones.

Although the possibility was close to zero, I really did not want to have any involvement with the Hattuo Emperor, as seen in the illustration of my textbook.

Balding and fat and wearing loads of pointless ornaments. You could not help but went 'Holy smokes!' when you saw it.

Next was Elzmu. The name seemed to mean the Fruit of the East. It was a country that I would love to live in if not for the fact that I was already living there. Although it was still under the imperial rule, a parliament had been established as well.

Due to good ruling by the present Emperor, Elzmu was the country with the best standard of living. Agriculture and magic were both being developed and their economics were also said to be the best. However, they were one of the smallest countries of the four, which sounded a lot like Japan. I laughed, feeling like it was god's prank.

Emperor Banzai! His name should be Kesamu Milla Oio... something. I remembered that it was an insanely long name. Sorry, Kesamu-san.

Next was West, Hadazerl. The biggest population of all, with countless of races living together. It seemed like the Human King was overthrown, just like the period of The Three Kingdoms.

...Well, I was not well-versed in The Three Kingdoms so there was not much I could say. They did have farming and not much magic was being developed but in any case,

a place that had loads of cheap stuff.

As I heard from John-sensei.

Lastly, South – Dyuvu. Population was ranked 3rd. The Human's tribe could produce magic fairly well and their physical abilities were also fairly high... a half-baked kind of country. However, the citizens here did not discriminate, kinda hot-blooded, yet cheerful, frank and optimistic.

...Sounded just like a southern country. There were many who loved wine as well. Yep, southern country. It was said that their trading business was the best.

Why? They actually greeted each other by " Are you making any money? " " Meh, so so. "

Let's put aside the jokes.

In Ranaa, from Northwest till Southeast, a huge area was taken up by [Demon Forest]. What was [Demon Forest]? It was as it was, an area where mana gushed out, causing many strong demons to be born.

Strong merchants from Dyuvu were the only ones who were trading between all 4 countries.

...I could not help but be in awe of the nature of merchants...

This nature could be said to be the only common feature between all sorts of worlds!

To add on, Elzmu lay in between the [Demon Forest]. [Demon forest], Elzmu, [Demon Forest] of the East. Actually, the Fruit of the East together with the [Demon Forest] was said to be under Elzmu, but then natives who lived there became defiant and started calling themselves a country. And the founder and the First Emperor was actually the soldier who cleared the lands.

...How un-royal-like. Maybe it was because of this history that the royalty were very close to the people.

"Hmm, you passed."

I was grumbling a bit about how weird my method was to memorize but as long as it

worked!

“By the way, John-sensei.”

I was changing the subject because of that! Not because I wanted to gloss over this!

“What is it?”

Damn! Don't look at me with those teasing eyes!

Don't smile at me with that lovely face!

This 'S' bastard! ...Whatever. It was true that I really had something to ask. Let's just resign to this fact and keep these comments inside.

“Previously there was a chart of Nobles you asked me to memorize but till now you haven't taught me anything regarding the court ranks yet.”

Ah. The changes in his facial expression did not escape my eyes! This guy, he had forgotten about it, hadn't he.

Immediately, his expression returned to normal and he pretended that all was well.

“I planned on teaching it today.”

I grinned.

“...Is that so?”

...I finally won one over him. It had been so long. I got a bit cocky...Hm...? Why was it kinda cold...?

And then I noticed it. John-sensei's sharp stare.

....

.....

.....I was sorry.

I was too easy to defeat. No. It was only something really scary would happen if I

continued, not because I was scared!

It was that, that thing, where I needed to protect the pride of Sensei...Heck, who was I explaining to anyway?

With a stiff smile...no, a cramped smile, I looked up at Sensei. Come now, please start teaching.

"...Can't be helped. Let us start."

What 'can't be helped'? It was you who forgot about it!This could never be spoken out loud.

But the instant I was thinking about it, I was stared at.

...He found out.

"...Yes please."

"For Elzmu, you know about this, there are Nobles, Knights and Commoners."

"Yes."

"Court ranks are the positions between the Nobles. There is a system of [6 Rank], from the top, Duke, Marquis, Earl, Viscount, Baron, Baronet. The top 5 usually are of old noble families. What do you think Baronet is?"

"Erm...For people who made a great contribution to the country...something like that?"

The light novels I read in my previous world all had setting like this.

"Exactly. I am surprised you know. Depending on their contributions thereon after, they may become a Baron. If they start out as a Noble, without any contributions, the rank will only last for a generation."

Ah, as expected. I gave a small nod.

"By the way, Will's family, the Beryl's, is of the highest order of being a Duke, and is one of the oldest families around. Maybe friends of the Founder."

I learned something new.

I thought they were soldiers of the Royalty or something but they turned out to be

more awesome than I thought. As astounded as I was, somehow, I accepted it. So Father's [cheats] came from his blood.

"Just to say, Veltor House is one of the old families as well. You can understand why they are always a Viscount no matter how much time has passed..."

...Erk.

Woah, dark. Your aura was turning black, John-sensei.

"The current Emperor is one with an outstanding ability even among history. He is currently looking for a way to clean out all rotten garbage lurking in this system. I really hope he can get it done soon."

Sensei, who narrowed his eyes, looked beautiful.

.....Though very very scary.

As I sat timidly, listening, John-sensei went

"Anyways, that's confidential information from the royal court."

He said in a small voice, coughing to clear his throat. But I heard it. Oi, this was scary. You were scary. What were you anyway!?

"I am just someone who really wishes to participate in that."

Father seemed to be active in it as well....

I thought back to all the documents in Father's office and finally understood.

...Hm... He must be a detective or something!

Sensei lifted his bag, smiling, holding high hopes.

I had a bad feeling about this...

"And so, for that, let's study diligently from now on."

.....In the end it's still that...!!!

Today, I had a feeling I learned something important.



Father [Ah, John, how are the lessons coming along?]

John [Master, we just finished the level of court examinations.]

Father [Oh, as expected from Will.....eh? What?]

John [Court examination level.]

Father [.....For real?]

John [For real.]

CHAPTER 26

THREE OF THEM

Without a sound, 3 people walked through a dim street at night.

One of them was tall but heavyweight. With well-trained muscular body, yet was surprisingly nimble, moving without any futile movements.

One of them was small and slender to the point you would mistake as a child. However, the movements were too polished to be one.

The last one of them had no particular features. Average height, average figure. A silhouette that no one remembered despite seeing it multiple times. However, the agility shown was astounding.

“Here?”

Slender murmured and Average nodded. The 3 of them looked up at the tall and sturdy wall, the height and thickness similar to the castle wall.

Tall suddenly grabbed Slender and... Threw Slender up, who then landed on the top of the wall perfectly, just like a cat.

Silently throwing down a rope, Slender pulled both of them up at once, displaying strength disproportionate to that slender figure.

In a low murmur, like saying it was just in case, Tall chanted.

“ 《影》 ” [TN: *Kage, Shadow*]

And the 3 bodies just melted into darkness.

Not careless, yet not tense.

Used to this, yet not letting down their guard.

No gap in their attack, with more than enough to spare.

The 3 who were obviously pro in this field calmly walked into the premises.



—A few hours before, at dawn—

Like always, I took Mary-san's hand and we walked to the dining room.

This me had turned 4 years old!

Before I even realized, a year had passed and it was time for my birthday party again. Time passed so fast! Thinking back to a year ago, it was all thanks to the birthday debut that I had made a friend. Ah... to think how nervous I was that day.

...Rather than that, I was already 4 years old so please stop with the hand holding! How embarrassing! Please stop...
But how did I tell her..!?

Every time I saw how she looked at me, like she looked at her grandchild, I could never get myself to say it. The hand holding was fine at 3 years old since my walking was still unstable but it was about time to stop...

If it remained like this, I was afraid that this matter would simply be dragged out forever.

"Sigh..."

I slumped over the table.

There was no lesson today. John-sensei's mother seemed to be in a critical state due to her illness and he had to go back home. I only came to know about that this morning. Sensei apologized and left after breakfast.

Recently, I had been having sword lessons with Father and just as I was thinking of doing that today, something seemed to have happened at work. With his subordinates, he left the house in a hurry.

For some reason, everything had piled up today and Mother left too, for an engagement at a tea party.

“What’s with today...”

Like that, only the maids were left in this house. As lately this time of the day was when I was having my lessons, the maids learned to avoid this time to play with me. But they would find out sooner or later.

And now, I needed to face a problem straight on.

Did I stay like this, in the room and play with the maids after so long, or did I run?

“Hmm..”

Even though I said that I would need to face it, the decision had long been made. And that was...

“Here we go~”

....To run away!

I walked along the long corridor, heading to the library that I had become familiar with. Ah, even though I called it a library, it was just a room. A room right next to the office.

Hm...No matter what, I did not think the maids would enter into the office...

I entered the library and set up a detection magic around 10m radius. With the incantations being Japanese, it really helped with my spy activities, DS for short, around the house. Why my abbreviated name sounded like a game...

Anyway, for now, if anyone triggered the magic, they were set up to be teleported into the office next door.

“ 《瞬間移動予約》 ” *[TN: Shunkanidou Yoyaku, Teleportation Contract.]*

I chanted just in case, as this was the first time I was casting this magic. Contract...I could feel the extent of my vocabulary but needlessly using complex words are simply Chunnibyō-like..

Umm....This was hard..

Let's start thinking!

Even though no one could understand it anyway since it's in Japanese but...Meh, the mood was important.

The me alone nodded to myself and started fishing for books.



That was this morning.

I let out a breath and closed the thick book. With [**Poison • Strong Poison Let's Make**] as the title.

[TN: Japanese Dokuyaku • Gekiyaku Yakuyakusho]

What a puny puny sounding title but it turned out to be very useful. It was filled with different medicines and poison, their effects and how to counter them. In this world, there also existed narcotic-like effects plants. It was called Mayaku. ...How direct.

When I realized it, the sky was already dark and I was wrapped in silence.

...Oh no. If I did not return soon I was going to cause an uproar... I stood up, preparing to leave.

Ping! Something like a string snapped inside my head. The magic contract I made was activated.

At the next moment, I entered into the office.



《暗視》 [TN: Anshi, night vision.]

I activated my magic chantlessly in the dark room, unlit by any lamps. As the room lit up in my eyes, I casted another magic on myself.

《気配消滅》 [TN: Kehai Shometsu, Presence Camouflage]

I erased any sounds I might make with magic.

The maids would never come into this part of the house. Plus, Father was not in right now. Mother and John, who had the highest probability, had not returned home yet.

Trying to control my pounding heart in my chest, I took a deep breath before looking around the room.

The presence...presence..... There.

I sensed a tiny presence at the side of the room, where the bookshelf stood. Even though I could not see them, I could sense their mana.

.... There were 3 of them.

I did not know who they were, but right now, just when Father was not around, they were fishing around the documents in a pitch black room. It was evident. They were unwelcome guests.

《魔法効果透視》 [TN: Mahou Kouka Toushi, Magic Effect Vision, to see through any magic the opponent is using]

They had used magic to hide their figures. I could now see their figures, which were hidden in shadows, clearly.

A group of 3, wearing skin-hugging black clothes, just like a ninja. A 2m giant, a slender man and a man with an average figure.

Without noticing me, one of them raised a document in his hands. I did not know what they were looking for, but there was a lot of confidential documents in here. Plus, I had a bad feeling. Everything was starting to feel like too much of a coincidence.

I set up a barrier and strengthened my body. Increased the processing of thoughts. Agility up.

After doing all that I could, I readied myself. I had to do this now. If I was too slow and they escaped then all would be lost.

Controlling my trembling voice, I said.

“May I kindly ask what you are doing?”

It might be possible that Father's subordinate had an urgent reason for being here. Meh...The possibility was very low though.

"...!!!"

But.....It seemed like I did not need to worry about that.

The slender person let loose something.

I did not know if my barrier would repel it but my strengthened body reflexively avoided the trajectory and making use of the momentum, I slipped behind him in an instant using my accelerated speed. Jumping up, I hit the back of his neck. At the same moment, I heard the sound of metal piercing the wall.

...As I thought, a projectile weapon... That was dangerous...

There was no time to calm myself.

There was only an instant during the surprise they felt when they saw one of them was easily beaten. Seeing my small stature, it looked like they decided to go for close combat. In response, they made a wooden hand knife from the table. They must be thinking that no matter how much enhancement I casted, I could not make up for my weight.

How..... Naive.

I manipulated the gravity, weighing down Mr.Average as he slashed at me. Surprised with the unexpected weight, he jumped back. Without losing a moment, Mr.Giant let loose a roundhouse kick. I jumped to avoid so now, the only way was down. In that case...

"... Ha!"

Stepping on air for the momentum, I crashed into Mr.Giant's nose with my knee. With a huge noise, he crumbled on the floor, seeing how I just gave him a brain concussion.

".....!?"

Mr.Average looked like he had no idea what just happened. Aiming for the moment

when he flinched from surprise, I casted my magic.

“《拘束》” [TN: *Kousoku, Restrain*]

The 3 were then bound by an invisible thread. I was magic itself!

Ah, I could not let my guard down yet.

《気配察知》 [TN: *Kihai Sacchi, presence radar*]

I spread my magic as far as it could go, trying to check if there was any accomplice.

“..Haaaah.....”

I let loose a deep breath, strength all gone from my shoulders. I deactivated all magic casted on myself except for the barrier, just in case.

They wouldn't be waking up anytime soon I think... Just, just, just in case, I manipulated the gravity, weighting them down to their limit. That might be too much, but it was just self-defense.

.....

I really tried my best! I didn't know if they were small fries or not but a 4 year old kid defeated 3 grown-ups!

Mama mia!

I wanna praise myself!

My relaxed face due to my good mood stiffened when I saw the dozens of knife-like weapons stuck deep into the wall. Oh, did I draw back at that.

Wo..Wouldn't you come back home faster, Father?

CHAPTER 27

PREMONITION

Today, from the moment I woke up, I had a bad feeling.

With that feeling hanging over me, I headed towards the dining room and saw my son, who just turned 4 years old, bashfully holding hands with Mary-san.

...I was healed.

My son was definitely the cutest thing ever.

He had my hair color with Lily's eyes. Just that alone made him plenty cute but his short limbs and soft cheeks were a huge plus. I could understand why he was so popular among the maids. Even the straight-laced Mary turned all gooey around him.

...I feared for his future.

But, Will was scarily clever. John had joked that they reached 'Court Examination Levels' but even with that exaggeration I could accept it. Just a few days ago, I was shocked at how he could read and understand what was written in the documents. At only that age, his table manners was perfect, could read and write, and had such high understanding of mathematics that even John could not help but praise him.

My heart softened as I watched him chewing with that small mouth of his and just at this time, the maids came over with an apologetic face for disturbing our meal.

It seemed that a messenger from the Veltor's house had arrived, bearing the news about the critical condition of John's mother.

And with that, I saw the apologetic and restrained John out.

...Was the bad feeling I had referring to this?

But, it did not go away.

Hmm... So it seemed that Will's lesson for today was cancelled.

Recently, I had been training Will. I called it training, but it was really just me looking over as Will, who was unable to hold a sword yet, learned the stances of swordplay.

Even so, I was happy and glad to watch Will, whose eyes sparkled as he focused on his training.

I wondered if it was about time to make a sword for children so Will could learn how to hold it. Thinking about it, I made my way to the office and saw my subordinates there.

"G..Gion-sama!"

"What is the matter?"

From their stressed faces, I would see that something bad had cropped up.

"Y..Yes! **'They'** have begun moving within the capital!"

The capital...?

'They' should be keeping a low profile recently yet all of a sudden they were exposing themselves out in the open in the capital?

Even with so many questions, I knew I had to do something. I started preparing in haste.

Without thinking, I clicked my tongue.

The ominous feeling from this morning must be this. The scale of this news matched my premonition but something still tugged at me...

What should I do...

I told Will not to leave the house in case anything happened before I left in my carriage.

At full speed, I managed to reach the capital in 4 hours. I had just barely made it.

‘They’ – were how my circle referred to a portion of the Nobles.

I was currently working as the leader of the knights... on the surface. In reality, I was directly under the King’s orders, working behind the scenes to flush out all the rotten nobles.

The current king of Elzmu was Kizmu Mira Oio Lenarus De Elzmu. King Kizmu happened to be my friend. With his good governance, he had received the support from his citizens. And right now, he was unsatisfied with these old corrupted nobles.

I would gather information undercover and prevent any unrest that would happen. This was a favor to my friend, as well as the citizens. Since then, I had identified various improprieties going on and recorded them down.

This time, I had information that they had reached out towards the strictly prohibited ‘Slave Trading’. It seemed like they would stop at nothing for money.

With reports of their ‘movements’, they might either be ‘trading’, or ‘exporting’ to the merchant ship loading in.

Of the 2, I rather estimated it to be the former. I predicted that they would most likely move from around the evening till early morning.

But, looking at my subordinates’ faces, the situation was grave. Which meant that it might not go the way I predicted.

A river was facing the Capital and opposite of it, Hattuo. They would load slaves onto the merchant boats and sail off to where our jurisdiction could not reach.

And.... their head was Jin Veltor.

Yes, the father of our home tutor, John. It worked out nicely with his wish to work as Will’s tutor as I was able to observe if he had any connections with his family, as per request from the court. If things went well, I aimed to obtain important information but it turned out to be a misfire.

Not only did John not have any connections, it seemed that he had completely abandoned the Veltor’s. Just by saying that name alone caused the usually mild-

mannered John to fly into a bad mood (as heard from Will).

As the sun hung overhead, I wondered if the ship had set sail....

No, this was not what I was worried about. The ominous feeling from this morning had swelled up despite me being here.

I stretched my neck and stared outside the carriage.



“Have you lured out Gion?”

“Yes, it was easier than expected.”

In a gaudily ornamented room 2 fat men sat. One of them was middle-aged, in his fifties. His drooping stomach was held in place by his white shirt and it shook as he laughed.

The other man was in his thirties. Although he was not as fat as Mr.Fifties, he too, had a plump figure with went well with his young rounded face.

“And John?”

“On his way after being summoned.”

The younger one smirked, looking every bit a villain.

Yes, the 2 who were sitting on the sofa in this gaudy room were the head of anti-kingdom, the head of the Veltor house and his son.

Jin Veltor. The only redeeming feature was his pride as a noble but other than that, a rotten man. Bribes, property seizure, squandering. His only skill as the head was to cause suffering to his citizens.

And his eldest son, Jean Veltor, his reputation was as rotten as his father, squandering money away by immersing in the red-light district or gambling. And an even worst governor.

Under these circumstances, it could be said to be a miracle that a man such as John

existed.

“And? Everything will go smoothly?”

Jin asked, lowering his voice.

“I hired the best, the [Shadow], Father. If nothing out of the ordinary happens, it would be impossible to fail.”

As if going along, Jean leaned over and lowered his voice as well.

[Shadow] — People living in the underworld. An organization with a wide range of skill set that once hired, moved like a shadow to complete your ‘request’. You could say that they were something like a Ninja or Spy.

As long as you were their client, they would do anything, even assassination. As the danger level of ‘requests’ were usually high, they, on average, possessed high combat abilities. It was said that no one alive had ever seen them when they used 《影》 [TN: *Shadow*], the magic passed down within the organization.

What did Veltor hire them for?

This might be the real cause of Gion’s ominous feeling.

Firstly, to retrieve the discriminating evidence Gion had compiled against them. Second, the abduction of Will.

They wanted to force Gion to join the Anti-kingdom using Will.



“Are we not there yet...?!”

My displeasure leaked out unintentionally. Even so, in the rocking carriage, irritation was piling up.

“John-sama, we will be there very soon.”

The coachman said, trying to flatter me. I wonder what he was thinking behind that smiling facade.

This felt way too suspicious. Like the sudden summons. Even without that, with Mother in critical condition, why was the carriage taking its own sweet time? It was hard to believe if you told me it was just a coincidence.

I just had an unpleasant idea.

Were they planning anything again?

...It could not be... But...

This was Father we were talking about.

But even if anything happened, Gion-sama would be in that house. He was the strongest in this country.

I shook my head, trying to clear all my doubts away although that uncomfortable feeling continued.

It took 4 hours and finally, I saw the mansion coming into view. Just that alone made my hair stand on end. The scale of residence could not be compared to Beryl's house but just looking at this house I felt revolted. I guessed this all boiled down to personal preferences.

The white solid building is inlaid with gold flacks here and there and ornamented with gorgeous sculptures and at the front, roses. Just by listening to the description it sounded like a castle somewhere but how do I say it... It did not look classy at all.

Mother too, was one of them but she did give birth to me so I could only return to this house when I heard about her critical condition.

And so, I was greeted by my father and elder brother with a smile the moment I entered the house.

.....Shit. I had been tricked!

At the moment I glared at them, I felt a strong impact from behind and the next thing I saw was the floor.

Will..... Please be safe.....!

CHAPTER 28

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

With folded arms and a meek face, there was a child looking at the 3 collapsed men on the floor.

Yes, me.

And so... What should I do with them?

I let out a deep sigh.

The part where I discovered intruders, returned fire and bound them up was all good. But now, no matter how I waited, Father was still not back yet.

There seemed to be trouble at work so Father might not come home tonight. Mother too, while attending her cousin's tea party, had decided to stay overnight. Day trips were normally difficult here since cars and trains did not exist.

... What a convenient world we lived in...

How awesome it was, to be able to do it without magic.

... Maybe next time I shall create a car run by magic...

Oops, I digressed.

Anyway, the possibility of Father returning today was extremely low. And I had no idea when John-sensei would return... I wanted to ask about how we should deal with them but now it looked like I was trapped in this extremely troublesome situation.

What was this coincidence that all 3 of them were out! God's idea of a prank?

".....?"

Suddenly, I felt uneasy.

This felt like too much of a coincidence.... No, it couldn't be.

I shook my head, but my suspicions refused to go away, and with that, escalating unease.

What if it was not a coincidence...?

I might just be thinking too much. It might be because of the confusion about this troublesome situation.

But... what if it was not a coincidence?

People came for Father in his office.

But in this house we had Father, the strongest in the country, my unpredictable Mother and John-sensei, who was employed by the royal court.

No one in their right mind would lift a hand against them. Which was why they would fake an incident to lure out Father, arranged it to meet with Mother's day out. And John-sensei.....what about John-sensei?

I stared at the 3 people, bound and passed out. When I first saw them, I had thought about how ninja-like they were. And that was because they were fishing around for documents.

Which meant, someone wanted the information Father had gathered.

I thought my suspicions were stupid and wanted to shake them off but the facts seemed to be fitting together perfectly, just like pieces of a puzzle.

.... The one who called John-sensei out was the Veltor House.

It's no good, this was the only piece that did not fit...

.....What was inside Father's documents? The other day, in the middle of a lesson, John-sensei said.

"The current Emperor is the one with an outstanding ability even among history. He

is currently looking for a way to clean out all rotten garbage lurking in this system. I really hope he can get it done soon.”

And Father had been gathering information about the Veltor’s. Which meant, Veltor House was the part of the anti-kingdom faction and concluded that the information Father had gathered was detrimental to them.

In other words, the ringleader for this incident, was the Veltor House.....?

No, it could not be.

I shook my head, denying it.

But, no matter how I tried to deny it, deep down I knew. And I was slowly getting sure of it.

If it was really Veltor’s, then John-sensei might be in danger. It was not a situation I wished to think about.

This was so obvious but subconsciously, I might be avoiding thinking about it.

Let’s make sure.

I had a method.

But... I was terrified of the outcome. Until now, I was still racking my brains for an explanation on how I caught those 3. How about I just pretended to not know anything?

I was very happy with my life right now.

And I didn’t want to wreck it.

That was why I was frantically thinking of an explanation right now. Even though people important to me might be in danger...

But, all would be lost if they were gone.

If I destroyed this happiness but all of us were alive, then I might still be able to do something.

Making up my mind, I teleported over, making my move immediately.

It was all still a guess on my part, but even so, with a small percentage of it happening, it would not hurt to check it out.

Firstly, I drew out all the mana from the 3. So even if they came to, they could do nothing to escape from the bindings... for at least another 2 days.

Ah, no worries, I withdrew all I could without killing them. Though they would feel extremely tired.

After which, I manipulated the gravity on the bindings, did an intricate weaving of the barrier magic with the bindings and coiled it around their bodies for an extra measure.

...Snicker... 3 Silkworms in the room...

What impudence! I did not laugh at all

I did not say a word to the maids. If they were Ninjas, the maids might be targeted if their faces were seen by them. The maids were also an important part of my family. I ate a simple dinner and told them I was heading to bed before returning to my room.

“My aim is... John-sensei..”

I murmured, deep in thought.

Yep, I should head to his side first...

After trying all sorts of ways, I at last decided to trace his mana. I hid my presence with magic and opened the window which I then slowly closed from the outside.

Well then, let's go.

I erected a barrier around me and soared up into the sky. Sensei's mana points... southwest. In a single breath, I cut through the sky in that direction.

It was difficult to think that they would raise a hand to their own son... I felt extremely irritated that this happened just because he became my home tutor.

Ah, I kinda felt like I just broke through an air wall but... I must be imagining things. The reason why I could hear nothing must be because I was flying in the sky late at night~

...Please be safe?

I was worried because through and through, Sensei was my friend.



“.....Nnn....”

When I came to, all I saw was darkness. And the air that I breathed in was dusty.

Where was I?

I promptly tried moving my body but I couldn't.

...I seemed to be wrapped in something...?

Confused for a moment, I remembered.

That's right, I was hit by someone on the back of my head. Which meant I must be confined and bound right now.

“.....Damn it...”

To think they were rotten to this extent...!

I ground my teeth, angry at myself for letting my guard down, thinking that they would

not raise a hand to their own son.

I wondered what was their aim? Use me to call Gion-sama out? No, it could not be, I was not that important to be used as a threat. No matter how stupid they were, they should at least know this much. But I was bound and left here. Which meant I would be trouble for them if I stayed in Beryl's house. What were they planning?

...It was useless, I did not have enough information to know what was going on. But it was better than not doing anything. If I used all of my brain power to...

“Long time no see, John.”

The footsteps rang out across the dark room. And its owner appeared in front of me.

“.....Brother.”

“Well then, let's make you spit it out, shall we?”

Smirking, Brother took a knife out of his chest pocket.

....Ah, now I got it.

Unconsciously, I laughed.

“John, spit out everything you know about the Beryl's.”

CHAPTER 29

WAY TOO SUSPICIOUS

In a dimly lit room, there was a man exerting violence against a tied up, defenseless man. Not punches and kicks but something on another level.

— Knife cuts.

I trembled.

A short while ago, I arrived at the Veltor's house, sensed that John-sensei was in the middle of the area and teleported over.

With my presence and figure staying hidden by magic.

It seemed to be the basement here. John-sensei was being threatened by that man as he slashed at him with a short knife. Seeing that, my blood began to boil.

Stop screwing around!

It was unclear if that was directed at the man who was hurting Sensei or me, who took my time heading here. I moved to attack, channeling my anger.

I jumped lightly, focused the mana around my leg to strengthen it and kicked with all I had. I ended up doing a roundabout kick in the heat of my anger. Turned out I put a lot more force into it than I expected.

With a loud noise, that man slammed against the wall.

...Hm? Was he really that weak? Oh man, was he dead? People should not die that easily.. yep, he was not dead. I think.

After a time lag, he slid down to the floor with a thud. Looking at the man lying there, motionless, I manipulated the gravity on him for extra measures to prevent him from moving.

Eh!?

I must be imagining that his nose was bleeding.

He had a plump figure and was wearing clothes accessorized with gaudy looking ornaments that screamed 'I am a Noble!'. I would guess his age to be around thirties... You could say he looked like, yet unlike John-sensei.

Hah, let's leave him there for the moment.

The important thing right now was John-sensei. In a haste, I ran over to John-sensei's side. I saw knife marks all over his body and he was currently breaking out in cold sweat. I started regretting after seeing him in pain.

...That man, I should have hit him harder.

John-sensei's face twisted in pain and looked to be on the verge of fainting. The rope binding him looked normal but was actually embedded with magic.

Not a problem.

What a meaningless spell to use. While questioning the weak magic, I offset it chantlessly. With the rope gone, I lifted John-sensei, who was lying face down on the ground, up. Our eyes met and questions rose up as he registered who I was.

With a voice that sounded like he was wheezing every last bit out of his lungs, he said.

".....W..Will...? Why.....?"

"Rather than that.."

Cutting off Sensei, I smiled, trying to calm him down.

" 《治癒》 " [TN: Chiyu, Heal]

The reason I chanted it out was to allow John-sensei to understand what magic I was casting on him. Even if I didn't say it out now, I would still have to explain later. That and how I arrived here.

Looking at his bare skin through the torn shirt, I saw that, despite being a scholar, he had a relatively well-toned body, somewhat erotic looking. My inferiority complex was acting up, so I casted 1 more magic on top of it.

“《修復》” [TN: *Shuufuku, Mend*]

Sensei's bruises as well as his torn shirt began mending up and as a side-effect, Sensei's face regained his color. Relieved at that, I was glad I made it in time.

Smiling, I walked towards Sensei.

“...Who are you?”

Sensei asked, guarding himself from me as he stood up and backed away.
...That hurt.

Well, it was questionable if a 4 year old was able to kick a grown man flying then fire 2 spells conservatively like it was normal. Even so...

“It's me. It's Will, Sensei.”

Being questioned like that still hurt. Plus I did not have anything that I could use to identify myself. Asking that question despite knowing me... There was no one else, wasn't it?

Seeing me with my slumped shoulders, John-sensei concluded that I had no will to fight him at all. He began to slowly and timidly approach me.

... Am I a rare animal?

“...Really?”

“Yes, really!”

“No, I mean, that magic and that fighting ability...”

Obviously, I was being suspected. I understood how you felt, I really did. But...

“I kept it all a secret from everyone.”

I smiled mischievously.

Now, how I made him believe me... Ah, this would be the best way to convince him I guess...

I grinned and approached Sensei.

“《転移》” [TN: *Teni, Teleport*]

The destination? My room of course.



I was feeling hot.

The increasing cuts were definitely sapping my strength.

I had no useful information that the Anti-Kingdom faction (Veltor) wanted...even if I did, I would not give it away to them.

Nevertheless, I did not know what Brother was thinking as he cut at me with his knife, kicked my stomach, and performed acts after acts of violence like an interrogation / torture.

...In this case, it was really an interrogation.

Even if I was living with the Beryl's, I was only an educator. I would not have been given any sensitive information nor would I know any. What I did, was to only teach Will.

And it looked like this idiot noble (Brother) did not understand this fact.

Plus, unlike the Veltor House, the Beryl's did nothing illegal. With Gion-sama's character, they never will. Thus, it would be useless even if I promised to search for any dirt they had.

Wheezing sounds were heard as I breathed.

And the rope binding me had been made to look like no magic had been cast on it.

.....Damn it...

The moment I was about to moan from the pain, the knife attacks stopped and something strong and heavy was heard clashing.

...What happened?

As I was tied up and lying on the ground, I could not see what was happening. My heart was racing right now. Then I heard footsteps approaching. Soft and light. Sounds like a person with a small build.

... Did he come to help?... No, perhaps Father got disappointed with Brother, who, after so long, was unable to draw any information out of me and sent another one of his goons to do the job.

I wanted to clear my head and think but right now, I was really too tired to do any of that.

The sound of the footsteps stopped once it reached me and much to my surprise, vanquished the rope with magic.

... What magic. Be it the huge mana, or the complex spell and above all, it was done chantlessly. What a remarkable magician. He interested me.

And yet.

When I was lifted up and that magician entered my vision, the one I saw was...

“.....W..Will...? Why.....?”

It was Will. And I was unable to stop myself from questioning who I saw.

“Rather than that..”

Cutting off my sentence, that person who looked like Will gave a gentle smile, like how Will used to.

“ 《治癒》 ” [TN: Chiyuu, Heal]

I questioned my ears when I heard the next word that came out of his mouth. ...Chiyuu? I was shocked by how the person I thought to be my enemy, was healing me right now. But rather than that...

.... Chiyuu.

The rare-est of the rare, the attribute magic of the legendary level that only a handful of people could cast.

... The light attribute.

To think I was able to meet such a person...! Even with this situation, my scholarly spirit was excited. But, at the same time, the possibility of him being Will was close to zero. Scratch that, he was definitely not Will.

Right now, he just fly-kicked my brother away with magic, vanquished the rope with magic and healed me. After having casted 3 huge magics, he seemed fine. This was not the mana amount a 4 year old kid would have. To begin with, if a 4 year old kid had the mana to even activate a single spell, he would already be at the level of a court magician.

With these facts, the person standing in front of me was not Will. Then, who was he? I felt thankful for him healing my wounds but I could not let my guard down yet.

But, once again, this person next move exceeded my expectation.

“ 《修復》 ” [TN: Shuufuku, Mend]

A magic I had not heard before. I readied myself for anything that was about to happen.

No....?!

Swishing sounds like cloth rubbing against each other were heard and looking down at my clothes, I could see them mending itself.

What was this magic?

A magic not even heard in the royal court... Why did this person know of it? I stood up in full guard, preparing to attack at any time and yet, I was extremely curious at what I just saw.

“...Who are you?”

Before I noticed it, it slipped right. I somewhat knew he had no intention to fight me but...

“It’s me. It’s Will, Sensei.”

His shoulders slumped and he seemed down. Till now he was still insisting he was Will. No matter how his behavior was unlike a 4 year old kid, he should plenty well know that he was quite suspicious. Despite that, to still insist that he was Will, that must mean...

True, it was rather hard to prove one’s own identity.

I could not helped but asked again.

“...Really?”

“Yes, really!”

The way he answered was just like Will.

“No, I mean, that magic and that fighting ability...”

I knew now that he was not an enemy but... I still found it hard to believe him. Then he said something that shocked me.

“I kept it all a secret from everyone.”

He then smiled mischievously.

... When had I heard that before...?

And somehow, I finally believed.

..... This person was definitely Will.

I then became aware that the corners of my mouth were lifted up. And yet, Will amazed me even further. When he saw my troubled and slightly sad eyes, he grinned and muttered.

“《転移》” [TN: *Teni, Teleport*]

This was one spell even I knew. ... *Teni*. The sky attribute...

And also a legendary spell.

As one would expect from Gion-sama's son. I was already amazed that Will was a 'Double' but to think he owned both the Light and Sky attributes.....! A scholar was really greedy, to think I was fully guarded against him a while back but now, my scholarly spirit was burning with interest.

My desires seemed to be read and for a moment, my vision went dark and the hard floor my sole felt turned into something soft. When my vision returned, what I saw was somewhere familiar.

“It cannot be... Will's room...?”

I exclaimed in surprise. Even rushing in a carriage at this distance would take about 3 hours. And to think that he teleported 2 person at once...

Will's mana storage must be unfathomable. I suppressed my now-raging scholarly spirit and looked at Will. And found him looking at me anxiously.

... Well well well.

“So, Will. Could you explain to me clearly what all of what just happened?”

I asked in my usual tone. Smiling, I lifted my glasses with my finger.

As if hooked, Will smiled too.

Ahh, I am really lucky.

CHAPTER 30

A MEETING WITH DESPAIR

After seeing my magic, John-sensei, who was bursting with interest, somehow managed to suppress his scholarly spirit to have a talk about the events that happened.

“..... And so, I went to look for Sensei.”

Sparing him the details, I explained how I captured 3 suspicious men fishing for documents in Father’s office. As well as how I came to the conclusion that Sensei might be in trouble and went *[TN: Flew?]* over to check.

While listening, Sensei pursed his lips from time to time. I guessed he determined that instead of his spirit of study, solving this situation came first. In the end, apart from interrupting to give his thanks for me saving him, he silently listened to my story till the end.

“I will want a clear explanation on how you did everything later...”

John-sensei said, his sharp eyes piercing.

N-o-!!

Please don’t dissect me! I believe in Sensei so please don’t go all mad scientist on me!
.... At least don’t treat me like a guinea pig....?

I trembled, and after suppressing my urge to run away, I invited Sensei to continue.

“As you thought, this had to be the work of the Anti-Kingdom faction.”

Sensei let out a deep sigh and his face showed a mixture of surprise and worry. His father and brother were most likely weighing in his mind.

Erm, Sensei, your black aura was out in full force! And somehow I could see lightning striking in your background! Maybe Sensei ‘s attribute was Thunder? Like a certain rat?

... It felt like lightning would strike if Sensei was truly angered...

As I waited timidly, Sensei gasped his shoulders suddenly. As if he was trying to regain his balance.

“But first...”

He looked straight at me.

“In the future, you will refrain from such dangerous behavior right?”

Sensei said, his face full of smiles.

... This was definitely not a question...

I replied at the speed of light.

According to my 21 years of experience, 17 in the previous world and 4 years here, I took the stance that was the most effective in situation like these. I lowered my head and apologized.

“I am so sorry! I will not do it again!”

——— That’s right, to earnestly apologize!

It.. It’s not because Sensei was terrifying. Most definitely not. Just that, you see, to get this thing done in the fastest way possible was to compromise.

“... Hm, I will take you for your word.”

Looking at the unconvinced Sensei, I panicked and tried to changed the subject.

“I.. I am not worried about Father but what about these intruders?”

... It was not only to divert Sensei’s attention. I earnestly thought about the safety and public order of the residence. And the best way was to get this incident solved as soon as possible. Yep.

And it must be my imagination that Sensei just looked at me with amazement.

“That’s right... It is useless to speculate here. Let us meet with them first, shall we?”

I had no reason to reject Sensei suggestion and so, after agreeing, we teleported back to the office. I had called it as ‘Teleportation’ but in this world, it was just a normal spell that ‘Transfer’. That thought crossed my mind when I chanted the spell to teleport us both and John-sensei understood.

But it was really cool how we could teleport at the sound of my voice!

I met Sensei’s eyes, gave a small nod and chanted.

“ 《転移》 ” [TN: *Teni, Transfer / Teleport. Pronunciation : Ten-i, not Te-ni*]



-----**A short moment after Will left the House**-----

“.....Why..”

Was the first thing I said when I came to. I didn’t understand.

It was not that I had no memories of what happened but... As a Shadow, this behavior was unthinkable. To be speaking on enemy grounds... Even so, I was currently in a situation where I couldn’t move an inch.

I tried to twist my body but the intense pain that struck throughout my body made me frown. This time, I stayed silent. As a Shadow, it was trained in me. To not make a sound no matter the pain. And I followed it this time. But in that same training, I learned how to kill as well. Maybe that was the reason.

I rolled on the floor, trying to get a look at the surroundings. No one could be seen apart from us. And as it was, the other 2 were still unconscious.

Nonetheless, doubts started raising. Even if we were unconscious, leaving us ‘Shadow’ alone unsupervised was rather careless. We were professionals. We did possess the skills to break out even the strongest bindings.

At that, I tried to move my body and was taken aback.

———I could not move.

Even though nothing could be seen binding us, I could not even move a finger. It felt like my body had turned into lead, as the 'Shadow' side of me calmly analyzed while the other side of me felt an unfamiliar sense of terror, causing me to sweat. I convinced myself that the sweats were due to the intense pain I felt.

In the first place, this request was supposed to be easy.

Our client had lured the head of this house out and left only the maids. We were supposed to sneak into the house, grab the required documents and the child and that's it. Just that.

I did not know who the client was. I only followed the orders we were given by my owner. In the first place, I was given no choice to refuse. I tried many times, using anything to get it off, using any methods to break it off, frantically, over and over.

But even till now I could still feel it on my neck.

———[**Collar of Slavery**], a magic tool. In this country, slavery had long been banned and it was believed that the [**Collar of Slavery**] was out of existence.

... Till that day.

I was an orphan.

I could not even remember my parents' faces but I was okay with it. However, I could not say I was in a happy place. The orphanage I was in was rumored to have underground dealings and they hardly fed me. The first thing I learnt when I was slightly older was how to sneak out onto the streets. I was in an environment where I was always unreasonably treated. Hostility, ill-treatment, ridiculed at. At that young age, naturally, I accepted it as that was what I was.

Because I was obviously different from the other kids.

—— A Beastman.

Instead of the round ears at the side of my head, 2 furry ears were placed on top of it.

But, as I went out onto the streets with a hooded cloak, I came to know that this world was small, yet large. I then decided that I would get out of this place as fast as I could

and become an adventurer that travelled the world.

But what a short dream it was. The day I set my heart to it was the day I was sold.

It was a night like always, and I went to sleep on a hard and uncomfortable bed. Thinking back now, it was unusual that they actually fed me dinner that day. It must have been drugged with a sleeping potion.

When I came to, a thin black metal collar was attached to my neck and training started.
Training to erase one's presence.

Training to endure pain.

Training to get used to poison.

..... Training to kill.

At first, I desperately tried to resist but even so, my body would move obediently to the orders. It was like my mind and body were separated. There were a few times where I would start thinking that even if I was dead, my body would move on its own and still execute out orders.

As time passed, I gave up on resisting and simply followed orders. It might be because of my blood-stained hands that I felt like I did not deserve to be saved. A Shadow's job covered a lot of grounds but I was usually assigned to assassination or kidnappings.

Grouped along with 2 other people, each with different builds, we then executed orders given to us. I wonder if the other 2 had been through what I had too... The tall guy and the average guy hardly spoke at all. And that included me. We had no idea what each other were thinking about at all.

Before I realized it, I got used to killing.

... Did I get conceited with this request, I wondered.

No. Never.

That would never happen with this collar still on. Even with this collar that forced me to be absolutely faithful, till now I still couldn't move my body.

And I still had no idea what just went down.

Trained in moving in darkness, we had no need for lighting as we searched around the dark office for the 'required' document. For precaution, Tall guy casted 《影》 [TN: *Kage, Shadow*] that merged our bodies into the shadows.

Then all of a sudden, I heard a kid's voice and released my weapon in that direction by reflex. But no sound of metal embedding into flesh was heard and instead, I lost consciousness.

.... Did a kid do this?

Don't be silly, I needed to rethink this. I wouldn't be tricked.

Even though nothing was going as planned, I stayed calm. And felt slightly happy at how I was resisting the collar's commands to move.

It was then.

I heard the pitter-patter from 2 pairs of footsteps and the lamp was turned on.

A black haired man then appeared in front of me. And following him, an angel-like gorgeous child..

CHAPTER 31

HEY, I OVERCAME MY SURPRISE

Once we transferred over to the office, I saw the trio were still nicely bound up and flat on the floor. That's great. That's really great. I was a little worried about them breaking free. Glancing at Sensei, he had a really surprised expression on as he approached the trio.

"This is... perhaps..."

His face turned pale as he murmured. He then looked over his shoulder with a force at me, eyes questioning.

"Are all 3 of them restrained?"

I finally understood why Sensei had such a weird expression on. I had forgotten to inform him that I had bound the intruders up. The bindings were weaved out of my mana and barrier magic and coiled up around them with an addition of gravity magic. Just by looking, no physical object could be seen restricting them.

I scratched my neck and smiled sheepishly.

In a joking sense, I answered 'Bound by a spoonful of magic and a bit of gravity,' but I guessed Sensei would not accept that.

I then smiled teasingly.

"Ah, I will explain it all to you later."

Shifting our attention back to the trio, whose faces were covered with a black cloth, we looked at each other.

Hmm.... Where should we even begin...?

We could not tell if they had regained their consciousness or not without seeing their faces...

“What should we do?”

Troubled, I tried to ask Sensei.

“Yes, I wonder what we could do...”

Sensei answered, with a troubled look.

Oi oi. Why were you no help at all?

...Hah, anyone would be troubled if they were brought into this situation all of a sudden.

...Hmm.

This situation would stay stuck forever if we did not know if they were awake or not! I had decided to throw away all of my unnecessary worry. Not only were they intruding into the house, they even attacked me so I was not in the wrong here! In any case, we should wake one up and get some information from them.

You over there, please don't say I am horrible. To solve this case, I would be as humane as possible. At least I would not be as bad and use a knife as that guy in John Sensei's case!

Observing the trio, I decided to get it out of Mr. Delicate. In terms of physique, he looked easier to handle.

Just to say, the reason I did not choose Mr. Tall and Mr. Average was not because they looked like mob characters!

I timidly approached Mr. Delicate and took off the hood ———... our eyes met.

“Ah.”

I said in surprised.

They looked like Ninja so I willfully thought all of them as guys but it was the face of a beautiful Onee-san under the hood. Although her face was twisted and glaring at me. When our eyes met, she opened her eyes wide in surprised.

...Ah, if I, as an assassin, was caught and the one to come into my sight was a child, I would be surprised too. Relieved, I stood up.

“Ah!”

Sensei was somehow touching Onee-san’s flank!

Wait wait wait wait wait... What were you doing, Sensei! You could not do these kind of things even if you didn’t have a girlfriend! Even if Onee-san was gorgeous! Even if she was extremely gorgeous!

My inner mind was in chaos and as I was judging Sensei, at the timing where it was like he heard my thoughts, he looked at me.

... Frowning.

... I am sorry!

I gulped my apologetic words down and was thankful for that when I heard what Sensei wanted to say.

“This person’s bones are broken. Will, what kind of fighting did you do?”

.....

“... Eh?”

According to Sensei, just by touch alone, he had already felt a few broken ribs.

I tilted my head, trying to remember yet nothing came to mind. All I could remember was only giving her a hand chop to the back of her neck.

I casted a sidelong glance at Sensei, who began to question Onee-san.

“What was the reason to infiltrate this estate?”

“.....”

“Was it the Veltor’s?”

“.....”

Question after questions were asked but all Onee-san did was to glare at us. By then, Sensei was frowning.

“Will, let us bring her into another room.”

Saying that, Sensei wanted to carry her up.

“... That heavy?”

As a scholar, Sensei was not gangly but even by using his full strength, he could not even move her.... I was as surprised as Sensei before I remembered,

...Gravity magic!

It had completely slipped my mind. Perhaps that was the reason why I did not notice Onee-san’s ribs was broken.

“Ahahahaha.”

When it came to this... Laugh it off!

I undid the gravity manipulation, as well as the bindings and realized something. This Onee-san was in a state where several of her ribs were broken and yet she could still withhold her silence ————— Was that not kinda strange?

No matter how long it had been, Onee-san had no response whatsoever so Sensei decided to go on to plan B. I had no idea if the other 2 had come to or not but I heard that when separated from one’s group, one would talk more easily. Might be due to how their feeling of solitary and uneasiness increased in that situation. I simply thought that it was because they were away from the stress of the other person ratting them out if they talked. It was fine to think simple.

I nodded, left the other 2 in the office, and teleported the rest of us back into my room.

...Ah... It was better not to reveal my hand to the enemy...

I did it chantlessly, just in case.

Instantly, the view changed into one of darkness. I could feel softness under my feet so this should be the place. As my eyes were not yet used to the darkness, it somehow seemed darker.

When I switched the lamp on, we found ourselves standing on top of my sofa in my ridiculously large room.

Ah, I wondered if it was safe to unbind her without checking first. This kind of Ninja-like person usually had concealed weapons, don't they?

I jumped off the sofa and was heading towards Onee-san but found that Sensei was already searching through her clothes.

O...Oh....

Since I had the same intentions, I would not misunderstand Sensei's action this time round. But... uh. This might be a bit too much for my eyes. But...umu...

I didn't think I would be scolded if I turned my eyes away. Did Sensei do it because of me? No.. If he could read my mind then I would not be this troubled as I was right now... This was not the thoughts of a 4 years old kid... Ah, whatever.

Anyway, Sensei reached out for Onee-san's neck as he spoke up.

"As I predicted, this person is a 'Shadow'."

"...Shadow?"

I tilted my head at the unknown word.

"Yes. [Shadow] is the 'fixer' of the underworld. As long as there is a request, they will do anything, even assassination. They are the organization that operates in the dark, with no one ever seeing them before."

Judging from what Will said, till now, she had not made a single sound which meant she was truly a professional, Sensei murmured as he felt round her neck. At the back of her high-neck collar, there was a clasp which Sensei undid.

Ga-chink.

It opened and her clothes fell down.

“..... This is... !”

Sensei exclaimed in shock and directed his eyes, filled with doubt, at me.

“... Will, it’s as I thought, the situation is unfavorable.”

Sensei frowned as he gave a deep sigh, and glanced at Onee-san, who was still glaring at us.

“This item that is attached at her neck is mostly likely the [Collar of Slavery].”

[Collar of Slavery] was, as the name implied, a collar that once attached, forced a person into slavery. Once an order was handed down, they would be given no choice but to obey. Orders like ‘Kill the person in front of you’ would be fulfilled even if the person himself lost conscious, as their body would move on its own, as commended by the collar.

Hearing that, the hair on my back stood straight up. Luckily, Onee-san could not move due to almost all of her bones being broken but otherwise, she would continue to move until she turned into mincemeat.

.... Was that not the same as a zombie?

Sensei deduced that the reason why Onee-san was not making a sound was because of the collar. Who made something like this....! Anger rushed up and at the same time, an unfamiliar emotion that was very close to fear was felt. This was insane, the act of a devil.

But the problem was, this collar could only be removed by the person that attached it on.

“Onee-san is a shadow?”

I asked, looking into her eyes. Her face was wearing an expression that looked like she was glaring at us, but her eyes were dead.

... Most likely Sensei was right.

It should be normal for slaves or assassin to have some form of tools on them. But... Even so, I wondered why Sensei was extremely shocked when he saw the [Collar of Slavery]. I looked at Sensei and he answered.

“Slavery was banned decades ago. The manufacturing method of [Collar of Slavery] was ceased and it was said to be a taboo magic item.”

I see.

No wonder he was surprised.

I stared fixedly at the collar, observing it. Sensei said that only the one who put it on could take it off, which meant some kind of magic might be imbued into it. So, there was a possibility that Onee-san was working against her will.

“Sensei...”

I whispered into Sensei’s ear and tentatively had his approval. Even if I held Onee-san’s collar, she did not move one bit so there was no worries there.

I quietly went near to Onee-san and murmured.

I was really just grasping at straws here.

“《解放》” [TN: Kaihou, Release]

The thin black metal broke and fell with a clank.



Jin [Oi Jean, what are you doing...hm?]

Jean [Hmmpphhmmmp.]

Jin [...We got pulled one over by John]

Jean [Mmmhhpphmm.]

Jin [...Even so, he sure did it flashy, didn’t he. Call the medics.]

.....

Medic [.....Umppt....Hah hah hah. Master, I am so sorry but we cannot lift Jean Sama up!]

Jin [What...? Jean, I didn't know you were this fat...]

Jean [GUUUHHHHHEUMUMMMTP (IT'S NOT MEEEEE!!!!)]

CHAPTER 32

MY WORK CAN'T SEEMED TO FINISH

I had no idea what the heck just happened.

I was simply trying to bear my pain by glaring. Then suddenly, in the middle of everything, the scenery changed and I seemed to be sitting on top of a sofa. I thought they tried to ask about my identity a few times but I was beginning to think that the reason I could not move might be because the collar was broken.

That thinking / hope only lasted for an instance before disappointment crashed in.
[TN: She heard or knew it was because of her broken bones.]

Before I realized it, the cloth around my neck was unfastened and my collar revealed.

Then, the angel-like child walked over and without even asking anything, started to murmur something.

A warm mana then wrapped around me and around my neck area, a sound was heard.

My understanding couldn't catch up.

“.....Why?”

The word just slipped out.

I had a feeling I said that before. But right now, my cracking voice exposed my emotions. My clouded world just suddenly became clear. Unable to process all of this, my vision went white.



Onee-san, who came to recognize that her collar had been taken off, looked at me with eyes filled with questions before passing out. The control from the collar was broken

which allowed her to faint from the pain.

“Sensei, what do you think?”

Before she fainted, the expression that she had, made me felt like she was no longer our enemy.

By my voice, Sensei seemed to have come back from his thoughts.

“...How many times do you want my heart to stop...?”

Sensei, who was sighing, sounded happy despite his words.

...It was going to be hard after this. But really, I was only grasping at straws just now.

“I am not a guinea pig, you know?”

I was going to try my upturned eyes attack!

This was super embarrassing but I would do anything to protect my mental health! My life was precious to me!

In the end, Sensei snickered at me.

...Wasn't it fine? You didn't have to laugh at me—!

But just a little, I was relieved that Sensei was still Sensei. I had been afraid that our relationship would fall apart by me using my magic.

I was embarrassed at myself for thinking about this!

“...And so, is this Onee-san our enemy?”

“Ah, maybe. Will, are you thinking that she is not an enemy?”

“Yes... It is just my intuition though.”

John-sensei heard the last part I murmured.

“My intuition is telling me the same thing but... without anything concrete...”

He said, troubled.

...Sensei, who had a troubled look, looked at Onee-san. With dusk lighting framing the both of them, they looked picture-perfect...
Damn... I was so jealous of their beautiful faces...

For a moment, I stood there, hanging my head, before managing to continue the conversation.

“But, having the collar attached means that it is very likely Onee-san has no idea who her ‘client’ is, right?”

That’s right. Of course, in the best case, the person who attached the collar was the one who ordered this job. But they had went through the trouble to attach the collar onto her, which meant the ‘owner’ would not want the ‘client’ to control them easily. Which was why, it was most unlikely that it was the ‘client’ who attached it.

“...I agree... Well then, let us wait till she regains her consciousness, shall we? I am sure Master will return by tomorrow as well.”

Sensei said, nodding at me. Catching his meaning, I chanted.

“《治癒》” [TN: *Chiyu, Heal*]

And another on just in case.

“《武器探知》” [TN: *Buki Tanchi, Weapons Detection*]

I chanted as I imagined if any weapons were found hidden on her, even with her clothes on, would emit a red glow. Her arm and leg glowed. I removed the pointy-knife-like weapon and passed them over to Sensei before he carried her over to the bed.

I then remembered the other 2 and gave them the same treatment as Onee-san.

By then, it was so deep into the night that the sky might just be getting bright soon. Somehow today seemed to be extremely tiring... I had unknowingly tensed myself up all this time and when I relaxed, a strong wave of sleepiness swept over me.

Uwah.....Slee.....



“... ll... ill... Will!”

“Y, yes!”

I answered by reflex as I seemingly heard Sensei shouting my name.

“...Hm? Why is Sensei here?”

When I realized it, Sensei was lying beside me in my bed, with his clothes in a mess. I thought no one would blame me for panicking a bit. I turned to John Sensei with surprise.

“Why? ...You... Will, you grabbed onto my clothes and fell asleep and I tried but I could not release your grip.”

“...Uh...eh... I’m sorry...”

It was deep in my psyche to apologize reflexively. And when I looked around, I found out that the room I was in was not my own but Sensei’s...

At that point I snapped out of my drowsiness and remembered all that happened yesterday.

That’s right... I removed the trio’s collars, healed them, placed Onee-san on my bed and the rest on the sofa... with restrictions.

I snapped up. Mary-san was going to my room to wake me up!

“It’s okay, it is not the time yet. I woke you up early.”

Like he had just read my mind, Sensei smiled.

“Well, thank you for all your hard work yesterday. You saved me. Thank you.”

John-sensei said his thanks again, making me a little awkward. But the smile, void of any scheming or plans, from John-sensei was extremely destructive.

E..Even me... In the future... I can!

Undauntedly, I smiled and turned to Sensei.

“You are welcome.”

With that, Sensei stood up.

“Well then, shall we clean things up before Mary-san comes?”



We moved the trio to the office and I went back to my bed, feigning sleep. By the way, John-sensei was in the office as well because he had not ‘returned home’ yet and would cause surprise if seen.

I managed to pull one over Mary-san’s eyes and after breakfast, succeeded in secluding myself in the office. How did I do it? Please do not ask. I said something along the lines of aspiring to become Father... Who was I explaining to, anyway?

As I was bathed in questions after questions from Sensei in the office, my savior came home. Hearing a knock, I looked out into the corridor and saw a maid standing there.

“Young Master Will, Master has returned.”

For some reason, the maid seemed to be in high spirits as she forcefully held my hand and having no choice, I let her as we hurriedly made our way to the entrance hall. Once there, I saw Father, face ashen.

“Welcome home, Father.”

Happy that he was back, I rushed over as Father, with an about-to-cry face, laughed and hugged me.

“You are safe...! Will!”

Although his beard hurt but I decided to let it go this time. The fact that I returned Father’s hug happily was a secret between us. It must also be my imagination that Mary-san, leading the rest of the maids, looked at that scene of us warmly.

After that, I dragged Father to his office and together with John, explained all that happened yesterday. Listening with a grim face, Father nodded and began to relay his version of what happened.

“I had a bad feeling throughout the entire case. As I thought, that was just a lure.”

Once Father reached the capital, it was confirmed that merchants, who had once been suspected of slave trading, and Nobles that were closed to Veltor, were seen at the harbor. Moreover, they seemed to be piling up large bags of something.

When Father launched a surprise check on the luggage, both the merchants and Nobles had a nonchalant air about it while smirking. At that point, Father was certain he was tricked and when checked, all the large cages contained only chickens.

Now it was confirmed he was tricked. He then hastily finished the procedures and proceeded to rush home. To go through such a trouble just to lure him to the capital, he was certain the target was his family. Plus Mother, who possessed the strength to fight back, was staying over after her tea party and John was back to his house due to his mother’s illness. There was only 1 person left to target and just by thinking about it, Father panicked and rushed as fast as he could back home.

“Will, you did well! You really wanted to help John-sensei right? Amazing! As expected from the son of Lily and me!”

In the end, I was caught by Father again as he ruffled my hair over and over again.

“Pleassseeee Stttooooooppppppppppp!!”

My cries of distress did not seem to reach Father...

Shortly after, Mother came back and the 2 looked like they wanted to discuss something. Father let me go and they entered their private room.

I had done all I could, and would leave the rest to Father. After that, which was... The Shadow Onee-san’s trio, I guessed... As I stopped along the corridor, a hand was placed

onto my shoulder. Turning back slowly, I saw John-sensei, who had a smile on his face.

“Well then, it is time for you to explain.”

He remembered.

...It seemed like my work was not yet done.

Ah... How do I explain....



That night.

After dinner, when everyone was asleep, John was called to the office by Gion.

“Is it true.... the [Collar of Slavery]?”

Gion asked bitterly.

“...Yes. I had suspected my own eyes as well. ...But it matched the description as written by the court’s classified book. The rest... will have to wait till they are awake.”

John said, looking at the Shadow trio on the sofa.

“It might become a troublesome case...”

Gion murmured in a low voice that even John could not catch. In any case, the both of them had the same bitter expression.

CHAPTER 33

REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS

As for the incident, they could finally deal with the Anti-Kingdom faction nobles that had caused much troubles for the Emperor by exposing their crimes all at once. Nobles included Veltor, of course, as well as people who collaborated and were close to him.

That was fast. Father, you were too amazing. Who were you, really?

As for the captured 'Shadows', it was covered up by saying that Father had laid a trap and caught them. Ah, that was not a complete lie.

Trap = Me.

For me, I would wish to avoid increasing any troublesome matters coming my way and if an incident like this ever happened again, I could act as the hidden card and mostly, I wanted to live normally.

If it was exposed, I might be seen as a strange child or even be persecuted... No, if I was being treated as a strange one, then people would distance themselves away from me, to which floodgates might open from my eyes.

If possible, I would still want people to like me.

It had been 3 days since the incident happened and already, all the Anti-Kingdom faction had completely gone underground. And Father made new fans out of the citizens there.

It was scary how fast rumors could spread. Like how germs spread themselves, or how mice bred. They always said how rumors spread like wind. It just might spread faster than the wind.

[TN: English – Rumors spread like wildfire.]

Oh yes, it had been 3 days when the incident was safely behind us. And now, I needed to face a problem straight on.

“Sensei, they are not waking up.”

In place of Father, who was buried in paperwork, John-sensei was entrusted with the duty of looking after the arrested ‘Shadows’. As the cover story was said to be Father’s trap, it could not be left to people who did not know the truth. By the way, I was attached as a freebie.

...Because, my feeling of guilt was overwhelming.

I seemed to have made a mistake with my gravity magic and caused them to have almost all of their bones broken and were currently in a deep sleep. I casted healing magic and there were no longer any problem with their health but the trio, who had their collar removed, had not awakened yet.

Sensei said that it must be the mental strain of having their collars removed and was not my fault but still... the feeling of guilt gnawed at me. I could not forget the expression on Onee-san’s face before she fainted. Sometimes, in her sleep, she would have a pained expression on her face.

“Yes... As I thought, they would still need time to recover.”

Sensei sighed along with me and looked at the trio’s sleeping faces. Sensei rested his chin in his hand and had a complex expression on his face before sitting down on the sofa placed across from the bed. As a habit, I sat beside him.

Ah, that was careless of me!

“By the way.”

2 hands firmly gripped my shoulders as I was turned towards Sensei. Our eyes met.

.... His eyes were glittering!

“It is about time to tell me about your magic, Will.”

Ah, that’s right.

I promised to tell him later so there was no way I could run away! Having said that, it was actually the same as Japanese from my previous world! If I actually said that, he would rage that I was only a [cheat] bastard and everything would end. In short, I was very troubled right now. These 3 days, half of it were spent looking after the ‘Shadows’, another half of it were spent thinking of a way to explain.

And so, today was the 3rd day. My idea was to give an adequate reason and skip the rest. As I was not very good at lying, lying to people, like my parents and John-sensei, that had been with me everyday, would get me exposed faster than you could say ‘OBJECTION!’.

That was why I was trying to think of a way to explain without lying. By the way, the only ones who learned about what I did were limited to my parents and John-sensei. As much as it pained me, the maids were kept in the dark. The Beryl was the top family of the Duke class so people beneath would enter the house for apprenticeship. Apprenticeship was.... something like working in a big enterprise as a clerk before marriage.

Ah, and so...

I looked seriously at Sensei straight on.

“I understand. I was just about to give up avoiding.”

Sensei’s eyes sparkled even brighter so I made it a point to show him how serious I was about this. His face stiffened and looked at me anew.

“I could understand the magic characters since I was born.”

I was not lying.

I wondered if I came across as creepy... If I did not, then this strategy was a success.

Worried, I looked at Sensei and saw that he was frozen in state of shock.

“I was surprised too, when I first saw the magic spells.”

I gave one more push. This was a bit painful for me but I excluded an aura from my entire body to ‘not hate me’.

Come back! Sensei!

I smiled bitterly.

One part of me thought that Sensei would accept it while the other knew that normally, no one would believe these kind of things. If it was me, I definitely would not. ‘What is this 4 year old kid talking about’ and I would have laughed.

As I continued looking at Sensei, his expression, which was one of shock, slowly, bit by bit, melted into a smile.

“Haha..”

It slipped out as Sensei laughed, looking as Ikemen as usual while I was only thinking of wanting him to hurry up and give me the verdict.

“What are you so afraid of, Will?”

Sensei asked, still laughing. Then, in an instant, Sensei placed his hand on my head with a ‘pon’,

“It seems like we are in for a fun time from today on.”

Saying that, he rubbed my head.

...That’s great, he believed me... I was so glad, my face loosened up.

“...Nn.”

A small voice sounded.

...Oh....Someone woke up...?

“Someone is awake?”

Standing up together with Sensei, we rushed over to the origin of the sound.

“She is awake...!”

I said, leaning against the bed and looking at Onee-san’s face. Her closed eyelids began to open slowly.

Questions were reflected in her eyes.

And..... Terror.

Of course... It would be better to explain things clearly to her. I leaned in close.

“Onee-san, are you okay?”

“.....!!”

When our eyes met, I was glad she gave a different reaction as compared to 3 days ago. That’s great. She was in control of her own will.

“Were Onee-san forced to wear the collar?”

“.....”

“If it’s the collar, I have taken it off~”

Hearing that, Onee-san timidly reached for her neck. When she felt nothing attached on her neck, her eyes went wide and she looked at me so hard that she could drill a hole in me. That might be funny if it was not for this situation..

I took her stare straight on and said.

“Onee-san is free.”

.....

.....Hm...?

Was this not where she felt happy? Why was there no reaction....

Please, I would be troubled if there was no reaction. As before, Onee-san was staring at me, frozen solid. And when I was about to sigh..

“.....You’re lying.....”

A tiny voice.

“No, I am not.”

“You’re lying!”

She shouted at my words. Since it came all of a sudden, I jumped, surprised by the sudden shouting. Now that I looked at her, she was trembling. I guess it had not sunk in yet, which was why she had refused to believe me.

“I am not lying. Onee-san is free...”

“I can’t be!! I cannot be free! Because...”

I was cut off mid-sentence by Onee-san who shouted, almost crying. But ‘Because’ what? Was there a reason she could not have freedom? Don’t tell me.... someone close to her was being taken as a hostage?! As I stood ready, Onee-san lifted her hand, and forcefully pulled off her head cloth.

“..... Because... I am a... Beastman!”

Ahh.

Just now, when John-sensei treated me as like before, I was so thankful that I could not help but smile.

Saying that, I could see 2 puppy ears on top of her head.

“Why can’t Beastmen have freedom?”

“Because....We’re revolting. In any case, it’ll still be....”

Her ears, as like her emotion now, went down and flattened itself on her head. I wondered how she had lived before. Was she a ‘Shadow’ since she was born? Or...

When I thought about her circumstances, anger welled up inside me.

But, rather than the past, now was....

I bounced across the bed and used my knees to get closer to Onee-san while not forgetting to smile as much as possible. When I was close to her, I reached out my hand which caused her to flinch.

“How so? I think it’s cute.”

I wanted to touch her ears!

Ah, I touched it~.

So soft~!!

Fluffy!!

I acted upon a win-win situation; satisfying my desire as well as trying to heal Onee-san’s spirit. I softly stroked her ears.

When Mother and Father stroked my head, I felt very blessed and happy. I had no idea what made Onee-san happy but I was trying to convey my sincerity.... maybe.

“You’re lying!”

She got a shock from my action and went all red. Once again, the stubborn-headed Onee-san insisted she was not cute. I still think puppy ears on this gorgeous Onee-san were cute.

But.

I knew that even if I said it, it would not mean a thing to her. I once felt the same as her too.

“Onee-san, aren’t your ears just a part of you?”

I glanced at the blankly staring Onee-san as I continued. Distance memories had awoken inside of me.

“For example, If I cut my hair, I am still me.”

I remembered the big, wrinkled hands of my grandpa.

“No matter how I dress up nicely, I am still me.”

I grinned.

Did I do that because I was about to get immersed in my memories or not, I had no idea.

“Isn’t it just that? It is the inside that’s important.”

This time, I hugged Onee-san.

... I was still a kid so please give me some leeway.

“I think Onee-san’s ears are cute.”

Onee-san burst into tears.

I was not thinking that her flattened ears were cute! I was very mindful of the situation

I was in right now!

Making use of my child's body, I patted her back as she cried.

But, it was like looking through the mirror, seeing the past me. I smiled. Grandpa taught me that 'face' was not all that mattered. Did Grandpa look at me that day like how I was doing now?

I smiled again and as I was looking at Onee-san, I felt someone staring.

.... John-sensei.

Ah... I forgot all about him....

Don't look at me smiling like that! Don't look over here!!

Ahh, came to think of it, I said some really embarrassing things... Now I really wanted to jump into a holeeeee!!!

CHAPTER 34

THE FUTURE

At a very good timing right after Onee-san, the other 2 woke up as well. Once they took off their head cloth, it was known that they were both Beastmen as well.

Ah, I was sure you were questioning about why we left the head cloth on. That was simple. The cloth was connected to the rest of the outfit as a 1-piece. It would be impossible to remove without exposing the chest area a little. Plus there was a possibility the other 2 were female too, just like Onee-san.

I was very bad with women.

I had zero experience in dealing with women.

A naive child would not be bothered about this but sadly, I was 21 years old on the inside. I could not pretend to not be aware of them and in the first place, I did not have the courage to do something as bold as this. It was okay to call me a coward.

But leaving them fully clothed for these few days were unhygienic. Even though they were assassins, they were still patients. No problem. Although I had zero experience with women, I did still have common sense. It was not confirmed the other 2 'Shadows' were female or not but no matter as I casted 《殺菌消毒》 and 《洗淨》 on them both!

[TN: Sakkin Shodoku, Sterilize and Senjyo, Cleanse]

Ah, magic sure was convenient. Once again, I was reminded this was reality.

And so, the other 2 'Shadows'.

Mr Tall was Buhual, male, a Bear Beastman. This made me feel like giving him a nickname. The urge was strong with this one. I ended up giving him one anyway but as there was a lot of ridicule on that name, I kept it my secret. It was easy to guess what it was though. The only hint was that I gave him a red shirt as a present. ...Ah, would it be better if I gave him a pot of honey instead..?

[TN: Bu-surarilru, bad at names, part 10000444221. As for the nickname, I am sure you detectives can figure it out.]

He was born in Dyuvu, and to trade magic tools, he came to Elzmu and was caught. As he had a family in Dyuvu, I gave him enough money to get back. As he was poised to work as a slave here, when he heard that we were letting him go, he laughed out loud, grabbing his stomach. It was like I hit the funny bone of his or something as he laughed till tears came out. To tell the truth, seeing his giant frame shaking to and fro as he laughed was quite a sight.

As he was a merchant, I made a deal with him to repay this favor in the future. I would definitely cash in on this favor in the future!

And when I said that, he laughed again. Why?

Next was Mr Average, Bibinyaru, a Cat Beastman.

As my prediction that the other 2 would be female was overturned, I was feeling kinda down.

...Oh, I was not really hoping for another beautiful Onee-san.

His nickname would be Nyanru. You would feel like retorting why did I only choose the bottom half of his name but wasn't it obvious? He was a cat beastman.

He too, was a merchant like Buhual, and got caught on the way to Elzmu. He too, was given money to get back. And he promised to return the money. As expected of a merchant.

As to prevent this from happening again, all I could do was to cast an anti-slavery barrier on them but it would not help them in the future. 2 grown men being protected by a 4 year old child was...

Anyway, that idea was turned down by them.

And as we were dealing with this, it had already been a week. Beastmen's recovery

abilities were amazing.

And so, a problem arose. Those with good observation might already know what I was talking about.

Yes, Onee-san.

Onee-san, for some reason, loved to cling onto me. As happy as I was about that, it was troubling. It might be because I was only 4 years old but getting cling on to was a bother.

Yep.

Because she had those soft things.... I could not say it so let's leave it aside. I was an innocent and pure child.

Most of all, the thing I was really troubled by was the lonely expression she had from time to time. To that silent Onee-san, there was her tail. A chestnut-colored fluffy tail. They often said a person's eyes could convey as much as the mouth but in this case, a tail could express as much too.

Her tail wagged to and fro when she was interacting with Buhual and Bibinyaru and when you thought she was having fun, the very next instance, her ears and tail would flatten themselves like she was lonely.

As the other 2 set off, I finally had the time for her.

"Onee-san."

The standard place to find her at was her bed. The room was one of the less conspicuous rooms, situated deep in the house and it was where the former 'Shadows' had stayed. 3 beds lined side by side and on the innermost bed, Onee-san sat, her ears and tail jerking from the surprise. I took a seat on the plain-looking sofa placed across the beds and looked at her.

Seemingly afraid, she had curled herself up and gave fleeting glances at me.

I had introduced her as a gorgeous Onee-san but she was perhaps only around 15-16 years old. She gave off an impression of someone who was still a child, with fluffy chestnut ears and tail and was, of course, beautiful. And her long chestnut hair, as fluffy, spread out on the bed.

She looked like those healing characters but now, she was looking at me, afraid. How did I say it.... that hurt.

I meant, I was only a cute 4 years old child, you know? What was so scary about me?

...Ah, it was true I defeated the 'Shadows' and removed the collar but... 4 years old, you know? To think she was still hugging me yesterday, what was with this situation?

"Onee-san?"

I called out to her once again. She might not had heard me the first time...right?

"...Y..Yes."

She managed to reply, her voice trembling. Her upturned eyes were cute. Cute, but please stop, this was really hurtful.

"Onee-san, what do you want to do from now on?"

"... From now on...?"

She managed to force her voice out, with a face that was about to cry. I was sorry too, for asking straight out like that. From her response, it seemed like she had nowhere to return to. But she was still young. It was not right to force her to go along with the flow with my half-hearted pity. She had to think for herself.

"Onee-san, where do you live?"

"...None."

"...Can you tell me about it?"

Silence.

I slowly approached the bed where Onee-san had curled herself up on. I then sat on the side of the bed and lifted Onee-san's face up.

And from that, she slowly recounted her story in bits and pieces.

Onee-san was an orphan.

And this orphan was an irregularity. So she was abused.

And then, she was sold. And undertook the shadow's training.

And somehow gave up in resisting the collar.

And killed many.

Onee-san's slender body trembled from the start till end but even so, I knew she was trying hard not to cry. At the end, I could not stand watching her like this.

"...I have murdered many people. I cannot be allowed to live... I.. want to die."

I hit Onee-san's forehead, taking care of my strength. The sound reverberated around the room.

"Onee-san, baka?"

I then hugged her tightly.

"Would any of those people Onee-san killed come back to life if Onee-san was dead? They can't, can they?"

I held the surprised Onee-san's face in my hands.

"Do you really want to die?"

Her body trembled.

"Anyone can make up for their sins by dying because it is the easiest way out. Nee, Onee-san, do you really want to die?"

Her eyes started swaying.

Ah, no. Tears started gathering at her eyes. The drop right under her eye got bigger and when it got heavy, it rolled down her face. Her face twisted up in sadness and she suddenly moved.

“I... don’t wish to die! But I have nowhere else to go.. I already have nothing!”

At this, I smiled inappropriately.

“Then, stay here?”

Onee-san froze with a ‘Eh?’ look. I stroked her ears.

That’s great. She did not wish to die. I was feeling bad about having said some harsh things but now that Onee-san was going to be staying, I could not help but smile.

After a short while, Onee-san jumped at me and we ended up in a position where I was pushed down on the bed with her above me. Her tail was going crazy.

That’s great, she looked like she was delighted about it.

What I did not know was, the fact that stroking her head and ears multiple times made me smile, was used by John-sensei to mock me and made me regret doing it.

Really. Onee-san was too cute.

CHAPTER 35

CONTINUOUS SHOCKS

“———...Il-sama, Will-sama.”

Drifting in the pleasant realm of light sleep, I heard a far-away voice calling me. My consciousness was then pulled back out... By a tremendous force shaking me.

“Uwah....!”

...Ah, it's Chiffon.....

“Morning, Will-sama.”

“Morning.Chiffon.”

Such energy in the morning. This person, had just come flying over as she jumped on my bed and was currently sitting on top of my abdomen.

Sigh.... It must be my imagination that something felt like coming out.

Then, as though she sensed it, Chiffon, with the same energy, leapt off the bed and stood by it, her tail wagging furiously.

Her ears, as soft and fluffy as usual, stood up on her head and were pointed towards me.

Damn it.... So cute!

I could not be angry at her even if I wanted to...

I let out a sigh before gently smiling, beckoning her with my eyes and hands to come over. I lifted up my hands, as if wanting her help to pull me out of bed....

“..... Gwah!?”

Once she grasped my hand, I pulled with all of my might. The result of that was her

falling on the bed beside me.

...Tch... I missed..... Ah no, I did not say anything. I did not think about anything either!

I immediately got up and moved closer to Onee-san, who was lying face-down on the bed.

Revenge time!

Since it was such a good chance, I was going to touch it.

Broadly grinning, I reached out.

“...ah!”

“Fluffy~”

I wanted to stroke Chiffon’s tail! I had always wanted to touch it!

In my previous life, I loved animals like cats or dogs. I skillfully ran my hand along the chestnut tail, going along the flow of the direction of the hairs. Her ears, as seen from the back, were twitching. So cute.

Without thinking, I reached my right hand over to her ears as my left hand continued to stroke her tail.

“...please wake me up gently next time okay, Chiffon?”

I lowered my voice, leaned close to her ears and chided her. I knew she was just playing but I could not yield on this.

Because for a moment there I felt like my life was in danger.

“I am sorrrrryyyyyy!”

Jumping up forcefully, Chiffon avoided my eyes and turned red as she apologized.

...Was touching her tail that embarrassing...?

I shall restrain myself next time.

Eh? Why was I not stopping?

I could not. Once you had a taste of the addictive Tail-sama you could never stop!

Beside Chiffon, who jumped from the bed and stood back facing me, I peeled myself from the bed and began changing.

I thought you knew who Chiffon was by now.

One of the 'Shadows', the Onee-san.

I had asked Father and we took her back from the orphanage in the Capital. And now, by her own request, she was understudying as my private maid.

Although there were people in Elzmu who looked down on Beastmen, there was none in our house so Chiffon was definitely not being feared or looked down upon here.

....And, Mary-san was treating her as her own daughter... guiding her along strictly.

Onee-san's name — Chiffon, was actually named by me. As wished by Onee-san. Because she was dejected about not having one. So I thought really hard.

The sweet, fluffy, chestnutty her was like a chiffon cake to me so I named her as such. Straightforward, right? I acknowledged that I did not have much naming sense. But I really tried my best. It was a name given with loads of love so please pardon me for it.

Maa, to me, it was the most fitting and cute name. But Onee-san sure was brave, asking a 4 year old kid to name her.

I quickly changed, called Chiffon and we went to the dining area together. And it was the first for me. When she wanted to hold my hand, I stubbornly refused. Mary-san was still fine as she was around my mother's age but Chiffon was still young. A young maiden.

Nostopitsoembarrassing.

So recently, I walked, finally steadily, on my own as Chiffon, the young maiden, followed behind me.

..... She was really cute.

Just like a dog.



“And so, let us study magic today.”

Sensei, his eyes sparkling, was seated across me with the table in between us.

It was our first lesson after a long time. Because John-sensei had to run around, dealing with problems that popped up from the aftermath of the incident.

The problems.

To put it simply, Veltor. Because of the series of incident, Jin and Jean were, of course, arrested and thoroughly stripped of their nobility but John-sensei did nothing illegal. He was actually the victim. No, you could say he was one of the people who solved the incident.

Even though he had abandoned his name, he was still a Veltor. As a Viscount, the land of Veltor Household was as big as the position. In simpler terms, the land was too small for the court to place its direct control on it, plus it was a little too far from the capital.

So in this case, it was given as a reward to people who helped in the incident. Even without this problem, the land, together with the position of the head of Veltor House, was still likely to be forced upon John-sensei.

But John-sensei, who used to be a royal court scholar, was working as a Home Tutor for Williams Beryl. Plus he himself had said that he didn't need it. I had always thought John-sensei would rather spend his time on research rather than to govern a territory but to know that it was really true was.... John-sensei was too amazing.

Because of that, and in a sense that he kinda brought it upon himself, he was busy running here and there to deal with it. In the end, the management of Veltor's land was given to the Beryl, acting as the representative.

Mah, Father had said " Veltor's citizen have been coming over anyway so there is not much of a difference. " so there should not be a problem. Instead, this kind of situation reconfirmed the fact that Father was amazing. Who was he, really? Working as the governor of his territory, working behind-the-scenes such as this case, working as the captain of the knights... et cetera, et cetera. The work load was so huge that you could not help but wonder how many of him there was to handle it. No matter how fast he

could do his work, it must still be hard.

... The least I could do was to help..

Although I could never say it out loud cause it was embarrassing.

And so, today's lesson was the first day in ages that I finally had the chance to speak with John-sensei.

"Yes! What exactly would we be doing today?"

John-sensei looked at me with a 'Oh..', and an amused look appeared on his face.

"You changed your way of speaking."

"...."

[TN: Explanation time. Will used to speak in hiragana, which is a pain-in-the-arse to read. Now he apparently changed to kanji, which is loads easier. Children in japan usually starts learning kanji when they are of a certain age so I guess the author is trying to convey that.]

Please don't retort, sensei.

...I only managed to speak this clearly after loads of practice, to get rid of the lisping that came with me being at my age. ...This was embarrassing so just stop... I was already very embarrassed after being seen by Sensei when I was with Chiffon, now he just said it in a way that sounded like I lisped on purpose...

"... Because I am about to turn 5 years old."

I managed to answer. Sensei looked shocked.

...Tch, how terrible. Don't tell me he forgot about my age? I mean, people did not usually easily forget about these things.

"That's right... Will is already 5 years old."

Not yet, but I did not feel like retorting. John-sensei, who was completely shocked, had his maliciousness mocking aura taken from him.

"...Sigh... Turning 5."

"Unbelievable, right?"

Time passed. It was unbelievable that it had already been 2 years since I first met Sensei. Just as I was submerged in emotions like Sensei, he opened his mouth, having suddenly thought of something.

“In that case... It is about time to think about schooling.”

“... Schooling?”

“Yes. In Elzmu, going to school has become an obligation.”

Become an obligation?

Wow. Even to the extent of compulsory education. You really could not make light of this country.

Still slightly shocked, John-sensei had begun to explain all about schooling.

It was as my previous world. Even though the ages were slightly different, the period of compulsory education and the education system was about the same.

Except for 1 thing.

You were allowed to skip grades. The previous me who were envious of America was happy about this point.

To put things simply, the lowest Academy would be like a primary school, with children of 10~12 years old studying for 3 years.

Mid Academy would be 13~15 years old, as like a secondary school.

High Academy was for 16~18 years old, you might think that it was an equivalent to High school but it was only attended by people who were exceedingly good at magic or were very clever and wished to work as a researcher so it would be closer to a university. By the way, John-sensei attended High Academy as a means to escape from his family. From that reason, being able to become a scholar was a feat in itself. After graduating from High Academy, most would work for the court as a knight, magician or scholar. Or return to their territory as the head of the family. It was just like how university graduates would become a civil servant or to work in a large company.

“How long is the compulsory education?”

“As Will is a Noble, till Middle Academy.”

“There is a difference for a commoner?”

“Yes. They only need Primary Academy education as it provides all the knowledge they need for their daily lives”

Sensei nodded and absentmindedly murmured to himself.

“Even so, it should be made compulsory for Nobles to attend till High Academy. If not, they would be made light of.”

If I were to guess, in high society events where Nobles gather, they would go “Did you not go to High Academy? How cretinous.” and be made fun of. These kind of stuff happened in my previous life as well. All in all, these events only existed to show off.

“——— skipping of grades...”

The reason I wanted to study was to be able to lend a helping hand to Father as soon as possible. In Noble’s society, it was a settled deal for one to attend High Academy for things to go smooth and I wished to reach my aim as soon as I could. The best choice was, to skip grades. Unintentionally, I said what I was thinking out loud.

But even so, the level for this country was ridiculously high. If the studies I was doing now were aimed for kids, then this level was already in the same level as high school from my previous world. I started to worry if I was able to do it or not.

“You do not have to worry that much.”

What I was thinking seemed to have been written on my face. I was praised by Sensei. When I was about to say thanks to Sensei, he continued, stunning me into silence.

“We have already studied the materials for High Academy.”

Oi oi, please tell me you are joking...



I took a few minutes to recover from that unfathomable joke.

It seemed that I was neither praised nor was Sensei making a joke. Nobody would be angry at me for feeling a sudden surge of anger.

...Return back my exhausting effort and all the time I spent... I honestly felt like crying.

Even if I was not in a child's body, I felt like crying. Sensei just went along with the flow of things and proceeded on. To hell with 'just'! Why would you even give a child High Academy's materials to study, you bastard!

I looked up at Sensei with reproachful eyes but thinking of the punishment that might come, I forgave him. It was true that thanks to him I could reach my goal sooner. As an educator, he certainly did his job.

But.

I mean, there was something called being prepared for it. Wasn't it fine to inform me in advance about it? Wasn't it too Spartan? He was definitely a Sparta 'S'... Next time onward I would call him Spartacus. In my heart, Sensei's nickname had changed from 'S' Bastard to Spartacus.

John-sensei averted his eyes from me and coughed.

"And so, please explain the magic from this incident, Will."

"Sigh.."

This time I did not even bother hiding my sigh.

CHAPTER 36

ENROLLMENT!

A gentle and comfortable breeze brushed gently against my cheek and tenderly fluttered the fully bloomed flowers around. The highlight was the slightly reddish flowers dancing under the clear blue sky.

One airborne flower landed lightly on top of my head. Noticing it, I smiled as I reached out for it.

“——— I see, a fully bloomed Icris.”

I murmured, looking at the flower petal in my hands. Too bad it was not a Sakura flower.

Yes, today was my school entrance ceremony.

“.....New students, gather over here please!.....”

The voice could be heard calling from the direction of the school building. I turned my back on the Icris tree, a tree that resembled a Sakura tree, and rushed over.



Young Master Will, do you have everything with you?”

Mary-san asked helpfully. I declined but she still carried my huge black leather bag for me. Instead of saying she was still as overprotective as ever, it was better to say she was as idiotically doting as ever. She felt more like a grandmother instead of a mother but that was something I would never say out loud even if my mouth had split open...

“Will.... Will... Will-samaaaaaa!”

The one calling my name over and over while sobbing was none other than Chiffon.

“What’s the matter, Chiffon?”

“I am worried about Will-sama.”

I laughed, looking at the easy-to-understand, hiccupping and slightly shaking Chiffon, who was trying hard to stop crying. She said she was worried but I guessed she was just lonely.

“Wh-.. What are you laughing about!!”

If Mary-san was not around, I would most likely get beaten up by Chiffon. Pacifying her, I gently stroked her head, which had completely become a habit of mine.

... I was regretting that I was not tall enough...
It's okay! I still had a bright future ahead of me!

I was in the peak of my growing period right now!
As I encouraged myself silently, I took my coat from Chiffon.

“You have already known this for 1 month, haven't you?”

I put my arm through the sleeve of the coat, glancing at Chiffon, smiling.

“Plus it is not like we will never meet again, I will come home during the holidays.”
“...Even so, Onee-san is worried...”

Chiffon murmured, head hanging down. I finished putting on my coat and turned to Chiffon, grinning.

“Rather, wouldn't it be better if you worry about yourself first?”

“Willl~!!”

“Hahahah!”

Laughing aloud at Chiffon, I walked out of my room.

It had been 2 years since Chiffon came. She had grown accustomed to this house and even seemed to have a dream for the future.

To be my private attendant.

My dream was to become the head of Duke class. To become my attendant, apart from having a good rapport, she would need to be able to handle my guests as well as being able to handle herself in various politic events. On top of that, she would need to have the skills to be my personal maid, secretary and bodyguard. Chiffon knew all this and she had aimed to be one.

Chiffon had never even been to a Primary Academy. Since she had been here, on top of her maid duties, she had been studying the materials of Primary and Mid Academy under me and Sensei for these 2 years. Having looked at her all these, I knew how hard she had worked. And it seemed that she was currently studying for the entrance exam of the High Academy.

I walked down the corridor, stepping on the soft carpet laid all over, already used to it, and down the huge stairs. Walking through a door, down another corridor and I reached the entry hall.

Once there, I saw Father and Mother standing side by side, waiting. There were a hint of loneliness on their faces but they were smiling and happily stroking my head. Even though it was slightly embarrassing but things that made me happy did still make me happy.

“My son is amazing!”

Bursting with excitement, Father rubbed his cheek against mine. It had a while since he did that but... It hurt!! Hurt!! So embarrassing! I used my older body to hit against him but against Father’s toned body, it was useless.

...Damn...

In the end, everyone directed warm gazes at me as I was carried out of the house by Father. Uuuu..Damn!! Only till today!

I promised myself to live strongly in the Academy.

Ahh, I knew Father did not do that out of malice. Instead, I could feel his affection strongly so I could never hate him.

Not that I felt happy at that. Definitely not!

I mean, I was already 8. I was no longer a kid!

Hm, it must be my imagination about someone saying that I was still a kid...

Father carried the wailing me out all the way to the carriage, prepared and standing by. Even the coachman was smiling at the scene of me and Father.

“Take care of your health.”

Mother said, stroking my head. I showed an honest joy at that. ...No, I did not have a mother complex!

“I will.”

Smiling, I nodded and climbed onto the carriage. Remembering something, I turned back.

“Do your best, Chiffon.”

I skillfully stroked her as I would not be able to meet dear Tail-sama and Fluffy Ear-san for a while.

This time I really got into the carriage. Opening the window, I waved to them.

“I will be going now!”

I yelled, as the carriage started moving.

“””” Take care! “”””

Chiffon, who was bouncing. Mother, with her bright smile. Father, who looked like he was about to cry. And the gently smiling Mary-san.

I stared at them for a short while till they disappeared and I settled down on my seat.

Phillis Academy.

Situated near the Capital, it housed all Primary, Mid and High levels, and thus being the ideal place to be for people like me who aimed to skip grades. By the way, both Father and John-sensei graduated from there.

One month prior, I sat for an examination as so to skip grades. In Elzmu, as long as you reached the age for compulsory education, you would be accepted into the Academy without having to sit for an exam. However, for people who wished to skip, one would be needed.

...As expected of Primary Academy, the exam was a piece of cake. Let's keep it a secret that at the same time, my anger towards John-sensei reared its ugly head again.

To reach Phillis Academy from Beryl's residences, it would take about 4 hours. As the 8 hours journey to and fro was too hard to swallow, it was decided that I would be staying at a dormitory.

It was lonely being away from my family but I could not help but be excited for the oncoming school life.

As well as the dormitory life that I did not get to experience in my previous life.

100 friends would be a little impossible but I did hope to make as many as possible. I was feeling unease at the thought that I would be around 10 years old. Why? Because my inner age was $17+8$, 25 years old. Yes, I was almost 30.

Ah..Time sure flew.. Or rather, I thought my mental age was getting influenced by my body's age. Since just now, the unease had been swelling up within me, damn it!

In the rocking carriage, the irrationally angry me lay down on the seat.

Hell...My ass was starting to hurt...



“----- ...that's why.....congratulations and welcome to this school.”

Ah, oh no, I couldn't.

I had fallen asleep. But I woke up just in time. No matter the world, people who was a

headmaster had a gift of making long speeches...Or rather, that was too long!

I fell asleep but all the 10 years old should be sitting straight and listening, right?

I looked around, and mostly saw people who fell asleep were being poked by people whose concentration had waned.

...As expected.

In the half state of daze from having just woken up, I looked at the stage. A grandpa gracefully gave his greetings and left the stage. In exchanged, a macho-muscled man in a tight suit walked onto the stage in perfect etiquette.

At any rate, while I was amazed that Grandpa's voice could be heard all around, Mr Macho came on, holding something similar to a mike. Since it could not be mechanical, it must be a magic tool.

Magic sure was convenient...

Thanks to it, I was forced to listen to the long speech.

"Thank you, Headmaster. And so, the entrance ceremony is over. Students, please head towards the classroom that corresponds to the color of your student card you were given earlier. Once you exit the assembly hall, there will be upper classman guiding you so please do not worry."

Mr Macho said politely. His mannerisms and his face were so mismatched! As I gave rude comments in my mind, others were rapidly leaving the hall.

As we were all seated previously I had not noticed but everyone was so big...

Ah no, it should me who was small...

I shook off that depressing feeling and stood up.

Ah, that's right. Compared to the rest, I was 2 years younger. At this age, a 2 year gap would be quite big. That's it. If not I would be very troubled.

As I convinced myself, I took a closer look at the card given to me at the registration counter.

“...It’s white.”

Leaving the hall, I saw upper classman waving a white flag, as said by Mr Macho. Waving a white flag... it was like someone had lost. Amused, I tried to control my laughter as I made my way towards it.

The rest of the flags were as followed, Red, Blue, and Green. A total of 4 colors. Only the white color had a feeling of alienation. I wonder what the meaning behind the choice of White was.

The upper classman started counting the number of people in their group. As most had gathered, I started running over.

“We will be setting off!”

A boy with a strong aura yelled. Somehow, he had a white badge pinned on his chest. Will all of White team get one? I was getting excited.

Being absorbed by the badge, someone from behind crashed into me.

“.....!!”

“...Uwah, sorry, I did not see you there!”

I turned around, having a feeling that something rude had just been said. Plus he said it without any malice. Which meant he was a natural airhead. Which made it worse. The meaning was the same as calling me a ‘chibi’ right to my face. However, it seemed like he had not notice that and was nervously apologizing.

Ha...This was where I should act like an adult. I then smiled at Mr Somebody.

“It’s okay, don’t worry, I am not paying attention as well.”

I laughed and seeing this, he broke into an innocent smile.

“Could it be that you skipped grades? By the way, I am Zen.”

Zen, with his freckled smiley face, smiled. He, with his reddish hair, had a slightly

regrettable cute face. His name is quite regrettable too.

“Ah, kinda. I am only 8 years old so I am not a ‘real’ chibi! I am William Beryl, you can just call me Will.”

Pulled in by Zen’s friendly atmosphere, I too, smiled.

“...That’s amazing, you’re a noble.”

Zen said, and I remembered. I had given my name in the heat of the moment but in this world, commoners did not have a last name.

Hm.

In order not to distance myself, I shall try to avoid giving my last name in the future. Recording it in my heart, I smiled wryly.

“I am not that amazing. Only by chance did I get born into a Noble family. I did not do anything.”

Zen had a very shocked expression but as it did not feel like anything bad, I let it go.

“You’re amusing, Will.”

“Is that so?”

I smiled, seemingly having made my first friend.



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