

Tenseishichattayo!

# 転生しちゃったよ

ヘッドホン侍  
Headphonesamurai

いや、  
ごめん

2



**I'VE BEEN REINCARNATED**  
**(WELL, SORRY)**

*– Tenseishichatta Yo (Iya, Gomen) –*

**- Volume 2 -**

**LET'S GO, ACADEMY**

**AUTHOR:**

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**[ Translated by: Pumlated ]**



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 37

## THE USUAL

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The school buildings in Phillis Academy are all made out of thick, solid stone and look like castles built in mid-Europe-ish.

Along the dim corridor, students dressed in the same uniform are being led by the senior, a scene familiar to a certain magic academy.

Mah, regrettably, this is not a magic academy where only the chosen attend but everyone in the country due to compulsory education. Regardless, I still feel excited.

And why won't I be?

This marks the start of the long awaited school life that I have yearned for.

"You look so happy, Will."

I am laughed by Zen. Now is not the time to be laughing at me! Children that have just been born not long ago might not know it but compulsory education is a wonderful thing! It might be because he has not been to other worlds but thinking about magic lesson has already made me so excited that I feel like dancing!

Ah... I cannot say my true feelings out loud so I just give a vague smile as a reply.

"I am just looking forward to the dormitory life."

"Eh? Really? Will too? I am living in a dorm too!"

Delighted Zen is baited into the conversation. Then, ahead of us, a loud booming voice is heard.

"We have reached your classroom! Don't fight! Bye then!"

Who will fight on their first day in school... Energetic till the end, the senior leaves coolly without any self-introduction.

Don't run along the corridor...

I yell in my heart as I stare at his distant figure before entering the classroom.

It has a large wooden door that looks imposing. You can feel the history of the academy from the darkish stone buildings paired with this kind of door. Once entering, the very first thing that I notice is...

"Oh, long desks."

I murmur without thinking. Long desks line up and cramp into the classroom... Just like the Showa Era. *[TN: 1926 – 1989, he just meant it looks old-ish since most school in japan use single desks now.]*

A blackboard that is properly black, sits at the front of the classroom with the side walls curved in, in a circular shape. Just standing in the classroom makes my thrill-meter shoots straight up.

Looking around, everyone is curious at seeing a classroom for the first time and is chatting among each other. It would be a good idea to sit down before I attract their interest in me skipping grades.

Free seating is written on the blackboard. Aren't we supposed to learn how to read in this school? I bit back on my retort and take a seat. Following my lead, Zen sits down beside me. Then it seems like mass psychology takes place as my classmates begin to shuffle to their seats.

The classroom is buzzing with light chatter but none of it seems to be negative so I am relieved that I am not attracting attention.

...I am so glad that there is no bratty noble son in this class. Really glad.

"Hey Zen, is there any meaning to the groups' colors?"

Since the teacher is not here yet, I decide to get some answers to the questions that have been on my mind.

“Ah, yes there is.”

“.....As expected.”

There isn't. I am just about to answer Zen before stopping mid-sentence and look at him.

“.....There is?”

“Eh? I heard that there is though...”

Zen is shocked as well.

“Ah, no, I mean...”

I have thought that there is a meaning behind the colors but never have I thought Zen would know the answer to it. In this situation, it is best to smile and pretend that nothing happened.

“.....Okay. The colors represent the different magic attributes.”

“Attributes?”

“Yep. The usual ones. Red is fire, blue is water, green is earth, and our class, white, is wind.”

“I see!”

Surprised by his knowledge, I praise Zen, who breaks into a wide smile. I too, begin smiling and then, the door opens with a great force.

“Ah, everyone is here!”

The one standing energetically in front the door is Mr Gori-Macho. Clomp clomp clomp, he walks in big steps. Where is the well-mannered man from the entrance ceremony going to? All I can see now is someone who is walking exaggeratedly.

In no time, he reaches the middle room and looks at us, grinning.

“I am glad everyone is sitting down nicely.”

Nodding his head pretentiously makes him looks effeminate. When he looks to be

done with his nods, he snaps his head up and shouts. Ah, he most probably is not shouting. He must be that, the kind of person who has an irritating loud voice.

“O-kay, let us start with self-introduction!”

Game Over.

A commotion stirs up within the classroom.

...Oh... A common practice for a new class. So common that it totally slips my mind.

Well then, this is worrying. What should I say?

Self-introduction is something that one will always fret over, even if I am already 25 years old. Plus what about my name? About my attribute? I have a mountain of secrets that I cannot reveal.

And when I am worrying about it, Mr Gori-Macho seems to be preparing something. Hm? He is looking at me.

The corner of my mouth raises naturally... Oh, stop doing amusing things, Mr Gori-macho.

“Firstly...”

As he strains himself, a ball of fire appear with a ‘PON’ right in front of his hand.

“My name is Zelda!”

No, you should be a gorilla.

As I calmly retort, the eyes around me shine with a sparkle.

The fire in front of Mr Gori-macho... Zelda-sensei, is spelling out his name.

“As you can see, my attribute is fire. Fired up primary level teacher, who will be in-charge of this class!”

The feel of a Hot-Blooded teacher. Even his attitude is fired up. Feeling amused, I smile

wryly as the energetic Zelda-sensei takes control and the class self-introduction starts.



And when the last student sits down, Sensei claps his hands, leading a round of applause. His energy seems to have spread around the classroom and when all the clapping and cheering dwindle, Sensei speaks up again.

“So, that’s it for today. There would be a body check-up tomorrow so for those staying in dormitory, don’t be late just because you are not used to it and can’t sleep.”

With that, Zelda-sensei walks out the same way he walks in. Then, all of a sudden, the classroom is in a buzz. Conversations between girls sitting opposite of me can be heard.

“Oh no~ I gained weight~!”

“Eh~ You don’t look like it though~?”

Are they really 10 years old? Even though I suspect them, no matter the worlds, girls will still be girls.

“.....Ah, but Will, even though it was a self-introduction, you did not give your real name.”

As we are walking down the corridor together, Zen thinks back and laughs.

“It is my real name. Just not all of it.”

I laugh too.

“Ah no, I thought that Nobles love to show off their names, that’s why. Will is really one of a kind.”

Zen laughs, looking like he is enjoying himself. I have a feeling that something rude has just been said but since we are having fun, I let it slide.

The attribute question which I am worried over is not even asked. Thinking back, everyone has just entered school and is about to start studying magic, of course we

would not know what our attribute is.

And yes, at my self-introduction, I have given my name as 'Will' only. I don't want them to distance themselves away. Saying that, I haven't memorized all of their faces and names yet.

Oh well, it all starts now~ Now~!

"Oh... it's around this corner..."

Following the map passed to us in the classroom, we begin walking over to the White Team's dormitory. But this school is really ridiculously huge. And since they used to have a boarding school system, it is now left with a lot of empty rooms.

".....Oh."

".....Wah!"

Turning around the corner, we both raise our voices. By the way, I am the one who speaks first.

The first thing that entered our vision is a large white door. It seems to be made out of one solid marble slab and reaches all the way to the ceiling. Amazing. It is undeniably amazing but...

Zen seems to be at awe at something completely different.

"——— 《風》 ?" [TN: Kaze, Wind]

A large magic circle is craved onto the door.

Due to me murmuring instinctively upon seeing the word, the door begins to opening slowly.

# CHAPTER 38

## RECOVERY

---

“——— 《風》 ?” [TN: Kaze, Wind]

By the correct answer murmured by me, the door starts to open, making a deep groaning sound.

And with a slam, the door is opened. I cannot believe that it is that kind of door which requires you to answer what the craved word is in order to open it.

When I finally get my bearings back, the moment I take a step forward, towards the partially opened door, a loud voice is heard.

“YOU. What did you do!”

I look behind, to the direction of the voice and see a blond, blue-eyes boy that is stomping towards me angrily.

“Is it not me who is in charge of the door this year?!”

Reaching where we stand, his face is flushed and he seems to be panting. It is quite difficult to differentiate if he is panting from anger or because of him running over... But he looks really angry.

“Besides, aren’t you guys simply commoners?”

With a face that is as though looking down on us, he begins rambling. He keeps on grunting stuff like how he finally gets this position after using his connections and increases in his complaining to fit in about how great his family is.

Slowly, people start to gather around.

The thing I am so eager to avoid in class is happening here, now. Ignoring the heated young noble aside, I whisper to Zen.

“Who is he?”

“...Who... Will, did you not pay attention to the self-introductions in class just now? We are in the same class and he is a noble too.”

Zen direct his shocked gaze at me. Please don't think that all nobles are the same and we don't all know each other.

He is still grumbling about something. So noisy.

Even though I am turning a deaf ear on him all the while, I am getting annoyed.

If I am to guess, it seems to be a welcome event which the door to the dorm is set with a charm which prevents the first-years from entering. In which he would then appear, solve it and open the door. And he is angry at me, a commoner or so he thinks, has opened the door instead.

“Even though I had already compromised by agreeing to live with commoners, what is with these guys?”

It is gradually getting so much more annoying. As I let out a deep sigh, I smile bitterly at that, which is seen by Mr Young Noble.

“And? Who are you and what did we do to you?”

Suddenly being spoken to when I have been silent all the time surprises me. Mr Young Noble is silent for a while before sneering.

“You think you are so important, isn't it? Not knowing who I am. Oh my, oh my. Being unable to remember despite hearing it once is so pitiful.”

There are too many useless words in there.

“There's no choice, I shall teach you. I am the next head of the Count family, Mi Sociunnov.”

He says proudly while I am extremely troubled. I think he says something about his

status but whatever.

Mi Sociunnov... [TN: ミイ = ソシルノフ, *Mi Soshirunofu* ]

I tremble, trying my best to suppress my laughter.

Mi Sociunnov... Misoshirunofu... Miso Siru no fu... [TN: 味噌汁の麩 *Miso Siru is Miso soup and fu a kind of wheat bread.*]

What is that. Announcing your name in such a proud way...! That name is too unique!

Ah, I can't, I can't. It is rude to laugh at someone else's name.

Though, my funny bone is definitely stroked. And when I hang my head down and tremble, it is being mistaken for something as I hear an exaggerated laughter from above.

“Ooh, are you scared? It can't be helped, you, who did not know, shall be forgiven...”

When I show him a smiling face, he is surprised.

“I thought no matter the status, everyone in school studying is a student, am I wrong?”

Smiling even wider, I give a graceful and shallow bow.

“Since you specially introduced yourself, it would be rude of me not to. I am the next head of the Duke Family, Williams Beryl. Nice to meet you.”

Smile.

Dark.

“.....”

Ah, he is finally silent.

# CHAPTER 39

## WELCOME PARTY

---

I leave the stunned Mi Sociunnov by his own and walk away. When we are captured by him, the rest of the boarding students already go in. Even though we come first, our time get wasted. What a troublesome thing.

This is my lesson to him. Status is nothing and it would be good for him to learn that. But he seems like a guy who is going to repeat his mistakes. Looking at him, I direct a cold look as though asking if he is that stupid or not.

With that over, Zen and we step into our dorm.

“Welcome, to the White Wind Dorm!”

We are welcomed with enthusiasm. Looking closely, many seniors are gathered at the entry hall of the spacious dorm.

“Thank you very much!”

“T, t, t, thank you very much!”

We give our thanks at the same time and do a quick bow. By the way, Zen is the latter. I am not nervous at all.  
.....I am 25 years old after all.

Then, from the crowd, a sharp-eyed Onii-chan steps out. Oh, he is the one who brings all of us to our class...

“I see, you are the ‘Door Duty Officer’ this time round!”

He speaks when I am stuck reminiscing about the time I first meet him. Still as forcefully and energetically as ever. This school sure has a lot of hot-blooded types... It seems he is talking to me instead of Zen.

“Door Duty officer...?”

“.....Hm? Eh? You didn’t know?”

When I return with a question, I am approached at a great speed that I instinctively take a step back. People are laughing, saying something like ” Don’t go scaring small kids like that, Kiro. “. I see, this hot-blooded young man is called Kiro. Rather than that, I think I hear something rude being said about me being small. I want to think it’s my imagination. Let’s do that.

Pulling myself out of the depressing thoughts, Kiro nods at me.

“.....Eh? Is that so? Then why did you opened the door?”

At first he is observing but his curiosity gradually wins and he asks happily.

“Will skipped grades!”

Zen, standing beside me, still very nervous, answers even he does not need to. Instantly, all eyes are on me.

Ah.....

I let out a sigh internally and speak up.

“I had a little practice in magic circles.”

With that, everyone comes to an understanding. Kiro then shouts ” Is everyone present? ” and the dorm’s welcome party starts.

...Eh? Where is Mi Sociunnov?



Right when you step into the dormitory, it looks just like a hotel lobby. The room of the Dormitory manager is facing the entrance as well. The dining hall seems to be right inside. Sofa, chairs, tables are placed in there for everyone to enjoy a light meal.

Today, it will be where everyone staying in the dorm are gathering. Contrary to expectation, the dormitory is not separated into males and females. The top floor belongs to the girls while the lower floor is where guys stay.

“Then, let me start by introducing myself!”

By Kiro’s words, everyone cheers.

“I am Kiro, obviously a 3rd year! The leader of the white team as well as the dormitory leader. Come find me if you have any trouble. Attribute’s earth. Ah, by the way, I am still single. That’s all!”

With all different kinds of meaning he is rather amazing, this guy. White Team Leader... Does this Academy have some sort of Teams events going on?

Kiro is blond and blue-eyed but is also blessed with light brown skin color and coupled with the way he speaks, he simply exudes a wild-ish feel. His hair, different from Sociunnov, is short, might add on to the feeling as well.

Kiro then hits the back of the boy next to him, as if asking him to introduce himself next. That hit looks painful though.

“I am Calius. 3rd year... the vice-dorm leader tentatively. Attribute’s wind. Interest is observing.”

His name sounds like calcium... let’s put that impression aside. As compared to Kiro, he does not speak all that much. Most likely in his future, he will be called a ‘cool beauty’ by others. Blue-eyed with long white hair that has a bluish tint tied it up in a low ponytail. Another ikemen.

Ah, instead of that, his interest is observing... how scary. Please do not say that without any expression on!

“I’m Freya. As you can see, I am a lively and energetic girl. I am also currently the vice-team leader. My attribute is fire, please take care of me.”

To the left of Calius stands a girl. And she has just introduced herself in an earnest tone despite what she says. Lively and energetic girl..... Ah no, I would like to believe in that.

Freya is actually a beauty. Deep blue hair with grey eyes. Depending on the angle, her eyes would sometimes look like some gold is mixed in as well. What a wondrous

beauty she has.

Oh well, I am not a lolicon so I am not that infatuated with her.

And now, I am extremely troubled.

Why? Because that Freya is sitting right next to me, to my right.

“Next is this year’s door duty officer!”

I am urged on by Kiro when I am feeling flustered. In the first place, I am pulled by Kiro to sit over here. I wonder what I need to say... Let’s just give a simple self-introduction.

“I am Will, 1st year, and I kinda opened the door...?”

“Why are you questioning us back? You definitely open the door.”

I am completely retorted back. Saying that, I have no idea what ‘Door Duty’ is, which is why I want to ask...

But as I think, in this world, the vague expressions Japanese love to use do not work here. But being a former Japanese, it still comes as a shock to me. Then, the girl sitting next to me slowly raises her hand.

“Leader Kiro, maybe Will does not know what ‘Door Duty’ is and is currently troubled at how to answer.”

Ah, my meaning gets through. And when I am thinking that Freya is smart and thoughtful, I see everyone around me nodding. It seems like it is only Kiro who does not get it.

Regardless it is being Noble’s culture or Japanese’s culture, things are usually not said straight out, which is why learning how to read the meaning behind is an important skill to know.

Having bathed in both culture for 25 years, I have already gotten used to it. That’s great. That’s great that the meaning gets through. Relieved, I smile as Kiro, seemingly embarrassed, starts explaining.

“Ah sorry. Door Duty Officer is what we call someone who is in charge of the door. In this dormitory, we have a welcome event where ‘Door won’t open, everyone troubled and flustered, let’s help each other out and open the door!’ kind of thing. But as recently there is situation where no one could open the door which is why someone who heard about it from a friend will act as the HERO (Door Duty Officer). Ah... it can also be said to be a prearranged performance.”

I see.

I think Mi Sociunnov is shouting about something like that just now. Looking forward to being a Hero, he must have been very angry to find out that the title has been robbed from him.

“So that’s why, since you are the one who opened the door, you are called the ‘Door Duty Officer’. Hahaha!”

Laughing unlike a 12 year old, Kiro uses his eyes to urge me to proceed with my self-introduction.

“I see... It is great that I did not made any trouble for opening the door.”

I smile, relieved, but somehow, someone besides me lets out a snort.

D... Don’t laugh! I am only a 1st year so it is fine for me to know these, isn’t it?!..... Don’t tell me it is common sense? A sense of shame started spreading within me so I hurriedly continue.

“I am Will. As to why I open the door is as I said just now, I have a bit of practice with magic circles, the reason is I want to skip grades. Ah, I am 8 years old.”

I wonder if I manage to convey my feelings across. I have a feeling that Calius, who says his hobby is observing, has turned his gaze towards me with a smile. I would really like to think I misread that. Even though I just say I am not flustered because I am 25 inside, please ignore that..... after all I am still a child.

I will try not to get pulled by my body’s age! That’s right! I am going to train everyday! My to-do list increases yet again.

But, there is no need to feel down. It is my turn now! I grin and turn to my left.

Hehehe... Definitely flustered. Very flustered.

Ah, I am not laughing in other's misfortune. Definitely not. I would not do something so un-adult-like, even though I just refute myself just now...

This is... I mean, 'that'.

Like a father watching his kid in class for observation day...

"I... I... I... I... I am Z... z... z... zen!! 1st year!!"

My anticipation... no, as I expected, he stuttered perfectly. That guy, Zen, he might be the nervous kind.

...It is amusing so it's fine. I burst out in laughter and even if I am being glared at by Zen, I paid no notice to it.

And after that, the welcome party and self-introductions truly start.

# CHAPTER 40

## DORMITORY MATES

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The residents in White Wind Dorm, from counting by my sight, are around 30. It seems like they get about 8 ~ 10 people entering per year. My class is about 20 so it makes sense that about half would be staying in the dormitory.

While I am on this subject, 11 of them are girls. 3 are 1st year, 5 are 2nd year and 3 are 3rd year. As expected, there are fewer girls staying in the dormitory.

.....I am not dejected! I am just thinking that it would be nice to have some flowers amidst the thorns, that's all.

The number of guys? There is no reason for me to count them, is there?

...Ah, it's not that I like girls better. Nope. Just that I can count them when we head towards our room so there is no need to do it now! Yep!

Self-introduction begins in the order they are lined up in.

"I'm Remy, 1st year!"

"I am Louise. Same year!"

"I am Brutus. 1st year."

The 3 after Zen in a row.

Remy, Louise and Brutus who have just introduced themselves as 1st years seem to know each other based on their attitudes. From the right, red, yellow and green, are just like a traffic light and so easy to remember. Their personalities seem to match the colors as well.

What colors? Their hair colors. You might be doubting if it is blond or not but in this world, hair colors are expectedly bright and colorful. Yet still not unnatural like dyed hair which makes it so strange to me. The mystery of life. I wonder if it would be like the novel I read that the color of hair / eyes has a relation to their attributes...

Up till now, I still cannot find a pattern to it though. Ah, but the silver hair and peridot

eyes me is all-attributes. Black hair and eyes would be..... let's just say it is not to the expectation.

...Brutus.....

What an easy name to remember. Is it just me who feel that his nonchalant attitude and his name are mismatch?

Next is... I look over. Let's pretend I never get excited.

"I am Yuria! 3rd year! " *[TN: Using old-man talk for some reason. "Washi wa Yuria-jya! San-nen-jya!"]*

Lo... Loli...

No, she said she is a 3rd year. Which means at max 12 years old. At that, I suddenly remember. Can it be that she is the same as me.....

"By the way Yuria did not skip grades! I am a real 12 years old so be careful!"

Kiro laughs at that perfect timing.

...It... It cannot be!

I stand there stunned, watching how Kiro is being beaten up by the Loli. Yet being the honest person I am, I let out my real thoughts of " You got to be kidding..." and it is heard by her. Yuria, who hears that, jumps around in anger, yelling that she is already an adult.

It would be better not to tell her she looks more like a kid right now. But because of this, I come to understand something. A child who insists of being an adult will always be seen as a child. My things to take note of increases.

And Yuria looks even younger than me. No matter how I look at her she looks to be about 6 years old. With long red hair, that is quite close to black, up in a half ponytail and big round reddish brown eyes. Oh pretty~ I don't think I need to explain that pretty includes cute right?

By a certain person's voice, the currently rampaging Yuria-senpai freezes.

“Yuria-chan?”

It belongs to the cool beauty, whose hobby is observing, Calius. Yuria-senpai, who, is just nice, is right in front of me, lets out a tiny shriek and strangely, hides behind my back. She is even trembling.

.....I am extremely interested in what happened between the two! But it is better not to meddle in it. Just by looking at the smiling Calius makes me nervous. How shameful. He has an unknown, mysterious aura that feels like once you step in, you cannot ever back out. Such is Calius.

The self-introduction from Kiro’s batch continues but to tell the truth, I am not listening.

First, smiling silence.

Then, bouncing Loli.

What is this development? Someone please help? I turn to Freya, troubled but is ignored by her splendidly. W... Why! It seems like she is not helping me this time. The 1st year and 2nd year boys seem to have finished their self-introduction. It is time to get myself out of this situation.

I look back and smile.

Placing both of my hands on Yuria-senpai’s shoulders.....

“Un! You are kidding!”

I hand her over, not at all minding her tears. I will not be deceived by appearance! I believe that Yuria-senpai, who is an adult, can handle her troubles by her own.

Ah, peace comes back.

Now I can finally pay attention to the self-introductions. Smiling, I focus my eyes on the next person who is about to start. Hm? It comes to her turn but the girl remains silent.

“.....”

The girl who stays silent, starts to exude an aura as if saying ‘ Even them... ’.

“Erm, 1st Year Girl..... Would you introduce yourself?”

Kiro, who is unable to let it go like that, asks politely but her sullen aura increases even more. What makes her feel that displeased? Kiro, with the smile frozen on his face, has cold sweat dripping down his face.

But... For some reason I feel that her anger is not directed at us but to something or someone outside. Then, at this moment, a Hero appears.

The girl sitting on her left. The girl, who is wearing glasses, risks her life as she lifts her hand.

“Er..... I think she is Selphys-chan.”

The ears of the girl called Selphys move when she hears that. Her ears, which can be seen through the gaps of her hair, a yellow-greenish color like new leaves, show the traits of being an Elf.

.....Is there friction between humans and elves?

I think back but nothing stands out within my knowledge about something like that. At least in John-sensei’s lessons, I do learn about elves but nothing about any friction exists between them and humans.

Which means, the sharp look given out by the deep green eyes is not directed at ‘Humans’ but ‘People in here’. But... I wonder if we do anything to her unknowingly...

The brown haired girl, who pushes up her glasses which is slipping down her nose, is smiling.

.....She calms me.

Smiling even knowing the mood of Selphys sitting beside her is..... The mirror of students, the Holy Mother. So healing. Being led by her, I start to smile and then, our eyes meet. I quickly shift my line of sight.

.....Which I wish to pretend that do not happen!

To desert the ever smiling girl, who is like the Holy Mother... No! Don’t be depressed!

If I give up here then I would stay the same as I am in the previous world. This is only a small matter! This is just the beginning of my school life! I fire myself up and give my all smiling, trying at least leave a better impression.

“.....O..... Oh, I see, thank you.”

Kiro, who finally unfreezes, gives his thanks to Holy Mother Girl and the self-introductions continue. Holy Mother Girl’s name seems to be Maria. But, in her self-introduction, she fumbles in the very end. I think she is a serious, healing, perfect type but it turns out that she has a clumsy side as well.

.....What is with this girl?

With this and that, the White Wind welcome party ends with subtle unease lingering in the air.



By Kiro’s instructions, the 1st years are free to choose their own roommates. 2 people per room. It goes without saying that Zen and I are grouped together since he is my 1st friend I made. It might be fate. Plus, I want us to go along with each other. I also choose to ignore the fact that Mr. Red Signal and Miso Soup are staying in the room next to us.

“No matter how short, these are the rooms that you will be in for these 2 years so use them dearly!”

As energetically as ever, by Kiro’s orders we all head towards our respective rooms.

“Ah, even so... Will’s House is amazing~”

Zen laughs, amused.

“No, it’s nothing.”

I say, trying to be humble. To tell the truth, only the Royal family is above our House but there is no use in telling Zen this. Laughing, we reach our rooms and place our luggage down.

“Wow Will, you have very little luggage.”

Zen says, to the bag which I think is huge. When I am about to ask ‘Is that so?’, I see Zen’s bag. It is a rectangular bag that is as tall as Zen.

“.....Zen, What exactly did you bring over?”

If it is only clothes, uniforms, pajamas and knick knacks it would not amount to that size. And when I try to ask Zen, he grins proudly.

“That is because I am aiming to skip grades.”

With that, he takes all the thick books from his luggage and drop them onto the table.

“I see.”

“Yep! Are you not going to take the exams in September, Will?”

“Ah, of course I am!”

The exams to skip grades are held in September. I do not expect Zen to aim for that too! In my happiness I answer him energetically and he blinks his eyes innocently at me.

“.....Hm? What’s the matter?”

“Ah, no..... How are you going to study?”

Zen, who is looking at me keeping my stuff into the cabinet, asks. Oh, I expect to be asked about it.

I am extremely hesitant in how I should answer.

But, I glance at Zen, who is making a curious face.

It is as Kiro has said, I would be living with Zen for at least 2 years. Yes, even with skipping grades there is no way to jump all the way up immediately. I would have to experience different things, one by one. And continue passing the skipping grades exam being held every 6 months before I can graduate the 3 years of Mid-level in 2 years.

Well, I would also have to pass all of the other exams.

Which means I would be with Zen for at least 2 years. Even if I hide the reason from him, it most likely to be found out. The only problem is sooner or later.

In that case.....

I steel my resolve and answer.

“Actually, I have already studied all, even High levels materials.”

I say it casually and Zen, who freezes for a bit, immediately relaxes and grins.

“Look at you go~ Still pretending~ Just honestly say you forget and I can lend you~”

.....This guy.

He has taken the choice of not believing in me. I do predict this to be one of the responses but to be given it so bluntly...

My mood sours. How unpleasant.

To be looked at with pity by a kid younger than me!

“It’s true!”

I yell.

“Yep yep, I understand so it’s okay, Will.”

“That’s why! I am not lying!”

“Yes yes, it’s true, it’s true. Don’t worry, I will teach you properly.”

This guy... He is definitely understanding nothing...

Even though I know I am digging a deeper hole by yelling like this but I just cannot help it.

Hm.

I finally understand Yuria-san’s feelings.

Ku..... How frustrating.

# CHAPTER 41

## AH, WHAT SHOULD I SAY ABOUT THIS?

---

Yes, even I would somehow expected it.

——- This.



Let's turn time back to dawn.

“Oi, wake up!”

I wake up to a loud noise accompanied with shouting. As I groggily get up, I see an amused face peeking through the gap between the double storey bed. As well as a boy with dull blond hair standing at the doorway.

It seems that Kiro has opened the door and comes to wake us up with that huge voice of his. Then, I feel a jolt coming from the bottom bunk, follows by a yelp.

“Ouch-!”

Looks like Zen has bumped his head. Kiro, who stands at the doorway, snickers at that. What they are doing this early in the morning, I wonder as I look at that malt brown skin and dazzling white teeth sleepily.

“I forgot to tell you yesterday that the cafeteria breakfast timing is till 7am. There would be nothing for you if you are late so take note.”

Saying that, Kito leaves for the next room swiftly. Almost next to immediate, a loud voice shouting ‘Wake up!’ Could be heard. What a sense of duty. To go around all first years’ room to inform just because he has forgotten the day before... No, there are only 6 of us. Which means 3 rooms. So that isn’t that big of a deal, I think and smile while climbing down the ladder attached to the bunk bed.

“Morning, Zen.”

Ohaiyo San. It is a title of a drama in my previous world that I let out a small giggle. I just make a pun without expecting it.

Thanks to the bump on the head, Zen is completely up. Mumbling a soft ‘Morning’, he climbs out of his bed. I let out a small sigh as I open the cabinet. About one-third of it belongs to me. It goes without saying that the rest of it is taken up by Zen’s stuff, especially his books.

Putting my uniform on for the 2nd time, I smile at the silkiness. Phillis Academy has a unified uniform. The orthodox shirt that looks like a pseudo-Japanese stand up collar uniform. A slight grayish coat that fits nicely along the body shape, it feels just like a slim version of the Gakuran. *[TN: Japanese stand up collar uniform. You know, those black uniforms that Yankee always wear in mangas?]*

On the left breast area, 2 badges are pinned.

The school badge and the class badge, one on the top and the other below. The school badge has a design of a western shield, separated into 4 colors by a cross. Clockwise from the left is red, blue, white and green. With the word ‘Phillis’ across. So cool.

The class badge is made with silver. Might be because we are the white team. A motif of Icris, a Sakura-like flower, and wind is beautifully carved in full detail, looking like a work of art. You would not think it is a school badge.

I tap on the shiny badges and head over to the wash basin. The happy thing about this dorm is that each room is fitted with their own shower room and wash basin. Although it is slightly regrettable that there is no bath attached but we are given 2 tables, a huge cabinet and a bunk bed. It is a nicely equipped dormitory.

I wash my face, smoothen my bed hair and when I walk out of the toilet, I see Zen putting on his uniform sluggishly, his face looking sleepy.

“.....You are going to miss breakfast, you know.”

Zen jumps at my words.

“How about washing your face first?”



Passing the lobby, we walk to the cafeteria. There is already quite a crowd there, around 20. But I have no inkling on how the cafeteria system works.

As I stand at the entrance, troubled, I feel someone behind. Turning back, I see Calius coming out to meet me.

“Are you okay?”

He asks, with a face full of sleepiness. It seems like even the vice-dorm leader is not perfect.

“I have no idea how the system works...”

Zen says, with a dejected face from behind me.

...Are you that hungry?...

Ah, still so young, so young. Puberty sure is amazing, I thought. Then...

“Growl~~”

A thunderous roar resounds. Calius and Zen burst out laughing.

“D... Don’t laugh!”

That roar is made by no other than the worm in my stomach.

“Will sure has a huge worm in that stomach despite having that kind of face!”

Someone says from behind me as I go red with embarrassment. Yuria appears, grinning with amusement. Her face and eyes seem to be saying ‘How’s that’.

.....I see, this must be revenge for yesterday! It is because I hand her over... But that is self-defense, I do nothing wrong. Definitely not.

But I am still slightly hurt. ‘That kind of face’... Are you trying to say that despite having an average face, it is surprising to have a huge worm in my stomach?

Damn it!

...There is no connection between my face and the worm in my stomach!

I grumble internally as I follow the loli... Yuria-senpai into the cafeteria. In the end, it is just like the nostalgic lunch service in school. You can say it is like a bakery. Ah no, it would be more fitting to say it is just like a buffet style. You take the tray placed at the entrance, line up from the left and take any food you want onto the plate.

It is normal-delicious. Something like a rye bread with vegetables soup. If you wish to ask about my review, I would say this.

.....It makes the best use of the original taste of the ingredients.

Japanese way of vague expressions is the best.



“Good Morning!”

With a vigorous slam of the door, the gorilla-like Zelda-sensei appears gallantly. Even with that momentum, students in the class give their greetings as they please. Hearing all sorts of greetings, I too, give my own spin on it by going “Good Morning.” *[TN: Will said it in English.]* It must be my imagination that Zen looks at me weirdly.

“Well then, today would be the body checks I mentioned yesterday! Follow me!”

The noisy classroom goes silent in an instance. But the next second the noise level rises up higher than before. Zelda-sensei, who maybe has been through this many times before, remains calm and instead, gives a mischievous smile.

“I had forgot to mention, apart from the measurement of body weight, there would be a measurement of mana as well.”

OoOh! Half of the class—the boys, are all psyched up by it. As for the girls who are making so much noise earlier, upon the words ‘body weight measurement’, freeze in an instant.

By the way, my reaction is the latter. Without thinking, I have frozen up. It takes a small bump from Zen to break me out of it.

“Will, what is with you and the mana measurement? Could it be that you have no confidence in it?”

Zen asks, worried.

.....Isn't it better not to ask that to a really unconfident person?...

I turn my slightly shocked eyes to Zen and see that he is truly worried about me. Our eyes meet and I rearrange my thoughts.

“Ah no..... Erm, kinda?”

I smile bitterly, tilting my head to Zen's worried look.

“Ah, mah, Will is 2 years younger than me.”

I nod, letting Zen know it is exactly that.

...Although the meaning is slightly different. With the awkward Zen besides me, my thoughts start running.

That's right, I am younger by 2 years from everyone here. But I safely say that my mana is higher than anyone here. Why? Because it is determined by a former court scholar.

As I walk down the stone corridor, all my brain has been thinking is words after words that I have never, never, ever thought about before.



“Next, oh... 60, good job, you. So, next-”

After that common body weight measurement as I've experienced before in the previous world, it is now the mana examination that just speeds through students.

The tool to measure mana is, again super orthodox, a crystal ball. Placing your hand to it would show the mana existing inside as a number. And that number is recorded by Zelda-sensei in the 'body measurement' column. At the same time, the crystal ball would be recording each student to their respective mana. And for those who finish the examination, they would be handed a card. Might be something like a student handbook.

Regardless, everyone is excited and having fun at the same time.

.....On the contrary.....

My excitement level is just like the next person going to be called by Sensei, down.

My heartbeat raises as my turn gets nearer. This is the 1st time I have even been so nervous. I do not even get this nervous for my high school examinations...

At the same time, a different memory surfaces up.

—Ah no, it's fine. Ignore it. Yep. I nod to myself and it is then I feel Zen's gaze. I feel like it looks irritated but that is all gone now.

“Next-”

It is Zen's, who is in front of me, turn.

“Oh, 70! That's high.”

At Zelda-sensei's comment, Zen's face brightens up as his measurement is being recorded. Then, the voice of destiny calls out.

“Okay, next!”

I steel myself and step up.

Ignoring the puzzled Sensei, I slowly, slowly, approach. Timidly, timidly, I stretch out my arm slowly, and when the tips of my fingers touch the ball—

BANG.

A sound that only lasts momentary.

.....Yes, the crystal ball, as seen, has burst to smithereens. Yes, I have kinda expected this to happen.

.....This is the thing called [Cheat].

“Wah!”

Giving an exaggerated reaction, I fall onto my butt and activate my magic chantlessly. As I have expected this to a degree, I am able to keep my calm. I have too, read a lot of novels in my previous life.

Eh... Hmm... In any case, I want to be away from people's eyes right now so...

《擬似出血》 [TN: *Maji Shukketsu, Simulation Bleeding*]

As if I am cut by the broken crystals! So I make blood bled out of my fingers and arm. Ah, it doesn't hurt by the way. Sensei, who stands there shocked by the sudden turn of things, notices my situation and rushes towards me in an instant. I am feeling guilty looking at him being so worried but it cannot be helped, I shall apologize for it later.

"I am going to bring Will over to the infirmary! The rest of you just wait here silently, okay!"

Leaving the rustling class, Sensei brings me over to the infirmary.



"Sorry about this Will. To think the crystal ball would explode..... Is it our miss in checking...?"

As we walk along the corridor, Zelda-sensei stretches his head, looking very apologetic. Then, he grows angry, mumbling about a student is hurt by it, how he would sue, and even starts saying some dangerous things.

This has turned serious, I cannot stay silent any longer. Ah, but I have to say that even his reaction is exactly like any hot-blooded teacher.

Ah, but..... Having come to this I cannot exactly say "I did it with my magic, my bad☆". Oh man. How do I smoothen him? Panicking, I manage to say something.

"I... It's okay, the wound is not that deep as well. Look, it has already stopped bleeding."

Saying that, I take my handkerchief out of my pocket and wipe the blood away. Sensei is stunned at the crusted wounds for a second before reverting back.

“These are 2 different things. To have an item that explodes all of a sudden! I am going to bring it up to the merchant guild!”

As I thought, he is not baited into it. I get flustered, coming up with no ideas, then suddenly, there is a loud bang as Zelda-sensei falls forward. Shocked, I look behind.

“Ah, Zelda. You are troubling the student.”

There stands a grandpa whose face I swear I have seen before yesterday.

“Ah, Headmaster..... Sorry, Will.”

Massaging his head as he looks behind, Zelda-sensei comes to recognize the figure of the Headmaster and by his words, finally realizes and apologizes to me.

“It’s alright.....”

I am not really that troubled over it. Instead, I should be the one apologizing as it is me who breaks the crystal ball. But instead that, there is another thing that catches my interest.

Since Zelda-sensei is massaging his head, it means that the Headmaster hits his head from behind.

.....How did he do that?.....

The gorilla-like Zelda-sensei is about 2m tall. As a comparison, Headmaster can be said to be tiny. Against the 8 years old me at 130 (\*cough)cm me, he can only be said to be slightly taller.

Plus that sound.

As expected of the Headmaster of the biggest school in the capital. But since his speech is so long and dull, it seems that he is not perfect as well. And he also looks like he has a fetish.

“And, what happened?”

Headmaster asks, after observing Zelda-sensei.

“Yes. The crystal ball exploded when it was Will’s turn.”

Thinking back, Zelda-sensei grows angry again.

“Hmmm...”

Murmurs Headmaster as he meets his eyes with mine. At that instant, an awkward smile appears on my face and the Headmaster seems to have realized it.

“In that case the class should be in chaos. Zelda, you return to the classroom, I shall take over from here.”

“Yes... But to bother the Headmaster about this...”

“With the crystal magic tool exploding and hurting a student, it is the problem of the merchant guild as well as the school. Which means it is under my jurisdiction.”

Hearing that, Zelda-sensei bows to the Headmaster, accepting his orders, before rushing back to the class. It looks like he has not fully accepted it but as the crystal ball does indeed (.....) blow up, he listens to the Headmaster.

“Well then, let’s not stand around here talking, would you mind coming along to the headmaster’s office?”

Headmaster says, smiling, his eyes sparkling like a kid who has just found a new toy.



Surprisingly, the headmaster’s office is smaller than expected. Even though he is the headmaster of such a huge academy. I have prepared myself to see a ridiculously grandiose, sparkling room that it is a major let-down.

As if noticing how I feel, the Headmaster responds with “ It’s because this is my private room as I feel it would be more comfortable. ” and laughs. It seems that usually guests and students who are called would be led to another office that is as I have expected, as not to lose the dignity of the school.

He has said that this room is a secret private room that not many would enter.  
.....And why am I led here then?!

By the way, even though small, the room is in no means shabby. It is in a deep solid color that simply oozes its age as well as dignity. The rectangular bookshelf is cramped with books and on top of the desk are stacks after stacks of papers. It has the same feeling as when I have first stepped into Father's office.

"Please take a seat over there."

I take a seat on the leather sofa.

Wah... Ohhh.

This is unexpected.

At the unexpected softness, I lose my balance on the sofa and am smiled at by the Headmaster.

Taking cups of tea out of nowhere, he places them on top of a table in front of the sofa.

"You are called Will, is that right?"

"Yes. My name is Williams Beryl."

"I see.....! So you are Gion's son....."

At my self-introduction, the headmaster mumbles emotionally.

"Do you know my father?"

"Aah, when he was here, he was quite a handful... To think..."

I feel relieved at the Headmaster who is laughing somewhat weirdly. He says Father is a handful, however, it does not feel like the headmaster dislikes him. My perfect father's school days... I am really interested in it.

Ahh...

But we are here for another problem. Next time if I have another chance I shall ask more. Yep.

"Erm, Headmaster... The crystal ball....."

I ask timidly. Headmaster grins.

“Ah, I am afraid the capacity is overloaded.”

# CHAPTER 42

## APOLOGY AND ZEN

---

I did think about the usual setting of it breaking due to over capacity, and it really turned out to be that.

“.....I see.”

By that, the Headmaster was slightly shocked.

“You are not going to ask about it? Did you already know that phenomenon?”

“No..... I predicted that that might be the case.”

I could feel an amazing aura from the Headmaster so I thought that rather than lying badly, I might as well reply honestly.

“I see.”

Sipping on his tea, Headmaster continued explaining, already knowing that my mana amount was not normal.

“Yes, the magic to break would be invoked the moment it is aware of that fact.”

Even so... I replied with another question.

“Does Zelda-sensei not know about that phenomenon?”

Headmaster looked at me for a second before returning his gaze to his tea, laughing heartily.

“The crystal measurement tool placed in the Primary Academy had a limit of 300. The average mana a regular adult holds is around 100~150. However it is not rare to find double or even triple that amount. That is why it is normal for freshman to possess half, or even less than that amount. Zelda must not have thought you are that abnormal.”

Headmaster, who was laughing rather inappropriately at that, had eyes that sparkled. In that case why would the Headmaster come to that conclusion so easily? Can it be due to his experience?

“But thanks to this happening previously, I came to know about it.”

“It happened previously.....?”

“That’s right, there was a student, who, like you, broke the crystal ball because of over-capacity.”

Headmaster placed his cup of tea down with a clatter.

“Gion Beryl. Your father.”

----- Of course.

As expected of Father.



I really had to thank Father. Thanks to him being the precedent, this whole incident was able to be solved smoothly. In the end, my mana was to be measured with a crystal ball of a higher limit on the day after.

It seems like the Elf race possesses high mana. That was already expected but they were being called as Fairy race in this world. There were various theories about that, in that their mana was high or that they used to be able to converse with faeries.

Anyway, in regards of those students, the Phyllis Academy had set another day, with a higher limit crystal ball, for the mana examination. And I would be measured along with everyone else on that day.

Today was set only for body examinations so our classes ended in the morning. It had ended before I even knew it when I was chatting with the Headmaster.

Which is why, instead of my classroom, I am currently returning to my dorm instead. Or rather, I got lost. This school was way too big..... Because of that, after much effort, when I finally found my way to the White Wind Dorm, it had already reached late afternoon.

“I am back...”

The moment I opened the door, Zen came flying over.

“Will! Are you okay? I was worried because you were so late!”

“Hm? Ah, ah, sorry.”

I answered, being pressed by Zen. I am unable to say that I am late due to being lost in school... Then, surprisingly, Zen started grinning.

“Just kidding~”

.....!

What?!

Looking at the weirdly grinning Zen, I instinctively took a step back.

“Wha... What, what’s the matter!”

At that, Zen stopped grinning that weird grin of his and started smiling normally.

“My house... is a factory for magic tools.”

“R... Really?”

Which means... I looked at Zen and found his eyes sparkling.

“Yep. Just by that you understand, which means it was really ‘Over-Capacity?’”

I nodded at the smiling Zen. There wasn’t even a moment to worry about telling him or not before it was exposed. I felt so stupid, worrying if Zen would distance himself away from me when he knew that, seeing that he continued to smile normally, while being immensely curious. Relieved, my laugh was mixed in with a bit of sigh.

“Kinda.”

“.....Ah, you are really amazing! That model was built for 300, to think 300 at 8 years old!”

I wondered aloud if it was because I am a noble before that excuse was blown away by Zen.

“No, that has nothing to do with being a noble or not.”

Or rather, I had the reincarnation [Cheat].  
Ah, my inner brain retorting sessions revived.

“Anyway, this is a secret, okay?”

Our eyes met and we grinned. Having a secret together was kind of fun.

“To think, magic tool factory...”

More than anything, I was really glad. I thought I would be treated as a monster for having mana over 300 but Zen was treating me the same. Normally people would have the reaction of fearing, or in awe, or even starting to flatter but Zen was doing none of it. Ah, but the moment I met Zen, he was already not normal. Thinking back to the sentence he said when we first bumped into each other made me laughed.

“I wanted to help out with the factory as soon as I can, that’s why I am aiming to skip grades.”

“I had the same reasons as you.”

I replied, and Zen turned his face towards me, surprised.

“What’s with the face?”

I laughed, frowning jokingly at him. I would have to explain myself clearly.

“The reason why I skipped grades to attend this school at 8 was because I wanted to help out with Father’s work.”

Zen stared at me.

“Wha... What?”

“Nothing, but really, Will is weird.”

He sprouted such rude words happily. Damn it. What are you talking about. Return the

emotional moment I felt before! Why did I even think he would change? By the strength of my internal age, I managed to not hang my head in depression and walked over to my table. But, it was true my behavior was being pulled along by my body's age. But no matter! This adult me will not be damaged any further! Yep!

Squatting down, I took out the thing I stored at the bottom right corner.

Zen is my roommate for at least 2 years. And even in the best of times, I am rather bad at lying and within that 2 years I have no idea when I would be found out. Since this was such a good opportunity, let's go all out and show my hand. If I managed to gain a partner, then if anything happens, Zen could most probably help out.

I stood up, and at that perfect timing, Zen spoke.

"Come to think of it, Will knew about magic tools?"

"Yep. Or rather, I made one."

I show Zen the thing in my hand proudly.

".....Eh?"

It seemed that Zen had frozen over with his eyes wide opened. I hoped he would not comment about the design. It being a half-moon pocket was too weird to be brought out for usage, so I made it into a pendant. Like those which you could open and store a picture inside.

...After considering for so long, the best thing I could come up with was a pendant? Ku... Alright! It's fine for you to laugh at my taste! At any rate I don't seem to have any taste at all. But to come out with something a boy could wear without being out of place, it was all I could think of.

Eh? Asking me to attach that pocket to my belly and take a stroll? Stop screwing around, I will punch you!

By the way, I had not tried smithing yet. No, it was not that I do not yearn to do it. Rather, I want to.

As I am talking to myself, Zen took my pendant in his hands and was curiously observing it.

“How do you find it?”

Even if I asked that, an open-type pendant was not something that could be found easily, even in my previous world. So I (naturally, by magic) added a hinge randomly on the elliptical shaped pendant. What I want to say was, it works better than it looks so please do not stare at it so much. It’s embarrassing.

“.....You made this, Will?”

Zen looked at me with doubt in his eyes and I smiled wryly. Normally, any changes done on metal would be by smithing. To think, an 8 years old smithing. Everyone doubts that.

But.

I had decided to reveal everything which was why I brought this tool out.

“Give it to me.”

Taking my pendant back, I opened the clasp. Thrusting my thumb and index finger into the pendant, I retrieved a thick book out. Zen’s eyes grew wide.

Yes, this kind of magic tool. As you can guess, the -th Dim-sion -ket! I passed the retrieved book over to Zen, smiling.

“Zen, do you know magic?”

I think there was no need to explain what book it was.

————— 『Magic That Even Monkeys Understand Elementary』 .

This is my treasure you know. I am so sorry for saying you are annoying, Mr Author. I had used this book intensively.

“To put it bluntly, I can use all-attributes.”

I said it casually. To tell the truth, I was as nervous as giving a confession to my first love. To a party younger than me, this is pitiful. But without thinking, my expression turned serious. Zen, no longer smiling, looked at me.

“You... are not lying?”

“No.”

I then looked at the space above us and Zen followed by line of sight. Then, to make it easy to understand, I chanted.

“《火》 《水》 《風》 《土》 《光》 《闇》 ” [TN: Here we go. Hi (fire), Sui (Water), Kaze / Fu(Wind), Do (Earth), Hikari (Light), Yami (Darkness)]

Pon pon pon. Following the cute sounds, balls of different attributes floated up. Zen stared, shocked. I then placed my hands on his shoulders.

“Eh? What is it, all of a sudden!”

“Sorry! I had to apologize first!”

Having said too many things at one go, Zen cannot seem to catch up. I am so sorry for confusing you. But if I leave these things till later, I would definitely regret it. That was why I needed to explain it clearly.

“My house is rather high up (in the ranking). Which is why I often get targeted. Before this I even got kidnapped before. Which is why there might be situations where Zen would be involved. I should have told you this before we moved in so, sorry! Really sorry! ” [TN: Since when did you get kidnapped, Will?]

I raised my lowered head.

“Which is why I want you to understand what my abilities are. Which is why, if it is not too serious, I would be fine. There also might be situations where Zen might need to use your magic. I would like you to understand this.”

Rather than my mana being 300 and above, this was more urgent. It sounded ominous but there was no choice... and I was about to give up on the frozen Zen.

“A... mazing...!”

Zen came back!

He came back with sparkling eyes. His eyes looked just like John-sensei when we first met.

“How did you do that! That magic! I wanna do it too!”

Zen, who was bouncing about excitedly, did not even notice my smile.

# CHAPTER 43

## ZELDA'S TROUBLES

---

Somewhere, a guy was trembling.

“Oh man...”

It was a tiny voice that you can never imagined coming from that guy. Hunching over a round table, his eyes was tightly shut as he hugged his head, all dignity forgotten.

Yes, he was Will's homeroom teacher, Zelda.

A student had been hurt in his care. To think that freak crystal ball that exploded and harmed a student! Right now, Zelda was in anguished and anger about his uselessness and that darn freak crystal ball.

“And to add to everything...”

Plus on to the fact that it had to explode when it was the Duke son's turn. Zelda felt his anger boiling again. The hot-blooded Zelda was never perfect. Young and slightly rough around the edges, he had charmed the Headmaster with his passion and enthusiasm and was given the opportunity to conduct the school entrance ceremony. And just when he had the trust of Headmaster, this incident happened. It was really normal for anyone to get angry.

Zelda depends on this job for his livelihood. Luckily, Will does not seem to mind but the problem lies with the Beryl House. Against the famous-throughout-the-entire-country 'Gion-sama', what can a mere teacher do?

Various scenarios ran through his mind as he let out a deep sigh. And it was at that exact moment.

\*Chimes

A crisp note sounded, and at that, Zelda jumped straight up.

“Uwah... Here it comes...”

Making a face as though he had just swallowed a bug, Zelda readied himself. Then, he walked towards a magic tool hanging right next to the wall. The magic tool that just made the sound was something like a pager. It was capable of receiving up to 4 letters.

Ah, although it was not pocket-sized, in this world where science and technology doesn't exist, to have functions such as this was amazing. And, by this tool, 4 cruel words for Zelda were reflected.

[To my office now]

He really did not want to go. However, this was from the person who hired him, there was no way he could defy the orders from someone that was the top of the school. Forgetting his angry and being depressed instead, he walked out of his room.



“Ah, take a seat.”

At the headmaster prompting, Zelda sat on the ridiculously large sofa enough to even sit 4 people, timidly. He was currently in the Headmaster's office, of course, the 'public' one.

The magic tool, that had just called Zelda out to hell, was actually made up of 2 parts. The main and the extension. The extension was for receiving while the main was for transferring. As the main was situated at the 'public' Headmaster's office, if any teacher received a [Come] message from the extension tool hanged at their room, they would naturally head towards the Headmaster's office.

“I have something important to tell you.”

Trying his best to calm the trembling gorilla in front of him, the Headmaster gave his best smile. And, once again, he brought tea out of nowhere and placed them on top of a coffee-table like table. But Zelda was too caught up in his own emotions to notice.

The smile Headmaster had on his face to calm Zelda down was having an opposite

effect. At the mysterious smile, Zelda felt even more fearful.

“It is about Will.”

As if knowing how Zelda was feeling, Headmaster tried to go straight to the point. At that, Zelda buff body stiffened. In the first place, there was no need for a teacher to have much a muscled body but Zelda himself often insisted, before trying your best in studying or playing around, produced muscles first!

Anyway.

That huge frame now had curled itself up. Where had that hot-bloodedness went? Usually, that high energy from him had helped people.

Right now, this Zelda currently was feeling like buckets after buckets of ice water being poured onto him. Of course, it was a situation where “It came—” was the most appropriate. Without say, it was not the positive “It came—”. As even his heart started cold-sweating, Zelda was truly worried.

“Of this incident, the result of the Beryl House blaming us.”

Zelda gulped.

“Is zero.”

Zelda was stunned at the words coming out of the Headmaster’s mouth.

“.....Eh?..... Eeeh? Z... Zero?”

Headmaster laughed at Zelda’s mumbled speech. It appears that Headmaster had purposely phrased his sentences that way. Zelda had the talent to be an amusing entertainer. But it was hard on Zelda’s heart.

“...Why are they not blaming us?”

“Zelda, do you know anything about ‘Over-capacity’?”

Headmaster replied Zelda’s question with a question. Due to the suddenness, Zelda honestly answered while having doubts in his mind.

“It is when the mana is too much for the magic tool and... it... explodes...”

It seems that Zelda had figured it out as he was answering. It can't be, his eyes held that question as he looked at the Headmaster, who nodded, eyes sparkling.

“Is the Headmaster saying that the crystal ball exploded due to ‘Over-capacity’?”

Zelda could not believe it.

“Yes.”

Zelda blinked with surprise at the simple response.

“By no means! A 10 years old only has mana half of an adult, not to mention Will being only 8... How could it be possible?”

Headmaster laughed, amused, seeing Zelda's common sense crumbling.

“You might not believe it but there was a precedent.”

At that word, Zelda stopped. That's right, the Headmaster would never say anything without basis. Thinking about how he behaved till now, he went red with embarrassment. An adult usually would not show their emotions to this extent but Zelda was an extremely frank person. The headmaster was having a blast of a time looking at Zelda various expressions.

“The student who did the same thing was Gion Beryl.”

Headmaster said happily. And on this day, Zelda learnt that one cannot place the Beryl House on the same level as others.



“I will be counting on you.”

“Yes, please excuse me for now!”

Sent off by the smiling Headmaster, Zelda walked away from the office.

“Sigh.....”

Once he left the office, Zelda let out a deep sigh, all energy gone from his shoulders. He had been nervous the entire time. A guy like Zelda had always felt uneasy in the grandiose office plus there was the pressure of Will's incident as well. It was impossible not to be nervous.

And then, the Headmaster.

Without saying, there was pressure from him being his boss but to Zelda, no, almost everyone, that was not the main point.

The huge magic power excluding from Headmaster.

Not even hiding it and letting it all leak out, anyone in front of him would be pressured. It would most probably be the same with Gion but being an ex-adventurer, he had the technique to hide it. Not doing that would lure monsters to him.

On the contrary, there was no need for the Headmaster to practice hiding it, rather, he was using that as his weapon. Which was why, Zelda's heart almost gave out back there. It was like beef in front of a lion. A cow would still be able to run but for a piece of beef, that would be impossible.

By the way, even if Will had mana higher than the two (headmaster & Gion), due to him having his previous memories, he had subconsciously kept it hidden.

But that was not all of Zelda's stress. In the end, the Headmaster said another thing.

"Oh, as for Will's injury, that was magic so don't worry about it."

Although it was a magic Will used just because he wanted to get away from that scene, it was an immense shock to Zelda. It was as though the entire world has gone black and he was standing at the entrance to hell. To think the cause of all that worry was a magic spell. No one would blame Zelda for wanting to retort the headmaster to tell him that at the start.

But thanks to that shock, it was lucky for Will that he had forgotten to ask what magic it was that Will used. With only 1HP left, Zelda walked down the corridor in strides half of what he usually walked.

Today, he was requested by the Headmaster to not reveal to anyone about Will's mana amount as well as to hold the special mana examination on the day after. In the end, Zelda was still Zelda. Thinking about all the future trouble his student might go through, he readily agreed. Already having the determination, one can never underestimate the hot-bloodedness of Zelda-sensei.

# CHAPTER 44

## QUIET YET NOISY

---

That night.

It was so noisy that I woke up. But once I woke up, the only sound I could hear was Zen snoring. The dormitory was silent as well. Why did I think that it was noisy? Could it be a dream...?

There was no way to get an answer anyway. Oh well, it was most likely to be a dream. I would like to keep this from delving into horror.

But now I am awake.

There was no sense of sleepiness at all.

“.....”

Now I had loads of free time on my hands. No I cannot go back to sleep. For some reason, my body started getting restless and my head was still filled with questions so I decided to take a walk.

The ladder creaked when I climbed down. Since when did it start creaking? Holding my breath, I took great care as I climbed down. Reaching the floor, I put on my shoes and slowly ran out.

At this time I would always think of a phrase.

Every step you take, lift silently, step softly, like a ninja.

Come to think of it, we used to change it to ‘lift silently, step softly, walk drunkenly, hahaha. After laughing while reminiscing, I am currently repenting about it. Walking in a room without switching any lights on while laughing, I am like the most suspicious person right now!

By the way, that main point for that joke was to stumble exaggeratedly on the 3rd step.

《暗視》 [TN: Anshi, Night Vision]

I cast my magic chantlessly. This is a very useful magic. It allows people to see without the need for any light so it was the ideal magic for lazy people. Ah, this world had no electricity in the first place so I had to change lights to a lamp-like magic tool.

Walking down the corridor in total darkness, I climbed up the stairs and passed the lobby. Once there, I saw a person crouching down at the sofa area.

That person was trembling and muttering something at the same time. I wonder what was wrong...? Worried, I got closer to her.

“.....so noisy, freaking noisy! Shut up!”

That person who stood up shouting was the elf who skipped her self-introduction by being angry at that time.

Now, what did I do? If my ninja steps were being complained as too noisy then I can't even breathe, can I? Hmm, that's not it. She should not notice me being here in this darkness. But there was only me in this lobby right now.

—————Who or what was she yelling at?

As I continued watching her, she squatted down again.

At the self-introductions, she was clearly showing her anger at her surroundings. And me, who saw that..... Yes, at that time I felt that her anger 'was not directed at us'. And now, thinking back, either her head was wired wrongly or she can see something we cannot.

I strongly want to believe that it was not the former. Let's go with the latter. I decided to speak up.

“Are you okay?”

The girl jumped at my voice. Trying not to scare her, I chanted.

“ 《光》 ” [TN: *Hikari, Light*]

Because having a guy suddenly appear right next to her in darkness was a standard in horror movies. The light ball that appeared bathed the lobby in a soft light.

Ah..... Wait. What if she was the kind who can see spirits.....?

Hhhhhhhhhhow?

What if she was distracted by this me who is trying to show off? That's so uncool. No, no, no, no, no, a gentleman would always help a damsel in distress. I have to be confident here. Even though my inner thoughts were in a frenzy, I walked towards her.

She was looking at me with a worried face. ———Bingo.

I was correct. She was not afraid of me but of something I cannot see. Even so, she was still worried about me. What a good girl. What was it that had driven her up the wall? Anyone who troubled a girl is the enemy of the world! Not to mention such a cute girl!

As I got closer to her, her pearly white smooth skin that young girls usually have, came into view. Oh, I am not a lolicon. No. Definitely.

...Ahhhh, damn it! It was irritating not to be able to see whatever was here! If I could see it I would bash it!

It was then I noticed.

If I cannot see it, all I need to do was to make it so I can see it!

I smiled, and immediately regretted smiling when I saw her shocked at it. Ah, it can't be helped.

Rustle.

When I was 1 step closer to her, the air rustled. Could it be... that this was the cause that woke up me up? Thinking about it, I casted it chantlessly.

《可視化》 [TN: *Kashika, Visualization*]

Suddenly, something appeared in front of me.

“.....!!”

Taking a step back due to shock, I bit on my lips as I smiled. As I thought. Various vague human shapes appeared in the room. No, it would be more apt to say they were already in this room when I became able to see them. So they are the ones who troubled her.

《コイツらと会話》 [TN: Koitsura to Kaiwa, Being able to talk to them]

I cannot hear their conversations so I focus my mana on my ears and cast.

“Oh!”

Suddenly, it overflowed. Voices, voices, voices————... Without thinking, I covered my ears. Is she hearing this all the time? As I began to get used to it, I could pick up on several conversations.

(( Oi, this human seems to be able to see us? ))

(( Don't talk crap. There's no way he can! ))

(( That's right, but he did take a step back, didn't he? ))

(( I-It's your imagination, there is no way a mere human can see us faeries...))

“I can.”

I stopped the self-important grandpa voice in mid-sentence. The voices grew louder, like they were bewildered. But above all, it was really noisy. I frowned and lowered my voice.

“You are troubling her, would you mind shutting up?”

At that, the voices grew louder again. But instead of bewilderment, it sounded like mocking instead. As I waited for a reply, finally a self-important one replied me.

(( To think a low-mana mere human dares to commend us. ))

Okay, negotiations fail—!

I see, so in the fairy's world, the one with a high mana rules.

In that case.....

I grinned.

“In short, you guys would abide me if my mana is higher?”

(( Huh? Is your brain melting, human? As if anyone of us would lose to a human. To compete with us.....!?? ))

I let out a little of my mana that I usually stored inside of me. Ah, Father had once said

that just by leaking 20% higher than what one normally would give out would really be effective in intimidating people. Since I am a [Cheat], it would be enough to just release 10% to get these faeries to yield, hahahaha!

To tell the truth, I am quite irritated. There was no need to feel bad for these guys who forced such a cute girl up the wall.

Smiling all this while, I slowly approached the proud one who spoke just now. The faeries, who were so noisy just now, were so silent that you can hear a drop of water.

Tat tat tat tat. The only sound in the lobby right now was my footsteps as I finally stopped in front of that guy.

“Would you abide?”  
( ( WAH!! ) )

The faeries shuddered. This reaction hurts a little... and I did not even release 20%... What am I, a rare beast?! I frowned unintentionally and all the fluttering faeries lay themselves at my feet. Yes, they are doing dogeza. [TN: 土下座, lay flat on the ground]

“I-I abide! Please..... forgive us for all the impolite things we had done!”

That all-important grandpa was desperately shouting.  
.....Am I that scary?.....

Even though I was shocked and a little hurt by that, at least that's one problem solved. That's a good thing.

“Is that so. That's great. Would you mind leaving this place then?”

My speech was slightly a mess but it cannot be helped. I smiled, and they dispersed like ants. [TN: Spiders in japanese] How rude. To not even apologize for causing this girl so much trouble. Oh well, I will get them to properly apologize the next time.

Hahh. I get out a breath as I kept my mana back in.

As I approached the stunned girl, she pulled back a little. Her eyes reflected surprised and doubts. I was worried if I scared her but it looked like I did. Even if I did predict it, it still hurts. But the girl was not to blame, I was the one who moved on my own.

“Sorry.”

I sigh and laughed at the same time, scratching my head.

“I did not meant to scare you, are you okay?”

Saying that, I crouched down to where she was. Her eyes avoided mine.

Uwa... uwah.

It seem like it's my fate to have woman hate me..... I began to hate god... But it was also due to this power (cheat) that I have the strength to help people so... I had complicated feelings about this.

As these thoughts went through my mind, the crouching girl seem to have frozen in her spot. Then she began to speak, a bit reservedly.

“Ah... It's not that.”

“Hm...?”

It's not what? Do not tell me she was not being bothered by the faeries...? Worried, I looked at her and she said shyly.

“I am not scared... Erm... Thank you.”

Her face blossomed into a smile. I went blank for a moment. Up till now I had only seen anger or an emotionless face. That smiling face was a critical hit. My god, this girl... is super cute! This onii-chan will look forward to your future! It's not that I am a lolicon. It was just, a pure thought. Just a thought. I was only thinking that she really belongs to the beauty army.

My eyes met her deep green eyes and immediately, she avoided it.

.....Wah.....

Ah no, she did said she was not afraid of me so it might just be her habit of not meeting people's eyes. Yep. I want to believe it was that, No, let's make it that.

As I convinced myself, I stood up. Then, she spoke again.

“But.”

But? I looked worriedly at her.

“Who are you?”

I was asked a difficult question. She might be asking if I am a sage’s disciple or not due to my mana but sadly, my real identity was nothing like that. In that case, a noble and a student of this school, will that do? But with the flow of this conversation, to state I am a noble was kind of weird plus she would already know I am a student since I am in the dorm... In that case.

“I’m Will?”

I said, tilting my head and she burst out laughing. Wha-? Don’t laugh! There is no answer better than this!

“The-then, who are you?”

Embarrassed, I asked her back.

“I am Selphys.”

She said happily. For some reason, we started laughing.



Chiffon [Ha...! For some reason my 6th sense is tingling! Will is being...]

Mary [Are you saying Young Master Will is in danger?]

Chiffon [..... I feel like a bug had been attracted by Will.]

Mary [That’s bad!]

# CHAPTER 45

## DEVELOPMENT

---

3 years had passed from that incident.

That incident – The one where the Anti-Kingdom faction had kidnapped Will. My blood ran cold that time. But, once I got back to the house, Will had already settled everything using his magic. Moreover in an absurd and reckless way.

My son was really out of the norm.

Transference, Heal, Gravity.

[TN: Remember, the people of this world used transfer instead of teleport]

And he was able to use at least Light and Wind attributes. By his attitude, he may be able to use more than that. No matter what, those were all magic to be feared. And when I asked where he learnt it all, all I got was " I knew those from the start. "

I had heard of something like that once before ——— That magic was actually a language.

The famous tale of the 'Abandoned Child' spoke of it. The 'Abandoned Child' possesses an incredible amount of mana but that was just a front. The truth was that he was a person who can manipulate the magic 'language'.

As it was an old tale, there was no way to prove it. But, what I could do was to at least protect Will.

Power, is always poisonous.

Handling it in the correct way will turn it a medicine but the wrong way will turn it into a deadly poison.

It was a deadly poison for Will. If he ever indulges in it, he will lose himself. Plus he is my son, a Duke's son. Right now he has both the power and the status.

Moreover, that much power will be feared and avoided by people. I was worried, but now, it had become needless.

Even though Will is still young, I had a feeling he knew what he was doing. He was never proud nor went about flaunting his status and power. His actions told me that he knew how scary power can be. In the first place, he did not even tell us about the fact that he could use magic.

The uneasiness and anxiety I felt might be because I was lonely but at the same time, I can't help but be proud of my son, Will. I wonder if this was what all parents feel.

Thanks to that, apart from my job, I am also seriously training Will, similar to how novice knights train. I started the training as a joke but soon after, we grew serious about it.

Will grew, absorbing everything just like a sponge. The training also became a time I looked forward to everyday. Even if I was surprised at how fast he was learning, in the end it was because it is Will. I cannot even hide my smile now. As Will, with his training sword, was serious about learning, I too, had a plan for him. Frankly, thinking about him being a swordsman alongside me, I might be jealous at his skill then.

This 8 years old son of mine might just be able to defeat a fledgling knight right now.

And that was what we had been doing for the past 3 years.

As for other activities...

It was when Chiffon, ex-Shadow, had already been with us for 2 weeks.



The young ex-Shadow, was attached with the [Collar of Slavery].

—————[Collar of Slavery], it was a taboo magic tool that controlled slaves against their will and had long since been banned. The manufacturing method was said to be lost but looking at this case, it still existed.

This was much more serious than expected. Imagine someone using lost methods to create banned items and to add on to it, that person was an enemy of ours.

Being the leader of the Knights was only a cover for me who is part of the King's personal corps. The main aim of this special corps was to get all the revolters by any means necessary.

It was easy to think of all the terrible scenarios that could happen with them using [Collar of Slavery].

The one who took off the collar attached to the young ex-Shadow was none other than Will. As I thought, Will is really out of the norm. But he is super cute so it's okay. The tiny figure of his when he was giving his all trying to think of a name for her had me giving him full marks for cuteness!

And Chiffon became the young ex-Shadow's name.

I took the chance to question Chiffon when Will was asleep. She was living in an orphanage before being sold to the [Shadows]. And from there, the collar of slavery was attached and she was forced to work as a Shadow. She had also killed many in her time as a Shadow.

But to the trembling girl, I wondered if my feelings got across to her. No matter what I said, she would most probably think it as humoring her. But rather than devoting my time making her understand, it was more urgent to expose who the mastermind was. Luckily, Lily and John were here. Instead of a tongue-tied person like me, they would stand more chance in getting her to open her heart.

Veltor was being named as the mastermind but many things do not fit. I am most certain there is another pulling the strings. If I continue taking my time for this, I might get deceived by the appearance and evidences that might appear. Dealing with the aftermath, I left the house the next day.

In the fastest speed I can manage, I rush all the way to the orphanage in Kaina Chiffon mentioned. West of my territory, it was at a mountainous place, upper stream of Iisa River that was the border separating Elzmu and Hattuo country. Iisa River flows from the Demon Forest and all the way around the metropolis. Without taking even a day, I reached Kaina.

The orphanage Chiffon spoke of was in the outskirts of Kaina and when I reached the place, there was not even a trace of it left due to a fire accident.

The enemy moved faster than I thought. After that, no matter how hard I investigated, nothing came up. I can't help but curse. I had belittled them. This is tougher than I thought.



And with that, 3 years passed.

No matter how I questioned Veltor, who was in jail, I still cannot even grasp their shadow. According to Jean, he had spoken to a [black hooded man] to hire the Shadows. As for the mastermind Jin, he admitted that there was a partner. A black hooded, mask wearing, voice-changed (using a magic tool) partner that he could not even figure out if he's a she or she's a he. Good grief. Why did he even rope in someone whose identity he did not even know? His stupidity amazed me to no end.

But this shadow puppet master had laid low completely for these 3 years. There must be a way to rouse them..... but what?

And because of that, we spend these 3 years worrying endlessly.

Going along with my lies, Will set traps all over my office. If anyone even entered my office without permission, they will be transferred to space where magic can't be used.

How can I say it... It was so amazing that I can't stop gasping. As expected of Lily's and my son!

And the other day, this bright son of mine had entered into the Academy, skipping grades. Feeling lonely, I had rubbed my cheek with his rather splendidly but got beaten up by Will.

Hahahahahaha. I would not receive any damages from punches from an 8 years old kid, Will! Look at you blushing, so cute!

With reddened cheeks, he suddenly and rudely entered the horse carriage. But in the end, he still waved good-bye to me even though he wanted to rebel against me. Fufufufufufu, no use hiding your feelings from me Will.

Will would be staying in a dormitory in the Academy. As the danger level was going to be higher than him staying at home, I was uneasy. But Will who usually never wanted

anything for himself, had said that he wanted to attend Phillis Academy, which was John and my alma mater.

And when I asked him the reason, he answered with " I wanted to graduate High Academy as soon as possible as so to help Father with your work. ". There was no way I can say no after hearing that!

Ku... those upturned eyes! How can I deny anything that cute face that resembles Lily asked for! Ah, this was impossible for me.

Ah well, since it is Will, there shouldn't be any worries.



-----Back to 3 year ago, 2 men somewhere.

"W-What?! Failure?!"

At the same time as the Fat guy exclaimed, a sound of glass shattering could be heard. In front of him, a black hooded man was kneeling.

"Yes, the 3 shadows sent by Veltor was caught, Sir."

A red stain was spreading on the carpet. It looked like the glass that had shattered was a wine glass. Contrary to the agitated man, the black hooded man was reporting in a calm and emotionless voice.

The ugly and fat man clicked his tongue and crashed down on his seat.

"Damn that Veltor... To think I had thought he could be of use... how useless."

After he got tired of ranting, he looked at the black hooded man in front of him.

"And? How were the shadows caught? It was reported that Gion had been lured out to the capital."

"Yes. According to the information, Gion's office was rigged with traps."

"Traps you say..."

The fat man raises his brows and grinned.

“Something smells funny. ————Take care and do a background check on Williams Beryl. I don’t mind how long you take. Make sure it is thorough.”

# CHAPTER 46

## FIRST LESSON

---

My master was not to be underestimated.  
The man snickered.

Iron fortress – Gion. It was natural to think he would lay traps around in his office but to think the Shadows, who were pro in this field, were caught so easily. Plus there was something unnatural about the way this news was presented.

No matter how I sniffed around, I could not seem to even get a single bit of information. The only thing I found out was that somehow, Gion had been running around. And even that was an unreliable bit of rumor from the streets. To think Gion Beryl managed to keep such a tight lid...

But now, just by poking a little, the seams fell apart and information could be easily gotten. It was as if he was trying to hide something else...

And my master, whose appearance was easily looked down upon, was actually a sharp and able person. To get that fact confirmed again, the black hooded man... no, the masked man laughed. My master had picked up on this tiny clue and gave his instructions quickly. To think I had decided to investigate it myself had he not say anything.

I had plenty of time.

And I waited for 3 years.

Finally my time had come.

Will——— Williams Beryl had entered the Academy. Even if I still had to wait for 2 more years till Will graduates, this was still an unexpectedly good news. The mansion and Gion's close proximity were too dangerous. The risk of me being found out was too high. And right now, both of those were a far distance away from Will. Now is the best timing.

Lowering my hood and deeply covering my face, I cackled.



I had a dream.

I dreamed that I was summoned by god (gramps) and I laid all my dissatisfaction on him. To give me a [cheat] ability that I did not even ask for, did he know how much troubles I had because of him? But it was also thanks to that, I managed to help Selphys and most of all, to be able protect all the people I hold dear from now onward. I should be fine if I hide my abilities to prevent being feared or looked upon as a weirdo and if it really did get found out, I can only resigned to my fate.

But that gramps.

He was definitely not reflecting on his wrongdoings.

To prevent the incident that happened to me happening to others, he should at least shave off his beard. If he ever appears in my dreams the next time, I am going to pluck all of it out.

Ah, don't mind that too much since after all, it was only all a dream. But it did make me think. Even if I received this [cheat], I am still living as now I want it to be.

My first aim is that.

Yep.

To be loved by people. In other words...

To be popular!

As I renewed my determination, the alarm sounded. I peeled myself off the bed and climbed down the ladder.

“Oi! Zen! Wake up!”

“Unn... 5 minutes more...”

Leaving the mumbling Zen, I quickly washed up and got ready. Sorry Zen, I don't want to miss breakfast. Brushing the lint off my uniform, I opened the door. Since it was still early, I leisurely strolled down the corridor and heard bustling behind me.

“Will~ Don't leave me behind!”

Zen.

As he had rushed out in a hurry, his bed hair was still sticking out all over the place and his collar stood up too. Since it was amusing, I shall keep quiet about it. I then grinned.

“I woke up on time though?”

“Uuuu... but what if I am late to class? It’s the first day too!”

“Then try your best to wake up on your own.”

While conversing, we climbed up the stairs and as we were about to turn around the corner to the lobby, someone bumped into me.

“Ah- Sorry... Oh, Selphys.”

“Uwah! Yesh! Good mongol!”

Selphys bit her tongue from shock. But she immediately got a grip and after a small wait, she tried again, her face red.

“.....Good morning, Will.”

Her face was really red, was she okay? Was she running a fever?... She looked energetic so I guessed she was fine.

“Ah, the sullen girl from before.”

Just as I was worried about Selphys’s health, Zen just casually dropped a bomb. Though it was true that she was seen as sullen from before but I am pretty sure her personality was nothing like that. Nope.

“Will, you spoke with her after that?”

“Ah... yeah...”

I did not know if it was okay to talk about Selphys’ situation so I just gave a vague answer. Picking up on that, Selphys smiled.

“Will helped me yesterday. I am Selphys, nice to meet you.”

To the smiling Selphys, Zen blushed and straightened his back. But since his hair and collar were still sticking up, it looked even more amusing than ever. Even I want to

prank people sometimes.

“I’m Zen, Will’s roommate and best friend!”

He seems to emphasize on being my best friend but let’s just ignore that.

...Zen, you are a man too huh? Though you were still only 10. I understand, I totally understand your feelings. If I was truly an 8 years old, I would want to be liked by her too.

.....Since I am not a lolicon, it was that. Like how a big brother looking out his sister. Eh? I am younger than the both of them? Shut up, it’s the inner age that counts!

Ahh, but it was nice to hear that Zen treated me as his best friend too. A small smile danced on my lips as I began to walk towards the cafeteria.

“By the way, is bed hair a fashion thing now?”

Selphys asked Zen, amused. Zen, who turned red, burst out at me.

“Will! You definitely know about this, don’t you! You’re horrible!”

I laughed out loudly as Zen chased after me.

Yep.

This was a peaceful day.

In the end, Selphys pacified Zen and we entered the cafeteria together.



Today, as Zen had previously said, was the first day of lessons. Since I had learnt it all from John-sensei, the lessons don’t mean a thing but still, it was my first school lesson after so long! Strictly speaking, it was actually an academy but I was still excited for it.

As this was the lower academy, the homeroom teacher would be in charge of most of the subjects. Just like primary school. My previous homeroom teacher was a useless and awkward man and I got another teacher for my music and home economics classes. Going with the flow, it meant that Zelda-sensei most likely would be doing the same thing. And he looked like he was boorish and clumsy too.

I thought about all that as I ate and all of a sudden, Zen threw a question in my

direction.

“So Will, what did you help Selphys with?”

He asked, curious. I looked at Selphys, asking with my eyes if I should talk about it. She nodded, letting me know to leave it to her. To think she was backed up a wall yesterday. She sure changed fast. Just like the piper uncle who ate mushrooms. She evolved instantly. Mah, it was true that children have these traits in them. With a personality 180° from what she was shown previously, the brightly beaming Selphys was attracting gazes throughout the cafeteria.

“I was rather silent the entire time, wasn't I?”

Zen did a difficult move of turning his head and nodding at the same time to Selphys, who spoke. Ah, because of his age, his neck sure was soft...

“That was because I kept hearing voices from the faeries. It was really noisy and it covered up your voices so I couldn't hear a thing.”

“Eh~ As expected, elves can talk to the faeries.”

Zen said, impressed. But Selphys shook her head sadly.

“No. It is true that elves that were aware of the faeries can speak with them but for me...”

Selphys let her sentence trailed off into silence. Which means, Selphys can hear them without being aware of it... No, she had a constitution that can hear things regardless of what they are. Zen seem to understand that too. He quickly apologized, feeling bad.

“Ah, sorry. I didn't mean that...”

Selphys panicked at his apologies and said that it was okay. Still feeling slightly bad, Zen wanted to continue hearing the story about how I helped her. He might not know that I did not do much actually.

“Will saved me from those noises.”

Selphys, with her eyes sparkling, turned towards me. I felt slightly guilty at that sparkling eyes since I did not do anything much. And, as I expected, Zen had a funny,

idiotic look on his face.

“Huh? Eh?”

I smiled wryly at that.

“Yeah, I only asked the faeries to go away.”

“Only. According to what I read, Faeries only listen to people with magic power higher than them... Will is really un-normal, yea?”

This time, I was the one stunned by Zen.

What? How rude. I only tried asking them.

Since I am an adult, I shan't hold it against you.

Leaving the empty plates on the counter, we left the cafeteria.



“Wo~ah, lessons's starting!”

Gori... Zelda-sensei entered the classroom as energetically as ever.

“Well then. Okay, stand up!”

The chairs rattled as everyone stood up. It seem like this world had the same practice before class. Somehow, I was kinda happy about it. But the next part made me want to bang my head.

“Sit! Greet!”

Nonononononono!

I really want to bang my head against the wall at such an old joke. And I had no idea if it was done on purpose or not as Zelda-sensei just pass the entire thing with a bright smile.

And so, class started with a sloppy start. Since it was the first day, we were learning about writing. But, expected of 10 years old. They had all memorized the alphabets before coming and was taking the lesson just because and in the end, the lesson went smoothly. But as I soon became bored, I started sketching instead.

Next was mathematics. The 4 fundamentals were easy. [TN: +, -, x, ÷] I was so bored that I finished all the questions.

So I am very free now. Was there nothing else to do? I looked around the classroom. On my right was Zen, left was Selphys. Zen was as good as he said, solving the questions without any trouble while Selphys was earnestly paying attention to Zeldasensei's lesson.

She then discovered me staring at her.

Hehe, sorry, I'm bored!

To convey my message, I smiled at her and she turned her head away.

Uwah..... Her ears were red with anger! I'm sorry!

Please forgive me since I am younger than you.

But since I don't want to anger her again, I began to observe others. Oh yes, I wondered what happened to Miso-kun.

My eyes searched all over the classroom. Oh, he was in a blind spot. He was just right in front of me. Had he repented? I would like some friends when I succeeded Father so I would really be happy if he changed his way of thinking. As I stared at that blond hair, my name was suddenly called out.

Hm? Turning to the direction of the voice that called me out, it was right at the front of the classroom, where the blackboard was.

.....Oh man.....

I was called by the teacher. This was bad, I totally did not hear what he just said. Ah, would it be fine to just answer the question on the board? I looked at Zen and he nodded. Oh, that was easy.

It was a simple question that could be solved by mental calculation and when I answered immediately, Sensei was shocked. The class stirred as well.

"Hm? Eh? I was wrong?"

I whispered at Zen, asking, only for him to stare at me, smiling wryly.

What was it, man?

# CHAPTER 47

## QUIET YET NOISY (SELPHYS POV)

---

I am an Elf, a race who could talk to Faeries.

For the Elf race, as long as they listen carefully, they could converse with the faeries. And for that reason, we were also grouped under the Faeries by the Human race.

But, I was the bottom of the pile. Even within my village, I was ridiculed. Because I could not make a clear distinction of what I should and should not hear. In other words, I lacked control. The faeries voices were heard on 24 hours. It never stopped. Like a ringing sound that just wouldn't go away. It just kept bouncing around my head. I was already at my limit.

There were loads of faeries in my village as we were in the middle of a forest. Which was why my parents told me to attend the Capital's Phillis Academy since there were lesser faeries there than what we had here (village). The Capital was also at the front lines in terms of research so they might have a way to heal me.

Fear of me being lonely, being separated from my parents, they enrolled me into a dormitory so I could make some friends.

It was true in the academy, the number of faeries were not as much and I did not feel the giddiness I felt in my village. However..... Once I entered the dormitory, the noise! It was as bad as ever!

As everyone began to do self-introductions happily, my heart was just not there.

So noisy, so noisy, so damn noisy!!

Please stop talking!

I had begged them millions of times.

And was rejected millions of times.

They were laughing at me, saying it was my own fault for hearing them. That they wouldn't obey orders from a person with mana lower than them.

It was impossible.

I would have to live with this noise forever. I hate myself for thinking this way. I hate the faeries that forced me to think this way.

I somehow managed to endure through the day. But I am reaching my limit.

Today my class went through body check-ups. They also had  their mana measured but as Elves usually have a higher amount of mana, the check for me would be done on a different day with a different crystal ball.

Through the gaps from the classroom, I saw how everyone placed their hand on the crystal ball. The day was ending soon. It was still fine in the classroom, but in the dormitory... Why was it so noisy in there!?

The last student was a very beautiful boy. He looked like he skipped grades to be here. Because he looked younger than all of us, plus, he was really afraid of the crystal ball. Try your best! I shouted in my heart, encouraging him and when his fingers touched the crystal ball, it shattered! He, who fell on his butt, started bleeding. Was he okay?! Sensei then, in a panic, brought him somewhere.

Worried, I looked down the corridor and saw the rest of my classmate, as worried as I was. The whole classroom was in a buzz and the faeries buzzed along with them. My ears hurt! I scowled at the noise and at this time, Sensei came back. With a shout, he quieted the class down. It affected the faeries too, as they fell silent as well.... Zeldasensei, was that it? I give you my thanks.

And when I was thanking him, he announced that lessons were over. Ahh... I don't want it to. If possible, I wouldn't want to return back to the dormitory because of all the noise. But the only place apart from this classroom that I know of in the academy was only the dormitory. Having no choice, I followed everyone back to the dormitory.

----- Night.

The faeries were making a racket again. Thinking that a wide space would be better than this narrow room, I took hold of a lantern and walked out of the room.

Rustle.

The faeries buzzed around me, laughing "What now, what now?". In the end, I reached the lobby and squatted down by the sofa. It was so noisy that I was about to cry.

".....so noisy, freaking noisy! Shut up!"

I shot up and shouted at them, unable to stand it anymore. And yet, the faeries all just continued to laugh at me. I can't... I really can't anymore.

And as I was about to squat down again...

"Are you okay?"

Despite always having troubles listening to what people are saying due to all the racket from the faeries, I somehow can hear that clearly. Shocked, I turned towards the direction of the voice and saw a boy standing there.

"《光》" [TN: Hikari, Light]

He said something and a beautiful ball of light appeared and lighted up the boy as well as the surroundings. As I stared shocked at him, he started making his way over.

The faeries then started talking again.

(( Hey, let's prank him! We haven't done it in a long time! ))

Don't come any nearer! I wanted to warn the boy but the fear made me unable to make a sound. He was the boy from the afternoon incident. Such a beautiful face. And he seemed to be telling me that it was okay. There was no way it was going to be okay. And when my eyes met his, he smiled at me. Was he worried about me...?

It's dangerous! Was what I wanted to tell him but for some reason, my voice was not coming out. Looking at that shiny silver hair that sparkles like an angel, my voice just wouldn't come out. What should I do?

Ah... that boy, that boy was going to bump into the faeries! Listening to the chatter from the faeries who seem to be having fun, I felt irritated. Why can't I even do (say) such a simple thing!

Be careful!

By reflex, I closed my eyes, fearing the impact.

“.....!!”

He let out a tiny gasp before backtracking. It cannot be... Was he able to see them!? But he is a human! Then, at that moment.

“Oh!”

He then covered both ears with his hands.

.....No, no way...!

I can't believe this! And it seem like the faeries were having the same thoughts as I had as they were in an uproar.

(( Oi, this human seems to be able to see us? ))

(( Don't talk crap. There's no way he can! ))

(( That's right, but he did take a step back, didn't he? ))

(( I-It's your imagination, there is no way a mere human can see us faeries...))

“I can.”

He cut off the old-sounding voice. I began to suspect my hearing. This was not a dream... right? And with his response, the faeries went into an uproar again.

The boy then stopped smiling and looked straight at the grandfather fairy whom sentence had just been cut by him..... He really can see them.

“You are troubling her, would you mind shutting up?”

I was stunned at what he said. I was touched that he said that for my sake. But even so, he was being ridiculed by the faeries. They mocked him as the grandfather fairy spoke.

(( To think a low powered mere human dares to command us. ))

Yes, it was no use. Even I, an elf, a race that have mana higher than humans, couldn't

get them to listen. But you had my thanks for trying to help.

But then, the boy started grinning.

“In short, you guys would abide me if my mana is higher?”

What was he talking about.....?? Sorry to say but the mana felt from him was a lot lesser than mine. With that amount, what can he do?

(( Huh? Is your brain melting, human? As if anyone of us would lose to a human. To compete with us.....!?? ))

The grandfather fairy’s voice faded out in the middle of his sentence. And it was not just him, I was shocked too.

What... is this power?

Really... was he even a human...?

As he had said, the power he let out was way higher than all of the faeries combined. Due to the huge pressure, the faeries were unable to make a sound. I too, was unable to move.

But I was not afraid. It was a preposterous amount of power. Really really huge. But to me, it felt like I was being wrapped in a warm sunny light. Tat tat tat tat. The boy started moving towards the grandfather fairy.

“Would you abide?”

(( WAH!! ))

But that smiling face was scary. Maybe it was because he looked like an exceedingly beautiful angel. The faeries started trembling, fearing him. I wonder why I don’t feel afraid at all.

“I-I abide! Please..... forgive us for all the impolite things we had done!”

I was surprised by how the grandfather fairy was desperately shouting for his life. It was really true that they will abide anyone with a high power. I looked with interest at the boy who smiled.

“Is that so. That’s great. Would you mind leaving this place then?”

He had a bad mouth despite of his angelic face. But his gentle manner does match his face. Just like an angel. Even though I had never seen one before.

I wonder why my heart beats so fast whenever I look at him. Hahh... The boy let out a sigh and the power disappeared instantly. He then started walking toward me. A cuter and younger boy than me... Why does my heart beat so fast?

It was... beating. It was... tightening...  
...Eh?

“Sorry.”

I jumped a bit at his apology. Why was my heart beating even at his apology?!

“I did not mean to scare you, are you okay?”

Saying that, he crouched down besides the squatting me. Wah-! Don’t do that! I can’t look at his eyes.

Beating. Tightening.

I heard about this from my mother. That this was love. Uwah... love... dove... glove...  
Nyaaaaaaaaa!

[TN: In original Japanese: 恋、鯉、故意. Koi, koi, koi. Love, carp, Intention / purpose.  
What’s that nya-ing at the end for though?]

What should I do? What should I do? M-m-m-my ears were definitely red...  
Embarrassed, I looked away and then I remembered. That boy, what did he say?.....  
scared me?

“Ah... It’s not that.”

I was not scared... Or rather, I came to like you very much.

“Hm...?”

H-how embarrassing... But I had to tell him because I was really glad! From tomorrow

onward, I can finally live peacefully!

“I am not scared... Erm... Thank you.”

Our eyes met. What beautiful eye color he has. But really, this was too embarrassing so I turned my eyes away again. And then, he stood up. Panicking, I called out.

Eh..... what should I say? I wanted to call out to him but I hadn't even thought about the subject—! With my mind in a frenzy, a question popped out.

“Who are you?”

.....Most likely an angel though. The Angel, with a troubled expression on, tilted his head and answered.

“I'm Will?”

So... so cute! That was foul play.

“The-then, who are you?”

I was asked back. Fine then, I shall copy your answer.

“I am Selphys.”

Father, Mother, I think I am going to be fine from now on. I can live quietly from now... ah... eh? My heart beat was noisy.....

# CHAPTER 48

## MISO IS TROUBLED

---

What should I do, what should I do, what should I do.

Miso———no, Mi Sociunnov briskly walked down the corridor.

“We are not commoners but the lord who governs over them———Never forget this.”

Mi replayed his father, the current Count and head of the family, Manuel Sociunnov’s words. Yes, his father had said that to him before he left for the academy. His meaning might mean, never be looked down by those in the capital despite being a noble from the countryside. If not, he can never rule, was what Mi understood. However, Mi got crushed from the start.....

The gloomy Mi was panicking inside, and all he could think was ‘Oh no oh no oh no oh no, is Father wrong?’, and as such, a preposterous doubt bloomed. Reflexively, he grinds his teeth.

Even though Father was always correct..... Mi began to felt like he was betrayed by the one he thought was perfect.

Actually, what his father said was ” We are not commoners but the lord who rules over them. Which means, we are fed by them in exchanged of us governing over them. Never forget this. “. But Mi had totally misunderstood.

Sociunnov’s family was tentatively a distinguished family, having been in long service. But Mi’s grandfather had slipped up and was found guilty of corruption repeatedly, causing the Sociunnov family’s status to fall till Count. And when Manuel Sociunnov took over as the head, things finally changed. Now, his governance could be said to be as good as the Beryl’s, and was well supported by his people.

And the territory Sociunnov is in charge of was, as Mi had said, a place far from the capital, the countryside. But that was because it was the front line of the border that Sociunnov, a family with a lineage of knights, was given to protect.

To Elzmu, which was surrounded by the [Demon Forest] on both the east and west, the defense for the border was of utmost importance. The national border of Hattuo from the north, downstream of the Iiza River, the place close to the north side of the [Demon Forest] was where the noble knights, Sociunnov, had been protecting for generations. It was their pride to have that territory, as well as the pride of protecting the king.

Although it was the same Sociunnov Family which fell in his grandfather's generation, Manuel, be it his looks or abilities or leadership, was supported and loved by the knights and people.

Mi was one of them.

He respected his father and had aimed to become like him. But Mi had mistaken pride for extravagance. It was wondered if this fact had been found out by himself or not.

And the thing that stopped Mi happened 1 week before. It was something unexpected, and was something very difficult to solve.

The next-in-line of Beryl's family, Williams Beryl.

According to rumors, he was a genius. Since he really did skip grades, it may have some truth to it.

Even though the Sociunnov family was building its name back by Manuel, it was still very much at Count. And just when the name was reviving, that happened. Even Mi knew how much damage it could cause.

Will's status was above.

And yet, Williams Beryl made friends with commoners and walked with them, self-introduced himself as only 'Will', hiding his status.

Why?

This was all Mi could think of for this entire week. What was the meaning of his father's words? His father and Will... he totally cannot understand what the people above were thinking!

Mi Sociunnov, for good or bad, is a straight and frank person. He, who stopped in the middle of the corridor, raised his face and began running.



I made a *small* blunder in my 1st lesson but I managed to pass the entire week without standing out. Thanks to that, there were no troubles and I made friends so I was really happy. But I kinda had a feeling the girls were avoiding me. Yep.

But it must be my imagination.

I mean, Selphys would still come over to talk to me, despite turning red, and in the dormitory's lobby, Freya-san and Loliya... and Yuria-*senpai*. I don't think I am picked on. Ah, but all the senpais in the dorm were kind and thoughtful. I began to lose confidence in if I could be like them when I reached 12.

But, my time had come!

Yes, because today was..... Saturday!

Ah no no no no no, I got too excited. In the national academy, students take Saturday and Sunday off, just like the public primary schools in Japan. But there was a huge difference. The academy was not slacking at all. To make up for the weekends, we were truly and strictly taught in the weekdays.

6-7 lessons, 50 minutes each per day.

It was till the extent where one wonders if that was too hard for 10 years old. It was too long! Was 50 minutes this long...? Ah, it was as John-sensei said / warned, that it might be because I already knew all the materials being taught...

Yep.

It was not that Zelda-sensei's lessons were boring. To tell the truth, it was rather fun. Though it would be nice if he could tone it down another 20% or so. If he was not a Sensei, he would put any street performer to shame with his entertainment antics. Because in this world, magic exists. We were shown illusions everyday. Illusions that even the famous illusionist on earth, who seems to own the moon, would pack his bag

and run away.

In geography, the map that was used was burning,  
In mathematics, a fire ball was burning as he was explaining the calculations.  
I was not talking about the fact that he was so hot-blooded that he was burning with passion but literally burning.

We are going to have our first magic lessons on Monday but... I cannot help but worry. And because of the needless worry during all the 50 minutes lessons, I was really tired. But today was my day off and free of worries so my excitement was max! Other students were too, going out, chatting or even playing hide and seek. Even everyone in the dorm was enjoying their day off. Of course that included me.

However.

“...U, uuuhhh..... I don’t understand..... urgh...”

What was the situation now that produced those moaning noise!

“Zen... What’s wrong?”

Sighing, I walk towards my roommate at his desk, moaning.

“This and that and this and that, I can’t understand a thing! And to think I wanted to skip grades...”

Zen looked like he was about to cry. It was only April, there is still about 6 months to go. There was totally no need to be so pessimistic now. Rather than that, I can feel my excitement going down because of him. Sighing again, I looked at the air-headed young man in front of me.

“It can’t be helped, I’ll teach you.”

Saying that, I pulled my chair over to Zen’s desk and he stared at me, surprised.

“There was no need to go that far though...”

.....This guy.....



“That’s why, this semi-circle and this circle had the same radius and diameter...”  
“I see! Then, what about this, Will-sensei?”

Because I was teaching him, Zen began calling me Sensei. The words making up Sensei was being born first so I am not his Sensei! [TN: 先生, Sen Sei. Literal translation is first 先, born 生. ] But it was not a bad feeling being called that so I left it at that. Definitely not because I felt happy being called that!

“Ah, that’s a cylinder. Cylinder is...”

I started scribbling on Zen’s notes. But Zen was a good student. He absorbed things easily and apprehended stuff fast. If he was like this at 10, wouldn’t he be counted as a genius?

“And if you add this in...”

“A, ah-! OOH!”

“See? The circumference and the length become the same...”

And I was cut off in the middle of explaining. Because of a loud knock on our door. Luckily, Zen had already understood all of it so it was a good place to stop. But the force of that knock... Was there an emergency? I quickly ran to the door.

“Who’s there?”

I asked as I opened the door, taking a peek at the face in front of me.

“Please excuse me for visiting suddenly. Could you spare me some time?”

It was Miso Soup no..... Mi Sociunnov.



“..... and that’s it.”

If Mi ever had puppy ears, they would be hanging down right now. I see... I then smiled wryly at the Mi in front of me who seemed really troubled.

“Did your father really say that?”

I had heard that the Sociunnov family was going great with governing their territory. Which was why I felt the words said by Manuel was slightly out of place with his actions.

“We are not commoners but the lord who govern over them—————Never forget this.”

Most likely, there was something left out from that sentence.

“He did!..... I think.”

Being pointed out like that by me, Mi lost his confidence and began doubting his own memory.

“Erm... Williams-sama, why did you do all that...?”

Ah.

He asked me, but I didn't have a credible reason on hand right now. Because of my previous memories, I find living like the commoners much more comfortable...

But for Mi's sake, I would need to give him a plausible reason. Because he definitely misunderstood his father's words.

“That was because I did nothing.”

“.....Huh?”

With my answer being so unexpected, Mi was looking at me with his mouth agape.

“It was as you heard. As long as anyone holds the authority for tax collection, they also hold the role to govern. But as my father had once said, the main point is governing.”

Looking at Mi who opened his eyes wide, I continued.

“Which was why, as I said before, in this academy, we are only students. Why would I go around acting superior when I am not doing anything?”

I think I gave a pretty good excuse. Mi, who still look stunned, gave his thanks and was about to leave the room. He really only came in to ask questions. But he still looked slightly unconvinced and that might be because of what his father had said.

Sigh..... Let's just help him.

“Is there any communication tool in your house?”



My son, who was currently in the academy, contacted me.

Within the communication tool — our house was a version which can send and receive letters — had a letter from my son addressed to me, surprising me. Being in-charge of the defense of the border, it was important that we, the Sociunnov Family, can communicate easily with the capital.

According to the letter, it was sent borrowing a simple communication tool from a friend but this kind of tool was not something a student usually has. Maybe they had created a small mobile one which students can bring about. I would need to check this information with the capital, I thought to myself as I continued reading the letter.

[ I cannot understand the meaning of Father's words. " We are not commoners but the lord who govern over them—————Never forget this. " What does it actually means? ]

Reading that, I buried my head in my hands. My son was a straight and frank person but he was a little... no, too frank.

“Sigh...”

Letting out a deep sign, I began writing the reply to my son.

## CHAPTER 49

# FLOWER ON BOTH HANDS?

---

“Ehhh!!!!?”

A bitter cry spread throughout the cafeteria. It was Selphy. Of course, not even Zen or I can stand it. Covering our ears with our hands, we grimaced.

“You must be joking!? Zen, you’re too cunning!”

She said as she jumped up, flushing red, glaring at Zen.

“Wha... what...”

I raised my hand, palm out, towards her, trying to calm her down. Selphy, coming back to her senses, muttered that she was not a horse. She then noticed all the stares coming from around her and quickly sat down, embarrassed.

“So? What’s going on? Why did the both of you agree within yourselves to skip grades?”

Selphy drew near to me, pressing for an answer. Your face was really close, Selphy. And on it, the words ‘Am I the only one being left out?’ was written across. No, it might be ‘Must be because I am too stupid.’ Anyway, I was in trouble.

“No, it’s not like that.”

“Then what is it?”

“It just so happens that both me and Zen had aimed to skip grades from the beginning.”

At my words, Zen nodded hard. It was a 4-seater table, 2 on each side and Zen was the one sitting opposite of me and Selphy. And because of that, Zen pretended not be involved. Thanks to him, I was stuck on the receiving end of Selphy’s anger. Damn it. I won’t be waking you up tomorrow, Zen.

“Really...?”

Selphy, whose anger had mostly subsided, asked doubtfully.

“Yes really. We both wanted to help our fathers out with their work which was why we wanted to skip grades.”

Like a bobby-head figure, Zen nodded again. Selphy then nodded as well. That’s great, she accepted it. She seemed relieved too.

“Then, then!”

Selphy stood up again.

“I want to skip grades too!”

.....Serious?

‘What’s up, what’s up’ -Stares from all over the cafeteria were beginning to gather over to our table again. Flushed red, Selphy sat down but she continued to stare straight at me.

“.....I got it.”

I said weakly, unable to stand her stares anymore. This girl was really... Where had the meek and gentle girl from the start gone to? There was a bitter smile on my face but I was also happy. Despite seeing me releasing my mana that day and yet still treats me normally made me really glad.

I was hated by girls in my previous life, got hit on the head by a vase and my fleeting and empty life came to an end but it looked like there was hope in this one. There exists a strategy of making good friends when young and turning them into childhood friends!

Childhood friends are not lovers?..... Hmm, it was fine as long as I am not disliked.

That was why, there was no disadvantages in getting along with them. Plus, I am rather happy with the situation right now. Hm, I heard some rude remarks like ‘Harvesting rice while it is still green’ but it must be my imagination. Haha, it was not that I made friends with them because of this strategy but that I truly do want friends.

“Anyway Selphy, we would need to fix your body constitution first.”

The sound of bread dunking into soup before eating was heard. Ah, that might not be the best thing to say to Selphy the first thing in the morning.

“I know! Once done, remember to add me to your study group!”

At the Selphy who was smiling happily, Zen and I looked at each other.

Today was Sunday.

Meeting Selphy at the lobby, we foolishly told her what we did on a Saturday, which was supposed to be used to have fun by students who were supposed to be having fun. That was a failure. And after being cross-examined by her, it turned out into this.

“Boys... living in the same room is sneaky.”

We were even being blamed with such an irrational reason. In the end, every Saturday, a study session is to be held at the lobby.

Cough.

A gathering by 10 year olds on a day off, why should we be happily studying? It was because of Selphy. She said studying happily but... it's studying you know? Does she even know the meaning of studying? I am worried. Onii-san is really worried.

Finishing our breakfast, we had decided to start our study session next week. I stood up, slightly worried about the innocently smiling young girl beside me, and headed out towards the lobby.



“So, what should we do?”

Selphy, who was sitting in the middle among us on the sofa, turned to me and asked.

“I am free today so I'll help!”

Zen said, smiling, from behind Selphy's back.

“Hmm. After hearing what the faeries said, I kinda got the gist of what is going on. Most likely, Selphy possessed an amount of mana larger than most people.”

I said as I drew back at Selphy who was leaning in.

“I wonder... I haven't taken the mana measurement test so I am not too sure.”

“Ah, I see.”

As Elves have a higher amount of mana than humans, they would be taking the test with a different set of crystal balls on another day.

“I would be taking the test with you too.”

I mumbled and Selphy seemed delighted. Anyway, she was most probably relieved to have someone she knows there.

“Does it means... you guys have a connection as the both of you have similar amount of mana?”

Zen asked, tilting his head. Selphy looked at him and nodded. Zen's face turned red. I can never get bored looking at him.

“Maybe elves have a habit of focusing their mana on their ears. As they wanted to talk with the faeries, they most likely often trained doing that. As Selphy had a large amount of mana, she became being able to hear them despite not focusing her mana onto her ear.”

I stood up from the sofa and looked behind at the 2 of them.

“And so, let's go to the courtyard.”

“” Okay! “”

They replied energetically, raising their hands. Now we were talking.



Phillis Academy had a lot of open grounds. This middle yard that we were going to was so big that you won't even know where the middle part is.

We headed toward an edge of the yard where trees were growing thickly and used the animal trail, which formed into something looking like a green corridor, which opened out into a space.

“Eh... Will, it’s amazing how you even found this place.”

Zen said, with a funny expression on his face as he looked around.

“Ah... by my intuition.”

Actually, I used magic, 『探索』 [TN: TanSaku, Search], on a map but if Zen knew about this, he might want me to explain. Seriously, just like a certain research baka I know.

At my words, Zen frowned.

“Eh! Can we go back? Will we get lost?”

What a rude fellow as always.

“How can we? I have my intuition!”

I retorted back.

I will not be accepting any comments on how I am acting like a fool instead.

Then, I turned to Selphy, who had been silent ever since she entered the forest (?). Zen turned to me, puzzled as to why Selphy’s mood suddenly turned bad.

“As expected, is it noisy here, Selphy?”

It was a bit childish of me to peek into her face from the bottom but I am 2 years younger. Plus it was said that girls grew up faster so I am not particularly bothered by it.

Selphy, looking like she swallowed a bitter pill, did a small nod.

“Well then.”

So she could really hear them, Zen whispered to me as I smiled wryly.

“Ready yourself, Zen.”

“Eh, eh, eh, wha, what’s going on?”

Not being able to understand anything, Zen stood there, shocked, as I began to release my mana slowly. Then slowly, Zen began to understand the meaning of my words.

Just a little...

Was what my plan was.

At the same time, I focused mana around my ears and I started hearing voices.

((Muuuuuu..... uh!))

((Who is he..... can he be the rumoured one...))

I frowned at the voices in a stir.

“Well, would you mind being silent?”

I said, frowning and at the same time, the voices stopped immediately. This was the 2nd time but seeing their reaction still surprised me. So my mana was really that huge.

The rumored one... do faeries exchange information? But this was slightly amusing. Yep. I finally understand the feeling of a teacher entering a noisy classroom for them to fall silent at the sight of him. Or maybe the feelings of a mother suddenly entering the room of her son, who was supposed to be study, and was reading manga secretly instead. The slightly nasty kind of amusement.

I grinned and shouted.

“Can I have a little help from you?”

((AHH! Yes! Gladly!!!))

Sadly, I was not using magic to be able to see them but if I did, the faeries were mostly likely pale in the face right now. That was how their response felt like to me.

I am glad they were so understanding. Yep.

I don’t deny that I cannot help but grinned at that. It must be my imagination that the

air rippled a bit. I immediately kept all my mana back inside. Because Zen too, looked pale and exhausted.

“Will... A surprise... attack... is awful.”

Being blamed by that feeble voice troubled me. I did give a warning in advance, didn't I? Now, I looked over to Selphy.

“Then Selphy, try moving your mana.”

“Your power is as amazing as usual... eh? Moving my mana?”

Selphy, with a blissful face on for some reason, asked, puzzled.

“E, eh? I thought Elves can use magic?”

“What is with that thought? Elves are a race that have high mana and are good with magic but that doesn't mean children know how to use magic too.”

My image of fantasy was collapsing. But they are still a race that are good with magic so it was still a passing mark.

Starting over, I looked at Selphy.

“I see... so you don't know how. Then, let's start with learning how to feel magic.”

I then remembered the words spoken by John-sensei.

“Magic manipulation is not something that can be done in a day or two.”

I called Selphy over.

“Come over for a bit.”

“Eh? Magic perception? That's so cool! I want to try it too! Waterfall training? Waterfall training?”

Zen said happily as he leaned in.

The people before did training. This is a world with magic. No matter tiny or huge, everyone has some mana in them. To use magic, one has to learn how to feel and manipulate mana. And to learn that, one would undergo training like waterfall training

that monks do, for a long period of time. During which one would unify their mind and soul and slowly learn how to feel and manipulate mana. They would hide in the mountains, looking even more like monks undergoing training.

Then, someone's disciple realized it.

"Since mana is the same, wouldn't feeling each other's mana be faster?"

He convinced his master and managed to learn magic perception in about an hour.

Long story short, all it takes is for someone else to manipulate one's mana. Having someone who knows how to manipulate mana manipulate one's own mana, one would learn it easily.

That famous disciple who found this method must be someone who lazed around.

"Then, please excuse me."

I gently grabbed Selphy's wrist. There was no need to come in contact but... it felt more authentic like this, no?

"Ah!?"

She must be surprised by the sudden flow of mana. Selphy stood there, flushed red and stunned.

"Ah, sorry."

"N, no, it's okay. Thank you."

Smiling at the Selphy who smiled, a bullet came flying.

"Me too!"

In the end, it became a situation where I held Selphy on my right while on my left I held Zen. Thanks to the lazy disciple, all it took was an hour before I got released from that situation.

# CHAPTER 50

## FIRST MAGIC LESSON

---

Monday.

Today would be my first magic lesson since I came to the academy.

“Today’s magic lesson will be conducted with groups of 4! Each group will be given 1 magic tool. Within 3 lessons, I want you to work with each other in your group to learn magic perception!”

Zelda-sensei said assertively, looking around the class.

“Okay, go find your group – NOW!”

With that, the class moved.

As usual, the 3 of us were together as a group.

“What about the last person?”

Zen asked.

“Selphy, do you have anyone in mind?”

As I threw the question over to Selphy, she shook her head vigorously. With her panicked look like she was about to cry, she leaned in close.

“N, no! This is fine! The lesser the enemies the better!”

“What enemies... Let’s cooperate with friends.”

I said, my voice strained, and Zen looked at me with a funny look on his face. What’s with him? Zen, don’t look at your senior with such eyes!

Hm? I am his junior?

I am already 25, going to 30. It was really pathetic to be looked at like that by a 10 year old.

I then suddenly realized.

Could it be... Selphy does not have any friends...?

I finally understand her actions. I messed up. The one who was insensitive was me. To think Zen caught on faster than me... I am ashamed, Zen. Otherworldly kids sure grew up fast. No, it should be me who was useless. I grew slightly depressed, thinking about it and then, I felt someone coming near.

“Can I join you guys?”

The one who asked us was Miso... no, Mi Sociunnov.

“Sure.”

“No problem~”

Against me and Zen, who accepted his proposal happily, Selphy was looking at Mi with a strange look.

“We were together as well, on Saturday.”

I said and Selphy showed an accepted yet unaccepting face. As I looked at her, wondering, she moved her gaze away, as to say that it was nothing.

Ah! (Disappointed)

If it was nothing, please don't shift your glaze away!

Ah, whatever, it was better to start over. Besides, there was something else more important at the moment.

“Sure, welcome. But Mi, you sure got lucky.”

I grinned and Zen and Selphy, after understanding my words, grinned too. Looking at the 3 of us, Mi had a question mark floating above his head.

“You get to use the magic tool all by yourself.”

Zen said, happily but that just made Mi even more confused. Then, a loud voice was

heard across the classroom.

“Okay, all of you are in a group, yea? I am handing the tools out so come and get them!”

At the ever-energetic Gori-Macho, Zelda-sensei’s call, all of us went to the front, where the blackboard was. Everyone’s eyes were sparkling, including Zen, excited about learning magic. I had thought that since this world is overflowing with magic, they would treat it as something normal but it seemed like they were moved by the thought of using magic too.

But compared to a person from Earth, they were a lot calmer. Yep. Or rather, compared to the me who first knew I can use magic, they were a lot calmer.

As I wondered who among us should collect the tool, I turned around, only to find the 3 of them missing. Panicking, I searched around the classroom with my eyes, to find them heading straight to Zelda-sensei happily.

...Wait for me!

Onii-san is sad!



“Hmm, I see, so the 3 of you had already learned magic perception.”

Mi said, finally understanding.

“How did you all learn it?”

Of course he would ask. Uuuh... What should I say? Even though we had gotten closer with that case on Saturday but even so, I can’t just go ” Eh, it’s because I retained the memories from my previous life, hehe ☆ “.

It would be depressing if Mi, whom I had finally become friends with, to distance himself away from me for thinking I had some screws loose, much less to say he is the next head of the Count family. I wouldn’t want the rumor that the next head of the Beryl had delusions to travel within the Noble society. For the sake of my job, as well as my mentality.

And just when I was thinking about all that, Zen just went and happily said.

“Will taught us!”

O—i.

“.....Williams-sama did?”

Don’t look at me with those eyes!

Don’t look at me with those sparkling eyes!!

With a smile plastered on my face, my brain was working overtime, trying to churn out a solution. Like how frantically the fans turned in a CPU. Then, a helping hand materialized out of nowhere.

“Williams-sama.....?”

Selphy mumbled.

Oh, oh, Selphy-sama!

I grinned, turning to Selphy. I am pretty sure my expression right now was terrible. She turned away. Don, don’t be discouraged, me.

“Eh? Did I not tell Selphy?”

Ah, I had seriously forgotten all about it.

“Ca, can it be Selphy-dono did not know about it?”

Mi exclaimed, surprised.

“Yes... eh, what? Everyone knew about it?”

Selphy was staring hard at me right now.

...Uuh, I really forgot, please forgive me.

“Williams is... my real name?”

“Why is it a question mark?”

Zen had wonderfully retorted to my mumble. Yes, we are often like that.

He continued.

“Will is a noble.”

“Yea. Because it’s too troublesome so I usually don’t give my full name out on the first meeting. My full name is actually Williams Beryl...”

Selphy then jumped in and cut off my sentence.

“Seriously? Beryl as in, that *Beryl*?”

“Yes, the Beryl Family. In Elzmu, there is only one Noble family with the name Beryl, you know.”

The screaming Selphy, the nodding Mi, Zen who had a weird look and the stunned me. What was this chaos?

As I stood there, stunned, Selphy suddenly pitched forward. And the one standing behind her was..... Zelda-sensei.

“You guys, what are you doing? Quickly start your magic perception now!”

He then struck Selphy’s forehead with the side of his hand. It was what people call a hand chop.

“It hurts!!”

“Focus on your class work, focus!”

Leaving Selphy who was in pain, Zelda-sensei left those words and walked away.

.....Doing that to a girl..... He has no mercy!!

I looked at Selphy who was crouching down and hugging her head in pain, then at the same time, Mi, Zen and me looked at each other and gulped. That was dangerous, so dangerous. Zelda-sensei was scary.



“And so, could you explain?”

Lucky or unlucky, after calming down and recovering from the pain, Selphy asked immediately.

“Ah, you see, I am worried about being distanced if I said my full name.”

“.....Hm, as expected of Will. You really don't it like it, do you?”

Selphy said uneasily. Grabbing hold of this chance, I replied her forcefully.

“Yep. So please treat me like you had before!”

“Alright...”

Selphy seemed to have accepted it but... was it my imagination that she looked a little down?

“Erm, really sorry Selphy. I did really intend to tell you.”

Wondering if it would console her, I apologized to Selphy. I was the one who had forgotten and as friends, it was natural to apologize as it was my fault. Selphy smiled and mumbled “ It's not that... don't worry about it.”

Hm?

It was not that? What was it? I don't understand. Anyway, she said not to worry about it so I guess everything was all right.

I kinda convinced myself and turned my attention back to the lesson.

“Eh, is the Beryl family that amazing?”

Zen mumbled, still having that weird look on his face.

.....Sigh, let's start the lesson please.



“Do you understand, Mi?”

In any case, leaving aside Selphy and Zen who were talking about ‘Gion-sama’, Mi and I were working hard on the lesson.

Which means, Magic perception time~

Mi was currently placing his hand on top of a bronze box.

The bronze box ——— It was a tool to help train one’s magic perception. Touching the structure will cause the place which was touched to let out some mana. A processed square bronze box with an empty center, there were intricate patterns densely carved on it. These carvings seem to make up for the magic formation.

True, in the middle, there seemed to be 《魔力ちよっと垂れ流し》 [TN: Maryoku chotto darenagashi, Leaking a little mana out] written on it. Well, the other carvings were something additional I guess.

...Rather, 《魔力ちよっと垂れ流し》 was rather crude. I am sure there were better ways to phrase it.

[TN: Leaking / soiling. For example, your pants.]

Well then, although this tool looked like something that came out of the pocket from the blue tanuki, the power behind this was most likely a mana stone.

According to the notes John-sensei made for me to memorize, the country Hattuo had many ‘Magic Fields’ where Mana Stones came from.

Mana stones, as the words implied, are stones that have mana in them. As these contained pure mana, they could be used with any magic attributes.

For example, the [Collar of Slavery.]

I don’t know what attribute it was but... remembering it after this all while this made my mood turned sour. But, I had mixed feelings knowing the stones could be used this easily.

As I stood there, deep in my thoughts, I was called back by a loud voice. Well then, let’s

help a friend in trouble.

“Mi, retract your power. Come, he-he-hoo-”

I will not accept any retorts about it not being the situation for the Lamaze technique. It can't be helped because I cannot think of any other technique to aid retracting of power!

And so, my first magic lesson ended in the midst of chaos.

# CHAPTER 51

## MARIA'S FATHER

---

Selphy's roommate was no other than the girl Will had christened 'Holy Mother' ——— Maria, the committee chairman who belongs to the gentle and absentminded type of character.

Plus, Selphy was in a terrible mood at that time for room assignment and the only one who was willing to be with her was Maria. To put it another way, she saved Selphy by just being there.

Thanks to Will, Selphy, who was freed from the noise, grew closer to her roommate and now, they became best friends.

You might think that Will had no friends but that was not the case. Selphy too, had quite a bit of female friends apart from Maria.

The magic lessons went smoothly and Will's class was leading in terms of magic perception. And now, it was finally the time to learn some magic spells.

Will did it easily but the rest of the 10 year old class, including Selphy and Zen, were having trouble with the pronunciation. Zelda-sensei had grumbled about being irritated with the excessive vowel sounds and was supported by the entire class. (Apart from 1 person)

[TN: If you heard Japlish, you'll understand.]

And so, the end of April came.

Although they were only on the level of learning simple spells and magic circles, not yet even learning how to activate nor had confirmed what their attribute were, Selphy, Zen and Will were busily studying for the sake of skipping grades and the time just flew pass.

'But Will most likely had already finished his studies.' Selphy said, smiling bitterly as she sat up on the lower bunk, having just woke up from her sleep. Maria had already been up for some time but that was usual so there was nothing to be surprised about.

Today was Saturday.

Even so, Maria was wearing her uniform. Rubbing her half-awoken eyes as she climbed out of her bed, Selphy looked at her, curious. Maria then tilted her head slightly, like how she always does, and laughed gently.

“The May Festival is coming soon right!”

“...Eh, ah, yea.”

With the rug pulled out under her by that, Selphy could only mumble a few sounds with her half-awoken brain.

Even so, Maria was not bothered by that and was instead in a really good mood. It was rare to see her humming as she braided her hair at the washbasin. By the way, Maria usually wears her hair in a twin braid.

And I am ready ~♪

Now she was even making up her own lyrics. Unable to ignore, Selphy stood, fully awake, her mouth opened.

“You have something on today?”

Hearing that, Maria began advancing towards Selphy with such a force that cause her to stumble back onto her bed.

“Do you want to know~?”

Looking at the excited Maria, Selphy nodded, smiling wryly. Most likely she will be forced to listen even if she said no. Selphy then sat down on the chair by her table.

“You see, today I will be having lunch with my father somewhere near the castle!”

“Eh! How nice, to be near the castle! Not to mention meeting with your father! Does he live nearby?”

The unexpected answer made Selphy leaned forward. Of course, Maria’s family must be living far away since she was currently living in the dormitory, which was why Selphy asked. The both of them are 10 years old currently and haven’t entered the I-hate-my-father phrase of their life. Therefore, they were purely happy that Maria was

about to meet with her father whom she hasn't seen since a month ago.

"Hmmm~ We decided before I entered the Academy. My father is a merchant you see."

The plan was for her father to reach the capital yesterday and he really did, Maria said happily to Selphy.

"Ah, so you will be heading off now?"

"Yep~! What about Selphy?"

"Hahaha..... I would be studying with Will."

Selphy smiled bitterly at the no-rest day off ahead of her and Maria grinned.

"That's good, isn't it? Will is cool and cute. He will definitely become a hunk when he grows up! Just like Gion-sama!"

Maria insisted, standing up excitedly.

Will called her 'Holy Mother', but she was just a maiden. She loves these kinds of topics. Selphy forcefully cut off Maria and sent her off, giving the excuse that she was going to be late for her meeting.

"I am going now~!"

"Have fun~!"

Waving her hands till she was the only one in the room, Selphy coughed.

"Today too... study."

At this late hour, Selphy finally feels like punching her past self. But it was true that she doesn't want to separate from Will. In the end, Saturday became the 'Study Day'.



"Ah, Father!"

Once she left the school gates, she could see her father standing there, waiting.

"Oh, Maria. It has been a long time."

Maria ran towards her smiling father and jumped into his arms.

“Yes it has! How has it been going, Father?”

“Good and healthy. Financially as well. Father is always energetic, Maria.”

Maria’s father held her hand and they walked down the street together, her braids bouncing.

It was early morning where the refreshing air still lingered around.



“Ah..... That was fun! Streets near the castle are something else, aren’t they, Father!”

Maria said as she laid her upper body on top of the thick wooden table. Seeing his daughter’s position, Father smiled wryly. Then, the food they ordered came. The attitude and services received was so good that the both of them can’t help but gushed about it.

“Hm, so you haven’t been to the lower streets.”

“Sigh... School is busier than you thought. The daughter of Caralsdoni Trading Company is going to be a disgrace...”

At her father’s, Caralsdoni’s words, Maria sighed, feeling dejected. Maria’s family runs a trading company, started up by her father and with his efforts alone, he managed to build it up to a medium-small sized company. The name, Caralsdoni Trading Company.

His very own name. It could be that he doesn’t have a nickname or he was in love with his own name.

“Hahaha, no you won’t. So, how’s school life?”

Twirling his mustache, he looked at Maria, laughing.

“Of course! It goes without saying! Please listen, Father, I have a roommate, Selphy.....”



Waiting was such a simple job. Everything just came without him doing anything, the guy smiled bitterly.

As it was already evening, the room was slightly dark.

Hehehehe, the guy laughed, as the orange streaks of light got nearer to the window. As the guy ——— the black hooded man took his hood off, his mouth, when revealed was shown to be distorted. Plunging his hand into his robe, ga-chunk, a small sound could be heard as he pulled something out.

Then, his mustache mouth changed. At a glimpse, it seemed like the hair retreated back into his skin and his body structure changed too.

“———How easy.”

That cute girl had told him many things. She might had meant to tell it to her father. The man, who once again grinned, had reverted back to his thin frame.

“Selphy is really~~ close with him. I am envious!”

He would have to give his thanks to the girl. He grinned again, looking like he was having fun, his eyes sparkling.

“Well then..... May Festival, is it. The timing is just nice.”

With that, he melted into the shadows of the room.



“The May Festival is coming~!”

Was the first thing that popped out of Selphy’s mouth as I approached the lobby. Her excitement was high and I think I am seeing an illusion of flowers dancing around her.

I then understood her excitement with her words.

Yep.

So this is what they call ‘Festival Mood’.

But.

“May festival?”

It was a festival I had never heard before. And when I asked, both Selphy and Zen were surprised.

“Will... has some missing bits, doesn't he?”

“Yep. So knowledgeable yet missing out on some common sense...”

Selphy and Zen said, one after another. What rude fellows. The real question was why you guys even knew about it in the first place.

Perhaps I had a disgruntled face on, Zen panicked and began to explain.

Hmm. Am I that easy to see through?

...I really had a feeling recently that my mentality was being messed around by my body's age. Let's be careful. Even though I kept saying that.

“It's a festival where each class has to bring something out! It seems that the middle and high academy can even set up shops.”

I see.

Something like a Bunkasai. [TN: School festival]

“Hmm... Sounds fun.”

I broke out in a smile and the 2 looked at each other before laughing.

“Doesn't it!”

“Right?”

It's the long-awaited school event~! My heart was thumping. What should we do? Bring something out... bring something out... A play? Shall we do a horror house?

And as we were excitedly chatting, a voice rang out.

“Hm? I just heard the word 'festival'!”

It was the hot-blooded Kiro.

“Ah, Kiro-san, good afternoon.”

Having suddenly appeared, Zen greeted him in a broken voice.

“Yo, Zen.... Your note is open... Uwah... are you guys studying? It’s unbelievable...”

Peeking at the table, Kiro made a disgusted face. Wha, what a rude youngster.

Ah, but it was true. If it was the previous me, this kind of thing will never happened.

“I am not studying~ I am teaching~”

If he looked disgusted and I don’t reply to it, we can’t do stand-up comedy.

Hm? Why do I want to do stand-up comedy? Ah, just going along with the flow.

I grinned and looked at Kiro.

“If you like I can teach you too.”

“No thanks.”

He replied immediately.

This guy, he sure didn’t betray my expectation. Having guys that know how to go along with the flow sure was fun. Kiro then retorted back, saying that I wouldn’t know the subjects from Low 3. Low 3 was the short-form for lower academy 3rd year. To think the culture of shortening names existed here as well.

As I began to feel nostalgic, Kiro, Selphy and Zen began chatting about school fest-, no, May Festival excitedly.

“That’s right. Then, my class had decided to set up a shop — A cafe.”

I got lured by the words.

C A F E.

This could be the part where my ears suddenly grew big and someone would yell ‘ Wah, his ears grew in size! ‘. Then’ Wah, how cold. ‘ would follow up. Then I would be hurt, he would be hurt. Hm. Nothing good will happen. Yep.

[TN: If you don’t understand, he’s still talking about the stand-up comedy in a cartoon like scenario.]

But a cafe. I wondered what kind of cafe it would be. I perked my ears, trying to listen to their conversation.

“So now we are fighting about if we should use our uniform or to make some costumes.”

At that, Zen muttered.

“Eh— Isn’t it fine with just our school uniform? Since it’s a school event anyway.”

What was he talking about.

“DEFINITELY COSTUMES!”

Before I realized it, I had shouted.

Before I realized it, Saturday passed with us discussing about the design for the costumes. It must be my imagination that everything ended up connected.

Thanks to Selphy’s laughing fit, I got infected by it as well, hahaha.

“...haha.”

But, the product for my entire day of work was lying on top of my table right now. There was no need to say but it was a splendidly hand-made maid uniform.

.....He~♪ I went and made it.

Because, wasn’t school festival cafe all about this?



Zen [What is this (The stitching is exquisite )?!]

Selphy [... What is this really (Where do I stand if he can study and even sew perfectly)?]

Kiro [WHAT THE HECK IS THIS! (It's too perfect! It's too cute!)]

Will [Ah no... Sorry.]

# CHAPTER 52

## MAY FESTIVAL (FIRST)

---

It had been 3 weeks since I lost control and made a maid uniform. May came and most of the Icris had fallen, leaving only the leaves. The new green leaves had the feel of both Spring and Summer as they swayed about in the cool breeze. May was definitely in full presence here. After this, it is June, the start of the rainy season as well as the attack of humidity, which is not something easy to endure.

I really had no idea where the wind came from considering where Elzmu is located. Elzmu is really similar to Japan, having all 4 seasons as well as the annoying rainy season. But as the reason the rain managed to extend all the way over to Elzmu was something I really cannot figure out.

Previously, when I raised this question to John-sensei, I was instead bombarded with questions from him. That was dreadful. I was exhausted from explaining everything from what a cloud was to how they were formed. I was totally taken advantage of. But since he was listening with eyes sparkling like a child, it was all right, I guess.

Ah, my bad, I got derailed. In short, it was May now, the month for the May Festival. The entire class was caught up in the festival mood as we prepared for it. That included me, who stayed behind after lessons to prepare.

By the way, even if it was called the 'May Festival', that was only because it was held in May. The rest of it was totally similar to a school festival in Japan, with one day, 31st May, being opened to the public as well.

31st May... I can't help but grinned broadly when I heard that. It was a pun known by any Japanese.

Gogetsu Sai... snickers.

[TN: May Festival is Gogetsu Sai, while 31st May can also be read as Gogetsu Sai.]

Oi, come out here, the one who said it was stupid. I am very fond of any pun, lame and stupid jokes!... Ah. I admitted that it was stupid.

Let's ignore all that, yep. Time to return to the main topic.

We, white house 1st year, had been arguing about which of the classics we should do, the haunted house or a play. After compromising, we had decided on a horror play.

What was this half-hearted attempt? Onii-san would really like to try harder at the discussion. But this kind of discussion can be considered to be a training ground for my young classmates so I endured and kept silent.

I am really admirable, am not I?

The theme of the play would be splatter-horror.

As I cannot ignore their pleas asking if I knew anything related, I began telling them the most horrifying story I had heard throughout my 17 years on the earth. Hehe.

It was really splatter-horror, that story. You know, that famous one? The grandpa and grandma one.

-----The Tongue Cut Sparrow.

Yes, I shall repeat it again, this story was the one of the biggest trauma I had from my childhood.

Ah, but since sparrows do not exist in this world, I changed it accordingly.

From a grandpa to a meek girl.

From a grandma to a stepmother.

From a sparrow to the girl's contracted beast, Ochyon.

As for the name, I had arranged it into something familiar in this world. There was a feel of collaboration between the 2 worlds but I ignored it.

The ending was set as being able to hear a painful wail from the stepmother every night. By the way, I am cast as the monster that jumped out of the box when it was opened by the stepmother. I am quite troubled by it. It was painful, being cast as such a cool character with such an average face.

When I said that there was no need to 'pay' with the best character just because I had provided the story, I was met with pitiful glances. Must be my imagination.

And so, we were rounded up, without asking, by the hot-blooded Zelda-sensei in the

homeroom and we ended up preparing for the play together.

“You finished your costume, Will?”

As I was stitching the large amount of cloth together, I heard a voice from behind me. For some reason, I was mixed among the girls, and was being in-charged of costumes.

“Yes, all that is left is to cut off all the loose threads.”

I answered, holding a scissors in my hand.

“Woah, you sure are reliable, wahahahahahaha!”

Leaving that long and chunky laughter, Zelda-sensei went off. He was also cast as the elder of the village Ochyon escaped back after having its tongue cut, by the overwhelming request from the class.

Yep. He does have that presence.

Be careful, Sensei.

Was what I thought but he seemed to be having fun as well.

Stitch stitch stitch.

My hand was turning sluggish...

.....Shall I make a sewing machine?



“I’m home.”

Opening the door, I toppled into the room.

“Oh, welcome back~ You finished the costumes?”

Zen, who went back earlier, said, as he peeked out from the lower bunk.

“Ah, kinda.”

“Will, what is the matter with you knowing how to sew when you’re a noble?”

Zen said happily, without a care in the world but I was troubled at how to answer. It was true that the noble me had never sewed once in my life. If you had to ask, naturally it would be the experience from my previous life. Yep. I did part-time at a tailor shop before so my sewing can be said to be perfect~

Saying nothing, I tried to pass it over by smiling as I removed my outerwear and headed over to the wash basin.



“Yo everybody! Let’s get excited and fully enjoy today!!”  
“””””” YEAH!! “”””””

Responding to Zelda-sensei’s roar, the class yelled back.

Today’s the day ———- 31st May, the May Festival.

All the windows of this classroom, located on the 3rd floor, had been covered up and the stage, situated in front of the blackboard, was covered up with a partition where all the props and background laid. I will do my best as one of the show’s characters and contribute to the play.

Well then, let the entertainment show begins!

I said that, but can’t seem to hide how fast my heart was beating.

As we were excited over the play, the class was filling up quickly. Guests, instead of students, sat behind the long tables, waiting for the start of the play.

Then, all of a sudden, the entire class went dark. 1 fireball appeared, then another one as the partition was taken away, revealing the stage.

And the play started with the narration——

◆ Shitakiri Beast ~ Ochyon and Me and the Chills that Came ~ ◆

A long long time ago, there lived a girl.

She was a cheerful, bright and honest girl.

But, after her father passed away, she was abused by her stepmother everyday almost to her limit.

Today too, from her stepmother's orders, the young girl walked out of the field.

".....Huuu, I finished plowing the soil. I will have to wait till afternoon to plant the seeds..."

She wiped her sweat away and stretched her back. Thinking of having her lunch, she ran to the tree stump across the field where she had placed her only piece of bread on.

But when she got there, she was surprised. The place where the bread was supposed to be, laid a tiny bird across the half-eaten bread, sleeping.

"Mr Bird, could it be you who ate the bread?"

Pressing her growling stomach, the young girl woke the bird up. She had not expected any response from it as she knew that birds can't talk. She was simply talking to herself.

"I am sorry. I was starving to death so I was unable to resist and ate it."

The bird, who had woken up, sounded really sorry and shrank even smaller. The young girl was very surprised to see the bird talking.

"So that's what happened... It's okay, you must be very hungry."

But the young girl was as gentle as ever.

A cute smile appeared on her face as she told the bird not to worry.

"Thank you! I have nothing to give in return but if it's okay with you, would you like to make a contract with me?"

"A contract...?"

The girl tilted her head, unfamiliar with the word.

"Yes, I might not look like it but I am one of the highest ranking sacred beast. If you make a contract with me, we would always be together. I will always be here for you whenever you need help."

The bird said happily and the girl's eyes sparkled.

“Does that means, you will become my friend?!”

Happily, the both of them did the contract, which was to give the bird a name. After giving a name to the nameless bird, they completed the contract. Its name was Ochyon.

They got close almost immediately and between her stepmother's orders, they spent the time playing together.

The one not amused was her stepmother.

Her pretentious stepdaughter had managed to do something not many people had done, that is to form a contract with a sacred beast. She had to do something to break the 2 of them up.

She hid behind a tree, watching the 2 playing around.

A few days passed and it was when the young girl left for the field.

The stepmother force-fed Ochyon grains hidden in her house and to prevent it from talking ever again, she cut off its tongue and chased it away. It was a plan she came up with, accusing Ochyon of stealing food to justify her chasing it away.

The young girl got a huge shock when she came home.

“Stepmother, do you happen to know where Ochyon went to?”

She asked, hoping to know where Ochyon was. Her stepmother then shouted angrily.

“That beast!! It said it was hungry and ate all of our precious food so I chased it away!!”

Happy with the stunned face the young girl was making, she left with huge strides.

“If it's Ochyon, he would leave half of it untouched.”

The young girl was gentle but that did not mean she was stupid. Realizing her stepmother's plan immediately, she went chasing after Ochyon.

She ran deep into the forest and asked a crow while trembling.

“Mr Crow, do you happen to know where Ochyon is?”

The pitch black crow glared at the girl with its beady black eyes.

“What would you do if I were to tell you?”

“He’s my friend. He might be hurt!”

Looking at her eyes that shone pure, the crow smiled and told her that Ochyon was at its village located around that huge tree.

Following the crow’s instructions, the young girl delved deeper into the forest before she saw it, the big tree.

“Ochyon, it’s me!”

She yelled and a huge bird, who was the sacred beast village’s elder, appeared.

“Sorry, but Ochyon had his tongue cut by your stepmother and can never talk again. Your stepmother is dangerous and Ochyon is still young. As the head, I cannot let him be with you.”

Having heard that she cannot be with her friend, her shoulders fell.

“But still, our tribe and I are thankful to you, the one who saved Ochyon’s life.”

He then invited the young girl into the huge tree where she and Ochyon had a brief reunion as she stayed for their banquet. Suddenly, pale bluish-white balls of flame appeared around Ochyon. The surrounding plunged into darkness for a moment and Ochyon disappeared.

“Where is... Ochyon?”

She asked the elder, puzzled.

“Ochyon really loves you very much.”

Still, the young girl did not understand.

Only that when she hugged Ochyon, she felt cold to the touch.

Ochyon was dead.

The bleeding caused by having its tongue cut off was too much for its young body to take. However, its strong feelings for the young girl was so strong that it tried to go against death.

“A present.”

The elder held out 2 boxes for the young girl to choose.

As she did not have much strength, she chose the smaller box and in a semi-trance, she went back home.

Of course, once she reached home, her stepmother pulled the dazed girl to her side, asking her to spit out all that had just happened. She too, snatched the box away.

And when Stepmother opened the box, there was gold and treasures inside. She then cursed her stepdaughter.

“Why did she not choose the big box? It can’t be helped, I’ll get it myself.”

She said as she went out into the forest happily.

# CHAPTER 53

## MAY FESTIVAL (LAST)

---

The stepmother went into the forest.

There, she met the crow and asked the same question.

“Where is Ochyon?”

The crow answered that it’s at the big tree just a little further away. The stepmother then made her way towards the big tree in high spirits. When she reached the big tree, she called for Ochyon, who then appeared in front of her.

“Ah, isn’t it Stepmother. I had been in your care for the short time I was at your house. Please, join us for the banquet...”

“Instead of that I would rather get the present.”

Without shame, Stepmother cut off Ochyon in mid-sentence and urged for the present.

“.....As you pleased.”

Ochyon then timidly gave the remaining large box over to Stepmother, who did not notice anything as she accepted it happily. At how Ochyon was grinning. At how Ochyon turned into fireball and disappeared as she ran away with her box.

Happily, she ran. However, the box was really heavy! Stepmother, who did not work at all, was panting in no time. Having no perseverance, she set the box down onto the forest floor. Immensely curious as to what was contained inside, she did not even hide her snickering as she opened the box.

From the box, a black haze gushed out as the surrounding temperature went down. Numbers of monsters then flew out of the box, attacking the stepmother.

She ran in a panic but the scene in front stopped her in her tracks.

Growing from the ground was hands, hands, hands.

The hands grabbed the ankle of the stepmother who thought of escaping and pulled

her to the ground. The hands, which felt real yet unreal, were freezing and that sensation was transferred to the stepmother's skin as her own body temperature plunged before her eyes. Thinking of yelling for help, she opened her mouth, but all that came out was a rasping voice.

And as she turned around, she saw the figure of a monster, standing right in front of her.....

The young girl was a little sad at the disappearance of her stepmother and was mourning at the loss of her friend.

But after that, she managed to grasp her own happiness and lived happily ever after.

However, till today, in the dead of the night, a woman's screams can be heard echoing throughout the forest.....

◆ Shitakiri Monster END ◆

With that last sentence from the narrator, the curtain was lowered onto the stage. The dim classroom was lighted up and the audience all clapped at once.

It was an ovation.

That's great.

At last, the entire class gathered and gave thanks to the guests and the play was over.

In the bustling class, I was satisfied. It seemed like the guests enjoyed themselves. Me, who was the ending monster that came out only at the end, was watching their expressions from the backstage and was glad at how they are enjoying themselves.

By the way, the backstage was where the [Magic Production Team] was in. They did all they could with the 5 months of practice, such as producing the fire balls.

But rather...

That was a really splendid horror story.

To be able to act like that with only an outline of the story... Zelda-sensei is scary.

As the guests left the classroom, everyone from the class gathered and began to

chattering among ourselves. It was fun. At first, I was worried if I can blend in nicely within the 10 year olds but it seemed like I was better at going along with the flow than I thought.

I think I heard a ‘ No wait, aren’t you young as well? ‘ somewhere but it must be my imagination.

As we finished chatting, everyone started leaving to walk around the school for the festival. Look, half of them were already gone.

Selphy too, was asked along with a bunch of girls and had left the classroom happily.

As the classroom grew quieter, Zen invited me and we began to make way out. It was then.

“KYAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!”

Together with the sound of shattering glass, screaming can be heard.

“Is it the 1st floor?”

Looking at each other, we rushed out into the corridor.

# CHAPTER 54

## ATTACK

---

“KYAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!”

The two of us ran towards the screaming. It should be around where the shoe rack was. Pushing through others, we arrived at the spot and saw a crowd gathering around the shoe rack with a window right above it.

Pushing aside the uneasiness that was welling up, I looked outside the window.....

“.....Selphy...?”

I wondered who muttered that.

The shattered glass pieces were scattered all over the ground under the window and the green-haired Selphy, whose hair looked reddish, was laying there.

Reddish... hair...?

It was at about the same time I realized it was blood that I saw a shadow from the corner of my eyes.

“I’m borrowing this!”

“.....Will!?”

I ignored the surprised voice of Zen behind me and before I knew it, I had jumped out of the window. From the air, what I caught sight of, was the shadow swinging a silver knife down towards Selphy.

.....!!

...I won’t be able to make it in time...!

Immediately once I landed, I swung the thing I borrowed and shouted.

“ 《... っんのやろおおお ! 》 ” [TN:... that bastard!]

Clink and the sound of metal clashing was heard. Just by a hair breath, my weapon was nearly knocked out of my hands by the shadow's swing of his silver sword.

I will be in the disadvantage if it comes down to weight. Using the point of where the opponent's sword and mine touched as balance, I slid down and struck, going with the flow. But it was avoided by just a margin and I took the attack full-frontal.

From my weapon, the sound of tearing cloth was heard. The weapon I borrowed ——— the cloth on the umbrella cleanly slid to the ground.

“You, what do you think you're doing?”

Clicking my tongue, I asked the shadowy man, who took the chance to put some distance between us. Of course, I had not expected him to answer.

The sword he lowered was undoubtedly the real deal and from his swordsmanship, he had the intent to kill.

An enemy. In that case, no mercy was required.

I glared at the man. He was dressed in a long black robe with his long black hair dancing behind him. The long black hair which he simply left it growing, got caught in the wind which smoothly spread it out in the air.

It could be said to be a beautiful sight, however, it just looked ominous right now. His exposed face was seen donning a ninja-like mask. The only thing that can be seen was his eyes. The red eyes narrowed in delight.

“You are pretty good, boy.”

He said haltingly.

“Who are you?”

His relaxed posture revealed no openings.

Do I go in with a knife?..... No, magic. There is magic in this world, isn't it?

As I tried to whip my chaos mind in order, I acted calmly. No, magic was out. Although there was a distance between us, there were too many people around. Most likely, a

huge-scaled magic would be needed to defeat him. People will definitely be roped in. In that case...

I directed my mana onto the umbrella, strengthening it. When I did that, the man purred from the bottom of his throat and said.

“Asking my name. Interesting.”

Sorry, but I am not interesting at all. As I glared at him, I strengthened my mind and body.

“My name is Abi.”

At the same timing as he spoke, the surroundings was overflowing with a chilly magic. People who were on the ground started dropping like flies. Those who managed to stand it was in a hazy state of mind.

But it was ineffective to me.

Once he finished introducing himself, he lunged at me.

Abi.

I had heard of that name before. It should be the name of a legendary beast. And by looking at the way Abi in front of me attacked, it was clear.

——— He was strong.

I managed to parry his sword, which came in from the right, with my umbrella and dodged it.

There are rare magical beasts that had high intelligence as well as powerful magic but to think one that could take on a form of a human...

I could confirmed that he was Abi, the legendary magical beast.

The sword danced left and right. As I tried to dodge by using minimal movements, I waited for the right timing. The sword then swung downwards from my upper right.

.....Now.

As I jumped up lightly, I chanted in my head.

《加速》 [TN: Kasoku, Accelerate]

Movement around me slowed down and Abi's sword came down upon me slowly. Doing a back flip, I landed on top of the sword and leaned my weight upon it, forcing it down.

With the flow, I turned and swung my umbrella down upon Abi's head. The umbrella, which seemed to cut through Abi's head like a tofu, cleanly split his body into half. But, the red liquid that was supposed to be spurting out did not come.

As I was wondering why there was no blood, my umbrella touched the ground and Abi's body, which was split in half, dissolved into black smog instead of blood and disappeared.

Black smog...? What's going on?

I stopped, dumbfounded for a moment and unobvious to the commotion around me. Then sound entered my shut-out state.

And I remembered.

“Selphy!!”

I rushed over to Selphy in a panic. As everyone nearby were passed out, there wouldn't be a problem.

《治愈》 [TN: Chiyu, Heal]

I chanted in my heart. Selphy's face was twisted in agony but her breathing was stable. Relieved, all energy left my body.

Thank god...

I made it in time.

“Shall I carry her to the infirmary...”

I can't let down my guard. Selphy's left shoulder was slashed and blood from the wound had stained her white uniform red. Even if I sealed the wound, I cannot replenish the lost blood.

My face tightened and I looked at Selphy.



When I reached the infirmary, for some reason the teacher was not there but the Headmaster.

“Ah... erm, Headmaster? Why are you here?”

I asked, puzzled.

“Having heard screams, the teacher, as well as students here, ran out.”

The gently smiling Headmaster then pushed aside the curtain to an empty bed. Expressing my gratitude, I lowered Selphy onto the bed. Headmaster, who saw Selphy’s shoulder wound, questioned me in a rare moment of panic.

“I too, ran towards the screams once I heard it and there, I saw Selphy being slashed by a man...”

“So that scream was... I see.”

My next sentence made Headmaster’s eyes grew wide.

“And when I thought he was a man, he turned out to be a magical beast.”

“Wha, what? In human form?”

“Yes. He introduced himself as Abi.”

“Is that true?”

The usually calm Headmaster leaned forward.

“Yes... I thought it was a joke too but his magical power was huge. Everyone outside fainted when they came in contact...”

“What?!”

Headmaster turned pale when he heard my last sentence and stood up. As the head of the Academy, it was naturally for him to have this reaction I guess. I then panicked for a bit as I held down Headmaster who looked like he was about to dash out.

“I... I lost my cool, snatched an umbrella from the 3rd floor, jumped down and defeated Abi so it’s all alright now.”

Headmaster froze.

...Haha, I know right...

Looking at the half-stunned gramps, I absentmindedly thought of something else like returning the umbrella. Come to think of it, Headmaster said that the infirmary teacher ran out towards the screams so I wondered if he passed out right now.



The frozen Headmaster came back to his senses, thanked me, before rushing out to deal with the aftermath.

The infirmary teacher ——— Doctor? His name is Varino and he seemed to be the 2nd strongest in this Academy. Why? He’s just a doctor.

By the way, when I asked who the number 1 is, Headmaster answered ‘ It’s obvious it’s me, isn’t it? ‘ playfully.

I smiled, looking at the peacefully sleeping Selphy.

Really... I was glad she’s safe.

It hadn’t been 2 months since we met but I came to know how much she had meant to me.

Her eyelashes on her closed eyelids are light green in color. It sparkles in the sun, like how her hair does too. I was happy that I had one more thing that meant so much to me, but also fear.

Once again, I was thankful for the power I possessed. As I stroked Selphy’s hair, my heart tightened with feelings that might be for a sister or for a daughter.



“Abi was... defeated... you say...”

Without thinking, the man groaned and crushed onto the chair. The face that often held a sneer was now free of it and can be seen as panicking from new information.

“It can’t be... There’s no way...”

The man murmured and something worn along his wrist shattered with a glow, as if to prove to him wrong.

“That useless beast!!”

The man looked at his wrist and yelled in frustration.

# CHAPTER 55

## AFTERMATH

---

Feeling a slight warmth on her right side, Selphy woke up. Half-awake, her memories came rushing back and she quickly put herself on guard. Opening her eyes, instead of darkness, what she saw was something white.

“A ceiling... that I have no recollection of...?”

Selphy murmured and got up, but at that moment, she realized what had woken her up.

“.....!!”

Will was here...

She tried to think back.

She was slashed by a black-clothed guy all of a sudden.

Escape, she had to escape.

Even if she was bleeding profusely, she was terrified to the point of not feeling anything.

Then she tripped once she ran passed the shoe racks and thinking that it was all over, she closed her eyes.

And when the pain she was expecting did not come after long time, she peeked timidly and saw Will's back.

Then she lost consciousness...

Sitting on the chair right next to her bed was Will, who fell asleep, still holding on to her hand. Seeing that, Selphy smiled.

“I'm saved by you again.”



...Nn. It's warm. Or rather, it's bright. Morning came?

Rubbing my sleepy eyes, I propped myself up before remembering. This was the infirmary.

Which means, Selphy-----

"Ah, he's up."

I sat up and saw Selphy looking at me, laughing.

".....Thank god. How are you feeling?"

"Perfect, thanks to you! Will, thank you."

When I was feeling relieved that Selphy was alright, the curtain was pulled open.

"Is someone injured? Sorry, I heard screams so I had rushed over to...!"

I looked at the Sensei and our eyes met.

...Why did he seem so surprised?

As I stared at the man who suddenly turned silent, he frowned.

"...That disgusting hair color, that disgusting face... Can it be, you're a Beryl?"

...

All of a sudden, he started sprouting some brash words.

"Eh, ah, ya..."

The me who answered while being confused, was such a gentleman.

The man had his black hair all slicked back, and had eyes in a sort of greyish, amber-like beautiful color. He was wearing a black shirt with a white lab coat on top, the very standard attire for a school doctor.

He exuded sexiness and had an aura like he's Italian. And an ikemen, this bastard. Although he looked slightly high-strung, he did still have a Sensei aura.

In that case, why the sudden rudeness towards me?

Ah, but I already had an inkling in mind.

“As I expected. You’re Gion’s kid?”

I am the one who wanted to say ‘As I expected.’

Father.

What did you do to this guy!!

“Eh? What? What is going on?”

Selphy asked, very confused by the conversation taking place. Thank you, Selphy. I had always been saved by you. Especially in this kind of situation!

The man finally remembered his job and looked sheepish as he scratched his head.

“Ah, sorry, I was a little distracted by something else.”

Really, I wondered what happened between him and Father. There was a pressure around him as if telling me not to ask. Ranking 2nd at the Academy was not for show. In the end, I placed my question aside and chose to ask something else.

“You know Father?”

“Haha. Tentatively we were in the same grade but instead of friends, enemies would be much more adept.”

Scary. Your smile was really scary. What the heck really happened?

“Ah~ Sensei’s name is...?”

Leaving the trembling me aside, Selphy asked him, smiling. Brilliant, Selphy. You had my respect. As a former Japanese, I would choose to remain silent in this situation. I wouldn’t even have thought of changing the topic like this.

“Ah, sorry about that. I’m Varino, the school doctor. You guys are...”

“I am Selphy. I am also the reason for the disturbance just now.”

“Wha, what? Are you okay?”

To the me who only felt dislike, or rather, my Father, from Varino-sensei, he was now looking worriedly at Selphy.

...Mmmm, it's, it's not like I felt hurt or anything! Let's stop, it was not cute at all for me to be sprouting these words.

As I had removed all the blood stains from Selphy's hair and clothes using magic, she should look fine to others. Even so, for him to be so worried showed that he had a gentle personality. As expected of a doctor.

And this kind of person hated my father.

I was really curious now. I will definitely asked about it later.

"Yes, most probably."

"What happened?"

".....About this, the Headmaster said he would explain so we can't..."

At that vague explanation, Varino-sensei looked like he had something to say but ended up not saying anything. Apart from that person, he was quite meek to everyone else. Or it might be because he had realized the seriousness.

"Is that so. Then Will, you return to the dormitory as it was announced for everyone to return."

He then noticed the worried gaze from Selphy. Turning around to face her, he grinned.

"As I would need to do a check-up, you would have to remove your clothes. Do you need Will to attend to you?"

"No need! There's is absolutely no need to!"

Selphy yelled, red in the face.

Thanks to that, I was able to escape from the infirmary.



"Black smog...?"

I stood up.

*"Yep. Do you know anything about it, Father?"*

"Not much..."

My voice faltered off.

It was unbelievable when it was said that Abi had appeared and now... But Will won't lie. Ah, my head was hurting.

Abi. The legendary beast said to possess high intelligence as well as strength and magic.

Such as, to be able to destroy a small country in a day.

Such as, to be able to defeat a dragon single-handedly.

Such as, to be able to cause an entire village to lose consciousness by its magic.

Elusive and not much about its way of living was known but it was said to be human-shaped and wrapped in black cloth. It was a beast that came with its own legend as well as preposterous rumors.

No, all facts about Abi might just be rumors.

As it was very rare, the information about it might just be wrong. This was one of the possibility and also the most appropriate one. But Will had said that it was strong. Just that and I was starting to doubt myself.

"A black smog... Most likely it's a summoned beast."

Saying that, I took a seat.

Summoned beasts, when defeated, will dissolve into black smog. It was not widely known but it was the truth. It was the truth but...

"Hmm..."

I had let out a moan unintentionally.

*"Are you okay, Father?"*

"Ah, sorry. Will, was it true that Abi's magic caused people all around to faint?"

*"Yes, it was quite powerful. Something like coercion?"*

"Is that so..."

Which means...

*"What about it?"*

*".....It's nothing. Is Selphy okay? Bring her over the next time!"*

*“Bring her you say... I got it. By the way Father, Do you remember a man called Varino?”*

A surprising question was thrown at me abruptly.

.....I don't have to remember. I don't have the time to hesitate because of that name. I too... don't have the intention to tell anything to Will.

“Ah, hm... haha, I'll tell you the next time!”

Saying that I hang up the communication tool. It was a tool Will invented. It was a norm to have it in homes but the one Will was using was made by him and was able to communicate to anyone he wanted.

But the mana required to power it was enormous so it was not practical. As Will was the only one who could use it, it would most likely die along with him. But with a bit of modification, it might be usable...

Mana.

So it was confirmed that Abi had the mana power to knock people out. And that it was a summoned beast. Summoning requires mana which was why one can never summon a beast with a higher mana than them. And that you had to make a contract with the beast you summoned and that contract was not without a price. It might be your real name or various things but mostly, it would be mana.

Yes. It means that someone with a higher mana power than Abi was somewhere near the Academy.

“This stinks.”

I had thought that once Will entered the Academy, the shadows or the mastermind behind them would start moving. The incident this time, although Will was not the target but they might be aiming at his friends.

It might also be a coincidence.

But something stinks.

This is too troublesome. First Shadows who were controlled by the slave collar and now Abi? If it was all done by the same person it will really turn into a troublesome case. Not to mention how strong they were.

Will should be alright but for the sake of my cute son! I would love to head over to investigate but my gut was telling me about the danger there. If I were to fail, everything would be lost.

Hm. What to do.

I sank into my seat deeply as a sign escaped. Should I contact someone in the capital?

.....Varino. I wonder where Will got that name from.



“Will’s father?”

“Yea, just to update him.”

When I returned to the dorm, as Varino-sensei had said, everyone was in their rooms. Trying not to get found, I hastily sneak into my room and contacted Father at once.

Might be thanks to my ninja training skills I cultivated when I was 1, I was not found out by anyone. Hehehe... As expected, I do have the talent to become a spy!

But I did have another motive up my sleeve. I wanted to get information on what had happened between Father and Varino-sensei. War is controlled by information!

...Ah, though we were not at war.

A sigh got out as I sat straight up on the chair and kept my communication tool back into my pendent. Ah, no, it’s not a locket pendent. I will tell you about it later.

Then, as usual, Zen approached me.

“Oh yes, Will!”

“What?”

“You were so cool!! Will is really strong! You’re amazing!”

His eyes were sparkling.

Like someone who just met power rangers at an event.

“.....Eh, really?”

I know it was stupid of me but I was feeling slightly hurt. I had put in great effort. From the day Chiffon came, I had been training on how to hold my sword as well as daily sword practices, sword practices, got beaten up, got beaten up, over and over again. Father was really spartan.

Thank to that, I can immediately react to Abi's sword and saved Selphy. I would be lying if I said I was not happy about how far I had come.

To know I was praised because of my magic instead was...

As I was controlling my face to avoid it collapsing, Zen, who realized something, asked.

“But where had the umbrella went to?”

“.....Ah.”

I had forgotten all about it.

# CHAPTER 56

## COMPENSATION

---

—The evening approached as the light waned, just before the need to turn on the light-producing magic tool.

“His son is the trap.”

The black hooded guy said, kneeling. The fat man, seated in front of the black hooded man, holding on to the report, glanced at him.

“I see... As I thought.”

The black hooded man’s owner then grinned fearlessly.

“You did well, Spinel.”

With that, the black hooded man fell back and took his seat on a gorgeous chair, gripping his staff.

“...In any case, what should we do?”

And that murmur, as seemingly as it got absorbed into the thick gaudy carpet, the fat man opened his mouth.



“Damn it...”

It was the black hooded man, Spinel, who said that as he stood in the dim room, grinding his teeth.

They had achieved their purpose. As his owner had commanded, he had gotten information on Williams Beryl. But he had paid a huge price to get it.

Abi.

Spinel had lost one of his important chess pieces. To him, Abi could even be said to be his right arm. To Spinel, this incident was like losing an arm yet getting a sword in return.

He can't afford to be careless. Or rather, as the investigation this time was to determine if Williams was the one defeated the Shadows, he had laid down plenty of precaution. The plan was injuring his close friend, forcing him to fight against a much stronger opponent to see how he did fare. He had expected Abi to win. Of course, he avoided injuring Williams in order to not place Gion's suspicions on them.

To think a legendary beast was defeated by an 8 years old.

Spinel laughed, self-mockingly. Did his master know about this already?

That was uncommon, to say the least. If Spinel had not seen it with his own eyes, he wouldn't have believed it. It was a shock that only those who had seen it knew. Or it was possible that Spinel's owner did not think much about Abi.

Spinel too, started doubting his owner who believed in the information he had brought in that easily. On the other hand, he was relieved about not having to explain the situation. With these complex feelings inside him, he instinctively ground his teeth again.

The minute Spinel caught sight of Williams Beryl on the 3rd floor, he had jumped.

Spinel had doubted his eyes. Did blood rush to Williams's head or did he have a strong sense of justice stemming from his admiration for his father? No matter the reason, he had never thought he would be thinking of a reason why an 8 year old would jumped out of a window on the 3rd floor.

But then Williams begins splendidly overturning all of Spinel's expectations. He landed lightly on the ground and was even able to hold his own against Abi's attack.

Again, Spinel doubted his eyes. He clung to the idea that it was all a coincidence due to the chaos and imagined Will being beaten up the very next moment.

Then, he wondered if his eyes had fallen out of their sockets. It felt like his heart was seized by someone. In front of him was a sight of Will defending and even attacking back at Abi without an ounce of fear or hesitation.

There should be a limit to how un-normal this all was!! Spinel then finally realized the trap Gion had set. He had really just noticed it. He forced himself to accept that it was because Will was Gion's son and waited for Abi's next move.

Most likely this will end soon, Spinel thought as he wiped the sweat on his forehead away. No matter how good Will was at the sword, this was not something a human can match.

But his expectations were betrayed. Again. The double combination of his betrayal and shock gave him such mental damage that he was able to fall over. This time, he really wondered if his heart had stopped or not as a dull pain ran across his left chest.

Abi released all of its mana and as everyone started falling, a lone boy stood, with a fearless smile on an innocent face. That overwhelming mana was enough to (.....) even make Spinel faint.

Watching from a distance, Spinel felt terror. Him, who once suspected if he lost all of his feelings, was shocked at how he felt terror so clearly. A chill ran down his back. He was confronting something he can't even imagine.

".....What is that monster..."

Thinking back to event, Spinel mumbled, astonished.

Why? That was because he had seen with his own eyes how Abi died. But he could not stop it from happening. It was one of the pride Spinel had about his job — to serve his owner with his life.



"Eh... You did it in your play but I was thinking of teaching you guys about summoning beasts today."

May festival ended and it was the first magic lesson of June. To think they would jumped back into lessons despite that incident..... I came to understand how amazing Headmaster was.

After saying that, Zelda-sensei wrapped himself in mana, raised his left hand out at his chest level, horizontal to the floor. As everyone else can't sense mana as finely as me,

they had puzzled expressions on as they looked on.

Father had only taught me that the black smog was because Abi was a summoned beast but muddled through the rest of the explanation. As I was thinking of looking it up myself by using the library or something, this lesson came at just the right time.

Zelda-sensei opened his mouth.

“Come forth, Wollia.”

Hm? Wollia...? It sounded just like Gorilla! My excitement rose as I stared at Zelda-sensei’s outstretched left hand that was wrapped in mana.

“《召喚》!” [TN: Sho Kan, Summon]

Zelda-sensei shouted as a light gathered at the center of his outstretched palm and a magical circle spread out. As the circle disappeared, something was seen being formed by swirling fire.

As my classmate’s eyes grew smaller in amazement, my excitement just went through the roof at once.

.....IT’S A GORILLA!



Afterwards, with a face of regrets, Zelda-sensei erased Woilla, held a chalk in his hand and began explaining, drawing on the blackboard.

As all this time Zelda-sensei had not used chalk once, I thought chalk does not exist. It was a common thing but from the chalk to the long tables, a sense of nostalgia welled up inside of me. I wondered what these coincidences were. Not to mention compulsory education.

Klack klack klack, the sound of the chalk resounded around the classroom. On the blackboard, the magical circle seen just now was drawn on it, with the word 《召喚》. How straightforward. Ah, but if it’s not this straightforward I would be troubled.

“Summoned beasts are as the words implied, summoned magical creatures. Like how

the young girl made a contract with Ochyon... ah... yes, a beast called forward to make a contract with!”

Pon pon, Zelda-sensei knocked on the blackboard. Which means, only beasts that could be summoned are called summoned beasts.

“The magic circle used in summoning is this 《召喚》. The reading for this is Sho Kan. Take great care of the intonation. You would usually summoned a beast that matched your attribute and usually you are not allowed to choose.”

Like your partner, Sensei said, exaggerating. Though his really matched him.

“And, the way to contract was like the play, either give it a name or something else. Mah, the norm was to give it mana. Which is why summoned beasts have a lower mana usage than you. Yosh!... There might be failures in your first summoning but I would like you guys, who still possess small mana power to try summoning!”

Zelda-sensei raised his voice as happy voices raises all over the classroom. And we have a problem.

I had not had my mana measurement test yet...

In Elzmu, Beastman, Elves, races living here apart from humans are small in numbers. In this class, we had 1 Elf. Naturally, Selphy and I looked at each other.

“...What should we do?”

I looked to my left, which now had totally belonged to Selphy, who just tilted her head.

“I wonder?”

Then, Selphy’s gaze was directed behind me. That thick chest that was approaching was...

“.....Zelda-sensei.”

“Yosh. By the way, you two will be having your test today.”

.....Really? My doubt must have been read by Zelda-sensei who laughed and rubbed my head.

.....Ouch. Don't go overwhelming with emotions! To be rubbed on the head like this, I would rather had Father's beard.....!

"Don't worry about missing class. You guys would be taught by him."

Zelda-sensei then cock his head towards the blackboard. Ah, I see.

"So it would be Varino-sensei."

Wasn't that the number 2 man from the Academy.

.....Please stop with the death glare you were sending me, Varino-sensei.

Varino-sensei was my Father's rival-in-love. It was that. Like the yakisoba bread he had been yearning for was brought and eaten by my father.

Ah, food grudges are scary.

# CHAPTER 57

## OOPS, I SUMMONED IT

---

I left the classroom like I was avoiding Varino-sensei's gaze and walked down the corridor with Selphy trailing behind me.

"Come to think of it, Zelda-sensei, what is the difference between Sacred Beasts and Magical Beasts?"

I asked Zelda-sensei, who was walking in front of me. According to Zelda-sensei's script for the play, I faintly remembered that Ochyon was written as a Sacred Beast.

"Nn, ah... Magical beasts attack humans while Sacred Beasts don't, that's about it. In general, they often have high intelligence and mana power so you can think of them as beasts that even high-ranking magical beasts dare not attack."

Sensei turned and faced us as he answered, all the while walking backwards.

"I see..."

Something like the difference between Inari-san and Youkai.

...Eh? Wrong? Then... Zashikiwarashi or ghosts then? Anyway, in short, we need to run upon seeing one.

While I was thinking about that, we reached the venue.

Crap.

My heart was beating way too fast. I had no mental preparation whatsoever since this came all of a sudden. I really wished they would think about us a little more.

Sensei opened the door, which had a huge 'Special Mana Measurement Test Hall' paper sticking onto it, and urged me inside. Th, there was no choice, I can only enter. My heart rate rose as I felt a deep sinking feeling in my stomach as I entered the hall... or rather, the classroom.

Ah... my heart is racing. Was it broken? I would not possibly break a tool that even the large-scaled guilds used... right? Somehow, I felt like I just raised a flag but I shook that

feeling off as I went forward.

When I entered the hall, all eyes were on me as expected. It might be because Zelda-sensei was with me but I could hear " Ah..... so that's the rumored Will..." in the chatter. I wondered if it was just me being self-conscious.

Since there had only been Elves here before, I was the only human around. Maybe that was why I was attracting so much attention. But even my name was known so the incident before must have traveled around.

The special measurement test was for both the lower and middle Academy but somehow everyone knew. Things like nicknames... or that so-called 2nd name was being attached to me.

Hey, I can hear you, you know. Uwah, I feel like puking.  
.....Please stop with the 'Umbrella Prince' thing.  
Because it's embarrassing.  
Because it's embarrassing!  
Important things are meant to be said twice.

Th-that time was because someone who was holding an umbrella was just standing right by the window! I had no choice! Please stop with the sarcasm.

Anyway, it seemed like we will be called up for the test one by one. Those who had the test left the hall and the number in the hall began decreasing. In that case I wished I could be the last.

.....Since I raised the flag and all.

In the end, my wish was granted. Only Selphy and I was left in the hall.

"Well, Selphy, come over here."

Zelda-sensei beckoned towards her. Looking nervous, Selphy stepped forward. I understand. My heart was beating furiously too. If my heart stopped, I would definitely sue Zelda-sensei.

The measurement tool looked to be the same as before, a crystal ball, but with a capacity of 1000. As a normal human usually possesses around 100~150, this was an

amazing tool.

Selphy touched the crystal ball.

“!!”

Zelda-sensei, who was looking at something like a panel that showed the power level, stood up in surprise.

“Wh, wha, what happened?”

Selphy asked, anxious. The stunned Zelda-sensei looked at Selphy.

“.....Nothing..... what amazing power, 450.”

“.....Eh!?”

This time, it was Selphy who screamed. Wow, amazing. I had predicted that it would be high and I was right. Even if Elves are a race that have higher mana power than humans, Selphy was only 10. At 10 years old, the range was usually half of an adult human. Even adult Elves have around 300~500 as an average so Selphy’s future can be said to be unknown.

“As expected of Selphy.”

I said, involuntarily and Selphy, even Zelda-sensei, turned and stared at me.

...W, why?...

The 2 of them stared at me and tilted their heads. Then with a laugh that was mixed with a bit of a sigh, Zelda-sensei said.

“Yosh, Will, you’re the last one.”

Nodding, I reached out towards the crystal ball. The shorter the distance towards the ball was, the higher my heartbeat rose. My fingers touched the hanging crystal ball.

BANG.

A short sound.

Ah, deja vu, deja vu.....

Zelda-sensei stood up, stunned.

“Wait, wait for a bit, I feel like puking my organs out.”

That was a new joke. As my mind began thinking of ways to retort to that, my body was more honest as it could not stop sweating.

Yes, in front of my eyes was the shattered measurement tool.....

“.....Tehe♪”

In this kind of situation, laughter was needed.

The one who said I was disgusting, come out now.

.....Was compensation needed?



In the classroom now.

Eh, why? The aftermath was left to the adults (Zelda-sensei) and being the children that we were, we went back to class. Adults have their adult things to do. I am an adult too? What are you talking about? No matter how you see it I am only 8 years old, am not I? Which part of me do I look like an adult to you?

Everyone seemed to have succeeded in summoning and contracting so the classroom was crawling with magical beasts. One by one, they were called up to the blackboard and using the magical circle, they summoned beasts. As it was going to be troublesome if anyone failed, Varino-sensei was there to ensure nothing happened. Under his watchful eyes, one classmate finished his summoning.

The summoned beast was none other than [Slime].

.....So squishy and cute. I am going to try asking if I can touch it the next time. Looking around at all the different beasts, the next one seemed to be Zen. Standing in front of the blackboard, with a tense face was Zen and a smiling Varino-sensei.

“Use this to summon.”

Varino-sensei handed Zen a piece of paper with the summoning magical circle drawn on it. Nodding, Zen took the paper, looked at it and began to enter mana into it.

“《召喚》!” [TN: Sho Kan, summon]

At his chant, the paper on his hand resounded with a ‘Pon!’ and its shape started changing. Wow, just like magic. Or rather, it was magic!

Then, the shape that appeared was.....

“Arf!”

A dog.

“《契約しましょう》” [TN: Keiyaku Shimashou, Let’s make a contract]

“Arf!”

At Zen’s chant, the dog wagged its tail happily. Around them, something glowed and the contract was formed without any accident.

The dog had brown fur. Cute. I had doubted for a moment if it was really a magical beast but it had one part that confirmed it. It’s tail. It had 2 tails.

Magical Beast Dogg. I had heard that it was like a stray dog that lived in the mountains. When summoned, it would befriend its owner immediately, just like a dog. What a cute beast. That weird cuteness was somehow like Zen.

“Okay, next. Will.”

I was the next in line.

But I just destroyed the measurement tool... Should I be summoning?

Was what I thought but I can’t hide my excitement. Nervous, I walked towards the blackboard.

“Go ahead.”

Varino-sensei handed me a paper. Looking at it, I slightly entered mana into it as I murmured.

“《召喚》” [TN:...]

The paper glowed and with a ‘Pon!’ sound, a figure was seen on the paper.

“Did you call, my Master?”

It was something big, something white.

“Ke, 《契約しまししょう》 ” [TN: Refer to Zen]

The reason for stumbling here was definitely because of my past memories. The surrounding then got wrapped in light.



“Wahahahaha, sorry about that, Master. To think I destroyed the classroom!”

A man standing next to me was laughing heartily.

Silky white hair, straight and beautiful nose. Slight upturned eyes that will melt girls if they were being glanced at by them. Men’s enemy, the so-called Ikemen. And he was also my summoned beast ——— A dragon.

At the summoning and contracting, the classroom was destroyed. His real form was of a white dragon. And now, he turned into a human form.

Yep.

Just for today’s compensation I was going bankrupt.

# INTERLUDE

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

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My master's 'that' was small. What's 'that'? 'That' was 'that'. His age. But other than that everything else was huge. His heart, his strength, his kindness, his angel-like cuteness.

My master, the one who saved me who was a Shadow ——— Will-sama was 8 years old. As the Duke-in-line, he did not act all high and mighty and treated the Beastmen me equally. But that's not all. He removed the [Collar of Slavery] on me and saved me from the pit of darkness when I had given up.

When I first got here, I wanted to die. Instead of comforting me, Will-sama scolded me instead. But his scolding was kind and gentle... Ahhh... Just thinking about it made my heart beat.

Because I was hugged and stroked. Not just my ears, but my tail as well..... erm...

Any, anyway!

Will-sama was amazing. At 4 years old, he completed his studies and was even stronger than me... He also knew many things that others didn't. As expected of Gion-sama... Old Master's son. Not really. Somehow, Will-sama was too out of the norm that Old Master just didn't seem all that special anymore.

It's Will-sama so it's inevitable.

I had decided that no matter what happened, I wouldn't be surprised anymore. Because if I don't, I don't think I can hold up. Because it's Will-sama.

Even so, I still really like Will-sama. My gratitude for being saved was included as well but it's not just that. After being taught by Will-sama and playing with him, I came to realize it.

Will-sama was really strong and kind. Not his strength, but something like his heart. I am older by 9 years old but he knew a lot more than me, was a lot more mature than

me. It's an irony to know that I was the one being taken care of instead.

I don't think I am committing a crime. Others would think the taste I had was quite dangerous but no, Will-sama is not a child. He was really an amazing person. What was he, really?

And by the time I noticed, I came to like him a lot. My heart pounded whenever he looked at me with his kind and gentle eyes. I like him? No, I really really like him. Or maybe I even love him. Or rather, that smile of his was foul play.

Yes. That's why, I am only under the pretext of returning the favor. I'll become his attendant and stay by his side always.

That's my dream.

When I told Will-sama that, he had a happy yet troubled expression. Tilting his head, he looked straight at me and said.

"Chiffon is free you know? You don't have to worry about repaying and stuff like that."

He was too kind. Will-sama will always be Will-sama. Or rather, Will-sama was too clever. There were times I had even forgotten the fact that he was a child. But you see, he was too thickheaded. I came to know that even if he was normally a genius, he was cursed with being really thickheaded in terms of feelings.

Will-sama discussed with Old Master and my days of learning started. Mary-san was really strict. But she did not discriminate against me just because I am of Beastmen race and always looked upon me warmly. Besides, Will-sama was in charge of all my studies. I had fun everyday.

But fun only lasted for a short while. The cursed time (compulsory education) finally came. Will-sama had skipped ahead and entered school. As expected of Will-sama. I can't be willful but I really want the time we spend together to last longer.

But it seemed like he could skip and skip and skip grades and it would only take 3 years before he completed High Academy. Was this good or bad? Either way, it's amazing.

Which brought us to now, right in the mid of summer. The summer holidays that I had been waiting for had finally come.



“Lalalalala~ ♪”

Chiffon, in an extremely good mood, waved her dust cloth about. If the window pane that she was cleaning had emotions, it would be in fear of when it would break under Chiffon’s force. Usually, this was where Mary-san would lay her iron-fist down but as she knew about the circumstances, she just looked on with a wry smile. Just to say, Mary-san was as happy as Chiffon that she could hardly hide it as well.

“Lalala~ ♪”

The reason why Chiffon was happily humming to herself was known to everyone in the mansion. Or rather, everyone was behaving the same way.

“Today’s the day~ Will-sama~ is~ ♪”

Yes, today’s the day Will was coming back for the Summer Holiday. The owner of this house, Gion, got information about it through the communication tool about a week ago. He was in high spirits after hearing about it that he missed a step down the stairs, did a turn in the air and landed beautifully on the ground. He was so unusually clumsy than usual that you knew immediately how happy he was.

Will would also bring along 2 of his friends from school along.

Which was why Will’s personal maid, Chiffon, was tasked with preparing the Head Maid’s room. While she could not deny the bad feeling she had when she heard Will’s ‘friends’, the truth was that Will was coming home. The tail behind her swished furiously.

Leaving the absent-minded Chiffon aside, Mary, as expected of a veteran, had already finished preparing the 2nd room. Of course, veteran means having worked as a maid for a long period of time and had gained the experience throughout working... the next was something that could never be said. Talking about the age was a taboo for a maiden.

All the housework were done by all the maids who gave their all and all that remained was waiting. After being chided by Mary, Chiffon finally took her position. Her tail wagged ferociously as she started thinking of the topics she wanted to chat with Will.

Her thinking was seen though immediately, as exposed by the wagging of her tail. Looking at her, Mary smiled.



It took 5 hours on the rocking carriage. Although it was said to be a 4 hours trip if they hurried but as it was not urgent, they took their time traveling, putting breaks in between and had fun along the way.

Selphy and Zen, who boarded the Beryl's personal carriage was nervous at first, but slowly got used to it and had fun looking at the scenery outside and chatting within themselves. It was then. As the streets that could rival the ones in the capital slowly came into view, Selphy and Zen cheered.

“Amazing!!!!”

“I heard rumors but this is amazing!”

At their words, Will smiled.

“Ah, uh.”

He won't deny it. Hearing them praised his father made him as happy as though he was the one being praised. As the carriage cannot run through the streets, it went into a side road as it continued on. And in front, a small grassy hill could be seen. A building stood on top of it.

Zen and Selphy looked at each other.

“Could it be.....?”

Selphy looked at Will who grinned and nodded.

“Yep. That's my house.”



“” Welcome home, Will-sama! “”

Once the carriage that Will, Zen and Selphy was in came into the grounds and started

heading towards the mansion, everyone came out and gathered at the entryway. As it had been 4 months since he had last met them, Will's face break into a smile.

"Welcome home, Will."

Gion ran over to Will happily. Having a bad feeling, Will tried to run but failed. The captured Will got his usual face rubbed by Gion.

As for Zen and Selphy, they were frozen on the spot. By the size of the mansion, the number of maids. In a word, they were taken aback. To add on, the national hero, Gion-sama appeared. They were bewildered by the attitude shown as Gion ran and caught Will happily as opposed to the image they knew of him.

"Ah, sorry about that. I lost myself for a bit."

Gion said, embarrassed as he looked at the both of them. The frozen 2 jumped a bit, surprised.

"Welcome, Zen, Selphy. Take your time and enjoy your stay here."

Look at Gion's usual smiling face, Zen and Selphy somehow got their balance back.

But somehow, Selphy thought as she tilted her head, she had been feeling a strong gaze for a while now. Especially from the entryway. Of course, the maids were all looking at Will's *girl* friend. As they were escorted by Gion into the house, their luggage were carried by the maids as they felt sorry at troubling them.

The luggage, which had a weight to them, was carried easily, single-handedly by the maids. Zen and Selphy were amazed by it. Everyone in the Beryl house seemed to be above average.

Stepping into the house, their feet landed onto the soft carpet which made them instantly recoiled it back. Zen and Selphy hesitated, wondering if it was okay to step on it and then they saw Will walking normally ahead of them. They are Will's friends. They need to have guts.

But once they entered into the guest room, they were wowed by Gion's dignified aura that they shrank back again. Will looked at Gion, who smiled.

“Well then, I still have some work left so I will leave you kids to have fun. There won’t be any nosy parents about so there’s no need to hold back.”

‘I’ll excuse myself then.’ Gion said as he left and all strength left both Zen and Selphy.

“.....He is definitely Will’s father.”

Zen said, causing Chiffon and Mary to laugh. Not the national Hero Gion-sama but Will’s father. It seemed like Will’s out-of-the-norm status infliction stretched all the way to the Academy as well. Leaving the one who was tilting his head, everyone in the room was strangely unified together.

What what what? Will totally didn’t understand but as the conversation can’t continue like this, he gave it up. Yes, I am not in the wrong here. He thought to himself, trying to accept it.

“Eh, these 2 are my friends, this is Zen, my roommate. This is Selphy, we are in the same class. Ah, same dorm too.”

At Will’s words, Zen and Selphy hurriedly gave a bow. They had not expected to be introduced.

“” I will be in your care! “”

What a perfect harmony, Will thought as a weird smile appeared on Chiffon’s face. As predicted. Reading through her, Mary gently smile and nodded.

“And this is our Head Maid, Mary-san.”

“I had used to change Young Master diapers☹☹.”

Mary said, grinning.

Will froze in an instant and within minutes, he went red. Will was usually the one doing the teasing so Selphy was very interested at this new reaction from Will that she hadn’t seen before. Chiffon’s bad feeling was a strike.

“This is Chiffon, my personal maid. She is also my friend so I hope you all would get along well.”

At Will’s introduction, Chiffon grinned.

“(At 4) We slept together, (at 4) hugged together, and was bound by a promise (as an attendant).”

Chiffon said, embarrassed.

“Wha...!!”

Selphy exclaimed, face reddening. Her head looked like it was about to boil.

What Chiffon said was the truth. As for Will, he froze at the sudden attack. During this time, Chiffon continued.

“Will-sama had taught the useless me a lot of things.”

The reddened Selphy. The Zen who understood where this was going. And Will, who could only laugh at this already chaotic beginning of the summer holiday.

# CHAPTER 58

## YOU CALL?

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----- While Will was destroying the classroom.

“Hm, what, please say that again.”

The baritone voice sounded troubled.

“Yesterday, we had the misfortune of allowing Abi to intrude into the Phillis Academy.”

The short man ----- the Headmaster, kneeling, hung his head in shame as he spoke slowly.

“And, what happened? You don’t seem worried at all, Eidus.”

At the words of Headmaster, Eidus, the man combs his hand up through his black hair. Abi, as rumored, was a legendary beast. According to rumors, it had once destroyed a small country in Hadazerl in a day. And now, it appeared in Phillis Academy, which was situated in the Capital. It was normal that the man would feel like hugging his own head.

But, looking at the man in-charge of the Academy in front of him, he seemed to be suppressing a smile and his tone of voice carried an air of nonchalant. It was said that Abi possessed huge magic power as well as high intelligence. It can’t be that Eidus, being that strong, had come to request for help...? Depending on the situation, there might be a need to mobilize the Black Knights. As the man was deep in thoughts, Eidus answered.

“Abi was defeated, your Majesty.”

“Wh... what?”

The man called ‘your Majesty’, was the current king of Elzmu, Kesamu Milla Oio Lanalice De Elzmu. During when he was flushing out all the rotten people, his honored teacher, Eidus, had requested to submit his report in person via a communication tool 3 days ago. In order to make time for that, he had rushed to complete all important

documents and business.

And when he heard that the report was about Abi infiltrating the Academy, he cursed himself for not making time earlier and was already thinking of several ways about handling the situation when Eidus' words made him doubted his ears.

He wondered if he had heard it wrongly and with his face cramping, he managed to continue the conversation.

But he had not expected to fumble with his words. In order to keep himself calm, he pretended that it did not happen. As the previous words gnawed at him, he tried to prepare himself for Eidus' answer. But once again, Eidus' answer threw him off his feet.

“A student who happened to be present defeated it.”



What was that.

After the audience with Eidus, Kesamu was walking towards his private room. The rushed-yet-still-proper sound of walking resounded down the stone-build corridor. The reason why it was not carpeted seemed to be because it was the preference of the previous King.

Anyway, that mattered not. Rushing into his room, Kesamu banged open his door and headed straight towards the connecting room and opened the cover of the communication tool placed there.

——— He wanted explanation for what he heard.

Thinking of sending a letter, he reached into the tool, only to find a letter sealed with a wax seal that he had seen millions of times before already there.

“That Gion, he sends a letter?”

Letting out a deep sigh, he tore open the letter as he headed towards his desk. Leaning onto a chair, which was bound in red leather as if to confirmed that it was really a chair made fit for a king, Kesamu ran his eyes over the letter.

“After reading this, I like your reply... O, oi!”

Having finally sat on the chair, Kesamu jumped up from it. He scratched his head, trying to calm himself down as he headed towards the communication tool once again. Opening the wooden box, among the bunch of levers, a receiver tool was sitting there. Lowering the innermost lever, he took the tool out.

At that, a crisp *\*Ching\** sounded.

Then a *\*Clunk\**.

The transmission was received (Gion).

*“Kept me waiting, Kesamu.”*

The manner of speaking can be heard as impolite. Listening to that, one can see that Gion and Kesamu were old friends. Yes, they were classmates from the same Phillis Academy. Which was why, if it was only the 2 of them, there was no need for all the stiffness. Kesamu too, was thankful for this ‘bad friend’ that spoke without reserve.

“Ooh, I came directly after meeting with Eidus.”

*“He told me. In that case, there is no need to explain.”*

“That. What is going on, Gion. What is it with your son?”

Kesamu pressed for an answer. It was Williams, Gion’s son who defeated Abi. Kesamu could not believe it. First of all, he heard nothing about Gion’s son being that strong. But Eidus won’t lie. Kesamu was utterly stumped. Could it be Gion who did it secretly? All the unanswered questions was making him irritated.

*“.....Kesamu, do you remember the incident 3 years ago?”*

As if reading his mind, Gion dropped his tone of voice.

“3 years ago... the Anti-Kingdom incident?”

Kesamu was the King. Therefore, almost all incidents were reported to him, and the amount was enormous. A lot of incidents had happened within the 3 years’ time frame but if it was a big one, it could only be the flushing-out-rebels incident that happened.

*“That one. At that time, I said it was all due to traps I had set at my residence.”*

“.....!!!”

Kesamu became speechless at Gion’s words.

“Can it be..... I see...”

As one would expected from the ‘Wise’ King. Just by Gion’s few words, Kesamu had grasped the meaning.

*“Most likely there is a puppet master pulling the strings behind those Anti-Kingdom rebels. I am still currently in the midst of investigating, which is why I haven’t reported it to you. I apologize for that. Really sorry.”*

Gion truly apologetic voice came through the tool. Kesamu laughed bitterly.

“No, I understand the importance of making sure. About that, I will entrust it to you. It’s fine to report to me after.”

*“That would help a great deal..... The attack this time round, did you know that it was a summoned beast?”*

“Yea. Are you saying it’s those guys 3 years ago?”

*“The enemy is smarter than we thought. They even managed to gauge Will’s abilities. If I have the chance...”*

Gion’s voice started wavering and Kesamu was wondering if that was Gion’s black aura leaking out of the receiver he was seeing. Flustered, Kesamu tried to understand what Gion had just said.

Did that mean that the enemy was doubtful of how the Shadows were caught and they aimed for the moment Will entered the Academy, where security was the thinnest, to attack? But he just realized there was something he cannot overlook in Gion’s words.

“Wait... wait a minute. Summoned beast?”

*“.....! Ah, sorry, I was distracted. Yes, that’s the problem this time. With Abi being a summoned beast, it means that its owner was somewhere near.”*

“That is...”

Kesamu unintentionally groaned. As he stayed silent, Gion started speaking.

*“Yea, that’s the problem. You can ask about the details from Will, he is more useful than*

*some of those around you. Plus, I left the investigation to my subordinate in the capital. Most likely we won't be able to find anything but if we do, I'll inform you."*

"As expected, you sure work fast. Got it. I had also confirmed that you are one of those idiot parents."

With that, the line was cut off.

But still, to think Abi was a summoned beast.

Kesamu groaned again. Even if he had taken into account that the rumors about Abi might be exaggerated, he had the words of Gion. Which means, from Gion's word, Abi was as strong as rumored.

As he had not heard any details from Eidus, he can't make any conclusion yet. In that case... it would have to be from Will. He would have to make sure that Gion was not just a simple idiot parent. Smiling, Kesamu mumbled.

"《召喚》" [TN: Shokan, Summon]

\*Pop\*, a sound like popcorn popping went off as the room lit up.

"Did you called, Master?"

"Ooh, Alcumedes. I want you to go to Phillis Academy and tell Williams Beryl to make a trip down."

"As you wished."

Leaving a phrase that if heard by Will, will retort about how oldish-sounding that was, Kesamu's summoned beast dissipated.



"Sigh."

Sitting on my chair, I let loose a deep sigh. At the pleasant morning, I was already tired. And depressed. There was totally nothing refreshing about me right now.

...Especially my mentality. Physically, I'm still okay.

"What's wrong, making such a deep sigh."

Zen, who was sitting besides me, asked. Because this and that happened. Yesterday,

apart from the crystal ball, I even foolishly destroyed the classroom. Ah, but when the morning came, everything was repaired. Yep. Viva magic. How wonderful.

But it was natural for me to be depressed. I tentatively went back to my room yesterday but I was definitely going to be called out. I wondered if they have suspension from school. But this was a compulsory education right? No, I skipped grades so in the worst case, I might be expelled. It might be too much to ask a 10 years old to understand all these but I really wished he did notice.

As I glared at Zen reflexively, a familiar sound was heard. It was the sound of Zeldasensei slamming open the door. Looking at the direction of the sound by reflex, our eyes met. Then, as expected, he grinned and said.

“Will, the Headmaster is calling.”

.....Aah, see?

I raised up dejectedly and left the classroom.



I stood in front of the ‘public’ Headmaster’s office.

Fooh.

I exhaled and took a deep breath. Yosh, calm down. It’s okay, there was nothing to be afraid of. Then I raised my hand to knock on the door.

“You had come.” [TN: Using a super polite way of saying]

The door opened from the inside.

# CHAPTER 59

## TO THE CASTLE

---

“You had come.”

The one who opened the door was not the Headmaster. How should I explain...? For a moment I thought no one was there but when I directed my gaze down, I saw it. It was definitely a magical beast. Why? That was because its height was only around 10cm.

And not to mention its head was an eyeball! I was surprised, it looked just like a certain father of a certain Yokai kid. Yes, the one who opened the door and walked out was an Eyeball F○her with an appearance of a butler. [TN: 目玉オ○ジ, Medama Oyaji]

Ah, an Eyeball Butler. [TN: 目玉シツジ, Medama Shitsuji]

Wah, awesome, it was only 2 words difference!

...Ah, no!

Stay calm.

The person right in front of me, although I was not sure if he was a person or not, anyway, the eye person right in front of my eyes just said ‘You had come.’ Which means he was most probably the one who called for me.

And he must be an important guest to be waiting in Headmaster’s office. As I had mostly calmed down, I pulled myself together and answered Eyeball-san.

Yep, I will try not to be rude. As a student of Phillis Academy, and as the next Head of Beryl, I will try to uphold the pride.

Was what I said but really, I was just very relieved that I was not called out because I broke the crystal ball and destroyed the classroom.



At Eyeball-san urging, I entered the office at the same time as Headmaster came out with tea. Without thinking, I glanced at Eyeball-san. Can Eyeball-san even drink? I

wondered if he had any mouth.

As I was thinking about it, Eyeball-san and the Headmaster had already sat down on the sofa. 3 eyes stared at me, as if telling me to sit down too. As I did a small bow and took a seat on the sofa, Headmaster and Eyeball-san had begun chatting like old friends.

“You could have left the greeting to me.”

Surprisingly, Headmaster was using polite language. That’s great, Eyeball-san was as important as I thought.

“No, I am only a small summoned beast, there is no need to be polite.”

Eyeball-san said, perhaps even smilingly. Ah, a summoned beast. But he would be a quite high-ranking one. As a summoned beast does not have social status, his owner must be a bigwig.

I looked at Eyeball-san, who then jumped off the sofa in a comical way and started walking towards me. An eye was... an eye was...! The big, round and shiny eye was walking. Or rather, eyeball. The walking eye stopped in front of me and did a graceful bow before speaking.

“My name is Alcumedes, a summoned beast of His Majesty, the King. By the King’s orders, I was sent to ask Williams-sama over for a trip to the Royal Castle. Would it be possible for Williams-sama to go this very moment?”

Ah, the King! Definitely a bigwig! The biggest one! But somehow I was not all that surprised. Yes, I was sure everyone knew it by now.

Alcumedes, a walking eyeball.

[TN: Arukumedesu, the name in japanese. Aruku Medama, walking eyeball in japanese. It’s like naming a dog, dogg.]

I was slightly worried about the King’s naming sense. But I have seen this kind of pattern before. Miso Soup no Fu, Alcumedes. I wondered if we could become (puny) friends. Trying my best to hide my feelings, I acted calm as I gave my reply.

“I understand. But is it okay for me to be in my uniform?”

Most likely I was being called because of the incident with Abi and because of that, I was able to act calm. Satisfied with my answer, Alcumedes nodded, jumped onto the table and drank the tea.

“Well then, let us get going.”

.....Eh!? Where did he drink from!?

I was too surprised and sat there, stunned. And when I finally noticed, Alcumedes was already standing by the door. Panicked, I stood up.

Headmaster casually gave his orders and a huge carriage was parked outside the door. By the waiting coachman, Alcumedes jumped onto the carriage and with his small body, he opened the door of the carriage gracefully.

How!? My eyes were wide open but the people around me was treating it as though it was nothing. Ah, I got it. I lose if I mind it too much. I won't be surprised anymore. If my eyeball started walking out from my wide open eyes I would be really troubled.

With that new determination, I board the carriage.



It was a comfortable ride inside the spacious and refined carriage as long as you don't mind the rocking. Yes, the rocking. The inside of the carriage was painted in a chocolate brown color with black leather-bound seats. It looked classy, as expected of royalty.

And, on the seat facing me, seated Alcumedes. On the 3-person wide seat, he looked really tiny. Plus Alcumedes was wearing a black butler uniform. He just melted into the background and it looked like an eyeball floating about, moving... and when I was thinking about that as I looked at Alcumedes, he tilted his head.

“Well then, Williams-sama...”

I wonder where his mouth was. I was really curious but it would be rude to ask.

“Yes, what is it?”

If one was being talked to, one would have to answer with a smile! This is the iron rule of a gentleman. The me right now was not a student, I had entered into noble-mode completely.

“Ah, it might be rude of me to bring this up all of a sudden but... I get a nostalgic smell from you.”

Alcumedes laughed, sounding like he was embarrassed. If he had eyelid, most likely it would narrowed into a crescent as he smiled.

“That might be from my summoned beast.”

Alcumedes, who was laughing embarrassingly, mumbled an ‘Oh well well well... ’ under his breath.

“Could it be... your summoned beast is the White Dragon?”

Alcumedes moved his line of sight to my left wrist. There was a nostalgic tingle.

“Yes, we had a summoning lesson yesterday but... I ended up destroying the classroom...”

“I see, it sounds like something he would do.”

To the me who was laughing bitterly, Alcumedes grinned.

.....Scary. As I cannot see any mouth, I can only read his expression from his eyeball and voice.

“Ah, could it be you know each other?”

“Yes, something like that. We had an undesirable relationship but we haven’t met for some time now.”

As expected, they knew each other.

“Shall I summon him?”

“Hahaha, please do not destroy the carriage.”

To my words, Alcumedes gave his affirmation with a joke. But smell... it just sounded like I stink or something.

Thinking back, I felt slightly depressed but managed to give a 'Haha, I won't.' while laughing dryly. I will lose if I mind it. This person (?) was only a summoned beast, plus I had not been told I stink before! Yep.

Nodding, I focused mana onto my left wrist.

“Appear in human form, Shiro. 《召喚》 ” [TN: Summon. But Will, your naming sense isn't all that great too.]

\*Pon\* sounded and something white appeared beside me.

“Oh... You finally called me, Mast..... Eh, eh!? Al!?”

At the same time as the grinning face turned towards the facing seat, I jumped in surprise.

“Long time no see, Fumu... Shiro, is that it?”

As compared, Alcumedes, who was being called Al, had a calm attitude. It felt like he was gracefully drinking tea instead.

When I first summoned Shiro, he wanted me to name him. And when I asked if he would prefer mana instead, he said that he had more than enough so it was okay. Thus, I gave him a name.

I kinda felt like I did quite a bit of naming already. Although it was not a splendid name like Alcumedes, I do think Shiro fitted him. Yep.

Like a dog. It was disappointing that Shiro was an ikemen with long white hair and a flirtatious glance. He would definitely happily retrieve a frisbee if I throw it at him. Let's try it the next time.

And that disappointing ikemen Shiro was the so-called Asian Dragon. According to himself, he seemed to be a Holy beast. And when his huge form, with its transparent white scales, destroyed the classroom, I can't help but think that he looked cool. How very fantasy.

After destroying the classroom and taking on a human form, he apologized and we contracted by me naming him. Am I troubled over naming him? None at all. The only

name to give a disappointing ikemen was Shiro!

But when I named him, he had a delighted face on. 'As I thought, you had the same smell.' He said as he embraced me. Before our contract, for some reason he kept on hugging me as well.

The faces from everyone else who were taken aback was hilarious. But if I was hugged I would really prefer female!..... Sorry. My secret savings were all gone thanks to the compensation so give me a break.

"But how did the both of you come to know each other? Is there a connection to the 'smell' the both of you were saying?"

Sorry for butting into long awaited meeting for the 2 of them but I was curious. Even me, when being said to have a 'smell', would be interested.

It was just an innocent question but to think Alcumedes would throw a bomb. No one would think there would be such a destructive bomb. No one. This needed repeating.

"Yes. The 'smell' of the First King."

Alcumedes gentle smiling face (?) broke into a wide smile as he said that.

.....I tried imagining a little. As Alcumedes was the King's summoned beast, I, who had the same 'smell', must have something in common with the First King.

Not just now, I was wondering about it earlier. Elzmu was founded about 200 years ago yet had compulsory education. And blackboard. And the huge blackboard eraser was called Jyaiko. Which means, it was not a coincidence about the First King having such a puny naming sense like me. Doubtingly, I opened my mouth.

"Can it be the one who named Alcumedes was..."

"Yes, the First King Elzmu-sama. I work for the royal family rather than the nation."

As I thought.

At the Alcumedes who looked proud, my excitement that was bubbling underneath was about to overflow.

It came.

The First King was a Japanese? What a standard story of a trip to another world!

Inside the carriage running along the stone pavement.

On the way to a meeting with the King, instead of feeling nervous, sat an 8 years old kid with sparkling eyes. Or rather, me.

I had been waiting, Yamamoto's face! Or Sato's face? Tanaka? Anyway, I might be able to see a face from Japan after so long. Or at least some traces of it. Yes, I was only thinking of the King's face as I sat in the carriage towards the castle.

# CHAPTER 60

## THE KING AND THE EMPEROR

---

The history of how Elzmu was founded was quite abrupt in the first place. It was founded in an instant by the First King after he suddenly appeared. Elzmu's origin was unknown. Even the Elzmu name itself was unclear if it was the First King's name or the name of the land. Anyway, the First King called himself Elzmu.

The Hero really came out of nowhere.

With his strong magic and perfect swordsmanship, he had the ability to pull people in as well as possessed unbelievable knowledge. The strength of the King was legendary and he was a Hero to everyone.

The founding of Elzmu 200 years ago was by Beryl and Elzmu. And from then on, the Beryl family, together with Elzmu Royal Family supported the country together. That was the truth.

And now, I was going to meet with the head of the royal family, the top of the country, the current King, as I headed towards the audience room. The corridor gave off an air of intimidation and you could just feel history oozing off it.

I am sorry for saying you have a Yamamoto's face.

Once again, I was reminded that I was about to meet with the man ruling this country. But the castle's interior was out of my expectations. The floor was not laid with gorgeous carpets but was instead bare, showing the stone paving.

Alcumedes walked in front of me gracefully. The castle had a simple internal structure as the way towards the audience room from the entrance was almost a straight line.

In front of the door to the audience room stood 2 guards in black metal armor. Spotting me, they went on alert and doubtfully stared at me. Then they realized that Alcumedes-san was together with me and hastily corrected their posture but I would still feel their doubtful gaze through their helmet.

Stopping right in front of the door, Alcumedes-san turned and faced me before

executing a perfect bow.

“We have reached the audience room, Williams Beryl-sama.”

At Alcumedes-san’s words, the 2 guards corrected their posture once again with great force. Hm. What happened? Was the Beryl’s name all that great? I wondered as I gave a sidelong glance at the knights? Soldiers? as the 10m tall door that reached all the way to the ceiling slowly opened. Made you feel like making sound effects like \*Creak\* and \*Groan\* for it.

The room inside was bright and dazzling. The ceiling was high and adorned with a gorgeous chandelier. Red carpets full of detailed patterns were laid out on the floor as well as a plain red carpet that extended all the way to the throne from the entrance. Instead of stone, the walls here were made with white mineral and decorated with beautiful furnishings and paintings. On the left was a huge glass window. You can see the entire capital from here. It was a magnificent view.

Aaaawesome.

To tell the truth, I had made light of it when I first entered. Awesome. This place was awesome! It was so elegant that it was hard to breath. Ah yes, I am a real noble. The heir to the best Duke family.

But the inner me was a peasant, you idiot.

Which was why, instead of blinding myself with all the elegance, I kept my eyes down as I walked slowly towards the throne and knelt. Yep, I was sure this was the correct etiquette according to John-sensei’s teaching.

“Raise your head.”

A dignified voice resounded throughout the audience room. I was envious of that cool baritone he had.

“Yes.”

In contrast, mine was an alto. How embarrassing. Pushing that feeling deep down within, I raised my head, keeping a serious face.

“Yo, so you’re Will.”

“Yes, I am Williams Beryl, your Majesty.”

With that sentence, my eyes met with the King’s. Contrary to his strict voice, the King’s eyes had a twinkle in them.

“Alcumedes.”

“As you wish. No one is near us at the moment.”

Before I knew it, the King seemed to be confirming something with Alcumedes-san, who was standing next to him. The minute he heard Alcumedes-san’s response, he looked at me and grinned. I was really surprised, that grin was an exact carbon copy to Father’s.

As my heart raced, the King stood up and laughed happily.

“As expected of Gion’s son. There is no need to be this nervous, Will.”

Eh..... Can it be that Father and the King were good friends? But being a Duke as well as the leader of the knights, I was pretty sure they were familiar with each other... As these thoughts ran through my mind, I was called by the King.

“Yes.”

I answered calmly, despite the chaos state my mind was in. The King looked surprised before revealing a wide grin and started laughing again.

“I will bring you to my private chambers.”

.....Hm?



Okay, I confirmed it—.

Or rather, the moment he called me Will I was pretty sure he was Father’s close friend.

Which was why, in the King’s private room now! Yay!

.....I just can’t get excited.

By the King's beckoning, I approached the throne. I was puzzled as to why but by then, I had reached the King. The king, who was happily smiling, reached inside and a door appeared.

Here it came, the hidden door! It would be our secret that I was excited by that.

Compared to the audience room, the corridor was dark and stone paved. Following the silent King walking in front of me, he came to a stop. The room was locked by a mana-recognition lock and when the King poured his mana into it, it opened up just like an automated door.

Following blindly by the King's beckoning, I was seated on the sofa before I realized it.

And now.

The King was in front of me, making tea. At the very least I could make my own tea. I do have the skill for it. But! My suggestion was rejected so I would only sit on the sofa, waiting.

"There you go."

"Ah, thank you."

He held out the tea and unable to react right away, I accepted the tea.

But!

.....The tea stalk was standing in the tea. It looked like good things will happen. If possible, I would like it to happen right now. I would really want to escape from this situation if I can, Tea Stalk-san.

But to think the tea was green tea. Yosh, I've confirmed that the First King was a buddy of mine. As I stared at the tea I was given, the King spoke.

"Drink."

"Ah, yes."

There was no helping it since I was told to. Supporting the bottom of the cup with my left hand as my right hold onto it, I drank it.

Do I need to praise his tea-making skills? No no no. I had no experience in any tea ceremony plus this was green tea and not Matcha so it should be okay. Or rather, this was a different world. Yep.

Even though the teapot felt really out of place.

The King drank his tea and let out a breath. It really does make people relax.

“.....”

I will admit that I can't stand this silence. Your Majesty, please say something. In the end, I kept stealing glances at the King and as if my thoughts got through, the King opened his mouth.

“Relax, Will. Your father and I go way back.”

As I thought. I wondered who Father really was. Most likely, 9 out of 10 would reply ‘He is Gion-sama.’

But the King started talking so I was relieved. Placing the cup onto the table, I looked at him as he opened his mouth again.

“You should know why I summoned you over.”

“Yes. Is it about the incident where Abi infiltrated the academy?”

At my answer, the King narrowed his eyes happily. ‘That guy is just an idiot.’ he murmured. That guy? As I was looking at him weirdly, he tried to brush it away by laughing and the atmosphere got lighter in an instant. The mana that had been floating about was withdrawn as well.

“Ah, sorry for testing you. I let out a bit of mana. Although most guys would have faint by now.”

So that magic was let out on purpose as I thought. Which means he was gauging my mana power as well as studying my reaction.

“Thanks to Father, I am used to it.”

“Hmm. Let's pretend as it is and leave it at that. And so, I would like you to explain Abi's incident in detail.”

I tried to be humble but it was blown away by the King. Nodding, I readied myself.

“Okay. It might be long, would that okay?”

“Please.”

“31st May was the May festival but my friend Selphy and I.....”

The nervous explanation meeting started.



Today too, the fat and ugly stomach that was sitting on top of his ass, which was sitting on a luxurious and gorgeous chair, was a man with a displeased expression as he frowned.

“.....Your Majesty.”

The balding-from-the-top guy said. As evening approached, in the room that was purposely darkly lit, his head stood out more than usual. Placed in the middle of the room was a large flat table and surrounding it were a few guys. The one being called ‘Your Majesty’ was the frowning fat man.

“What.”

Without hiding his bad mood, the man answered. The man called as ‘Your Majesty’ was Guta Hattuo ——— the Emperor of Hattuo. He glared at the balding man.

“.....W, we have gathered the army of Hattuo!”

The man who was glared at, said, his voice trembling. To him, Guta snorted.

“And? Are you saying we are to attack now?”

“N, no... but.”

“No but. Having such person like you standing at the top of my army just means that we are dead.”

By Guta’s words, the man jumped. He understood the meaning of his words as do the rest. However, they did not say anything in order to not get themselves involved.

“I will have you retire as the general.”

He said the words that were on everyone’s mind. But, the man, the general, tried to struggle in his last moments.

“Your Majesty! Did your Majesty forgot what you promised? After all that I had done to expand this country...”

“Silence. Enough, get out.”

The man’s words were cut off and his face paled.

“Facing south east is the Far East Demon Forest. Facing south west is Central Demon Forest. And the area around the Iza River is currently being guarded by the Sociunnov family. To fight against the black and white knights is to use the mana stones and throw it at the magical beasts. That. Is that what you are saying, General?”

Guta condemned with an expressionless face. The man who was once general seemed to have given up.

“.....Really, very very sorry..... I was... foolish.”

Giving up this easily was the man’s way of protecting himself. If he was to cling onto it, it wouldn’t be simply retiring from the general position. Which was why the man chose to give up.

“Get out.”

Guta said in a low voice and the man walked out while hanging his head.

“Listen. Right now we are going to focus on raising our strength. The development of Magic Fields and the expansion of the market. Territory expansion would happen after.”

Guta said slowly to the remaining people. Seeing everyone nodded, Guta smiled. But, unknown to others, Guta was grinding his teeth. His aim was the development of Hattuo. To achieve that he would use any means. For better or worse, he values efficiency more.

Guta grinds his teeth without anyone noticing. He had a strategy aim at destroying

Elzmu. If there was no way in from the outside, then he would aim from the inside. However, his plan failed. Just to get a kid he even used the Anti-Kingdom rebels and slavery collars but they did not do much. His last ray of hope even lost his summoned beast. Even if they were just disposable pieces, to have failed this spectacularly left a bitter aftertaste.

But for better or worse, Guta values efficiency. He would not let his plan stalled just because of his feelings. He had not given up.

The fat fist above his knee tightened.

# CHAPTER 61

## REPORT & DEPARTURE

---

“Abi’s mana was tremendous. According to what I can gauge, it’s over Father’s.”

I ended with that conclusion for my report to the King as he groaned.

“Gion? How can it be, his mana level is 999.”

“That’s right.”

The King, whose elbows was propped on the table as he hugged his head, directed his gaze at me. And when he heard my answer, he groaned again.

“To tell you the truth Will, it’s quite impossible to believe you.”

Of course, if I was the King I would not have believed me either. It was just the words of an 8 years old, plus in this world, which mana averages at around 100~150, no one would believe that Abi’s mana level was higher than my ridiculously out-of-the-norm father.

Again, I was just 8 years old. 8 years old kids (usually) have only about half of an adult’s mana level. They would had fainted the moment they were hit by Abi’s mana.

At my matter-of-fact way of speaking, the King stared at me in amazement.

“Can it be... but... of course... Erm, Will’s mana is...”

The King mumbled.

I smiled in return.

“I understand, it is difficult to believe even for me. Would you mind if I show you?”

A question mark appeared on top of the King’s head but he nodded. There was no need for worry as there were no one around. According to the mana the King let out just a moment ago, I was pretty sure his mana level was around 800.

So I let out just a bit of mana. It was not to the point of how many percent I was letting out but really just a little.

But, the King's expression changed.

"...!!?"

The door which we entered from, rattled. The lock was a tool that opened upon reading the registered mana. That was why it was able to feel mana flowing and most likely, after reading mine, it overloaded its capacity.

Glancing at the door, I smiled at the King who raised his voice. Noticing my smile, his eyes opened wider. Then, I gradually stopped the released mana and with an image of rewinding, I returned it back inside.

"...perhaps..."

The King said, feebly.

"Yes, Abi had about that amount of mana."



"Erm~ ..... Your Majesty?"

I asked the frozen King in front of me. The King then gave a small jolt, as if he finally returned back to reality.

"Hmm.... That is... troublesome."

He said, squeezing that line out and I nodded.

"Yes. The summoner's mana is unfathomable. Plus, even if it's a summoned beast, it managed to infiltrate Phillis Academy which had a barrier up."

"Indeed, to enter without breaking the barrier..."

"Yes. It would be appropriate to think that there is someone who guided them in."

"What about you, Will? What do you think of this?"

Asked the King, who had calmed down, as he looked straight at me. I was surprised.

To ask an 8 years old for his opinion... Though I was the party concerned and it might be thanks to me being Father's son. Accepting the reason, I began to put my thoughts together.

"The aim of the summoner should be to test and measure my ability if I am not wrong. Selphy, who was attacked, had been living in the Elf Village prior to this so it would be hard to think she had any connection with this. As a coincidence, the timing of the attack was way too good. Although I asked Father to leak out information that it was the traps for the incident 3 years ago, the mastermind behind it seemed to be doubting that."

I took a breather and looked at the King. His eyes were telling me to continue so I did.

"3 years ago was the Shadows and this time, Abi. If it was the same person, he had the ability to keep the Shadows, as well as the technique to make Slave Collars and was capable of summoning Abi. I think it is an organization that is above the [Shadows]."  
"Hm. So you don't think it's the [Shadows] who are behind this?"

The King had caught on to the meanings behind my words. Our eyes met and we smiled at one another.

"That's my conclusion as well. It is easy to link it to them but I cannot see what their aim for doing this is..... It would be their area of expertise if they are aiming for Will's life but it's too big an uproar for them."

As expected of the Wise King. He was able to see through to the heart of the problem immediately. In that case, I should tell him something that I had investigated.

"The one who guided the culprit in is most likely within my circle of friends who knew about my movements as well as how close Selphy and I are."  
"Hoho...?"

The king looked amused as the corners of his lips raised.

"I had contact with Father. Mi Sociunnov had contact with his father, Manuel Sociunnov but nothing was said regarding about Selphy. That's everyone who had used my communication tool. There are other communication methods like letters but those are quite expensive so not many students used them. And within this month, no one had visited the reception area to send letters. There are students who used the

weekends or the holidays to go out but all of them are always with friends, so the possibility is quite low. However, there was just 1 person who went out for lunch with her father.”

“.....Who?”

The King, who was listening to me spoke with an amused face, turned serious in an instant. Yep. A Japanese face but beautiful. He was so ikemen that you would be surprised. Was it because of that? The mixed parentage of first founder and the people of this world. How irritating, what a sexy ikemen!... I can't really say that out loud so let's continue with my report, yes my report.

“Selphy's roommate, Maria. Her father is Caralsdoni of the Caralsdoni Trading Company. And that's my report.”



-----At this time, the man himself.

A man in shabby clothing had collapsed along the roadside.

“Where am I...?”

It seemed like he had regained consciousness. Looking all around him, all he could see was unfamiliar scenery. Tilting his head in puzzlement, he then noticed the clothes he was wearing and frowned.

The previous dazzling white robe was stained brown by something like mud. Once aware, a stench wafted to his nose. Turning over his robe, he was not even wearing any underwear. He was beginning to feel like he was stripped.

Why was he in a place like this?

The man took another look around and hugged his head. The place where he was in was a side alley, a place that felt like the slums.

“Erm...”

For now, the man tried to remember what happened before he fainted.

“...Hm? Eh? Huh?”

He hugged his head again. He could not remember.

“Ah..... I am a man, a merchant, name’s Caralsdoni. I am supposed to be heading towards the capital with Caralsdoni Trading Company’s caravan...”

Caralsdoni said slowly, trying to reconfirm his situation. He then paused in the middle of his sentence and reached for his beard, a habit he had when he was thinking and was startled. The short beard that he had always kept in order had become long.

“Ah, at the Demon Forest...”

Stroking his overgrown beard, he tried thinking back to the last scenery he had seen.

But his memories after that, traveling along the Iiza River to head towards the Capital and meeting with Maria, was very fuzzy. He reasoned that he must have been attacked by robbers or someone like that and was forced-fed some kind of medicine.

Normally, one would lose his bearings when he found out he was thrown by the road side with just a piece of robe on but don’t underestimate Caralsdoni. He had single-handedly built up his company and had been recognized as a medium-sized trading company. He had a tenacious spirit can’t be shoved off that easily.

“Money... none. But.”

Caralsdoni grinned. If the gods of this world were watching, they would have grumbled at how he just leapt over the trials they had planned for him. ‘As long as the world had money, he would fight for it any time!’ was the kind of positive thinking Caralsdoni had.

The fact that he would taste regret and despair later was unknown to him now.

“Maria, I’m coming right now so wait for me.”

Caralsdoni, with just 1 robe covering him, started on his journey.



Led by Alcumedes, Will left the King's private quarters. Kesamu leaned back heavily onto the sofa, sighing in satisfaction.

“What ‘he is more useful than some of those around you’? Stop joking.”

If he continued with his sentence, he would sound like the Knight's leader, Gion. To tell the truth, Kesamu had belittled Will. He knew Gion was not joking when he said Will was more useful but he was only 8 years old. He thought Gion meant Will would be more useful than those useless Nobles from the Anti-Kingdom fraction.

How about meeting him, face to face?

Kesamu laughed wryly as he had thought he was on the right track as a politician but it seemed like he still had some way to go. He was completely fooled by the Will's age and his child appearance. He had looked at him with preconception so he would have to go back to a blank state and look at him with fresh eyes.

Having inherited the First Founder's blood, he had confidence in his mana power. Sitting on his throne, he would look at his opponent as he let out a bit of mana and most people can't even stand when they are exposed to that.

To an 8 years old, he had childishly let out the same amount of mana as he did when he was meeting with Nobles he disliked. It was to test the extent of Gion's idiot doting parent sense. But his son just stood there with a calm face.

Plus he was graceful. Each of his movement was so polished that it was unbelievable to think this child had defeated Abi.

How amusing, he had thought. As expected of Gion's son, he had thought. As planned, he invited him over to his private room and Will had followed without faltering. It must be because he was still a child, unknown about the fear of people.

But this was where Kesamu received his first shock. The green tea which was passed down only within the royal family as it was the First Founder's favorite, was drunk by Will without any question. Plus he drank it the correct way.

And from there, it were blows after blows from Will's attack. His spirit was completely

beaten down.

Will had let out enough mana to break the mana lock. Which meant he had mana that outdo that gigantic amount that he let out. And he did not seem to be drowning in the power of it, like he knew both the merit and the demerit of that power.

And the way his head turned.

He was a prodigy. There were rumors about him being a prodigy but to think that he was to that extent! Kesamu felt like punching himself for not meeting him sooner in those 8 years. He would have had fun talking.

Kesamu was being called as the Wise King. He was proud of how fast his brain can turn as compared to others. As the speed was different, he did not have much fun in conversations.

And now.

He felt like talking to Will would be fun. Will was able to follow and even exceed him before the conversation grew boring. Till now, the only one able to do was only Gion.

Actually, the skill to be able to guess what others were talking about with just a few words were trained by Will being a former Japanese. It was called 'to read between the lines'.

[TN: 『空気を読む』, to read the air. I personally prefer them to speak out instead of requiring me to read though.]

“Alcumedes.”

Kesamu called out to his partner, who had returned some unknown time ago, happily.

“Yes, how can I be of help?”

“.....Fufufu. Call Zirco.”

“As you wished.”

Alcumedes, most probably with a smile, dissipated.

“8 years old...”

Kesamu can't think of him as an 8 years old.

Williams.

It would be great if they would be good friends like how he was with Gion.

# CHAPTER 62

## INFORMATION & SITUATION

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In Elzmu, Knights Order was separated into 2 groups, Black and White Knights. The one who managed them was Gion but the one who was usually mobilized was White Knights. Why? Because Black Knights were mostly imperial guards.

Would it be easier if it was explained that Black Knights were King's personal knights? Even though it was the Vice-Leader who gave directions, it was known that he was moving under King's order.

Black Knights were again, separated into 2 groups, Combat and Intelligence. Combat Corps were mostly guarding the castle or King's personal guards and would join the war as soldiers if there was one. The 2 guards who stood before the audience room and trembled at Will's family name were under this corp.

As for Intelligence Corps, they were not widely known. What they do was as their name specified, intelligence gathering. Gion's secret job could be classified as so, but strictly speaking, there were slight differences.

Gion's work was to handle those who opposed Kesamu.

Black Knight Intelligence Corps were to handle and managed all information.

Plus, they were 'not widely known' which meant there were still people who knew about them. As opposed to Gion, who moved in absolute secret.

That day, Zirco was summoned by the King and was given an assignment. He admired the King. Kesamu, both as a King and man, was magnificent and he had decided to swear his loyalty and his life to him.

To add to that fact was that Zirco's family, the Ninjas, had served the King for many generations. No one knew, but they had been supporting the Royal Family behind-the-scene throughout history. It was in his blood to serve the King.

Kesamu was being called as the Wise King. Zirco had been told to do some crazy things which he couldn't understand why. It was always afterwards where the King's action

revealed their meaning.

Which was why, he does not question the King and simply moves according to his directions. But this time was different. This time, he totally could not wrap his head around what he had been told.

The usual crazy requests had been easier to understand as they were usually something that had a deeper meaning to them. This time, however, the reason was given right from the start which made it even more difficult to accept.

The one who provided the information and also the one who gave his suggestion was an 8 years old kid.

...An 8 years old kid who had seemingly defeated Abi.

Any usual King would dismissed it as a kid's prank. Of course, not to mention to even research and follow the kid's suggestions. It was something Zirco had never thought he would do.

His head hurt. He had, for a moment, thought to ask the King if it was what he really wanted to do. Of course, he said nothing. Kesamu had always been able to see-through his opponent's true nature. Having doubts against such Kesamu was something only an idiot would do.

Which was why, he would have to meet with the person to understand it all.

He walked along soundlessly even in the stone-paved castle where sound reverberated easily. It was meant to make it difficult for any spy to infiltrate. It was said to be the First Founder's taste but actually, it was a counter-measure.

Williams Beryl.

The next Duke in line. Any Noble would had heard of his name once before. He was said to be like an angel at his debut when he was 3, and was even praised by the famous court scholar John Veltor for his intelligence. A genius, a prodigy. He was someone who was covered in rumors.

And to add on, Gion-sama's son.

Gion was Zirco's superior. He was the leader of both White and Black Knight so it's a given. As said, Gion, who usually led White Knights, had very little chance to come in contact with Zirco, who was from Black Knight Intelligence Corps under the King.

Even so, Zirco knew how splendid Gion was. He was as admired by the people as Kesamu.

That person's son.

Zirco knew the theory of not coming to a conclusion before investigating but he was just 8 years old. He can't help but makes light of it. Plus this incident might be the death of this country if it was revealed to be a child's prank.

But this child was recognized by 2 highly respected people.

Then calmness was restored to Zirco's heart by a simple fact. Just focused on the King's order for now. Putting aside his complex feelings, he focused on the order he received straight from the King himself and rushed out of the castle soundlessly.



The table shook under the man's tapping of his foot. The comfy sofa, placed in front of the large table in the spacious room, sat a man who plucked off his remaining 2 strands of hair.

Rummaging through the shelf placed to the side of the table, he took a map out. In the middle of the map were the words, 'The Country of Hattuo'. Glaring at it, Guta mumbled in a low voice.

"Winter is coming soon."

The country of Hattuo, which Emperor Guta reigned over, was set at the north of the continent Ranaa. Therefore, the weather had always been cold. At winter, the ground would freeze over, drift ice would cover the north sea and sea voyage was deemed as sheer stupidity.

To this Hattuo, instead of farming or fishing, they would breed livestock instead. And since they began breeding, they were militarized not long after.

And as compared to the other countries around them, they had a big problem. Food.

No matter how they trained the army, no matter how much they earned from magic tools, the only one thing that can't be solved was the problem with shortage of resources. No matter how much land the country possessed, people cannot live without food.

The people would lower their heads to people from the surrounding countries for food. Cold and hungry.

Guta had watched it happened. He wanted to save his country. It wasn't justice. Guta desired growth for his own country for his own benefit.

Guta wanted the continent.

And for that to happen, he needs a place where the soil does not freeze over.

He glanced at the map again.

Starting from the center of Ranaa, mountains ran along from northwest till the southeast. The places around the mountains were known as the [Demon Forest]. As the name implied, it was squirming with demon beasts. With the unknown reason, a large amount of demon beasts were spawned in the forests and in there, a survival of the fittest. If anyone dared to take a step in there, it was sure that they would never come out.

And in the middle of the [Demon Forests] sat Elzmu. Their territory was squeezed in between the [Demon Forests]. Even so, they possessed good soil and their agriculture development bloomed.

Thanks to that, people who won in life and people who yearned for peace began gathering in Elzmu. They started researching magic tools and now, their magic development was almost reaching Hattuo's standards.

The barrier between the 2 countries was Iiza River. But, 200 years ago, no one knew that area over the river was inhabitable.

Then, it was taken over by a man who suddenly appeared. Thinking back, Guta pities the Emperor of that time. It was a precious land that they needed. The land from the south that won't freeze over.

“Spinel.”

Guta called out.

“—Here.”

Guta did not seem surprised even though Spinel suddenly appeared in front of him. Spinel was a ‘shadow’ owned by Guta.

“...Williams Beryl... No, stop investigating Elzmu.”

“...Understood.”

At that, Spinel melted into the shadows.

It wasn't like Elzmu could live in between the [Demon Forests] that easily. Thanks to the strong knights, they had made it livable. Guta was not that stupid to make those knights his enemy. Hattuo had an army but they were people after all.

But Elzmu would definitely not raise a hand against the [Demon Forests]. No matter how strong they were, there were things they couldn't do.

———If you raise a hand against the Demon Forests, calamity would befall you———

It was a phrase passed down since the olden times. It was a tradition, a belief. The corners of his mouth raised as he grinned. He would have to develop Hattuo in order to save his people. Which was why, he would silently wait for now.



Caralsdoni tasted despair quickly.

He had reached for the top from zero. He had thought that as long as money made the world go round, he would do anything. Yes, he had thought, past-tense.

Caralsdoni, who had finally walked out from the slums, went to confirm the place he was in. He could kinda guess where he was by looking around him but to be sure, he asked people who walked passed. He was at a remote countryside in Dyuvu. He would reach Elzmu if he crossed the Demon Forest but he would have to cross the Demon

Forest again.

There were many beastmen living at the place he was in. He had no discrimination against them but he felt angry at those beastmen, who had better noses, steering clear of him.

Urg. He stank and he knew it.

Moaning, he tried to look for a job to earn money so he could get somewhere. And at that, he tasted despair.

Caralsdoni had the talent. He turned his business into a success. That much was the truth. But he was lacking in something now. And that was youth. No matter how good he was at calculation, how good he was in business, how good was his tongue, he cannot overturn the truth about his age.

Everyone had rejected him thinking he must have had some problems to be fired at his age. His dirty robe made it worse but Caralsdoni did not realize it.

It was no use. He can't get a job...

He hanged his head in defeat.

The country of business, Dyuvu. It was not that he hated the place. He had visited a few times on business. But this was not the place he wanted to lay his bones upon. The Maria he loved was still waiting for him in Elzmu.

He can't give up. In that case, he would have to reveal everything. Tell the truth and he would get a job. Was what he thought but it didn't work. A merchant who was tricked to this extent was out. And he was rejected also to protect his pride and not be seen with pity as a merchant.

Plus, not remembering what happened to him and with his fuzzy memories, no one would really accept his vague explanation.

"Ah, but it's really itchy."

Caralsdoni knitted his brows together. That's right, let's wash himself clean first! With that aim in mind, Caralsdoni staggered over to the river.

# CHAPTER 63

## THE MERCHANT

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After walking around aimlessly, Caralsdoni finally reached the dried river bed. He had endured the itchiness as he had no clothes to change. Plus the fact that he was naked underneath so he can't jump into the river with just his underwear on like he did when he was young.

"Hm....."

Caralsdoni had been thinking but not before long, he gave up. Yep, there was no other way. Caralsdoni, who reached enlightenment, jumped into the river with his robe on.

"I'll just take this chance to wash it as well!"

He cried in exultant.

Forgetting the bitter reality, he swam. His younger happy days about playing in the river came back to him as he began to play around too.

And it happened when he finally started to get out of the river.

Losing his balance and slipping on a rock, his upper body fell backwards into the river and he hit his head on the riverbed, hard. In a word, he tumbled. Tumbled.

"\*Glub glub\*"

As he slowly lost conscious, he cursed the god. Oh god, why would you do this to me?! Was it because I sold that vase higher than it was supposed to be? No, maybe it was that carpet? Various things started appearing in his head but it was not the time to start regretting now.

As he fainted, his body drifted down the river.



“Ah! That is...”

A short and stout bear-liked man mumbled, having seen something from the bridge over the river he was standing on. Or rather, he was a bear.

Ah, no matter, the moment he said that, he leaped off the bridge in a movement that was very different from a normal person. Landing in the river without breaking a sweat, he carried the driftwood-like thing (Caralsdoni) under his arm and leaped out of the river again.

“To think I would be of use here.”

Laying that driftwood(?) down onto the riverbed, the bear said.

“It is... artificial respiration and heart massage, right?”

Saying that, he tipped Caralsdoni’s chin up. Yes, it was as you had guessed, he was Buhual-san.

Who is he? Please remember. He was one of the shadows trio that attacked Will 3 years ago.



The moment Caralsdoni woke up had been a nightmare.

He can feel something soft on his lips. His soaked rope was chilly to the touch. The only thing calming him down was the rugged sensation on this back as he gulped down a breath.

.....Something on... his lips!?

He opened his eyes with hope, and the thing that entered his sight was a shaggy, bearded bear-like uncle.

.....Which means...

Caralsdoni touched his lips as he turned pale. Di, did he did it with a man..... He had no idea what the situation was but all he knew was the lingering sensation he had on

his lips.

It was- it was a nightmare.....

“Eh, eh, eh, eh, eh, eh, erm...”

His mind was totally in chaos. Throughout his long history as a merchant, he did panic before but even his panicking during his first sale was nothing as compared to now. Jumbled words leaked out of his mouth as he sat there, stunned, and it seemed like he was going to be in that state for a while.

Then Caralsdoni began to recall the situation before he fainted. Smelly, itchy, river..... fell.

Yes.

Caralsdoni tried to find an explanation that he could accept. Of course, Caralsdoni, who did not have the knowledge of artificial respiration, could find none.

Buhual-san, who had been glancing at Caralsdoni, came to know that his ‘artificial respiration’ worked, stood up, placed Caralsdoni under his arm and started walking, almost skipping.

“Ma... Maria, what is going to happen to me...?”

[TN: Caralsdoni is from Kansai! He is using Kansai-ben, something similar to either New York or Texan accent.]

Caralsdoni moaned, half-crying.

What does the future lie ahead? Before he realized, he drowned in the river and when he thought he was saved, he was then abducted by a bear. Caralsdoni, with his bleak future, truly wanted to curse god.



Escorted by Alcumedes-san, it was late afternoon by the time I reached the Academy.

And from then, the afternoon class were a continuation of the morning class regarding summoning beasts. Everyone were to summon their beast and developed a deeper bond with them.

As for the morning class, it seemed to be about giving a nickname with their respective beasts, which had no connection with me having named mine.

That's great, that's great.

It was kinda impossible for me to fall behind in terms of studying but I had been missing a few of my practices. I can't really tell my classmates the reason for not being able to attend was because 'I was summoned by the King ☆'...

The Hero of the Nation, Father and the Leader of the Nation, the King. The 2 people who were greatly respected. Who am I, who knew the both of them? Ah, though I am Father's son. It was going to be hard if I was to be compared to them.

.....An Ikemen King... Which novel did he take inspiration from, damn it.

Father was my only salvation.

Though through all the rumors and hearsay, I found that the people of this nation had been beautifying him. I wondered if they were troubled about what reaction to give when they really met him in person. Ah no, they actually screamed enthusiastically. For what reason, it was a mystery.

A-h, I had been rambling about useless stuff.

And thus, class ended without any problems and I was dragged back to our room by Zen...

"And, what did the Headmaster say?"

Zen, who was not even hiding his curiosity, attacked me with his question.

"It was not the Headmaster. I was summoned by someone else."

And the image of Alcumedes-san popped into my head.

"Eh!? What what? Who was it, who was it??"

This guy really only took this kind of bait. I grinned.

“His Majesty.”

“.....eh.”

Zen simply let out a foolish sound in respond. As he tried to digest the truth, Zen’s eyes fell out of his sockets as he used his brain..... which, of course, did not really happen as it was just a metaphor.

How amusing.

Noticing the grinning me, Zen shouted.

“You can’t trick me, you’re lying!”

“I’m not, I’m really not!”

Laughing, I looked at the ceiling, wanting to explain everything to Zen.

“.....If you want a proof, how about asking that person?”

Like always, Zen had a blank look on as he went ‘Huh?’ and looked up towards the ceiling, giving me no time to warn him before something heavy falling could be heard.



The family motto that was passed down with the Ninja family since the era of the First Founder was this.

[Instead of hearing it a hundred time, see it for yourself once.]

[TN: 『百回聞くより一回見ろ』 Biyaku kai kiku yori yi kai mi ro]

It was said that this motto was told by the First Founder to the head of the family at that time. It was short and to the point. Being the one who dealt with information, he knew the importance of authenticity. Of course, rumors and hearsay was not said to be unimportant as well. Information can also be taken from knowing why and how rumors started.

But, no matter how much he had heard, he could not determine the authenticity without seeing it for himself. It was not to say people were lying. When people retold information, it would be tainted with their perspective and opinions and wouldn’t be objective.

Which was why Zirco held the motto close to his heart. This fact was made clear to the King multiple times so the moment he brought Williams' name out, it was understandable that he was given approval to investigate.

That's right.

The King knew about it.....

Zirco, despite having deep respect for the King, could not believe his ears. He was perplexed as how he could not even believe his partners, who had brought him much information and had never lied to him.

Which was why, he did something that was unbecoming of an intelligence officer.

Normally, it was a highly covert activity to gather information. And it was also why the Ninja family had been working and supporting the King for so many years.

——— The Wind attribute.

For some reason, the Ninja family could produce people highly talented in the Wind attribute. And it went without saying, it was very effective for espionage. Its theory was unclear, but they were able to use wind to erase any noise they produced and was thus able to erase their presence. Plus, intelligence officer like Zirco had many years of experience in that skill. He was able to keep all of his mana inside of him and even when using, he was able to direct the mana back into himself and was almost impossible to detect.

Did he grow careless because he was just 8 years old?

No, he did not.

Zirco rejected the reason he came up himself.

Even if he was only 8 years old, he was recognized by *the* Gion-sama. He was sure he had 120% of his guard up. And in this job, he cannot afford to be careless. He was always keeping his guard up. It was easy to lose everything if he relaxes.

But.

Why was he detected? Did his magic fail?

No, it can't be.

Did his mana leak out?

No. Not possible. Will was rumored to have defeated Abi so he had kept his mana from leaking out to the limit that he could avoid being sensed.

It can't be, to be able with just that?

Normally, that reason was the easiest to accept but Zirco just can't. He could not believe it. He had underrated him.

Again, he came to understand Kesamu's magnificent ability and his own inexperience. Even if his heart had not understood and was not well satisfied, he had finished processing his own feelings and information.

———Even if he was caught by his opponent, there was no hostile feelings coming from him.

In that case. Zirco slouched and reached for a panel from the ceiling. Even if he hated revealing himself, it was deemed to be the best thing to do in this situation. The rumor about defeating Abi immediately became credible as well.

As Zirco came to a conclusion, he reluctantly removed a panel from the ceiling and landed into Will's and Zen's room.



As I stared at the ceiling, a panel was removed cleanly with a \*cluck\* and from that hole, a man dressed completely in black came flying down. Zen, bewildered to the point that his voice won't work, stared at me.

I had felt a wind presence. The moment I walked into my room, I felt that presence and that he was trying to hide it. I was a kid who had just told the King I defeated Abi. I guessed this was someone, maybe a ninja, was sent by the King to confirm that fact.

But I had not guessed his appearance. Which was why I cried out without thinking.

“..... 《忍者》?”

[TN: Ninja]

# CHAPTER 64

## TO KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP

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3 years ago.

Buhual and Bibinyaru, who attacked Will and got the table turned on them instead, were originally merchants before they were turned into Shadows.

Although they were not to the ranks of Caralsdoni, they were still merchants who lead a large caravan and were making money from the trades between Dyuvu and Elzmu.

The 2, who just got out of the Demon forest, were captured by the ambushed bandits and sold as slaves due to them being Beastmen but in reality, they possessed quite a bit of strength. They were strong enough to pass through the Demon Forest with minimal number of guards.

When passing through the forest, they were attacked countless times by demon beasts, thieves and bandits. To remain alive after all that proved their strength and how many they had killed. There were many times where they faced death.

Which were why.

Brainwashed into Shadows, they killed many innocent people and the guilt gnawed at them. The guilt that hanged over Buhual might be even deeper than Chiffon. Which was why he did not seek death like her. To him, he had a place he had to return to and things he had to protect.

Just because he was forced to do the thing he did, did not make it right. Nor did he think that he would be forgiven. He understood that painfully. But he had something he needed to do which was why he had to continue on.

You might think it was stupid. You might think that he was just adding on to his sins.

And when he was released from the Slave Collar, he was assaulted by nightmares over and over. The guilt tortured him and caused his whole body to tremble. It was something he could never forget. He had not expected to be forgiven, nor did he pray

for forgiveness. But even so.

Now, he would instinctively save anyone's life if he could. It might be to repay for him being saved, or his feeling of just wanting to help. Or even possibly to remind himself of how fortunate he was right now by looking at their plight. He did not think he would be forgiven, and yet he realized that he was somehow trying to redeem himself little by little.

And now, Buhual, who went back to being a merchant, started helping anyone who needed it. He learned the art of lifesaving from Will so in a way, Caralsdoni was very lucky.

Ah, but since he was used by Spinel just to gauge Will's abilities, maybe it was better to say that the innocent him who was dragged into this mess to be extremely unlucky.

Buhual, in a half-kidnapped way, brought Caralsdoni back to his house and started nursing the very confused Caralsdoni back into health.

Caralsdoni, who hadn't eaten anything for a few days, was in a malnourished state so Buhual fed him porridge and forced him into bed. By the way, let's keep it a secret that Caralsdoni was trembling with fear when Buhual hauled him over to the bed.

But it was true that Caralsdoni was exhausted. He was forced into this situation all of a sudden but seeing as how he was given food and even a place to sleep, it seemed like Buhual was not out to hurt him. Once he knew that, the highly-strung him just let loose and fell into a deep slumber.

Looking at the deeply asleep driftwood, Buhual let out a sigh of relief. At the same moment, a wave of regret came over him.

What to do?

He did not think through this properly.

Looking at the thing he brought back home with him, he sighed again. This complicates his future plans. Before Buhual started having this people-saving streak, he was a merchant. He had made plans with Bibinyaru to head over to Elzmu to trade spices. And that's the problem. And he cannot leave him with his family. Buhual sighed again.

Looking back at his action objectively, he came to know how bad it looked. He sighed

again. He shouldn't have lost himself in happiness when his CPR worked. Thinking back, he had carried that guy under his arm the moment he came to and even brought him to his house without any explanation.....

It just looked like kidnapping.

But to think that guy did not struggle or yell during the entire time. He can't help but praised that middle-aged man. After being through that period of being a Shadow, he too, wouldn't yell if he was put through the same thing but rather than saying he had nerves of steel, it might be because he was just confused.

The good thing about having been a shadow was the improvement in his strength and adaptability. Thanks to that, he was able to pass through the Demon Forest without hiring any guards. Plus another thing.....

Looking at the goods he had gathered and was planning to sell, sitting at the corner of the room, Buhual smiled.

Anyway, he can asked about what had happened to that guy when he wakes up tomorrow.

Right now, he was just excited about the negotiation that was coming soon with Mr.Specialty.



“..... 《忍者》 ?”

[TN: Ninja]

At the words that carelessly spilled out of my mouth, the completely black Ninja twitched in surprise.

“.....Indeed.”

It was my turn to be surprised at his words. Really? A ninja? Then I remembered. ....Yes, this must be the work of First Founder.

“I would like to ask how you came to know the name First King granted my family.”

As I expected. I looked at the silent man who looked like he wanted do something.

He was around 165~170cm tall. Although he was on the shorter side, regrettably as we were 8~10 years kids, we had to look up to him. He then suddenly bowed and lowered his head.

Seeing that, Zen and I both gulped down our breath. There was no need to rely on my previous memories for this. The lowering of one's head ——— in other words, an apology.

“I deeply apologized. Even if it was for work, it was rude and impolite of me to peek into your private life.”

It was easier to accept such a straight-forward response. I could sense apology and respect emitting from his entire body. This person was probably quite smart. Anyone would find it hard to believe it was an 8 years old kid like me. Which was why he was apologizing. He understood by theory yet his heart was unable to accept it.

At this Ninja-san, I grinned and gave an answer. Respect shall be responded with respect. This was common sense, no matter between Japanese or Elzmu's Nobles. By no means have I found the ninja cosplay amusing. Not in the slightest.

“Don't worry about it. This is the matter the nation so it is natural to want to confirm the authenticity of the information. I don't mind it at all. Please raise your head.”

“I thank you for your leniency, Williams-sama.”

Saying that, Ninja-san lifted his head up and our eyes met. His eyes narrowed in worry and he continued speaking.

By the way, during the entire time, Zen was frozen on the spot without moving. It was slightly regretful that it was not Alcumedes-san who appeared but if he continued like this he is going to turn into a statue. Glancing at Zen, I chuckled as I listened to Ninja-san.

“Sorry for not introducing myself. I am the leader of Black Knights Intelligence Corps under His Majesty, Zirco Ninja. Once again, I ask for your cooperation in this matter.”

At Zirco, who came to glance at Zen as well, I quickly nodded.

Why?

To hide my face. So it was not that his occupation was a ninja but his family name!

Uh.

First Founder, I fear you.

Within that short moment of hiding my face, I rearranged my expression into a serious one, lifted my head and placed my hand on Zen's shoulder.

“So. I'll be going.”

Leaving that, I followed Zirco-san back into the ceiling. As the removed panel was being placed back into place, it's a secret that I snickered when a hysterical voice was heard going ' Eh, eh.....?' from below.



Moving along, Zirco and Will reached the impressive front door of the Academy. Different from Will, who was thinking off the tracks that he had been moving around a lot today, Zirco was trying his best to remain calm.

He was lured by Will, who was staring at the door absentmindedly into staring at it as well before an 'Ah.' was heard coming from Will about his clothes. His black ninja clothes changed into common clothes in an instant and was being called as 'THE ILLUSION SHOW' in secret by Will. It was all Zirco's skill. If he was to come to Earth and work as a magician, he would be at the level where he would own a part of the moon.

But Zirco had a reason for acting like that.

It was because of that child in front of him. Not only was he found out when he was hiding in the ceiling, he was blown away by Will's show of intelligence from his reply as well as his polished and elegant movement. Furthermore, Zirco, who used wind to assist him to jump back into the space above the ceiling, Will managed to do so without any help whatsoever and even placed the panel back into its place for him.

And he got amazed further. The wind technique passed down in the Ninja family was seen through in an instant. Zirco was totally defeated. Normally, one could not use a magic technique just because one had seen it once. You would have to understand the

working and the minute details of the spell and with a suitable balance of mana before being able to activate.

Plus Zirco did it chantlessly. He had carved the intonation, the meaning of the incantation as well as the tone into his brain after repeating it millions of time and was able to finally activate it just by thinking of the image of the incantation. Besides, he was casting it without using any excess mana. As for Will, his brain was already wired in Japanese which was why he had no problems with casting spells chantlessly.

And Zirco was troubled for not knowing that fact. Seeing as to how Will succeeded in casting spells chantlessly, the painstaking effort he had put in since young looked so absurd now. His heart felt like it was breaking.

In spite of that, Zirco managed to maintain his silence and suppressed his urge to sigh which made him feel like praising himself.

Anyway, the important thing right now was Abi's case and the name Caralsdoni provided by Will.

Luckily, Elzmu had a flourishing capital. Composing himself, Zirco randomly entered one of the eateries lined up. And to the people inside, seeing a common-attired man together with a uniformed boy, anyone would thought they were father and son or even brothers. No one would think twice about them.

“———Understood. Let's find out who Caralsdoni really is.”

“.....Is it alright telling me that?”

Looking at the nodding Zirco, Will teasingly asked him.

“There is no problem. I will send a letter out within Elzmu immediately. No matter if you are the mastermind or get dragged into this incident, it does not change the fact that you are involved with this matter.”

Zirco declared, having found the way to have fun with it. All he needed to do was to not treat Will as an 8 years old kid. You could say he got enlightenment or he just gave up understanding.

He was unexpectedly bold, Zirco wondered to himself.

# CHAPTER 65

## HE WHO CAME BACK

---

His consciousness began to surface slowly after submerging for so long. He then slowly opened his eyes from that comfortable slumber.

“.....An unknown ceiling...”

Yes, the uncle who just spitted out this phrase just a moment ago was no other than the one and only Caralsdoni. He then remembered he flew out of the water and began to look around restlessly, putting his guard up.

.....That’s right.

As his brain started waking up, last night’s memories started flowing back. It seemed like he had managed to go through last night without any accident.

This room was the room the Bear guy had carried him in. Although it was not confirmed to be safe yet, he felt like it was okay to relax. Relieved, Caralsdoni stroked his chest to calm himself down.

Even so, to not have woken up before then proved the nerves of steel he had. And when he was feeling half shocked and half amazed at what he had done, the door opened with a clank.

And caused Caralsdoni to doubt his eyes.

“I am so very sorry!”

—————A bear was doing a dogeza. [TN: Prostrate on the ground.]

“Wha, wha, wha, what??”

In the end, Caralsdoni fell into a state of confusion as he darted his eyes about.



“Really, I am hopeless. I tend to ignore the surroundings if I get too engrossed in something.”

“Ah... Eh...”

Bear guy and Caralsdoni were sitting opposite each other at the dining table. The room made out of wood was kept simple, which in turn gave out a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

And in that room, as opposed to the embarrassed bear guy who was scratching his head, Caralsdoni had a troubled smile on his face.

What was going on?

He was completely lost. For now, he understood that Bear guy had no intention to harm him and instead was apologizing for something. Caralsdoni had been tilting his head in confusion for a while now.

“I am really so sorry. To have brought you here without any explanation whatsoever... you must have been very confused.”

Bear guy said, regret dripping from his slowly drawn out words. Now Caralsdoni got it. It seemed like Bear guy finally realized what he had done.

“It’s all right. It seemed like I was saved as well.”

He had to give his thanks first. Although he had many questions, it was manners to give thanks to the man who saved his life.

As Caralsdoni gave his thanks, he too, urged for answers.

“I had a shock when I saw you drifting down the river. As you stopped breathing, I gave your CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.”

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation?

When he revealed a confused face, Bear guy showed a proud look as he explained.

“I was taught by someone I know. The way to help someone resume breathing when they stop.”

“I see.”

Caralsdoni nodded. Bear guy nodded in satisfaction as well before glancing at Caralsdoni.

“.....But why are you washed away in the river?”

Bear guy had a curious expression that masked the worry that fled across his face now and then. Caralsdoni felt a lump in his throat.

The reason was that he fell and knocked his head was so embarrassing that he dared not to say it. Looking at the complicated face Bear guy was making in front of Caralsdoni, he must have thought Caralsdoni was involved in some incident or something.

Caralsdoni swallowed his sigh and started thinking. He knew the longer he stayed silent, the higher the expectation was. He was in deep conflict with himself. No, it was just that he was really embarrassed.

Steeling himself, he opened his mouth.

Bear guy was his savior. Let's swallow his pride and spit everything out. Besides, this turn of event seemed to be convenient for him. There was no loss in telling the truth. ....Apart from the burn of embarrassment.

“.....Actually, I fell and bumped my head when I was swimming in the river...”

Saying that, he felt Bear guy's gaze. A pitying gaze. It's no good, he felt like running away. He felt like running the hell away. After all the misfortune and despair, he wanted to cry.

Panicking, he started to explain.

“No, actually, my name's Caralsdoni. I own a trading company.”

“.....Perhaps... in Elzmu?”

Caralsdoni was surprised. The man in front of him had a well-built body that had scars

like a warrior here and there. As he was wondering why, he realized it.

This place was close to the mercantile nation (Dyuvu).

If it was a mercantile nation, even merchants would be muscular. Caralsdoni felt admiration at that, totally missing the point at the same time. Plus, he was glad that he was known even in such a far-away place that his voice raised.

“Oh, you have heard of me? I am honored!! So you are a merchant too?”

“Ahh, I am just starting out as one.”

They shared a moment of laughter.

Ah, let's get back, let's get back.

Caralsdoni then continued explaining about his embarrassing situation.

“.....And I led my caravan through the [Demon Forest] a few days ago. We went through it peacefully but as we relaxed, it kinda happened...”

Caralsdoni gave a vague explanation and a question mark floated above Bear guy's head. There's no wonder. Even Caralsdoni himself had no idea what happened.

“I think something happened but my memories are very fuzzy... Even I myself don't know what's what...”

In the end, it was as he hadn't explained anything at all. Caralsdoni finally allowed himself a sigh. And there, the Bear guy in front of him seemed to have realized something. With a bitter face, he murmured.

“.....It might be better to not know anything.”

“Eh?”

This time, it was Caralsdoni who had a question mark above his head.

“I had an idea about what happened but it is dangerous to talk about it so... Sorry.”

Caralsdoni was shocked at the sudden apology as well as the sadness in his voice. Then, before he could even react, Bear guy lifted his head up with a snap. Different from his previous sad expression, he looked happy.

“But I think I can help.”



The clear blue sky. The floating clouds.

The beautiful green grass against the contrast brown color of the earth. The bright rays of sunlight.

Ahh, the world was such a beautiful place. Why had he forgotten about it till now?

In the swaying carriage, Caralsdoni leaned out.

“Full speed ahead!”

Buhual cried and whipped both of the horses in front of him. At the sudden acceleration, Caralsdoni, who was riding at the back, along with the luggage, fell and hit his butt hard.

\*Snicker

Somehow he could hear laughter but even so, he had a bright smile on his face. Yes! The reason for that was because he was about to meet with his beloved Maria!

He felt like shouting out his joy but as that would disturb the peace of other passengers, he managed to suppress it down.

Oh god! Oh wonderful god!

How amazing. It was the 2nd time in his entire life that Caralsdoni gave his thanks to god. By the way, the 1st time was the moment Maria was born.

Bear guy, who said he could help, introduced himself. His name seemed to be Buhual. He hadn't heard of that name but kept silent. As he was led over to the carriage, he saw someone loading his stuff onto it. It was he, Bibinyaru, who was sitting beside Caralsdoni and also the one who laughed.

A bear and cat beastmen. And the luggage they brought along was spices.

With that he came to realize it.

These 2 were the merchants whose products were a big hit in the country. The product, with the use of spices, were, as you guess, food.

The noodle that was mixed well with sauce [Yakisoba], the round dango filled with Ajipo meat [Takoyaki], the noodle dish with its rich ogre broth [Tonkotsu Ramen] and many more. It was so popular that whenever the food cart appeared, White Knights would be needed to maintain the long snake queues.

It was delicious beyond imagination and not long after, it was being termed as [Grade B Gourmet Food]. By the way, Caralsdoni was a fan. He ate every one of them. And as if that surprise was not enough, the 2 of them were to set out for Elzmu on that very day too.

What a coincidence.

That was why Caralsdoni gave god his thanks. He was saved in ways more than one.

But he did not consider that he is going to be shocked again.

To reach Elzmu, one would have to cross the [Demon Forest]. And even now, not one guard could be seen accompanying them. When he asked, the answer given was that they had no use for them as both of them was enough.

No way. It can't be.

Wow, merchants from the south are scary. He felt that deeply as he stared at Buhual's back.



Caralsdoni thought Buhual was acting as the guard but it looked like Bibinyaru was as strong.

He had doubts about that slender body being able to do anything, but as he saw how Bibinyaru 'played' with the beasts in the speed that's so fast he could not follow, his mouth just couldn't close.

The way there went by peacefully and as the road they were traveling on slowly turned to stone paving, Caralsdoni saw the lovely familiar scenery unfolding in front of him.

“.....I am back!!”

Once the carriage stopped for inspection, Caralsdoni leaped out and started running towards the nostalgic city gates.....

.....and was caught.

“.....Eh?”

And he left the stunned Buhual and Bibinyaru behind him.

# CHAPTER 66

## RAGING BEAR

---

“Just a moment, Will.”

As I was idling in the dorm after lessons, I was called out by Headmaster who looked unusually troubled. Since Abi’s incident was tentatively over after talking with Zirco-san, he must have come to talk about the compensation for the broken crystal ball and the destroyed classroom.

Ahh..... My secret savings were going to decrease.

But I should have some leftover so it should still be alright. As I had wanted to eat some familiar food, known as ‘B-grade gourmet food’ in Japan, I had Buhual-san gathered some spices for me and made some sauce and stuff. And thanks to that, I earned some pocket money.

Or rather, as it was super popular, I earned enough to even buy the entire land around my house.

...Hehe.

Anyway, I believed I should had no problem with money.

Ah, speaking about money... Caralsdoni-san. According to Maria, he does not sound like a bad person but magic exists in this world. As long as the possibility of him being controlled by the slave collar existed, it was better to be careful.

Although it didn’t feel good to be doubting a friend’s parent, it was not confirmed that Caralsdoni was the culprit. He might be in a similar situation as Chiffon. Or rather, that possibility was higher.

As a merchant basing his trade around this country, why would he go looking for trouble with King or Beryl’s family? As I heard, he had a favorite phrase [Energetic as long as there is money in this world]. As that kind of person and a merchant, it was difficult to think that he would do anything that could result in a loss for him.

King, as well as Beryl family had lowered their taxes as well as the toll to enter the gate

in order to improve the economy. In anyone's eyes, even with the incident 3 years ago, it would be better for the merchants to choose King's side than the corrupted Nobles. Even without that reason, as someone who single-handedly brought up his company, he should be able to do simple calculations about which side would give him profit.

Despite him being wanted, I do not think that he was the mastermind. Ah, I did share all of these with Zirco and he seemed to be putting that in consideration as well. Anyway, I left all Caralsdoni-related stuff to the leader of Intelligence Corps, Zirco.

As my job was supposed to be over, I did not think that it was the reason I was called...  
Hmm.

Who called me anyway? Headmaster, please give me an explanation.

Thoughts ran through my mind as I approached the school gates and got a shock.

“How troublesomeeeee!!!!”

A bear was raging outside the gates.

“.....What's the matter, Buhual-san?”

Hahhh, a sigh leaked out. It looked like he did not visit in peace.... Once the summer holidays are here, I'll stroke Chiffon to my heart's desire!



“And? What happened?”

I confronted the still-excited bear after capturing him. As the Academy does not allow outsiders, I lead him out to eatery in the streets. In cases like this, being in the capital sure was handy. There were an abundance of shops lined up here.

Calming Buhual-san down, I made sure no one was around us before taking a seat. We were not specially attracting attention but just in case. Letting out a bit of mana, I cast it chantlessly.

《遮音》 [TN: Sha On, sound block]

Looking at Buhual-san's panicking reaction, it might be better not to be heard.

“Will-sama’s magic is as warm as ever.”

Buhual-san murmured, his eyes closing slightly.

Hm?

Warm?

I knew that mana had no temperature but Selphy said the same thing before. Might be something about the warmth of the aftermath of the magic maybe? I guess? The first time I used magic was when I was 1. Maybe that’s why it felt kinda warm and full of life.

Oh, I digress. Anyway, it seemed like Buhual-san had calmed down.

“What did you do?”

“I blocked the sound from going out. It might be better this way.”

As he stared at me in amazement as if saying I had not changed, I used my gaze to urge him to continue.

“Oh yes!!”

Bear-san cried, looking like he just realized something. What was he standing up all of a sudden?! Taking the opportunity while I was taken aback, he grabbed my wrist and pulled me out of the shop.

Oi... wait..... the bill!

Twisting myself while being hugged underneath Bear-san arm, I stretched my hand forward.

“No, no need for change... ugh!”

Saying the phrase that I-had-always-wanted-to-say number 10, I threw the coins towards the counter. Although I was feeling sorry towards the waiter, who was blinking his eyes in surprise, I was in confusion as well. Or rather, I would like you to praise me for this instantaneous decision.

Yep. As the son of Beryl family, I can’t be said to leave without paying. A strange moan

came out. Let's do that again. For the sake of me, let's make this a secret.

“Wait... ha... Bu... u-san...”

[TN: A refresher, Will had gave Buhual a nickname in chapter 34 – The Future but it was never revealed. It is now, from the obvious pooh, he called him Buu. ]

The shaking.

Every time the tall Buu-san moved, the difference in stature caused my body to sway/shake wildly. The jolt that ran through my entire body caused me to moan.

As expected, tall people have long legs. This Bear-san, for a bear he sure had long legs. Urgh. No worries, I still have the future.

.....That's not it!!

Why did this person carry me and start running through the capital all of a sudden?

But as expected of a former shadow, there was no sound coming from his running. Oi! Someone explain please.

.....

I gave up. Because Buu-san was really sprinting through the streets. There was no choice, I can only leave it to Buu-san. Struggling will only cause me to injure myself.

As I stared at him, my mind drifting away, he suddenly stopped.

“Sor, sorry. Will-sama!! Caralsdoni was captured!!”

Lowering me down onto the stone-paved road, the severe shaking had my vision swimming with stars but Buu-san seemed to be overlooking that as he desperately looked at me.

“.....huh?”

I did hear him.

It was just that why had Caralsdoni, who had the intelligence officers searching high and low for him, was brought back by him?

No no no no no, it was not that I wanted an explanation. What do you mean by picking him up from the river? Was Caralsdoni Momotaro?!

As my vision slowly stabilized, it began to sink in. In short, he wanted my help in saving the innocent Caralsdoni who was captured after picking him up from Dyuvu.

Hm.

“Let’s just go to the checkpoint first for now.”

Truthfully speaking, I am only 8 years old. Yes, I was involved in the incident but why would Buu-san come to me for help? He shouldn’t have known I was involved.

Glancing at Bear-san, I sigh softly.



“My Maria...”

Finally, tears flowed down his cheek and through his thickly grown beard.

Caralsdoni was stricken with despair. He should be. An almost naked person being thrown in a foreign country would be confused and cried normally. Such tough spirit would not even withstand against such sharp attacks.

Having finally reached the capital and thinking of meeting his lovely Maria, he was captured at the checkpoint as a person-of-interest. At this moment, he was hold in an empty room made of stone. Most likely, he would be facing a harsh interrogation according to the rumors. Just thinking about it gave him the shakes.

Really, what did he do?

Having been captured despite not remembering anything was another unknown fear. But if he was to go to prison, money can’t be used there and he could never meet with his beloved daughter.

It was hopeless.

Total despair.

It was like someone holding a knife and forcing him to the edge of the cliff.

“It can’t be.....!!”

Caralsdoni cried, jerking up. He regained consciousness in Dyuvu but maybe he did something during the period where his memories went hazy when he entered the capital.

“That’s not good.....”

The isolated Caralsdoni went pale. And when he curled himself into a ball, a man that looked like the Knight-in-charge of the holding cell walked in.

It was as though he pitied the completely pale Caralsdoni, the Knight gently got him up and brought him out of the cell and into another room.

Ahh, what was going to happen to him?

Should he hate god or should he pray to him? His feelings right now were a mess. As opposed to the dull and heavy atmosphere in the cell, Caralsdoni was surprised by the bright and cheery atmosphere in the room. He was totally thinking that the interrogation or the torture was about to begin.

In fact, he was sure of it.

And in the room, sitting on the sofa, were a slim man and an angel-like boy.

“Are you Caralsdoni-sama?”

“.....Uh eh?!”

Th-The angel spoke!?

Caralsdoni jumped up without thinking. He had no idea what was going on. Being caught as a person-of-interest, was he not going to be interrogated? Was the angel being the one interrogating him?

Caralsdoni stole a glance at the angel, who had a beautiful smile on his face. Was he going to whip him while maintaining that smile of his...?

As his imagination ran wild, his pale face turned completely white. How dreadful. As he stood fearing the 2 in front of him, the angel spoke suddenly.

“.....Zirco-san, what did you do to Caralsdoni-sama? He is completely fearful of us with such a pale face.”

No, he was the one Caralsdoni was afraid of... was what he would never say even if his mouth was split open because it seemed like the opponent was not out to scare him in the first place.

Which means he was never meant to torture Caralsdoni. Everything was okay once Caralsdoni realized that. Because he was a man who recovered fast.

The slim man then urged him to take a seat with an apologetic face and in relief, Caralsdoni sat down.

“And so, Caralsdoni-sama.”

“Ye-yes.”

His shaking voice was just a sign of courtesy. Caralsdoni looked straight at the angel, preparing himself for the oncoming questions.

“Would you mind answering truthfully?..... Have you met with your daughter after she enrolled into the Academy?”

All strength left his body. He was prepared to be asked if he had committed any crimes but to think questions about his daughter?

.....Could it be, something happened to her?!

“N-no! I haven’t met her! Is-is she okay?!”

Forgetting his fear, Caralsdoni stood up and leaned forward, shouting. As if trying to calm him down, the angel smiled gently and shook his head.

“Don’t worry, nothing happened to her. She is having fun everyday.”

Relieved at his words, Caralsdoni sank onto his chair as if his knees gave way.

“.....that’s great.”

His tears started flowing again.

And at his words, the angel... Will exchanged glances with Zirco.

# CHAPTER 67

## REGRETS & DETERMINATION

---

I did something bad to Caralsdoni-san.

“.....Sigh...”

I let out a sigh out of habit.

That day, I entered the checkpoint, explained the reason, and joined in the questioning that was about to happen, with Zirco-san. If Zirco-san hadn't come, I might had been forced to use my status or even money.

Activating 《嘘発見器》 [TN: Uso Hakkenki, Lie detector], Caralsdoni's brain waves and heartbeat were analyzed as we questioned him but it seemed like he was not lying.

.....But, did he really not meet with Maria.....? In that case, was Maria lying?

In any case, I did a really bad thing to Caralsdoni-san. He was wanted nationally as a 'person-of-interest' and that must have been really bad for his business. Even if it was for the sake of solving that incident, to not have explained that misunderstanding immediately was enough for a defamation lawsuit.

.....No, maybe the King will be sued for slander...

No matter the case, it might be better to compensate him first. Would it be better to ask Caralsdoni personally about how much he wants?

Having been dragged out of the previous shop in that manner by Buu-san, I couldn't really go back there now so a room was borrowed at the checkpoint and then we began our way there.

All it needed was Zirco-san's one word. Viva Zirco-san. Wasn't he abusing his authority? Not at all. The checkpoint was under the Knight's jurisdiction and Zirco was tentatively the commanding officer of the Black Knights. It was all good as long as we used it for proper reasons.

And when Zirco-san saw the waiting Buu-san, he turned his shocked face towards me.

“And he is...?”

“A merchant that had been supporting me. But this time, it was him who brought Caralsdoni-sama back here from Dyuvu.”

At my words, Zirco-san looked over to Buu-san who shrugged.

“I only picked him up when he was drifting along the river.”

“.....Drifting along the river?”

Zirco-san’s mind just went blank at Buu-san’s unexpected words. Ooh, his eyes became tiny dots, that’s a first. How rare for a person who was always without expression, always calm, just like a ninja. It can be hard to catch up to Buu-san’s logic sometimes.

“Yea. He had said that he seemed to have found himself in the slums of Dyuvu with just 1 piece of robe and when he wanted to wash his body in the river, he slipped and fell.”

.....Caralsdoni-sannnnn!!

What were you doing? Or rather, how unlucky!! Too unlucky! He sure did well for not being discouraged. What a man. I salute you.

But then I suddenly sucked back a breath. It was because of me that he was dragged into such a mess.

.....I messed up.

Regret just welled up inside me. If only I had read that this would had happened more accurately. If only, instead of not wanting to stand out, I had joined in the investigation 3 years ago.

Many things came and went in my head. All of it was ‘maybes’ but there must be something I could do now.

This time, it was not over to say that it must be a whim by the enemy that no one died. Even so, Caralsdoni-san was reduced to this haggard state and I had also produced a lot of troubles for the Knights from the Intelligence Corps. It was all because of my careless mistake that their job load had increased.

Rage began to slowly build up, directed at the unknown enemy. No, not that.

.....Me.

In the end, the one the enemy was aiming at was me. I invited this incident to happen because I hid sneakily.

What was I thinking at that time? The blood-stained clothes of Selphy's. The terrified scream. The face filled with fear.

I was scared of everything, so scared. I want to run away.

I saved her?..... No way.

I was only wiping my own butt. I simply unleashed my anger at the cowardly me onto the enemy.

Did I not swear not to lose anyone I loved?

Did god not give me this outrageous power because I wished to not lose anyone I love anymore?

And so, why?

I repeated the same mistakes again. How stupid can I be? The feeling I felt when John-sensei was kidnapped and ended up with wounds all over his body, did I forget all about it in just 3 years?

Be it self-satisfaction. Be it fear of this power. Be it that it may cause people to fear me. If I lose this person then there won't be a future to talk about.

Did I not think of that at that time?

In the end, I was too naive.

".....Will-sama?"

I was pulled back to reality in an instant from the swirl of my thoughts by the sound of Buu-san's voice. Even if I am feared because of this power, as long as the person is alive, there would always be a possibility of being liked. There would be no meaning if he/she is dead.

Worried at the me who had suddenly fell silent, Buu-san bent down and looked into my face.

I laughed.

“.....No, it’s nothing, don’t worry.”

That’s right. People who worried about me like this despite knowing my power existed. Like Buu-san. Selphy and Zen. Chiffon too. John-sensei and my parents too.

What am I craving for?

I had so many people I loved who loved me back.

Being disliked? What’s wrong with that?

Wanting to be liked only ended up with me being stuck in my self-satisfaction. I had no idea what others were really thinking.

Only that they were important to me.

Only that I wanted to be with them, always.

Only that I wanted to see their smiles.

These were all only my wishes. If I want to be liked, I can slowly increase my likability, can’t I?

“Buu-san, could you give me the details?”

Grinning.

The me right now must be showing off a very wicked smile.

“Understood.”

As if answering me, Buu-san too, grinned widely.

First, I explained how Buu-san used to be a Shadow, and how before he got turned into a shadow, he was a merchant and how we were working together now, with me being the adviser, on food-related business to Zirco. When he heard that Buu-san was the rumored ‘B grade gourmet’ merchant, his eyes shone liked no other.

Then.

“I see, a shadow...”

Zirco stared in wonderment before mumbling.

“I had heard that they are attached with a Collar of Slavery though...”

After saying that, he stared at me, his gaze doubtful as if asking for the reason why. Or maybe he was questioning if Buu-san could be trusted since he was not attached with one.

As Father had given his permission, I had told the King in detail about the incident that happened 3 years ago since I thought that no one would be asked again. But I was wrong. Once again, I was reminded how unusual [Collar of Slavery] was.

As Zirco was the commanding officer of the Intelligence Corps of the Black Knights directly under the King, I had predicted that he would know about the [Collar of Slavery]. I was right.

Which means I handed Father the baton of command about the future of the Shadows. To use them or to crush them. It may sound harsh but in this world, it's the survival of the fittest.

Plus, Father was the Leader of the Knights. To be caught by the Leader of the Knights, who acted as the police role as well, was equivalent to handing your life over to him. To think I just realized all of this now.

And I just released it so easily. I really did an outrageous deed.

“I broke it.”

I disclosed, having no choice. While my determination from before was still strong, I shall reveal everything. I shall give information to Zirco, who collects information.

It was called, to use all that you can.

There was no more going easy.

According to the enemy's fickle mood, the people I loved will be in danger. Having decided, I shall stop hiding and help as much as I can.

“What? How can it be.....!..... no...”

Zirco, his veins popping out as he could not believe it, suddenly calmed down and even nodded. What was that?

'Because it was Will-dono... ' Was heard being mumbled by Zirco. What were you seeing me as? He then looked at Buu-san. Then at me. Please don't look at me with such emotionless face yet having your eyes sparkle with amusement like that, I'll blush.

And, although it was pretty late before I noticed it, Zirco was rather good-looking. He usually had a mask on so I didn't get to see his face most of the time. And coupled with that slim muscled body that filled the ninja costume out perfectly, he was totally a beauty.

I am jealous at his masculine body, instead of my child-like one. But as usual, I am still young. I still have a future.

I felt like his standard emotionless expression and his nice features were the way to let him change into any appearance if he wanted to.

Ahh, damn it. Why were there so many Ikemen?

It might be better to change one of the requirements to enter the Knights by stating 'No Ikemen'.

Ah, okay, let's stop with the jokes.

"And, why did you think that Caralsdoni was innocent?"

I looked at Buu-san. I too, had kinda guessed it. The one who sent Shadows after me was the same person who sent Abi after me. If it was really the same person, it would have to be a shadow or someone related to the shadow to be able to use Caralsdoni to get information.

Which means, there exists a technique used by Shadows on Caralsdoni. Buu-san then gave his reason.

"It's the (magic) drug."

".....I see."

Looking at Buu-san's regrettable face, I nodded while Zirco tilted his head. It seemed like even the leader of the Intelligence Corps knew nothing about it.

“.....I don’t know the exact way of making it but it’s a drug that when mana is being poured in, will produce something out. Like illusions.”

“I did not know something like this exists.”

Zirco said, his voice full of surprise.

“It was used quite often by Shadows. To gather information, to manipulate the people we come in contact with or even to place the blame on them.”

Buu-san had a face full of regret. So what if I know? I won’t be pointing fingers like an idiot at him. But from Buu-san’s eyes, I can sense hidden feelings like anger and helplessness. I don’t know if Zirco noticed it or not but in a rare tone like he was joking, he threw me a question.

.....With an emotionless face as usual.

“...Even so, why did Will-dono know about it? From Buhual-dono?”

“No, he said nothing.”

The 2 of them turned and looked at me. Please stop that way of looking as if you are looking at a strange creature.

I scratched my cheek meekly and mumbled in a small voice.

“Ah no, I just got hooked onto reading pharmaceuticals manuals, spell books and other books for a certain time.”

“” ..... ””

The silence was difficult to bear.

It seemed like I was branded as a really strange person.

Hm.

It might be better not to say I was 4 years old when I was hooked.

# CHAPTER 68

## GUIDELINE

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“There is no need to use unusable chess pieces.”

Guta grinned.

Spinel nodded, controlling his face to not reveal any confusion at Guta’s words. Satisfied, Guta smirked as he slowly said.

“Well then, your last job. I’m relying on you.”

“As you command.”

With that sentence, mana swirled around Spinel and he disappeared from the room. Within the next few minutes, even the remaining mana had dispersed and the only one left in the Emperor’s private room was Guta. Adjusting his posture, he reached for the bell and shook it violently.

Things to throw, things to remain and things to add to his hand. Looking at everything, he wondered which the way he would gain a profit and how he would make a loss. This all depended on his ability. Guta smirked to himself and looked outside the window. Another 2 months and the scenery would be dyed white. Even the forest and the grass-covered plains.

What Guta wished for was for the country and his people to thrive and only that.



Spinel felt like cursing and yet despite that, felt refreshed.

What should he do. It was his dream to die while on a mission. That was what it meant to be a Shadow. It was a job that robbed people of their lives so he should lay his own life on the line as well.

He had come a long way by doing that. He knew what he was doing and his logic was deemed wrong by the common sense of this world. Having said that, he had never once thought he was wrong. Which was why he placed his life for this mission too.

Rather, he was happy he got to live and die as a Shadow.

But, what about Spinel himself?

He had never hold his life dear but he had this out-of-place feeling that he could never erase and it had accumulated into irritation. He wondered why he felt that way.

As a chess piece for his owner, he thought that the best way was to use his life as a smokescreen to keep the enemy away from his owner. If that would make his owner happy, he had fulfilled his job perfectly.

But then why?

In the end, he can't accept it.

Was this really the best way? Was there no other methods?

Had the enemy already known this much?

No, that's not it. It's simpler.

He could not comprehend it. Even if he did see it with his own eyes.

.....The enemy's power.

He could not accept Williams Beryl's power. He did not believe it. It shouldn't be like this.

He swallowed his words. If he were to say it out loud, his pride as a Shadow would be totally lost.

"How troublesome..."

.....Even if he died, it might not work against the enemy. He gave a small laugh and stood up to prepare. The human that the perfect Shadow (human) was about to confront was an unimaginable monster.

His owner should know about it.

In the dark room, only Spinel's mocking laugh remained.



“.....Is the development for the Demon Forest prohibited?”

The long black hair. The strangely sexy sigh.

“That’s right. I haven’t taught you about that, did I?”

Yes, the one standing in front of us was John-sensei. Possessing a muscular body despite being a scholar, a super ikemen despite his level of intellect, long silky hair and glasses, a super ‘S’ person.

He was the enemy of all men.

By the way, me included. But his only saving grace was that he was married to his research.

That hidden meaning of ‘you knew about it despite me not teaching you’ in his words only made it difficult to answer. Of course I knew about it. I learned about geography in the previous world. But even so, John-sensei should be fired for ‘neglect of duty’ for not teaching me!

.....Was something I could never say out loud so I only glared at the map, mumbling under my breath.

I am currently at the research lab in the castle. Why am I here?

It’s a long story but by some twist and turns I ended up here. Eh? You won’t understand if I don’t explain the twist and turns? Hmm. it can’t be helped. I’ll explain so listen up.

...ah, who the heck am I talking to.

On the day Caralsdoni was captured, I was extremely irritated at myself after hearing Buu-san’s story.

So I had decided. Attacking is the best defense.

If I stayed like this, waiting for the enemy to attack, it just looked like I am inviting them to come. They had the upper-hand.

The point I am making was, I am going to crush them. For Zirco, he was worried about civilians being injured.

For me..... yep.

I shall show them the consequences for raising a hand against the people I loved. Eh? No matter the reason, a murder is a crime you say? I said nothing about killing. Although I didn't agree with your reason, I did not particularly think about killing.

Shall I do it then?

And my smile when I was thinking about these things made Buu-san shiver.

.....Tee-hee.

Okay, enough with the jokes. The enemy was someone who used the Shadows and even summoned beast like Abi and, even if the security was laxer at the May festival, managed to release them at the heavily guarded Academy and caused people to get injured. There was no need to stay silent and watch them throw their weight around any longer.

Get them before they do anything. For the nation's sake, we could only move!

.....Although I am bearing a personal grudge as well.

Which was why I am investigating along with Black Knights-san. I shall assume it's my imagination that I heard someone saying I am abusing my social status. Yep. It was not like the rest saw it as the son of Beryl hopping on to the investigation just to play at being a detective. Nope, no one saw it that way.

Oh well.

I too, asked Zirco-san's for his authority and name and got myself approved for having top-notch spy-techniques as ascertained by former Shadows, Buu-san and Bibinyaru-san. This is the result of all the sneaking around I did when I was young. Wonderful.

I really do have the talent for spying.

Th, things like society..... like school... hm, yea... I don't know. I am not worried about being seen like I am playing truant just because I cannot reveal the reason. I am not

afraid of Selphy's scornful eyes. I am also not sad about missing the lesson today on how to handle summoned beasts. My summoned beast Shiro had experience so all I need to do was to ask Senpai. I am not afraid of Varino-sensei's icy attitude too. Not a bit. No, I am not trembling.

.....Actually, all I need was to take the test at August for grade-skipping and all thanks to a certain someone, there was no worry about the contents of the test.

Hm?..... I kinda feel cold...

"Will?"

Lost in my thoughts, a kind and gentle smiling face appeared right in front of me.

"No, nothing. I am sorry, please continue."

This person could definitely read my mind. John-sensei, after so long, I still fear you.

"But why the sudden topic about the Demon Forest?"

As if he could sense my feelings of regret, John-sensei returned back to the topic without skipping a beat.

"I am looking for a remote, isolated place. Since we are certain that the Shadows were involved, we are looking for their base."

"Sorry for not being of use."

Buu-san said sorrowfully, looking like he shrank in front of Zirco-san. Looking at the 2 of them, John-sensei folded his arms.

"I see."

Oh yes, you should had known it by now but this is John-sensei's research lab. During the 2 years when I was in the Academy, John-sensei went back to the court and continued his research. After being recognized as a scholar of the Duke class, he got promoted from the professor's assistant to a professor at once. Ah, congratulations on your promotion.

Anyway, the King should have his reason for doing do. But the main reason should be

that he was a well-rounded scholar well-versed in magic circles, mathematics, history, geography and also 1 of the people who knew the truth about the incident 3 years ago.

Head of the Intelligence Corps, Zirco-san, wanted advice on the recent information as well as the history and geography of it and also about the Shadows. But as the information about the incident 3 years ago was classified, it can't be told to normal court scholars. The only one that fulfilled all conditions was John-sensei.

Of course, we would need the help of the 2 former Shadows too. By the way, Bibinyaru-san was being introduced as a normal merchant just in case if there were complaints, at least one of them would not be affected. The populace was terrifying at times.

"I got the gist of it. The Academy was under attack and although Will defeated Abi, it caused Caralsdoni-san and even his girl friend to be pulled into the mess and got injured. Which is why he is looking for the Shadow's base. I see..."

You definitely was not 'seeing'! The words 'why is Will poking his nose into this?' written all over your face! But I won't back down on this. I am a man too, I do have my pride!

Staring at Sensei timidly, he then gave a snort of laughter.

Uuuuuhhh..... This super 'S'!

It had been some time since we met so I had forgotten about it but this was the kind of person he was. Thankfully, in the presence of Zirco, he did tone it down a bit. But his next sentence caught me.

"I am kidding, Will. You must be asked along by that person over there. He is a person that would use anyone that could be used."

He called Zirco 'that person'...! Shocking! Too shocking! Could it be they knew each other? Do they? Do they??

Noticing my gaze, Zirco laughed wryly.

".....I had his help a couple of times."

...Ohhh.

My face at that time should be showing a dumbfounded expression. It seem like there was no 'normal' with John-sensei.



“You think the the Demon Forest of the East had the best place for the Shadows to build their base, am I right?”

John-sensei put his glasses on. I admired how he looked like he just transformed. For normal people like me, we would be simply looking like we're wearing glasses.

“.....Will.”

Ah, somehow his gaze was warm.

“Yes...”

“Only you would say such crazy things.”

“Yes...”

Sighing for some reason, John-sensei looked around the bookshelves before pulling a volume out. The book was locked with a mana-recognizing lock.

Woah, classified indeed!

The lock opened easily when John-sensei poured his mana in. If anyone other than John-sensei tried to open it, the pages would then stick together and the book can't be opened. On the spine of the book, 《ジョーン魔力認証式開閉》 [TN: John Maryoku ninshoshiki kaihen, open and close by John's mana/magic] was written.

.....It was me who taught him how to write that though.

So he was using it in this manner. I am impressed by his way of thinking. As expected of a scholar. Once again, I am reminded of how amazing John-sensei was.

**-----If you raise a hand against the Demon Forests, calamity would befall you-----**

This was a superstition known not only in Elzmu, but throughout the whole world. I interpreted it as a huge disaster had once happened in the past, maybe like a landslide,

and this was passed down to prevent it from happening again. But even so, with that ominous sounding warning, no one in their right mind would want to develop the forest. Plus, magic existed in this world so it was normal to believe that warning.

Which was why it would make a perfect hiding place. John-sensei then looked at me with that warm gaze again.

“Impossible.”

.....Ah, okay.



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