

転生少女

てんせいしょうじょのりれきしょ

の履歴書

2

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Prologue: School Entrance Ceremony -grumblings Of A Certain Teacher-

I have been a teacher at the Royal Castel School for 7 years now. Today is the Freshmen's School Entrance Ceremony but this year again, there were very few mage freshmen.

Year by year, the number of mages have gradually thinned down. I wonder how many people are there who feel a sense of crisis because of this. If we let the situation be, this society which relies on magic would probably collapse.

Nevertheless, not only did the King not enact any special policy to prevent this collapse, even now, the King handles his governmental affairs in the same way.

It is not that the current King is incompetent. I suppose he is simply just afraid. That he would, with his very own hands, destroy the social order that kept its tranquility for over hundreds of years by the same system. Dreading the very thought of destroying the values that are still being taught today, the King is unable to deem it an option to destroy these values.

Now that I think of it, the previous King sense of crisis was greater than others. Still, he was an idiot. He thought that if the problem was that there were few mages, all he had to do was to have more children. He went ahead to keep many concubines, and without much thought, left many seeds behind.

Still, in the end, only 4 of them had the ability to become mages. Just for 4 mages, he had many children without an aptitude for magic and who were also part of royalty. Furthermore, the previous King who lacked forethought made most of his children marry into influential aristocrats.

Therefore, there were many aristocratic children now who were fellow cousins, nephews, niece, uncle and aunties to the King.

This generation's children would likely dispute over their marriage relationships. Marriage between cousins is acceptable but marriage between kin with close blood relationships would basically be frowned upon silently.

“Freshman Representative, Katherina Gwynassus, step forward.”

The Principal who also holds the chairmanship, Baldinger, called out the name of the student representative to give a speech.

She shifted her focus onto the Principal and likewise, the Principal glued her hopeful eyes on Katherina.

Katherina Gwynassus.

The daughter of Gwynassus Earl? The Prince's son was among the freshmen of this year and it would have been a sounder choice to have picked him as the representative to give the speech.

The Gwynassus domain was a neighbouring land separated (from this country) by mountains and demonic forests. It was an affluent land which had a port where trading can be safely conducted. Unlike the other territories which face difficulties due to the declining number of mages, the Gwynassus domain were able to decrease their reliance on magic while maintaining an abundance of resources so it was not a big blow to them. In recent times, their strength has grown significantly.

In this case, it would have been better to pick a royal mage from the family which has been conferred the title of Prince, but there was barely any aristocrat who dared resist the Gwynassus Earl.

Originally, comparing just their peerage ranks, the title of Prince was higher, but the Earl which controls territory was stronger in terms of power relations, not to mention that the Gwynassus Family were a special lot too.

Miss Katherina who was the centre of attention of the other aristocrats stepped up on the stage upon being called. She enrolled as a mage. From managing his territory peacefully to having a mage successor, it can be said that the Gwynassus Earl has nothing to fret about.

As the Freshman Representative, Miss Katherina started to recite from memory, about the joys and aspirations of being a freshman.

Silver hair in a vertical winding hairstyle. Golden eyes. Strong-willed eyes with large brows pointing upwards. (TN: check out the table of contents for a picture that contains her) During the speech, she widened her smile on her pretty face, while looking down at the other students with a trace of ridicule, though that may all just be my imagination.

A stereotypical example of a mage, no rather, the epitome of an aristocrat.

Looking down on people who cannot use magic, looking down on all things that are inferior to herself, that must have been how she had lived her life. This is a common thing for other aristocrats and mages. In her case, she is in fact stronger than these 'others' and since others are mostly beneath her, she became hard to deal with.

Looking at the Principal and Chairperson Baldinger who incidentally has graying hair, it was patently clear that he was disappointed.

Principal Baldinger is the third prince of the previous King. However, because he was not a mage, at age fifteen, his name was removed from the royal family register and he became known as Baldinger the Merchant Earl. He was tasked with managing the school but, since everything to do with education is under the jurisdiction of the King, he was simply a nominal supervisor.

Nevertheless, he was a man with a nimble head so somehow, he is in a quiet

struggle to dispossess rights regarding management of the school from the King.

It seems that he wants to reform the structure of the school, which has mages at its centre and in doing so, spur society to change as well.

From the foolish-looking smile he makes every day, you will not be to tell that he is such an ambitious man.

At the very least, if the Principal was part of the talented mages that lived with the King or someone else with the same ability as the Principal was with the current King, perhaps this society could be preserved slightly longer.

I wonder if the Principal is expecting anything from Miss Katherina who is now presenting her speech. Without a doubt, he must have been scheming to obtain a young power with authority, so that he could make a personal request to the King and if luck is on his side, he might be able to gain the full rights to manage the school.

However, seeing that it was evident that she had been already tainted by the colours of aristocracy, her shoulders drooped.

To the very end, the problematic Miss Katherina did not let go of her haughty smile as she ended her address. She went down the stage glamorously.

As Miss Katherina returned to her seat, the Principal also managed to recover herself to call out the name of the next student representative.

It was compulsory for mages to be enrolled so they did not do written tests but for the other students, they absolutely must pass their entrance examinations to enter the school. The entrance exam was an ordinary written exam on refinement and culture. The second student to be called was a non-mage student and was the top scorer in the entrance exams.

“Continuing, from the category of normal entrance examinations, Freshman

Representative, Ryou Rubyfallen. Step forward.”

Among the freshmen, a commotion ensued.

Ryou Rubyfallen became rather famous prior to the school entrance ceremony.

She was from the cursed, magic forsaken land of Ruby Fallen, which for some reason or another did not produce any mages. There was a rumour spreading that there was this mysterious girl who appeared from nowhere and had an unknown background, yet she was adopted.

Sometimes, a non-aristocratic parent might give birth to a mage and in that scenario, it is common for the territorial lord to adopt that mage but for a non-mage to have be specially adopted, and to add on, to have her take the school examinations too. All these were anomalies.

The school entrance written examinations were generally difficult for someone who has not been learning properly from young and so, even for this year, there were probably many aristocratic children who failed even though they had started their education from young.

The school is managed with the funds from the national budget, hence, the tuition fees and examinations fees were all free but there were expenses to be spent and effort put in in the journey to reach the capital and living in the capital before the announcement of the results. Add in the possibility of failing and you have the considerations one should make before taking the examination. It was normal for children who show no promise to not take the examinations at all.

And yet, a horse bone of a child came from nowhere to challenge the examinations; furthermore, she became the top scorer. (TN: Japanese idiom to describe a person with doubtful origin in a derogatory manner)

From the start, the land of Ruby Fallen was subject to numerous controversies but I hear that the surrounding aristocrats have become quite sensitive to the puzzling actions that have taken place this time.

Paying no heed to the din the students were making, she went up on stage after her name, Ryou Rubyfallen was called.

She greeted everyone with simplicity and smiled with an odd sense of composure one would not expect from a ten-year-old child. Like Miss Katherina, she started talking about the hopes and delights of entering school.

Her strong yellowish blonde hair went all the way down to her chest area and the tips of her hair curled around. She had a small nose, thin lips and strong eyes with hazel coloured pupils.

I could see that she has the characteristics of an usui-face but all I could focus on was her erect back and the way her chin draws back in perfect balance to the raised corners of her mouth, completed with her every movement in refinement. Breathtaking. (TN: usui means thin; usui-face is used to refer to a person with facial features lacking in definition. Meanings of usui-face can vary depending on the person. It could be having a small nose, single eyelid or having white skin, etc)

Despite being the mysterious freshman and the buzz-topic for everyone, that aura of hers was.....

Most students entering through normal entrance examinations have little self-esteem. That can be understood from how they grew up being compared to mages by their family and relatives.

In general, the normal students hold some psychological entanglements with regards to mages, and most would be bound by this entanglement becoming

submissive to mages. Also, there are students who isolate themselves in their own shells.

However, the non-mage girl who was standing on stage now emitted no such self-deprecation or any sort of gloomy emotion.

Ryou Rubyfallen finished her speech and descended from the stage. When she was going up on stage, the students were still talking among themselves but now, it became still as death.

The students could sense it too. That she was releasing a strange aura.

And then, I started to weigh my thoughts about her, on whether I should welcome her or be vigilant against her.

“Opening speech by our present student’s representative. Third year student, Henry Castor Gasfomtal. Step forward.”

After the Principal called out his name, the auditorium started a bigger ruckus than earlier.

White skin, light blonde hair and pale purple eyes. His straight hair went down all the way under his chest, typical of a mage. A young nobleman who has inherited the good looks and features of the royalty.

He was studying in this school and is the most famous student. Also, he was the son of the previous king, in other words, little brother from another mother, and was a stellar mage.

The current King has unfortunately been unable to have a child with the capabilities to be a mage. For that reason, it is said that Henry would be the King in the next term. His superb ability to handle magic was rarely seen in the present age.

In addition, he has no flaws and his conduct could not be criticised whatsoever.

He does not hold any contempt for people who cannot use magic and has a gentle nature, thus, he was the student that Principal Boruginia had the greatest expectations for. That was why the fourth and fifth year students were ignored in the selection for a representative to do this address.

Principal Boruginia was pinning his hopes in the possibility that he holds doubt about the current magic supremacy ideology in governance, and might be able to rouse the King to bring change. He has that kind of influencing power. Furthermore, if he were unable to persuade the King, he was a man that was a candidate for the King in the next term too. No points loss for winning him over.

Yet, as of present, it has not been going as smoothly as the Principal had calculated and to this day, not only has he not gained his approval, he has not been able to actively engage in intricate discussions with him, it seems.

I suppose the reason for this is that there were many people who wish to become closer to him to use him. He was being vigilant.

Moreover, if he appealed to him directly, there was a chance that Prince Henry might be opposed to his ideas and he could be dismissed from the role of Principal because of that.

Besides, to keep a close watch on the happenings at school, the King has placed a mage, who is under his close influence, as the Vice-Principal.

It was not that the King has any suspicion on the Principal. It was purely just that the current King, or more like, the Kings up to now fundamentally do not trust anyone except for mages. Even if it was a brother from a different mother, as long as they were not mages, they found no worth in putting any faith in them.

Anyways, from the very start, Principal Boruginia did not consider forcibly

convincing Prince Henry.

He thinks from the point of view of an educator, therefore, he prefers that Prince Henry realise for himself through his time at school. And he placed his hopes that the capable Prince would be able to gain this insight himself.

And for me, I am a teacher who can only cling on to that very same hope.

That is because I am the only man in this society from now on who harbours such fears.

Taking no notice of both the Principal and my expecting gaze, the Prince who was adept at magic, finished his speech, and stepped down from the stage with an unperturbed expression.

Chapter 1: Freshman Arc ① -heart-pumping School Entrance Ceremony-

Giving a speech is tiring. My shoulders stiffened from all the tension.

Furthermore, the venue was somewhat like a concert hall so I got excessively nervous.

I had been worried that my voice will not be loud enough for this large a place but it seems like the wind spirits-san did a good job and made my voice get through. Wind spirits are really handy.

Also, it felt like the all-important speech went down successfully; much satisfied.

Several days ago, I had been with Kou-okaasan, spending time to discover the best angle to bring out my maximum beauty. It was worth the time.

Thank you, Kou-okaasan! Thanks to you, my debut as a student was a huge success! Supposed to be!

My uniform was sufficiently cute too. Rather than calling it a uniform, it was just a normal fashion attire to me.

Indigo blue sleeved long dress. The collar was white and there was a silk ribbon under my chest area.

For the aristocrats in this world, wearing silk or wool clothes is their fundamentals so this uniform was without exception, made with expensive materials. These clothes would fetch a very good price and yet, each time a student promotes an academic level, they are given 3 attires for free! As one would expect from the generosity of the Royal School.

Male students wore a white shirt, navy blue vest and pants. They have a jacket too but it seems that instead, the gray robe is worn by the majority of the people. Many prefer to put on clothes that give off the appearance of a mage. It must be because the school was meant for mages I guess.

Tools are needed when certain magic is used, hence, mages typically wear robes that have many pockets to store various things.

As for the female uniform, the long skirt has several pockets. A fair bit of things can be placed inside too, thus, even if the girls did not wear the robe, it would probably be fine.

And most importantly, the robe was uncool so the ladies couldn't bear it.

Even after the end of the School Entrance Ceremony, there was an orientation to get us freshmen accustomed to the school so we could not leave the auditorium yet. We are now taking a small break.

The first half of the orientation would be on explaining about the library. I pretended to be listening elegantly but I could not contain the excitement in my heart.

In this country, the library can only be found in the capital's campus. It was the only library in this country.

The library was a place where only students and aristocrats can enter.

In order to emphasise its value, the library was built on ground that had an elevation of 50m. And, not far from the library was the castle where the King lived. It was a building that was built on land another extra 100m higher. Incidentally, the ground elevation of the capital was naturally about 50m higher.

In this world, the greatness and awesomeness of one could be expressed through height.

Since I was a student, I can enter such an awesome library!

To enter school, I had studied but the contents of my study materials were, how shall I put it, all of it was fishy. Especially on things related to history, they were beyond the levels of dubious. Still, if I could visit the library, I am looking forward to learning more things in greater detail.

Absentmindedly, I looked around the surroundings and realised that the ladies and gentlemen freshmen have already made their own cliques. Likely they were fellow acquaintances from the same hometown.

Unfortunately, I came to the capital separately from the other children who hail from Ruby Fallen, thus, I essentially recognise nobody.

For starters, we were supposed to make a quick provincial tour around the agricultural lands, finish up the proceedings to be adopted under a territorial lord, and begin heading towards the capital while studying at a relaxed pace. However, thanks to the Tagosaku Cult, our plans were substantially derailed.

Tagosaku the missionary went around announcing during our farmland tour, "The divine messenger has arrived!" Besides providing support for their agricultural activities, he went on to give speeches to the farmers. I told him countless of times that, "Stop, I am not a messenger from the heavens! I am the same as everyone, a human!" My repeated insistence on this was misunderstood as, "Ohh, kind words from Ryou-sama! Ryou-sama is claiming that she is the same as us humans, just like how there are no differences between all things born in this world!" Like that, he exposed me to the world like a criminal.

Anything I say would transform into kind words and so, I gave up trying to stop him and waited for the end of his speech which carried a mood that had a crucifix stuck to it.

Oh untainted peasants, I pray eternally that you do not get conned by the Tagosaku Cult.

With all his speeches, our journey to the capital was delayed and we could not synchronise our departure timing with the other children.

This being my very first school life in this life, it was a somewhat dispiriting scenario.

That's cause I want to make some friends. If possible, girls too.

When I was with Alek Boss and the gang, I often hear them talking about their time as students.

Stories such as when Boss and friends were peeping at the girls' washroom and Bashu-san messed up, angering their teacher or when Gai-san attempted to train his muscles by removing his chair and doing squats on an air chair while trembling throughout the day's lessons.....somehow, hearing them reminiscing together about their times together, I get extremely envious of them.

I too want to have friends like that whom I can talk together with about the old times.

Still, there should be freshmen who have gotten drunk in love with my splendid speech earlier. They should be gathering by my side during the short break. I just need to maintain my graceful smile while waiting on my seat. It should be an easy job!

While hiding my restlessness, I waited at my seat and for some reason, I could hear footsteps rushing in my direction.

They finally came huh!? I stayed alert with a posed look.

“Ryou!”

Eh? Not a girl’s voice? He is.....oh!

“Isn’t this Alan-sama! Long time no see”

I stood up instinctively.

Alan has grown taller. Since we are already on this topic, I will let you know that my height has not changed much but I feel that I have become more adult-like compared to last time.

His black hair was at the length of a bobbed haircut originally but now, it has grown to his shoulders and was tied together as one ponytail.

Nostalgic pea-green pupils. I start to remember Cain-bouchama, Irene-san and Claude-san.

I smiled and called out Alan’s name. For some reason, he stopped on the spot and he became dazed. The next moment, his face became stern-looking.

“Ryou.....why! Sending us just that letter! You, seriously, why!”

Alan glared at me while shouting loudly. His face was flushed red, and he looked like he was about to cry.

Eh, are you going to cry? Why, are you angry?

I had thought we might be making a very touching embrace and had stiffen my outstretched arms for a second.

Calm down Mr. Alan. Whoa, whoa.

I had mentioned in the letter didn't I. Didn't I send a letter addressed to Irene-san when I became an adopted daughter of Ruby Fallen?

I became apologetic that they might be worrying and searching for me so I decided to write to them about my survival – that I had been adopted by Ruby Fallen — and to inform that I am going to school. Was my letter so clumsily written I wonder.....Compared to writing anything at all, informing them was better choice though.

Hey, Mr. Alan's abrupt shouts are attracting the scrutinising stares from the other freshmen nearby!

"Alan-sama, please, calm down. Let's go somewhere else."

I grabbed Alan's sleeve without waiting for his reaction and brought him out of the auditorium, turning right at the corner and moving to a place under the shadow of a pillar where it seems that nobody would walk by.

"Alan-sama, urm.....have you calmed down?"

I said and peered into his eyes. Unlike before, he looked like he was in bewilderment, and his eyes opened wide in surprise. Still, he looked like he was about to cry.

"The letter I wrote.....did I do something disrespectful? If it was disrespectful on my part, I sincerely apologise."

"No.....that's not it."

Despite his face being flushed with anger earlier, he was now looking down and making a Shobon face. What is going on, Mr. Alan.

Aren't you being too emotionally unstable?

However, a nostalgic angel's voice descended upon the confused me.

"Ryou! Alan!"

"C-Cain-sama!"

Showing himself at the most critical juncture, the Followist Cain-sama!

Impressive! His follow technique remains unchanged after all these years! In fact, considering his timing earlier.....he has improved further!

Cain-sama sent a smile in my direction and opened his arms while calling me, "Ryou!" I jumped into his chest and gave him a reunion hug.

He has grown amazingly taller. I fit snugly into Cain-onisama's chest. He had muscles in that area and the area which I buried my head into was firm.

His reddish-brown hair has gotten shorter and his childishness has faded away. He has become a somewhat masculine young man.

"Ryou, you have grown! And become increasingly beautiful at that! Ahh, I'm glad you are safe.....thankfully."

"I have worried you! Cain-sama has not changed! No, it seems like you have grown to be more and more like a man! I am very glad to have met you again!"

“Huh? That thing on your wrist, is it the ornament that I made for Ryou last time?”

Cain-sama looked at the good-luck bracelet that was on my wrist and was delighted. It was the good-luck bracelet that I had received from Cain-sama before I departed from the Rainforest mansion.

To prevent it from getting damaged, I had conscientiously taken care of it but either way, I had been living in the mountains, so it was damaged to some extent and right now, it would not be strange for it to break anytime soon.

“Yes! I intended to take good care of it but it has torn slightly.....”

“It is alright, it is something that can be broken anytime anyway. This time, when I return home, I will make another one for you.”

Cain-sama revealed his sparkling white teeth while saying.

As expected of an ikemen! He has dazzling white teeth!

While having these impressions, Alan became more and more Shobon (´ω´) as Cain-sama and I were embracing one another.

Ah, crap, is he worried that his Onii-chan will be taken away?

Cain-sama noticed my concerned glance at Alan and broke our embrace. He opened his arms to Alan instead.

“Alan too, congratulations on entering the school.”

Yep, with a nod, Alan gave his brother a light hug with a dampened spirit.

D-don't be so demoralised. My fault, sorry for hugging Onii-sama first.

“Alan, have you cooled down? Haven't you got something to say to Ryou? Have you said it properly?” Cain-sama told his little brother with a sweet-looking gaze. Alan reacted with a sudden moment of realisation and faced me with trepidation.

Eh, why are you looking at me with those eyes? A face like how a small animal would make when facing its predator.....I won't bite though?

“.....Ryou, earlier, I was in the wrong for that outburst. I had been lost in thoughts, and was in a disarray.....”

I was astonished at Alan's apology and responded to him by telling him it was okay. Once again, Alan started to look down in demoralisation.

And, after hesitating for a short moment, Alan opened his mouth again.

“Also, sorry. I could not help Ryou then.Seriously, I wanted to apologise at the start. I could not help because I was powerless. Ryou must have had a hard time alone, yet I could not do anything, I might have caused you to be helpless then.....I have always.....wanted to apologise for that.”

My body stiffened on hearing Alan repentance, or more like confession.

That is.....how should I put it, you have been worried for me right.....?

Standing in front of me was Alan who looked gloomy. Was he angry at me because he was so worried?

To think that he had been so worried for me.

And I had a choice to go back to Alan and the other members of the Rainforest too. The option I had chosen for myself was not to go back.

The path which I had picked, it isn't so that I have regrets for it now, but, I had forgotten that I would cause others to feel sad for me.

It was just that I thought I was just a passing memory to Alan and the others, that was how I imagined it. Perhaps, I was under that kind of impression.

Nonetheless, I am sorry Alan. The one that should be sorry is me.

“It is I who should feel that way.....sorry. I have made you worried. It is all fine now.”

I said and awkwardly opened my arms and gave Alan a hug.

I could feel that Alan was crying. He was sniffing.

I am really sorry, Alan.

“I'm glad. I was a helper for the Entrance Ceremony and was at the auditorium when I heard from Henry-sama that my little brother had raised his voice, so I rushed out and it worth the effort. I must return soon. The explanation session would begin shortly so you two return to the auditorium too.”

He nodded with satisfaction seeing as we have reconciled.

Alan and I broke off our embrace and we sent Cain-sama off. I glanced at Alan who was next to me, and it looked like he had stopped crying but for some reason, he looked as though his spirit was broken.

“Alan-sama, shall we head back to the auditorium?”

To the dispirited Alan, I did not know what I should be saying to him and it was indeed true that our recess was ending so I had suggested that we return to the auditorium.

I turned at the curve and was about to enter the auditorium when I felt that Alan was not following me from behind. I turned back to look.

There were no signs of Alan appearing from the corner. To check on Alan, I went back to the corner and heard someone sobbing. I paused myself before the turn.

“.....If only I could be like Cain-anisama. I had shouted at Ryou despite not having any such intentions. And I was planning to apologise first and then tell her that I would protect her and that she be relieved too.....I am the worst. Why am I so uncool.I want to grow up faster.”

Alan was talking to himself.

He must be unconsciously muttering to himself since he said so in a very soft voice.

In that instant, I wanted to say something but, I realised that those must be words that he did not want anyone to hear so I acted as though I heard nothing and went back quietly to the auditorium.

Chapter 2: Freshman Arc ② –stalking Boy Alan-

The School Entrance Ceremony and orientation ended without a hitch and the next day's lessons began.

The very first lesson was Magic History lesson. It appears that Magic History lesson would be conducted every day for one period.

Every day, for that one period, from the first years to the fifth years, almost everyone will be gathered at the auditorium to take the Magic History lesson. Incidentally, there are no fixed seating arrangements so everyone is free to pick their own seats. After the end of this lesson, year threes and above would attend their own subject lessons so they would move separately to their own classrooms.

For now, the Magic history lesson was, rather than an actual history lesson of this country, was more about learning the greatness of the current great mages. Simply put, it was lesson where mages would be patting themselves on the back, calling one another, "Sugeeee". It gave me the creeps.

Various thoughts flitted through my head but for now, I need to use the toilet. The lesson is about to begin so I need to hurry.

I stood up and Alan who had set up encampment beside me, turned to look at me.

"Where are you going?"

"I am going to pick flowers." I chuckled as I gave my response in a ladylike manner but it did not seem to get through to Alan.

"Why are you going to pick flowers at this time? Lessons are starting soon."

He replied with a serious look.

“The washroom! I am going to the washroom!”

That was definitely unacceptable for a lady I thought as I replied with indignation but Alan did not notice one bit and nodded, “Ah, I got it.” For some reason, he stood up too.

And while I walked off, Alan followed me too.

T-this guy is following me!

As expected, he did not follow me all the way inside the female’s toilet but after I took care of my business, wiped my hands with a handkerchief and came out of the toilet, Alan suddenly appeared and declared proudly, “Good, let’s go back.”

He was waiting nearby!?

No way, this kid is terrifying!

Since our reunion at the School Entrance Ceremony, Alan has been concerned for me beyond the point of necessity.

Even this morning, when I was leaving the dormitory for school, Alan was waiting outside with linked arms. I have no idea when he came but as though it was natural for me to appear from the dorm, he said, “Let’s go,” and it became such that we went to the auditorium together.

It was the front of the girls’ dormitory, so it was natural that the percentage of girls was high. I could feel all their painful stares. “Oh no, oh no, could he be her boyfriend, such a cute couple, ufufu.” The warm stares from the upper classmen onee-sama hinted at that.

After following me to the auditorium, Alan did not leave me alone, not even for one second.

We were allowed to freely to choose our seats but Alan called out to me as though it was normal, "Let's sit over here," and we sat next to one another.

It was true that I have not made any friends and that sitting together made me happy but somehow, the gaze from Alan was painful. It could be said that he was monitoring me or guarding me or something.

In addition, there was that incident during the School Entrance Ceremony, and I could not grasp the sense of distance between us. Alan's was looking at me as though I was a frightened little animal.

And now, the current Mr. Alan was waiting for me before the girl's toilet.

"A-Alan-sama, it is okay not to follow me at times like this."

I timidly told Alan but he did not seem to be have a listening ear and pompously replied, "Ryou is in a dangerous position so there is no helping about that. Let's go back quickly."

Alan started to walk off.

Is there actually any danger in going to the toilet?

Don't tell me that there is something like a Toilet Hanako-san monster in this world, an anecdote that was about a cute child being brought into another world.....

Still, the real problem is not Hanako-san but the current Alan-san, who was scarier.

Later, we had lunch together as I continued to be frightened by Alan-sama who has been acting weird. Thankfully, Cain-sama came for lunch too and I was saved by the somewhat soothing of the atmosphere.

After getting involved in this and that, the fourth period lesson ended.

Only the first and second year mages have to attend their magic lesson on the fifth period. Therefore, from the fifth period onwards, Mr. Alan who was a mage had to go separate ways with me.

Alan stood up to prepare to move but before that, he took fleeting glances at me while having a half-baked expression on him.

Do not worry, Alan boy, I am fine! So please go for your lessons quickly! That was what I told him with my eyes. Nevertheless, it did not get through.

“Ryou, I need to go but are you fine being alone?” He asked to confirm it. Yes, I am totally fine! In fact, I am more worried for you!

“I am alright. Rather than that, Alan, you need to go now or you will be late. Please hurry.” I said as I pushed him on his back, half-trying to drive him out.

Alan looked back and told me with a solemn expression, “Well then, you can rest assure that as soon as the lesson end, I will come back, so please wait here.”

After the fifth period ends, I would be going back to my dorm though!? Also, I have plans too! Today, I was going to leave the campus and have a meal with Kou-okaasan!

“Ah, I have plans after school so I can’t do that. I will be returning to the girl’s dorm now—,” I replied and pushed Alan into the mage crowd. I immediately dashed back to my seat and covered my head.

No way, what should I do, Alan is too scary.

Besides Alan acting all weird, school life went on peacefully.

It was my first time living in a dormitory but my preparations for a new life was perfect and the moving was smooth. Well, that was because I hardly have any luggage.

I lived alone in a room that had a size of 8 tatami mats. The room mainly had a desk and a bed. The toilet and shower room were communal.

For food, there was a cafeteria in the campus so eating can be done there. Also, there were people who chose to eat outside the campus after having obtained approval.

For me, I often go outside to have dinner though not daily. Rather than calling it eating out, it was actually eating at Kou-okaasan house who had moved into the capital.

At first, I had been worried for Kou-okaasan who went to look for a job in the capital. She marched into the capital, searching for an Okama bar but she could not find anything like it in the city.

If she continued being unable to find an Okama bar, Kou-okaasan would be left adrift in the streets! Those were my thoughts as I despaired but it appears that Kou-okaasan had already decided to start a business in her own trade, a drug store. She had set up her store without problems successfully.

And now, she is living in the capital in her home cum working area, hence, my days consisted of whenever lessons end and I obtain the exit permit, either commuting back and forth to Kou-okaasan's place or not.

That was how my one month went, but recently, the pursuer had been trying harder to get in my way.

The pursuer I am talking about is Alan. A premier stalking boy he is.

Alan was essentially, never more than a few steps away from me.

No matter where I go, he would definitely follow.

Excuse me! Following a lady like that, aren't you just a stalker!?

I came down to that conclusion but because of me, I had worried him and I felt somewhat indebted, and due to that, I was unable to confront him about it for the month.

Nevertheless, the fifth period was always a special class for mages hence, we were separated then. And I would usually return to the dorm after that, hence it was only up to the fourth period that the tailing spirit would follow me.

Therefore, one way or another, I could leave the campus for now but recently, it feels like he had noticed me leaving the campus, and started to follow me more persistently.

Today, after school, when I was about to visit Kou-okaasan's place, and was right about to step out of the campus, at the front of the gate, a boy that looked like Alan came into sight. He was lying in wait with a dazzling stance.

H-huh? Has the magic lesson already ended? That's too early though?

Was it because I had been delayed for too long while renewing the exit

permit.....?

Secretly, in an attempt to evade detection, I tip-toed to the gate when,

“Oi, Ryou!”

Someone called out to me.

I who had been tip-toeing, immediately raised my back and turned around and beamed at Alan.

“Well, Alan-sama, how do you do? How was your day?”

“.....Somehow, your smile looks rigid. You didn’t try to ignore me after spotting me, right?”

To his sharp interrogation, I could only deny vehemently. Impossible, impossible, that is impossible, and laughed in a lady-sama like manner, “Ohoho,” to get my way through.

“Then that is fine, but if you are going outside, I’m sure I told you before that I am going together with you. Today, you will let me go with you.”

Finally, it has come to this huh? Alan’s exit permit dangled from a string around his neck. His setup was flawless.

“There will not be anything awesome even if you follow me. It will only be boring for you. Because I’m just having a meal at the person from Ruby Fallen who is taking care of me.”

“It’s not like I am following you because it is interesting. It might be bright

now but won't it become darker later when you are coming back? If Ryou is alone, it would be dangerous. I am tagging along too."

Ku—, if you say it like that, then there is nothing I can retort with.

No way I can flip the table on him when he is stalking as he was worried for me.

"It will be fine. Public safety in these parts is good and the person from Ruby Fallen would escort me back. Additionally, if I suddenly brought Alan-sama with me, that person would be shocked. I have been freeloading at Ruby Fallen. I don't wish to further trouble them."

"If you feel so ashamed, why don't you come back to Rainforest?"

"No, no, it is not that I feel ashamed. I am treated very kindly!"

As I said so-and-so, I started to think that I am already at my limits in trying to shake off Alan.

Probably, if it was Kou-okaasan, she would not find a friend or two bothersome, and in fact, happily welcome them.

However, I would not like that. I did not want him to meet too often with Kou-okaasan.

I mean, it is rare for me to have family time, and the way I act when I am with my family and when I am with my henchman is somewhat different. Also, Kou-okaasan said that she would want to sample my boyfriends too.....

Alan is absolutely not my boyfriend but despite appearances, he does have a fairly well-looking face.

He is a child so for now, I believe that Kou-okaasan would not move her fingers on him but I still have to take precautions.

Alan-boy, I am thinking for you when I try to dissuade you from going with me! I wish I could voice that argument.

Nevertheless, no matter how I convince him otherwise, I did not seem to be able to throw him off from his hot pursuit with a heavy, imposing stance.

“Whatever, I am going too!”

Alan-boy said as he grabbed my right arm and walked out.

Hmm, nothing more can be done. Guess I have to bring him to Kou-okaasan’s place then.....

If anything happens, don’t blame me! Don’t look for me when you get eaten!

Chapter 3: Freshman Arc ③ -imagining That I Would Cry When I Am Left Alone-

Opening the door of the small drug store that Kou-okaasan was running, I found her in the midst of serving a customer.

So far as it goes, this is a service industry so Kou-okaasan stopped her wiggling like how she always does and wore a white shirt with beige pants, like clothes a man would wear. Her hair was tied to the back and her appearance was immaculate.

In truth, when we entered the capital or when we were renting the room, there were people who took a visibly hostile attitude towards her Onee tone. I was tremendously indignant at their behaviour towards Kou-okaasan. In my fit of resentment, I wanted to carry out my revenge by secretly applying grease on those odious jerks but Kou-okaasan found out mid-way and I had to give up on the revenge.

Still, due to that, for her normal day-to-day life, Kou-okaasan hid her Onee style the best she could.

With that, the first impression of her she gives to others does not give away the fact that she is an Onee but sometimes she negligently reverts to her usual Onee tone. However, as a receptionist, she does not engage in that kind of conversation which would reveal that much thus, for the time being, she is doing fine.

I gave a bow to the customer in the store and went into the inner room with Alan.

“Is this a drug store? The person at the store is Ryou’s caretaker? Is he your

attendant?”

As soon as we entered the room, Alan boy showered me with questions in succession.

I was thinking in my mind, “Now, now, just wait because I am going to pour some tea now, so please, please wait.” As I prepared the tea, I was thinking of how I should reply him.

I have a feeling that explaining everything in detail would lead to many other dilemmas later so I am going with it lightly.

And so, I presented the tea to Alan and the furrow on his brow which has been there for some time relaxed.

“It has been such a long time since I received tea poured by Ryou.”

Ah, true. When I was a maid, I had been serving tea every day.

Perhaps after reminiscing about the past, Alan had regained his spirit somewhat and looked happy.

“The Alan-bouchama from that time was immensely sweet. Always calling me boss here and boss there, following me around like poop following a goldfish.”

Now, he has not changed much from being goldfish faeces but, he has become a mere stalker. Ahh, how appalling!

“W-what! I have never called Ryou as boss obviously! Don’t say that!”

Ohh, it has been a long time since I’ve seen Alan’s fury. Everything about his cheeky face is nostalgic.

“Ara, but isn’t Alan my henchman?”

“Wha! Don’t get too conceited! It was temporary, it was only temporary that I became a henchman! I was no longer a henchman soon after due to the problem of ability!”

What is that problem of ability anyways. What ability are you talking about. That’s my first time hearing it.

“However, nothing much has changed since you are still following me from behind all the time. You are unable to change your disposition of being a henchman huh?”

“Totally not! Right now, it is more like I am the boss while Ryou is the henchman!”

Huh!

Well, fine by me if the pretend play of boss-henchman system no longer exists. But, I cannot accept overturning of the entire seniority relationship.

I have been feeling guilty about making him worried so I have been keeping quiet for some time now. But! This much I cannot allow!

In the first place, you have been worried for me so you have become a stalker.....in spite of being a henchman and being worried for your boss..... you are 10 years too early!

Just as my emotions ran wild and I was about to let loose the pepper bombs that I had stocked in my skirt, the door to the room opened.

“Ryou-chan? What’s up? Are you with a friend today?”

Kou-okaasan opened the door and asked.

“Kou-oka.....Kou-san! How’s business?”

“.....Let’s see, business would die down soon so I guess I would be closing even though it is still early. Additionally, Ryou brought back a friend for the first time too.”

Kou-okaasan spoke while concealing her Onee tone. It was probably since I had unconsciously switched to calling her ‘Kou-san’. Still, I had already explained to Alan that she was someone like an attendant and she also spoke like a man so I was somewhat relieved.

“Yes, he is, I believe I have mentioned before though, Alan-sama from the Rainforest Earl Family.”

“Pleased to meet you, I am Alan from the Rainforest Earl Family. I am good friends with Miss Ryou.”

Alan bowed excessively politely. His salutations were slightly stiff, probably due to his lack of experience. His movements were clumsy too. You are an aristocrat so please be diligent and practice greeting others.

Kou-okaasan told him them it is okay not to humble himself that much and returned the greeting while smiling warmly.

“Nice to meet you. I am Kouki. I came to the capital from Ruby Fallen with Ryou. Please continue to take care of Ryou from hereafter.”

Kou-okaasan said in an eloquent male-like conduct.

Thankfully, after seeing Alan, she did not suddenly grab him and eat him. Whew. Maybe Alan couldn't qualify for the preliminaries – he was a kid after all!

“Ryou, I would be preparing dinner from here on. It won't be anything impressive but it is okay for Alan-kun to have dinner here.”

Kou-okaasan suggested. Alan thanked him without reserve thus, Alan would be joining us for dinner.

At times like this, one should appear hesitant and restrained, Mr. Alan. That is the way of the Japanese! Well, Alan wasn't a Japanese though.

“Erm! I'll help too!”

I exclaimed and got off from my seat but Kou-okaasan shook her head and stopped me. “Since your friend is here today, it is fine. I am just about to be done anyways.”

She said, and headed towards the door.

Alan, who was next to me, observed Kou-okaasan as he went for the door while pressing his fingers on his chin.

“Hmm. He doesn't seem like a bad person.”

He commented loftily and nodded.

Who do you think you are!

“He is an extremely good person. He took great care of me so please refrain

from using such disrespectful words!”

“That’ll depend on how he acts, ya!”

Who are you to say that!

Alan was certainly Alan. The nebulous tinge of the shitty brat feeling had been dearly missed. Like you know, a leopard cannot change its spots.

When I reunited with Alan at the School Entrance Ceremony, Alan made a Shobon (´•ω•`) face out of the blue and looked like he was in the slumps. It seems like he was bothered by the fact that I had been abducted by the bandits and was worried for me.

In my time with boss and the rest, it was likely that Alan had imagined me to be a fragile girl, and the me without him by my side, was always alone and crying.

That is why, when I am not by his side for even a moment, he becomes anxious and that connects with his stalking activities.

With that kind of notion, my relationship with Alan has become somewhat awkward since our reunion. I had the weak of point of feeling guilty towards him and so, I totally could not treat him the same way as before.

Still, right now, it feels like I have returned in time.

Yes, my rationality is sound. Alan was indeed a healthy brat and I can stay relieved, as his position is that of my henchman.

Though he had babbled some nonsense about him not being a henchman but rather, he being the boss.....

“Hey, Alan-sama, why don’t we have another duel right now? Just as how as it was like before.....the loser becomes the henchman.”

“Eh? But, you are a girl aren’t ya.....Not to mention that I have practicing my swordsmanship and I can use magic too, there is no way you can match up to me.”

Yearning for the old times, I made that proposal enthusiastically, yet this brat nonchalantly rejected it. What did you just say? Is your brain okay? That was the kind of feeling he gave off while rebuffing me. His eyes were telling me that there was no way that I’ll be a match for him.

Even though he was just Alan, how impudent! This one over here was raised in the mountains you know!

Or more precisely, he was only treating me like a girl now and putting on airs that he was a gentleman who won’t raise his hand on girls but hey, didn’t you pick a fight with me when I was a little five-year-old girl?

Damn, I cannot allow this.

Honestly, I suggested this duel mainly just for the kicks but I feel that I cannot allow Alan to continue throwing his weight around! I have to show Alan his rightful henchman position.

“Ara, no way, could Alan-sama be afraid of losing to me?”

“What are you saying. After finally meeting you.....like, somewhat, I could

get good vibes but, it is definitely a no.”

With great dismay, Alan looked at me with his eyes coloured in shock.

So, soo, vexing! And what did he mean by good vibes!?! Say it clearly!

Ah, oh no, not like that, I need to calm down. The other party is Alan. I need to compose myself. There should be countless of methods to cleverly get through this deadlock!

“You are just saying that because you are ‘fraid aren’t you? I can understand. Since you were defeated with a swift attack, when I was five. After losing, you were on the cusp of breaking into tears too.”

“I was totally n-not crying!”

Nice, he had taken the bait! Easy! Now just one more push!

“Ara, is that so? Hmm, but from the impression I got from my memory, Alan was always a wimpy boy that was half-crying.....”

“There is no way that is true! What is wrong with the me in your memory!”

“That being so, with a duel, please do show me a strong Alan-sama. If you have truly gotten strong enough to beat me, I would even be your henchman too.”

That said, Alan was taken slightly aback and muttered to himself, “Henchman.....” He casted his eyes down for a moment and then, shifted his eyes to meet mine.

“Hey, if Ryou became my henchman, wouldn't you promise never to go outside when I am not around?”

Alan asked seriously.

O-oh. From the orders he would give me if I become a henchman was, kind-of like, it can be seen that he is a very restrictive guy.....The future of Alan boy was exceedingly worrying.

I am greatly apologetic if the reason that he ended being so restrictive was because he had been traumatised due to the bandits abducting me.

“That's so, isn't it.....I may not fulfill that promise, but I would try to the best of my abilities.”

I replied vaguely, and it appeared to not be a problem as Alan linked his arms and nodded as he appeared to be in thought. And now I shall pass this gravely decision! That was how he gestured. Next, he opened his mouth.

“Alright, I got it! This duel! I accept! Okie-dokie!”

“Fufu, how nostalgic! The venue and time would be decided by me so I shall let you know some time later. I plan on using the courtyard of the campus. Is that acceptable?”

I grinned and made the final confirmation with him. Alan proudly acknowledged it by saying that it does not matter!

Alright, looks like I will be busy making the preparations soon.

I feel bad for Alan but I will show no mercy.

It would be good if I could convey that I'll be fine even without you

worrying for me.

I think I'll have to crush the very concept of "Ryou would cry when she is left alone" that has been lingering in Alan's mind.

Chapter 4: Freshman Arc ④ -oh Yeah, I Don't Have Any Female Friends-

“Ryou, I heard? That you are dueling with Alan this time?”

Cain-sama wore a concerned expression while asking me.

This happened when the entire school cohort was present at the auditorium, before the Magic History lesson started. The normal Cain-sama would usually be with Henry-sama and it was rare for him to come find me.

Henry-sama was the upper classman representative who did a speech at the School Entrance Ceremony.

Henry-sama was the gentleman acting with glittery nobility when he gave his speech during the Entrance Ceremony as the representative for the upper classmen. Even though he might be a handsome guy from royalty and was a mage, he committed the crime of overshadowing my beautiful speech, and so, he rubs me in the wrong way.

The same handsome Cain-sama was often seen together with Henry-sama showing that they were close friends. They became eye-candy for the girls around them.

That was the same Cain-sama who came to find me regarding the duel.

“Cain-sama, how do you do? Yes, as you say, Alan and I are going to have a duel. We have not decided on the day but could you as like before, be our judge please?”

Cain-sama seem to brood over my request.

“Ryou, it’s best not to do it. Alan has since, trained his body diligently, and polished his magic skills. You will only get yourself injured.”

He spoke with worry and sat on the seat to my left calmly.

As per usual, Alan had set up camp on my right. Towards Cain-sama’s arrival, Alan flinched slightly and opened his mouth.

“C,Cain-anisama! I am not going to injure her at all!”

Oh, so you are actually afraid of getting me injured. How kind of you, boy.

Sorry but I did not plan to show any mercy so please do not hold a grudge.

“See, from what Alan said, I would be fine. I missed those times and wanted to just have some fun. Please do not treat it as a big deal.”

I sent a perfect smile to Cain-sama.

Cain-sama tilted his head slightly in frustration, but in the end, he gave his approval.

“I got it. Alan, Ryou is a girl so please do not hurt her. I shall also accept being the judge. In fact, I hope that you two do not duel without my presence. Remember to call me before dueling.”

Cain-sama softly reminded us while agreeing to be our judge.

As I have mentioned, I have not fixed a day for the duel and so, I avoided revealing the exact date. For a definite win, I have to make elaborate preparations and the environment has to be carefully considered as well.

The preparations for the duel went smoothly. All that was left is to wait for the right opportunity.

As ever, just like goldfish’s faeces, or should I say, proudly as goldfish’s

faeces, Mr. Alan followed me everywhere. As I made him wait for me, I realised that there was one big problem.

My first objective -- the make female friends plan has not inched forward one bit at all.

It has already been a month and I expected to have a swarm of friends by now.

Why? I ransacked my mind for the possible reasons and the only imaginable candidate was Alan.

I was always accompanied by my child and there were no opportunities for others to talk to me I suppose.....

However, as much as I hate to admit it, Alan had shrewdly found himself a male friend. A spirit user, Ritz-kun. Even now, Ritz-kun was seating next to Alan. A sweet looking boy with bright brown trimmed hair.

During the magic lesson for mages in the fifth period, the rest of the regular students would attend a lesson to learn the greatness of the mages who have been cordial towards non-mages, and so, Alan and I went our separate ways. During that magic lesson, the cheeky Alan managed to get himself a friend.

Compared to me who have been hankering for a friend to this extent, Alan managed to beat me to it despite being a stalker. I wonder if it is because of something I lack.....even though I possess such elegance.

The first period's lesson ended and the only people left in the auditorium were the first years. I looked around gently but what I got were just the, "Shit, our eyes met!" reaction from the other students.

What is it? What is with everyone? There isn't a myth that says that staring at my eyes would cause them to turn into stone, right!?

Like, I wish this was just my hallucination but, were the other students really vigilant against me? Or in other words, I could feel fear in their eyes. But I don't remember doing anything that warrants that kind of reaction.

Could it be that I am too beautiful.....? Indeed, I devoted myself to improving my image with Kou-okaasan's guidance but even for my hair, it was just normal oil that gave it some gloss though.

I didn't think that my gorgeousness was so captivating that it got to the level of scary. In my opinion, there were more beautiful people in our surroundings too.....maybe they were misled by how I behaved or something.....

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After the first period ended, Cain-sama gave a bright smile and said, "Ciao!" before leaving the auditorium. Cain-sama belonged to the Knights Faculty and was a fourth-year student. He moved to the training grounds together with the other seniors who were in the Knights course.

I would have to make my decision for my course when I become a third-year student.

There are four different kinds of courses. The Knights course, Cleric course, Merchant course and the Magic course. It was compulsory for people who can use magic to take the Magic course but the others are able to make their own choices. I have yet to come down to a decision.

Since I have already acquired healing techniques from Kou-okaasan, I do not feel like taking the Cleric course. I want to join the Magic course but I can't. Therefore, the only remaining choices were the Knights course and the Merchant course.

The Merchanting course was about brushing up on arithmetic skills and it seems that the first year and second in the course would all be on learning the fundamentals. Throughout the course, no specific skill would be taught to the levels of mastery but it feels that it was an internship for the real-life. Learning the ways of a cook, a seamstress and all other kinds of practical skills, that was where its charms lie. Kuwamaru-aniki picked up the skill of making coins in this course and from it, learned to make a dagger in the process.

However, it was mainly about learning the fundamentals and nothing but the fundamentals so it was, you know, kinda.....

In contrast, there is the Knights course, and I kinda feel that building up the physical body was better. One's muscles could never betray oneself. As the name suggests, sword techniques would be taught in the Knights course. Sometimes, horse-riding skills, weapon maintenance skills or even dissecting animals skills would be learned but, the course was technically, all about building physical strength. It was a course filled with muscle-heads.

Kou-okaasan prefers muscle-heads so she suggested that I join the Knights course.

I still have 2 years to choose so I still had lots of time to consider.

In these two years, we would be learning the basics, such as arithmetics, writing, reading, history and geography. These were all nearly part of the scope of the entrance examinations but the mages did not have to take the examination to enter the school and hence, in order to ensure the field was levelled, the school introduced this form of general education.

There were spots of illiterate children among the mages, though it was still rare.

Just a while ago, during magic history lesson, there was a student that had

been selected by the teacher to read the text in the textbook but the female student was not able to read it fluently and had been nervous throughout. She was a cute student by the name of Charlotte. A freshman, just like me.

Coincidentally, she was from a pioneering settlement in the Gwynassus region. She was not born from a family of aristocrats and thus, when she was proven to be a mage, she could only pick up the basics of reading words before enrolling in school. Hence, she entered school without studying extensively. As such, there were rumours that said she got in through connections. (TN: not sure what it really means, exact sentence: *そのため、色々にご苦労されているという噂だ。)*

Since we shared the same roots, I set my sights on making her my friend.

She had olive brown hair that was tied into two pigtails, had black pupils and further compounded by her Japanese-like outfit, I could sense a deep affinity with her. My hair was blond in colour though.

I wonder if I should try to talk to her, maybe we could be friends.

B-but, I am nervous! Would saying something like that from the start be ok?

“Excuse me, I would like to be your friend!” That would come across as amazingly sudden I guess.

“If you are willing, would you like me to coach you in your studies?” Saying that would obviously make me sound too arrogant.

“A-ra, Charlotte-san, you have once again lost face during lesson time? How embarrassing that you can’t even read words adequately. Could you stop doing that. You will make everyone think that this year’s batch of students are all idiots.”

Just as I was worried endlessly, Katrina Gwynassus from the top most influential clique among the current first-years, brushed me aside and spoke directly to Miss Charlotte.

An eye-catching beauty with silver winding hair. She spoke with such intensity. The Gwynassus region that is currently governed by her family was a region known for its affluence and power. The Ruby Fallen territory was next to it and could be called it's neighbour.

I want to get along with her as well. Nevertheless, hold up, Miss Katrina.

The child you spoke to was the very person, that I had wanted to talk to. She was the very person who I had wanted to talk to after I had practiced in my head. The very person who I hallucinated talking to practice after practice!

Such a low move to snatch her like that!

Chapter 5: Freshman Arc ⑤ -i Am Right Behind You Now-

“E-em, I am sorry”

Miss Charlotte shifted her eyes down in fear and apologised.

Seeing her apologise, the girls standing beside Miss Katrina knitted her brows.

“Charlotte-san, you did not even look at Katrina-sama when she was talking, that’s so rude.”

Her mole under her left eye, her wavy pale brown hair, her shapely nose coupled with her bewitching voice accentuated her appeal.

If I remember correctly, that attractive girl was Miss Sarome. She was also from the Gwynassus territory just like Miss Katrina and Miss Charlotte. She was the daughter of a Knight Earl and isn’t a mage, just a normal student like me.

In the one in ten thousand chance that I become friends with Miss Charlotte, if it is possible, I want to become closer to her during the fifth period when we are in a different classroom.

I sent an intense glance to her stealthily.

“That will do, Sarome-san. It seems like she still has problem with the language, saying anything to her at this point is just futile. It is uncertain if she actually understands what we are saying.”

And then, Miss Katrina went on and on with her harsh words on Miss Charlotte.

Recently, Miss Katrina has been preoccupied with Miss Charlotte. She spoke at length with her during break time.

I wonder what her aim was. I think if she wanted to be her friend, she could have treated her more kindly but that's coming from me who is stuck at level 1 in making friends. Perhaps, being that aggressive was the way to go.

As I pondered, my intense laser eyes were still being transmitted to them and finally, Miss Sarome caught sight of me.

Kya!

Miss Sarome flinched for some unknown reason and while holding onto Miss Katrina arm, she seemed to be whispering to her. Next, Miss Katrina looked at me.

Kya!

Our eyes met one another. Her clique was at the top of the hierarchy among the freshmen. Since I made eye-contact at her who has such exceptional people-relations skills, maybe a friend invitation would come right now!

As I continued to harbour expectations, Miss Katrina made a stoic expression and hand in hand with Miss Sarome, they walked to seats further away from me.

Why!?

While the reality that I did not even qualify for the preliminaries was hammering down in my head, I faced downwards and engaged in a staring contest with the desk.

Weird. It's weird that my friend-making skills were unbelievably low. Adding up my previous lifespan, I easily exceed 20 years of age and yet I have yet to figure the way to make female friends.

Even when I was at Garigari village, when I was before girls, I became stiff and frozen. It appears that I somehow had become a precocious girl, and got cold feet.

As I sighed, I looked at Alan who was seating beside me. He was happily chatting with Ritz-kun. Even Alan had been able to make a friend and as for me.....

However, Alan can be considered my friend, right? He is more of a stalker rather than a friend or more like, he is totally a stalker but, strictly speaking, he can be seen as my friend. Still, I think treating friends as sloppily like how Alan does is not good. They are girls after all.

I mean, up until now, to me, I have varied my way of interacting with people depending if they are of lower rank (Alan) or of higher rank (Cain-sama, Kou-okaasan, Boss, Irene-san and other adults). But if it was someone of equal standing, I am unclear on how to behave and act.

How does everybody make friends so easily I wonder? I regret dearly on

neglecting relations with friends in my previous life.

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“Don’t dwell so deeply into it, if you want some friends then just say so! It’s Ryou-chan’s bad habit to worry endlessly to yourself and making assumptions. Why are you indecisive about it huh~”

After classes, I had managed to shake off Alan. Currently, I am having dinner as a family without any outsiders and opening my heart to Kou-okaasan about my predicament.

She ruthlessly replied to the cowardly me.

“But, I am not sure if it is okay to just talk to them like that”

I said while losing my nerve. Kou-okaasan let out a huge sigh.

“Anything is okay. Did you even try to properly greet them? Also, you could compliment their hairstyle or just talk about anything that comes to mind.”

Greetings huh.....speaking of which, the only acquaintances I have are Alan and Cain-sama. B-but, I don’t know if I my greeting would sound strange and when I hesitate like that, I miss my timing to greet them.....

Says me who continue to find excuses.

If I really must say, so far, I have only been passively trying to make friends and it seems impossible to make any friends at this rate so I began to seriously consider Kou-okaasan’s advice to start a conversation with others.

“I will try to talk to them this time.Still, it is very bizarre. That it is not proceeding as per planned. Under normal circumstances, most of the girls should be charmed by me and would form infinitely long queues from my seat, waiting for their turn. That should have happened. I was all ready to deal with

them one by one, and judge them each with grace and refinement. That was the plan.”

“R,Ryou-chan, what made you think like that?”

“I mean, I took great care of my hair and made it dazzling and all. Upon seeing it, the other girls should all be flocking to me and asking me how I did it – as though they were ants pleading for sweets. Also, I am smart so they should also be asking me for help in studies, swarming me just like how the flies do too.”

“W-wha, you look down on girls who attend school! In fact, you casually made a fool of them with all those similes! Where have I gone wrong with your upbringing!”

Kou-okaasan grieved like the painting, “The Scream”.

“Hehe, I was joking. I will try harder. Thank you for hearing me out, Kou-okaasan.”

I said and laughed embarrassingly. Kou-okaasan was like, “This child really!” and stroked my head.

Well, that wasn’t completely a lie, but I had expected that with my potential, even if I stayed passive, I should have been able to make many friends! Ehehehe!

“I think it won’t do any good to say too much but Ryou-chan entered school through special circumstances, and it could be that the other children are cautious of you. I believe once they know that Ryou-chan is a wonderful child, they would naturally make friends with you, so please, try to talk to them ok?”

I nodded with a great amount of effort, and enjoyed the rest of the dinner

time with Kou-okaasan slowly.

After being satisfied with dinnertime, the sun had already set and it was about time to return to the dorm. Time to prepare for going back.

I really wished we were living together.....it was now a problem of time before I could visit the library and not be able to go to Kou-okaasan's place during then.

I shuddered as I held this thought while opening the door at the entranceway.

“Ah, Ryou, going back now? Let's go together.”

From the dimly-lit and gloomy outside, the stalking boy Alan was on standby.

I quietly shut the door.

What was that, an illusion? I saw something like Alan but how could it be. I-i-impossible.

If it wasn't figure of Alan outside the door, then don't tell me.....Mary-san? A monster that was said to appear and vanish sporadically in my previous world.

There was a chance that Mary-san was delivering a letter which says, “I am right at the front of your house now!” to the mailbox! Still, Mary-san, using a letter won't bring out that kind of realism y'know!?

“What is it? Ryou-chan?”

Just as soon as I opened the door, I shut the door. Kou-okaasan questioned my irrational actions.

“O-outside, there is a Mary-san.....”

I muttered. Immediately after, from the door in question, “Donk donk” knocking sounds came!

No way! Creepy!

Leaving the jittering me by the side, Kou-okaasan placed her hand on the door knob and opened it.

“Ara, you are from before.....! You must be Alan-kun, am I right?”

She was assuming an Onee tone for the first half but quickly changed back to a male style while confirming the person at the door.

“Hello. I am here to pick Ryou up.”

Alan responded braggingly.

Darn, A-alan’s stalking level is dangerously high.

Had I been followed? Was he waiting outside the whole time?

Involuntarily, I thought about Mary-san who was most renowned in the stalking realm for a fleeting moment.

Rather than bothering about making friends and all, I need take care of this guy as soon as possible. I have a feeling that it would get too dangerous later.

No, wait, it has already gotten that dangerous!

Chapter 6: Freshman Arc ⑥ -duel And Reconciliation-

The next morning, after waking up and opening up the window, a comforting breeze blew in.

A breeze that blew away all encounters with yesterday's dangerous stalker.

Great, a good weather. Let's settle it today. The duel!

I kept all sorts of secret weapons inside my uniform skirt and crammed my leather shoulder bag full with other tools too.

While it's morning, let's settle the duel today! I shouted with a lively spirit. The fifth period ended, and we met up at a rear garden found in the inner parts of the campus.

There were a total of three of us, the duelists Alan and I, and the judge, Cain-sama. From here on, a divine duel shall begin.

“And so, this time too, the person to have his butt fall to the ground or fall to his knees would lose, is that agreeable? Also, is it accurate for me to say that any tools and equipment can be used, yes?”

I said to reaffirm the settings for the duel and explain the rules too.

Alan nodded in assent.

“If Alan has any required items, please get them ready as well.”

Alan looked on at my bag that was blatantly packed full with things, and made a slight frown while nodding. From the pocket of his robe, he took out a fist-sized crystal.

“Kimigatame harunononidete wakanatsumu wagakoromoteni yukihafurutsutsu”

As he sung his chants, the crystal that he was holding onto transformed into a shield.

Hoho, a shield huh? He must have had put some thought into it. Really, he must be really considerate if he were to not bring out any sword-like weapons or the like here. Well, I'm not going easy on him though, and did another check on the contents inside my bag.

For now, I shall change the position of some of the tools.

Alright, now it is perfect.

“And now, it looks like my preparations are also completed, can we begin?”

I said, after securing an upwind position in the garden.

Alan seemed to be conscious of his reason for defeat when he was five. He stole looks at me here and there and took up position relatively far from me. A gap of roughly 10 metres opened between us.

After confirming that we are both fully prepared, Cain-sama said, “Start!” while signaling with the wave of his hand.

As soon as the signal was given, I grabbed the pepper bombs from my bag and flung them towards Alan.

The secret weapon I had wanted to use during the battle against Ryuki-san. A cylinder made from baked soil and packed with fine pepper powder.

Bearing in mind that a distance of 10 metres was child's play in the face of my throwing skills, I aimed and threw them at Alan without rest. Just in case I did not manage to hit his head, I continued to throw them with all I had.

Nevertheless, Alan seemed to have foresaw that I would throw something at him and used the shield he had prepared beforehand to block whatever I threw at him. The pepper bombs merely struck his shield and did not hit Alan directly. Shattered pieces of clay scattered everywhere in front of him.

Next, a cloud of sand-like powder danced in the air. Alan grinned, appearing to have lowered his guard as he thought he had defended against everything. Just as he was about to chant again, I instantly thought, ah, it is over and relaxed my hand that was in my bag.

Alan who had an elated expression a second ago shut his eyes and yelled, "My eyes, my eyes—! Gu, kuh, kuh" while cowering over.

Waiting after the pepper powder cloud dispersed, I went to where Alan was and pushed him down while he was squatting. A success in getting him to fall on his butt.

Alan's face reddened and looked to be in pain so I gave him water and eye medication to gargle in his throat and wash his eye.

Behind me was Cain-sama who was worried for Alan who was in distress suddenly.

"A-Alan, what in the world.....?"

"The pepper powder that I had thrown when inhaled deeply, would cause

throat pain. Also, it had gotten into his eyes I believe. It was because this place is in a downwind position.”

I had considered the possibility where Alan dodges the pepper bombs and moves away but as soon as they struck his shield and fell, I did not have to pull any other tricks since my very first move had him checkmated. Having this match decided so quickly made all my preparations unnecessary.

There were several other mini-traps laid, such as a pit where being stepped upon would cause a snake to jump out or a caltrop hidden among the weeds, not to mention the various other things in my bag that I have kept up my sleeve.

Still, ending it this early was a fairly good outcome.

After washing up his eye with the eye medication that I had concocted for treating the effects of the pepper bomb, Alan could somewhat open his eye. It was painful to watch his tears fall from his reddened eyes.

Sorry, Alan. That was childish. Pepper bombs are dangerous huh. Please be good and copy what I did.

I patted Alan on his back and made him drink medicine to help with the inflammation.

“Alan-sama, are you alright? Can you speak?”

I spoke as such but was met with vacant eyes from Alan as he looked downwards.

“.....Again, I lost right?”

He spoke in a hoarse voice but hearing him say something was reassuring.

“Trying to beat your boss hm? You are still 10 years early.”

“Is that so.....Ryou is really awesome,” said Alan as he hanged his head in despondency.

Ah, Alan is feeling more dejected than I had expected! Wasn't this not a better outcome than allowing an unfettered boy's pride be on display like how a cricket chirps!?

Yet, I had to prevent his stalking activities, or more like it, I could no longer ignore his actions!

“I am glad that Alan-sama has always been concerned with me, but please, have a little more faith in me. I am, after all, Alan-sama's boss. You don't have to stal—, ahem, protect me every day!”

“.....but I am uneasy about it. Still, I.....know I cannot always keep watch beside Ryou.”

“You don't have to be uneasy about it either. Especially so since this is the capital and the security here is superb. It's not like I am going to be kidnapped or the like. Also, I can look after myself.”

I replied and glared intensely at Alan who had been listlessly hanging his head down.

“I got it! That, if it is Ryou, no matter what happens, you would be fine, that you would be able to solve your problems alone. I got it in my head already! Just like how you managed to live on well after being kidnapped by the bandits, even being adopted by an Earl too!”

At this point, Alan held his tongue back. Somehow, he seemed like it was difficult for him to continue and he started mumbling. Later, he again opened his mouth while facing downwards. He lost the vigour he had a moment ago, and was dispirited yet again.

“When I heard that you had been kidnapped by the bandits, I thought I was the only one who could save you. I was sure Ryou was waiting for my rescue and practiced tirelessly for that, and that was when we got news that Ryou was safe. Still, I never once believed that Ryou was okay until I saw Ryou in person. I was convinced that you would be in despair, all worn out, waiting for my rescue.....In the end, the actual Ryou became prettier, and was not actually waiting for my help at all. I did not know what to do after that.”

Once again, he held back his tongue abruptly, stopping to look at me. Earlier, his eyes became moist in order to expel the pepper but it has gotten even wetter now.

Ah, it must be my fault. I made someone worried for me because all I focused on was how to stop my suffering and was selfishly thinking only about myself.

I wanted to apologise and was about to open my mouth but Alan stopped my lips with his hand.

“Wrong. I am the worst. Ryou being in good health should have been of the greatest priority and yet, I became spiteful when I saw Ryou in the pink of health. That was when I became aware.You can be angry at me, Ryou. I was always, hoping and expecting for a depressed and worn-out Ryou. And, that was the Ryou which I wanted to save in a cool way.....I’m the worst huh? In the end, all I think about is myself.”

He said as he brought the hand that was on my lips down. Finally, large beads of tears fell from his eyes.

“T-That is not true! Weren’t you angry at me when we reunited?! Wasn’t that because you were genuinely concerned for me! In fact, I should be the worst since I made you worried! Anyways, having some of these corrupt thoughts should be okay shouldn’t it?!”

I wanted to lift the spirits of Alan whose spirits seem to have fallen to the depths of hell and called out to him but Alan did not meet my eyes.

“Now that I think about it, I had been the same when I watched over Ryou in school. Maybe I had wanted to prove that my hopeless self was non-existent by showing more concern to Ryou. Nope, I am sure that is the case. All of this, was for my own sake.”

“Stop thinking so deeply into it! Hearing everything from you, I still do not think at all that Alan is the worst! In the first place, what is that you are saying?!

That you reflected and understood on your own that, in the end, you were overly self-centric; isn’t that great! Also, what’s wrong with being narcissistic?! Well, I cannot really say I can commend you on your stalking activities but, isn’t it natural for everyone to hold such guilty feelings.....”

As my words quickly lost their strength, Alan revealed a vague smile. Still, that wasn’t a smile of a person who forgave himself.

Please, I beg of you, please forgive yourself. If you don’t, I, I would.....!

And next, I had a sudden realisation.

Throughout, I have not mentioned a word for Alan.

I have come this far, with my cuteness, I did not convey anything at all to him. I veiled my vulgar emotions of embarrassment and shame, and all I did was demonstrate my strength and flashiness.

Who was I trying to pretend to be?

“Having corrupt thoughts should be okay,” “what is that you are saying?!” “isn’t it natural for everyone to hold such guilty feelings.”

The things that I said to Alan were all the words which I had wanted to direct to myself.

“Moreover!”

I raised my voice in an attempt to win over my powerlessness.

Alan was really incredible. Gazing at me even those eyes were the ones which wanted to look away, and then being able to express everything he wanted to say.

Whereas for me, all I did was ready myself and blabber about all those nonsense.

“I was the one at wrong. I was the one that was being self-centred. Alan-sama, and the feelings of the rest, I did not contemplate them at all. I had placed my emotions at the forefront.....that I would hurt someone, I never considered them at all.....! In addition, I buried my egoistic self, and acted all innocently, imagining naively that we can get along well like that.....! I was the one who cared about no one but myself! If Alan-sama is saying that he is the worst, I should be the one that is the worst!”

I confessed all in one breath, and tried to maintain eye contact with Alan but my vision grew blurry and my eyes could not focus.

All of a sudden, someone from behind ran straight and collided with my back.

Timidly, I moved over and noticed that that was Cain-sama.

Ah, I had carelessly forgotten about his existence.

Cain-sama face turned red, tears bursting forth from his eyes while he embraced both Alan and I.

Oh right, these two are brothers. The way their faces are tinged with red were very similar. My mind drifted to the trivialities.

“Alan, Ryou! I.....no, when I was not around, both of you have grown so honestly! Thank you, thank you!”

Out of nowhere, Cain-sama broke into tears as he expressed his magnificent gratitude. He proceeded to face both of us and hug us.

“Alan and Ryou, it is alright! Just as I have previously said, the thing known as human progress into adulthood through mutually hurting one another. Each and every time we hurt ourselves and hurt others, if we stood still and stopped advancing, we would not be able to grow at all. The two of you are good kids. I can guarantee that! Now, wipe off your tears on my chest, and reconcile with one another!”

Cain-sama voiced out as tears streamed down from his cheeks.

B-Before that, Cain-sama offered us himself for us to dry our tears. With our tears and, additionally, our mucus all over him, won't that lay waste to the ikemen!?

Was Cain-sama always like that? I was probably too tensed earlier but being confused by my first time seeing Cain-sama being emotional, I had become more relaxed and could not help but find the sweet Cain-sama, face filled with tears and mucus, amusing.

I feel bad for Cain-sama but, I seemed to have accidentally let out a, "Bufuu," giggle. However, breaking into laughter here would definitely be seen as being unable to read the mood so I stifled the laugh as much as I could.

At the same time, I tried to take a glimpse at Alan, who was being embraced by Cain-sama. Alan was looking up at Cain-sama with a flabbergasted look.

Our eyes met in the midst of it.

Something is telling me inside my chest, that Alan is equally as refreshed and clear-headed like how I am right now.

By verbalising my confession, I might have been trying to seek out forgiveness. Releasing the cap over my sinful self and inferior self, I was able to apologise and cleanse myself by doing so. At the very end, even that might have been an act of selfishness to reinvigorate myself. Still, I am glad I was able to say it.

"Ryou, even you had regrets and cried as I did.....it looks like I am not the only kid here."

Though Cain-sama was bawling his eyes out, I was still able to clearly hear Alan's voice due to the small distance between us.

That was obvious. Even I am a human. Because I remember my previous life, I imagined that I was somewhat of an adult already but perhaps, I died in my previous life not knowing anything at all. I had never felt this feeling before in my previous life.

Alan and I both narrowed our eyes and laughed. By narrowing our eyes, more tears fell from our eyes but right next to us was the chest that had been loaned to us for wiping. No worries there.

And that was how we were able to reconcile with one another.

Chapter 7: Freshman Arc ⑦ –A Lesson Where Only Praises are Sung for Mages

A splendid morning. Did it represent a morning of aspirations? Yesterday's misgivings with Alan melted away as I stepped out of the dormitory all buoyant and cheerfully.

The same as always, Alan had planted himself near the dormitory. Shouldn't the stalking have stop!?

"A-Alan-sama, how do you do? I was sure I told you that I did not need an escort....."

"Surely waiting for you here is okay. You didn't tell me to not do this anyways."

He said, and walked to my side nonchalantly.

After reconciling our differences and tidying up things yesterday, I was sure we made clear that I was the boss and he was the henchman. My things were my things whereas his stuff were also mine too. Whatever I said was absolute. These were the teachings I had conveyed.

Hmm, maybe as my underling, welcoming the boss was a natural course of action?

"It's not like I will always be leaving at the same time, so it is best not to wait for me in front of the girls' dorm. The other elder sisters will be casting weird looks at you too."

"Mm, I got it."

That was immediate response from him but did he really get it!?

"Speaking of which, Ryou, are you still using the dagger I gave you back then?"

Ahh, Alan's dagger is it? It was an essential component for the flourishing of the wild boar fats extraction business!

“Wait up. It should be in my room.”

There were sword lessons in the Knights’ course anyways so it wasn’t like it was a offence to bring a sword into the dorm. Among the seniors who were in the Knights’, some of them carried swords around with them. As a basic rule, carrying swords is forbidden but if permission has been obtained, it was considered okay under the school rules.

Still, there were hardly any ladies who were fond of carrying swords around them in school. I too had left my dagger in my room. The exception was that I had concealed Kuwamaru-aniki’s dagger underneath my skirt, in case of any emergencies. I did not obtain permission for it but I had made sure to never let it be found out so it should alright.

That being said, having the god-killing sword found on me would be a very vexing affair for me so it was my personal secret that I carried it around in the school campus. I was afraid of leaving it out of sight and thus, preferred to have it right next to my skin while I was moving around.

“I have improved on my making skills. I will try to make something else this time.”

Alan made a smile as he suggested. I responded with, “Is that so?” and gave a vague smile.

A sword that would crumble under magic? Alan innocent smile surely did not contain any other intentions though.

But we learned that during Magic History lesson too.

When the world was attacked by evil monsters, the noble magicians created holy swords with their magic, and ordinary humans who were granted these swords acquired hero-like strength. With their newfound powers, they were able to mow down the evil monsters. It was mainly about the magicians trusting humans and leaving their backs to them while the people swore their allegiance to the magicians.

In the later stages of the tale, when they were subjugating the last boss, their holy swords apparently broke, and once again, the noble magicians bestowed them with power. It was interesting that it was like an exhilarating adventurer’s story as the heroes crushed the evil monsters with a “Holy Sword (renewed)!”

Gooooooooooooo!”-like tension enveloping them.

And from this adventurer’s tale, came the birth of mages creating swords and bestowing them to humans as a token of trust.

However, isn’t it strange? That those sword can be erased by magic yeah? Whenever the mages feel like it, they could remove the existence of the sword yeah? Receiving such a sword, how can this be called a story of trust?

The first period and fifth period class was Magic History everyday. It was a lesson about praising the mages from start to end, and since I hold memories from my past life, it felt completely about brainwashing us to me. To the other children, it was a lesson to hear about fun stories and was rather popular among them.

From the beginning, when I heard from Kuwamaru-aniki that these swords can be erased by magic, my reaction was that mages were crazy scary and I don’t want to get involved with them.

In any case, I want to learn. About the real history of this world, what path this world has trodden on, how the people who live in this world feel about it, and where this world is headed for.

“Ryou? What are you in a daze for? We have already reached the auditorium. Shall we sit over there for today?”

What! I wasn’t in a daze! Right now, I am thinking of something really complex and important, and in a stylish way to boot!

Tch, I clicked my tongue being unable to put up with it and as I turned away to ignore Alan, Miss Charlotte appeared in corner of my eye. A spirit-user of commoner origins. Was she reviewing vocabulary? She seem to be sinking her teeth at the desk with all her might. Alone too!

“Alan-sama, I am planning to sit somewhere else, so following me here is good enough. Well then, farewell.”

Turning away from Alan who seemed to be in a fit and ignoring him, I went towards where Miss Charlotte was. I walked near to her seat and she lifted her face at me with surprise.

“How do you do, Miss Charlotte. May I have this seat beside you?”

“Ah, y-yes! Y-You may! Do so!”

Miss Charlotte gladly gave her consent while stuttering.

I was n-nervous. I could feel my heart beating everywhere as I sat down while maintaining my elegance.

Alan chased me from behind and asked someone else in a complaining manner, “Is this seat taken?” Hence, Alan shrewdly secured the seat behind me.

Hey, I thought I banned stalking activities? Wasn’t the words of the boss absolute? Once this lesson is over, I would definitely need to roast him thoroughly.

Accidentally, my eyes flitted over to Miss Charlotte’s direction and as I have seen earlier, she was indeed intensely reading from the textbook and learning words from it. A studious worker ehh.

“Miss Charlotte, feel free to ask me anything if you have any doubts about anything.”

I presented a smile trying to convey my kind intentions as far as possible. Miss Charlotte replied with an equally brilliant smile back at me.

Aww, so cute!

“Yes! Thank you very much! Umm, there is something I wish to quickly clarify.....”

Miss Charlotte started to ask the questions that she wasn’t able to ask when she was studying alone.

I was considering what else can be done if we reached the limits of our conversation, since it was basically all about study but in the end, after we paused from our conversation, there was no sense of awkwardness at all.

The morning lessons were over, and it was finally the noon break that everyone was on everyone’s mind. We talked quite a bit before noon break so that technically means that Miss Charlotte and I are friends now right!? — as I was in great excitement, I couldn’t stop my rough breathing as I spoke to Miss Charlotte.

“Miss Charlotte, it is the afternoon break time. If it is okay with you, want to go together?”

I asked in an extraordinary smile but Miss Charlotte, wore an extremely despondent expression.

“Sorry, Ryou-sama. I have other plans for noon time.....Katrina-sama is calling for me.”

W-What you say! You have an appointment made before me! What is that, does that mean all the fun we had till now, was all for naught!? Were you playing with me? Kii! Somehow or another, I suppressed the rumbles inside me.

“I see, that is unfortunate. Let’s have a meal together next time then.”

It’s not like I — really wanted so —, I am actually perfectly fine —I tried to give such an impression by reacting as such. And so, I went for lunch with Mr Alan who was behind me.

Uugh, still, no way I’ll lose.

Chapter 8: Freshman Arc ⑧ –Fury of Alan–

Thank you Tracey for the donation! I should be working on Ouroboros Record's chapter next :)

Loading.....Tensei Shoujo no Rirekisho was written by Karasawa Kazuki and this chapter was translated by yAmi on www.yamitranslations.com

It became such that I had lunch at the cafeteria with Alan as well as Ritz-kun. For now, I tried knocking the words into Alan, telling him to stop stalking me but he didn't seem to understand and lightly replied, "Unn, alright alright!" I still worry.

"Hey, Ryou, you don't have to use '-sama' when addressing me. Call me as you like."

Alan started speaking proudly again even after taking a tongue-lashing from his boss.

Hm, who is this henchman, change please!
Which reminds me, I still have the habit of including "-sama" from the days of being a maid. Furthermore, this was essentially an aristocratic school so most of the girls and boys here do not pay any attention when being addressed with '-sama'.

However, fellow children who were on good terms with one another often dropped that way of calling, and preferred to address one another by nicknames instead. He must be longing for that I suppose.

"Ah—I see. I understand. If anything is fine then 'brat' should be okay right."

"No way! Why do you have to use such a nasty name!"
Alan vetoed it with full force.

Eh? I can't? Really?
"Then, how about henchman?"

"No!"

Such a demanding henchman.

“Haa, that leaves me with no choice, then will ‘Alan kiddo’ do?”

“You obviously won’t need that ‘kiddo’! Just don’t drop the honourifics when referring to me! You got that!”

What’s with that. If you wanted me to do that, you should said so from the very start! And you did tell me to call you whatever I wanted too—.

“Okay, okay. ‘Alan’, is that fine?”

“W-Why do you sound so reluctant.....”

Alan complaining actually looks quite amusing. Just as I prepared my reply to Alan, Ritz-kun spoke up.

“Somehow, it feels like both of you have changed? Something happened yesterday?”

The innocent and naive Ritz-kun was unusually sharp today! Yes, yesterday there was a big reconciliation event!

“Ahh, yesterday.....”

Alan murmured softly and sent a meaningful look in my direction.

“Yesterday, Ryou and I ascended up the stairs of adulthood.”

“Ack! Ack!”

I choked on my potato soup.

What kind of metaphor are you using! Are you doing that on purpose!? Just look at Ritz-kun! His face has gone all red!

“Please do not use such a weird way of describing things! We simply had a fight and we made up after that!”

“W-What—, was that it? I misunderstood because of Alan’s abstract explanation.”

Having managed to clear the misunderstanding for the young innocent boy, I heaved a sigh of relief.

Playing with a young boy with a pure heart like that isn’t good, Alan!

However, the Alan in question did not seem to understand as he tilted his head.

“Weird misunderstanding? What misunderstanding?”

Eh?

Do I have to spell it out? Or are you really do this on purpose? Are you the type to gain satisfaction in making cute children say disgusting stuff?

“I-I also do not understand. I just heard some things from my elder brother.....”

The young innocent boy’s face went all red again as he blurted out in a panic. No, let’s stop here. Please stop going further into this topic! Ritz-kun, stay!

Alan understood less and less of what Ritz-kun was talking about, but appeared to be more and more interested. From the way Alan was acting, I guess he wasn’t trying to sexually harass me intentionally; he really has no idea.

“Speaking of which, I heard from okaa-sama that there was this education for males in order to become adults! Is that it?!”

Oi oi, what is wrong with you today! So you are able to read the atmosphere today huh!

If we continue expanding on this topic, I am afraid this would be forever be marked in black for Alan one day!

“I think it was called sexual education. In the past, Ryou was designated to help me with that education but Ryou disappeared and okaa-sama became troubled! Was yesterday’s turn of events considered sexual education?”

Amirite? Alan flashed his all-proud grin as he looked at me.

I see, so you really want to make this black history happen. I got it.

“Wrong. Sexual education is a completely different thing. Later, it isn’t such a good thing to continue discussion about this. You will feel embarrassed about it one day.”

Look, Ritz-kun already looks like a boiled octopus!

“Embarrassment? Why? But, it was true that yesterday’s events, if it wasn’t Ryou and I, we wouldn’t have been able to overcome it. When Ryou disappeared and Claude-ojisama went in search for you, he went to buy another woman from a Human Employment Agency and okaa-sama said that the job would be left to her, is that it?”

Ohh, more realities about Claude-san that I do not want to hear about! In this country, the so called Human Employment Agency was a place where humans were traded for cash. In short, a slave firm. Hearing about this slave trading business did irk me but the ethics in this world and my previous world weren't the same.

People in this world do not get upset on matters like this. This kind of business was completely natural in big cities like the royal capital. It wasn't the kind of illegal store where the owners can be incriminated for it — it was an entirely legal business.

I see, did they come to the capital thinking that I might have been sold to such a place by the bandit head honcho?

Despite having been cared for by Claude-san and causing him to worry for me, upon hearing that he bought a woman, I frankly hope that he forgives me for not saying sorry.

I know for a fact that he visited such places to find me but despite knowing so, I hope he doesn't get angry at the narrow-minded me.

“B-By the way, how old is the woman that Claude-san bought?” This was important. It would shed light on his pedophilia.

“If I remember correctly, they were 14, 17 and 23 years old. I hear they are helping Claude-ojisan with work.”

What? There were more than one of them! And here I thought there was only one! *(TN: note that in Japanese plurality has to be inferred by the listener unless they are mentioned like now.)*

Mr Claude, while he didn't buy children, he still chose young women. I will definitely not be needed in such an unbelievable harem.

Hmm, but since there weren't any children with him, should I feel happy that he was healthyWait, there was this 14 year old so doesn't that make him hopeless? She would still be considered a minor by this world's standards.

“Is that so.....? Well, when the time comes, someone from that bunch will be responsible for your education, so let's put an end to this discussion.”

I said so to put an end to this topic.

I see, Alan brat's, brat graduation is being prepared huh.....So what about

Cain-sama? Almost complete?

Ah, nono, I cannot think deeply into this. If I think like this for even a moment, I will be left behind! I even said I wanted to put an end to this discussion, I need to forget!

Which reminds me, I remember reading from a book in the previous world, that gorillas raised in isolations in places like zoos were unable to copulate. That wild gorillas observe other adult gorillas copulating and learn that, ohh—so that's how you leave behind descendents! That's before they become able to copulate themselves.

It seems that animals that developed some sense of reasoning no longer have a natural instinct for making children.

I pray that this day would not be registered as one of his darkest past when he finally learns about that in the future!

“No, I want to know more! What kind of education is that? Does Ryou know?”
What? You are still clinging onto that! Didn't I end the discussion on a high note!?

Alan brat was currently all excited, waiting for my explanation. S-Should I say it!?

“.....It is one of the rituals to become a man.”
“Eh? Aren't I already a man? Is there a way to become a woman?”
I tried to use an indirect way to explain it but Alan really startled me with him considering the possibility of becoming a woman. I feel like hitting him.

“Was it so that a man can become more manly? Hmm? I don't really get it, if it was an education to become a man, then shouldn't it be left to the hands of a man among mans rather than Ryou?”

A man among mans..... No, well, if Alan thinks that is better than I won't stop him from thinking so!

“I don't really understand it myself too but, it seems like the kind of education that is often left to females to teach men. It is simply, from the perspective of a man, in some way, an awakening in a whole new world! And with that, the

discussion is over! Say another word of this and I'll hit you!"

Seeing as I have taken offence with it, Alan brat frowned slightly but soon became satisfied and nodded.

"In other words, Ryou doesn't know either right? If that was so, you should have said so earlier."

He said while laughing.

T-This guy! Well, he was right that I didn't know about the intricacies though —!

Glaring spitefully at Alan's triumphant look, I let his spirits get into his head while snatching at his baked sweets which were his favourites. Munch, munch. Alan froze in despair as he watched me bite away at his sweets. From the side, Ritz-kun commented that it was Alan's fault earlier.

Chapter 9: Freshman Arc ⑨ –Hiyoko-chan–

Translating a 2k words chapter actually feels easy now. Perspective changed after going one level up. Loading.....Tensei Shoujo no Rirekisho was written by Karasawa Kazuki and this chapter was translated by yAmi on www.yamitranslations.com

Afternoon break-time was ending soon so before lessons started again, I headed for the girls' toilet. It seems like Alan has finally changed his stalker ways and did not follow me this time.

Whew. The boss is relieved, from the bottom of her heart!

It has been a long time since I could use the toilet while feeling this relieved. After using the toilet, I heard a girl's voice from outside. Furthermore, it felt a voice of inescapable destiny.

Opening the door that connected to the outside, I saw that a group of girls gathering.

In the center of the group was Miss Charlotte and Miss Katrina.

“Hey, when was Charlotte-san allowed to follow us to class? I feel so ashamed and embarrassed that someone like you came from the same Gwynessus territory.....”

Miss Katrina said that to her, while covering her forehead with her left hand, and looked as if she would faint in disgrace right away.

“Ahhh, how troubling it must be for you, Katrina-sama!”

The followers of Miss Katrina chimed in, in a high pitched voice, while glaring at Miss Charlotte.

Eh.....what was going on? Was this some kind of a mini theater?
S-Should I stop them?

“Charlotte-sama, Katrina-sama, how have you two been? There is an unsettling atmosphere though.”

I smiled as I called out to the group of girls. Instantly, they faced my way with a “Thump!” sensation.

Ah, scary. More scary than I imagined.

“You are.....Ruby Fallen’s.....”

The young ladies, who were her followers, reaffirmed what they knew about me and lowered their voices as though they were intimidated. They were perplexed at my intervention.

What is that reaction! For some reason they were frightened by someone but I am the one who was being frightened!

“You are Ruby Fallen’s Ryou-sama right? We were having an important discussion with Charlotte-san just a moment ago. It has nothing to do with you.”

Miss Katrina replied with an unseemingly smile as she tried to tame the fears of her followers.

“This important discussion you are having, is it related to our lessons? If she is having difficulties keeping up, I can offer my help to Charlotte-sama. I chatted with her in the morning, and with her enthusiasm, I am sure that if you give her some time, she would not be disappointing and embarrassing you, Katrina-sama.”

I offered my brilliant suggestion but Miss Katrina face became grim as she frowned.

“.....You, what is your objective?”

Eh! I don’t have any ulterior motive! I am not planning to use this teaching as an excuse to make a friend, ya know!?

“I don’t really have something outrageous like an objective.....It looked like both Miss Katrina and Miss Charlotte were having some difficulties so I thought I might be able to help resolve the misunderstandings.”

I grinned as I replied, but Miss Katrina folded her arms and gave a scrutinising glare at me from head to toe.

“.....I see. As the rumours claim of your genius, I am sure that you will do well as expected. I am looking forward to it.”

Miss Katrina said, nimbly turned her skirt around and walked off with her

followers. Her followers gave a stare that seemed to say, “Hoh, we will let you go today but there will not be a next time”.

Huh, is this school really a school for aristocrats?

It isn't a school for the yakuza right?

As I panicked in my mind, Miss Katrina stopped midway and looked over her shoulder.

“However, it would be good for you to think carefully about the mages that show kindness to you. Even if it was said that you are some daughter of an Earl's family, we all know that you are some fake horse-bone of an aristocrat. With such a suspicious status and getting involved with some dirty darkness spirit user, I hope you don't regret it.”

She left those words of caution before shuffling along with the rest of her followers.

It looked just like a group of soldiers marching.

“Miss Katrina is a very harsh person so whenever she sees a hopeless child like me, she would get very irritated. Furthermore, I am still a long way from being a proper mage.....”

Miss Charlotte said with a feminine smile.

It was the lunch break now and currently, I was having lunch with Miss Charlotte and talking about what happened yesterday with Miss Katrina. Sitting next to me were Alan and Ritz-kun as they looked on with great interest.

“Eh? Ryou, you picked a fight with Miss Katrina yesterday!? Wasn't she from the Gwynassus territory.....? She is quite a formidable foe but you naturally won right? Her side are all girls so I wouldn't be able to bring out more my strengths but.....if it is just a diversion you need.....!”

Alan was in high-spirits as he discussed his plans to deal with disputes. As usual, Alan was fond of tackling conflicts. Certainly, when I was a maid, he would start to work on disputes whenever there was an opportunity to do so. Still, I am not in the mood!

At times like this, the most I could do was to ignore him, and continue to look

straight at Miss Charlotte instead of him.

“I see.....indeed, Miss Katrina is a person with a strong will. Well, still, it will be alright. For now, I think I would accompany you until things become better. I am sure Charlotte-sama would be good in no time with your studiousness.”

I smiled pleasantly to her and she returned it back with a smile. Her white cheeks blushed! Aww, so cute!

“I thought that Ryou-sama would be a difficult person to approach. There was this boy from an Earl’s Family following you all the time and you are so good at your studies too. You seem full of mysteries and totally give off a different vibe from the compared.”

Something tugged at my heart when she mentioned about a boy following me. It was not like I wanted him to be around me all the time, he did all by himself as a stalker.

Full of mysteries? Who, me?

If I remember correctly, yesterday, Miss Katrina said,
“We all know that you are some fake horse-bone of an aristocrat.”
Something along those lines so it is quite well known that I was adopted huh. It was likely that the “horse-bone” portion contributed to the mysterious factor.

“Hey, Ryou! Were you listening to me!”
Alan who had been ignored this whole time wildly butted into the conversation.

I know that you said some crap about a conflict but there is no way we are taking part in a factional war!

However, because he was ignored for a set amount of time, he transformed from cheeky Alan to an indignant Alan. Ritz-kun, who was beside him, looked very calm but the support at his level wouldn’t be enough to handle Alan. I have to forcefully say a few words as the boss.

“Alan, be quiet. We are not going to be part of a confrontation.”
“Why, this is important isn’t it! Are you chicken? So what are we going to about bringing the big arm coffin.....(TN: actual text, だから太腕のコフィンを連れてくるのはどうかって.....; I also don’t know what it means) ”

“Alan? What did I say about the words from your boss?”

“Wha! I am thinking for Ryou!”

“What about the words from your boss?”

“.....They are absolute.”

If you can at least understand that, it would be enough.

I took a glance at Alan who has calmed down and nodded with satisfaction. That was when I noticed someone I knew very well near the dining table.

“Ahaha! Ryou, as expected of you. I heard Alan’s voice and though I might have to come and take a look but it seems like there was no need for that.”

It was the followist Cain-sama! He came to stop Alan from going berserk? Too amazing. I wonder if he has some kind of a sensor or something.

After Cain-sama finished making his greetings to us with sparkling eyes, the person next to him began talking.

“Cain, this is the little brother you always boast about? Or more like my nephew huh?”

“Yes. My younger brother, Alan, is indeed Henry’s nephew.”

The person who came along with Cain-sama was the shimmering young noble, Prince Henry.

Speaking of which, Alan and Cain-sama’s father was part royalty. He was the same as Prince Henry and was a child of the previous king. Which means, Henry-sama would be their uncle isn’t it?

His faint blondish hair rested all the way to his back. His amethyst eyes and the rest of his features gave him a gentle look. His gentle nature bore similarities to Cain-sama.

Such handsomeness. He was too radiant to look closely on. Honestly speaking, anyone not above 17 years old would be out of my radar but I might change my mind with this level of beauty.

“Ni-Nice to meet you. My name is Alan Rainforest.”

Even Alan looked like he was dazzled in the presence of a royalty as he stiffly presented himself.

“Nice to meet you. I am Henry Castor Gasfomtal. Do call me Henry. Your elder brother always attaches the –sama when addressing me but I don’t really mind

either way. Just don't call me, 'Uncle-sama'."

He displayed his pearly white teeth when he finished.

Yikes! What a kind looking smile! He might have been the criminal who bore the sin of standing out more than I did during the entrance ceremony but I wonder if I should acquit him of the crime because of his beyond expectations handsomeness.

As I was thinking, our eyes met.

"Oh? I remember seeing you from somewhere.Were you the representative for the normal students during the entrance ceremony?"

Er-what-he remembers me? What should I do?

"Yes. To think that you actually remember me, I am honoured. My name is Ryou Rubyfallen."

I stood up and held the hem of my skirt as I greeted him.

Alan, learn from your boss and do it properly. This is how the upper classes do it!

After bowing, I lifted my face up and Henry got closer to me than I thought. Henry-sama bent his back to meet my gaze.

Kya! Too close. Henry-sama, everyone is looking! Yikes!

And then, he grabbed and scooped up a bunch of my blond hair.

"Such pretty blond hair. They are soft and cute like a small bird. I'll be in your care, Hiyoko-chan."

.....

Ah, huh.

Hiyoko-chan.....? Didn't I introduce myself earlier so why can't he just call me by name?

I got all excited earlier but now I feel that his type doesn't match.....giving me the goosebumps too. I didn't anticipate being called Hiyoko-chan and having these goosebumps in reaction.....

I broke into a completely faultless smile. And then, Cain-sama and Henry-sama left.

“Wow, Henry-sama was so gorgeous. Also, Alan-sama’s elder brother was also quite attractive.”

Miss Charlotte passionately sent gazes in step with their backs.

Yeah, that’s right! They were just eye-candies!

That’s right, that’s right!

I realigned my thoughts and just when I was about to continue with my meal happily, Alan suddenly appeared beside me. Your ability to creep up on others unknowingly is amazing huh!

Alan abruptly grabbed my hair. That was the same portion of hair that Prince Henry held. And then he rubbed on the hair, up and down, a few times.

Stop it! It’s hurting my cuticles!

“Hey! Alan! What are you doing!”

I took a step back, and was rescued from the demonic hands of Alan.

“.....Nothing really. There was some dirt on it so all I did was remove them!”

Alan explained sullenly and returned to his seat.

Eh, that can’t be true, dirt? I felt the strands of hair and couldn’t really find anything that fitted that description. Did Alan remove all of them earlier?

.....Even if that was true, there was no need rub them.

In order to nurse my cuticles, I combed them gently with my hands.

Chapter 10: Freshman Arc ⑩ –Studying Magic–

Poll here to decide if I should drop honourifics! Loading.....Tensei Shoujo no Rirekisho was written by Karasawa Kazuki and this chapter was translated by yAmi on www.yamitranslations.com

Trips to the library after classes increased as I had to tutor Miss Charlotte.

The library was located 50 metres above the campus. Thus, walking up the staircase was difficult, but actually, there was an easy way to climb up with magic.

There was a pumice stone, with a radius of 2 metres readied near the library. If you supply it with magic, it would be able to ascend, like how an elevator would. I believe it descends instead, when a certain incantation is chanted.

Incredible fun.

Alan, a magician, specialised in earth magic.

Oh henchman, thank you for your great sacrifices.

In any case, today was also a day at the library with Charlotte, Alan and Ritz.

It was a 7 storey cylindrical building, and the first floor was the reception, while the third floor's bookshelves were crammed full with books to do with general education, such as history and geography. The fourth floor of the library was a cafe. This allows readers to select books they want from the first floor to the third floor and then, elegantly read while having tea. Chatting was allowed on this floor.

I carried many books related to history which I had a personal interest to and took a seat at the usual table for four. That was when when Charlotte started apologising.

“S-sorry, I was a little late.”

Usually, we would meet up before the elevator and use it together to get to the library, but today, Charlotte was late.

“It’s alright. In the time that we were waiting, I learnt more about magic from Alan, so time was spent meaningful. Anyways, you must be very busy too. In fact, since our meetings are always matched to my schedule, I am the one that should be apologetic.”

We met up on days when I had free time.

“Today, I’ll be having dinner together with Mother Kou, and I’ll be having a nice chat with her!” On days when something like this is planned, we will not have a study session. We end up surprisingly late after our study sessions, hence, I won’t be able to have a meal at Mother Kou’s place.

“No! No way! Not troubling at all! Really, you are always of help. Recently, when I get called out to answer questions in lessons, I have no difficulties answering now. I don’t stutter and chew on my words when reading so I am extremely grateful!”

She exclaimed with a cute smile! That smile — priceless!

“Then, that’s good. I, too, am thankful for your knowledge in magic. I didn’t expect that a non-mage student would be unable to read books related to magic, so.....this arrangement benefits me too.”

Yep, my long desired trips to the library have been extremely disappointing. The knowledge I sought for couldn’t be found in the library. Still, it was so-oooo big! And it was the only library in the country!

The books that I have access to, based on what course I took, contained mostly identical information, so I wasn’t able to learn what I wanted to know.

“But, why would Ryou want to learn magic? Even though, you cannot use magic?”

Alan, the only member among us who was a mage, asked in total disbelief.

I really wanted to say, “Listen up, kid, just teach me the damn thing!” But inside the library, our positions are switched since he is my magic teacher and I was the quiet student.

My inability to use magic was the very reason I want to know!

Instead, I replied affectionately with, “Ohoho”..

It is very advisable not to ruin the mood of the teacher. Not to mention that Alan was the only magician among us. There are plenty of things I have to consult him on.

In this world, mages are largely split between two different types: magicians and spirit users. Alan was a magician, whereas Charlotte and Ritz were spirit users.

Being a magician, Alan was the only one who could operate the plate elevator, hence, our meeting point was outside of the library. From what I have learnt from Alan, magicians were good at increasing or decreasing the number of things, changing their shapes, selecting and filtering a bunch of things and etcetera.....On the other hand, spirit users can be broadly said to be better at large-scale magic.

Both magicians and spirit users are able to use “magic that only magicians can use” and “magic that spirit users can use” but there would be a gap in their abilities, hence, mages readily admit that spirit users and magicians are two completely different classes.

From my viewpoint, however, both spirit users and magicians are just fantastic human beings.

“Now then, continuing on with Charlotte’s reading and writing practice. Please ask away if there are any words you do not understand. And, please do teach me more about magic, Alan and Ritz. I believe we were talking about elements and incantations, right?”

We are limited in time! Simply because of this factor, I pestered Teacher Alan and Ritz on magic. There aren’t any books I can learn from. I mean, at least for the books that I am authorised to read! I have no choice but to rely on auditory learning.

The concept of magic is very new to me since magic didn’t exist in my previous lifetime. Like an honour student, I listened attentively and dropped in interjections from time to time while listening to Alan and Ritz.

Today’s lecture was about elements and incantations. For example, water magic and fire magic can be used to control water and fire respectively. There are many other types of elements in magic. Mages with weaknesses in an

element would be completely unable to use magic of that element. Conversely, for elements that they are good in, mages would be able to memorise extremely difficult incantations for that particular magic.

That's right, they need to memorise their incantations.

For both magicians and spirit users, they are only able to use their magic only after memorising their incantations. Though, for magic that they are weak in, they won't be able to memorise the incantations, no matter how many times they study the incantation. Even if they read the incantation from the text, they are still unable to put it into words. They get a sudden sensation of forgetting how to read. Something akin to a *gestalt* breakdown. Stare into a word long enough and you'll go, "What? This is the word? Really?" It is a similar feeling from what I can gather.

It is the kind of nausea you get from being *cart*-sick. No matter how hard they try, mages eventually give up on the elements they are unable to read.

In addition, even if they try to learn by ear, they would not be able to hear it clearly, and would be unable to memorise it by ear.

In the past, when I fought with Mr Ryuki, a mage, I could discern his incantations, but for the average person, that should not have been possible. Indeed, during the battle, Mr Ryuki looked surprised.

People who are cannot use magic, myself included, ought to be unable to comprehend the incantation even if they see or hear it. The only reason that Mr Ryuki did not question how I managed to discern the incantation was because he was a fellow Tagosaku cult member and was told that I was a divine messenger from the heavens! Of course I would be understand the incantation! He must have wholly accepted some theory like this.

And now, why would I be able to understand the incantation for magic? It is most likely because I have already memorised them by heart. Since, all the incantations of this world are from traditional *tankas*! And they are from the Hundred Poems too!

I wonder why and how traditional Japanese poems made their way into this world. The largest mystery.

Somehow, the incantations for magic in this world were the traditional poems I learnt in my past. In order to score for my tests, I memorised the classics by rote and was approximately at a level where you can call it my major.

Not to mention that the incantations were exactly the same as how it is read in my previous world. Surely, it sounds nonsensical to the people in this world.

It's too difficult to come to an understanding of how all this happened even if I dwelled on it. I can put forth however many theories I want to, but in the end, whether I have a theory or not, it is nearly impossible to conclude if any of them are right.

Among all the theories I have formulated, the most convincing argument was that a person, like me, who retains knowledge of their previous world was reborn into this world and established the system of incantation.

Incantations were introduced after the mythical era, sometime after the Pandra Empire fell, so roughly 700 years back. During tal irpabvts lut, bgvtgptpbhgx wbw ghp atol ph kl vatgplw tgw itzlx mlul ptdzap ph bgohnl palbu itzbu yullsr. Xhng typlu, bgvtgptpbhgx mlul uljdbulw klyhul itzbu vtg kl dxlw, xh bp bx quite likely that around this period, a reincarnated person who belonged to the same birthplace as me existed.

This is all a conjecture though.

“By the way, when you recite the chant, do you understand the meaning behind the words? Do you feel as though the words feel like they are from ancient times.....?”

“Meaning? Absolutely not. Incantations are just a chain of sounds that hold no meaning. Incantations are just incantations. It's not some ancient language that people used in the past.”

As I had expected, Alan and other mages, have no idea what the Japanese poems mean. Perhaps then, this place is actually Japan of the future, and some people tried uttering the words of the old. However, this doesn't seem to be true.

Still, there have been unnatural events in this country's history. Before the founding of Castel, the magical empire, Pandra, existed. However, there are no

records of anything before that.

I thought I would be able to find information on the way of life before the magic empire was established by coming to this library, but I didn't find anything like that. The history as described by the books were all in the period after the magical empire of Pandra was founded. There was nothing written on how the country was made nor anything before that.

No, since it was called the mythical era, maybe the country wasn't stable though.....

"It's true that mages from the Pandra Empire period were able to use magic without incantations right? Somehow, after the Pandra empire fell into ruins, magic couldn't be used unless incantations were recited. At that point of time, the founding king of Castel brought along a book of incantations, yes?"

"Yes, rather than it being a book of incantation, it was known as 'Magical Index of Salvation'. I saw it before entering school and it was quite beautiful! Incantations were written in each of the pages in that thick book!"

Alan replied ecstatically.

It is called the "Magical Index of Salvation" because when the mage=gods era ended, the sudden appearance of this book saved the mages who could no longer use their magic. The Magical Index of Salvation is the original script that recorded all incantations.

Before entering the school, mages were not required to take a paper examination, but there was a mage aptitude test. After asking a few simple questions and confirming the person as a mage by displaying his or her magic, the student would be shown the Magical Index of Salvation. This is to elucidate which incantations the mage can or cannot read, thus identifying the mage's favoured element.

If by any chance, the author was reincarnated, then it might be possible that something was hidden in the book to create this effect! And the book is being kept strictly on the highest level of the library too.

I really wanna look at it!

Really, really wanted to look at it.....

Normal students, who cannot use magic, are restricted by a strange rule that disallows reading of magic-related books. That's why I can't read the books on incantations.

Bringing the book out is also disallowed, so having Alan borrow the book for me is a no go.

What in the world is this—. Why is it that as long as you are not a mage, you are not allowed to read them? I'm so sick of this!

Since I cannot use magic, isn't fine to just let me read?! I want to scream that in the middle of the campus.

I tried secretly reciting the incantations Alan chanted at night, however, I could not activate any magic. I somewhat recall *tpplifpbgz pal xtil pabgz malg B mtx t itbw. Zbolg patp B mtx ghp hgl ph zbol df ubzap tmtr, B pahdzap bp ibzap kl klvtdxl B mtx vatgpbgz bp xlvulpsr tgw bp mtxg'p vsltu lghdza, xh B ztol ir tss tgw xahdplw, kdp bp atw gh lyylvp. Aii, B vhgxbwlulw patp palul ibzap kl t vluptbg pubvn ph tvpbotpl itzbv, xh B vholulw pal slyp xbwl hy ir ytvI mbpa ir ubzap atgw tgw ulvbplw pae* incantations in a Middle School 2nd year Syndrome-ish way. That failed too.

According to Alan, when using magic, you would be able to control the magic particles drifting around in air while chanting. To a magician's eye, the magic particles wafting around in air would appear as sparkling lights or something.

For spirit users, they would be unable to observe magic particles but would be able to see the shapes of spirits. Spirit users can command spirits to do their bidding after chanting the incantations.

“So, what do spirits look like?”

Ritz was explaining the way spirit users apply their magic, but I became interested in the appearances of spirits. By the standards of my previous world, spirits would look something like half-naked little girls.

“There is diversity in the way spirits look. Some look like humans, others might look like birds, cows or even look like a plain square..... Actually, right now, there is a spirit on my head that looks a girl from its upper half of the body while appearing like a bird from its lower half of the body.”

Wha—! I scrutinised the top of Ritz's head from all angles but saw nothing.

“Unfortunately, I can't see it. Can Alan and Miss Charlotte see it?”

“Of course I can't see it. I'm a magician after all.” Said Alan as he stared unflinchingly on Ritz's head.

Miss Charlotte was practicing her spelling when I called out to her. She raised her head to take a look at Ritz's head and shook her head softly.

“I can't see it too. I have low affinity to the wind spirits that Ritz specialises in.”

“Eh! There are spirits that spirit users cannot see?”

“Yes, in my case, I can observe air spirits, which all other spirit users can, as well as spirits of the elements I have high affinity with. I am entirely unable to observe spirits of elements that I have low affinity with.”

Whoa—. There are many other kinds of spirit users too.

“Oh, is that so. So there are elements that spirit users have high affinity and low affinity to? So Ritz is good with wind magic?”

“Yep. However, my best element is fire.....there aren't many uses for fire magic though. Vegetation spirit magic would have been much better. It's not that I cannot use vegetation magic, but I'm not good in it.”

“Vegetation spirit magic can do things like grow crops?”

Wow. Vegetation spirit magic can help grow entire fields of crops right?

“Yes! There is a shortage of mages now, so my region has been facing difficulties. Earl Zagahn is troubled by this so I hope to quickly come to age, become good at magic and be of help.”

Said Ritz as he chuckled. Such an innocent child! He has a charm whom the saucy Alan lacks. If I remember correctly, Ritz is the son of a magic Earl who belongs to the Goldendol territory north-east of here. He has the same standing as the middle-age spirit user at Rainforest.

I pray that his innocence remains untainted like the spirit users at Rainforest, who are worked to the bone by the black organisation.

“Is Charlotte striving to master vegetation magic just like Ritz?”

“Ah, I, umm, I am not that good with vegetation magic.....,” Miss Charlotte shifted her eyes downwards in dejection.

What! Why?

I tried to seek encouragement from Alan but both Ritz and Alan, who were seated in front of me, gave a “Ohhhh, you didn’t have to go that far” look.

What! Did I do something I shouldn’t have!? Maybe because I stumbled on her weakness.....

“E-Everyone has something they aren’t good at! We just have to bring out our strengths, isn’t that so!”

“My strengths.....”

Miss Charlotte seemed like she was going to say something but she became even more depressed.

What! Why!?

I looked at Alan and Ritz in a fluster but all they did was give me reproachful looks with “This mood-killer is hopeless!” written all over their faces.

Huh—!!

I looked at Miss Charlotte in a panic and her skirt came into my view.

What? It’s drenched in something? Stained by something? There was a stain was on her skirt.

Ah, this can help change the topic!

“Miss Charlotte? It looks like there is some dirt over there! Let me help you wipe it off.”

I said and pulled out my handkerchief. Miss Charlotte reacted with alarm as I brushed off her skirt with the handkerchief.

“I’m f-fine!”

“R-Really?”

I was surprised at her strong reaction and stopped.

Hmm, I don’t think her skirt was stained earlier this afternoon.

And from Miss Charlotte's stiffened expression.....I can't really put it into words but it feels turbulent.....

Charlotte eyes reddened as she tried to clean the stain beneath her thighs to hide the stained area on her skirt.

Alan who had been watching, called out to Charlotte in a rather low voice with a grim expression.

“Oi, what happened after the fifth period when Katrina called for you?”

Miss Charlotte's face became pale and she faced the floor again.

Ritz appeared to be concerned.

Eh? What happened? Did something like that happen?Did something happen during magic lesson?

Chapter 11: Freshman Arc ⑪ –Undead Spirit Magic–

Took a short break from translating and it was kinda productive. Read some books and learned new things. Back to the grind. I should be posting chapters every week now. Loading.....Tensei Shoujo no Rirekisho was written by Karasawa Kazuki and this chapter was translated by yAmi on www.yamitranslations.com

According to what I heard from Miss Charlotte, after the 5th lesson ended, she was called by Miss Katrina to the back of the girls' toilet. Others had already gathered there in advance to have a confrontation.

During the meeting, she said something like, aren't you getting too full of yourself by following us to the lessons recently? And she replied by saying, no, I wasn't like that! But one of her followers threw a raw egg at her and dirtied her skirt.

R-Raw egg..... This is a school for refined ladies yes? A school where various aristocrats are gathered right? Considering all that, it is surprising that these kind of things happen.....

What was strange was that they were targeting her, even though Charlotte-chan was a mage. Honestly, I feared and had the impression that people who were unable to use magic would be treated by the mages as though they were their servants.

Regarding that point, I posed this question to Ritz-kun and as a preface, he said he wasn't sure, but told me what he knew.

To a mage, humans who cannot use magic were pathetic lamb-like existence who should be given protection. Therefore, publicly bullying them would be contrary to their pride but for others who were mages, that kind of concept fades away — he thinks.

There appears to be an implicit ranking among the mages, and basically, many people hold the view that magicians were above the spirit-users. Kings were

also traditionally selected among the royal magicians. Even the spirit-users further categorise themselves between the superior and the inferior. Since it was popular for spirit-users to be able to nurture crops, those who were unable to do so aptly would be given a treatment similar to that of a dropout.

It would be acceptable if vegetation magic was the only one that she was bad in, but in truth, the real problem was how the attribute of the magic she was good was standing out conspicuously.

Miss Charlotte specialises in Undead Spirit Magic. It was a disconcerting magic that could control the flesh of dead people who didn't have hair, nails peeled off or who were toothless. It was the magic that the necromancer witch, who went rampant near the end of the mythical era, specialises in.

However, it wasn't a tremendous power that could control a corpse as freely as how the Witch of Darkness could. Therefore, just like what the first few undead mages who were born in this era did, Miss Charlotte could do the processing of sheared wool or the processing of the cocoons of silkworms.

The really strong people with amazing ability could do something like regenerate dead flesh, so they could cut off the legs of a cow and regenerate it, before repeating the whole process of cutting and regenerating.....wouldn't that effectively increase meat supply.....this is crazy scary!

I w-wouldn't want to that kind of meat! It's ju-just some urban legend right?

The position of undead spirit mages who were able to do such frightening things were weak. Given that the Witch of Darkness, who was the biggest blemish in the history of mages as recorded on the textbooks, was greatly hated, it was easy for undead spirit users to be disliked since they had the same magic as the witch. I do not know how it was like for them when the Witch of Darkness was going strong but currently, spirit users who specialises in undead spirit magic seemed to be quite an unfortunate lot.

Speaking of which, Miss Katrina did say earlier that she didn't care if I regret being on good terms with the "Mage of Darkness" later! So it was because of Charlotte-chan's attribute huh.....

From the perspective of a lady from an aristocratic family, they must think of corpse controlling magic as filthy. However, for me, I think that magicians and

spirit users are both fantastic human beings with no big difference.

Miss Charlotte, who was an undead mage and who was originally a commoner, was feeling extremely down after being thrown at with eggs, but don't worry too much about it!

I too, was a maid and had my origins from a pioneering settlement. Even after being thrown at with pepper bombs and being followed by a stalker, I am still not overly worried!

“Charlotte-sama, please do not pay too much attention to it. The dirtied parts of the clothes can be easily cleaned. No matter what they say about you, Charlotte-sama's power is wonderful. It is not a power to be ashamed of. The silk or wool uniforms that we are wearing were most certainly the products of an undead spirit user, just like Charlotte-sama, isn't it? It is a wonderful thing.”

I offered words of consolation to a cheerless Charlotte-sama and patted on her back. Charlotte-sama looked back at me with eyes choked full of tears.

Tears don't suit you, kitty-chan! I remembered Prince Henry and in my heart, I quietly comforted her with those words as I smiled.

“Ryou-sama, thank you for your kind words.Though, recently, the spinning wheel and the weaving loom have become widespread and I heard that these uniforms were made by people who used those tools. In the first place, spirit users are bad at delicate work and cannot do something as simple as use magic to increase the mass like how the magicians make their cotton products or plant products, so we are not suited for further processing of wool and silk. I heard the rumour that with the popularisation of tools, that there is no longer work for undead spirit users.....”

Ah, urm, that is.....thanks to the spread of the spinning wheel and the weaving loom, their position in society have become more and more weaker.....? Damn it, who was it that introduced the spinning wheel or the loom to this world!

.....It was me!

So-sorry. Miss Charlotte, I didn't hold any malice.

“Sorry. Miss Charlotte, that I intruded.....”

I included various meaning and said. Miss Charlotte gave a, “Huh?” look and lowered her head.

“No! Sorry, it was because of me, and Ryou-sama tried to encourage me too but all I did was to reply with an idle complain!”

In a flash, she lifted her face and beamed.

“As Ryou-sama mentioned, I would try to not be bothered by it. Surely there must be something else I can do.....Because you heard me out, I have become clearer.”

It felt like she was only putting up a front, but in any case, she has opened up again so I was slightly relieved.

Somehow, I feel like I can do something for Charlotte-chan. Miss Katrina
hmm.....

For now, I will order henchman Alan to guard Miss Charlotte until the sun sets. I would definitely get him to ensure that nothing happens during magic lesson from tomorrow onwards.

Your ability to keep a lookout on others, the Boss has recognised it, Alan!

Chapter 12: Freshman Arc ⑫ –Shopping at the Capital’s market–

I know more people polled to have honourifics remain but I want to give this one last try. Personally didn't like "Mother Kou" so I left it as Kou-okaasan. Comment again below and I'll decide whether to keep this style for future chapters! Loading.....Tensei Shoujo no Rirekisho was written by Karasawa Kazuki and this chapter was translated by yAmi on www.yamitranslations.com

Alan, who had been entrusted with the role of being Miss Charlotte's bodyguard, quickly executed his unique skill: Stalker (likely to be at level 97) and demonstrated how the security police works.

The fourth period ended and the mage students started moving to their separate classroom. Somehow, Alan was acting strange..... I was told that he was acting strangely, occasionally stealing glances at the surroundings, while sneaking around the circumference of Miss Charlotte.

Thanks to Alan's creepy movements, Miss Charlotte became the center of attention and looked downwards in embarrassment. Ritz-kun was somehow trying to walk somewhere else. Hey, Ritz, if you are a friend, you should have tried to stop him.

The problematic Katrina faction were making an, "What the, why is he behaving so weirdly.....eww," expression but there were no signs that there were going to attack. Could it be that all this was planned as part of Alan's strategy.....?

Would it be good to continue Alan's bodyguard operations like this? It seems that he has completely blocked of the Katrina clique's offensive though.

Days later, when I was in the library having the regular study sessions, Miss Charlotte was vehemently telling me how, "Alan as a bodyguard is a little too....." As expected, she didn't like the way Alan was doing it so the job of a bodyguard was delegated to Ritz.

Yeah, that's right, it was impossible from the start. Sorry, I should have stopped him earlier.

After being given the sack, Alan indignantly cried out, "Why—!"

Nevertheless, either because of Alan's uncanny way of keeping a lookout or because of Ritz, who casually followed her, their efforts bore fruits as harassment towards Miss Charlotte stopped altogether.

Sometimes Miss Katrina and my line of sight would cross and as though we bumped, "Ough!" She would turn away.

Mr Alan, you haven't done anything to Miss Katrina right? Right?

I did mention to Alan that overdoing arguments with Miss Katrina might be a good strategy, but is it effective in reality?
Should I stop him?

Though, for now, the focus of gossips had already turned to the next big event before any confrontation occurred between Alan and Miss Katrina.

Yep, from my experience of a student lifestyle, I estimate that a major event happens every year and the major event for this year is happening soon.

After all, we would be having an excursion. We are going to leave the campus, descending from the capital to the forest on the outskirts!

Just kidding, it's not an excursion but a "Magic Sink" study trip.

The Magic Sink is simply speaking, a barrier that prevents demonic beasts from intruding human habitats.

I too, had experienced an attack by a demonic beast.

It was a day in the mountains when I had a taste of that extremely dreadful experience. The one who protected me from that scary demonic beast was Kou-okaasan, the nice gu.....nice sis. And, that explains the mystery behind why that demonic beast didn't cross the river. The mystery behind it was this Magic Sink, it seems.

From what its name implies, could it be draining magic from the river? Not performing this Magic Sink ritual regularly would cause the barrier to weaken and allow demonic beasts to break through the barrier. It is a very important

event. If that kind of demonic beast enter our homes, it would be a pandemonium. It wouldn't be a scenario where farmers would be able to tend to their crops carefreely!

It was something that had to be done regularly, and since it was that special, it was included in the normal curriculum as a school event. Thus, every year, this big event would occur.

It was a school event and while it basically involves the students studying magic, the other students are like, since this is a mage activity and we can't use magic, let's just have a look!

That being said, it appears that the residents in the vicinity would file complaints if we went there as an entire school, therefore, the student population was broken down to a number of groups and was sent to different places.

Which means, an excursion! Better yet, it looks like we are staying for the night there, so it can be considered a field trip? Yay, I'm hyped!

Building on the enthusiasm, on our day off in the week, I brought along my henchman to the market in the Capital.

I mean, we need to prepare some snacks, don't we!

The market was totally crazy. The market at Rainforest was amazing but the Capital's market far exceeds that.

There were many people as though it was a festival and the number of stalls was astounding.

There was something like meat skewers being sold, fruits that were cut into edible sizes, a chicken drumstick (with bone), or a thin crepe-like dough which had vegetables, meat/fish wrapped into it.....All of it look delicious!

However, my allowance was limited. I wanted to grab all of them, but I can't do that. I do have my allowance from Bashu-san, however, it was decided that I can only freely use allowance given by Kou-okaasan when I help out at her store. I need to use my money prudently.

Ah! That looks like a graffiti rice cracker there! Ah! There is a piping hot wiener grill there!

N-no good, Ryou. I'm here to buy snacks for the excursion. It needs to be something that can be stored!

As I thought, I turned around restlessly. Alan was beside me, sinking his teeth into a meat skewer.

When did he buy that!

He succumbed to the temptation hadn't he! Betrayer! In the first place, isn't it disgraceful for an aristocrat son to be buying from a food stand and eat while standing! I sent a bitter stare his way and, "What is with that stare? If you wanna eat, just say so.I can give you a bite."

Alan said and held out his meat skewer.

Eh? Really? It-it wasn't like I was staring at like I wanted it but—, it was a reproachful glare blaming Alan for not considering his allowance. Well, if he says so? I think I would just try it—.

With that kind of feeling, I snatched the skewer from Alan without reservations, and took a bite off the meat.

It was beef—! Yummy! Softer than I expected! It wasn't muscular, and could be chewed. The simple taste of sweetness, salt and pepper can be said to be as good as THE肉 filled my mouth. This was you call a meat merry-go-round!

By the time I realised, I had finished the entire skewer! Oh no, sorry, Alan, I didn't mean it. Hehe!

"Ryou! Why did you eat everything! I only ate a small piece of it! Good grief, I tried to stop you but you didn't stop."

Did you try to stop me? Sorry, when I was eating it, I was riding on the merry-go-round of meat, so I didn't notice at all. Sorry.

However, I don't think Alan would write off his resentment with just me laughing embarrassingly and sticking my tongue sticking out. His grudge for food can be quite scary.

"Sorry. It was too good so I unconsciously ate all of it. Let me buy something and we can eat it together."

No choice. I was at wrong here so why don't I just shave off some of that

important allowance?

“Together.....? Well, in that case, I will forgive you.”

Alan appeared happy as he mumbled. Alright, he forgave me.

What shall we eat next? Since we ate meat earlier, how about something sweet? Alan likes sweet things too.

Oh! Something like that it would be awesome! Roasted apple wraps! It's something like an apple pie!

“Alan, how about those roasted apple wraps?um, what? That group of two over there.....”

As we approached the apple wraps store, we spotted the people in question.

Ah, I knew it!

“Isn't that Charlotte and Ritz? Are they shopping for things for the outing, I mean, Magic Sink learning journey?”

Ritz and Charlotte were at the store. Charlotte jumped up and down in delight when I turned and noticed her.

“Ryou! Yeah! We were really able to meet up! I heard Ryou was going to the market to do shopping so Ritz and I decided to go shopping too, but because there were so many people here, I didn't think we would encounter one another!”

Eh! You came chasing after me? I'm so happy! Speaking of which, isn't this a date with Ritz? Ohoho! Hyuu—Hyuu—!

“I am also glad we met, Charlotte. I wanted to tell you about it before going to the market, but you weren't at home so I thought you were away from home.”

“That was probably when I was tending to the school's flower beds! I am always there watering the flowers in the morning. I hope to see tree spirits by interacting more with plants. Though I haven't gotten any results from it.” Charlotte replied cutely while laughing embarrassingly.

Oioi, Ritz, so you are bringing such a cute girl along, huh? Being a diligent escort? Ehh?

Keeping my behaviour of an old man sexually harassing others in check, I took

a look at Ritz and saw that Alan had already struck a friendly conversation with him.

Did Ritz come looking for Alan like how a Ritz would? Those two are such close friends.

“Since we are all here, why don’t the four of us walk around the market together!”

I called out, and thus, we shopped in the market together.

Ritz and Charlotte had enjoyed their roasted apple wraps so Alan and I decided to get ourselves one too.

After handing half a piece of the roasted apple wrap to Alan, his face turned gloomy in dissatisfaction.

“Didn’t you say we eat it together.....”

He muttered.

Did he noticed that his half was slightly smaller than mine? Damn, his sharp. I caved in and gave him the bigger half instead. You better be grateful to boss’ generosity!

The texture was as soft as a naan and the apple carried a cinnamon taste. It’s softness and sweetness was really satisfying. Though, if I could wish for more, I rather it had the texture of a pie. The crisp of an apple pie would taste better.

In any case, the prices in this market is really high. Things are around 10 times more compared to a rural marketplace.

The capital is located in an unnecessarily elevated area, so perhaps the cartage charges are higher?

Really no way not to overspend, sigh—.

We escaped the food area and went to the place where pots, cutlery and glassware were sold. Clothes, armour and swords were also sold here, thus, it can be said that this was where mass produced goods made by mages were sold.

We chatted happily while window shopping. Alan had especially much to say, arguing that the products were all so-so and if it was him, he could produce

superior ones! As he espoused endlessly on his great erudition, we arrived at what appeared to be the medicinal section of the market.

I was tasked by Kou-okaasan to buy herbs and alcohol because she wanted to concoct a medicinal liquor.

Yup, they are really expensive. Considering that the herbs could be picked for free when I was living in the mountains, it feels rather exorbitant.

After passing through the medicinal area, we arrived at an area where rocks were sold.

What? Rocks? Who actually buys them?

This area had much fewer traffic, but there were more people who were far more serious in assessing the merchandises. What are these rocks anyways? Alan and the rest were in a carefree mode earlier while window shopping, yet they became serious all of a sudden and begun inspecting the rocks.

“Alan, what are these rocks? Everyone is looking at them so seriously.....” I timidly asked Alan who was holding up the rock and gazing at it.

“Ahh, what I’m assessing is a mineral gem. These are needed as the cost for creating things so I need several of these. School doesn’t provide enough of them. You’ve seen them before when you were at my house, didn’t you? Wasn’t my family’s storeroom stocked full with gemstones?”

Oh, now that he said it, I remember.

I saw boxes with minerals in them that were labelled as things like “metal”, “glass” and etcetera. Those were likely there to show which gems could be used to make their respective materials.

Turning my head over to Ritz and Charlotte, I could see them scrutinising gemstones over at another store.

The gems were contained in boxes tagged with “Fire”, “Ice” and “Lightning” on them.

Are those mineral gems too?

“Miss Charlotte, may I know what you are I looking at?”

“I am looking the ice magical gems. Because I am just a little bit good with ice spirits.”

“Magical gems?”

I tried taking a look at the gemstone myself.

“Yes! Magical gems! Quality magical gems can have spirits dwelling inside them and even if there weren’t any spirits inside, it would be easier to borrow the help of spirits with the use of magical gems!”

W-Wow, these magical gems are incredible!

These are just some ordinary-looking, grey or white or black stones and yet they are special gemstones that hold magic in them?

I imagined them as stereotypical magical gems where fire gemstones would be red, water gemstones would be blue, and etcetera.....it’s misleading when they aren’t sparkling like jewels.

“So, what can you do with the gemstone you are holding, Charlotte?”

“It is an ice gemstone, so when I infuse magic on it, there is a possibility that our surroundings would become slightly colder than usual!”

Ahh, is that so? Somehow it doesn’t sound very amazing but Charlotte’s eyes were glimmering as she said it, therefore, it has to be amazing.

Beside me, Ritz sternly picked up a gemstone from a box labelled “Fire” and examined it. A fire gemstone? Compared to other magical gems, this particular type of gemstone seems to have more variations.

“What can you do with fire gemstones?”

“When manipulating fire with magic, you can use it to create bigger flames and if the magical gem is of good quality, you would be able to manipulate fire without any coals!”

Ritz told me in a somewhat excited tone. Normally, it is difficult to activate fire magic without anything to start a fire, however, it is possible to compensate for that by using a magical gem. That is its supposed use, but that being said, there is a chance that it fails to do anything, so the gem’s power is kinda questionable.

Hmm, from what I can gather, these so called magical gems aren't all that great.....

While I preoccupied with thinking, I continued gazing at the gemstone at different angles. As expected, somewhere this stone looks like and doesn't look like.....could this be?

I purchased a few of each kind of magical gem (fire, ice, lightning) and also bought the glass mineral gem. It wasn't on discount, but for the noble cause called research, I would be borrowing some money from the allowance Mr Bashu gave me.

With this, I had didn't have much money left for buying snacks, so I decided to perhaps make my own and bought flour back as the ingredient.

Credits

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