

The Author Reincarnated?!

~I'll Become an Amazing Villain!~

Arc 1

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Prologue

“Yeeeah, I drank too much today”

My name is Ryosuke, a 22-year-old aspiring light novel author.

“Aspiring” because today was the release of my light novel’s first volume.

I always posted my own novels on free novel posting sites with the goal of “Becoming a writer”.

Although none of them gained a lot of popularity, however, my novel “Yuusha Tensei” (Hero Reincarnation) gained a lot of favorites and got rated as “good!” by the readers so, even though the novel was still in the middle of unfolding the publication was decided nevertheless and today was the release date for the first volume.

My first work to reach publication, „Yuusha Tensei”, is a standard fantasy story revolving around the high school student Kazuma who reincarnates into a different world, becomes the hero and finally defeats the Demon king (planned).

As for why such a cliché story became popular, I believe it's because of the rivalry between the Villain and the Protagonist.

His name is Margrave Carlo di Medici.

He always posed a threat towards the hero and later became the Demon king's subordinate because of various envy-driven conflicts with the Protagonist, but he later gets defeated by him and reforms himself (planned). He was that kind of character.

The me of the real world is a 22-year-old virgin who has a hard time disagreeing with people, so I dislike Carlo's personality of looking down on weaker people.

Therefore he is the complete opposite from me. Broad-minded, arrogant, free spirited, unreasonably violent, extravagant without limits. I put my wildest delusions into Carlo.

Normally I tend to overlap with the Protagonist, but I write Carlo with just as much consideration.

For that reason, Carlo gained a lot of popularity which also

connected to my novel's popularity.

Half of the reader's comments was about Carlo's pros and cons.

"I feel kind of dizzy. I'll never drink liquor again."

On the occasion of my first works publication anniversary, I had a dinner party with my editor, Sakiyama-san.

Sakiyama-san also praised Carlo as a good character.

He also said he looks forward to the future.

Even though I was happy being called "sensei" but it also was a little embarrassing.

(TN: Sensei means teacher normally, but is also used to address artists, doctors, and writers. It's showing respect towards that person)

I drank the wine which got recommended and got drunk because I wasn't used to it.

I usually don't drink alcohol or spent much money.

At that time Sakiyama-san told me: „Sensei, you should better take a taxi on your way back, you're feet are unsteady“, but because I thought it would be a waste I decided to walk home.

I thought about the future development of my novel while walking slightly unsteady.

From this point on Carlo finally, falls into the Demon king's hands.

There are still a lot of things I want to let Carlo act out.

His opposition with the hero Kazuma grows more intense, being exposed to the world's criticism he still doesn't cease to commit his evil deeds leading his allies to betray him.

In a sense it's cool.

I want to sell more book, make it more exciting and finish it in a good conclusion somehow. What kind of development would be

good for that – -?

While being absorbed in such thoughts I was walking forward.

Seems like I was drunker than I thought.

Suddenly I found myself crossing the street while the red light was lit up.

“It’s dangerous!”

After I heard that voice I pulled myself together.

Looking to the right I saw a car’s headlights approaching.

Ah – – Before I even noticed it I was flying in the sky.

I don’t want to die in an unpleasant place like this. There are still things I want to write about – -.

Chapter 1 – Reincarnated?

When I woke up I was lying on a bed.

I didn't know where I was for an instant but I regained my memory right before I started panicking.

I see, I collided with a car and was brought to this hospital, right?

I noticed the bandage bound around my right hand and my head and on my right cheek was a big gauze due to my face rolling over the floor when I fell.

Ignoring the red light sign, I was hit by a car and I remember having been sent flying through the sky.

I was lucky that I got away from that with just those injuries or rather that I'm still alive.

But with my hand like this, I can't update my story.

I wonder if I can use a PC or my Smartphone in this Hospital.

Still, this hospital has a rather old-fashioned feel to it.

An antique, heavy atmosphere.

Right, this private room is rather large, isn't it?

Mother you didn't have to overdo it like this.

I've troubled you again, huh?

Or am I in such a serious condition?

Just when I thought about such things, shit, I really needed to go to the toilet.

Neither mom or a nurse were present, so what should I do?

Does this room have a toilet?

Even if I called someone I doubt they would hear it and I couldn't find an emergency button.

I'm not even sure whether I'm able to stand up either.

When I tried to open my mouth wide to call someone because I didn't know any better solution at that time -- Ouch!

Pain ran through my right cheek with the gauze on it.

The pain felt like someone pulling something out of me.

I wonder if they had to stitch it, I'd hate to have scars on my face.

But more importantly, I have to go to the toilet right now.

Then I noticed a bell on the small desk next to my bed, or rather why was there a bell?

I took it in my hand and rang it

Ting Ting --

After a few minutes the door opened and a girl came in.

"Excuse me, I have to --"

"You woke me up! I will be right back, I shall call Melissa-sama!"

That girl looked like she ran all the way here. Was she a nurse?

A little impatient but she was rather cute, wasn't she?

To be honest, I was quite satisfied.

If I still were an elementary school student I would have wondered what those two lumps jumping around with a "Pyon Pyon" were.

I was able to put on a poker face though because I'm an adult.

.....At least outwardly.

Well, a 22-year-old peeing all over the place would be a problem.

I thought such things while I waited to distract myself, then I heard footsteps followed by someone entering the room.

A robust, busty aunty entered the room first.

Was this the head nurse?

The girl from a little while ago entered after her.

Rather than nurses they both look more like maids.

“Aah, you finally woke up.”

The head nurse's eyes were filled with tears.

I appreciate that you are that happy, but I nearly can't hold it anymore.

“Ehm, I'd like to go to the toilet.”

“Oh, I didn't notice. Reina, fetch that.”

When I told her that the head nurse was surprised before she turned to the girl behind her and gave her instructions.

It can't possibly be that.....

What the girl brought back was like I feared a urinal.

No, no, there's no way I'll use a urinal here.

While I was absorbed in my thoughts the head nurse pulled off my futon and started to remove the pants of my sleeping clothes.

No, no, no, no, I can't possibly do it in front of girls, can I?!

“I'll do it myself, okay?”

Though I said such things in a hurry the head nurse flat-out rejected it.

“What are you saying? This is our duty, so please make yourself comfortable.”

It's impossible for me to make myself comfortable in such a situation.....

However, I was at my limit so I had no time to argue.

I endured the humiliation and let it happen.

Aah, what's with this treatment?

Turning my head away and careful not to meet their eyes.....I relaxed.

They saw everything.

Even though my body felt relieved, my heart felt heavier.

After all was over I stared into the sky stunned.

The girl who seemed to be called Reina took away the urinal.

Even though I thought she was a pretty child, now it doesn't matter anymore.

After having seen all that, it's impossible to befriend her now.

On top of that, my time without a girlfriend equals my age.

I was really unhappy that my chance of raising flags with the pretty nurse in this hospital setting got broken during the first day of hospitalization.

There are no more hopes and dreams in this hospital.

"Excuse me"

While I was thinking such things I heard a man's voice.

I started to pay more attention to the door and saw a middle-aged man standing there.

A Doctor?.....But those clothes seem slightly strange, don't they?

He was thin, measured 175 centimeters in height and looked like a serious man wearing glasses.

He was wearing black clothes and a bow tie.

But the most eye-catching thing was his head.

How do I say this?.....He's sparkling.

His bald head that is.

It looked completely soft and smooth.

I had to seriously control myself not to stare at it.

"Thank Goodness. You woke up."

The man lowered his head deeply.

No, if you do that it will be even more eye-catching.

I carelessly stared at him.

The moment when he rose his head he averted his eyes in a hurry.

Did he notice I stared at him?

"However, I was rather surprised when I heard you have fallen from your horse."

He looked like a person one would have a hard time talking to.

He seemed like the serious, earnest type.

.....Wait, eh?

Did he just say falling?

Falling, as in falling off a horse, falling?

I never rode on a horse before.

“Ehm, I was in a traffic accident.....”

“Traffic? What does that mean?”

The both of us exchange confused looks then the head nurse sends us a rescue boat while we still stared at each other with question marks in our eyes.

“Pikaru-sama, Carlo-sama was injured and is still confused after just waking up.”

“I understand, I’m sorry for my rudeness, Carlo-sama.”

This man called Pikaru placed his hand on his chest and carefully lowered his head.

Mmm, what a splendid luster and shine.

.....That’s not it!

What did you say?

Carlo-sama?

That Carlo-sama?

Speaking of Pikaru I’m sure I also heard that name before.

.....

.....

.....

Wasn’t Pikaru the name of Carlo’s butler?!

——The villain of my novel “Yuusha Tensei” Margrave Carlo di Medici.

Pikaru is his butler.

His administrative processing capacity was excellent and was a serious and faithful man, but his most outstanding feature was his head.

He is a pitiable character who was called “baldie, baldie” all the time by sharp-tongued Carlo, because of his stunningly bald head.

Of course, I named him like I did because of his appearance.

And now a person looking exactly like that character stands before me and calls me “Carlo-sama”.

I wonder if I grew crazy because of that accident.

If this really is the world of my novel is the head nurse like person Melissa?

Melissa is the head maid in Carlo’s castle.

She is a character that always supported Carlo and even when he was avoided and betrayed by everyone stayed with him until the end.

You might say she was a mother figure to Carlo.

I didn’t write a clear reason for that other than she helped out Carlo for a long time.

Now that I thought about it, she fits Melissa’s image perfectly.

That reminds me didn’t the girl from before say “I shall call Melissa-sama” a while ago?

I gathered my courage and called her as a test.

“E, ehm Melissa?”

“Oh my, Carlo-sama, you still recognize me!”

She put both her hands together in front of her chest and looked at me with an extremely joyful expression.

...Uwah, This person turned out to really be Melissa.

This is really the world of the novel I created “Yuusha Tensei”.

Of that, I was convinced.

But.....What am I supposed to do now? !

Chapter 2 – First Day

“Ehm, could you show me that mirror?”

“At once. Reina, bring the mirror over immediately.”

After Melissa-san asked her the pretty maid Reina brought over a mirror.

“Please have a look”

When I looked into the mirror Reina was holding a man wrapped up in bandages looked back at me.

The face in the mirror was completely different from my original face.

Blue eyes, brilliant blonde hair and a face with slightly impertinent but gentle features.

It perfectly aligns with the features I wrote for the villain Margrave Carlo de Medici in my novel “Yuusha Tensei”.

Like I thought, I became Carlo.

“Ouch”

When suddenly pain ran through my right cheek I put my hand on it, it seems like Pikaru felt sorry for me.

“You got injured when you hit a stone after falling off the horse you were riding. It got stitched but unfortunately the doctors said that the scar will remain for the rest of your life.”

Even though I was the one who included the setting of Carlo having a big scar on the right cheek, but was it caused by this fall from a horse?

Because me, the author, didn't specify the reasons, I didn't know about this.

I thought it was wound from a fight but it turned out like this.

“To think a scar would remain on that handsome face. It's such a shame.”

Melissa was shedding tears while looking at me.

That's right, Carlo is a good-looking, handsome man.

His behavior was arrogant, selfish and unreasonably violent but because of his face and his strength he was really popular with the girls.

Of course, no girl will look is way anymore in the end (planned).

However, Melissa is a really good person.

“Ehm, what year is it now?”

I asked Pikaru as a test.

“It is 194th year of the old calendar”

Pikaru answered my question with an apologetic face, because of my seemingly lost knowledge.

The hero reincarnates into this world and meets Carlo in the 199th year of the lunar calendar, that would be 5 years from now, huh?

Carlo will be 27 in 5 years so he is 22, like the real me, right now.

I wonder if that’s why I got put here.

“Why do you call it “the old calendar”?”

“Because it’s an old calendar we use since the ancient times approximately 200 years ago.”

Pikaru again answered me with a tepid look on his face.

But, that’s actually wrong.

After the hero defeated the Demon king and established a new country it was “the first year of the solar calendar”, before that the “old calendar” was used.

So the people of this world use the lunar calendar without knowing why it’s “old”.

I’m a little happy thinking that I’m the only person who knows the actual reason.

I’m the author after all.

Thinking that far, I noticed that this situation isn’t so simple.

This abnormal situation of an author reincarnating into the novel he himself wrote.

I thought that I might have some cheat ability because I'm the author and all, but when I grasped the wooden fence of the bed it didn't particularly break and when I stared at Reina I wasn't able to see through her maid uniform either.

When I thought that I might not be able to return to my original world I suddenly felt a pang of pain in my chest.

I bet everyone is really worried.

In reality, it's not like I had a girlfriend or a close friend, though.

Even in my company, I wasn't particularly close to my co-workers. The only one left to worry about would be my mother.

Ah, but there's my bright younger brother who's successful unlike me so it should be fine.

Huh?

Unexpectedly even if I'm not there everything would be fine, right?

It's a true tragedy.

"Will you leave me alone for a little?"

Feeling somewhat lonely I asked them to leave. To that, Melissa lowered her head.

"Certainly. I leave your drink here. Ring the bell if there is anything you need."

After everyone left and I was alone I started to think.

I think there certainly are people who would grieve.

Especially the readers of "Yuusha Tensei".

I, who posted my novel to free novel posting sites in order to "become a writer", was never able to gain any popularity until I was able to make the readers happy with "Yuusha Tensei".

Every time someone gave me a "good" rating or someone added me to their favorites it gave me the motivation to push on.

When Carlo gained popularity and people commented the pros and cons of him as a villain I was also excited about what to write next.

Indeed, I got into an accident on the day the first volume was released and I reincarnated into the novel's world.

Besides, the novel hasn't been finished yet.

It will remain unfinished.

There was still a lot of material I thought about including.

There was still a lot of things I wanted to make Carlo do.

Now I can't update it anymore either.

I wanted to make it even more interesting in the future.

As I thought about such things I started to cry.

I can't write my novel anymore.

I'm not able to write an ending for "Yuusha Tensei".

I already planned out the future development.

Carlo will get betrayed by his friends of the same party one after another.

Then Carlo, who fell into misanthropy because of this, is cheated into becoming the Demon king's subordinate with flattery.

So his conflict with the hero escalates more and more using various traps to annoys him.

But after he directly confronts the hero he loses in the end.

Then for the first time, Carlo had a change of heart and starts to follow the hero adding his power to his forces leading to the Demon king's defeat.

The Hero together with the princess, who was Carlo's fiancée, those two build a new country.

Carlo was going to help in the creation of the country as a cabinet member.

While I thought about the plot I made I realized again that it will never reach the world.

My first approved work.

For the first time in my life, I got praised by such a large number of people and was able to please them.

Isn't it too sad that it had to end midway?

I can't cry right now.

What should I, as the author of the story, do?

I'll take the story of this world towards its ending myself.

That's the only thing I'm able to do and isn't that the reason for why I was sent here?

I made this world.

I'm the only one who knows what's going to happen in this world from now on.

I'm the author, producer, the supervisor and the actor playing the villain Margrave Carlo de Medici at the same time.

I'll play the role of the villain Carlo de Medici and will create an even more impressive, more interesting story.

There are still five years until the hero reincarnates and meets Carlo.

Meanwhile, I shall set up the best stage.

First of all, I have to become an attractive villain.

I'm ready to live in this world.

From this moment on I am just the villain Carlo de Medici.

I'll become an excellent villain!

Chapter 3 – Resolve

I decided I would live as the villain Margrave Carlo de Medici in this world of the novel I wrote myself “Yuusha Tensei”.

My goal isn't only to play the role of an attractive villain but also to make this story into an even better one.

Therefore there's a lot I'll have to do.

As I decided on this, I felt my stomach was empty.

I picked up the bell from my desk and try to ring it.

Ting Ting—

As soon as I rang the bell the maids Melissa and Reina and the butler Pikaru entered.

“Carlo-sama, how may we be of service?”

I tried to answer Melissa's words.

“Ehm, My stomach is.....” (TN: He used Boku. A humbler male pronoun.)

“Haah- -?!”

Those three people looked at me with very surprised faces.

I thought for some time but immediately understood the reason.

It's my way of talking.

Carlo is a broad-minded, frank, open-hearted character, so he uses the pronoun “Ore”. (TN: More arrogant than boku) I would never talk like that.

“Ah, ehem, I'm hungry. Melissa, prepare a meal for me.” (TN: He used ore this time) “Yes, right away. Reina, let's start the preparations.”

Melissa and Reina lowered their heads and left.

Melissa still looked anxiously at me.

Let's be careful from now on.

This only left me and Pikaru in the room.

I wanted to ask Pikaru various things.

But I stood before a problem.

It's the name Pikaru.

In my novel Carlo called Pikaru "baldie" all the time.

It's true that Pikaru is splendidly bald.

Of course, that's the reason I named him like this in the first place. (TN: Pika Pika means glittering so he named him like that cause his head sparkles)
However Pikaru is actually secretly very concerned about his bald head and this name calling caused him so much stress that he ends up with stomach pain.

Carlo doesn't know that Pikaru feels this way.

However, I know about it.

Besides, I'm a person who had a hard time fighting with others and hated others pointing out someone's weak spot.

It's impossible for me to directly call someone "baldie" even if I hate them.

Is it because I'm Japanese that I'm good at reading the mood?

I have no choice, even if it's different from the actual setting but it should still be within range, so I decided on that with my author's authority.

"Pikaru, there are some things I want to ask about."

When I called him I noticed that Pikaru held his breath.

After he looked at my face with utter amazement he had tears in his eyes.

"Is there something wrong?"

Pikaru answered my question with a shaking voice.

".....It has been several years since Carlo-sama last called me by that name. I unintentionally was deeply moved by that. I apologize."

It can't be that he was that happy to hear his name?

I felt sorry for Pikaru, who deeply lowered his head.

Well, the name I gave him kind of has the same meaning, though.

That person just doesn't know.

I feel responsible as the author.

I should have given him a name with a more serious feel to it like Umibo○ or Do○.

Ah, I have to censor this to avoid getting into trouble.

(TN: First is probably Umibozu. Might be from Gintama. Dunno the other name) "I didn't know Pikaru was so concerned about this. I shall call you by your name from now on, sorry."

Actually, I did know.

"You don't have to be. I'm grateful for your words, thank you."

Looks like he was really happy about this.

Well, I guess I did something good.

It would be nice if I could get along better with Pikaru now.

"Now, what is it you want to know about?"

Oh, Pikaru's expression got brighter.

"What's today's date?"

"It's the 2nd of September."

Ha ha, that tepid look in his eyes has also faded away.

"Autumn, huh? How was this year's harvest?"

"Yes. Fortunately, we are blessed with good weather this year so a great harvest is expected."

"That's good. How many soldiers are in this castle right now?"

"Castle? Here is Carlo-sama's mansion. There is no castle. There are about ten soldiers of the Imperial Guard here right now, though."

Pikaru had a strange expression on his face.

Weird, wasn't there a setting that Carlo lived in a castle called Balhart Castle?

That means Balhart Castle was built during those five years, something like that.

This is troublesome.

Moreover, Carlo's setting of being Kazuma's rival was that his swordsmanship was super first class.

However, I'm completely useless when it comes to that.

Since this body is Carlo's it should have some muscular strength, so I have to quickly improve my skills.

Of course, the story talked about how I can't ride a horse.

Because of the trauma which was created when I fell down the horse, I think.

I noticed that Pikaru was watching me anxiously while I was lost in thoughts.

Compared to before talking to him seemed much easier.

Feelings are important, after all.

"Pikaru, what's the condition of my injuries?"

"Yes, I told you about your cheek a little while ago but there aren't any other serious injuries other than that. Just some bruises and scratches. The doctor also said that it was alright to move around how you might have noticed."

What a relief, there doesn't seem to be a bone fracture.

"If that's the case I want to continue my sword training at once from tomorrow on. Try finding a skilled person from this territory as my training's partner."

"I believe Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald should be a competent individual."

Pikaru answered my words immediately.

Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald, huh?

If it's him I know him well.

This person with the long name was a hardy knight acting as the head of the Imperial Guard and was one of Carlo's confidants.

Because of his long name, I decided to call him "F".

He was loyal, brave and this country's best swordsman, additionally he also was super handsome even though he belonged to the evil characters.

He was the core of Carlo's party but became utterly disgusted by Carlo in the end and becomes the Hero's ally (planned).

At the point where I stopped writing, he has yet to betray Carlo.

In the novel's setting he was 32 years old, so he should be 27 now, right?

"What kind of person is Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald?"

Let's pretend not to know and this being the first time I heard about him.

I could use the shock of the fall from the horse as an excuse.

"Yes. He is second to none in this territory and his skills aren't inferior to even Sir Lunos. He got promoted to the imperial guard after returning from Braham."

It's a relief to hear that F was somewhere else and wasn't acquainted with me yet.

Because of this, I have to be careful from now on.

By the way, Braham is the largest city of the Medici territory which Carlo rules.

"Hoh, I'm looking forward to it. Tell him to come here tomorrow."

"Certainly"

Pikaru lowered his head.

Meanwhile, the meal seemed to be ready and was carried in by Melissa and Reina.

The problem is the meal.

I'm no gourmet, but the food from the story is from the middle ages and was completely different from modern Japan.

The dish that Melissa brought me was comprised of a boar as my main dish (salty), a potato stew (salty), and some bread and wine.

Just like I expected.

Well, because I was cutting corners and just wrote that the dishes of the novel had a “salty” taste, it’s my own fault.

Oh well, it’s still edible but it will be hard for me if this will continue every day, though.

Let’s do a food reform as soon as possible for my own sake.

It was reassuring to see Melissa taking care of me.

This is how the first day of my reincarnation passed.

Chapter 4 – The Next Morning

Cock a doodle doo – -!

It's the second day after my reincarnation.

For the first time since I came to this world, it was dawn and I woke up because of a rooster's call.

I didn't know whether it would also call in a western-style because this world was set to be like the medieval Europe.

Ah, but the cry of the rooster is the same in English, German and French, isn't it?

Oh well, whatever.

Still, it's way too early in the morning.

I did sleep early yesterday.

The rooms at night are really dark here.

A candle is too dim for the me who was used to modern life.

I can't even read a book without at least a lamp.

To create it, oil would be necessary, right?

There's also still room for improvement around here.

Though I'm hesitant to call someone this early in the morning, but I would rather not walk around here without permission.

Even if it's my own house, I'm not familiar with its insides.

So I waited for someone to come by but after a while, there were still no signs of people.

Because there was nobody around to help me I took the bell which was on the desk near the pillow and rang it.

Ting Ting— —

Even though I tried to ring it as quiet as possible but the bell made a loud sound that surprised me.

I'm a timid person after all.

But right now I am the overbearing villain Margrave Carlo de Medici.

I don't have to care for other people, so it's fine, yeah.

While I was absorbed in such thoughts a middle-aged woman in maid-clothes entered.

It was the head maid, Melissa.

She was the most understanding amongst Carlo's people, a really nice person.

To get up and work at such a time, it's a hard job.

"Good morning, Carlo-sama. Do you want to eat?"

"Yes, please."

Did I answer like Carlo would?

As a novel author, I try to write a character based on feeling.

Doing that is what I usually do, but actually becoming the character itself is difficult.

The breakfast that Melissa and Reina brought were green salad (salty), boiled egg (salty), bread and finally tea.

There is no sugar in the tea.

After all eating habits die hard.

The egg was in good boiled condition, but I want some variation to increase the taste.

I guess it's because I settled on writing that every dish is either "salty" or "grilled with salt" in my novel.

It can't be helped, because it's my own fault, still, it's painful.

That reminds me, how do they get the salt?

There was a setting that the south side of the Medici territory faced the sea.

“Melissa, how did we obtain this salt?”

“We imported the salt from eastern Itarini kingdom”

So it isn't made from our salt bed, huh?

“Is it expensive?”

“It is. But it's indispensable for everyday life.”

“Is everyone using this rock salt in this neighborhood?”

“As far as I know, yes.”

I see, I wonder if I can make salt to make a profit.

Shouldn't the price of pepper be stupidly high as well?

“What about pepper?”

“As for pepper, it is imported from the southern Meriana continent.”

“Is it extremely expensive?”

“I don't know how much you would consider extremely, but it is considerably expensive.”

“Is the price as high as the weight?”

“Ahaha, it's not that expensive.”

Melissa put her hand in front of her mouth as she laughed with relish I see, so the price isn't high enough to look for a new sea route, huh?

By the way, the currency around here is called “Yuroa”.

The countries around here are called Yuroa Countries and that is the common currency used in them.

Gold, silver, nickel and copper are the four types of currency used.

1 Yuroa Gold Coin = 50 Yuroa Silver coins = 1.000 Yuroa Nickel coins = 10.000 Yuroa Copper coins.

By the way, if I convert the value into Japanese yen, the modern Japanese currency, it's 1 Yuroa copper coin = 10 yen.

A gold coin is 100.000 yen, a silver coin is 2.000 yen, a nickel coin is 100 yen, and a copper is 10 yen is the calculation I've made.

Easy to understand.

Why is it that simple? Because I decided it to be.

Having different currencies for every country was troublesome.

There's also the rarely used Yuroa white gold coin which is 1 Yuroa white gold coin= 10 Yuroa gold coins = 1 million yen.

"Good morning, Carlo-sama."

After I finished my breakfast Pikaru came over.

"Morning, Pikaru"

"About the plans for today. Yesterday I talked to Fitz Maurice Fitzgerald about the afternoon practice and he accepted. Since you just came back from an injury there isn't anything else scheduled?"

"Is that so? Then I want to ask you some things this morning. Is that okay?"

"Of course. Ask me whatever you want"

Pikaru lowered his head respectfully.

I wanted to tell him that he was dazzling, but I resisted.

Because I'm an adult after all.

I asked Pikaru various things in the morning.

Questions about the economic trends of this territory, the state of this country, Franz kingdom, and its capital Rue Ann, but Pikaru was able to answer all of them.

Pikaru was a man of incredible administrative processing ability and had a talent for financial management.

It's naturally like this because I wrote that in my novel.

However, Pikaru seemed to be completely useless when it comes to diplomacy, military affairs, demon beasts, and magic.

Though this goes without saying, but demon beasts exist in this world.

That's natural because there's even a Demon king appearing.

There's also the template magic systems.

They are divided into the 6 attributes, fire, water, wind, earth, light, and darkness.

Carlo as Hero Kazuma's only rival was able to use various kinds of magic, but Pikaru doesn't seem to have heard that Carlo is able to use magic.

Actually, I don't know how to use magic at all.

I'll have to learn it from someone.

It's troublesome if I, as the Hero's strongest rival isn't able to use magic.

"Pikaru, is there a person who can teach me the usage of magic?"

"Magic, is it? It is said that it is possible for everyone to use magic, but it is only important for magicians and priest, so why would you want to learn magic?"

"Well, I want to enter a dungeon sooner or later."

When he heard that Pikaru's expression suddenly changed.

"There is no need for you to do such things! Margrave Carlo de Medici-sama entering something like a labyrinth would be the shame of the Medici house!"

"Eh, is that so?"

"Things like labyrinth explorations are done by dubious people such as adventurers. It's not something people of a high status, like Carlo-sama, should do."

Mmm, that's troubling.

Carlo is a first class adventurer in my setting, there is even a story arc where he competes with the hero on who captures the labyrinth faster.

Looking at Pikaru's angry look it seems as though he won't give me permission to enter a dungeon, I'll have to think of some other means.

That also means that there isn't a possibility of me getting a magic tutor, what should I do?

Chapter 5 – F

I simply can't eat such salty food anymore, but after that salt-based lunch, the promised person visited.

“Nice to meet you. I was on border patrol until the other day but I got assigned to Carlo-sama's imperial knights this time. Please take care of me.”

A 185 cm tall man was stiffly standing before me, you could see that he was well trained through his clothes.

His name was Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald, also known as “F”.

He's the knight I'll make into the head of the Margrave Carlo de Medici's Imperial Guard, he's his right-hand man, loyal and hardy.

In the novel's setting, he was 32 years old so he's now 27.

Still, he's really extremely handsome even to me who is the author.

He looks smart with brown hair, just looking at him makes me think that he could be a Hollywood actor.

It's not like I'm jealous of his cool looks or something, Hmpf.

Because I looked really cool too when compared to others in my original world, so it's okay.

Carlo is also a popular character with his blue eyes and blonde hair.

Though the cheek is damaged because I fell from a horse.

F would eventually get disgusted by Carlo in later chapters of the story which led him to betray him and join the Hero (planned) but at the point where I stopped writing he was still Carlo's ally.

Though the atmosphere has already gradually worsened.

Anyway, I am lucky that I'm able to meet my strongest ally F sooner.

I hope we will get along well.

“However, sir's name is long and difficult to call. Can I call you with a shorter name?”

“Sure. You can call me whatever you like”

“I see, then from now I’ll refer to sir as “F”.”

“Eh, F.....?”

Oops, was it too early!

That ‘F’ stood there dumbfounded, and Pikaru who was listening from the side said something like “Shortening it to one letter is a little.....”.

But since I have already said it, it couldn’t be helped.

I cannot change the name of an important character.

I’ve already changed Pikaru’s nickname “baldie” to his normal name again.

I have no choice but to stick with this decision!

“Wahaha, it’s a good and original name. By the way F, there aren’t any other lords who called you like that, right? I want you as my partner for sparring.”

“Partner? I don’t mind but, is it alright? I heard that you got injured while riding a horse yesterday.”

Did it already spread?

I must make an impression that Carlo is a bold character.

“What? I just got a few scratches. Your worries are unfounded.”

While pretending to be tough, I removed the bandage from my arm and showed him the wounds.

To be honest I still felt a tingling pain here and there.

Ah, Since I pulled the bandage off some of the wounds opened up again.

And the pain quickly followed it (teary eyes).

“Is that so, I said a presumptuous thing. I’ll be happy to be your sparring partner.”

“Sorry. Pikaru, please arrange a suitable place.”

“Certainly. Then I’ll lead you to the training ground.”

Accompanied by Pikaru, F and I went to the training grounds.

I just took a look while passing by, but this mansion really is as small as I thought.

It was too wide for me to live in but for the villain Carlo, this is an unsatisfactory home.

I have to build the Balhart Castle after all.

At the training grounds, I purposely chose blunt weapons for training use.

After all, F was using a longsword and a shield just like in the novel.

As I thought it had to be a two-handed Bastard sword for Carlo then.

“Don’t be reserved, Sir F”

“Well, then here I come”

After we bowed towards each other the training began.

The way F held the sword was manly, as I thought.

As expected of Franz Kingdom’s best knight.

F observed me from the start. He starts attacking me decisively from the side.

Swordplay was completely unknown to me but, strangely, my body, which didn’t get any exercise for a long time, started to move without me wanting it to.

I had no time to think about how to move and I moved my sword based on instincts.

F was surprised upon seeing my smooth movements, then his attacks grew more and more intense.

I received an attack without being conscious of it, waited, and started to counter attack as well.

Amazing.

Is this the rumored cheat ability?

Those light yet powerful movements didn’t seem to be my own at all.

Besides, there are moments where F’s movements seemed to appear slower.

Not only my reflexes and instantaneous power got increased but also my kinetic vision. This is....

I don't know whether this is author's correction or Carlo's actual physical ability.

But, as expected from F I can't even land one hit.

I didn't expect any less from Franz Kingdom's best swordsman.

Let's keep practicing with F for now.

If I do maybe I'll learn some amazing finishing move.

Carlo's body seems to have a fair amount of stamina while being absorbed in practice two hours have already passed.

Haa, Haa, Haa

As I thought I ran out of breath.

"Splendid. As expected of the one who is said to be unrivaled within this territory."

"You're too kind."

"Practice swordplay with me from now on. Oh yeah, let's make you the captain working under me."

"Hah? No, but I got just promoted to a knight of the imperial guards and my family's social standing is also low."

"You're family's social standing doesn't matter. I think that capable people should be assigned to appropriate positions. I think about making you the Imperial Guard's head sometime soon, but right now I'll be satisfied with making you a captain."

(PoV change to F)

Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald was puzzled.

I was born into a poor knight family serving the Medici household.

Having studied hard and also possessing an outstanding talent for the sword since an early age I was called a child prodigy from my surrounding.

My ambition was to become an honorable knight in the future. Based on this I have worked hard for it.

I had the confidence that there wasn't a person stronger than me in the whole Franz kingdom anymore.

However having been born in a low social standing is something beyond my control, I was made to guard the borders from the wild tribe.

The post was located far north from Braham, it was not a pretty job.

After I received some distinguished military services, at 27 years of age I was finally allowed to join the imperial knights and came back.

When a messenger from the lord suddenly appeared I was surprised, but that person called Carlo is a considerably odd person.

I was used to people shortening my name as it was really long, but they would usually call me "Fitz".

To suddenly shorten my name to a single letter.

I heard that he fell off a horse and got injured but he was sparring the next day without worrying about the wounds.

I heard rumors that he was supposed to be a bold person, but that seemed to be correct.

Actually, I was even more surprised when fighting.

I thought considering his position he wouldn't have any experience with actual combat.

After all, I was taken aback since there were many times that he startled me.

Moreover, the sword style is formless and really flexible.

This image reflected that person's character.

If he continued practicing like that he would become considerably skilled.

However, what surprised me most came afterward.

He said he wanted to make me Captain of the Imperial Guard Order out of the blue.

Saying that he didn't mind social standing and that he would judge me for my ability.

I have never heard of such a noble in this era.

I dreamed about gaining fame as a knight a long time ago, but today this might come true.

Meeting a lord who believed in me and recognized my abilities.

How difficult to get and precious is that?

I shall dedicate my sword to Margrave Carlo de Medici and will serve him as the knight "F".

Chapter 6 – Marcus

After Carlo returned, I had a talk with Pikaru in my office. (TN: Pretty sure he meant F is the one who returned) I sat down in a cat-like position on the chair which was near the massive desk.

I wondered if the large desk was made out of mahogany, but I didn't know much about it.

I felt like the president, which felt good.

It would be great to have an attractive woman as a secretary rather than a bald.....I mean the old Pickaru-san.

“Well then, Pikaru, as I said a while ago appoint F as the captain of the Imperial Guard.”

“Carlo-sama, I am not responsible for this. Please give the order to the head of the Imperial Knight Order.”

Oh, I thought that I could ask Pickaru to do anything.

“Fumu, so who is the leader of the imperial knights?”

I used the sure-kill “Amnesia from falling off a horse” technique.

“Sir Marcus is the leader of the imperial knights. He is a person who has served you since your father's generation.”

Marcus, Marcus.....It feels like I've heard that name somewhere before.

Oh, that's right.....!

General Marcus blah blah, I feel like I have written that sentence.

It was not written for some kind of special episode but I wrote it more to match the flow of my writing.

That means I'll make Marcus a general and make F replace him as the head of the Imperial Guard, huh?

But a General is quite the high-ranking position.

I feel like we would have a hard time later if I'll employ a person without the right abilities for such a position.

Well, alright, let's try meeting him once, shall we?

"Well then, Pikaru, call Marcus here."

"Certainly"

Pikaru lowered his head before leaving.

Ah, this is my room.

The overall atmosphere had an antique feeling to it.

I don't hate it but even if a picture was put in here it wouldn't make the room look any better.

I walked around the room, looked inside the cupboard and sat down on the sofa in front of the desk.

Incidentally, my gaze fell on the bell on the desk.

I rang the bell because I was thirsty.

Ting Ting—

"You called?"

The maid Reina immediately came over.

Yeah, she looks cute after all, her chest isn't so big, though.

I wonder how old she is.

Ah, but this girl saw my everything.

.....Bad memories.

The past can't be deleted.

Two people who were destined not to be together just after meeting.

What a tragedy.

But, wait.

At that time I didn't know I was Carlo.

So it's Master Carlo she saw and not me.

It wasn't me who used the urinal, but Carlo!

It's mysterious, when I started to think like this I suddenly felt somewhat better again.

"Carlo-sama?"

That's right, I'm Carlo, the broad-minded, arrogant, villain Carlo.

So I was seen peeing into a urinal, so what?

"Carlo-sama? What is your order?"

"Ah, I'm sorry, I was thinking about something. By the way, how old are you Reina?"

"Eh? Ah, I'll turn 17 this year."

Strike!

JK it's an excellent throw. (TN: JK Joshikousei= Female High school student. He talks about how he can't do her I think or that she's his type, but I think it's latter cause baseball terms) "I, is that so? I'm thirsty. Could you bring me some water?"

"Certainly, I shall immediately bring it."

After Reina lowered her head she left.

Mmm, I didn't do badly.

To be able to talk to a girl so casually since years Carlo's effect is amazing.

If I was still in my original world this wouldn't be possible for me.

At the same time as Reina returned, a man entered the room.

It was a slightly older man with an excellent white mustache.

His eyes were really thin, you can't tell whether his eyes are opened or closed.

He felt like the first Captain of a Space Battleship and seemed stubborn.

"It's been a long time, Carlo-sama. Please give any orders to this Marcus."

He sat down on the sofa without me waiting for me to tell him.

He has a powerful presence, like a veteran knight.

But I can't pull back now. I'm the villain Carlo.

"Marcus. Have you been in good health?"

"Yes, thank you. So, what is your order?"

Uuh, this is kind of pressuring.

Don't lose, me.

"Have you heard about a man called Fitzgerald who was recently assigned to the Imperial Guard?"

"I know him. Is there a problem with that man?"

"What does Marcus think about him?"

"He is considerably skilled with the sword and has nerves of steel. Honestly, it's a mystery how he stayed as a low ranking knight for so long. Well, it's probably because of his family's low standing."

Yeah, that old man sure has a good eye for people.

"Is it so? So, appoint Fitzgerald as a captain under my direct control."

Old man Marcus looked at me, his thin eyes wide open.

Looks like he realizes it more and more.

Oops, I almost forgot this is the place where I change the subject.

"Understood. I shall immediately take care of it tomorrow."

"Please do so. On another not, what do you think about the current Franz royal Family, Marcus?"

"Let's see, their relationship to the old, traditional, noble households seems to be considerably cold."

"I see, what about me?"

"The Medici household is powerful but gained nobility just recently. Depending on Carlo-sama's attitude they might get closer."

"Using me as a shield against the powerful lords, is it?"

Hmm, that old man knows what he's talking about.

In my novel, King Franz arranges an engagement between the princess and Carlo to oppose the influential noble families.

Well, anyhow, Princess Charlotte falls in love with the Hero and later finally settles down with him (planned).

"Then, what do you think about the barbarians?"

The Franz kingdom, including the Medici border territory, borders the north side of the area where people we call the barbarians live.

The barbarians broke through the border and invaded the north and Carlo had quite the trouble repelling them in my novel.

But I didn't write exactly when that happened.

"I listened to Fitzgerald's report and it seems unlikely that there will be an attack this year. But the possibility of them trying to invade in the next two to three years is extremely high."

"Hm, I see, so we should immediately work on counter-measures."

This old man is usable.

He has great diplomatic insight he even judged the Barbarians like this. He'll make a great General.

Carlo has to do a lot of things so capable individuals which he can entrust the military affairs are essential.

"Marcus, there's something I want to consult with you."

".....What is it?"

"I want to promote you as a General as soon as possible and make Fitzgerald succeed you as the head of the Imperial Guard."

"Hoh, does that mean you aren't satisfied with this old man's ability?"

"The opposite. I want to leave the military affairs to you."

(Marcus' PoV)

Marcus didn't show it on his face, but inwardly he was really surprised.

Carlo is not stupid like his predecessors, he wanted Marcus to be more than just a person who served him.

This wasn't evident before today's talk.

Being summoned suddenly, and talking about this, seemed a bit unusual to me.

I heard he fell from a horse. Did he hit his head at that time?

The atmosphere around him completely changed for some reason.

He feels like a totally different person.

Well, it's not a bad choice to appoint Fitzgerald as a confidant.

That diplomatic question also hit the mark.

His decision to hurry and immediately create counter-measures against the barbarians was really admirable.

The nobles of this country, calling the barbarians a savage tribe, tend to downplay their actual power.

It's foolish to believe the barbarians fighting power is weak just because they're culturally less developed.

I see them as a flat-out threat so it would be the right judgment to hurry up in creating counter-measures.

Moreover, appointing me as a General and giving me military authority.

Well, even if he hit his head and is a completely changed person I can't say it's a bad change.

I thought he would just be a blue-eyed, blonde-haired brat, but turns out he might be quite a capable person.

I thought I would pass my days peacefully, but it seems like I unexpectedly got some more work.

"I see. As you command. I will follow your order and elevate Fitzgerald to the position of commander soon."

“It’s bad manners, but please consider a way to put our talk into practice.”

“Yes, then, I shall take my leave.”

(Carlo’s PoV)

Marcus left.

He seemed to take my suggestion favorably somehow.

After F I was able to meet another capable person.

And again a step towards the end of the story was taken.

Chapter 7 – Doji

After Marcus left, I had another salty dinner.

Afterwards, Reina came over when I was relaxing in my bedroom because I didn't have anything better to do.

“The bath is ready. Do you want to enter?”

Oh yeah, the nobles of this country have the custom to take baths I made this bath setting because I myself like taking baths.

It's also easier to write Mufufu scenes when a bath-setting exist. (TN: Well, ya know Ecchi stuff.) “I see, then I will do that.”

Together with Reina, I went to the bathroom.

Ooh, it's huge!

Then, Reina helped me take off my clothes.

Hey, hey, hey, hey!!

“Re, Reina, that's enough.”

“Don't you need me to wash your back? “

No, no, no, is this an eroge? (TN: Adult games for those who don't know) The hurdle is too high for me, a virgin, to suddenly get my back washed by a 17-year-old.

I am not ready.

“I can wash it by myself just fine, so you don't have to.”

I wanted to rip my hair out but I swallowed down those emotions and declined.

I feel like I broke an important flag all by myself.

Haah~

Despite being a little shaken I started to relax in the bathtub.

Okay, so what am I going to do from now on?

I was able to meet F, but should I start looking for my other allies?

As for the members of my party, there's the masked mercenary "Akatsuki".

His real identity is a mystery but he'd do anything for money.

Then there's the dark elf warrior, Zarissh, who could do unjust acts without thinking twice about it.

I want to become friends with them as soon as possible.

Another member is farmer Doji, I think we are going to meet soon.

Then the talented person whom I'll leave diplomacy to, the military's schemer, Nals.

It would be great if I could meet such a talented individual soon.

Ah, I also have to find someone to teach me magic.

Princess Charlotte is another person I have to absolutely meet.

To win over Carlo King Franz Johann III. makes the princess his fiancée.

However, in the second part of the story, Carlo imprisons Johann III. with plans to become the king of Franz Kingdom himself.

Princess Charlotte who noticed Carlo's plot asked the hero for help leading them to fall in love with each other which triggered the creation of a new country and the end of the story. (planned).

Since Carlo was already engaged to Charlotte at the beginning of the novel, I have to somehow get engaged to her within the five years before the hero arrives.

There are a lot of things I have to do.

I can't leave anything out.

Oh yeah, I have to indulge in alcohol and women, too.

Carlo was set to be a playboy.

I have to change girls like clothes and make them cry.

Doing Mufufu things with those girls.

Doing some naughty stuff with some older sisters.

That means I can't stay a virgin forever.

That would be a serious problem, right?

It's not like I want to do it but it can't be helped role-wise.

Let's note that as an immediately to solve problem.

I got fired up when I thought about such things.

After feeling a little dizzy in the bath I went back to my bedroom and just slept.

The next morning, the third day after my Reincarnation.

I took a walk around mansion's vicinity.

I was asked if I want to take the guards with me, but I declined.

It is autumn and the sky seemed to have grown wider.

The color of the wheat ears on the nearby field seemed to have considerably changed.

Pikaru did say we had a good harvest this year.

Then I happened to meet a large man cutting firewood.

He used a huge ax to cut it while wearing a straw hat.

He was 190 cm tall, he was both large vertically and horizontally.

His face looks really strict, but I knew that he had a gentle personality.

My companion Doji from my novel.

"Doji, you're a really hard worker, aren't you?"

"Aah, Carlo-sama, good morning. Are you feeling well again?"

Doji lowered his head while wiping off his sweat with a towel.

He's the son of a peasant, currently 18 years old and working for Carlo.

He really respected Carlo and didn't betray him until the very end (planned).

With his strength, he would even be a reliable fighting force if given an ax or a club.

He would play an active part as a party member.

“Yeah, I’m fine again. Is Doji busy after this? If you can I’d like you to come with me.”

“It’s fine. I can do my work later.”

I took Doji and walked to the top of the small hill a mansion was standing on.

The scenery from the top of the hill gave off a medieval feeling. (TN:a European medieval feeling to be exact) At several farms, huge windmills could be seen turning.

In the distance, I could see Braham’s townscape with its chestnut-brown brick roofs.

It’s a remote local city but it’s the largest town in the Medici border territory.

One could see the town spread around several hills.

The dome seen in the middle belongs to the Saint Perrier cathedral.

A Church following the teachings of the Light Religion and also the town’s symbol.

A road was leading to the town.

Because it wasn’t paved clouds of dust were blown upwards every time a horse carriage was driving over it.

The world I imagined when I wrote my novel spread out before me.

The townscape, the windmills, the farms, and the cathedral.

As I look at the scenery, ah, it’s no good, tears are coming out.

This is the world I made.

I wonder if it feels like this when your novel gets turned into an anime or a live action movie.

“Carlo-sama, what’s wrong?”

“No, it’s nothing. How many days does it take you to go to the capital Rue Ann, Doji?”

“Let’s see, if you have a fast horse 3 days, in a carriage 5 days and 7 days when you walk.”

It would take long, just as I thought.

Information transmission and marching speed are important.

If I improve the roads the distribution of goods will also become more active.

“That’s the Holmes River.”

A large river flows through the town’s east side.

It’s called Holmes River and has its origin in the Barbaross Mountain range located in the far north.

The Medici territory depends upon the Holmes River’s aquatic resources.

While it gives great blessings, it is also a double-edged sword that, once the riverbanks break down, will cause major flood damage.

My model was the Egyptian Nile.

The vast Reed forest spreads over the other side.

“How’s the Holmes River recently?”

“There does not seem to be any floods recently. It’s just that this area’s drainage is bad which causes trouble.”

I see, now that he mentions it, there’s a lot of damp ground around here.

This might interfere with further development.

Now that I think about it, there are a lot of big mansions lined up around here.

“Doji, do many rich people live on this town’s hill?”

“That’s right. Usually the rich live on the hill and the poor at the bottom of it.”

Together with Doji, I went down the hill.

It seems because I'm wearing a big gauze on my cheek and bandages around my head no one recognized me as Carlo.

The stores were lined up in the town and people were barking like dogs, trying to invite customers to their shop.

Housewives with shopping baskets hanging from their arms were walking around.

Unlike the quiet townscape, seen from the hill, here is where the common people live.

"Is it always this humid here? And isn't the drainage a little too bad?"

"My house is close by, my mother always complains about the mold growing because of the water always flowing in."

As I thought.

It's obvious that this is connected to the bad drainage.

When I wrote my novel I didn't even bother writing about things like drainage.

But it's a serious matter if you actually live here.

This also needs improvement.

"I see, so how is living here?"

"Because the farmers had a good harvest we are able to live our lives without much trouble now and are pretty happy."

Doji smiled joyfully.

I see, so they can effort to live without worry this year, huh?

Chapter 8 – Tax Increase

I who returned together with Doji to the residence called Pikaru to my office.

“How may I help you?”

“Pikaru, how is the tax rate of this place currently?”

“The farmers are paying 40% of their harvest to Carlo-sama and the merchants and craftsman are paying 20% of the income they made.”

It was a system where the farmers had to pay four-tenth of the farm’s products as land tax and the people with monetary income would have to pay 20% of it as taxes.

“Inform me about the present financial status.”

“The current financial situation cannot be described as good. This area has bad drainage and it is impossible to expand the farmland so if the harvest is bad there would be a famine and the tax revenue would decrease. It seems like this year there was a good harvest and we are able to catch a breath.”

“How is the cash flow?”

“Not good. Braham is distant from the castle town so they are having trouble exporting. The commerce and industry don’t develop too much either because the prices are too high and there isn’t anything we could call a specialty available here.”

It’s like this after all, huh?

The productivity is low because the social infrastructure isn’t stable.

If we don’t do anything having a stable territory management would be difficult and if that’s the case I fear the Hero and the Demonlord might neglect this place.

There will be a huge event five years later and now I have to set the stage for it.

“Pikaru, make an announcement. This year the tax rate will be raised by 1.5 times.”

“Eh?! Carlo-sama, what are you saying? If we do something like that the whole country will be thrown into chaos.”

“I don’t care. Wasn’t there a huge harvest this year?”

“This might be true, but the tax rate hasn’t been changed since the time the predecessor—”

“If the harvest was good then they are able to live. Give an official announcement that the farmers are to give 60% of their harvest and the merchants and craftsman are to pay 30% of their income.”

“Please reconsider, Carlo-sama’s reputation will be ruined if you do something like that!”

Well, I figured as much.

They are happy they had a good harvest this year and can live a rich life and then suddenly the tax rate gets raised by 1.5 times.

This country’s people will bear a grudge against Carlo and will raise voices of protest.

My originally earnest mind aches when I think about it.

But I’m the villain, Margrave Carlo de Medici.

I can’t be afraid of being hated by other people.

The more Carlo is hated the higher the hero Kazuma’s popularity will be.

I decided to become an excellent villain and lead this story to the ending.

To let the novel, which I wrote, have a conclusion.

“I don’t care. I do not intend to listen to the voices of the people. Please announce it as soon as possible.”

Pikaru stared at me with eyes seeming to want to say something, but after he realized I wouldn’t change my mind he just lowered his head and left the room without saying anything.

“Fuu.....”

I was lying on the sofa while wearing shoes.

To be frank, I was tired.

Not physically but mentally.

It's hard to be hated by people.

Originally I hated to fight with people.

I lived my life minding other people's mood.

It's considerably hard for that me to live as a villain.

But I decided this by myself.

To live as a villain, to be the hero's rival.

I'll become an excellent villain.

While I was lying down I rang the bell resting on the desk.

Ting Ting—

"How can I be of service?"

Melissa entered immediately.

She watched me who was plopped down on the sofa with a puzzled look.

"It's nothing, just a little tired."

Melissa thought for a while and then smiled at me.

"I heard a little from Pikaru-sama. But Carlo-sama must have a plan. Because I believe in Carlo-sama."

.....Aah, It's good that there is a person supporting me.

"Sorry. Oh yeah, Melissa do you know a person who is able to use magic?"

"Magic, is it? There's one person I am distantly related to. Even though they are young in age, I heard they are rather talented."

"I see, in fact I want to learn how to use magic. Can I ask you to contact this person?"

"That person is actually rather odd, I wonder if they will be useful. Shall I call them here?"

"No, if it's here Pikaru will nag again. I'll go meet that person myself soon."

“Certainly, I will contact them. Also, Marcus-sama and Carlo-sama’s newly appointed captain Fui-Fitz.....”

“Fitzgerald, huh?”

“That is right. He said that he wants to greet you on the occasion of being appointed to the new post.”

“The letter “F” will be enough as a name. I also call him like this. Let him through.”

“Then I shall lead Marcus-sama and F-sama into the office.”

After Melissa left F came in together with Marcus.

“Excuse me. Thank you very much for appointing me as Captain of the Imperial Knights.”

“You don’t have to be so stiff. Sit.”

I urged F who stiffly stood at attention to sit down on the sofa.

Marcus sat down long before being told to do so.

“Marcus, I caused trouble for you.”

“No, no, this was just a simple job of writing on a piece of paper.”

Following Marcus, F started to talk.

“I, with a low social standing, joined the Imperial Knights and shortly after for patronizing—”

“It’s nice to be formal.”

I used my hand to interrupt F who tried to thank me again and talked to Marcus.

“And? Did you think about the later arrangements?”

“I think it’s a pretty good hand.”

Marcus grins.

“Hoo, what kind of hand?”

“I will soon announce my resignation of my seat as the Imperial Knight leader.”

“Fumu, and then?”

“Then I will select a successor from the Imperial Knights. Specifically, how about I hold a sword fighting tournament between the five captains and make the winner the new head?”

“It might turn out to be very interesting!”

“Indeed, fufufu”

“Will Leader Marcus quit?”

Watching the excited me and Marcus, F’s eyes roll in bewilderment.

That’s to be expected, suddenly when you came to this place after being newly appointed to the post of captain the leader starts to talk about quitting.

“Rather than quitting, getting promoted to a general. I’ll let you, F, become the leader’s successor.”

“N, No matter how you put it”

“Fitzgerald, those are Carlo-sama’s earnest hopes. Don’t refuse.”

Marcus was obviously amused.

Let me in, too.

“The purpose of the sword fighting tournament is to let you win. You won’t lose, F”

“W, well I’ll do my best, however”

Impatient F’s sidelong glances accelerate mine and Marcus’ wickedness.

“I also came up with something good, Marcus.”

“Hoho, I wonder what it is?”

“The tournament just having five people is badly divided. I’ll participate, too.”

“Hoh, Does Carlo-sama also have confidence in his sword arm?”

“I’m not bad. Right, F?”

“The Margrave’s ability is considerable. It’s not on a level most people would be able to match.”

“That’s interesting, shall I pull some strings so that Carlo-sama and Fitzgerald will fight in the finals?”

Marcus exchanged looks with me and chuckled to himself.

Marcus, your lord is also bad.

Chapter 9 – White King

The morning after a few days.

After having eaten breakfast, I was waiting for the doctor in this room.

“Good morning. I brought the doctor.”

Melissa entered the room followed by a doctor.

After the doctor removed the gauze and disinfected the cut he cut the thread with a pair of scissors.

He pulled the thread out with tweezers but I still tensed up at that point.

I almost closed my eyes unintentionally, but I had to endure it as the villain Carlo and somehow was able to stay calm.

It didn't really hurt after all and just made a little shick sound.

“It's such a big scar. What a shame”

While I was looking in the mirror Melissa standing on my side seemed to feel sorry for me.

It certainly is quite a big scar.

But I'm not particularly depressed because I wrote this setting of Carlo having a scar myself.

Rather, it's kind of cool like a wanderer once feared by men.

At last, the gauze was removed and I felt relief above all.

I still have to continue to disinfect it for a while.

I decided to call F and train horseback riding afterward.

Even though Melissa is worried that I will fall again but I would be rather troubled if I'm not able to ride a horse.

“Is this Carlo-sama's favourite horse? It's excellent”

F raised his voice in admiration.

That's right, you can't find such a good horse anywhere else.

The firm tightened muscles were coated in snow-white fur.

It has smart-looking eyes and was twice as big as other horses.

This was Carlo's favourite horse, the white king.

White horses as the name suggests are said to originate from age-old legends.

To be honest I was a little scared but because I am Carlo I can't hesitate here.

First I tried to pet its nose slowly.

Followed by that the white king nestles its head against me and behaves like a baby.

Isn't that fellow rather cute?

I asked F to teach me the foundations so that I may never fall from the horse again.

Thanks to that I learned how to put on a saddle and how to affix the stirrups and harness carefully.

Thereupon I was able to get on smoothly like I thought this is author correction, right?!

Trot, gallop, anything that comes at me even battles on horseback seems to be possible now already.

Anyway, this white king is rather bright and is able to immediately read my intentions.

"As expected of Carlo-sama, you are skillful. If you don't mind would you like to go on a long distance ride?"

"Then want to go hunt some kobolds?"

It's not a bad experience to take advantage of this to try exterminating some monsters.

F and I left the mansion on horseback with some weapons.

In one hand F held an iron shield with the crest of the Imperial Knight Order on it and in his other he held a long sword, I myself had a Bastard Sword in one

hand.

I stirred up white king a little to rush forward.

The surrounding scenery flows past me in no time and the autumn wind feels good.

What speed, what refreshment.

Is that the feeling of riding a large motorcycle?

Because they damage the fields kobold's are disliked by the farmers.

Therefore the probability is high to encounter them in the fields, I, as the author, of course, know this.

"F, let's go to the fields."

I cross the poorly made bridge, a large tree lying across the Holmes river, and leave for the fields on the opposite bank.

I want to replace this bridge with a stone bridge later on.

Because that side of the river is close to the Reed forest I know that there was a setting in my novel where one encounters monsters frequently there.

I put a monster-filled forest near a town because it was convenient for my story but in reality, this kind of setting is rather annoying for the people living there.

They don't know when they might get attacked while doing field work.

I feel responsible as the author.

I'm really sorry for troubling you because I thought the setting was convenient.

After we rode our horses for a while F discovered a small group of kobolds in a field of wheat.

"Carlo-sama, there. Their numbers are about five."

"Okay, F, go around the right. We'll do a pinch attack."

I get on the white king and draw a semi-circular arc from the left and approach the group.

I pulled the Bastard Sword out of its sheath and held it in my hand.

F approached from the right-hand side.

When we approached them several Kobolds noticed us and raised their voices.

A Kobold's head resembles a dog or a hyena but its body was nearly like that of a human's.

They are able to wield weapons because their intelligence is closer to that of a human's rather than a monkey's and they seem to be able to hold simple conversations.

As an individual, they aren't very strong but their propagative power is high and they tend to form and act in groups.

When they mutate they become High Kobold's and are able to use magic and long-distance weapons so one has to be cautious.

Most of the Kobold's weapons are clubs and spears made by cutting trees.

But several of them have a sword.

They probably got them when they attacked a traveler or a farmer and took their weapons.

Kobolds are harmful to fields and humans because they also are quick to increase in numbers they were designated as a subjugation class species.

If it's a single individual then their monster rank is D but if they are in a group it's C.

By the way, Monster Ranks are divided into the six ranks E to A and S.

An S ranked monster is of the disaster class and has to be subjugated on a national level, to subjugate an A class monster the military force is needed.

For B class it's appropriate for several parties to collaborate and defeat it and for C class a single party is usually enough to deal with it.

For D class a single powerful person or an amateur group is enough and it is said that even a common person can take care of E class types.

Those Kobold's numbering 5 are slightly below C class but it's an easy victory for F and me.

Because we attacked at the same time the Kobolds who noticed us ran from right to left in utter confusion.

I aimed for the nearest one of them by letting white king run past it and wielded my sword.

Thump!

The Kobold fell down in response.

I immediately pulled white kings reins and slowly returned to the Kobold, sword in hand.

The Kobold brandished its sword and came straight at me, too.

This is the first time I am wielding a sword on top of a horse, the author correction is too strong here.

I calmly judged the Kobold's sword strike, struck a gap and knocked it down with my sword.

You go, me.

While I knocked down two, F defeated three Kobolds.

"F, your abilities are just as I expected. With you being like this I'd have to ask you to participate in the sword fighting tournament."

"Carlo-sama said that you don't have any experience in fighting on top of a horse, but after seeing you fight like this it's hard to believe."

When I praised him, F praised me.

It's nice to be recognized by a strong person.

Though this isn't a power I worked hard for to acquire, even if I recently practiced for the sword fighting tournament.

Because Kobolds were a subjugation targets it would be profitable to cut off their ears and take them to the adventure guild, but I stopped myself from doing it this time.

Well, it wouldn't earn me a great amount of money and I'm a feudal lord.
But talking about adventurers I yearn for that life.

Chapter 10 – Magician

A few days later Melissa came over.

“Carlo-sama, it’s regarding the distantly related magician we talked about the other day.”

“Yeah, how was it?”

“Carlo-sama should contact her to inform her about the date you are able to take lessons. Even today would be possible if it is convenient for you.”

“Unfortunately, I am busy today so I cannot act as a guide for you.”

“It’s fine, I am no child after all.”

I’m able to go learn magic alone this way.

Because if Pikaru finds out about this he’ll start to nag again so I’ll do it secretly.

It seems like Melissa’s magician relative lives in a windmill out-of-town.

I saw the windmill after I rode White King for a while.

After I tied White King to the stake in front of the windmill I knocked on the door of the hut.

As soon as the door opened a child came from the inside.

The girl looks like she is 14 or 15 years old.

She wore a grey robe with a hood attached.

“I’m called Carlo. I’m here to visit the magician Knopf.”

“Please enter”

I entered the windmill under the guidance of the girl.

Inside were a lot of wooden gears turning with a gakkon gakkon sound.

Heh, so it looked like this inside of a windmill, huh?

“Please, have a seat”

I sat down on the sofa the girl prompted me to sit on.

Test tubes and beakers were scattered throughout the hut and it had a laboratory atmosphere to it.

However, there is no sign of another person being inside this hut.

“Is Knopf away? Then I shall come another time.”

“I’m Knopf. I heard everything from Aunt Melissa.”

I was seriously surprised by that girl’s words.

Melissa said she is young, but no matter how I look at her this is too young.

Is it possible to change your appearance with magic?

“Are you surprised by my young appearance? Even with me being like that I believe I’m older than you.”

This self-proclaimed Knopf brought some food while saying that.

Then I saw those fluffy cat ears.

“I’m half human, half cat person. I’ll be 30 this year. Because the average life expectancy of the cat people is approximately 150 years it seems like I am able to look this young for my age.” (TN: The author used katakana to write cat person so not my crappy naming sense) A mix of cat humans, the “Cat People”, and humans, did I write about such characters?

The Cat People I wrote had a more cat-like face and grew whiskers.

In that respect, Knopf, being a half, has the face of a human and cat ears.

.....I can’t help but be interested whether she has a tail, too.

Speaking of which, Melissa, you should have told me!

Even before telling me that she’s young or an oddball.

Is this not as important here? Is it different?

“I see, I was disrespectful. Then again I’m Carlo. Please take care of me.”

“I’m surprised that Carlo-san doesn’t dislike me for being a sub-human.”

I see, in this world there are a lot of tribes of different races the cat humans included, those races are called sub-humans.

Even if the person is half human they seem to be put in the category of sub-humans as well.

Those sub-humans are discriminated against by humans all the time.

That is the setting I made.

“I don’t particularly care. Is that why you live in this windmill out-of-town?”

“There is that, but it’s also convenient for executing experiments as well. Ah, I shouldn’t speak this way.” (TN: She spoke in an informal way) “I don’t mind. I’ll tell you now, you don’t have to use formal speech with me.”

“I’m saved. It’s hard for me to keep being formal.”

Knopf showed a relieved expression and laughed.

Her cat ears twitch when she laughed and made me want to touch them.

“What kind of magic do you want to learn?”

“What kind of magic can Knopf use?”

“Hmm, let’s see.....”

After Knopf thought for a while she began to talk.

“Do you already know that magic is divided into six basic systems? Fire, water, wind, earth, light and darkness.”

Yeah, I know this already, because I set it up like this.

This is just the standard for fantasy, right?

Well, I can’t say that so I nodded.

“Of these Light and Darkness are a little different, but the other four kinds, Fire, Water, Wind and Earth are of the same system.”

Yeah, those four kinds are called spirit magic and can be used by borrowing the power of spirits.

Light and Darkness use a different kind of power other than God, Demons, and Spirits.

This is also according to my setting.

“To activate magic of these four systems one has to borrow the power of spirits. For example, using the same Fire magic system to use the elementary spell light ball “Light” and the flame ball “Fireball” it’s fine to borrow the power of low-grade spirits in the vicinity. However, to use more powerful magic like fire tornado, fire storm or explosive flare, one has to form a contract with a higher ranked spirit before being able to use them.”

That’s correct as well.

Therefore in order to use higher ranked magic, it is necessary to find a stronger spirit and form a contract with it.

“But I’m doing research on how to increase the strength of lower grade magic. Those can be explosive, too.”

What did you say?

Did I describe a method like that in my novel?

“Do you know what is needed to set a fire? Fuel, heat, and oxygen. If those three things are in one place I can ignite a fire without having to use fire to make it burn.”

Hey hey, that’s rather chemical.

Do they study such things here in this Fantasy world?

“For example to use the fire magic “Fireball” you create heat and fuel with the spirit’s power. Using one’s mental strength moves the ball towards one’s opponent.”

There’s such a mechanism, huh? I want to study it.

“What do you think will happen if I create pure oxygen using wind magic and add it to the fireball?”

Hey, hey, that’ll be dangerous.

I heard it will explode and even metal like iron would burn with such a high concentration of oxygen.

“It’ll explode. By the way, even things that normally don’t burn will burn if the oxygen enriched fire is used.”

Like I thought.

“I sprinkled fine metal dust created with earth magic all over a room and when I threw a fireball in there it surprisingly caused a chain of explosions.”

That’s a dust explosion. (TN: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_explosion) “It’ll even cause an explosion if you treat a rock made with earth magic with a high-temperature flame and then hit it with water magic.”

What you are describing is a phreatic explosion and that’s also very dangerous. (TN: That’s what happens when a volcano erupts https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phreatic_eruption) “With that in mind, I’m researching whether one can achieve the same effect as a more advanced spirit magic with the combination of various kinds of lower grade elementary magic.”

Ehm, this Knopf-chan seems more like a mad scientist rather than a slightly odd person.

“Therefore I can’t use highly advanced spirit magic but if it’s lower ranked spirit magic I can use all four systems. Though I’m slightly weak with water.”

As I thought because you’re a Cat-girl you’re weak against water, huh?

“That’ll be enough. I want you to teach me the usage of fire, wind and earth magic.”

“That’s fine, then with what do you want to start?”

Chapter 11 – Fire Dragon

“Then, tell me about fire magic first.”

“Sure. One has to borrow the power of a spirit to create fuel and heat to let fire magic take effect as I said before. Therefore one has to call a fire spirit. Try it.”

Knopf starts to meditate with her hands facing up.

She breathed slowly and seemed to concentrate.

“I close my eyes and imagine fire spirits in the atmosphere and call one. Usually, it’s in the form of a dwarf.”

I do the same thing and close my eyes with my palm’s facing upwards.

Fire spirit, come here, Fire spirit-chan, come closer.....

However, there weren’t any signs of it at all.

“Is it no use? It can’t be that difficult. Maybe you lack talent?”

Thunk.

I’m not able to do anything, I remembered the hard reality of not having talent I was blessed with and became blue.

Ah, I’m useless, huh? Even in the world, I created as an author I’m useless, huh?

I unintentionally switched back from Carlo to my original self.

“I, it’s okay even it failed this time. How about you try to imagine a flame on your hand this time?”

Knopf hurriedly tried to encourage me and nearly fell over.

I took it to heart and tried to do what she told me somehow.

Then the image of a bright red lizard suddenly came out.

“Uwaa!?”

When I opened my eyes in wonder an approximately 3 centimetre tall lizard appeared on my palm.

Its bright red colour was just like the image but its eyes were kind of cute.

Overall it was just blurred and there was no sense of touch.

“How is it? Did you feel something?”

“Rather than feel, there was a red lizard on top of my hand.”

Because Knopf asked me I answered her truthfully.

“Like I said, it’s fine, so you don’t have to act tough. You didn’t feel anything, did you? You can’t fool me so please tell the truth.”

Knopf was smirking at me disgusted.

Her cat ears were moving angrily too.

I didn’t particularly lie, though.

“Even if you’re telling me that it’s still on top of my hand. Can’t you see it?”

“Eh, Are you sure?! A lizard, you say, it can’t be, is it a Salamander?! I mean this is your first time and it should be impossible”

You, you’re a salamander?

However I look at it, it looks just like a small lizard.

“You, I wonder if I can make you appear.”

At that moment, the blurry outlines became clearer and I felt it touching my palm.

Uuuh, it feels a little ticklish, it kind of has a reptile feel to it.

“It’s the truth.....”

After Knopf saw the lizard she looked surprised with her mouth wide open.

Come on, Cat-girl, your drool will flow out!

“This certainly is a salamander’s child. It’s still small. But to suddenly call a salamander.....”

Knopf still seemed like she didn’t believe it yet.

She stared at the lizard for a while longer but then turned towards me in the blink of an eye and began to talk with a serious face.

“Magic, if one excludes light and darkness, consists out of four elements, Fire, Water, Wind and Earth. Those are the four major elements that is what is being said. Fire, Water, Air and Earth.”

The theory of four major elements got supported from the ancient Greece/Rome to the Islamic world and the European Middle Ages.

“For those four major elements, there exist four spirits and one governing them. The water Undine, the wind Sylph, the earth Gnome and the fire Salamander.”

Ooh, in my novel the hero forms a contract with the spirit Undine and uses water magic.

Speaking of Undine, was that the name of one of those four spirits?

I imagined it as something like TinkOrbell.

As the author, I am sorry for my lack of research.

“As Salamander is the fire spirit of the four spirits it’s quite the high-ranked spirit. One can’t just call Upper-rank fire spirits like the flame demon Ifrit or the Phoenix or the Salamander that simply.”

When you think about it, this is also author correction, I’m really sorry in various ways.

“Though it’s still like a child right now, but I think it will gradually grow if it steadily absorbs magical power. Seems like it got used to you.”

Yeah, no matter how I look at it seems like it got attached.

It was sitting very peacefully on top of my hand.

“The problems start here. As I said before a little while ago, you can use stronger spells if you form a contract with a high-ranking spirit. But it also has its disadvantages.”

disadvantages?

“Yeah, the magic of other systems becomes unusable if one forms a contract with a spirit. That’s the reason for me researching the combination of low-ranking magic to achieve equal power. You don’t have to form any contracts with high-ranking spirits for that and the magic of the four systems can all be used.”

I see, it’s like that, huh?

“What do you want to do? You are able to use fire magic if you form a contract with this Salamander. After it grows bigger I believe you are able to use considerably strong magic. But on the other hand, you can’t use any magic of other systems.”

Mmm, this is rather troublesome, isn’t it?

But honestly I don’t really want to learn that much magic and it might be good that Carlo as the rival of the Hero, who uses water magic, is able to use fire magic.

I’ll be defeated by the hero anyway so why not have bad elemental compatibility.

“Knopf, what should I do to form a contract with this fellow?”

“It’s easy. You have to name it. If a spirit receives a name the contract is established. Do you want to form a contract?”

“That’s right, just being able to use fire magic is enough. I don’t want to become a magician.”

“I see, if that’s the case please name this child. I guess it will be alright as long as it’s nothing too weird.”

Mmm, a name for a lizard, huh?

This is a Salamander and in Japanese that would be a fire dragon.

Speaking of fire dragons, yeah, it has to be Rioreia..... something like that.

(TN: [Rathian](#) in the English version. A wyvern from monster hunter) “I’ve decided. You are Reus, the fire dragon Reus. How’s that?”

(TN: shortened form of [Rioreus](#). Rathalos in the English version. A wyvern from monster hunter) When I said that the lizard turned over and disappeared just when I thought that it was shining a little.

“Did it fail?”

“I think it’s different. Call its name”

“Reus!”

When I called its name the lizard appeared on my right shoulder.

“See, looks like it likes it. The contract was successful.”

“I see, then you are Reus from today onwards. Take care not to get hunted by a hunter.”

(TN: Cause ya know it’s a monster in monster hunter lol)

Knopf wasn’t able to understand this reference.

“One usually isn’t able to see them, but spirits are always around us, Carlo-san. Because that’s the case they will even come out if you just call them in your mind.”

I see, so it’s something like a mobile pet?

She said it grows up by absorbing my magical power so it’s fine not to feed it.

“Now that you have a spirit let’s practice fire magic, shall we? Let’s start with the incantation for “Fireball” first.”

First, we went outside to practice magic.

Using fire magic in a wooden hut is rather dangerous after all.

Even though I don’t really understand this stuff I try to imitate Knopf’s actions.

“Like I said before, you borrow the spirit’s power to create fuel for the fire to burn in the air. Then you draw the seals with one hand and concentrate.”

Well then, I close my eyes to concentrate, Reus, please lend me your power.....

Was the seal like that?

Then I should create a ball of burnable material in the air.

Something like a ball of flammable gas?

“If you’re ready, imagine adding heat to it, burn the fuel and aim towards your target while casting “Fireball”. That stake over there should be a good target, right?”

Reus, that’s enough.

I imagined adding heat to the ball and throwing it like a fastball.

That’s right, a straight with over 160 kilometres per hour!

“Fireball!”

As soon as I moved my arm a flame ball was flying like a fastball towards the target stake and hit it.

As for the stake, no trace remains of it.

“Again, this, suddenly producing a fireball of such speed, that’s impossible”

Rather than surprised, the cat girl looked at me with amazement.

Again, I’m sorry in various ways.

Chapter 12 – Herbs

After having learned how to use fireball from the Cat-girl, Knopf, I had her teach me some more fire attribute magic.

First I learned the spell “Light”.

It’s a very basic spell to create fireballs to float in the air. But it has many uses for example when one stays in a dungeon for the night or as a substitute for heating if one controls the brightness and heat.

I can use it for a long time because it consumes little magical power and it’s convenient for moving around.

When I see the fireball flutter around so smoothly it makes me feel like some kind of ghost will pop out from somewhere.

(TN: Ya know, cause that kinda looks like a [Will o wisp](#)) The next spell was the “Firewall” spell.

It’s a simple spell that only produces a firewall which burns at a high temperature, but it can continue to burn for a certain period of time even if you aren’t around it. If you use it well it can be effective for cutting off escape roads and enclosing your enemy.

It can be immediately put out by water magic.

The third one was the “Flame shield” spell.

It enables me to make an invisible shield made out of flames from my palm.

It can’t defend against physical damage like sword attacks unlike a common shield, but it reduces the damage of magic attacks by a fixed quantity.

However one has to be careful when one’s opponent is a water magic user because they can naturally make the shield disappear.

The last one was the “Fire Sword” spell.

It coats normal weapons like common swords in flames, adding a magic attribute to it and increasing the damage dealt by physical attacks.

Furthermore, it seems like it has quite the huge effect on the undead like zombies and skeletons.

It gets destroyed if one sets up a defence with water magic.

I seemed to have succeeded in everything which should be impossible for someone of the beginner level and I was looked on coldly again by the Cat-girl.

Well, if a person who tried their best to learn magic watched this they would get irritated.

But this is the author correction, I'm really sorry that I learned it so easily.

In the end, all the magic spells I learned are extremely weak against water attribute magic.

It's rather convenient if I think about the Hero Kazuma forming a contract with Undine, the water spirit of the four major spirits, enabling him to use water magic.

After finally being defeated by the hero I'll reform myself and help him defeat the Demon king after all (planned) because I'm the villain Carlo de Medici.

I'll boldly use nothing more than fire spells in the fight against the Hero, let's resolve ourself to lose boldly.

Actually, there is one more, it's Carlo's unique spell which doesn't belong to any of the 4 attributes. How could I forget about that?

Though it's very convenient, oh well, I'll steadily think about that later.

"Thank you, Knopf, I was able to learn magic thanks to you."

"Good for you, right, Carlo-san? So, what are you going to do from now on?"

"Yeah, I'll come over from time to time to learn magic so I'm in your care."

"Don't decide that on your own. Why did Carlo-san want to learn magic in the first place? Even though you're a noble."

"I thought I might go look around the dungeons a little."

"Ah, so it was that, huh? If that's the case I have a request, Carlo-san"

What Knopf said surprised me.

Her cat ears twitched in a worried way.

“It’s my first time seeing one of the four major spirits what’s more a Salamander’s child. Regarding my request, would it be fine to take me with you when you go into the dungeons? I want to look at Reus state after he matured.”

It’s convenient for the party to have a magician, but the researcher Knopf wants to go into the dungeon.

She can’t use any high-ranking spells of the four systems, but I appreciate it.

After all, I would have invited Knopf to be my ally anyway if I went to the dungeon.

For that time it seems like Knopf registered as an adventurer in the adventurer’s guild already.

Adventurer Registration.....What should I do?

I’ll definitely get caught by Pikaru right away if I do something big like that.

I left Knopf’s windmill and mounted White King.

On my way home towards the mansion, I came across a field with various plants growing on it.

When I took a look incidentally, I saw some familiar shrubs.

I looked down from White King. Isn’t that Thyme?

A kind of herb used in meat dishes.

Cultivating and using herbs in cooking was my mother’s hobby and because I was made to help her with it I am rather knowledgeable, too.

With those you’re able to accent the food’s flavour to make it shine, with some, you can even substitute certain things!

When I look around the vicinity in an excited manner I spotted a tree I recognize.

That was the Sage tree.

If you have this you can even make sausages!

Furthermore, if you look closely at the grass growing around here you can spot Italian parsley and basil in there.

This field seems to be a Herb garden.

To me who is frustrated with this world's flavour of the dishes this is a gold mine.

But isn't this too convenient, me coming across a field which incidentally grows all kinds of herbs and it's just the right season?

Is this a kind of author correction, too?

Before I even noticed it time flew by while I was absorbed in picking up those herbs.

In that time I've become very hungry.

I haven't eaten lunch either.

I've decided to come back here with White King and entrust the task of earnestly harvest them to someone else.

Melissa and Reina greeted me as I arrived at the mansion.

I seemed to have worried them because I took my time to return.

I also was somehow able to deceive Pikaru.

So I was saved from a sermon.

Anyway, when I told her that I felt hungry Melissa immediately cooked some rice.

I heard the menu was something like grilled salted fish or bird meat.

Here it comes again, the saltiness.

"Melissa, I'll cook lunch. Inform the kitchen"

"Absolutely not, a gentleman entering the kitchen! Pikaru-sama will get angry again if you do something like that."

"If you keep it a secret it should be fine. There's a dish I want to make."

Today there are herbs.

I'll have Melissa and Reina learn how to use them.

Even though Melissa was unwilling she approved of it somehow after I begged.

Excellent, now I can enjoy a wider variety of dishes.

“Still, is Carlo-sama able to cook?”

Reina asked curiously.

Well, she has a point. A nobleman wouldn't cook himself.

I can't just say, “because I had to help my mother, I can”, though.

“When I was outside there were dishes I found delicious, so I memorized the recipes.”

Was I able to deceive her?

When I entered the kitchen I first prepared the bird.

I opened up the chicken's thighs and cut them into easy to eat pieces.

Then I seasoned it with salt and pepper and let it steep so that the flavour can be absorbed.

Meanwhile, I bake some bread before crushing it into bread crumbs.

I also grind the cheese into fine cheese powder.

I put the cheese powder, salt and pepper, finely chopped up basil leaves and the bread crumbs together and mix them with some olive oil.

I put the chicken thighs on top of an iron plate covered in olive oil and spread the bread crumb mix on the chicken's skin.

Besides that, I place some peeled potatoes next to it. It has to stay in the oven approximately 30 minutes.

Unlike a gas oven, it's difficult to heat this oven.

With this, I somehow managed to complete grilled, fragrant spice chicken with bread crumb coating.

(TN: This is torture ... Now I'm hungry [鶏もも肉の香草パン粉焼き](#) T_T) “Carlo-sama, how skilled! It doesn't look like this is your first time cooking at all.”

“It looks delicious as well. What a nice fragrance.”

Both Melissa and Reina were surprised at my skill.

It turned out pretty delicious, huh?

“There’s also a share for you. Anyway, I’m hungry so let’s eat here together as it is.”

“That, such a thing like eating together with Carlo-sama. We shall receive it later so-”

“I don’t care. If this precious food cools down it will taste bad. This is an order, let’s eat together.”

This is one of villain Carlo’s outbursts of selfishness. (TN: heeeh~ oh really?) A meal eaten alone isn’t as delicious.

Moreover, I wanted to see those two’s expression when they eat this.

“Okay then, let’s dig in.”

“Though I might lack manners, I shall eat. Reina, eat some, too.”

“Yes, well then, I’ll have some.”

Like this, we ate together at the small desk, inside the kitchen.

“This is very delicious! It’s fragrant and.....”

“The meat is very juicy and those herbs on top of it have a really nice fragrance.”

Yep, yep, I’m content that you are that pleased.

Using cheese powder and the basil I picked up made it delicious.

I did a good job if I do say so myself.

“This can also be applied to pig and cow meat. I’ll teach you some other things later so make this from now on.”

“Certainly. I’m rather happy that my repertoire of dishes has increased~.”

With this I made one step forward towards improved eating habits.

Chapter 13 – Seniors

I was on my way back from my magic lessons with Knopf.

Though I improved, my control of “Fireball” still isn’t good enough.

Originally I didn’t have any motoric skills.

While I was riding White King two women ran in my direction.

They seemed to be desperately running away from someone chasing them.

I went down from White King and called out to them.

“What’s the matter?”

“We are being chased, please help us!”

One of them seemed to be in her early 30 and the other one was a girl looking like an elementary school student. They looked like mother and daughter.

The mother like person’s left arm was covered in cut wounds.

Both of them were rather beautiful, though their bodies were covered in dirt, probably because they desperately ran away.

The girl’s knees were covered in blood. Seems like she fell on the way.

Then two men on horses arrived here.

Both of them had a dangerous atmosphere around them having their swords in their hands.

They seem like scoundrels.

“What’s with you? Hand over those two.”

“Don’t get in our way, if you do you’ll get hurt!”

They threatened me from their horses, probably because they were cautious of me who suddenly appeared.

If I had a sword this would be no problem, but I don’t have one right now.

The mother like-person took the girl’s hand and took cover in my shadow.

“Are you listening? I told you to get out of the way!”

“You, that’s some good clothes. Let’s catch him and ask for ransom.”

What refreshing villains, I should learn from them.

But I’m the villain of all villains, Margrave Carlo de Medici.

I can’t be done in by those guys.

But unfortunately, I don’t have a sword right now.

The two men holding swords came closer on their horses.

Now, what should I do?

At that point, I remembered I practised magic today.

I call Reus in my mind.

I form the seals with one hand and form an image in my mind.

It’s the 160 km/h fireball I was practising just recently.

“Fireball!”

I cast the spell and swung my arm at the same time.

The fireball flew out with the same force as I imagined and then it grazed one of the villains and flew to somewhere.

This happened during practice as well, as I thought I got some problems with my control.

I wonder if this is the fastball’s fate as well.

“Shit, that guy’s a magician!”

“Retreat! Hurry up!”

The villains who saw this ran away at full speed.

Yup, being quick to run is certainly villain-like.

I’ll study hard, seniors.

“Thank you very much”

When she had tears in her eyes while thanking me, I became embarrassed.

The only thing I did was throwing a fireball.

While I listened to their story I heard their names. The woman's name was Mirea and the girl was her daughter Lucia.

As I thought, they were mother and daughter after all.

She lost her husband to illness and got attacked while she was traveling from the Ruan Kingdom to Braham to visit relatives.

They were kidnapped and their kidnappers seemed to have intended to sell them.

That was really villainous and atrocious, seniors.

"You're injured, huh?"

"No, this isn't a big deal."

The wound on Mirea-san's arm seemed to be shallow, but if left alone it will fester.

It's possible that tetanus exists in this world.

Anyway, I decided to take those two people to the mansion.

Head Maid Melissa will surely be able to do something.

It's my Special move "Leaving it to someone else".

(TN:Heey, that's mine already!)

I put those two on White king and grabbed the reins from behind them.

I saw this in movies, but it's actually pretty hard.

But this is more like a two-seat motorcycle.

Well, that widow is kind of, a little, you know.

Oh well, I can't bring myself to do anything strange in front of one's child.

Like this, we were on our way to return to the mansion, but then my seniors returned.

Good grief, you even brought your friends.

That attitude to never give up and that cowardice to not hesitate to attack a single person with a large group.

What charming ruffianism.

I'll study hard, I admire you, seniors.

Seniors and their friends have a total number of 1, 2, 3,.....Seven people.

I don't really feel any danger because I could just hit them with a fireball and close off the road with a firewall, but that's troublesome.

That's rather flashy and I want to treat Mirea-san's injuries as soon as possible.

"We're surrounded, what should we do?"

Mirea-san and Lucia-chan are frightened.

Well, that's to be expected. Being surrounded by bad guys like this is scary.

Though White King's speed can't be compared to those horses, but I can't do that with two more people here.

"Hey, that guy's a magician. Don't be careless."

"That's right, he suddenly threw a fireball a while ago. I splendidly avoided it, though, hehe."

My two seniors tried to warn their friends since a while ago.

Senior didn't avoid it, I missed, I'm sorry for my bad control.

"Hey, magician, hand those two over. If you do we'll spare your life"

Exactly what a villain would say.

Even if I hand them over you'll kill me nevertheless, that's smart seniors.

The seven people surrounding us gradually came closer.

Mmm, what should I do? As I thought I have to do something with magic, but when I thought that someone suddenly called out from behind me.

"Hey, I'll help you if you are in trouble. Although it depends on the money."

When I turned back I saw a swordsman wearing a red mask on top of a horse.

For some reason, that person didn't seem like one of senior's friends.

Still, I'm sure I heard that line somewhere before.

"Hey, did you hear me? How much are you willing to pay for your and those women's life? Depending on the price I'll help you."

Mmm, Where was it?.....

.....

.....

.....

Ah, I got it!

Those were the lines of the mercenary "Akatsuki" (Dawn) an unidentified masked person and ally of Carlo who would do anything for money.

Whatever he says he adds his favourite sentence "But it depends on the money. "

"I'm the crescent moon mercenary. I, "The Masked Crescent Moon Mercenary", am known for my strength. So, what will you do?"

Huh? They are both mercenaries and the mask is also the same, but the name is different.

By the way, there's a bigger difference, but, oh well, it should be fine, right?

"You said you were Crescent Moon? I'm Carlo. If you drive them away I'll say you five Yuroa gold coins"

Regarding the five Yuroa gold coins, in Japanese Yen that would be 500.000 yen. (TN:4.408 USD , 4.130 Euro) If I paid that much he would definitely go for it if it was the character Akatsuki.

"Just driving them away for five gold coins? Don't you want me to catch them or kill them or something?"

"Yeah, just driving them away is fine. Even if you kill them, I don't really care, but the pay will stay the same."

“That’s easy work, then. That’s not a lie, right? I’ll kill you if you say you can’t pay afterwards.”

“I didn’t lie. I’ll pay you later in my mansion, so please”

“Okay, got it! You bastards, this crescent moon will be your opponent!”

After the swordsman, Crescent moon, gave his name he drew his sword and faced the seniors.

Then one of my senior’s friends started to panic after hearing our conversation.

“This is bad, I’ve heard about the red masked mercenary called crescent moon. I heard rumours that as long as the amount of gold is right, she would do anything and even though she is a woman she’s supposed to be awfully strong.”

.....Yeah, that’s right.

Akatsuki and Crescent moon, the names are different and Akatsuki is supposed to me a muscular macho man while Crescent moon is a woman.

Besides, she only wore a breast amour directly on her skin and two bulges could be made out. Splendid.

While I think was thinking about such Crescent moon was going around fighting, they are swaying together with her actions.

Meanwhile, the masked mercenary sent away my seniors in no time.

Why running away my seniors left the words “We’ll remember thiiiis!” properly, my senior’s really are the role model villains.

I should follow their example.

“I chased them away as promised. Give me the gold coins.”

“Like I said, I’ll pay you in my mansion. If you understand come.”

Chapter 14 – Crescent Moon

“Welcome back, Carlo-sama. Those people are?”

I put Mirea-san and Lucia-chan on White King and returned together with Crescent Moon to the mansion.

I asked the maid, Reina, who greeted us to call the butler, Pikaru, and the head maid, Melissa.

“So you were a feudal lord? I’m surprised.”

The masked mercenary, Crescent Moon, was dumbfounded and looked at me.

Looks like she knew that this was the estate of the feudal lord Carlo.

“Feu, feudal lord.....?!”

After she heard that Mirea tensed up.

Did it surprise her?

“Sorry, I didn’t tell you, I’m the feudal lord Carlo de Medici. Melissa, please take care of those two. They are injured.”

I left Mirea-san and Lucia-chan, who were really grateful, with Melissa and went over to my office together with Crescent Moon.

As we entered the room Crescent Moon came closer to me.

“Hey, you’re the lord, right? You’ll hold your promise and pay up, right? You won’t say things like I don’t have money or I won’t pay now, right?”

I saw two round mountains as I lowered my gaze because she was that close.

What splendid roundness, those are the miracles the earth is made of.

I wondered whether they are pushed up or natural products.

I, who is a virgin, can’t distinguish between those things.

“Hey, are you listening?!”

Aah, I was preoccupied with those mountains so I didn’t hear it.

Why are you climbing that mountain? Because there's a mountain there.

"You, give me a break!"

"Carlo-sama, you called?"

Just when Crescent Moon started to get seriously angry, Pikaru entered.

"Pikaru, I'm sorry but could you bring me five Yuroa gold coins? For helping me take care of the villains which attacked me I promised her a reward."

"Certainly, I shall promptly get it."

After Pikaru lowered his head and left, Crescent Moon suddenly was in a good mood.

"If you pay up that's good. But I'm surprised, feudal lord-sama. You're willing to pay the exact price."

"You said you were Crescent Moon? You're working as a mercenary, right?"

"That's right. I work as a lone mercenary. Like I said before I'm the famous "Crescent Moon Mercenary."

"You'll do anything as long as it is profitable?"

"Yeah, that's right. If feudal lord-sama wants something to be done which can't be told to other people I'll do it. As long as the price is right, that is."

Yeah, no matter how I look at it, it's just like Akatsuki's character.

Soon Pikaru came back with a small pouch.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting"

When I gave her the small pouch I received from Pikaru, Crescent Moon checked the gold coins inside.

Carlo isn't such a stingy villain that he would hand over fake money.

"Pikaru, I want to have a talk with this person. Leave us alone for a while."

"Is that really all right?"

"You don't have to worry. Tell the others not to enter here for a while."

"Certainly"

When Pikaru left Crescent Moon suddenly grew cautious.

“Listen, even if I said I’m a woman who would do anything for money, I won’t do that kind of stuff”

What kind of stuff?

Though Carlo is a villain, the person inside is a virgin so I won’t do anything.

Ah, there are no people inside of me. (TN: Badum tss.)

“I know, I don’t have such intentions. I wouldn’t do anything to inconvenience a woman.”

What would those inconvenient things be? I wonder when I will be free. (TN: of being a virgin, I guess) Though I pretended to be tough, I fret about such philosophical problems inside.

“Is that so? Well, I guess. So, what do you want from me?”

“Yeah, do you know a man called “Akatsuki”? He’s a mercenary wearing a mask like you.”

“A mercenary called Akatsuki? He has the same mask as me? That guy smells like and imitation. I never heard of such a guy.”

Like I thought, you don’t know him, huh?

This Crescent Moon is an Akatsuki-like character then.

I wonder where I made a mistake, well, as long as those mountains are there, it’s fine.

Those mountains are really wonderful, someday I’d like to view that scenery more in detail.

Somehow I completely felt like a wanderer today. (TN: Mountain man lit.)

“That’s fine, too. Crescent moon, I plan to enter a dungeon soon. At that time would you lend me a hand?”

“Will you pay the proper price? If so, then it would be my pleasure to go together. There’s no customer that pays as well as you.”

Crescent Moon answered joyfully.

It seems like she is thinking about the profit she would make.

“There’s something I want to ask about, is there a way for someone to register as an adventurer without getting noticed? My position is kind of annoying.”

“I see, it’s unavoidable to attract attention if someone like you registers as an adventurer. Hmm.....”

While Crescent Moon thought she seemed troubled for a while.

“I got it, why don’t you wear a mask like me? If you use a fake name it should be fine. There are even mercenaries that do this. They don’t really check that in detail.”

I see, like this, I don’t have to worry about Pikaru finding out.

Besides, wearing a mask is very villain-like and isn’t it kind of cool, too?

“Good idea, let’s go with this. Good Idea, indeed. You have my thanks.” (TN: The second idea was in katakana) “That’s good! If you can’t go, I won’t make any money either.”

Crescent moon laughed cheerfully.

She really likes money.

Let’s ask her later about why she wants to earn that much money and what she uses it for.

Also, the reason for her wearing a mask covering her real face.

Would she get angry if I ask unnecessary things?

Crescent Moon will accompany me when I register at the adventurer’s guild.

Looks like she wants to introduce me to her favourite shop to buy masks.

It’s customer service, she said.

After Crescent Moon left head maid Melissa brought Mirea-san.

Her left hand was miserably covered in bandages.

Lucia who was exhausted seemed to have fallen asleep.

I was relieved.

“Carlo-sama, thank you for saving mine and my daughter’s life this time.”

Mirea-san deeply lowered her head and thanked me.

“Don’t mind it. I was just passing by coincidentally. How’s the condition of your wounds?”

“Thank you, I had the doctor treat it. I’m relieved that I can soon move it around again like before.”

“That’s good. So, what do you intend to do after this? You said that you would go to your relatives, right?”

“That’s what I said, but, Carlo-sama”

Mirea looked at my face with an earnest expression.

“Would it be alright to employ me here? I’m hurt now, but I’m really good with housework. Of course, I will do my best until my wounds have cured. Lucia would help out too. Please employ me and Lucia.”

Ehm, that’s a little troubling.

I didn’t expect such a development.

Not knowing what to do I looked at Melissa.

“Carlo-sama, I think this would be advantageous. After having talked to them I could determine that both of them had a good personality and mind, what’s more, the situation they are in deserves sympathy. With just me and Reina we can’t perfectly care for Carlo-sama, so I thought about searching for a new maid anyway.”

“I see, if Melissa says so, then it should be fine. But there is one condition. Lucia-chan has to properly go to school. I’ll pay for it. She can help out in her free time. If you agree to that condition you can work here.”

“Ca, Carlo-sama, not only are we allowed to work here but Lucia can also go to school.....Thank you very much. I will serve you with all my heart”

Oh, Mirea-san started to cry.

Looks like she was just that concerned, was she that happy that Lucia-chan could go to school?

Though this isn't really villain-like, but child education is important.

Well, I'll just act more like a villain from now on.

"Well then, Melissa, prepare a room for Mirea and Lucia and buy some necessities. Subtract the money spent from Mirea's salary."

"Thank you, Melissa-sama, please take care of us from now on."

Because I'm a villain I'll have it deducted from your salary.

Chapter 15 – Masked Mercenary

I went to the town, Braham.

We met at an inconspicuous place in the town.

When I arrived at the promised place Crescent Moon was already waiting there.

“I kept you waiting, Crescent Moon.”

“No, I arrived just a moment ago, too.”

After having exchanged some words I followed Crescent Moon and we entered a nearby shop.

Somehow Crescent Moon was really familiar with this shop.

“Welcome – -”

When I open the door and enter the shop, the heavy voice of a short, old man sitting within the shop greeted us.

In the shop, various masks were on display.

“There are plenty of kinds here, you don’t have to worry about the information leaking out. After all, I recommended the shop.”

Crescent Moon was right, there were so many kinds one could spend hours to count every single one.

“What kind of mask would be good? First of all, we have to cover that big scar of yours.”

That’s right, I have to cover the scar on my cheek.

For that, I would need a slightly bigger mask.

Because the full-faced ones look like Jason’s, I rejected them. (TN: It’s Jason from Friday the 13th)) There were also helmet types, like the ones used in American football, but because I would look like that useless third son of the end of the century, I rejected them. (TN: A reference to one of Hokuto no

Shinken's characters [Jagi](#)) It has to be one that covers the upper half of my face till the nose, made out of metal and coloured silver after all.

The holes for the eyes need to have a sharp, villain like feeling to it.

There was just the right mask here.

“Doesn't this one look pretty good? Isn't that fine?”

As Crescent Moon said so, we decided on that one.

The material it was made of was a silver alloy called Sterling silver.

It had some decorations making it stylish.

It was a little expensive with a price of 3 Yuroa gold coins but a villain has to care for his appearance, right?

I brought plenty of war funds so it's okay.

It had a leather strap attached so that I could wear it on the spot and take it home.

Meaning I immediately put it on.

If you asked me why I immediately put it on, it's because we are going to register at the adventurer's guild after this.

So I, too, will be able to join the adventurer's today.

I'm getting excited.

When I entered the guild building it seemed like a bar at first glance.

A large number of adventurers were talking noisily.

Deep inside were some counters where you had to report your finished quests apparently.

Most of the adventurers had a dubious, rough feel to them, like Pikaru told me.

“You can register there.”

I and Crescent Moon go to the counters in the back.

Some men sitting at a table across the room seemed to be familiar with Crescent Moon and called out to her.

“Crescent Moon, pretty rare seeing you with a friend. Never saw his face here. But wearing a mask, huh?”

“Is he your new lover? Next time keep me company in bed as well”

Crescent Moon pressed on without paying any attention to those vulgar voices.

“This is the registration counter”

At the counter sat a very unmotivated looking Onee-san. (TN: older sister...) “Does this person want to register? Then please fill in your name, preferred weapon, magic abilities, age and occupation on this form—”

Name. Name, huh?

I didn't think about that.

I can't write Carlo.

Let's fill in the rest first.

It's an iron rule to first fill in the things you are able to answer while taking an exam.

My preferred weapons would be two-handed swords like a Bastard Sword, but I'm also fine with one-handed swords.

I'm most skilful in fire attribute magic.

Let's keep it a secret that I completely lack control.

Let's make me a little older, 25 years old.

My occupation is mercenary, I guess.

Last but not least the name.

Hmm, maybe, as a silver masked villain, something like “HiOmes”. (TN: [Hilmes](#) or Hirumesu from Arslan Senki) Though I don't have any burns, but a scar on my cheek.

Then should I become “Fake HilOs”?

No, no, no, like I thought, that's really bad.

This is so hard.

"Lord silver mask" would be adventurer-like, right?

Well, then, as a masked character and rival of the hero it has to be....."Ch○
r"? (TN: [Char Aznable](#) from Mobile Suit Gundam) As I thought if we're talking
about masked characters he would be number one.

"Let's see how skilled you really are Hero!" saying stuff like that.

But, as expected, that's a little...

Then how about "Red Comet"? That's a proper name, right? (TN: Char's nom
de guerre) However, nothing on me is red and I don't really want to say "I'm the
Red Comet" myself.

Ah~ troubling, this is troubling!

"Hurry up! Can't you see the line behind you?"

While I was worrying myself to death, I got surprised by someone shouting at
me from behind.

When I looked back I saw an angry guy looking like a high-schooler.

He had a very hot-blooded feel to him, the type I can't deal with.

This is bad, if I don't hurry up then...

What should I do, what should I do, what should I do?

I hastily wrote something down.

I wrote "Akatsuki" (TN: Dawn)

Guwaaaaaaaa

I became Akatsuki, what should I do?

The identity of the mysterious masked mercenary "Akatsuki" is Carlo.

I don't know about something like thaaat!

"Oookaay, Akatsuki-san, the documents are fiiiine. Please wait for 30 minutes
for the registration documents to be processed."

The unmotivated Onee-san received the documents.

The guy behind me after giving me a death stare walked towards the counter.

“Didn’t you say you were looking for a guy named Akatsuki? Is it fine to name yourself like that?”

Crescent Moon, please don’t ask me.

After approximately 30 minutes the adventurer card was finished.

It’s the birth of the marvellous masked mercenary, Akatsuki.

I already gave up.

“If I gain enough fame under the name Akatsuki the real one might hear about it and show up, right?”

“I see, so you thought about that.”

Though Crescent Moon looked at me with admiration, I feel like this will never happen.

Just my author’s intuition.

Once I was ready to try to dive into the dungeon I promised her to contact her.

After we left the guild Crescent Moon and I parted, leaving me to walk through the city alone.

The mysterious masked mercenary, Akatsuki.

I headed towards the blacksmith.

In fact, there was a legendary blacksmith in this town of Braham.

He’s the dwarven blacksmith who will forge the Hero’s sword in the future.

This is reliable because I wrote that.

On the way, I buy a special liquor called “Hobbit Sake” at the liquor store.

That blacksmith is stubborn, but he loves this liquor.

There’s no doubt about that either because I wrote it.

I asked a person for the way and arrived at my objective, the blacksmith.

There was a short man with a long beard hitting metal hard inside a hut.

This should be the legendary blacksmith, Mohkan.

“I’m looking for a man called Mohkan.”

“I’m Mohkan, what’s your business?”

“I want you to make a Bastard Sword.”

“Sorry, but I have a lot on my hands right now. Come back later.”

This person is stubborn after all.

He isn’t likely to take over an order so lightly.

That’s where the liquor comes in.

“Here, it’s nothing special but please take it.”

“Hey, hey, isn’t that my all-time favourite? You’re giving that to me?”

“Yeah. Drinking it will make one forget their woes.”

“Thank you. So, what kind of sword was it that you wanted?”

Mufufu, one-hit K.O.

“A two-handed sword like a bastard sword, but I can use one-handed swords, too.”

“Hoh, that’s rare in this age. Are you also able to use magic?”

Right, in fact in this world it is mainstream to either use a one-handed sword and a shield or two-handed swords.

Because it’s extremely rare that a magical warrior would cast magic while wielding a sword at the same time.

One has to have at least one hand free to cast magic, after all, so one can’t hold a shield.

“So, what about the material? Bronze would be the cheapest after that would be iron. Steel is a high-quality product.”

“If I wanted stuff like that then I came to the wrong place. It has to be Oricalcum, right?”

“You. You know about that?”

The legendary metal, Oricalcum.

Alongside Mithril it's a rare metal of the fantasy world.

It's not only extremely hard but also has a superior toughness and it is known for its good compatibility with magic.

The Hero will also have an Oricalcum weapon made later on.

“I just heard some rumours. You have it, right?”

“I have it, but it's expensive.”

“I don't care. How much is it?”

“I'll hand it over for 10 white gold coins”

Dowaaa!

The legendary white gold coin and even 10 pieces.

In other words, it's 100 gold coins, converted in Japanese yen that would be 10 million yen.

I was surprised, but I desperately tried not to show it on my face.

This is a question of a man's pride.

“I don't care, make it. I'll pay you 10 gold coins today for now.”

“Sure, that's fine. It'll take one week to complete so come pick it up by then. Don't forget to pay the remaining money.”

Chapter 16 – Oricalcum Sword

One week later I visited the blacksmith Mohkan again.

Of course, without forgetting to put on my mask.

Mohkan is a dwarf and is called the legendary blacksmith for his skills.

When Kazuma reincarnated and came to Braham Mohkan was supposed to make him an Oricalcum sword.

Because I wrote that part I came to want it too and asked for it.

Still, ten white gold coins are expensive.

When I convert that into Japanese Yen it would be 10 million yen.

It's not only expensive because of its rarity but also because of its superior performance.

By the way, how could Kazuma pay that much money?

Because I didn't write about that, I don't know it either. (TN: What the!? And no one complained? I don't believe that.) When I asked Pikaru to give me the money I felt disgusted but he gave it to me without complaining or saying anything at all.

Because I had other plans, too, I took 20 white gold coins, but was that a bad thing to do? (TN: casually taking out 162,300 Euro....) Oh well, it'll be all right with this year's yield of the increased taxes, we had a good harvest after all.

I'm a villain anyway so I'm fine.

I again go to the liquor store and buy more of the "Hobbit Sake" for now.

Old man Mohkan was again grinding swords.

"Are you done with the thing I ordered?"

"Ah, it was Akatsuki after all. There, see, I have it. A Bastard sword made out of Oricalcum."

Ooh, It's done, huh?

How should I say it, it's very white.

It seems much whiter compared to iron, steel and silver.

Moreover, it's light.

It's not a feeble lightness like that of plastic but rather a feeling of flexible, keen lightness.

I can swing it with one hand just fine.

“How is it? It's light, am I right? Ordinary two-handed swords are meant to inflict damage with its weight, but this one is made to cut with its extreme sharpness. It depends on your skills, but if handled well it can cut through armour effortlessly.”

Amazing, it can cut that well?

Then this is totally like a Kitetsuken. (Cutting/killing iron sword lit.斬鉄剣)
Though it is said that even metal can be cut with this sharp Japanese sword when used by a master, but is it like that?

So I also have to polish my skills.

Still, how did the Hero Kazuma buy this sword?

Though I'll come to use the Holy sword in the end, but until then I shall use Mohkan's sword.

Because that sword has some special techniques ingrained in it I have to absolutely get it.

But I don't think I can make that much money.

Well it can't be helped, can it?

“Old man, I have a request.”

“Oh? What is it? Out with it.”

“Probably, approximately five years from now a man with a strange atmosphere around him with raven-black hair will come here. His name should be Kazuma. His age would be 17. If that guy comes here, would you present him a sword made out of the same Oricalcum?”

“Hey, hey, don’t say such absurd things! Do you think I give out such things so easily?”

“Of course I’ll pay the money. Don’t tell him about me just say it’s a present from you.”

“Well, as long as I get the money I don’t have anything against it. But are you serious about this?”

“Yeah, I’ll pay half the sum now. If the man called Kazuma appears, contact me. At that time I will pay the remaining sum, all right?”

“Are you sure that guy will come after 5 years? It’s hard to believe, you know? Let’s say he really comes, what do I say to him?”

“Oh yeah, well, something along the lines of the potential of a hero sleeps in you, I know what I’m talking about, I’ve been working as a blacksmith for a long time after all, so take this.”

“The sleeping potential of a hero, you say?”

“Please”

“Oh well, I don’t care, but are you able to pay? Together with the other costs, it would be 14 white gold coins, you know?”

14 million yen in Japanese Yen, is it?

My sense of money is becoming kind of strange, isn’t it?

But I am the strongest villain, Margrave Carlo de Medici.

I could care less about this kind of money. (TN: It hurts seeing this much money disappear. This is torture) I took out the white gold coins from my pouch and handed them to Mohkan.

There were still six left.

“Who are you? For you to be able to pay this price so easily.”

“Don’t inquire any further about that. To contact me when Kazuma arrives hand in a request asking for Akatsuki to the adventurer’s guild. Understood everything?”

“I understood already, I don’t have to hear it again. When that Kazuma guy comes by I’ll make him a sword. Honestly, I still doubt it.”

Alright, with this Kazuma is able to obtain the sword.

Like this I’ll also get automatically informed about Kazuma’s arrival, killing two birds with one stone.

After that I chose an armour for the time I’ll be fighting as the mercenary Akatsuki.

The armour I chose placed great importance on agility and freedom of movement with just a Breast plate to protect the chest like Crescent Moon.

After long consideration, I decided against a helmet.

I paid up. handed Mohkan the Hobbit Sake I brought for him and left.

Next, I had to search for a house.

The mask aside sneaking out the sword and armour every time I had to leave the mansion is too troublesome.

Therefore I decided to rent a hideout for Akatsuki apart from Carlo’s mansion.

A remote place away from prying eyes where I can come and go whenever I want.

It can be on the small side, for now, it might be used for different things later so it can be expanded.

Because I didn’t really know where to find such a place I decided to go to the guild first and look for Crescent Moon.

When I entered the guild I saw Crescent Moon drinking alone in a corner.

It was an inconspicuous place at the edge of the guild but I was able to immediately find her because of her red mask.

“Yo, Car.....Not, I mean Akatsuki. What’s the matter?”

“Actually I want to rent a hideout. I came to ask you if you might know of a good place.”

“Is that mansion no good?”

„Wouldn't my identity be found out if I enter there with this appearance?"

“Ahaha, I don't care either way. I think I know just the right place for you. I'll guide you there for a gold coin.”

You'll charge me?

Well, it couldn't be helped so I handed her the gold coin and proceeded to follow after Crescent Moon.

“What do you think about this area? Even though this place isn't very popular the security isn't bad.”

I see, it was a long, narrow alley branching of a busy street.

The people here only showed little worry.

“At the end of this street, there should be an unoccupied house. The owner is a granny I know. As long as you pay her money she won't pry into your business. Do you want to meet her?”

She said that that grandma lives close by.

So I went to meet the old lady together with Crescent Moon.

“Oh my, isn't that Crescent Moon? Long time, no see. What brings you here today?”

“Granny, you were searching for an inhabitant for the unoccupied house at the end of the street, right? I brought someone interested. This is Car..... Akatsuki.”

“I'm Akatsuki. Nice to meet you.”

“Crescent Moon, that man wears a mask like you, right? I don't even know his identity, how suspicious. Do you have money?”

“I guarantee I'll pay well. Regarding that everything is alright.”

“Is that so, as long as you pay up properly I won't complain.”

I didn't even see the inside yet or heard any of the important matters.

“I am sorry, but could you show me the insides?”

“Aaiyo, just wait a minute.”

After the old landlady got the keys for the house we went together to the unoccupied house.

The insides of the 2-story house were rather spacious.

On the first floor were a large living room with a fireplace, a kitchen, a toilet, a bath and two other rooms. It was a contemporary styled 2LDK house.

I give it a lot of points for having a bath.

Looks like water can be drawn from the well in the back.

On the second floor, there are three small rooms.

And additionally, there seemed to be another small room in the attic.

“This is good, isn’t it? How much is the rent?”

“How about two Yuroa gold coins a month? I will clean once a week.”

“Expensive, isn’t it? How about three gold coins for two months?”

“Don’t even think about it. I’ll make a loss that way. How about one gold coin and 40 silver coins a month?”

A rent of 180,000 yen with weekly cleaning, is it?

It’s cheaper than I thought honestly, but I squandered a lot of money today.

The cost of half a year would be 1,080,000 yen or 10 gold coins and 40 silver coins.

It’s inconvenient that one silver coin equals 2,000 yen next to the 100,000 yen of one gold coin.

So can’t you lower it a little more?

“How about, with weekly cleaning included, paying one Yuroa white gold coin for half a year? If it’s no good I’ll go search for a different place.”

“You got a good head on your shoulders, don’t you? I don’t dislike such people. That’s fine, can you pay right now?”

What a relief, there isn’t something like security deposit or key money in this world.

To be honest I worried about that.

I saved 40 silver coins or 80,000 yen.

I handed the old landlady one white gold coin.

With this, there were just 5 white gold coins remaining.

“Seems real. There doesn’t exist such a good imitation.”

“Granny, you told me you’d pay me, right? I brought a good customer so please pay the fee.”

“Hmpf, can’t be helped. Here you go.”

The old landlady handed over two gold coins to Crescent Moon.

“Hehe, I made a lot of profit today. It should be like that every day.”

Didn’t you make me pay you a while ago!

Do you get this much every day!?

Chapter 17 – Hideout

After having received the keys from the old landlady I first cleaned the hideout.

Crescent Moon muttered something like “Why did I say that” after having taken money from me and the old landlady, but I’m still fine.

After it looked somewhat clean I went to buy some necessities in the town.

First I had to buy furniture.

I got two beds, one for me and one for visitors, mine was a large double bed.

There might be someone sleeping with me in it in the future.

One should be prepared.

Additionally, I bought a desk, some chairs, a table, a shelf and so on.

I used a white gold coin to pay the cost of approximately five gold coins.

Only four of them remained.

Today I spend more than 15 white gold coins, that’s 15 million yen spend in one day.

Every time I think about that I feel seriously scared. (TN: Yeah, me too...) I bought some everyday clothes for Akatsuki and then returned.

I got two sets of futon and pillows as well as curtains.

And also a black cloth to cover my blonde hair.

There wasn’t anyone to cook for so the amount of tableware was minimal.

After I brought in the furniture, it finally started to look like a home.

“Ahh~ Good work. Must have been rough for someone like you.”

I ignored Crescent Moon’s words.

“So, what are you going to do after this?”

“I intended to look around the guild a little. I thought I might find a reasonable quest maybe.”

“Oh, your first job, huh? I’ll also go with you. Whether I help you or not depends on the money, though.”

There it is, her favorite phrase.

For the time being, I went to the guild together with Crescent Moon.

I bound the black cloth which I bought around my head in a bandana style and covered my hair.

I tried looking at the bulletin board in the Guildhall.

Seems like I can understand the letters of this world now too.

This is author correction, too, yup.

“I’d like to do a reasonable quest which ends after half a day.”

Because the extermination or capture of stray dogs doesn’t really sound adventurer-like even if it sounds easy, I’ll pass.

“Then how about this one? Car.....Akatsuki.”

Someday that fellow will end up calling me by my real name.

Which one, which one?

“Suspicious people were spotted on the way toward castle town, Rue Ann, please patrol around that area, huh?”

“Through the reward is only 20 silver coins, it should be finished quickly, right?”

Because my purpose for doing this isn’t money, in particular, the reward doesn’t matter.

It certainly is a reasonable one.

“I’ll help you, too. How about one gold coin as payment?”

Hey, hey, hey.

Your price is even higher than the reward of the quest!

One gold coin equals 50 silver coins.

“Does Akatsuki know where that is? I’ll teach you how to accept a quest and how to report back in. It’s tuition fee so it’s fine, right?”

You totally try to suck the money out of me.

I don’t know who of us is the villain here. (TN: Not you ^^) I hopelessly took out a gold coin and threw it to Crescent Moon. She’s a character like that, after all.

“Thanks like always. That’s why I like you.”

This is different from a confession of love, right?

As is expected, even the virgin I am knows that.

After Crescent Moon told me how I went to the counter and accepted the quest.

It was such an easy process, tuition fee wasn’t even necessary. (TN: More carelessly spend money //sigh. It hurts) Today I didn’t ride white king so I borrowed a horse from the guilds stable.

Crescent Moon seemed to have left her horse there, too.

“I think we’re there soon”

After we left Braham on horseback and rode for a while Crescent Moon started to speak.

Though there were some people going to and fro on the highway, there wasn’t even the shadow of a suspicious.....Huh? !

Didn’t that man on the horse suddenly turn around after he saw me?

It’s what I often saw on the news, the police “finding suspicious individuals during patrol duty”.

“Akatsuki, that man”

Looks like Crescent Moon noticed him, too.

I went before that man who suddenly turned around.

“Wh, what’s with you? Do you want something?”

“That guy’s.....”

I see now, that guy is one of the friends my seniors have brought at that time.

“Shiiit!”

The man whipped the horse and ran away.

“Crescent Moon, let’s pursue them. But don’t let him notice you.”

“Catching all of them in one go, huh. Sure but that’ll be one additional gold coin.”

“Understood, so don’t lose them. Oh yeah, you also can’t kill them today.”

“Got it, leave it to me.”

We follow after him at a moderate distance as to not lose sight of him.

After a few minutes, the man got off his horse in front of a big house before rushing in.

Through, it is simple it was a big house and felt out-of-place in such a desolate area.

When we reached the side of the house we got off our horses too, then we witnessed approximately 15 men coming out of the house one after another.

Most of them were just some shabby men, but there were some young ones among them and even some girls.

And as expected, my seniors stood among them, too.

“Hey, you, you’re that magician’s companion, the mercenary Crescent Moon, aren’t you? What’s your business?”

One of my seniors, the thin one, started to talk to Crescent Moon.

I see, didn’t they recognize me because I’m wearing a mask and I didn’t use the same horse?

“Hey, Akatsuki, what should we do with those guys?”

Crescent Moon turned to me, completely ignoring that man.

“Like I told you before, capture them, and don’t kill them.”

“Eeh, if it’s like this give me another gold coin.”

“Why? I just gave you one.”

“Cause it’s troublesome to catch them without killing them and their numbers aren’t low either, don’t you think?

“Aah, damn it, I got it already. There, another one.”

“Hehehe, I like you, Akatsuki.”

I’m not happy receiving such a confession.

“What did I hear? Catching us without killing us? Don’t joke around, you don’t have a magician today.”

Ehm Senior, I’m here, though.

We got surrounded by the men who grew excited.

I already drew my weapon.

Crescent Moon also pulled out her sword.

My seniors in front of us only had one-edged scimitars with a slender blade which was a little curved, but this wasn’t all today.

Crescent Moon held a short two-edged, thick, short Gladius in her left hand.

Fighting with a sword in both hands seems to be her original swordsmanship.

I also pulled out my sword.

The Oricalcum Bastard Sword.

While grasping it with both hands I looked at the sword’s blade.

What fascinating innocent, translucent brightness. Just looking at it make it seem like it was breathing.

Aah, it was worth it having paid that high price.

“You, What are ya doin? Ya going to kiss it, huuh?”

Senior tried to threaten us.

Sorry senior, I was just fascinated by the sword.

Like this, you could call it a demonic sword.

“I’ll go on ahead, Akatsuki”

Crescent Moon who seemed a little worried was about to cut down a man. Her flexible movements made her look like she’s dancing.

She dealt blows to the men standing close to her left and right wonderfully.

The rest of them was left for me to take care of.

My two seniors were among them, too.

Let’s practice, seniors.

Swinging the Oricalcum sword felt incredible.

It’s easy to even use it with just one hand.

The usability and my increased sword skills obtain through my author correction add up to an incredible combination.

If I’m not careful I might cut them down with this momentum.

Fufufu, this night, my blade wants to drink some blood.

It’s not night, though.

I dodged senior’s swords, which came slashing down one after the other, then jumped and slide a little.

This sword’s lightness made me even faster.

I guess F would be able to put up a good fight.

“Wh, what the heck, that guy’s actually strong!”

One of my shrewd seniors raised his voice.

Crescent Moon seemed surprised by my movements.

“Akatsuki, you’re actually able to do it. I didn’t know you had such skill.”

Oh yeah, it’s Crescent Moon’s first time seeing my sword skills, isn’t it?

Still, for Crescent Moon to have room to watch me in the middle of a fight.

“Uwah!”

I parried another thin senior’s sword and just knocked it out of his hand.

My senior who lost his weapon gets ready to escape immediately.

As is expected, my senior's ability to adapt is high.

Chapter 18 – Rabbit Group

(TN: [Nousagi 野ウサギ](#) = Japanese hare “Lepus brachyurus” that’s what it originally were but I like to use rabbit for that better) “Uwaaa!”

My senior whose sword I knocked out of his hand, immediately turned around to run and began to scream.

My other senior who immediately understood the situation followed him.

The coordination between these two seniors of mine is wonderful as expected.

“Reus”

I call Reus, the Salamander child, in my heart.

I had the Oricalcum sword in my right hand and with my left hand, I quickly drew the seals.

Let’s show them that my practice with Knopf wasn’t for nothing.

“Fire Wall!”

A wall of flames emerged from the ground before my seniors when I pointed my left hand towards them.

The seniors in front of whom the firewall appeared wore the same surprised face at the same time.

Those aligned movements, kind of villain-like.

As expected of my seniors, I’ll study hard.

“The other day it was a magician and today’s companion is a magic warrior!?”

To my seniors, yesterday’s Carlo and today’s me are completely different people.

Well, it’s convenient for me.

Some of the others decided to follow them but were also stopped by a firewall.

I knock the weapons out of the still eager one's hands, taking their fighting capabilities.

Looking in Crescent Moon's direction it seems like she's almost finished.

"Waaah"

The young girl among the men started to cry.

If adults are fighting close by it's scary after all.

Did the seniors kidnap her from somewhere like Mirea-san and Lucia-chan?

Remembering that made me angry.

"It's alright already."

When I approached her to cheer her up I heard Crescent Moon's voice just then. (TN: *sigh*) "Akatsuki, don't let your guard down!"

"Tch!"

At that moment the girl stabbed a knife towards me.

I barely avoided it.

You saved me, Crescent Moon.

"That fellow is a female Hobbit, not a child. Don't be deceived by her appearance."

"You said something unnecessary, you goddamn amateur!"

She wore an expression of vexation and definitely not the one of a child.

"Aah~ Aah~ I failed. I lost, do whatever you want with me."

The girl.....No, that Hobbit threw away her knife and sat down while sulking.

The other men were gathered together in one place.

"We lost. It's our defeat. Do with us whatever you like. Kill us, hand us over to the authorities or whatever."

That is what my senior said. They completely gave up.

What manliness, Senior.

"I don't intend to kill you or hand you over."

When I said that my seniors looked at me doubtfully.

Crescent Moon seemed surprised, too.

“My name is Akatsuki. As you can see I’m a magic warrior working as a mercenary. You probably witnessed my skills.”

“Yeah, you’re amazing. We couldn’t even put a scratch on you.”

Senior answered my words.

“You all, become my subordinates.”

“What do you mean? What are we supposed to do?”

“I came here on a request by the guild today. Because there seemed to be suspicious people in this area we were tasked to patrol around here. You’re already being watched. It’s only a matter of time before you get caught even if I overlook this right now. Crescent Moon, what will happen if they get caught?”

“Those guys are kidnappers, right? I’m guessing you already attacked a caravan. They’ll definitely get hanged.”

Though I knew about that, everyone else is holding their breath at Crescent Moon’s words.

“That’s right, if you’re caught you’re done for. Before that, wash your hands of this job and become my subordinates.”

“No way, if we do that we’ll lose or means to earn our livelihood.”

My senior’s really good, everybody was nodding.

“For this to not happen I will give you a job. Surface work and behind-the-scene work. Surface work would be a horseman messenger connecting Braham and the castle town Rue Ann. I’ll put a station at the middle of the highway where you can tie your horses and carry messages and objects at high-speed. This is profitable by all means”

The post-horse system, in other words, a relay system.

For the circulation of information, speed is key.

If Carlo gets information a little faster than anyone else it will be a huge benefit.

“The behind-the-scene work is information gathering and acting as a thief like before.”

“Information, about what kind are we talking here?”

I answered the thin senior’s question.

“The information should include rumours about the Franz royal family and the nobles, the things popular in the castle town Rue Ann, agricultural methods and foreign trends, so every information available in castle town Rue Ann. If there where strange incidents or monster appearances I want you to report that, too. I’ll buy the information you collected with money.”

“Didn’t you tell us to wash our hands of being a thief?”

“I did. Keep your hands off Braham’s people and products. This is an order. I will kill the person who breaks this rule with my own hands. There are exceptions, though. You can attack the caravan’s not coming from this frontier town without a trafficking permission. Rather absolutely attack them.”

With the exception of the ones coming from this frontier territory a caravan from outside has to pay an importing tax, to be allowed passage they have to pay a toll.

By attacking caravan’s trying to get in without having paid that tax the smuggling rate should decrease.

“Is it really fine doing something like that?”

After all, my seniors are also afraid of being hanged.

“It’s fine. I have connections with an influential person in this frontier territory. That’s why I’m collecting information. If you’re useful to this frontier territory no one will ask after your crimes, rather you’ll get rewarded. So, how is it? Want to do it?”

Rather than having connections to someone influential, I’m the feudal Lord.

Crescent Moon, who stood to my side, smirked as she heard this.

“I’ll do it. I’ll become Akatsuki-sama’s subordinate.”

My muscular senior lowered his head.

“M, me too, I’ll also follow you. You can order me anything.”

After my thin senior lowered his head the hobbit woman and the other man also lowered their heads at once.

“Good. What’re your names?”

“Just call me Bass. Thank you for your consideration.”

So my thin senior’s name is Bass, huh?

I tried asking my muscular senior.

“I’m called Drum. I’ll be in your care.”

Drum and Bass, huh?

“Bass, Drum, take care of the others. Hobbit woman, your name?”

“I’m Pick. I don’t fall behind anyone when it comes to stealing and lying out traps. Master Akatsuki, best regards.”

She looked like a young, pretty girl of elementary student age, but she seems to be rather crafty and useful.

However, now that I think about it; because bass and drum came out does that mean she’s a guitar pick?

Or is it Pick from pick-pocketing?

No, seems like all the member’s names have something to do with Rock, a rather easy way to name characters.

I’d like to have a talk with the author, seriously...

“Pick, you’ll be responsible for the communication between me and those guys. You’ll go back and forth between me and Braham.”

“Akatsuki, are you actually a Lolicon.....? Is that why you’re not making any passes at me.....?” (TN: Lolicon = Lolita complex. Liking little girls) I looked at Crescent Moon as she uttered some outrageous things.

That’s not it, I didn’t tell her to come because I had that kind of hobby!

“You guys, does your group have any kind of name?”

“We don’t have one in particular. Usually, people call use things like Highway thieves.”

There’s nothing exciting about that.

“Okay, then I will give your group one. From today onwards you’ll be the “Rabbit group”. Got it?”

That’s punishment for hurting Mirea-san.

It’s an uncool name.

“Rabbit group, you said?”

“It’s a fine name, isn’t it? You were happily jumping at me just now, so it, indeed, fits.”

My seniors seemed to be pleased.

What kind of hobbies do you have?

“Akatsuki, you’re a pretty bad person. I got a better opinion of you now.”

I was praised by Crescent Moon.

It’s a strange feeling, but it’s good that I come to seem more like a villain.

“Drum, Bass, use this as reserves. Buy horses and build a station. Report to Pick when you’re done”

I gave the remaining four white gold coins to my two seniors.

(TN: bye bye money... again....I feel like I got stabbed...) “He, Head, is this fine?!”

“Amazing, white gold coins. That’s the first time I saw one..... Head, thank you very much. We’ll be in your care from now on.”

“Yeah, well then, I’m leaving. Pick, come with me.”

I decided to take Crescent Moon and Pick with me leaving the Rabbit group’s hideout.

Before I left I noticed a suspicious individual I saw for the first time, I got interested and tried to talk with him a little.

“What was your name again?”

“My name is Flute. I’ll be in your care”

.....It’s not even a rock instrument.

That’s so half-assed!!!

Chapter 19 – Diva

I who returned to Braham gave back the horse I borrowed and reported to the adventurer's guild.

Of course, I reported with "There wasn't anything particular going on" though it's a lie.

Even with that, the reward doesn't change.

Yeah, I'm a bad guy if I do say so myself.

Then after we parted with Crescent Moon I took Pick to the hideout.

"Is this the head's house? It doesn't really feel lived in."

I don't live here.

"I hardly sleep here. Pick, as I said before you'll be responsible for the communication between me you'll go back and forth between this place and the other guys, so you go back and forth between this place and the Rabbit group's hideout."

"Understood. What should I answer when someone asks me about my relationship with you?"

"If someone asks tell them you're Akatsuki's little sister."

"I'm the Head's younger sister? Hehe"

Why's she so pleased with that?

Even though she tried to stab me to death a while ago.

What a fast change.

"So, what should I normally do? Stealing is no good, right?"

"Stop committing crimes. You might get caught if you do that. Register at the Adventurer's Guild, collect rumours about the adventurers and demon beasts while you do quests."

"Ehehe, are you worried about me?"

“If you’re not here I’d have trouble with the communication. There, it’s the key to this place. However, you can’t stay here you’ll have to look for another place to stay on your own.”

“Head, I wouldn’t mind sleeping in the same bed though”

.....That’s why I said, I don’t have that kind of hobby!

I don’t know your actual age but I can get myself over the fact that you look like an elementary school student.

And I don’t really want to be in a relationship with someone who tried to kill me a while ago.

I roughly explained this place’s traffic system to Pick and told her to tell Bass and Drum to give her two gold coins from the money I gave them as living expenses.

I almost spend the 20 gold coins I received from Pikaru, about 20 million yen, in one day.

Yeah, as expected of the villain Carlo, indulging in extravagant luxury. (TN: I’m crying) After Pick left I took off my mask, then with different clothes I left the house.

I didn’t forget to lock the door.

I made sure nobody saw me on my way back.

I intended to immediately return to the mansion but then there was a nice fragrance drifting out of a shop I happened to pass.

It seemed to be a restaurant/bar called “Fawn pavilion”.

It’s already dusk and I’m hungry, should I go home and eat?

“Are there any free seats?”

“Yes, there are some vacant seats at the counter. As long as you don’t want a table I can guide you.”

“I don’t mind. Guide me.”

I was guided to the counter in the back of the shop.

The shop is packed with customers. Seems like this place is pretty popular.

At the centre of the shop was a small, stage-like platform where a girl was singing songs.

“Felicia-chan, you’re the best!”

“You’re the cutest, Feliciaaaa~!!”

Those young men shouting like jaaa~jaaa~ in a loud voice, those are that girl’s fans, right?

They seem to have fun, but honestly, they are more of a nuisance to me.

Generally speaking, I’m a figurine and 2-dimension-type otaku not an idol otaku type.

When I got the menu and was thinking about what I should order a fat man who wore pretty good clothes came over and started to whisper in my ear.

“I’m the owner of this Fawn pavilion, Fats. I saw you, Margrave Carlo-sama, from over there.”

“Aah, is that so? Don’t disturb me.”

“So it was like I thought. You’re not accompanied by attendants either, are you here incognito?”

“Something like that.”

“I feel honoured that you have come to our store. I’m embarrassed to have Carlo-sama eat at the counter. Please follow me to our private room. This way, please.”

“I am thankful, but I’m fine. Special consideration is unnecessary.”

“That’s not the case. Please, this way.”

I was overwhelmed by the owner called Fats and was guided to the private room in the back.

Although it’s small the furniture is excellent and isn’t this the so-called VIP room?

“Thank you again for visiting our shop today. I’m the owner Fats.”

“I’m Carlo de Medici. I’m sorry for troubling you. I just had an empty stomach.”

I’m honoured. We are proud of our calf stew, it’s our shop’s specialty.”

Beef stew is one of my favourites.

My mother’s stew with herbs was delicious.

“Then I shall try it.”

“Certainly, just a moment please.”

Fats left and as soon as I started to wait for my dish the door knocked.

I think it’s still too early for it to be done, but what could it be?

“You may enter”

“Excuse me”

It was the owner Fats and the girl who was singing on the stage just a while ago.

Behind them was a man holding a guitar-like string instrument.

“This girl is Felicia, this store’s diva, and our pride. If you like she could sing one piece for you while you wait.”

As Fats said this, the girl called Felicia-chan lowered her head to me.

“It might soil your ears, but I would be honoured if you could listen to my songs like Carlo-sama”

I didn’t get a good look on her a while ago, but she’s a pretty girl with white skin chestnut coloured hair and lovely eyes.

To be frank, it’s rather embarrassing to let her sing for only me, but declining is too rude, so I gave my OK.

“Thank you. I shall sing”

After Felicia-chan bowed to me elegantly she started to sing to the string instrument’s sound.

A transparent and carefree singing voice, wearing an adorable and discreet smile, her eyes sometimes tinged with sorrow to suit the lyrics.

I was overwhelmed.

It's a pity that it will end soon.

If that girl would be an idol of my original world I would have turned into an idol otaku, bought all her CDs and would have attended to every handshake event.

She's too angelic, it's dangerous.

"Thank you"

After Felicia-chan finished singing she again bowed deeply to me.

"How was it?"

To Fats' question, I answered it was the best.

Because I couldn't answer in any other way.

"Thank you. Then how about another piece?"

I couldn't say no to Fats' offer.

Felicia-chan sang another song only for me.

Besides, this time it included dancing, too.

Unlike the slow song of a little while ago, the next song was rhythmical and had a higher tempo. A good song.

I can see now why the older brothers from a while would raise their voices.

Felicia's song and dance captured my heart and wouldn't let it go.

Aah, I want a figurine of this child, too.

"Hah, hah, thank you"

After she finished her second piece my dish was carried in.

Felicia-chan again bowed deeply and left.

It was justified that he said they were proud of their calf stew, it surely was delicious.

But my head was filled with Felicia-chan.

I didn't listen to Fats talking about the dish.

“How was it?”

After I finished eating Fats asked me that.

“Yeah, it was as delicious as you told me. I’ll stop by often from now on”

To meet Felicia-chan.

(TN: *siiiiigh*) “Thank you”

I paid up and caught a glimpse of Felicia-chan singing on the stage across the hall when I left the small room.

Though Felicia-chan was in the middle of a song she greeted me with her eyes for an instant.

So that’s what it feels like to “get a reply”, huh? (TN: from a girl one likes, I guess) It’s strange because this was enough to make me happy.

I was seen off by owner Fats and left the Fawn pavilion to return to the mansion.

I got scolded by Melissa for returning so late and not informing them I would eat outside, but I’m fine.

I fell asleep while feeling happy.

Chapter 20 – Sword Fighting Competition I

Then a few days later the day of the Sword Fighting Competition to decide the new head of the Imperial Guard Order came.

We choose the Colosseum near the Saint Perrier cathedral in the centre of Braham as the stage.

With much effort, I was able to open up this competition to the general public and turn it into a big event.

“As per Margrave Carlo de Medici-sama’s order, I will resign from the seat of the head of the Imperial Guard Order and will be promoted to a General. For that matter, I decided to choose my successor from among the five Captains, and as a way to do it, I decided to make the one who does best in this Sword Fighting Competition the new head.”

On the occasion of the competition’s beginning the current head, Marcus gave an opening speech.

“In addition, Carlo-sama will also specifically participate in this competition! Even if you are fighting against your master Carlo-sama in a match I strongly recommend you not to go easy on him. Each participant should demonstrate their full potential on this occasion!”

Rumbling cheers could be heard from the jam-packed audience seats.

Because my participation was made a secret until now everyone seemed surprised.

Next up would be my opening speech.

Honestly doing something like this doesn’t match my character and I felt really tense because I don’t have any experience with things like that.

Shit, I want to go to the toilet.

But there’s no time for that anymore.

Calm down, I’m Carlo, a shameless villain, I can do it.

“It’s good that you all were able to come. I’m Carlo. Today at this place the new head of the Imperial Guard Order will be selected. Enjoy the fight. As Marcus said a while ago, I’ll participate as well today. I won’t tolerate a person cutting corners while fighting me. If you’re defeated by me I’ll reduce your salary, so be prepared!”

Laughter could be heard from the spectator seats.

I’m relieved, seems like it was well received.

“With this, we shall start the Sword Fighting Competition. Marcus, announce the fighting order”

.....Haa, I somehow said it.

To be frank, I was even more nervous about the competition.

On top of the stage Marcus announced ... the tournament list we fairly put together.

I’m a seed in group A, with our excellent skills we were able to put F in group B.

F would only be able to fight me in the finals.

Gee, I’m glad that we are in separate groups.

Knight matches basically consisted out of sword fighting but also jousting.

The first round of Group A was a battle between a slender Knight using a slender long sword and a shield and a gigantic Knight wielding a long-hilted Halberd.

I’ll fight against the one who wins this round.

The way the slender knight swings his long sword felt smart and manly, an orthodox style.

He seemed to be in his late 30s having a moustache growing on his face he seemed to be a good guy.

He seemed to be quite popular because when he was introduced loud cheers could be heard.

His opponent, the tall knight, seemed to be more unpopular for some reason.

When he was introduced jeers could be heard everywhere.

Was it because he looked a bit rough?

Not only was his body big but his face also looked terribly rough.

Being in his late 20s he was considerably younger than his opponent.

He buzzingly swung around the long Halberd in an ostentatious way.

Looks like he was considerably proud of his strength.

The match finally began.

As soon as they finished greeting each other the gigantic knight rushed forward on his horse.

Considering his huge body he rode on a rather big horse.

Of course, it was still inferior to White King.

“Uraaaaaa!”

He swung down his long Halberd while letting out a loud shout from a long distance away.

The slender Knight blocked it with his shield but it seemed to cause some considerable shock.

Still, he somehow endured the shock and closed the distance to reach him with his own sword, but the gigantic Knight was rather good at handling his horse.

He skilfully handled his horse as to prevent his opponent from reaching his chest so easily.

The slender knight judged that fighting at this distance was disadvantageous, He immediately took some distance with his horse.

They looked angrily at each other for a while, a distance between them, but then the slender Knight suddenly charged forward.

The giant swung down the Halberd on the slender knight who charged towards him, but the slender knight used his shield to successfully divert it and reached his opponent's chest.

That was really skilful.

A long-hilted Halberd is more of a nuisance in close-quarter combat.

However, the gigantic Knight was also considerably skilled he used the Halberd's handle for close-quarter combat.

The battle had been continuing for a while, however at the moment the gigantic knight blocked the slender knight's longsword with the Halberd's handle, he smashed his shield against the gigantic knight.

This was the first time I saw someone use Shield Bash.

Then the gigantic knight staggered a little and the slender Knight used this gap to sharply thrust his longsword.

However, the gigantic knight fiercely blocked the thrust with his Halberd's handle.

The shock created a little distance between these two people. This would be the perfect time to use the Halberd.

Without missing that chance the gigantic knight hit the slender knight who wasn't able to successfully block leading to him falling off his horse.

"The match is over!"

The moment the referee, Marcus, shouted out his judgment the movements of those two people stopped.

It seems like in the knight's jousting matches if one either falls off the horse or raises one's hand to show one's intention to surrender one loses.

The gigantic man triumphantly put up a hand, but one could only hear sighs coming from the audience.

Like I thought he is hated.

The gigantic man was selected as my opponent for the match.

As far as I could see just now he didn't have any particular weakness.

The next match was the first round of Group B, it's a fight between F and a Knight using a two-handed sword.

Even after F's name was called the venue hardly got excited because he's still pretty unknown after all.

Fufu, I look forward to the audience's reactions after the match.

On the contrary, when the opposing knight's name was called, there was quite a cheer.

He seemed to be a veteran knight in his late 40s.

He was slightly shorter than F who is 185 cm tall, but his chest gave off a sturdy feeling.

When the match starts both of them face each other to greet each other and then slowly close the distance between them with their horses.

I couldn't see F's expression because of the helmet but judging by his movements he seemed calm.

OK, F, show them what you're capable of.

They reached a distance at which they could cross swords.

They held out their sword, lightly bowed to each other before moving away from their opponents.

The veteran handled the heavy two-handed sword with ease and heavily swung it down on F in a fast manner.

Moreover, he attacked F's right side, which is hard to block with a shield, in an experienced manner.

However, F stayed unfazed and parried with his sword.

Then with that centrifugal force the opponent's body tilted to the side creating gaps.

Not missing that chance F attacked.

The opponent was desperately trying to block it but the weight of their weapons was too different after all.

He somehow was able to block one of F's one-sided sword attacks, but the match would soon reach its end.

F hit his opponent's fingers making him separate his hand from the sword because of the shock.

You can't swing a heavy two-handed sword with just your right hand.

With that in mind, F was going to hit his opponent's neck but before he could reach it his opponent raised both his hands.

"The match is over! The victor is Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald!"

Marcus' sudden cheer could be heard.

Seems like I held my breath until just now because, I feel excessively light-headed.

When F slowly took off his helmet shrill cheers from the women in the front row could be heard.

Well, of course, they would, F is a super handsome guy after all.

Damnit, he won in terms of looks so I should at least win the match.

Well, that might be difficult, though.

Chapter 21 – Sword Fighting Competition II

Next up is the second match of group A, mine and the gigantic knight's match.

I entered the stadium on top of White King.

I'm fine, there's no tension.

Compared to the speech a while ago this is no big deal.

When the gigantic knight's name was called, different than a while ago, cheer rolled in.

Things like "Win~!" and "You can do it—!" could be heard.

Huh, wasn't he supposed to be unpopular?

"Margrave Carlo de Medici!"

After that, my name was called but all one could hear from the gallery was the slight crackling of applause.

Indeed, this feels like courtesy clapping.

What's with that? (TN: *siiiiiiigh*) I thought for a while then I got it.

Seems like this year's tax increase is showing effect.

I'm losing popularity.

Besides, there might be some antipathy that that great mister showed up in a place like this.

That's fine, I don't have to be popular.

I'm a villain anyway. (TN: Thaaat sounds like sulking) But Felicia might be watching here somewhere.

Now that I think about it, I don't want her to see this unsightly side of me.

I want to show her my cool side! (TN: pls stop you make me cry for you and for me....) "Carlo-sama, going easy on you isn't allowed, right? I will follow your words and go at you with all my might."

The gigantic knight barked at me and the cheers found its momentum again.

Even if he didn't say it in a loud voice I would have heard it because I'm not that far away.

He shouted so that the audience could hear him, that conspicuous bastard, let's show him.

Unfortunately, because this is a match I'm not allowed to wield my Oricalcum Bastard Sword.

My opponent has a Halberd this time.

I'll just make use of the difference in reach, come at me.

The gigantic knight again rushed forward right after we finished our greetings.

At the same moment, he swung down his long Halberd.

I received it from the front.

Gakin! (TN: metal hitting against each other)

The moment a metallic sound erupted the competition in strength began.

The gigantic knight is quite a bit taller than me but because I'm sitting on White King there is no height difference.

My opponent steadily pushes from above but I block it well and won't fall behind.

“UOOOOOO!”

A loud cheer arises from the audience for this intense competition in strength.

Beware, the cheat power of this author correction.

That's not it!

“Hmpf!”

I gathered my strength and pushed back the Halberd.

Although my opponent staggered because of the impact I don't dare to attack.

I will show you the overwhelming power difference between us, ignoring the physique and arm width!

“Haa, haa, haa”

The other party was already out of breath.

Hey, where did that energy from just now go? We’re not done yet!

Looking at my expressive expression the gigantic Knight seemed to feel fear.

He started to put more power in his Halberd swings.

Gaan! Kiin! Gakiin!

From the top, from the bottom, obliquely, I parried all of my opponent’s Halberd swings.

It doesn’t matter how fast his speed is.

The audience fell silent as they were dumbfounded by this unimaginable turn of events.

“Heh, heh, heh” (TN: wheezing)

My opponents attack stopped.

It seems like he’s running out of stamina as a result of swinging around his Halberd in such an absurd manner.

I guess it’s my turn now, huh?

“Is it about time? Here I come”

The opposing knight’s eyes open wide in fear when I calmly say such things in a way the audience couldn’t hear it.

Letting out a shout I closed the distance between me and my opponent in one stretch with White King while evading his desperate attacks, slipped past his defence and exchanged exactly one blow with him. My sword point was at my opponent’s throat.

“I, I give up”

“The match is over! It’s Carlo-sama’s victory!”

The audiences fell silent.

Oops, did I go too far? (TN: tehepero ;9)

But did you see my cool side?

Did you see it, Felicia-chan?

Now it was the second match of group B, F's turn again.

When F's name was called, unlike a while ago, some shrill voices and cheers broke out.

Looks like he gained some fans in his previous match.

However, thunderous cheering roared when his opponent came out.

He's also an incredibly handsome man with beautiful blonde hair.

Even though I'm also blonde, why is the treatment so different? (TN: Cause, ya know, personality maybe? He didn't increase taxes? And didn't you say you don't need popularity?) "Sir Lunos!"

When the opponents name was called the whole stadium shook by all the applause, cheering and foot-stamping.

It's an abnormal popularity.

"Who on earth is this?"

Pikaru who was near me immediately answered my question.

"Sir Lunos is said to be Braham's number one in terms of appearance and sword skills. Being born as a noble he behaves like a gentleman and defends the first place as the man one wants to get married to for years."

He's not wearing a helmet so they can see his face better.

I've decided, that guy's an enemy.

Go for it, F. (TN: Ya know what would be fun? If Lunos is Felicia.... though he probably isn't but still) The two people help up their swords and greeted each other.

Lunos had a disgustingly elegant way of bowing.

Besides, I'm getting annoyed by those groupies going kyaa kyaa with just that. (TN: You go kyaa kyaa for a girl that sang two songs for you so come on. Both is annoying tho) Felicia-chan can't be charmed by such a man.

(TN: Heh, sure. Bet she's his fiancée)

The weapon used are the standard knight weapons, the longsword and shield. Both sides use them.

They approached each other slowly and as soon as they lightly put their swords together the fight began.

They cross swords at a tremendous speed.

Whenever a shield clashes with a sword, a high-pitched metallic sound echoed through the stadium.

As expected of the one called Braham's number one in sword skills, Sir Lunos is considerably skilled.

There's no doubt about that because I myself sparred with F.

F's shield blocks Lunos' sword which came swinging down from the upper corner.

Lunos blocks F's sword which he swung at the same time.

Their swords immediately clash in the air and scatter sparks.

To a common spectator, these highly skilled moves probably appear as only afterimages.

After the battle continued for a while, those two people took some distance from each other.

At that moment, whistles and tremendous praise were poured out from the audience seats.

"I'm surprised, Sir Fitzgerald. To think that there was someone like you in this territory."

"Likewise, Sir Lunos. Your skills exceed the rumours"

Aaah, watching those handsome men praise each other isn't interesting at all.

Lose, both of you!

With this wicked wish of mine, the match started moving again.

The flow completely changed from a while ago, they glared at each other, looking for gaps without launching an attack.

It seems like both of them are aiming for a one-hit K.O.

“Hah!”

After this state had continued for a while, Lunos swept down his sword with a sharp swing that was nothing compared to his previous swings.

Kiiiiin!

At that moment the match was decided.

At the same time as Lunos' sword was deflected F simultaneously thrust his sword towards the opponent's throat and stopping shortly before hitting it.

Gonosen. (TN: the counter attack thing he used)

It's one of F's deadly skills.

First letting the opponent attack then swing up their weapon before performing a counter-attack at the same time.

Honestly, I couldn't follow it with my eyes either.

“The match is over! Winner, Sir Fitzgerald!”

Lunos raised both his hands and the whole stadium broke out in cheers and started to chant F's name.

Confetti dances in the air.

This was the moment a new hero was born. (TN: Different hero from the Hero of the novel) “I lost, it's my complete defeat. You're worthy of being the next Imperial Guard Order's head.”

“No, I was just lucky this time. Let's spar again sometime soon.”

When the two men get off their horses and firmly clench their hands the heated cheers echoing through the stadium got turned up a notch.

How unpleasant, that story of friendship between those good-looking man no matter how I look at it stinks like lies.

More importantly, the tournament isn't over yet, it isn't over.

Please let me enter the Ikemen-club! (TN: handsome man)

Chapter 22 – Sword Fighting Competition III

Lunos' and F's match is over, now it is time for the finals with me and F.

F's match from a while ago was really exciting.

He should be a little tired but let's start the match anyway.

At moments like these, it's good to be a villain because I can do whatever I want. (TN: It'll be really embarrassing when ya lose ya know?) "It was a good fight and you won, Sir Fitzgerald! With this, you are selected to be the new head of the Imperial Guard Order. But the tournament isn't over yet!"

Even when I said this in a loud voice there was just some sporadic clapping.

"You want to start that now? Wouldn't Sir Fitzgerald be at a disadvantage?" I could hear the backbiting but decided to ignore it.

There's no way I could win against F in a normal fight, you know! (TN: At least you know that much) "Well, it is time to fight the final match at last, but I have a proposal for Sir Fitzgerald. For the final fight, how about we use our favourite weapons and not just some practice weapons?"

My words caused a commotion in the Stadium.

Because they don't understand my intentions they seem puzzled.

Of course, I don't have any particular ulterior motives.

I only want to only use my Oricalcum sword.

Honestly, I didn't feel like using that against F at all.

It's just a strategy to raise my winning chances at least a little.

"Be at ease, my intentions aren't to hurt you, Sir. How about stopping our attacks 3 cm before they hit?"

"I don't have any objections. I agree to Carlo-sama's idea."

F lowered his head.

I knew that F would say that.

“Well then, let’s start. Get mine and Sir Fitzgerald’s sword!”

Here it is, here it is, here it is.

My precious Oricalcum.

With this, I’m at least one step closer to victory.

First, my name was called.

The applause and cheering were again sporadic.

Isn’t that even less than last time? (TN: Well, duh) Then when F’s name was called next, a great cheer exceeding my expectations broke out.

Looks like he completely got the favour of the audience.

Didn’t you support Lunos a while ago?

That’s why I hate groupies. (TN: un un u__u)

“Then, shall we begin?”

I tried to start the match immediately so that F can’t recover his stamina.

I was riding White King and F was also riding his favourite horse. Like this, we greeted each other.

The match began.

OK, so how should I attack him?

I have sparred many times with F so I know his attack patterns.

However, F doesn’t know my speed when using this Oricalcum sword.

I somehow have to use that.

First I rushed forward with my horse to close the distance between us.

We lightly struck our swords to get started.

F waited for me to take action like he usually did when we sparred.

Because F is an honest person he wouldn’t launch a surprise attack at his superior which is me.

That’s why I tried to take the chance and decisively attack him.

I controlled my speed to make it look like my usual speed.

I can't let him know that my speed rose.

Who was that evil earl who said one should keep one's trump card hidden until the very end? (TN: Shagia Frost from After War Gundam X) I swung my sword from above, from the left side and from the right side.

However, F blocked all of my blows with accurate movements.

Even though I tried to use my glances to feint, but it completely had no effect.

Mmm, No gaps at all.

All right, then let's use a competition in strength!

F blocked my frontal attack with his sword.

Then I steadily started to push.

"Ooooooh!"

Remembering my previous match the audience raises their voices.

That's right, I had strength even that gigantic bastard couldn't compare to.

Mmm, as I expected from F, he doesn't move an inch.

Though I'm not getting pushed back I can't push him back either.

Looks like we are equal.

Then my fatigue kept on piling up.

I thought about turning this into a contest of stamina for an instant but I decided against it.

I don't know how much stamina F has.

I've never seen F being out of breath even though I was already wheezing when we were sparring.

It's better to think that F has a lot more stamina than me.

F is too much of a cheat character in the first place.

He has good looks, a serious character, great skills in swordsmanship and a lot of stamina and strength.

This is unfair.

I have no right to actually say this, though because I created this setting myself.

Because it couldn't be helped I raised my speed a gear.

I think it's about the same speed as Lunos' from a little while ago.

I'm going to do consecutive attacks with a speed exceeding Lunos'!

While I attack F my sword draws an afterimage.

One could hear the sound of the wind and metal violently clashing, creating sparks.

I'm not just simply attacking, I'm mixing in some feints, too.

In addition to swinging it with both hands, I'm suddenly changing my trajectory to the right side.

This is only possible with the Oricalcum sword.

It looks like F can't keep evading for long anymore, but I can't keep up this speed for a long time either.

I kept on attacking like that for a while but I couldn't break F's defence, then I created some distance between us riding White King.

"Uwaaaaaaa!"

The crowd which held their breath and stared until now gave out a loud cheer.

Among them, I hear some voices saying: "I thought the match a while ago was fixed but isn't Carlo-sama actually really amazing?"

Hey, hey, did it look like that to you?

Well, I guess it was a little suspicious for me to push down that big and strong giant.

But honestly, I'm disappointed.

"As I expected. I'm proud to have someone like you as my subordinate."

When I told him this, F praised me, too.

“Likewise Carlo-sama, your attacks are much more intense than usual. To be frank, there were several times where it got dangerous for me. As expected.”

Like I thought, I’m happy to get praised by F.

But the real thing has yet to begin.

This is the same pattern as the fight between F and Lunos a while ago.

This is all going according to my calculations.

My aim is the technique “Gonosen” which F showed a while ago.

This is what I always practised until today and now I shall use my attack here.

It is all my strategic arrangement.

Based on this speed F will aim to use the “Gonosen” counter.

With attacks much faster than he anticipated, F wasn’t able to use any counters.

I’ll jump at F and will attack him with my fastest, strongest blow.

But be careful not to get injured.

We were glaring at each other, searching for some kind of gap.

It was an exchange of invisible attacks. One couldn’t even relax for a moment.

Where could I land the best attack?

I slowly channel some magic power into the Oricalcum sword.

With this, both the attack power and speed should increase.

In fact, this is a special technique of the Hero called “Lightning Slash”.

The metal Oricalcum has amazingly high compatibility with magic power.

This is the Oricalcum sword’s unique and strong attack.

There’s no doubt about that because I wrote that special technique myself.

Because the name is embarrassing I won’t shout it out.

Alright, it won’t take long anymore.

The magical power should have accumulated enough now.

Now I only need a chance.

I fix my breathing and get ready to hammer down my sure-kill blow.

Alright, now!

At that time I tried to release my best blow on F.

I saw F moving at the same time.

The first attack came from F.

Shit, it's "Thunder" --

Among F's special skills "Thunder" boasts the highest speed.

Even if the opponent uses a sword attack exceeding the speed of sound this attack will still hit him first.

As to not hurt me he accurately hit my sword.

Both swords hit each other and a great shock attacks me.

Along with a loud, metallic sound, my right wrist couldn't resist the impact and I let go of my sword.

My sword flew in the sky and I became empty-handed.

F just pointed his sword towards me.

I lost, it's indeed a complete defeat to aim for my sword.

I raised both hands and admitted my defeat.

Chapter 23 – Onee-san

"I lost, I surrender. As expected of Sir Fitzgerald" (TN: At least you're being a good loser here <__<) When I put up my hands and F was declared as the winner the audience raised their voices in a great cheer and a huge quantity of confetti was dancing in the air.

F put away his sword, got down from his horse and thanked me deeply.

"Thank you. It was a close call."

I also got off White King and gave an attendant my Oricalcum sword before I asked F about some things.

"How did you predict my last attack?"

"Because Carlo-sama's attacks were too monotonous. I thought you surely were aiming for my Gonosen."

I was completely seen through, as expected.

"Good grief, I'm no match for you at all. You certainly are this country's best swordsman."

I mean I swung my sword charged with magical power at a speed that could defeat someone in a single blow.

How amazing is that?

"This concludes the Sword Fighting Competition. The champion is Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald! Therefore, the new head of the Imperial Guard Order will be Sir Fitzgerald. Give your applause to the best swordsman everybody! Furthermore, give some generous applause to Carlo-sama who is the runner up!"

A huge applause echoed through the stadium at Marcus' words.

I also waved my hand to everyone along with F.

Looks like everyone somehow recognised my ability.

My image seemed to have somehow improved a little, this is a good result, right?

Ah, because I'm a villain I shouldn't improve my image, should I?

When the competition was over and I was again back in the waiting room, Marcus came over.

That irritating lady-killer Lunos also came over.

"Carlo-sama, thanks for your hard work. Honestly speaking your skills were a few steps higher than I thought. I was surprised because I didn't expect that."

Following Marcus, Lunos also gave his praise.

"I didn't know that Carlo-sama was that strong. I'm ashamed as a Knight of the Imperial guard which is supposed to protect you. Please, have a spar with me sometimes."

That's unpleasant, I don't want to do that with a handsome guy like you.

I'll get angry if I lose and I don't know what the girls in the vicinity will say if I win.

I already know that you're strong.

When I was sulking Marcus said something unexpected.

"Carlo-sama, how about going out to celebrate together? I know of a good shop"

As he said that an evil grin was on his face.

There's something about that old man making that face.

Lunos was also laughing on the side.

"Isn't that fine? I'll go along, too. Is it Fitzgerald's victory party?"

"Let's make it that. Let's have a big celebration."

The shop we are going to go to seems to be Lunos' favourite shop.

He might be an irritating guy but I'll forgive him if he introduces me to a good shop.

Together with F, whom I had to force to come with us, the four of us went to that store.

The shop's name is "Moulin Rouge".

With the meaning of red windmill, they decorated their shops top with a windmill.

"Welcome~"

There was a long queue when I entered the shop.

There were gorgeous Onee-sans.

Approximately 30 beautiful Onee-sans of different types were scattered around the store.

Here's definitely that, a playground for adults.

"Kya~ Lunos-sama, long time no see~"

As I expected of a regular customer, many Onee-sans were gathering around Lunos.

Everyone's clothes were so thin that I could clearly see their bodyline and they had put on gorgeous makeup.

It smells really nice.

The inside of the shop is really dim creating a good mood.

In the back, an elegant melody is played on a big piano.

All the shop's furniture is luxurious but refined.

It's a considerably high-quality shop.

Honestly, I never entered such a shop before.

I almost never drank alcohol itself and I was too shy to interact with such Onee-sans.

"Marcus-sama, you're back"

"Yeah, have you been well?"

That geezer's nostrils grew wider, he didn't seem to have aged at all.

"Hmm? Isn't that the victor of today's Sword Fighting Competition?!"

"Yeah, He's Sir Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald. I was completely done in."

Shit, that lady-killer is refreshing even though he lost.

"He must be strong if he was able to beat Braham's strongest swordsman, Lunos-sama! Ehm, Fitz.....?"

"Hoho, it's fine to just call him Fitz. I'm calling him like that, too."

"Well, if Marcus-sama says so. Then I call you Fitz. Ufufu"

The Onee-sans in our surrounding start to laugh happily after hearing Marcus' words.

F looks somewhat troubled.

"Hey, what are you guys doing? How much longer do you want to keep Lord Carlo-sama waiting?"

At Lunos' words, all the Onee-san's looked at me at once.

Aah, I'll get nervous if you pay so much attention to me.

"Isn't this Carlo-sama? Please forgive my rudeness, I didn't notice at all."

When the Onee-san in the most outstanding bright red dress gracefully welcomed me the other Onee-san's also lowered their heads all at once.

Mmm, I don't know why but I feel good.

Under the guidance of a black-clothed Nii-san, I was brought to the back seat. (TN: older brother) I sat down in the middle followed by the Onee-san in the red dress from a while ago and a young girl, sitting down on both my sides.

"Nice to meet you, my name is Rozea. We are in your care tonight.

The Onee-san again lowered her head deeply.

Rozea's red dress has a V-shaped neckline open until her navel and when she lower her head two large spheres are about to spill out from that gap.

"Yeah, I'm Carlo. Nice to meet you."

I desperately fought to get myself to greet her.

I wonder if she is slightly older than the 22-year-old me, she is well-mannered and really elegant.

I tried to ask about her age, but she gently avoided it. (TN: Don't ask a woman that, along with her weight) At first glance, she looks strong-willed but she is a beautiful woman.

I never talked to a woman like Rozea-san.

Though they might not win against Crescent Moon's, but the roundness of her chest has a big enough size for her body.

I mean I'm not obsessed with breasts, you know? (TN: sure) On my other side sat a pretty girl in a yellow dress called Lily. (TN: ... reminds me of how much Lily of Kuro no maou hurt my fragile heart) She told me her age from over there.

She seems to be 18 years old.

Even if one is not yet an adult they seemed to be allowed to drink alcohol in this world. (TN: Drinking age in Japan is 20) It wasn't only Rozea's chest, but her thighs which one could see through the deeply cut skirt also gave off a sexy feeling.

I was surrounded by beautiful women. If I looked to one side I saw Lily's beautiful thighs, if I turned the other way I saw Rozea's wonderful valleys.

To be frank, for a virgin like me it was heaven on earth, but I also felt a mysterious pain.

Everyone got excited when we talked about today's match.

Like I thought after they saw my first match they seemed to have believed it was fixed.

After all, I also thought it looked that way.

But after seeing my match with F they understood it wasn't like that.

I got really embarrassed by all the praise Rozea-san gave me.

This might be a part of her work, but it doesn't feel bad to be praised by a beautiful woman after all.

I felt like I understood those uncles going to such shops.

But as I thought F was the most popular among the Onee-sans.

That's to be expected with that face and being the winner and all.

I came to love a woman as well.

Even Lunos went to a private place as expected.

It seems like F himself was rather puzzled by his popularity.

As we talked about the tactics behind the matches the girls grew excited as they listened.

Gee, it was fun.

Besides, Rozea is pretty.

Though the serious F seemed honestly uncomfortable, I had fun thanks to Rozea.

Finally, when I tried to pay the bill, Marcus told me he would pay with the budget of the Order.

Though I shouldn't have let him as a feudal lord, but, well, today is special so it's fine. (TN: Well.... he offered <_____> If they wanna pay, sure. Not me getting in trouble for it <__<) F looked at me with a complicated expression, but no matter what I am supposed to be a villain. (TN: Eh? Isn't that just being cheap?) We enjoyed ourselves until late and then left the shop.

It was really fun.

I was able to play the pocky game for the first time.

It unfortunately broke off before I could finish though.

Lunos might actually be a good guy.

Chapter 24 – Policy

The Sword Fighting Competition was over, Marcus officially became a General and F became the head of the Imperial Guard Order at the same time.

The Imperial Guard Order's first corps' captain under my direct control was Lunos.

Anyway, after the long inauguration ceremony ended I became tired out.

Such official things were really like stiff shoulders. (TN: stiff e__e) After that was over next I had to work on domestic affairs.

Basically, I left most things to Lucas, but there are still various jobs that Carlo needs to do after all. (TN: I think the author meant Lunos) “Pikaru, what is our present financial status?”

“With the increase in taxes, our present funds became abundant. Although some of it got used by Carlo-sama”

Ah, was that sarcasm just now?

I pretended to not have noticed it, though and continued talking.

“That's good. Then how about the grain storage?”

“Additionally to the good harvest the tax increased so there is a considerably huge quantity stored. Around 70%, is it?”

“There's still 30% left. Pikaru, this year we had a good harvest so the price for wheat should be lower, too. Buy as much wheat for the storehouse as possible.”

There's a reason why I ordered him to buy wheat.

According to the rabbit group's information, the Yuroa countries had a good harvest this year but the western countries seemed to have had a poor harvest caused by the lack of rain, so next year will be pretty rough.

If that's the case the wheat prices would soon rise again.

“Pikaru, when the harvest is over, I will create a new policy”

“What would that new policy be?”

“It’s roughly divided into three parts. First irrigation. We’ll make a huge reservoir and irrigation canals near Braham. For that purpose, I’ll mobilise the farmers who have finished harvesting.”

“That’s impossible. If we do something like that the farmer’s dissatisfaction would increase even more than it did at the time of the tax increase!”

“I know that. But this is absolutely necessary. We’ll draw the water from the Holms River near Braham and turn the wetland into a water reservoir. This has three advantages. First of all, it will improve the Braham’s drainage of the low lands, it’ll improve the life and hygiene of the common people. Secondly, because the water disappears from the damp ground it can be turned into farmland. And thirdly, it’s a measure against droughts. A drought’s damage can be reduced by using the water of the reservoir.”

“I understand what you are trying to say. However, it can’t be avoided that their dissatisfaction towards Carlo-sama will increase.”

“I said it before, but I don’t intend to get the people’s support. It’s not necessary for them to understand it in particular. I’m only doing what I want to do, that’s all.”

“But.....”

“You’re too long-winded. The other two policies have something to do with the military. Call Marcus”

Pikaru left with an expression of which I couldn’t tell if he had understood it.

I’m not a politician chosen by democracy.

Besides, Carlo is a villain.

If I’m able to acquire power while making my reputation suffer it could be said I’m killing two birds with one stone.

Because there’s the money gained by the tax increase we had enough to pay the mobilised farmers.

“I brought General Marcus”

Marcus came over after Pikaru led him here.

“Do you need me for something?”

“Indeed. This border territory’s military power, except the Imperial Guard Order, only consists out of mobilised farmers, right, Marcus?”

“That is right. The only standing military power is the real Imperial Guard Order after that, farmers are mobilised.”

It’s like this after all.

Having hardly any reserve soldiers is the common sense of this world’s Yuroa countries.

Therefore in war times farmers in the off-season are mobilised.

It’s the same as Takeda Uesugi of Japan’s Warring States period.

But the barbarian’s riding mounts have no limitations.

“I thought about the counter-measures against the barbarians we talked about the other day.”

“Hoh, did you have any good ideas?”

“I thought about using the colonial soldier-settlement system.” (TN: [Tuntian system](#) it’ll be better to read a lil bout it to understand this somehow, cause I’m no expert on that topic) “Colonial soldier-settlement you said?”

“We’ll collect people who can’t succeed the house such as the third and second son of a farmer, and organise an army. They’ll reclaim the vicinity of the northern border. We let them cultivate the land and make them the reserve border defence army.”

In the time of the three kingdoms Cao Cao of Wei was famous for colonial soldier-settlements.

This aimed for the improvement of our harvest and the defence capacity against the barbarians, killing two birds with one stone.

“I see, if you give them ownership of the land these people will be able to cultivate the land and somewhat become a defensive force.”

“That’s the case. In addition, we’ll build a great wall at the northern border. I said great wall, but it won’t actually be that big. At best it should be high enough for a horse to not just jump over it. It’ll be somewhat useful and we can build it at the same time as we reclaim the land.”

“This is a good idea. The most threatening thing about the Barbarian’s mounted forces is their speed. This could kill their momentum more or less.”

“So, immediately start recruiting and organise colonial troops” (TN: Tuntian troops.) “Certainly”

Marcus lowered his head.

Looks like he agrees with my idea.

“The third policy concerns the tariffs of other merchants in Braham. Prepare barriers at every entrance of the town, manage who comes in and out of the city and collect the tariffs. Hand out bills to the merchants of Braham and the other caravan’s which have paid the tariff and were allowed entrance.”

Then at this idea, Pikaru posed a question.

“I think this is indeed very interesting. However, what if other towns have similar tariffs?”

As expected of Pikaru, an excellent question.

Your head isn’t only bright for show.

“If that’s the case we’ll look at the type and quantity of the products they want to deal with and agree on a reduction of the tariff if necessary. I will lead the negotiations.”

It’s a trade agreement, isn’t it?

I have to carefully consider how much tariff to put on what.

Low tariffs for things we need, high tariffs for articles that are competing with our local goods.

“I see, this seems to work out just fine. However, don’t you have to employ soldiers to those barriers?”

“That’s right, that’s what I wanted to talk about with you two.”

I can't say that here, but I'll let the rabbit group attack the caravans who didn't pay the tariff.

Well, this is like the officially recognised privateers of olden times. (TN: If you don't know what a [privateer](#) is here you go) If that rumour spreads, the cases of tariff escape will also decrease.

It's the advantage of being a villain to be able to do things like this.

"Additionally, I will abolish all business licenses within Braham. Anybody is free to do business here. Every guild except the adventurer's guild will be destroyed. Selling thing in this town is also free. The 30% sales tax we took this year will be reduced to 10% starting next year."

"This will repel the already existing merchants. Wouldn't the economy stagnate?"

Pikaru asked this but I think it's actually the opposite.

Rather, by doing this, merchants would come over to Braham.

If one does business based in Braham one has just to pay the 10% sales tax and everything else will be free afterwards.

Even if you bring in things from outside you will not be charged with a tariff even if you go to sell your things outside.

This is the simplified free-market policy of Nobunaga.

"Please implement those three previously mentioned policies as soon as possible. Particularly the irrigation. I want it to be ready by the next spring somehow. Therefore, I will divide the work among some groups, I'll let them compete with each other and the team which reached the goal the fastest gets some reward money. That should be effective."

I just wanted to use the words "As soon as possible".

I didn't have the opportunity to use them in my previous life.

The idea to make teams compete with each other was inspired by Tokichiro's building of the "Overnight-castle". (TN: [Sunomata Castle](#)) Like kettles, everyone will burn with competitive spirit.

“Understood. I shall try to implement these three policies as promptly as possible.”

Pikaru and Marcus lowered their heads before they left.

To enrich and strengthen one’s country is the basic goal of these policies.

I have to take measures against the barbarians to prepare for the Hero’s reincarnation.

I’ll become an excellent villain!

Haa, still, I’m tired.

I’m working too much, am I not?

I have to relax somewhere.

Chapter 25 – Bouquet

I who felt tired from work rang the bell and called for a maid.

“You called?”

Mirea-san dressed in maid clothes entered.

It was good to see that she already completely recovered from her arm injuries.

It's nice seeing young Reina in maid clothes but Mirea-san's figure is also quite good.

I can't believe that she isn't only a widow but also has a child even though she's such a beautiful woman.

“E, ehm. Carlo-sama, what is your order?”

.....Ah.

Mirea-san looks at me with reddened cheeks.

Looks like she became shy after I stared at her for too long.

“Aah, how's Lucia? Is she fine?”

“Thanks to you she's able to go to school. She seemed to have been able to also make some friends.”

“Is that so? That's good. Mirea, can I have a cup of tea?”

“Yes, I'll bring it in just a moment”

I tasted the tea Mirea brought.

Though it's delicious regrettably there's no sugar in it.

It seems like sugar is a luxury item and isn't always available.

I want to eat something sweet.

The day slowly passed by and it was already dusk.

I was slightly hungry, too.

Ah, I got it, I just got a great idea. (TN: No... No, bad!) Let's eat out today.

The beef stew of the Fawn Pavilion.

M, maybe I'll meet Felicia while I'm at it. (TN: Carlo, sit and stay..... talk with Mirea about her great tea and doon't go to that!!!) "Mirea, I'm going out for a bit today."

"Going out at such a time?" (TN: Stop him!!!)

"Yeah and tell Melissa it's unnecessary to prepare supper because I'm going to eat outside."

"Certainly"

"Also, is there a flower shop nearby? One which makes bouquets"

After I left the mansion I went to the flower shop Mirea told me about.

It's good that Mirea knew about it though she looked at me slightly confused.

She told me I should bring Lunos, who became the captain of the Imperial Guard under my direct control, with me but I declined.

I won't take such a lady-killer with me, absolutely not.

I had them make me a bouquet at the flower shop.

It seems like it was unusual for a man to order a bouquet in this world. I did get it but I got some dubious looks.

There were many colourful flowers and a lot of Baby's breath in it.

What meaning does that have in flower language? (TN: Everlasting love of any kind, Innocence *etc.* there are some but mostly love stuff) "If it isn't Carlo-sama. Thank you for coming again. Let us go to the room."

The plump shopkeeper of the Fawn Pavilion, Fats, greeted me at the entrance and brought me to the VIP room.

"I'd like to eat the calf stew again. My legs unintentionally carried me here."

"I'm honoured that you seem to like it. Then I shall hastily prepare the calf stew. Shall I let Felicia come again?"

My chest tightens.

That's good, Felicia-chan is here today.

I pretended to be as indifferent as possible and answered.

"Aah, I see. Then should I have Felicia come? As good as the dishes are they take long to be made."

"Certainly. Wait a minute"

I grinned and Fats left.

"Carlo-sama, please excuse me."

After a few minutes, Felicia-chan entered.

Ahh, she's pretty as I thought. (TN: <___< I wanna hit ya) She had a cool, irresistible look in her eyes and it felt like they could suck me in any moment.

Though an adult woman such as Rozea is good but the faint and discreet Felicia-chan is the best. (TN: I give up.) "Felicia, please take this."

I handed Felicia-chan the bouquet I bought.

Though I thought about giving her a ring or a necklace, but even I would feel disgusted if a man I just met suddenly gave me those things.(TN: It's the same tho... doesn't matter if flowers or other stuff...) Therefore I got a bouquet, are you happy about it?

"Well, this is for me?! How pretty it is. And also that fragrance....."

Felicia-chan brings the bouquet close to her face to enjoy the fragrance.

I'm relieved, she seemed to like it.

"No, I just passed a flower shop on my way here coincidentally."

I'm a liar.

I took the trouble and took a detour to get it.

But I have no intentions to say this.

"This is the first time a gentleman gave me such a thing. Thank you" (TN: I call bullshit) Felicia-chan carefully bowed to me and thanked me.

There doesn't seem to be a custom of men giving girls bouquets in this world.

But I'm a modern man though I'm a virgin.

I do have the knowledge that women would be pleased with this I don't have any experience, though.

Today it seems that the shop is not as busy as it was last time so she stayed a while longer in the room.

Meanwhile, I talked about various things with her.

Felicia seems to turn 19 this year.

She learned to sing and dance from her father at an early age but his business went bankrupt.

She said that she came with her mother to Braham and seems to sing here to help her household. (TN: Your run-of-the-mill tragic story) When I thought about her hardships I felt tears gathering in the corners of my eyes.

By the way, I asked her whether she watched the Sword Fighting Competition but it seems like she didn't come.

What a shame that she wasn't able to see my majestic figure.

I had her sing one piece and then Felicia-chan returned to the hall for today.

I ate my stew and returned afterwards.

My eyes met with Felicia-chan's again as she sang across the hall.

I said my good-byes with my eyes and she smiled more clearly today.

I feel like we have gotten closer today.

I leave the shop while feeling happy.

After having left the Fawn Pavilion I stopped by the hideout.

I looked through the window but the lights were turned off then I entered wearing a mask just in case.

Pick wasn't in the hideout.

I changed my clothes to that of Akatsuki, wore my mask and left the house.

When I entered the adventurer's guild, it was pretty busy inside even though it was night.

"Yo Akatsuki, over here."

"Big bro, long time no see"

Pick and the masked mercenary Crescent Moon called me over Pick seemed to have properly remembered me telling her to "call me big bro when we are out in the public".

Admirable, admirable.

"Why is it that it's that crowded even though it's night?"

"About that, Akatsuki. A slightly big job has come in."

"Big bro, it's about the troll-sightings in the village close to the Reid Forest."

"That's right. Besides, it's rumoured to have two heads."

Crescent moon spoke joyfully.

A two-headed troll, huh? That'll be troublesome.

That kind of report has yet to reach the feudal lord Carlo.

If I get a report that means the adventurer's guild failed and request for the military to be dispatched against the subjugation target, huh?

But when that happens they would have already lost a lot of people.

Trolls are relatively major creatures in the fantasy genre and are known for their image of being slow-witted giants.

This doesn't change in this world either, trolls are tall at approximately three metres in height and they have considerable strength.

They often attack by throwing rocks and swinging their big club.

Just because their intelligence isn't high that doesn't mean subjugating them is also easy.

Its monster class is C, it's on the level that it can be dealt with by one adventurer party.

However, the troll has subspecies.

These individuals are called "two-heads", which was mentioned just now, and "three-heads".

The troll literally grows more than one head but when it grows more than one head then its body gets bigger and its intelligence also gets higher.

In some cases, they are even able to use magic.

If that happens, it's necessary to raise its monster class to B, a joint operation of a number of parties is needed to deal with it.

"A "Two-heads" is a difficult enemy. Can it use magic?"

"It's a quest that just came in a while ago so the details aren't clear yet. Hey, Akatsuki, will you take the quest with us?"

Obviously, Crescent Moon is excited.

The reward will also be quite good.

"But when it comes to two-headed trolls, shouldn't their monster class be B?"

"It'll be fine, Akatsuki!"

As Crescent Moon said this she suddenly held my head with her left hand and whispered into my ear so that Pick couldn't hear it.

"I watched your match. Aren't you amazing? If I'm with you it'll be an easy victory."

She was talking about the Sword Fighting Competition.

That's fine and all but your chest hit my mask, your chest.

Today I learned that a mask is really bothersome at times like this.

I'll never forget this vexation, never.

"I got it, I got it. Well then, shall we meet up here again tomorrow? Because I'll bring a magician acquaintance of mine."

"I did it, that's why I like you ♪"

"Big bro, I'll also come along."

Oh well, it should be fine.

I also have the authors' correction.

Chapter 26 – Troll Extermination

The next morning, I went to the hideout, put on my mask, went to borrow a horse and then visited Knopf.

“Yo, Knopf”

“W, who might you be?”

She looked surprised at my face on which I wore a mask. That’s to be expected, after all, she saw me like this for the first time. I took off the mask.

“It’s me, Carlo.”

“Aah, that surprised me. What’s the mask for? Did you buy it just to surprise me?”

“You don’t really believe that, do you? It mustn’t be found out that the feudal lord became an adventurer so I’m wearing this mask and pretend to be someone else.”

“I see, so it was like that. Then did you also change your name?”

“Yeah. I gave myself the name Akatsuki. Please call me that, Knopf”

“I got it, Akatsuki. Well then, what business do you have with me this morning?”

As I expected, this cat girl is quick-witted. I wanted to rub her cat ear as a reward but I suppressed my desire because I would inevitably be treated like a pervert. Generally, this cat girl, although she looks young is actually older than me as she is half cat person and half human.

“A two-headed troll appeared in a settlement near the Reed Forest. I wanted you to lend me your power to subjugate it.”

“Eh, two heads! I’m interested, but is it fine for me to come? I ‘m not experienced in fighting. Would I still be useful?”

I see, Knopf is essentially a mad scientist-type of researcher, so she doesn't have any actual combat experience, huh?

But it's for certain that Knopf's abilities will be helpful.

"It's alright. There are me and my very experienced friend acting as support. So if it's fine with you, please."

"Understood, I'll go with you. I'll prepare for it immediately."

"Don't forget to bring that, okay?"

"Yeah, got it."

Five minutes later, I took Knopf and headed towards the Guild Hall. Crescent Moon and Pick were already waiting there.

"You're late. I already took the quest. The reward will be 30 gold coins, Ehehe"

Crescent Moon laughed with her drool nearly dripping out. Pick seems to fight that urge to also do this.

"If we have Hea.....not that, if we have big bro and Crescent Moon-san it'll be an easy victory! So, who's that girl?"

Though it's you who looks like a little girl. Pick might look like a child but on the inside, she's a cunning thief rather than an adult.

"This is my magic teacher, Knopf. She's half cat human half human and even if she might not look like it, she's 30 years old."

"Why so you have to emphasise my age so much? Ah, I'm Knopf. I'll be in your care."

"Heeeh, my big brother's teacher is 30? You don't look like it."

Pick acted exaggeratedly surprised. Even though you look like an elementary school student! What's your actual age anyway?!

"I'm Crescent Moon. I work as a mercenary. Nice to meet you."

“I’m Pick. I’m a Hobbit and Big bro Akatsuki’s younger sister. Nice to meet you.”

After the greetings were over we immediately started a strategy meeting. Yesterday evening a Troll appeared.

It suddenly appeared in a village and they requested for it to be subjugated as soon as possible

It’s an about 5 meter tall Titan.....I mean, Troll.

The surprising part is that it’s supposed to have two heads.

The damage dealt to the village is also unknown.

“Besides ours, many other parties have received this quest. However, they want to organise a collaboration between various parties, the discussion will be time-consuming. Meanwhile, we’ll monopolise it!”

Looks like Crescent Moon doesn’t want to share with other parties to the last. (TN: She’ll probably share with you, though? Isn’t that something?)

Well, it’ll be fine.

“Ehm, I’m able to use all four attributes of magic but as this is my first time doing real combat please do take care of me.”

“Heeh, being able to use all four attributes, isn’t that amazing? But you can’t use higher-ranked magic as it seems. Oh well, anyway, we’ll be in your care.”

“I can guarantee for Knopf’s abilities. Pick will cover her so that she won’t be disturbed during an aria.”

“Understood, big bro!”

We decided to depart.

After leaving the town, crossing the bridge and advancing along the edge of the Reed Forest eventually a village came into our view.

“Finally, don’t let your guard down”

They nodded to my words.

In fact, I might be the tensest of us all.

This time’s enemy is completely different from the Kobolds I dealt with before. I’m nervous because this is my first campaign in a sense.

I approached the village's entrance with caution.
I couldn't see anything abnormal in particular.
It was actually too quiet.

"There are no people....."

Crescent Moon muttered.
Right, nobody's there.
I couldn't see any of the residents, not even a dog.

"Shall we enter?"

I pulled out my Oricalcum Sword as I said this.
Everyone got off their horses and pulled out their weapons and wands as we entered the village.
As I thought, there's no one in the houses or barns.
It's really too quiet.

There were some broken houses here and there, though.
There were traces of destruction but nobody was inside.
We looked into the other intact houses, too, but there wasn't even a shadow of a resident there.

"Did everyone run away or something?"

It's no surprise that Pick said that.

"Hey, come over here!"

When I went to the place Crescent Moon's voice came from there was a stone windmill.
But its entrance door was closed.

"It won't open"

Crescent Moon tried to open its door but no matter how she pushed or pulled it wouldn't open.
Looks like it's locked from the inside.

"Normally one wouldn't lock the windmill's door."

"Is that so? Maybe someone's inside."

“Then should I pick the lock?”

Pick reacted to my words.

“Yeah, could you try?”

Pick tinkered with the keyhole for about 20 seconds.

“It’s open”

Fast!

What quick work.

When I opened the door I found some residents of the village inside.

Everyone was huddled together, frightened.

“We came to rescue you.”

“Rescue, but why is it only you? What about the others?”

“They will come later, but it’ll be alright with just us, too.”

To Crescent Moon’s words an elderly man who seems to be the resident’s representative totally changed his attitude and shouted at her.

“You just can be so carefree because you didn’t see it! Do you know how terrible that thing is?.....No, I don’t know when that will return. Anyway, we’ll hide here until the others come.”

Looks like he saw something truly horrible.

“Is every villager here?”

“No, some failed to get here in time. Since we just barely got here I don’t really know what happened to them, but in my opinion, they probably.....”

I see. So there were victims after all, huh?

We somehow have to protect these people and exterminate that guy.

“We were told a two-headed Troll appeared.”

“Yeah, there’s no doubt about that. It’s considerably bigger than other Trolls and its movements are quicker. I never saw something like that before.”

“Did it use magic?”

“That, honestly, I don’t know. I didn’t see it, but among those who ran away were some that said it used something like magic.”

Well, we should attack it while keeping this in mind.

“Knopf, attack it while assuming your opponent can use magic. This applies to everyone, too”

“Isn’t it okay for now? We’ll just hide here and – -”

Zuuuun, Zuuuun

As he was trying to say something, one could clearly hear an abnormal thudding sound.

Chapter 27 – Troll Extermination II

“O, oh no, that thing came back! Quickly, get inside the windmill!”

The moment they heard the thudding sound the villagers started to panic.

“I’ll lure that guy. Crescent Moon attack him with your bow. Knopf, get ready to chant an aria and Pick, you’re support.”

Everyone positioned themselves as I instructed.

In fact, this is my first campaign, honestly, my legs are shaking.

Thanks to the mask my expression still looked fine.

Zuuuun, zuuuun

The thudding sounds came closer.

I was prepared.

Then one could see its head appearing beyond the trees.

Two heads.

One of its heads had a face resembling a human’s but its appearance was so distorted it made the viewer uncomfortable – – It laughed.

That’s right, it looked at us as if it couldn’t contain its joy over finding new prey anymore.

And the other head.

Similarly, it also had a face resembling a human's but its eyes were sewn shut with something that looked like a huge thread.

Besides, it had the same smirk as the other head even though it's blind.

This creature partly resembling a human evoked disgust, physiological repugnance and fear.

It was also considerably big.

For its head to tower over the tree tops, it certainly had to exceed 5 meters in height.

—That, isn't that thing actually a Titan? (TN: Shingeki no Kyojin reference) I don't have any device to move in the sky and fight it.

But, I guess, magic is better in this setting.

So, how do I fight that?

The Troll inched closer while watching us and laughed.

In its right hand, it held a 2 meter long, big club.

Finally, it got into battle distance.

"The head with the sewn shut eyes has "demon eyes". It can definitely use magic!"

Knopf shouted.

How troublesome, magic, huh?

But I'm grateful for at least knowing that much.

—Reus!

I call Reus in my mind, chant an aria and form seals with my left hand.

“Fire Sword!”

Then the Oricalcum Sword got wrapped in flames.

Gaaaaaaaah!

At the time the Troll released an incomprehensible roar it raised its club in front of me.

“Let's go!”

The battle began with my shout.

The Troll swung down its club on me.

What a tremendous speed and wind pressure.

Kuu——

I avoided it by jumping to the side.

The arrow Crescent Moon shot pierced the Troll's right shoulder.

“Hehe, how's that?”

Crescent Moon shot one arrow after another.

She seemed to focus on its right hand gripping the club.

Then the Troll's other head with the sewn shut eyes shouted something making a gust of wind appear which blew off the arrows at the same time.

“It's useless, with this wind magic, not a single arrow will hit.”

While shouting that Pick threw stones with her sling but they didn't inflict much damage.

But in that instance, I jumped to the Troll's feet.

As I thought, it's huge, my head doesn't even reach its waist.

I flung the Fire Sword in my right hand against its thigh in front of me.

Guwaaa!

The Troll screamed in pain and kicked me.

It didn't cause much damage as I was jumping back at the same time.

But it seems like I couldn't give the Troll a severe wound either.

"Here I come!"

Knopf shouted, held her wand and chanted an aria.

At the moment, a huge fireball attacked the Troll's upper body and exploded as it collided with it.

Looks like she added oxygen to the fireball spell with wind magic.

The Troll's upper body burnt red and started to fester.

As is expected, seemed like it dealt damage.

Isn't this good?

"There's something coming from the left!"

Just when I thought that, Pick shouted this.

Looking to the left I saw another Troll run here with a tremendous force.

This one is about 3 meters in height and had only one head.

Though it's slow but its feet were like heavy tanks.

This is a common Troll.

"We have another guest, what should we do? Akatsuki!"

I thought for a moment to Crescent Moon's words but immediately gave an answer.

“I’ll fight this one so please take care of the other. It will mainly focus on Knopf because of her magic attack, so Crescent Moon and Pick have to draw it away from her.” (TN: Good that you can stay calm~ Author correction?)

Rage management, it’s that.

My experience in MMO’s is useful in times like this.

“Understood, leave this to us”

Crescent Moon is reliable, really.

OK, I should give it my best, too.

This new Troll had also a club like the other.

But as long as it can’t use magic and isn’t that big I can somehow manage.

I held my sword with both hands.

Gowaaa!

The Troll was about to hit me with its club but I tried to block it with my Orichalcum Sword.

Kuwaang!

It gave off a dull sound, but it’s fine, I blocked it.

It's strong indeed, but I have the author correction on my side.

I flicked the club away and stuck at the Troll's practically defenceless torso.

Guyaaaa

The Troll was agonising because of the pain.

I didn't go as far as cutting it in two with a single sword stroke but I inflicted a pretty heavy wound.

Bang, bang, bang!

The wounded Troll bangs around its club to attack.

It wasn't fast enough to get me but those strikes had enough power behind it to instantly kill me if I was hit by them.

While carefully evading I waited for an opportunity.

I want to defeat it quickly and help the other but I can't be careless.

I raised the Fire Sword's heat to increase the damage a hit will give.

The moment the Troll made a big swing it broke its posture.

I struck the Troll's neck with my sword after it became reachable.

The fire clad Oricalcum Sword cut into the Troll's neck.

Even though I felt resistance I swung it through without change.

Zudooooooooon

The Troll's head fell followed by its body.

I did it, how about the others?

When I looked back to the right I saw Crescent Moon fighting well.

Crescent Moon didn't use her sword and kept on shooting the Troll with her bow.

Because of its magic, the arrows hardly hit its mark, but this was more of a measure against it using magic against the others.

Pick provoked her enemy to make it attack her before avoiding the attacks at point-blank range.

Seeing that small body fighting against her opponent's gigantic club was scary.

But it seems like it couldn't even graze her.

Knopf fired a new kind of magic.

It seemed like she used the strategy of mixing ice splinters created with beginner ranked water magic with the beginner rank wind spell "Storm" to cut the Troll.

The Ice Storm caught the Troll's head with open eyes.

How skilled, like this the Troll became blind.

Because the other head's eyes were sewed shut it could see nothing now.

“Now, let’s go!”

I shouted as I ran behind the Troll.

While the Troll held its head in pain I swung my sword against its right knee’s back with all my might.

Zuba— —

I continued on and aimed for its left knee.

This was also a good hit, with both its legs ruined the two-headed Troll had no choice but to kneel down.

“Way to go, Akatsuki!”

As Crescent Moon shouted that she shot some arrows at the Troll who couldn’t afford to use magic anymore.

The carefully aimed arrow pierced the open-eyed head’s left eye.

“You, did you see that?!”

Looks like she didn’t aim for that.

It’s a miracle, huh? Good grief. (TN: Says the no control fireball pitching machine)

I approached the suffering, crouching Troll’s body from behind.

I jumped up with all my might and struck my Fire Sword down on the neck of the head with demon eyes. (TN: Yeah, it's like in Shingeki no Kyojin. The neck cutting.)

Guwaaaaaaaaaaa!

Just when the head with the demon eyes let out a shout it stopped moving soon after.

Alright, then there's only the open-eyed head left.

Moreover, one of its eyes was crushed.

The Troll tried to stand up while wielding its club in its right hand but it was difficult with those legs after all.

“Don't miss that chance, go!”

I snuck to the Troll's front left side as I shouted this.

The Troll whose freedom of movement got snatched away turned towards me and tried to hit me but because one of its eyes was crushed it didn't have any more sense of perspective resulting in not hitting me.

While escaping from it I used the opportunity to cut at the Troll.

Furthermore, Crescent Moon and Pick launched an attack from the other side.

This fight's end is already only a matter of time.

“Here I go! Ice Barrett!”

Just when Knopf shouted, paan! A small hole opened in the Trolls forehead only a dry explosion sound remaining, then the Troll slowly collapsed.

“W, what was that just now.....?”

Without showing any joy for the victory, Crescent Moon turned around and unpleasantly looked at Knopf.

“You did that just now, didn’t you? What was it? I never saw someone use it before.....”

“Car.....That’s not it, Akatsuki, the spell went well just now. Although it’s hard to use because aiming with it is difficult.”

That’s right, I taught Knopf the spell she used back then.

In fact, the wand Knopf has is made out of steel and hollow inside.

I proposed to use it to shoot out bullets made with ice magic propelling it out with a to-the-limit compressed air ball made with wind magic.

It is, so to speak, something like a magic air gun.

I let the legendary blacksmith Mohan especially make it for Knopf.

The inside of the wand was carefully cut into spiral groves.

Thanks to that, the ice bullets could be propelled out at a high-speed and keep flying straight because of the gyro effect. (TN: [Gyro effect](#))

This is our weapon for fighting the Titans.

Chapter 28 – Rozea

After having defeated the Troll we reported this to the people at the windmill. Although the villagers who escaped to the windmill were still initially suspicious they were surprised by the sight of the two fallen Trolls.

“Is this the truth? You defeated them? Moreover, those twowere tremendously strong.”

“To big bro Akatsuki and big sis Crescent Moon something of this degree is nothing!”

Pick seemed happy but Crescent Moon kept on staring at Knopf suspiciously.

“What’s the matter, Crescent Moon? This doesn’t look like you at all.”

“But with that said, Akatsuki. Don’t you think that cat ear magician is weird? That finisher, I never saw or heard of a spell like that. Even though one couldn’t see anything that big hole suddenly appeared and that thing immediately kicked the bucket. This is just too weird.”

Well, to a human of this world in which things such as guns do not exist it’ll turn out like this.

“Don’t say that. Knopf isn’t particularly suspicious. She just devises various spells out of normal ones.”

“Was it like that? That first fireball also had tremendous power, didn’t it?”

“Are you talking about me?”

When Knopf came over, Crescent Moon hastily tried to fix this up.

“Ah, no, I was just praising your magic, like your magic is more awesome than I first thought.”

“Is that so? Thank you. Crescent Moon’s skill with the bow was also amazing.”

That’s right, Crescent Moon’s archery is also of miracle grade. Is this because Akatsuki was originally set to be an Archery master? By the way, I wonder how skilled I’m with it.

I've never tried to use a bow before so I don't know.

I feel like I'm able to use it for some reason.

"By the way, what are those demon eyes you mentioned before?"

I was interested in this so I asked the cat girl.

"It had its eyes sewed shut so that it couldn't see, right? That's demon eyes. It's something like a curse that takes your vision in exchange for strong magical power. The question is who did this?"

So that means that someone was behind this Troll variant?

I have to be careful.

We asked the villagers to clean up and decided to go back to the town. For the sake of reporting to the Guild, we cut off the Troll's left ear each. I entrusted the task of cutting it to Crescent Moon, though. (TN: You cut off a Troll's head though)

I can't do something so grotesque.

The Trolls didn't have anything particularly valuable on them.

How disappointing.

When we left the village all the residents waved saw us off and waved their hands.

Though there were some victims I want you to work hard to restore everything to normal.

When we entered we got assaulted by a barrage of questions.

Stuff like, what kind of enemy was it, how did you defeat them? And so on, and so on.

What kind of enemy it was, was okay to answer but regarding how we defeated it I gave a vague answer.

Especially that last spell is top-secret.

When we reported to the guild and showed them the three severed ears our reward got increased to 40 coins.

The reason for this was the danger we were already exposed to by the two-headed enemy who could use magic and additionally defeating another one which suddenly appeared.

With this, it became 10 gold coins per person.

“Hehe, I’m grateful for this. But I wish they had given us a little more.”

The greedy Crescent Moon was saying things like that.

This person really likes money.

Knopf seemed to allot it to her research funds.

As Pick asked, “What should I do with this?” I was delighted to tell her “Distribute it among the Rabbit Group”.

I left the Guildhall, returned to the hideout, changed back into Carlo’s clothes and went back to the mansion.

For a moment I thought about going to the Fawn Pavilion but it was still early and I didn’t want to trouble Felicia. (TN: Yep don’t go~) “Welcome home, Carlo-sama”

Melissa and Reina, but also the Imperial Guard’s captain Lunos greeted me. When I entered the mansion Lunos handed me a letter.

“What, from whom?”

“First open it and take a look, please.”

Lunos flashed a grin for an instant.

When I opened it I saw that the letter was from one of “Moulin Rouge’s” Onee-sans, Rozea.

“What’s written in it?”

Lunos listened with an unconcerned face.

Is it like this? Or did Rozea give the letter to him? (TN: If it’s his letter.... why would he show it to you again?) It was written that she had a fun during that time.

If I have time I should visit again by all means.

And she also wrote she found someone she wanted to introduce to me.

“Aah, something like she wants to see me again. Rozea’s also troubled.”

Alright, Rozea wants to see me and not Lunos! (TN: Cause money? And ya know, she just saw him and he’s there a lot apparently)

Honestly, I was bursting with joy and wanted to brag but I controlled myself and assumed a curt attitude.

“Well, for women with that kind of job sending letters like this to customers is part of their work.” (TN: Bingo) That Lunos, is he jealous of me? (TN: Nooope. Don't think so)

Rozea isn't the type of girl who writes letters like this just for her work. Unexpectedly that handsome guy Lunos doesn't understand a woman's feelings either. (TN: Heh. First the idol now her. Did ya even fall for spam e-mails before?) “Well, can't be helped. Might as well go today, huh?”

“Eh, you want to go at once? Then I shall also accompany you.”

That Lunos, what's with you letting out that surprised voice? Isn't it normal to go to someone who wants to see you? (TN: In different situations, yes, but not in this one...) “No, it's fine, I'm going alone.”

After eating dinner I left the mansion and headed for the Moulin Rouge. I'm glad that thanks to the herbs the eating habits have considerably improved. The Genovese pasta with basil I had the other day was delicious. I'd like to eat curry sometime soon.

“Welcome~”

As I entered the Moulin Rouge there were a lot of glamorous Onee-sans there again.

“Welcome. Do you want to see someone in particular?”

Just when I wanted to tell the name to the black clothed man Rozea appeared from behind.

“Oh my, Carlo-sama. Thank you very much for coming.”

“Yeah, I got your letter and came over.”

Today Rozea is wearing a crimson dress again though it has a different shape than the one before. The neckline wasn't as deeply cut as before but the deep slit in her skirt was also very sexy.

“This gentleman is my visitor. Let me guide you.”

Rozea took me by my hand and guided me to a seat. Ah, this is dangerous.

This might be the first time after becoming an adult that I held hands with a woman so casually. (TN: Srsly? I mean, there had to be some kind of situation, right?) I sat down while my heart was throbbing.

Rozea snuggled closer to my side.

“I’m sorry for giving you a letter like that. Did I trouble you?”

“No, I don’t mind. It’s alright.”

This was the first time I received a letter from a woman so I was happy. I kind of became aware of something, I’m not good at talking. Rozea’s beautiful and white thighs became visible when she crossed her legs.

Aah, I can’t stare, don’t stare.

Just when I thought like that I just took a glance.

“What would you like to drink?”

Rozea listened.

Ehm, they certainly ask to buy “bottles” in this kind of shops and that makes the girls happy.

But they were really expensive, at least that’s what I saw in TV dramas.

I don’t have any idea what I should order.

I should have taken Lunos with me after all. (TN: Yeah, you should have)

Sigh, there’s no helping it, let’s tell her the truth.

“I want to order a bottle but, honestly, I don’t know anything about that. I’ve never been to shops like this.”

“Oh my, is that so? Then just for me.....Thank you. Then I’ll order instead. What price would be appropriate?”

Rozea laughed with relish.

But she didn’t make me feel like an idiot, besides, she was a good girl who properly asked about the budget.

I got the reward from the Troll extermination today, so let’s use that.

“I see, today I have 10 gold coins with me so use them well.”

Those 10 gold coins are equal to 1 million yen.

Though I don’t know how expensive this place is but this much should be

enough.

Then Rozea suddenly stared at me with a serious face.

“Carlo-sama. I know that you’re rich. I’m also happy that you would order this for me. However, please don’t order such expensive liquor. Rather than using it all at once Rozea would be happier to see Carlo-sama many times.”

When she said this I began to smile, then she continued.

“In fact, there’s a Liquor I really like. It would cost one gold coin in total, so may I ask you to buy it for me?” (TN: Not bye bye 10 gold coins then?) “Aah, well, let’s order it then, shall we?”

The liquor which got brought was a delicious sparkling wine with a slightly sweet taste.

While drinking it Rozea laughed happily.

Crescent Moon would never say things like that.

She’d say things like: More importantly give me more money.

“By the way, you wrote in the letter that you wanted to introduce someone to me.”

“That’s right. It’s when you came here the other day, but I think she might be useful to Carlo-sama. Though she’s a slightly strange person.”

Is that so? Rozea always thought about me?

Let’s meet that person next time.

Thus, the fun night continued on.

Chapter 29 – Fujoshi

“Carlo-sama, can I talk with you for a bit?”

Melissa suddenly came over when I was sitting in my office.
After her Reina also came in.

It’s unusual for Melissa to come without being called and it’s not the time for a meal yet.

What is it?

She was obviously angry.

Did I do something? (TN: Oh, ooh you did a lot of stuff....)

Is it because I recently went out to play at night and visited the Fawn Pavilion and the Moulin Rouge?

“What is it?”

Ah, my voice broke out of tension.

I hate people being angry at me.

“It’s about this Reina”

That gentle Melissa looked like an ogre when looking back at Reina.
Reina turned her gaze downwards and didn’t dare to turn this way.
Aah, the one she’s angry with is Reina, huh?
Once I knew I wasn’t the one in trouble the tension left my body.

“Did Reina do something wrong?”

“Because I couldn’t see her working in the morning I searched for her and found her hiding in the shadows to read this kind of thing!”

That reminds me, didn’t Melissa hold something like a thin book in her hand?

“What is it?”

When she heard my question Melissa’s face suddenly reddened.
Reina became smaller and smaller. (TN: Yeah, well, the title says everything)

“Ehm, this is just too much to explain it with my own mouth. It is too dirty for your esteemed eyes but could you view it to decide upon Reina’s punishment?”

What’s going on?

The problem wasn’t her being absent from work but the contents of this book?

It feels like an ordinary novel.

I took the book from Melissa and opened it.

Then Reina began to sob.

.....

Hoho, is the Earl with the scar on his cheek the main character?

He kind of looks like me. (TN: Cause that’s you. My condolences)

.....

.....

That beautiful knight of the Imperial Guard with blonde hair who swore allegiance to the Earl.

The best swordsmen of the country.

.....

.....

.....

There’s also a refreshing brown-haired knight appearing.

In addition to being handsome, his sword skills were incomparable.

The blonde knight competes against this knight and ends up losing.

Isn’t that just like Lunos and F? (TN: Eeeyup)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....What the hell is this?!?!

The two knights compete with each other to gain the Earl’s favour and before long they fall in love.

Affection exceeding friendship sprouted between the rivals.

There were love scenes between the two knights and between the Earl and the

knights. (TN: ... I'll... just... whatever...) Tha, that fellow, did she become rotten.....This is too early for this era.

I never thought I'd read BL with me as the inspiration in my life

Good grief, no matter in what world fujoshi always exist, don't they? (TN: They are everywhere, everywhereeee) Oh well, because I'm 2D otaku trash entering the Comiket while yelling I understand them to some extent.

But for the Maid Reina to get corrupted.

Even though I thought she was cute but her panting over me, F and Lunos doing those kind of things was kind of disappointing.

"So, Carlo-sama, what is Reina's punishment? Though, I think a dismissal is only natural"

Melissa with a beet red face said this in a severe tone.

When she heard that, Reina raised her voice while bursting into tears.

"Aah, Carlo-sama, I'm sorry! I'm going to reflect on it so please anything but dismissing me. Please let me stay here!"

Mmm, well I don't really think reading BL isn't particularly bad.

I don't think it's good to skip work to read, though.

I'd appreciate it if you would stop just that.

"Melissa, Leave the rest to me. Would you let me talk with her alone?"

"Certainly. Please be strict."

Melissa lowered her head and left.

"Reina, sit down."

"Bu, but....."

I let the puzzled Reina sit on the sofa for visitors and I sat down on the opposing side.

"Are such books popular?"

"Eh, no, such things would never....."

"You don't have to hide it. I think it's understandable to like those kind of things and I also know some girls who like it. How long have you been reading these kinds of books?"

“.....For about three years”

Because Reina is now 17 years old she started with 14!
She’s an elite in a sense.

“Are those around you reading this as well?”

“All my friends read them.”

“This book here, too?”

“Yes, we take turns reading them. I promised my friends to give it to them this evening and I didn’t have time to read so I skipped work.....I’m terribly sorry”

Aah, my figure got exposed to everyone (teary eyes).

“Carlo-sama, please don’t fire me. Please let me stay here!”

Reina burst into tears again.
I’m the one who wants to cry.

“Ehm, well, don’t cry. Let’s over look this incident this time. I’ll convince Melissa, too.”

“.....Aah, Carlo-sama!”

She looked at me with wet eyes.
Her face was cute but being looked at by those eyes, honestly, I pulled back a little.

“However, don’t read those books while you are in the mansion, working. What did your friends say?”

“Ehm, actually, it was one of my friends who wrote this book.”

.....A BL writer, what kind of friends do you have? (TN: I have enough of those, too....) “She frequently tells me that she envies me for working at such a heavenly place.”

What heaven, good grief.
Besides, as soon as she realised she won’t get fired she got really lively.

“Ehm, Carlo-sama, that friend told me to ask you something when I get the opportunity.”

I got a reeeeeeally bad feeling about this.

“What is it? Let’s hear it.”

“Ehm, that, uhm.....”

Reina fidgeting like that is pretty cute.

But it’s something hard to say after all, huh?

“Ehm, if I dare to say, but, Carlo-sama, if you could answer this, you’re a uke, right? And what do you think about Gekokujo? I think it’s very wonderful!” (TN: Gekokujo = juniors dominating their seniors, 下剋上に関 gekokujo ni kanshite that’s the full thing)This girl is done for.

She’s completely corrupted (white eyed)

Chapter 30 – Tactician

On that day I went to inspect the irrigation construction site.

“Pikaru, how’s the construction’s progress?”

“It’s progressing splendidly. Carlo-sama’s instructions were very effective.”

Pikaru lowered his head respectfully.

Good, good, looks like the construction is progressing favourably.

“My instructions” that Pikaru mentioned were roughly three.

The first instruction was to divide them into groups and make them compete, inspired by Hideyoshi.

“You guys aren’t going to lose to the other groups! You want to let your mothers eat something delicious, don’t you?!”

“Yeah, we absolutely won’t lose!”

A loud motivating voice echoed through the scene.

The farmers participating in the construction seemed to desperately compete against each other to get the prize money.

This is all going according to my expectations.

Another instruction was the use of earth magic in the construction. We gathered prestigious magicians that could use earth magic and used them instead of heavy machinery.

I hear this was an unprecedented endeavour but it was a huge hit.

They are more usable than those imprecise bulldozers and shovel cars.

They could move around the soil just like they intended.

It’s a problem that they can’t do too complicated things because there were only a few earth magicians and most of them here used beginner class magic but this drastically increased our efficiency.

“Everyone, be careful, we are going to blast that spot! 3, 2, 1.....”

Boooooooooom!

Earth and sand vanish with an explosion.

I had Knopf provide us with plenty of substitute dynamite.

Another instruction was about a certain person.

It's the person Rozea wanted to introduce to me, that was good. (TN: It's not Felica. It's not Crescent Moon it is~~~)

That person's name was Nals. (TN: Some duuuuude~)

He's one of the people I was looking for, he was a tactician appearing in my novel who supported Carlo in diplomacy and military affairs.

When that name left Rozea's mouth I was so surprised she started laughing at me.

I had Rozea write a letter of introduction and then I immediately went to meet Nals on foot.

"I'm sorry for having caused you trouble in expressly coming here, Carlo-sama."

"When I heard from Rozea there's such an excellent person here I immediately rushed over. I'm intruding on you. Sorry."

"Honestly I was in the midst of reading but one can't meet the feudal lord every day. So, what kind of business do you have with me today?"

Mmm, his reaction is brusque.

But since I heard the person being introduced was called Nals I was prepared. Nals is a sharp-minded person in scholar skin and also a character who liked Carlo.

He was a weird person blessed with a sharp tongue.

"Let's not beat around the bush. I want you to lend me your power for this border territory, Nals. Although it may be annoying"

"To be honest, it is annoying. And even if I lend you my power what would you make me do?"

Well, that's right.

Even though I know about Nals he doesn't know about me.

Mmm, how should I do this?

“I want you to lend me your strength as a tactician. To make this border territory even wealthier Nals’ power is- -”

I got until there when my eyes got stuck on a shelf at the wall.
Some wooden dolls were placed on it.

A soldier, a magician, a maid, a knight, a nurse, all of them were girls.
Their size was around 15 centimetres each. (TN: Figurines~ so the Tactician has a hobby of making figurine~. You’ll get along well, I guess?)

They weren’t just dolls either.

Not only were they elaborately made but they also struck various poses.
The soldier raised her sword, the magician raised her wand and chanted an aria and the maid swept with her broom.
Besides, each one is carefully painted.

“T, this is.....”

I unconsciously stood up and stared into that shelf before I noticed it.
No doubt, those are figurines.
Is the scale 1/10?

Of course, because it is a wooden hand-carving it is not as precise as Sculpey and epoxy. (TN: Sculpting material. For the ones interested [Sculpey](#) and [epoxy](#))
But it’s enough to convey the creator’s enthusiasm.

“Who made this?”

“I made it. Are you interested?”

“Yeah. It’s well made. Unfortunately, it’s the eyes, huh? If the eyes had more power to them they would seem livelier.”

That’s right, the eyes.

After all the eyes are an important point on a figurine.
Since there are no decals it makes a big difference and all depends on the creator’s ability. (TN: [Decalomania](#))

The dolls Nals made were well done for wooden ones but their eyes were so doll-like because the emotions didn’t reach them.

“What? Are you calling the dolls this Nals made cheap?”

“No, I don’t call them cheap. But I think this needs more fee.....I just know of a better way to draw the doll’s eyes to make it match them.”

“Hohou, I can’t ignore this. To think you’d suddenly brag that you can draw the eyes better than this Nals, hmpf.”

Nals snorted and I think he looked at me challengingly.

“How about you show me, huh? Here’s a doll I was planning to paint just now. I’ll have you draw the eyes on it.”

Oops, did I anger him?

If I anger you even though I came here to get you to help me I get absolutely nothing out of it.

But there are also some things I can’t give up on as a person who loves figurines, a person who once aimed to be a modeller.

“Fine, I’ll draw them”

“Then, let’s do it like this, if you can’t convince this Nals you’ll immediately return. On the other hand, if you can persuade this Nals I will listen to anything you have to say.”

“Yeah, I don’t mind.”

“Are you sure? Don’t you think this Nals might not tell the truth even if I am convinced inwardly?”

I breathed in, stared into Nals’ eyes and said:

“I’m not worried about that. This fee.....You’ll understand it when you look at the doll. There is no way for a man who loves these dolls to use such daunting measures.”

Nals looked back at me with a straight gaze.

“Fine. Then go for it.”

What Nals took out was the figurine of a girl yet to be painted.

The girl slightly lifted her face and was dancing lightly.

The girl’s expression of her hands, her feet taking light steps, the spreading of her skirt’s folds, long flowing hair.

Everything is extremely delicate and yet lively.

I took the brush.
I didn't paint wood since elementary school.
I don't have any idea what this paint is either.
I carefully tried to draw on a piece of wood first.

Good.
If it's like that I can do something.
I held my breath and started working.
Nals seemed to also hold his breath and watched me.

I decided on the image.
This is Felicia.
Felicia's lively eyes when she danced for me.
While remembering that scene I concentrated and drew it in one stroke.

"What the, that is....."

After he saw the completed doll Nals was stunned.

"How is it, Nals? I think those eyes are appropriate for the dolls Nals makes."

"I was surprised. To think that just changing the eyes gives birth to such a lively expression....."

Nals looked into my eyes again.

"This Nals admired it. But please tell me one more thing. What's the most important thing when moving soldiers in battle?"

"That's a simple question, it's logistics. Those who let soldiers starve don't have any qualification as the lord."

"Is that so?"

This was too easy a question for me as Nals uses this like a favourite phrase in my work.

It's a secret that this is second-hand information from an anime.

After Nals closed his eyes and thought for a while he slowly opened them again.

"This Nals thought about serving you even if you just answered with military

power or spirit. There are only few who understand the importance of logistics.”

After he said that Nals kneeled before me.

“This Nals will serve Carol-sama. Although my body is weak, please make full use of it.”

Like this, the tactician became my comrade.

Nals didn't only demonstrate his talent in diplomacy and military affairs but also public work.

Due to Nals' precisely drawn out plan the irrigation construction efficiency dramatically increased.

Like this, the construction progressed extremely smoothly.

By the way, I also asked Nals for the design of Balhart castle.

On another note.

There's a Felicia figurine production going on.

I secretly took Nals to the Fawn Pavilion and let him meet Felicia.

Sure enough, the figure of Felicia singing and dancing seemed to have stimulated his desire to produce as expected.

I'm doing the colouring.

Aah, I can't wait to see the finished product.

Eh, what was that?

That's fee.....I mean, let's settle on the irrigation construction (sweat).

SUMMARY & CHARACTER LIST 1

[Summary of Part 1]

The 22-year-old virgin, figurine otaku and aspiring light novel author, Ryosuke gets into a traffic accident while returning from a dinner party with his editor on the occasion of the release of the first volume of his light novel “Yuusha Tensei”. When he woke up again he reincarnated as Margrave Carlo de Medici, a character and villain of the novel “Yuusha Tensei” Ryosuke himself wrote. Ryosuke accepts his new reality though still puzzled and decides to lead his still unfinished story “Yuusha Tensei” to its end and magnificently play the role of the villain Carlo.

It's another five years until the actual story begins and until the Hero reincarnates, until then everything has to be ready. Ryosuke seeks out the comrades which supported the villain Carlo in the story. The head maid Melissa, the butler Pikaru, the strongest knight F and Doji who admires Carlo and possesses herculean strength, everything seemed to go smoothly. But he was supposed to meet the money-grubbing masked mercenary, Akatsuki, why did the setting change to encountering the greedy female masked mercenary, Crescent Moon (big tits)? For some reason, the puzzled Carlo (= Ryosuke) ended up playing the role of the mysterious masked mercenary Akatsuki himself.

Ryosuke managed to play the two roles of the villain Carlo and the mysterious masked mercenary Akatsuki while somehow reforming the territory and preparing its national strength. In that time Akatsuki (=Carlo) (=Ryosuke) decided to turn the thief group he beat up into his personal spy group, the evil “Rabbit group”. In addition to his author correction cheat power he formed a contract with a Salamander fire spirit and learned some fire magic spells, learned how to ride his favourite horse, White King, got an Oricalcum Sword, met the magician, cat girl Knopf and was even able to get a Figurine otaku comrade, the tactician Nals, though he lost against F in a Sword Fighting Competition and landed in second place. Will Ryosuke (=Carlo) (=Akatsuki) who defeated a two-headed troll and keeps on playing around with the beautiful diva Felicia and the high-quality hostess Rozea be able to lead this story to its impressive ending? And what will be virgin Ryosuke’s course of action to manage that be?

[Characters]

Ryosuke.....A 22-year-old aspiring light novel author. A virgin. A figurine otaku. With the goal of “becoming a writer” he posted novels on free novel posting sites and now his novel “Yuusha Tensei” is getting published as a book series for the first time. A thin man who hates to compete with others and tends to adapt to others opinions. He has a stronger attachment towards the villain Carlo than the main character the Hero of this novel.

Carlo.....Full name Margrave Carlo de Medici. The novel "Yuusha Tensei's" villain character. He's a threat to the protagonist, the Hero Kazuma, since the very beginning, envies him and opposes him. For certain reasons he becomes the Demon King's subordinate, but gets defeated by the Hero in the end and reforms (planned). He's a blond handsome man but he has a big scar on his right cheek. He uses magic and a Bastard Sword as weapon. 175cm tall. His character is broadminded, arrogant, free willed and unreasonably violent. At the time Ryosuke reincarnated he is 22 years old.

Kazuma.....The protagonist of the novel "Yuusha Tensei". At the time of the novel's start, he is a 16-year-old high school student. He'll reincarnate from the present age to a different world and will defeat the Demon king as the Hero (planned). It will be another 5 years until he reincarnates.

FHis full name is Fitz-Morris Fitzgerald, but because his name is too long he is called with an abbreviation, the strongest knight of Franz Kingdom. At the time of Ryosuke's Reincarnation, he is 27 years old. Carlo's Imperial Guard Order's head with a loyal and awfully hardy personality. In the end, he will give up on Carlo and become the Hero's ally (planned). He fights with a sword and shield. A super good-looking man with brown eyes and hair.

Pikaru.....The Grand Chamberlain who serves Carlo. He's a worrywart, faithful and straight-laced. Carlo calling him "baldie" caused a lot of stress for him. He has extraordinary talent in domestic administration.

Melissa.....Carlo's head maid. It seems like she owes Carlo some favour and will continue supporting Carlo until the end. Anyway, she's a person good. (TN: I know it doesn't really fit in here but I kinda wonder what happened to Carlo's parents. I mean they shouldn't have died of natural cause yet at least)

Marcus.....The General who served the Medici border territory since the preceding generation. The former Head of the Imperial Guard Order. Very stubborn, but sharp-minded and an old man with a grey moustache. He had hardly any screen time in the original. Resembles the first captain of a space battleship.

Lunos.....First Captain of the Imperial Guard Order. Before being beaten by F in the Sword Fighting Competition he was the number one swordsman of Braham. Number 1 Man beautiful women want to marry, he's of noble birth, has blond hair and an elegant conduct.

Reina.....A 17-year-old maid of Carlo. Careless. She has a palm-

sized chest. A fujoshi/BL enthusiast.

Akatsuki.....A mysterious mercenary who covers his face with a mask and part of Carlo's group in the novel "Yuusha Tensei". A money-grubbing man who would do anything for money. His favourite phrase is "But it depends on the money". In the end, he will plainly betray Carlo (planned). – – Or so it should have been, but for some reason, it became Carlo's (=Ryosuke) synonym when he became an adventurer for some reason.

Crescent moon.....A character that didn't appear in the novel. She's a character rather similar to the original "Akatsuki", but for some reason, the person who was supposed to be a man turned into a greedy woman for some reason. Big tits. She uses a short two-edged thick Gladius in her right hand and a single-edged, thin, curved Scimitar in her left hand, she's also a master of archery.

Knopf.....The cat girl magician. She's able to use fire, water, wind and earth magic. A research enthusiastic mad scientist who researches combinations of low-level spells causing huge effects. But she isn't that good with water magic. Is it because she's a cat? On the inside, she is 30 years old but she looks like a 14-15-year-old. She's half cat human half human. Does she have a tail.....?

Doji.....The child of a peasant under Carlo. He has an incredibly

strong body and doesn't really think deeply but he greatly respects Carlo. He uses clubs or axes.

Mirea & Lucia.....It's the mother daughter pair Carlo and Crescent Moon saved from the villains who captured them as they travelled from the castle town Ruan to Braham to ask their relatives for shelter as Mirea's husband died of illness. Mirea is 31 years old and Lucia is 9 years old. Mirea acts as a maid in Carlo's mansion. Both are beautiful.

Drum & Bass..... The villain "seniors" who tried to kidnap Mirea and Lucia. The core members of the Rabbit Group. They speak with a provincial accent. Bass is thin and Drum is muscular.

Pick.....A female Hobbit thief and a member of the Rabbit Group. She has a cute appearance (like a primary school child) but is pretty crafty. She's responsible for the communication between Akatsuki and the Group.

Mohkan.....A dwarven blacksmith whose skills are said to be legendary. In the original, his role was to hand over an Oricalcum Sword to Kazuma when he enters Braham. He loves "Hobbit sake". Stubborn.

Felicia.....The diva of the “Fawn Pavilion” the restaurant/bar the fat owner Fats runs. She has white skin, brown hair and clear eyes. She’s 19 years old. Learned to sing and dance from her father but his business went bankrupt. She sings to help her family’s finances.

Rozea.....A sexy Onee-san from the “Moulin Rouge” an adult’s playground. Her age is unidentified but she seems to be in her late twenties. Her chest size isn’t as big as Crescent Moon’s but it’s enough for her build. She wears the colour red.

Lily.....A pretty girl from the “Moulin Rouge”. 18 years old. She wears yellow.

Old Landlady.....The landlady of the unoccupied house in Braham which Akatsuki (=Carlo) uses as hideout. She’s particular about money.