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KUMA KUMA KUMA BEAR

- The Bears Bear a Bare Kuma -

- Volume 5 -

BEAR DOES VARIOUS THINGS

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CHAPTER 104

BEAR-SAN EATS PANCAKES

A couple of days had passed since I came back to Crimonia.

Mylene-san and Cliff were busy. They were subjugating the monsters around the tunnel with the help of the Adventurer's Guild and making a road to it. They were purchasing and installing the magic lines. Also, Cliff departed to the capital a few days back. The last time I saw him, he was looking really tired, but it shouldn't have been because of me. I believed it was divine punishment for naming the tunnel 『Bear Tunnel』.

Well, I didn't really care about Cliff. I was hungry, so I headed towards the Bear's Rest.

When I arrived at the shop, the two cute bear statues greeted me. Recently, this deformed bear had been a hot topic in the town. I knew it, deformed things didn't exist in this world.

As I was looking at the shop, customers entered. It seemed that it was flourishing more than ever. Morin-san's bread was delicious, after all.

Recently, the honey soaked pancakes Morin-san and I made together were really popular. Well, Japanese pancakes were better in terms of ingredients, but I believed that we managed to reach the point where they were quite delicious.

My goal today was eating those pancakes.

I entered the shop and saw little bears moving around. When they saw me, the children approached me, but I told them that they didn't have to mind me and should carry on with their tasks.

The children nodded and returned to work.

As I watched them leave, I deemed their swaying bear tails cute. Such clothes wouldn't suit an adult like me. They suited the children better.

However, something troublesome had happened recently.

A few days ago, I saw the orphans in their Bear Uniforms walking through the town like it was normal.

When I confirmed it with Terumi-san, it seemed that some children wore them even during their days off, and the number doing so had been slowly increasing. I quickly gave them money to buy normal clothes, but they said, 『It helps advertise the shop, so isn't it okay?』 .

It was still too early for the costumes to become popular in this world.

I asked Terumi-san to tell them to stop, but I didn't know if it would really help.

『They all love you and want to imitate you. That's why you should let them do whatever they want.』

Was what she said, but my instinct was telling me that it was the only line that shouldn't be crossed. If it was crossed, I could already imagine that the world would be infested with costumes.

That was the conversation I remembered having with Terumi-san.

As I was walking towards the kitchen in the back, I saw a person I knew well.

“Rurina-san.”

Rurina-san was eating pancakes by herself.

“Yuna-chan, it's been a while.”

“Rurina-san, what about your job?”

I sat down in front of Rurina-san.

“I just finished my job and returned yesterday. I plan to rest for a while. What about you, Yuna-chan?”

“I came to eat as well.”

I caught a passing Bear Girl and ordered pancakes and fried potatoes. Normally, a person had to go to the counter, but this was my manager's privilege.

"Yuna-chan, I wanted to ask you something, but is it okay?"

"What is it?"

"Are you related to the Bear Tunnel?"

"...Why do you think so?"

I tried to calm down.

"You see, it is the name, and the statues in front of the tunnel are Swaying Bear-chan and Hugging Bear-chan, right?"

"You saw them?"

"I told you I just finished my job, right? The job was killing the monsters around the Bear Tunnel."

The monster subjugation Cliff was talking about, huh. Then it was normal for those statues to be seen.

"Don't talk about them, okay?"

"That's okay, but the ones who know you will find out immediately, you know."

In the first place, how many people knew about Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear?

There should be a lot of people who had seen them from afar, but not many had seen them up close, so they wouldn't find out that those statues were Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, right?

I prayed that it was so.

As I was thinking that, honey soaked pancakes and fried potatoes arrived.

"Thank you."

I thanked the girl who brought them. The girl smiled happily and went back to work. I lined up the freshly made fried potatoes and pancakes in front of me.

“The food here is delicious, right?”

Rurina-san extended a hand towards my fried potatoes, but I didn't stop her. After all, I had just requested something from her a moment ago. If nothing was left, I would just have to ask for more.

As I was eating the honey soaked pancakes and enjoying the blissful moment, Terumi-san approached me.

“Ah, Yuna-chan really is here!”

Was it a problem that I was here?

“Great, I have something I want to discuss with you.”

“Did something happen?”

“It's about the shop.”

Terumi-san looked around.

“Is it something you can't say here?”

“Hmm, that's not it, but...”

She was worried about what to do.

“Then, we should go deeper inside.”

“Rurina-san, you can have my potatoes, so go ahead and eat them.”

I left my potatoes and I only brought the half-eaten pancake to the break room. When we entered it, I heard her story.

“It seems that we won’t be able to sell the pancakes that you are eating now anymore, Yuna-chan.”

I stopped the hand that was bringing the pancake to my mouth.

“The price of honey just jumped up.”

“Why would that be?”

Honey was a must when talking about the pancakes.

Well, jam and other substitutes were also okay, but I wouldn’t budge from the fact that you had to put honey on pancakes.

“Well, the reason is simple. It seems that they can’t procure honey anymore. That’s why the price rose.”

“And the reason that they can’t procure honey is?”

“The supplier said something about monsters appearing.”

Had a yellow bear appeared near the beehive?

“That’s why, if the prices continue to rise, we won’t be able to get our hands on it, so the pancakes and all other foods using honey will disappear from the shop.”

“So, you want me to kill those monsters?”

“That’s not it. I am talking about the shop here. There should be a monster subjugation request at the Adventurer’s Guild, right? Yuna-chan, you are the owner of the shop, so you have to think about the shop’s interests!”

That's why I thought it should be enough to just go and defeat the monsters to procure the honey. I normally acted without thinking, but in this situation, it would be dangerous to just rush in as usual.

"We can either temporarily stop selling all honey related goods or raise the prices of those goods to account for the raised price of honey."

"We'll sell them after raising the prices?"

"It will decrease the frequency, but it should still sell. Although, the honey goods are really popular with the children, so I don't want to raise the prices."

"Then, what should we do?"

"I am discussing that with you!"

She was totally right.

There was a total of three possibilities. Either we stopped selling it, sold it at same price knowing we would be losing money, or raised the prices to account for the honey.

"What did Morin-san say?"

"The talk about money is a bother, so she left it to me."

What a Morin-san like reason.

"She only wants to be informed in advance if no honey arrives, so she can change the menu."

"How's our stock?"

"Looking at the speed it is being sold at, it should only last for two, three days at most, I think. That's why I'm worried."

Hmm, what should we do?

I didn't mind losing profit for a while, so it should be okay to just buy it, but...

“Honey goods are popular, right?”

“Everything we serve here is popular, you know. That’s why, the overall sales won’t change a lot even if the honey goods disappear, but there will be some sad customers, particularly children.”

Well, it wouldn’t be a problem if the issue with the honey was resolved, right?

“I understand. I will go to the Commerce Guild after I eat this.”

I put the pancake on my fork inside my mouth.

“Is that really okay?”

“I always leave everything regarding the shop to you, Terumi-san, so I should do owner-like things sometimes.”

Well, I had continued to live like a NEET ever since I came back from Mireera. I should do some work sometimes, or I would become a bad example for the younger children. I had to preserve my pride as an adult.

That’s why, I went to the Commerce Guild after I finished eating my pancake.

CHAPTER 105

BEAR-SAN BECOMES A RANK C ADVENTURER

I went to the Commerce Guild, which I hadn't been to for a while.

I took a quick look around for Mylene-san, who was always slacking off, but the Guild Master wasn't sitting at the reception desk. It was possible that I wouldn't be able to see that scene for some time. I felt sad when I thought about that, but for the employees, it was probably something to be happy about.

As I was thinking about which reception desk I should go to, since she wasn't here, I noticed Riana, who had taken care of me when I bought the plots of lands, so I decided to go to hers.

"Yuna-san, welcome. What business might you have here today? Is there any problem with the land you bought the other day?"

"That's not it. I have no problems with it. On the contrary, I was thinking if it was really okay for you to sell it to me that cheaply."

"No problem, I heard the story about Mireera from the guild master the other day. Keeping that in mind, the land was a cheap price to pay. You will have a commerce rank of S in the future."

She said something huge.

I heard that rank S was for the major merchants, like the ones in the capital. I didn't think that I would ever become one of those, and I didn't even want to.

"Rank S is just a dream."

When I said that, Riana got closer to me and whispered.

“No, it’s not a dream. In the last meeting, I heard that it has been decided that a part of the tunnel fee will be put on Yuna-san’s card. If that happens, I think it will make up quite a sum. That’s why, you will definitely become one in a few years.”

“Wait... They are talking about that in the meetings?!”

Riana placed her finger on her mouth to signal me to lower my voice.

“Don’t worry, Yuna-san, only a few people, such as the person in charge of finances and the direct subordinates of the guild master, know about it.”

“Mylene-san is the guild master, right? Aren’t all of you her subordinates?”

“That’s not a good way of putting it. Some people can substitute for the guild master. They take over her tasks, when she isn’t here.”

“That means you, Riana, are her substitute?”

“I’m not that important. I’m just your receptionist when she isn’t here.”

What was with that? Her being my personal receptionist...

“I believe it’s because I was in charge of you when you were buying the plots of land. That’s why, please call for me when the guild master isn’t here, okay? If I am unable to help you, I will relay everything to the guild master.”

Riana bowed, so I ended up bowing as well.

“Still, why would my guild rank go up when I receive the tunnel fee?”

“The rank will go up because the profits made with the fee are taxed.”

In other words, it was like I was running a business with the tunnel.

Commerce rank, huh. There didn’t seem to be any benefits from ranking up, though.

“So, Yuna-san, why did you come here today?”

Ah, I had almost forgotten.

I asked Riana about the honey problem.

“It seems that obtaining honey has become hard recently, so the prices were suddenly raised. Do you know the reason?”

“About that, huh. It seems monsters appeared around the bee tree.”

The bee tree?

I must have misheard that, right?

It's a beehive, right?

“Monsters appeared at the beehive?”

“Yuna-san, it's not a beehive, it's the bee tree.”

It seemed that I had not heard it wrong.

What's a bee tree?

“A monster appeared at this bee tree?”

“Yes, that's the information we received.”

“By the way, what's a bee tree?”

“Yuna-san, you don't know?”

“Yes, this is the first time I have heard about it.”

“The bee trees are trees where the bees that collect nectar make their nests. They're giant trees, where several tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of bees crowd together, and the whole giant tree becomes a beehive.”

Hundreds of thousands of bees sounds really gross, though.

“Isn't it dangerous to pick honey with so many bees around?”

“The bees are docile, so there aren’t any problems if you don’t attack them first. Also, the people who go to gather it are experts, so there’s no danger.”

So, there were specialists who gathered the honey.

Well, we had those in Japan as well, though.

“So, do we know what kind of monsters appeared?”

If they were weak, I would promptly kill them.

“Someone who went to gather the honey said that it was a goblin herd. He saw them swarming the bee tree. We already sent a request to the Adventurer’s Guild, so I think that it will be resolved soon.”

If it was just goblins, the adventurers should be able to defeat them, so I didn’t think I would have to act.

“Thanks. I will go to the Adventurer’s Guild to see what’s happening.”

I thanked Riana and left the Commerce Guild to head to the Adventurer’s Guild.

I saw less adventurers than normal when I entered. The adventurers who saw me took a step back for some reason. I wouldn’t do anything, you know. I wasn’t scary, okay? While thinking like that, I approached Helen-san at the reception desk.

“Yuna-san, what is it?”

What is it? If you asked any adventurer why they came to the Adventurer’s Guild, they would be troubled. Well, I haven’t really been coming here recently, though.

“I have something to ask, you see.”

“Something to ask, is it? Before that, Yuna-san, can I have your guild card please?”

“Why?”

“Guild Master told me to rank you up when you came.”

“Rank up?”

“Yes. Cliff-sama came here just yesterday and talked about you with our guild master. I don’t know exactly what they were talking about, but the guild master told me to rank you up while holding his head.”

Was it possible that they had talked about the Kraken? It made sense if that was the case.

The Kraken was a request with a rank that had not yet been decided, so I couldn’t accept it. That was why it had been put on hold.

“Also, I have a message from the guild master. 『Choose the rank you want.』 Yuna-san, what the hell did you do? He said you could even choose to be rank A.”

Did he hear about what had happened in the capital as well?

“Hmmm, what do you mean?”

“If Yuna-san wants to become rank A, then you will become one. By the way, you can’t choose rank S, okay? You can become rank S only if you have the recommendation of multiple guild masters, after all.”

“I don’t mind keeping the rank I have now.”

“I have an additional message from the guild master. 『If you don’t rank up, my reputation will go down, so you have to rank up.』 ”

“...Then I guess I will have you raise my rank by one.”

I was rank D, if I remembered correctly.

“Is that okay? You could become rank A, you know. It’s not something you can become just by saying it, you know?”

“Nobody would believe me if I told them I was rank A, right? That’s why a decent rank is enough.”

“Is it really okay?”

I nodded.

“I understand. I will raise Yuna-san’s rank by one level, and bring it up to rank C.”

She operated the crystal and raised my rank on the guild card.

“Becoming rank C in just a few months is really incredible, but really, what did you do? You could even become a rank A...”

“Well, I don’t really know myself.”

“Really?”

Helen-san looked at me dubiously.

She might find out about the Kraken soon, but there was no way I would tell her about the ten thousand monsters at the capital.

“More importantly, I came here to ask you something.”

“Hmm... I understand. Please tell me next time, okay? So, what do you want to ask me?”

“Regarding the honey incident, I have heard that monsters appeared at the bee tree. I was wondering how the request was going.”

“Honey, you say?”

“We are selling honey products at our shop, but we are troubled by the sudden rise in honey prices.”

“Hmm. Please wait for a minute.”

Helen-san operated the crystal.

“A party accepted the request the other day. They haven’t completed it yet, though.”

“Are those adventurers alright?”

“Yes, I think they should be. The request is goblin extermination. If there are only fifty goblins, they should be able to complete it without problems.”

It was okay then.

I didn’t know exactly when it would happen, but the honey prices should be back to normal in a few days.

“Ah, it seems that those adventurers are back.”

Helen-san looked towards the entrance.

A party of five people entered.

They looked strange, though.

From their expressions, it didn’t look like they had completed the mission. Yet, they also didn’t seem to have any injuries from failing.

The adventurers approached the reception desk and shouted.

“Hey! It was different from what was written in the request!”

The girl working at the reception was shocked.

“What was the request?”

The men began to speak.

When they arrived at the place where there should have been a goblin herd, they came across a herd of orcs.

The adventurers came back without fighting when they saw that.

A herd of orcs, huh. There was a big gap between a goblin's and an orc's strength. They had no choice but to flee without fighting.

The adventurers wanted to cancel the request.

"Is the request be treated as a failure, then?"

"We will put that on hold. If the next party that accepts the request finds orcs, it won't be treated as a failure. There was a mistake in the contents of the request, after all."

The adventurers were still complaining when they left the guild.

Just like that, there was no one who accepted the honey request. In that case, we wouldn't be able to procure it.

"Is it okay if I accept this request?"

"I don't mind if it is Yuna-san, but do you plan on going alone?"

"That's right."

"I don't think I have to worry about you, who can kill a Black Viper, but you are still a girl, so don't push yourself too hard, okay?"

"Thank you. I will take care."

I thanked her obediently.

"I will process this now, so please wait a moment."

I pulled out my guild card again and she registered the request.

I asked her for the location of the bee tree and where the party saw the orcs, then left the Adventurer's Guild.

CHAPTER 106

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE BEE TREE

I arrived at the forest where the bee tree was located by riding Swaying Bear. According to Helen-san's story, the tree was at the center of the forest, and I would understand which tree it was when I saw it. She said that the view was breathtaking. What did she mean?

I thought that a giant beehive was something more revolting than beautiful, though.

I used detection magic to confirm where the monsters were before I entered the forest. There were about 15 orcs. There were also goblin reactions a bit further ahead. It seemed that neither information was false.

I headed towards the orcs, because I thought that was where the bee tree would be. I rode Swaying Bear without hesitation. After I had advanced for a while, flower petals started to dance in the air around me. I continued to move forward, and when I left the forest, I was greeted by a colorful field of flowers.

The spectacle was so beautiful that I nearly forgot to breathe. Flowers that were red, blue, yellow, orange, and many other colors were blooming all around me.

The field expanded endlessly. The flowers were spread out everywhere. It was a scene I couldn't have believed could be found inside a forest. A giant tree was standing in the middle of this scenery.

Was that the bee tree?

"It's huge...."

Still, there were things destroying this beautiful landscape. The orcs were eating honey, and their ugly faces were dripping with drool.

Those bastards, how dare they eat my honey?

When I thought about killing them and leaving the forest, goblins rushed out from my right. They continued to run towards the orcs. The goblins, holding wooden poles and knives picked up from an unknown location, attacked the orcs.

Was it possibly a turf war?

Well, since I had seen both groups with my detection magic, I had intended to kill them all, so this was great, and less trouble for me.

There were many more goblins than orcs, but the difference in power was too large. Goblins died after receiving just one heavy blow from an orc. Still, with their numbers, many goblins could attack one orc together. The battle was surprisingly even.

I thought of attacking when it was clear who would win, so I decided to wait and see, but I had to drop that idea after a few seconds. The orcs and goblins were crushing the flowers while they fought. The place where I could get honey was... At this rate, all flowers in the area would be crushed by the time the battle ended.

As I got ready to act, Swaying Bear stopped me. Two black shapes rushed out from the forest on my left. The black bodies were heading straight towards the orcs and goblins. They were, without a doubt...

“Bears!?”

Yes, the two figures that entered the fray were bears.

A big bear and a small one.

The bears attacked the goblins and the orcs, who both hesitated after their attack.

The goblins, who couldn't continue to fight after the number of enemies increased, ran away.

When the orcs saw that the goblins had ran away, they changed their targets and started a new battle.

There were 15 orcs and two bears. The difference in number was too big.

When a bear attacked one orc, there was another orc that attacked the bear from the side. The orcs attacked the bears with clubs, and the bears, who couldn't defend

themselves, were taking hits. I didn't really want to save the bears, but they were surrounded by the orcs.

"Hmm, what should I do?"

In other words, there was a three way battle for the honey.

I didn't know who was the first one here, though.

What should I do then?

Well, I thought it was okay for me to kill the orcs, the goblins, and the bears.

I was a bit reluctant to kill bears, though. Not to mention, there was no way I could kill them. It would be like killing Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear's friends.

As I was thinking about what to do, the bears' situation became more and more dire. They weren't losing, though. They knocked down the orcs in front of them and killed them by biting their necks.

Those bears were strong.

If it were one on one battles, they wouldn't lose to those orcs. There were a lot of enemies, though.

The second the bears wanted to change targets, their movements became dull. A red orc appeared by the giant tree. It was an orc subspecies, an orc of a different color that also appeared in the game. They were several times stronger than the normal orcs, in regards to their offensive abilities and durability.

One of the bears attacked the red orc, but he was struck down by the club the orc was holding. If the club had been a sword, it would have been a fatal strike. That still didn't mean the bears weren't in a dangerous situation.

The second bear rammed into the orc, but the red orc didn't even budge. The red orc wanted to strike it down, right there, but at that moment, I started to move.

I fired a long distance water bullet, like a sniper. The water bullet hit the red orc, and the orc staggered.

The bear that was struck down shakily ran away into the forest. The other bear chased after it.

The red orc that was left standing there alone didn't notice that the attack came from me. He attacked a fellow orc with his club, as if he was venting his anger. The orc that was hit was pulverized.

It wasn't something that made me feel comfortable, so I left, riding Swaying Bear.

Was the bear okay?

It had been struck by that club.

It was strong enough to obliterate an orc.

I became worried.

We reached the two bears without me needing to tell Swaying Bear where to go. No, to be more accurate, there were four of them. If they were a family, it meant that they were a married couple, right?

The big one was Papa Bear, and the little one was Mama Bear.

One of the adult bears was collapsed on the ground, and the second one was looking at us and started to intimidate us.

Swaying Bear let me down and went towards the bears.

Could he communicate with them?

As I was thinking about that, the two parties were nodding, and it looked they had reached a mutual understanding.

What did they talk about?

Swaying Bear came back and used his nose to push my body towards the collapsed bear.

"Do you want me to heal his injuries?"

Swaying Bear let out a small cry.

"I understand."

It was Swaying Bear's request. I didn't want to refuse that. Also, I couldn't just leave an injured bear alone.

I used healing magic on the collapsed bear. When I did, the bear got up slowly, and after the other bears saw that, they happily rubbed their bodies on Papa Bear.

After seeing that, it wasn't possible for me to kill this bear family anymore, even if it meant that I couldn't get the honey.

Swaying Bear entered the bear circle, and they seemed to have started some sort of conversation.

Of course, because I couldn't speak Bear language, I didn't understand any of it. Were the bears having a friendly conversation? Swaying Bear was the only outsider, and I would be troubled if he became timid again, so I summoned Hugging Bear as well.

After I summoned Hugging Bear, he instantly entered the circle and joined the conversation.

After a while, their conversation ended. Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear came back. They came to me while crying with cute voices, as if they wanted to request something.

“What? What's the matter? Do you want me to kill the red orc?”

They let out [Ku~un] cries.

It was okay for me to kill it, but the problem was what came after that. Even if I killed the monsters, I wouldn't be able to procure honey if the bears were there, right?

The parent bears started moving again, leaving their children behind.

Was it possible that they wanted to fight the red orc again?

As I was thinking about what to do, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear cuddled up to me.

“I understand. I will go and think about what to do afterwards. For now, we should just kill the red orc.”

Were they happy with my answer? Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear cried out happily.

We went after the parent bears, and exited the forest where the bee tree and the flowers were.

The orcs were encamped around the giant tree. The red orc was also amongst them. The parent bears were slowly approaching the orcs. The orcs noticed them, picked up their weapons, and looked toward us.

When the red orc cried out so loudly that the cry resounded in my head, the orcs started to rush toward us.

The bears stood their ground, ready to meet the enemies.

Hmm, the two of them seemed to want to have a go at it, but it was okay for me to just kill the orcs, right?

I shoot a Bear Cutter and cut off the heads of the approaching orcs. When the red orc saw that, he roared with even a louder voice.

“Shut up!”

Thanks to how loud it was, I unconsciously closed my eyes. The red orc and other orcs immediately started running.

The parent bears, Hugging Bear, and Swaying Bear also started to move.

Ah, are you two leaving me?

It seemed that they didn't plan to quit being my guards, though. Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear properly dealt with the orcs that came towards me.

The problem was the target that the red orc was headed towards.

He headed for Papa Bear.

He struck at Papa Bear with his club. From the side, Mama Bear started to run in order to tackle the orc. It turned into a free-for-all fight, so I couldn't use my magic.

Papa Bear managed to dodge the club.

The red orc's club scattered the flowers and was stuck in the ground. Mama Bear attacked the red orc from the side. She slammed into him, but the red orc didn't budge at all. The red orc raised his club once again. Papa Bear rushed in to attack, since the

target of the club was Mama Bear. Before Papa Bear could attack, the club had already struck Mama Bear's back.

Puchi

Mama Bear cried out and collapsed. At that instant, the Papa Bear attacked the red orc. The red orc used the club to hit Papa Bear from below, on his flank.

Puchi *Puchi*

The parent bears both collapsed at the red orc's feet, crying.

The red orc tried to deal a finishing blow with his club while drooling.

I moved the moment he raised his club.

I hammered a Bear Punch into the red orc's side. The orc rolled on the ground, crushing the flowers.

It had been a long time since I last snapped like this.

My mood turned bad when I saw the bears getting hit.

If a bear attacked a human, I would fight them. Bears were fierce, and they ate meat.

Still, I wanted to protect these bears right now.

It was possible that they would attack humans in the future, but right now, I wanted to protect them. I didn't know what would happen in the future. At the moment though, I was excessively driven by the urge to kill this red orc.

The red orc got up and looked towards me.

I would fight in place of the bears. I would make him feel the same pain the bears felt.

I took one step towards the red orc. The red orc swung his club towards me.

If you want to have a battle of strength, I will accept it.

I caught the club with the White Bear Hand. There wasn't much of a shock. I was able to stop it easily.

This is for Mama Bear. I drove a Black Bear Kuma Punch into his unprotected flank, and he lost his grip on the club because of the pain. The club was trapped in the White Bear's mouth. I then placed it in the Black Bear's mouth.

The red orc managed to regain his posture and glared at me for the first time. He wasn't looking at me as food, but as an enemy.

It was too late to look at me like that now.

I will show you who's above you. You will be dead by the time you learn that.

I raised the club over my head and struck the red orc with it. The red orc tried to catch the club like I had.

Do you think you can do the same thing as me?

I pulverized the red orc's arm.

This is for Papa Bear.

The red orc let out a soundless cry.

You have done this to others a countless number of times.

The red orc turned around and tried to flee.

There's no way I will let you flee. I made a wall using earth magic, and the path to escape was closed off. The red orc finally looked at me with the eyes full of fear. The red orc had no more will to fight. In the end, I cut off his head, and the battle was over.

When I turned around, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear had almost finished the orc extermination. I approached the collapsed bears and healed them. There was absolutely no way I could kill these bears now.

The bears got up and rubbed their bodies on me, maybe to show their gratitude?

"Hey, please don't attack the humans who come to pick up honey, okay?"

I asked, even though I knew the words wouldn't come across. I had never wanted to understand a bear's words as much as I did today.

I had no other option but to move the bears to a safe place, huh.

When I was thinking about that, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear approached the parent bears and started their conversation.

The bears turned around and started to push me towards the bee tree.

“Are you asking me to go and fetch honey?”

Swaying Bear answered the question for them.

I approached the bee tree. The bees flying around the tree didn't attack me. I took a pot out of the Bear Box and carefully collected honey.

CHAPTER 107

BEAR-SAN IS TROUBLED ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE BEARS

The bee tree had a beehive around the base of the trunk. I removed my Bear Hand and stuck a finger inside, which caused the honey to flow. I ate the honey on my finger, and it was sweet and delicious. When I looked up, I saw countless beehives within the tree branch and was a bit terrified, but the bees continued to just fly around, seemingly uninterested in attacking.

While I was collecting honey, the two cubs came out of the forest on their little legs and approached us. I thought they were going to walk to their parents while avoiding the dead orcs, but they ignored their parents and continued forward, arrived at the bee tree, and started eating the honey.

Cubs... If you do that, your parents will feel sad! They were really adorable when they were eating honey, though.

After I had collected plenty of honey in my pot, I placed it inside the Bear Box and said goodbye to the bears.

“Thanks a lot. Still, you have those children, so you shouldn’t do such dangerous things.”

They wouldn’t understand my words, but I still wanted to convey my feelings. The parent bears responded with a [Ku~n].

Did they understand me?

The cubs stopped eating. Were they full? When their parents saw that, they let out a small cry and started to move. It seemed that they were planning on returning to forest. Their cubs followed them.

After I said goodbye to the bears, I collected the orc corpses. I also didn't forget to clean out the goblins that had fled before I left the forest.

I was about to return to the town, but I was troubled over what to report.

I didn't kill the Bear Family in this request. The request was just to kill the orcs and goblins. The bears weren't included in the request. Still, I should report the bears, just in case.

I was hesitating on how to do it, though.

I would be troubled if they posted a request to kill them when I reported it.

Hmm, was there no other way besides moving the bears to a place where no people went to?

I left the forest while thinking of a solution, but sadly, I arrived at the town without finding an answer. The sun was already setting when I arrived.

I entered the town, and as I walked towards the Adventurer's Guild, I saw Helen-san waving and coming towards me.

"Yuna-san, welcome back. Have you already finished the request?"

"I finished it, but... What are you doing, Helen-san?"

"I finished my job as well, so I'm going home now. So, you're looking really depressed. Did something happen?"

"I killed the orcs and goblins, but there's indeed one troublesome thing that had happened."

"So, something did happen? If you have any troubles, I will hear you out. I don't know how much I can help, but do tell in case I can do something. I have been in your care after all, Yuna-san."

I didn't know if telling Helen-san, an employee of the guild, was a good thing, but I didn't find a solution, so I decided to tell her everything.

"Bears, you say?"

"I don't want to kill them, you see. They didn't do anything bad either."

“There’s no helping that. To Yuna-san, killing bears must be like killing yourself, right?”

It wasn’t something so exaggerated.

“Still, bears in the forest, you say? If I remember correctly, Rem-san, who gathers the honey, spoke of bears some days ago, as well. Do you think they are the same bears?”

“Rem-san?”

“The man who takes care of the bee tree. Yuna-san, didn’t you see the blooming flowers?”

“Yes, they were beautiful.”

“Rem-san also takes care of those flowers. He takes care of the flowers around the bee tree and gathers honey.”

People took care of those flowers, huh. Was that the reason that those flowers were blooming so beautifully?

So that was how they collected honey in this world, huh.

“Still, don’t other people just steal the honey? They could simply take all the honey they ever wanted.”

“That’s not a problem. Nobody goes there to gather it personally. It’s not certain that the bees won’t attack you when you take the honey, so nobody wants to take that risk. The few people who actually go there don’t do much harm.”

She was right. The amount of honey I had taken was insignificant.

“Also, the bee tree is under the protection of Cliff-sama. You need his permission to sell the honey, so even if you stole it, you wouldn’t be able to sell it.”

“The bee tree belongs to Cliff?”

“It’s the same in every other town. Normally, since the bee tree is considered a precious object, it falls upon the town’s feudal lord to take care of it. It is no different in our town. Rem-san has been put in charge of the bee tree.”

“So, this Rem-san knows about the bears?”

“I overheard him talking about bears once.”

“Do you remember the details?”

“I’m sorry. I wasn’t the one he was talking to, so... If it bothers you, do you want to go and see him?”

“Helen-san, you’re already done for the day, right?”

“I don’t mind. It would be best to talk about the request with Rem-san as fast as possible, right?”

I accepted Helen-san’s goodwill, and we went to see Rem-san, the man who was taking care of the bee tree.

Helen-san brought me to a place with a honey signboard, a honey shop.

It seemed that the shop was closed, though.

“Rem-san!”

Helen-san knocked on the door.

“Are you home!?”

A man in his 40s opened the door.

“Who is it? If it’s about honey, I won’t be able to sell it cheaply, you know!”

“Good evening, Rem-san.”

“You... If I remember correctly, you’re the one from Adventurer’s Guild...”

“Helen. I came to talk about the honey issue.”

“I already heard about it. Apparently, it wasn’t goblins, but orcs that appeared, right? Even though I saw goblins...”

“The request was already completed by the adventurer Yuna-san today.”

Rem-san looked my way.

“The miss from the Bear’s Rest killed them?”

“You know about me?”

“Yeah, Terumi-san told me about you. You are the owner of the Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop, right?”

It wasn’t strange if he knew me, since Terumi-san bought honey from his shop.

“Also, there isn’t anyone in this town who doesn’t know about you, miss.”

What was he saying?

The way he put it, made it seem as if everybody in the town knew about me, but...

Helen-san was nodding by my side.

Why are you nodding?

“So, I wanted to talk about some things, but is it okay?”

“Yeah, of course. Come inside.”

He opened the door and let us in. When we entered, there was no merchandise lined up on the shelves. Was it because he couldn’t obtain honey?

We went further in, into a room with a table and chairs, which seemed to be the employee resting area.

“Please take a seat. So, is it true, that you killed those monsters?”

“I did, but there’s one problem.”

“What, did more monsters appear?”

Rem-san stopped smiling in an instant, and he became sad.

“No, there aren’t any monsters. You know about the bears near the bee tree, right?”

“Bears? Ah, that bear, huh.”

“You know about them?”

“Of course. For the people who gather honey, that bear is a lifesabear, after all.”

(TL note: Bear because lifesaver 命の恩人 in japanese is normally written with the Kanji Person 人, but is written with “bear” here.)

“A lifesaving bear?”

“He saved me when I was attacked by goblins. Not just once or twice. He also saved some of our employees. Is it possible that you saw him!?”

He rose from his chair and leaned towards me across the table.

It was an unexpected reaction.

“Yes.”

“I see. So he was alive. You said there were goblins and orcs, right? I was worried that he was killed. I see. He’s alive, huh. What a relief.”

This uncle really seems glad.

“He fought the goblins and orcs to protect the bee tree, you know.”

“Really!? Is he alright?”

He asked, worried.

“Including the cubs, all four of them are okay.”

“Cubs! They were born!?! I have to tell this to the others.”

He was talking about the bears really happily. I also become happy when I saw his expression.

It seemed that my fear for the bears was unnecessary.

“Is it possible that you came here because you were worried about the bears?”

“The request was about killing the goblins and the orcs, and I came back without killing the bears, so...”

“I see. I’m sorry you had come just for that. Those bears pose no problems or danger. On the contrary, their presence is of great help to us.”

“Then there’s no problem if those bears stay in the forest, right?”

“Yeah, of course. Since those bears kill the monsters, we can gather honey without fear. In return, when the bears are eating honey, we won’t bother them.”

To sum everything up, Rem-san was taking care of the flowers for the bees, and the bees gave him honey.

The bears killed the monsters, and in return, they got some honey.

“Rem-san, does Cliff-sama know about this?”

Helen-san, who was listening to our conversation, asked something she was wondering about.

“No, I didn’t tell him. I thought he would request someone to kill them if I did.”

“You should tell him about them.”

“But...”

Rem-san hesitated. Bears were normally violent, and nobody would want to keep them alive.

If he was told that the adventurers would exterminate them, the bear's help would disappear.

"You can use my name. Cliff still owes me, so I think he will hear you out."

"Yuna-san. Saying that Cliff-sama owes you, or even just talking about him without honorifics is just... Are you aware of what an unbelievable thing you just said?"

Helen-san said, looking upset.

She was right. It was common sense that it wasn't okay to talk about nobles without honorifics. However, ever since the issue with the orphanage, he had already become Cliff in my mind. Changing it now would be strange. Also, the person himself didn't say anything about it.

"Is it really okay?"

"No problem. If he still says that he wants to get rid them, just tell me. I will do something about the bears."

I couldn't think of something now, but if the worst case scenario came, and Cliff gave the order to kill them, I would have to move them out of that forest.

"I will gratefully use Miss's name then."

"Still, if you care dearly for those bears, properly talk about them with Cliff. I won't care if they were killed because you were sloppy."

Helen-san gave a warning, and she was right. If I knew about it beforehand, I wouldn't have worried so much.

"You're right. I'm sorry about that. Also, Miss, thank you again for protecting the bee tree and the bears."

“It’s my job, so don’t worry about it. If this bear family can live in peace, I have nothing to worry about.”

“Yeah, we will watch over them with care.”

“If something happens to them, please tell me. I will rush over.”

“I will count on you then.”

Rem-san happily bowed.

CHAPTER 108

BEAR-SAN BECOMES A PICTURE BOOK AUTHOR?

“Yuna-chan, how come your trip to the Commerce Guild ended up with you subjugating monsters?”

Terumi-san asked me while I was eating honey soaked pancakes.

“I just went with the flow?”

Terumi-san sighed and put on an exasperated expression.

“Thank you, though. I didn’t want to stop selling honey related goods since they are popular, so you really saved us. The children will be happy as well.”

“I’m happy that I was able to do something owner-like.”

“You’re always owner-like, Yuna-chan. Morin-san, the orphans, and I are all very thankful to you.”

I received Terumi-san’s gratitude, and then ordered pancakes and each type of popular bread.

“What will you do with all this food?”

“I will go out for a bit, so I will take it as a souvenir.”

“I understand. I will forward it to the kitchen then.”

“What about you, Terumi-san?”

“Rem-san isn’t here, so I will go to his place. I want to talk to him about the price of honey.”

Terumi-san called out to the kitchen, then left the shop.

After some time passed, the children brought the bread to me. After receiving them, I went back to the Bear House and used the Bear transfer gate to go to the capital.

I left the Bear House in the capital and headed towards my destination, the castle.

There were more gazes looking my way compared to Crimonia. Thinking about it now, I did feel that Crimonia had become easier to live in.

When I arrived at the castle gates, before I even showed my guild card, a guard said 『Please come in.』 , and let me through. I thought that it was bad for the security to be this lax, but I had no reason to complain, since the troublesome check was skipped. The only thing that concerned me was that one of the guards ran off after he saw me. It was clearly for THAT reason, right?

I let out a small sigh of giving up before I headed towards my destination.

I went through the passage I had taken a number of times before. The number of people greeting me in the castle had increased recently. The number of surprised faces had decreased compared to outside of the castle, though. Did that mean that the Bear Suit had been accepted inside the castle?

When I arrived at my destination, I knocked on the door of a room. A girl's voice answered from inside.

“I'm the adventurer Yuna.”

The door opened after I responded.

The person who came out was the caretaker, Anju-san.

She was a woman in the first half of her 20s.

“Oh my, if it isn't Yuna-sama. Welcome.”

“Is Princess Flora here?”

“Yes, she is.”

She opened the door and let me through.

“Bear-san!”

Princess Flora rushed over when she saw me.

“Princess Flora, are you well?”

“Yes, I am!”

“Anju-san, I brought lunch, but is it okay?”

“Yes, there’s no problem. I will tell the head chef.”

“Could you please apologize to the head chef for me?”

The head chef was normally the one in charge of preparing lunch for the royal family, including Princess Flora, of course. I was being a nuisance to the head chef, so I had to apologize.

“I understand. I don’t think he will be too angry though, especially since you gave him that recipe.”

“I hope that’s the case. Give this to the head chef then. It’s our new bread product.”

“Okay, I understood. I will go talk to the head chef then, I leave Flora-sama in your hands.”

She bowed and left the room.

“Flora-sama, are you hungry?”

“Yes, I am.”

“It’s a little early, but we should have lunch.”

I lined up the bread on the table. They smelled delicious, since they were freshly baked.

“Waa, they all seem delicious!”

Flora-sama was looking at the bread with sparkling eyes.

“I can eat whichever one I want?”

“You can eat whatever you like.”

There was a knock on the door while Flora-sama was hesitating about which to take, and the door was opened without waiting for a signal from the inside.

The ones who entered were the usual people.

The top of this country, the king, and Eleanora-san. The queen had also started coming recently.

I knew it, the reason that the soldier by the gate had run off was to notify them.

“I’m coming in.”

“Sorry for the intrusion.”

“Yuna-chan, welcome.”

I was always thinking this, but was it really okay to leave your jobs? Still, I wouldn’t retort like that.

“You brought something delicious-looking again today.”

“I know it is meaningless to ask, but why did you come here?”

“That’s because you came, of course.”

“There’s no other reason.”

The king and the queen replied.

“Is it okay for the king to eat something made by a commoner?”

“It’s too late to say that. If you were serious, you could easily take my head without needing to use poison, right?”

“Still, a king should be wary at such moments, right?”

The king ate the bread I had brought without any caution.

“It’s delicious.”

“I brought it for Flora-sama, so please don’t eat it selfishly.”

“I’ll have this one!”

Flora-sama took the bread covered in melted cheese.

“That one seems delicious as well.”

“Fasher, eat?”

(TL: Her mouth is full, so she’s mispronouncing “Father”.)

Flora-sama offered her bread to the king.

“No, it’s okay, I will eat this one. I will eat that one next time.”

That meant I would have to bring it again, huh.

“Should I take this one then?”

The queen took an egg sandwich.

“Then I will take the same one.”

Eleanora-san took the egg sandwich, just like the queen had.

There was another knock on the door while everyone was eating their chosen sandwiches, and Anju-san entered with drinks.

For some reason, there was enough for everyone.

“Still, you really do some interesting things.”

I didn't know what he was talking about, so I questioningly tilted my head while chewing on my bread.

“I'm talking about the tunnel and Mireera. Cliff came the other day, looking tired, and made his report.”

He said while laughing.

“Is Cliff still in the capital?”

“He went back to Crimonia this morning, since he has a huge amount of work to do.”

Eleanora-san answered my question.

“Being a feudal lord sure is difficult, huh.”

“You're saying that as if it were someone else's problem, huh.”

I meant, it WAS someone else's problem!

“You will be the one responsible if Cliff collapses from overwork.”

“Should I seal the tunnel then?”

“As the king, I can't let you do that. Cliff has no choice but to do his best.”

“If it's like that, I will have Your Highness take the responsibility, okay?”

I put a pancake in front of Flora-sama and dripped plenty of honey on it.

“Bear-san, what is this?”

“A pancake. It’s delicious, you know.”

Flora-sama grasped her fork with her little hand and ate the pancake.

The adults were greedily looking at the pancake, so I brought some out for them as well.

Flora-sama looked satisfied after she had finished eating, so I brought out the second present.

“Flora-sama, please take this.”

I gave her a book.

The title of the book was 『Bear-san And The Little Girl: Part 2』 .

“Th-thank you.”

Flora-sama happily accepted it. The moment Flora-sama received it, Anju-san who was restraining herself in the back, bent forward to take a peek.

“Anju-san?”

“It’s nothing, it’s nothing.”

You said it was nothing, but you still seemed to be interested.

“Is this picture book the continuation of the previous one?”

“Yes, it is. It seemed that Flora-sama liked it, so I decided to write a sequel.”

“You’re really talented. You’re a first rate adventurer, you’re also first rate with magic, you make delicious food, and you can also write picture books.”

“Writing is only a hobby, so my ability is nothing special.”

“Yuna, I have a request for you.”

“What is it?”

“Is it okay for us to copy your picture books? A lot of people want to have them, you see. People from all over have asked about them. Selling them everywhere in the kingdom would be okay as well, if you would prefer that.”

“Who wants them?”

There was only one copy of this picture book, so I really didn’t think that so many people would learn of its existence.

“It’s mostly the female castle workers who have children, but recently, even the male workers who have seen the picture book have started to ask about it as well.”

Anju-san’s eyes were drawn to the picture book Princess Flora was holding, as if to prove her point.

“Yuna-chan’s pictures stay on your mind for a while, right? That’s why everyone wants the book. There were a lot of people who came to me to ask for this picture book as well.”

“Why does everyone know about the picture book I gave to Flora-sama, though?”

“That’s because Flora always walks around while carrying it.”

When I looked at Flora-sama, I saw that she was happily reading the book.

“In that case, you are free to duplicate them.”

Anju-san, who was standing behind Flora-sama, seemed happy when she heard those words.

“Still, make them only for the people who want them, okay?”

“Why? It would sell really well all over the country, you know.”

“It would be embarrassing if my work was sold all over the country, you know.”

“Why are you saying that now, when you always walk around in those embarrassing clothes?”

I knew it. These clothes really were embarrassing to wear, even in this different world? Everyone interacted with me normally recently, so I thought that they had accepted them.

“The clothes Yuna-chan wears are not embarrassing. They’re cute.”

Eleanora-san followed up.

“I want Bear-san’s clothes as well.”

If she really wanted it, I could bring some clothes from the shop, but the faces of the king and the queen contrasted with each other. The king had a bitter face, while the queen seemed happy.

Should I just give it to her so she could harass the king?

“I understand. You will let me copy them, right?”

“Yeah, that’s okay. I will also ask you for ten copies, please.”

“That’s okay, but why?”

“If they really make people that happy, I’m thinking of giving some to the orphanage.”

“I can understand that. Eleanora, I am counting on you.”

“I will do it at once.”

It had been decided that my work would be sold as an area limited product (castle edition).

CHAPTER 109

ELEANORA PUSHES A REQUEST ONTO BEAR-SAN

“Yuna-chan, I also have a request for you.”

Eleanora-san suddenly spoke up after the talk about the picture books was finished.

“What is it?”

“Yuna-chan, you’re free, right?”

Eleanora-san asked with a smile that seemed to carry a hidden meaning behind it.

It wouldn’t be a normal request when she asked me with such a smile.

Saying that I was free straight to my face, there was a limit to how rude could she be.

That left me with only one response.

“Sorry, I’m busy.”

“It’s not good to lie like this. Cliff complained to me that you seemed to be totally free, you know.”

“I’m an adventurer, so I have to work, I own a shop, and also help the orphanage, so...”

“Oh, is that so? Could you show me your guild card then, so I can see which requests you did? I also heard that you let other people manage the shop and the orphanage, but...”

“.....”

Only Cliff could give her all of that information.

A married couple should be talking about their own daughters, not me...

“So, about this request...”

“I didn’t accept it, though...”

Even though I knew it was futile, I tried to resist.

“Can you at least listen? Yuna-chan, I would like you to escort some academy students.”

“Escort some students?”

“The students will undergo practical training soon. I say practical training, but it really isn’t anything major. They just go to a nearby village and back.”

“That’s all?”

I thought it would be a pain, since it was Eleanora-san’s request, but it ended up being something simple.

“Yes, that’s all. I want you to escort them. I tried requesting help from the Adventurer’s Guild, but due to certain circumstances, I wasn’t able to assemble the adventurers. All of the students are from respectable families, so I need their guards to be strong.”

“Then don’t make them do something that puts them in danger..”

“Only the best students will participate, so they know some self defense. Yuna-chan, I need you to be there, just in case something bad happens.”

“They don’t have any experience. This practical training is for them to learn about the dangers outside, to not make rash decisions, and the importance of guards.”

The king explained Eleanora-san’s words.

“They need to learn all the difficulties that the trip offers, the management of the horses, the terrible camping at night, the fear of monsters, the trust in comrades, and the reliance on the guards. They undergo this practical training to learn at least a bit about those things.”

“I understand that, but that job is under the academy’s jurisdiction, right? Why is Eleanora-san assembling adventurers?”

“Ah, that’s because I’m doing some odd jobs for the academy.”

Again with the odd jobs. She said something about doing odd jobs for the castle a while back as well. Just who was she, really?

“I get what you’re saying, but you still have a few days left to find someone, right? It doesn’t really have to be me...”

“I would like to gather the people soon, and there aren’t many people suitable to be the students’ guards, you know. They must have the strength, the time, and the patience to take the abusive language of those kids from the noble families. In the past, some of the children said abusive things to their escort, so the adventurer got mad and decided to abandon them halfway. “

“What happened to those students?”

“One was killed by monsters, one was gravely injured, and two others were traumatized.”

“I’m no good then. If I took abusive language, I would beat them close to death and throw them into a goblin’s nest.”

It seemed like children from noble families were in the group, so if there were children like that guy who took the money meant for the orphanage, I would abandon them without a second thought. I didn’t think I would save them.

“You can beat them close to death, but my daughter is also inside the group, so don’t throw them into a goblin’s nest.”

“Shia will be there as well?”

“Yes, she will participate in the training this time around. She is more or less the child of a noble, after all. People at the top have to learn and experience a lot of things.”

“If Shia is participating, that means that the students will be of my age or older, right? Will they accept me as their guard?”

I had completely forgotten to mind the ages of the people I would have to guard.

They were students, so normally, the youngest should be 12 and the oldest should be 18.

Would the students, who considered themselves to be at the top of their generation, accept me as their guard, even though I was of the same age as them?

Moreover, I was shorter than other people of my age.

“I will just order them to keep silent about it.”

“I believe Eleanora telling them off will be sufficient, but if you want, should I also say something to them?”

The king said something really dangerous.

If the king himself came to a classroom, that would be the same as the prime minister coming to a classroom in Japan, right? He wasn't somebody they could refuse.

“Ah, that seems interesting. Should I take part as well?”

Even the queen ended up saying such crazy things.

“I will also say it!”

Since the parents were saying such things, even Flora-sama was trying to imitate them...

“I will properly submit it as an Adventurer Guild's request, so you will receive a reward as well.”

I wasn't really in need of money.

Also, any place with nobles sounded troublesome.

“You don’t necessarily need the guards to be adventurers, right? You have knights and magicians in the castle, don’t you? You just have to make them do it.”

“We have a lot of knights and magicians who listen to orders, but if we just order them, students won’t see their real thoughts or actions, so they’re no good. We want them to go with the adventurers, who are of lower social status than them, and see how the adventurers think and act.”

The more I heard, the more troublesome I thought it was.

“That’s why, Yuna-chan, please do this for me. I will properly pay you.”

“It seems troublesome, so I refuse.”

Since I didn’t agree, Eleanora-san brought out another condition.

“Then how about me owing you one? It may be strange for me to say this myself, but there’s nobody I’m indebted to.”

A debt from Eleanora-san, huh. That seemed interesting, but I didn’t have anything to request.

“Me owing you one is more valuable than having Cliff owe you one, you know.”

More valuable than a debt from Cliff, who was a Feudal Lord... I really wanted to ask who the heck Eleanora-san was.

“I understand. But, just this time, okay?”

It could be interesting to use this debt to ask who Eleanora-san was.

“So, what will my tasks be?”

“As I said before, you will guard the students. I also want you to report their actions.”

“Report their actions?”

“For example, you just have to report things like if my daughter didn’t take part in the camp preparations, if she went to kill a monster alone, or if she didn’t follow your orders.”

In short, I was some sort of an examiner.

“Also, Yuna-chan, if someone says anything abusive to you, please report that as well. We will deduct points for that.”

“What should I do when a monster appears?”

“You just have to essentially watch over them, and save them if it seems dangerous.”

“How many monsters can the students cope with? Is a hundred goblins still okay?”

“Yuna-chan, only you’re okay with that many goblins. They can only take on one.”

Was it like that?

It was a bit late to say this now, but the Bear Equipment really was overpowered.

After this exchange, Eleanora-san explained the details of the practical training to me.

At some point during this, the king and the queen left.

Flora-sama kept reading her book in silence, and Anju-san prepared drinks for us.

“I just have to wait at my house on the appointed day, right?”

“I will come and get you in the morning, since you won’t be able to enter the academy wearing those clothes.”

When we finished talking, Eleanora-san borrowed the picture book 『Bear-san And The Little Girl: Part 1』 from Flora-sama, and left the room.

Eleanora-san’s job really consisted of many odd tasks. She was really close to the king though, so I really didn’t understand who she was.

I also decided to leave and said goodbye to Flora-sama.

“Bear-san, thank you.”

She was embracing her new picture book with care.

“I am happy that it pleases you. Anju-san, I will be leaving as well.”

“I’m grateful for what you did for Flora-sama today.”

Anju-san bowed.

“Also, Yuna-sama, thank you very much for letting us copy the picture books.”

“I knew it, Anju-san, you wanted it too.”

She had glanced at Flora-sama’s book a lot, so it was totally obvious.

“Yes, the drawings are really cute, so when Flora-sama showed it to me, I wanted to show it to my daughter as well.”

“You have a daughter, huh. How old is she?”

“Yes, she is of the same age as Flora-sama. That’s one of the reasons why I became Flora-sama’s attendant.”

“Then, even though this isn’t a picture book, give this to your daughter.”

I brought out a pudding and a popular type of bread.

“Is this really okay?”

“Cool the pudding before she eats it, okay? The bread should be good as it is, I think.”

“Thank you very much.”

I left the castle and decided to shop for a bit in the capital before going back to Crimonia.

I knew it, there really were a lot of gazes looking my way in the capital.

CHAPTER 110

BEAR-SAN GOES OUT WITH THE SISTERS

Author's note:

Before Yuna does the escort mission, she goes to Mireera to retrieve various things.

The day after I went to the capital, I went to the orphanage in order to find Fina.

Fina and Shuri normally went to the orphanage early in the morning, with Terumi-san. They then did all sorts of things depending on what day it was, like help taking care of the eggs and going to the shop.

The children were collecting eggs when I arrived at the chicken coop.

They were rinsing the gathered eggs with water, putting them in the egg cases I had created using earth magic, and carrying them over to a table. Fina and Terumi-san were counting the eggs at the table.

“Good morning, everyone!”

“Big Sis Bear, good morning!”

“Good morning.”

“Good morning, Big Sis.”

They all answered me vigorously when I greeted them.

It seemed that they were growing up to be good children.

I was sure that was thanks to Headmistress and Liz.

The children were all doing tasks they were capable of doing. They were also given new tasks after Headmistress and Liz saw what they were capable of.

The children, who had lost their parents or were simply abandoned, had thought that no one wanted them, but now they were full of life and working. This really was the results of the Headmistress and Liz's efforts.

As I was thinking that, Liz arrived.

“Good morning, Yuna-san.”

“Good morning, Liz-san. Are the children behaving?”

“They’re all good children, so there’s no problem. They all know what they have to do if they want to fill their bellies, after all.”

Liz was definitely the one who had taught them that.

“Please tell me if you lack hands or need anything, okay?”

“There’s no need for that. Thanks to Yuna-chan, the children and I are really happy. If we were to ask for more, we would receive divine punishment.”

Liz-san was smiling, as if to prove her happiness.

“Don’t say that. Also, properly tell me if you need anything! It would be terrible if something happened to the Headmistress or you, after all.”

That wasn’t an exaggeration. The thought of the two of them not being here anymore scared me. If I didn’t tell them that firmly enough, I could see them pushing themselves.

I forcefully conveyed my feelings to Liz-san, then headed to Terumi-san. Fina and Shuri were by her side, helping her.

“Yuna-chan, what happened? For you to come to the orphanage this early...”

Normally, the most I did in the mornings was going to the shop to eat my breakfast, and then sometimes going to the orphanage.

“I wanted to borrow Fina for something.”

“Me?”

Fina, who was counting the eggs and taking notes next to Terumi-san, was surprised.

“I wanted to go somewhere, but it would be lonely if I went by myself, so I was thinking of inviting you.”

“Going somewhere?”

“So, I came here to get Terumi-san’s permission to borrow Fina.”

“Fufu, that’s okay, of course. When you are asking, Yuna-chan, I am always willing to lend her to you.”

She agreed with a smile.

“Then, I will gratefully borrow your noble daughter.”

I replied, smiling as well.

“Mom! Big Sis Yuna!”

“Sis, you are so lucky!”

Shuri was looking at us with a dissatisfied face.

“Shuri will come with us, of course.”

“Really?”

I was feeling sorry for Shuri, since I was only taking Fina every time. There wouldn’t be anything dangerous this time, so I had no issue taking her with us.

“Yuna-chan, is it really okay for Shuri to come too?”

“It’s okay. I will borrow them for two to three days, so it will be just you and Gentz, alone.”

It was a good thing that they had gotten married, but they couldn't really be alone with Fina and Shuri around all the time. Terumi-san had taken care of me for a long time, so I had to return some favors, or they would just keep accumulating.

“Yuna-chan.....”

Terumi-san's face became a bit red, and she lowered her head to hide her face.

“So, Big Sis Yuna, where are we going?”

“You two have never seen the sea, right?”

““We haven't.”“

The two of them nodded.

“I have something to do at Mireera, you see. I want to collect something around there. It would be lonely to go and collect it alone, so I thought I would bring you two with me.”

“We will be able to go to the sea!?”

“The sea...”

They both seemed to be really happy.

“Are you really okay with taking care of them?”

“I'm the one who asked, you know.”

“You two don't cause any problems for Yuna-chan, okay?”

They both happily nodded.

Workers secured.

Well, even though I said workers, it really was lonely to go there alone, so I just wanted them to accompany me.

So, how should we go to Mireera? As I was thinking about using the gate, even though Shuri was here,

“Big Sis Yuna, are we taking the Bears?”

Shuri asked with sparkling eyes.

“Do you want to ride the Bears?”

“Yes.”

She nodded shyly.

I already showed her the Bears, but we never took a stroll.

“We will take Bear-sans then.”

“Yes!”

Shuri beamed with delight.

I took the two of them and left the town.

I summoned Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear when we passed through the gates.

“It’s the Bear-sans...”

Shuri approached Swaying Bear with little steps and hugged him. Swaying Bear laid down on the ground and let Shuri do whatever she wanted.

“Shuri, we are going, so hurry up and get on.”

Fina pushed her little sister's back to get her on, and then got on herself. When both of them were on him, Swaying Bear got up slowly.

"Uwah, so high."

Shuri seemed to be enjoying herself.

"Shuri, don't move around so wildly. Don't you feel sorry for Swaying Bear?"

"I'm sorry, I will stop. Sorry, Swaying Bear."

Shuri said while petting Swaying Bear.

Looking at the two sisters with a good relationship made me feel warm inside.

I got on Hugging Bear, and we departed towards Mireera.

It was Shuri's first trip, so we took it slow. Shuri was very excited about her first Bear ride. Fina, who was behind her, was doing her best to tell her to calm down.

As time passed, Shuri calmed down and began to nod off.

The backs of the Bears were warm, like a high-class blanket, so with the monotonous swaying, it certainly made you feel sleepy.

"Fina, we will go a bit faster, okay?"

"Okay."

You wouldn't fall off even when you slept, but Fina still held Shuri tightly, so that she wouldn't fall off.

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear started to move faster.

"This is...?"

Shuri looked around while rubbing her eyes.

“We will arrive at the tunnel shortly.”

“Tunnel?”

“I heard that someone created a big tunnel under the mountain, and that after you exit on the other side, you arrive at the sea.”

“The sea? We’re already at the sea?”

Shuri looked around.

“I think we’re almost there.”

When we arrived near the tunnel, the forest in the area had been cut down. When I came here previously, I had to go through the forest to get to the tunnel, but now, the trees had been cut down and the ground was leveled. There was more than enough space for a carriage to go through.

I had Hugging Bear slowly move forward and looked around.

The ground had been leveled well, so had there been a magician involved?

I was able to hear the sound of trees being cut far away.

When I approached the tunnel, I saw a lot of people. Were they from Crimonia? Some people even waved at me when they saw me. The way Shuri waved back at them was really cute.

When we arrived at the tunnel, the statues of Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear on the sides of the tunnel entrance really stood out. The land layout around the tunnel had advanced a lot.

There were no more trees around, and some buildings had already been built.

Were they staying there and doing their jobs?

While I was looking at a building, a man came out of it.

“Huh? Bear Missy, why are you here?”

The man approached me.

“I have Cliff’s permission, but is it okay for me to go through the tunnel? I would like to go to Mireera.”

Unlimited free passage through the tunnel had been added to my guild card.

I had the Bear Gate, so I didn’t think I would use it frequently, but I didn’t have any reasons to refuse it, so I accepted.

“Yeah, Cliff-sama told me. We haven’t finished installing the magic lines, so there are some dark places.”

“I have magic, so it’s okay, but what did Cliff tell you?”

“I’m in charge of this place for now. I was told to let you, Bear Missy, go through when you come.”

We reached the tunnel entrance.

The tunnel was lit up by the magic lines.

“Still, you’re really incredible, Bear Missy. I thought that the story with the Black Viper was incredible, but this time, you even made a tunnel...”

“You knew I made it?”

“Do you think there’s anyone in Crimonia who wouldn’t figure it out after looking at these statues?”

He was pointing towards where the statues of Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear were standing.

“Even more so, when the proof is right in front of my eyes.”

The man was looking at Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, who we were riding.

It was a reasonable thing to say.

“Please don’t scare the people inside when you go in. Anybody would be frightened if a bear suddenly appeared behind them, after all.”

He was right. If a bear suddenly appeared, anybody would be frightened.

We entered the tunnel slowly, taking heed of his words.

Inside the tunnel, the magic lines were glowing at regular intervals.

“Big Sis Yuna, as I expected, you’re the one who made the tunnel, right?”

“Well, I had a few reasons for why I needed to make a tunnel.”

“Even though you needed it, I didn’t think you could make it this easily.”

I was crushed by the common sense of a 10-year-old girl...

Shuri was looking at the tunnel restlessly. Was it something new for her?

The tunnel started to turn dark as we advanced on the Bears.

We slowed down and saw the people who were installing the magic lines.

“Who is it!?”

One of the workers called out when he noticed us.

“A Bear!?”

“No, it’s the Bear Missy.”

“Don’t scare us like that.....”

In a way, not knowing the person I saw, but them recognizing me was really a strange feeling.

Was this how entertainers and celebrities felt?

“If you keep going from here, it will get dark, you know.”

“No problem. I have magic, after all.”

I created a Bear Light.

“I see. However, please take care.”

“Thank you.”

I thanked him, Fina bowed, and Shuri waved; then, we parted ways with the workers.

Shuri returned to dreamworld. Had she gotten tired of the monotonous scenery?

We sped up and headed for the tunnel exit.

Soon, we could see a faint light in the distance.

“Fina, wake Shuri up when we get to the exit. You’ll be able to see the sea just after we leave the tunnel.”

Fina woke Shuri up.

“Big Sis?”

“It’s the exit. It seems that we will be able to see the sea soon, so wake up.”

“Okay.”

Shuri rubbed her eyes and looked ahead.

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear kept running, and we exited the tunnel.

CHAPTER 111

BEAR-SAN, WORKERS GET!

When we came out of the tunnel, the trees had been cut down, and we were able to see the blue sea in the distance. They had already finished cutting down the trees around the tunnel on this side, and there was a wide clearing. Only one building was standing in the clearing.

“That’s the sea?”

“Sea?”

They were both looking at the blue, faraway sea.

The weather was good, and there were no clouds.

It was great to have good weather. If the sky was pitch-black, rain was coming down, the wind was blowing, and the waves were raging when you saw the sea for the first time, there was a chance you would be traumatized.

As the three of us were looking at the calm sea, someone called out to me.

“Bear Missy?”

When I looked around for the person who had called out to me, a man came out of the building.

“Umm...”

I didn’t remember him.

“I come from Mireera. I was shocked when I saw you coming out of the tunnel all of a sudden.”

“It has been a while?”

I tilted my head.

“I have only heard about you, so you don’t have to worry about not recognizing me. So, why did you come here?”

“I came to show the sea to these two children.”

“Show them the sea, you say? Is it fun to see the sea? The Feudal Lord of Crimonia said that as well, but would people really come from far away to see the sea? I really can’t understand...”

“That’s because you see it every day. It’s a moving sight for people who have never seen it before.”

“Is that so?”

It seemed that the man still didn’t understand it.

You got tired of the sea if you looked at it every day, huh.

“Do you two like the sea?”

“Yes, it’s amazing!”

“It’s beautiful.”

“I see. I feel like you are praising me when you say so, and that makes me happy. Thank you.”

We said goodbye to the man and slowly headed for the city.

Fina and Shuri were continuously gazing at the sea from atop the bear.

“Should we take a detour?”

I made Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear walk along the beach.

When we arrived at the sandy beach, Fina and Shuri got down from Swaying Bear and ran towards the sea.

“It’s huge!”

“Is this all water?”

“Yeah, it’s salt water.”

“Salt?!”

The two of them slowly approached the water.

“Take care not to get wet, okay?”

Small waves rushed towards them.

They went just far enough to touch the waves.

“It’s cold!”

They licked the seawater on their hands.

“It’s really salty!”

“Sis, it’s salty!”

They came back with their tongues sticking out, so I took some water out of the Bear Box for them to rinse out the bad taste. After drinking, they went back to the sea.

The sun started to set while they were playing around, so I called them back.

“We should go to the city before it gets too late.”

The two came back after responding with an “Okay!” .

We got on Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear, and headed to the city.

Mireera was moving forward with the tunnel development, just like Crimonia on the other side. The forest to the city had been cut down, and the soil had been prepared. I saw mountains of wood stacked everywhere. Would they use this wood to make buildings?

As we kept moving forward, I saw the wall that I recognized.

Seeing the wall also meant that we inevitably started to see what was on the other side.

“Big Sis Yuna....”

“What?”

“Could that be your house?”

Fina asked when she saw the Bear Building.

“It’s a big Bear-san.”

Shuri was delighted to see the Bear House.

“You did well, figuring that out.”

When I praised her for figuring it out, she looked at me coldly.

“Big Sis Yuna, will we be staying at the Bear House?”

“That’s a good idea, but there’s an inn with really delicious food, so I plan on staying there tonight.”

We arrived at Mireera.

I put Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear back in my Bear Hands and approached the guard.

The guard was surprised for a second, but let us inside.

As we were walking through the city, I was greeted from all sides.

“Big Sis Yuna, you’re really popular.”

“Sis Yuna, you’re amazing.”

It was really embarrassing, so I picked up the pace to reach Deiga-san’s place faster.

When we entered the inn, it was empty as usual.

The main road and the sea were now open, so it would be good if there were more people, though...

“Welcome. Will you be staying... Yuna-san!”

“It’s been a while.”

Anzu, who was on the first floor of the inn, was very surprised when she saw me.

“Yuna-san, why are you here?”

“To show the sea to these girls, and to get my hands on a ingredient I wanted.”

I presented the two, who were behind me.

“I’m Fina.”

“I’m Shuri.”

The two of them gave a small bow.

“They’re really cute children.”

“We came to stay here, but is it really okay?”

“Hmm, Yuna-san, I think you already know this, but there are a lot of people who came from Crimonia to help with the development of the tunnel area. That’s why there are

no free rooms. I wanted to do something for you, Yuna-san, who helped us so much though..."

"Is that so?"

I thought the inn was empty, but they were just out doing their jobs at the moment.

"Yuna-san, even if you don't stop by our place, you have the Bear Residence, right?"

"I wanted these two children to taste Deiga-san's cuisine."

"Then, even though it's just a meal, please eat here. I will call my father."

It was a little early for dinner, but I had no problem with eating now.

"You two, it's a little early, but do you want to eat?"

"I have no problem with that."

"I'll eat!"

"I'm counting on you then."

When Anzu heard those words, she went to the kitchen where Deiga-san was. A loud voice came from there soon after.

"Really?!"

Deiga-san must have been the one who shouted in the kitchen, and I heard loud footsteps as he came towards us.

"Deiga-san, it's been a while."

"Oh, it's good that you came."

"I came to eat your meal, Deiga-san."

"You really say some things that make me happy, you know. So, who are those children?"

“It’s the person who saved my life, Fina, and her little sister, Shuri.”

“Big Sis Yuna! Stop with this kind of introduction! You already said something like that before!”

“Sorry, sorry. Still, it’s a fact, right?”

“Even though I was the one who was saved...”

“Do your own introduction for now.”

“I’m Fina. Big Sis Yuna saved my life a while back.”

“I’m her little sister, Shuri.”

The two of them bowed.

“I’m Deiga; the owner of this inn.”

“Father, why don’t you start with making their meals? They came to stay here, but since there’s no vacant rooms, I thought that they could at least have a taste of your food.”

“I see. We’re out of rooms, huh. I’m really sorry about that.”

Deiga-san apologized even though it wasn’t his fault.

“I have a place to stay, so it’s okay.”

“I will make you something delicious as compensation, so sit and wait for it.”

“Father, I will help as well.”

“You have something to talk about with missy, haven’t you? You have to talk about it on your own.”

Deiga-san left Anzu here and returned to the kitchen.

There could only be one thing that Anzu had to talk about with me.

“Hmm, Yuna-san.”

“What is it?”

“It’s about the shop we talked last time. It’s real, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it’s neither a joke nor a lie.”

“I’m thinking about accepting it. That’s why, Yuna-san, I might trouble you, but I will be in your care.”

Anzu bowed her head.

“I will be in your care as well.”

“Yes!”

She happily answered.

“So, Yuna-san, I have one request before we go to Crimonia.”

She looked around as if it was difficult to talk about.

“What is it? If it’s something I can help you with, I will hear you out.”

“Yuna-san. Do you remember the women who had been captured by bandits?”

I remembered. I wasn’t able to say anything to those women after we rescued them. They lost their relatives and their loved ones. Even more, the women themselves had endured some terrible things.

“Could they come to work at the shop with me? It will be difficult for me alone, and they can handle fish, since they were born in this city, so they can help out at the shop. I would be happier if I had people I knew with me, rather than just going alone...”

Her voice was becoming softer and softer.

I was sure that she was thinking that she was asking for the impossible.

If the number of people who came to work increased, problems like wages and the like would start to pop up. Since her parents were working at an inn, she should know about it.

However, I wasn't someone who would care about little things like that.

"Still, why?"

"I think you know about it, Yuna-san, but they lost their families. When living in this city, they remember painful things. Even if they wanted to go to another city, they don't have any acquaintances, money, or jobs. They asked me when they heard that I would go to Crimonia."

If it was this sort of a reason, I had no reason to refuse.

"Okay. How many people?"

"Is it really okay!?"

"Yeah. I also thought that it would be difficult if Anzu came alone. Of course, I thought of finding helpers for you, but they don't know anything about seafood, so you would have to teach them from scratch. It would be a burden for you, so it would help me a lot if there were people that know how to handle seafood."

"Thank you very much. There are six of them."

"Six, huh."

It was more than what I had expected.

With that, we could even make cooking classes, huh.

"Is it too many?"

"No problem. There is just the possibility that I will ask them to do some other jobs as well."

"Other jobs, you say?"

“I plan on having you in charge of the dishes, but I might also ask someone to be in charge of the money and ingredients. It would be difficult for you to do it all alone, right?”

“You’re right. There is also money management and ingredient stocking. My father is in charge of the money, and my brother stocks up on fish that he catches, but I will have to do it on my own from now on, huh.”

“Of course, I will help you at first, but I want you to manage everything by yourself in the end. Well, there’s someone in Crimonia who knows a lot about purchasing ingredients, so if you ask them, you’ll be okay.”

“Okay.”

“Also, if there are people who like children, I would like them to help take care of the orphans in the orphanage. I will make a rotating shift of course. If you accept these terms, I’m okay with them coming.”

“Thank you very much. I’ll tell them.”

Anzu thanked me happily.

Soon after, as I was asking Anzu about the situation in the city, a delicious scent drifted in from the kitchen. Deiga-san was bringing the food.

“I made you wait. It seems that Anzu has also talked to you.”

“I’ll be taking your daughter.”

While I was saying it as a joke,

“Yea, take her! Also, while you are at it, find her a husband who can cook.”

“F, Father!”

Anzu hit Deiga-san with a beet-red face.

Didn’t she have a lover in this city? If she did, I would feel bad for her, but judging by the exchange just now, she didn’t seem to have one.

CHAPTER 112

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE RYOKAN-STYLE BEAR HOUSE

The two children were eating Deiga-san's food happily.

I also became happy, seeing them like this.

While I was eating my meal and looking at the two, Anzu spoke to me.

"So, Yuna-san, what ingredient did you want? Should I prepare it for you?"

Anzu asked.

"I don't think it's something that's being sold, so you might not be able to find it."

"It isn't being sold?"

"I have never seen it being sold anywhere, after all."

"Still, you can find it near this city, right?"

"Yes, I saw some on the mountain."

"What sort of ingredient is it?"

Deiga-san, who was interested about the ingredient, entered the conversation.

"Bamboo shoots."

"Bamboo shoots? What are those?"

"Do you know about the bamboos that grow on the mountain? It's like a green pipe."

"Well, I know about bamboos at least. How would you be able to eat something that hard?"

When I heard those words, I finally understood.

They didn't know what bamboos were like before they grew from the earth. No one had ever thought about digging up the bamboos before they grew. Likewise, if I didn't know about it, I wouldn't think that eating it was possible just by looking at a bamboo.

"That's not it. I'm talking about the bamboo shoots. The bamboos before they grow."

"You can eat such a thing?"

"It's tasty, you know. You can cook it with rice, or just boil it as it is, or even cook it with other ingredients. There are a lot of different ways of eating it."

My main aim was the Bamboo Shoot Rice.

"Is it difficult to harvest bamboo shoots?"

"It's difficult, but even children can harvest them if they do their best."

"Okay, I get it. I will come too!"

Deiga-san said.

"Father!?"

"There's an ingredient near here that I, a chef, don't know about. If we knew about it during the time the Kraken was here, it could have become food, you know!"

"You have a point, but what will do you about the inn?"

"It will be okay even if I'm not here for a day."

"That's impossible! Big Bro will go to the sea, and it will be impossible to manage all the customers with just mom and me."

"We will go to harvest it when the sun rises, so it won't take the whole day."

"That early?"

"Bamboo shoots taste better if you harvest them in the early hours, after all."

I told them what I vaguely remembered seeing on a TV program about bamboo shoots.

It had said that it was better to harvest bamboo shoots early in the morning.

It had said that both taste and fragrance were better that way. They turned bitter when the sun shone upon them, so you had to harvest them before the sun rose too high.

“Anzu, I will help you with the morning preparations, and you will take care of breakfast on your own.”

“That’s impossible...”

“You will open a restaurant at Missy’s place, right?”

“That’s true, but...”

“Anything’s an experience.”

“Ugh, will it really be okay with just mom and me? I also want to go and harvest those bamboo shoots. What if I go with Yuna-san and Father prepares breakfast?”

“That’s no good. I will go. As a chef, I won’t permit such a delicious ingredient near me without my knowledge.”

“It’s the same for me...”

“I will go this time. I won’t back down even for the sake of my own daughter. Is that okay with you, Missy?”

“I’m okay, so please don’t fight.”

“Ugh. I understand. I will bear with it this time. Still, Yuna-san, please take me with you next time.”

It was decided that we would meet up with Deiga-san at the entrance of the city when the sun comes up.

“Do I need to take anything with me?”

“We will be digging them up from the ground, so it would be best if you had a hoe, I think? Though, if you come just for the sake of seeing it, I will dig them up using magic.”

“No, as I already told Anzu, I want to experience it myself, so I will dig them up on my own.”

We finished our meals, and since it was almost time for the workers to return to the in after work, we decided to go to the Ryokan-style Bear House.

“Big Sis Yuna, it’s big.”

That was the first thing Fina said when she saw the Ryokan style Bear House.

“I also thought so when I finished making it.”

“Why did you make it this big?”

“I want to bring the orphans here some day, so the number of bedrooms increased a lot...”

“I knew it, Big Sis Yuna, you are really kind. Actually, I was feeling a little guilty that you brought only the two of us while the children at the orphanage are still working. But you are thinking about everyone properly, aren’t you?”

“I don’t have such noble intentions, you know. Everyone is working hard, so... Well, I don’t run a company, but this would still be something like an employee trip.”

“Employee trip?”

“Yep, it’s something to show the people working for me that I’m grateful.”

“Big Sis Yuna, why are you grateful?”

“You are working at my shop, right?”

“That’s wrong. Thanks to you, Big Sis Yuna, we have a place to work, we can eat until we are full, and we have a warm place to sleep, you know. If we weren’t working at your place, we wouldn’t have those things. Mother, everyone at the orphanage, and I are all grateful to you.”

Hmm, it was difficult to explain.

It seemed that Fina thought that giving them a job that made them money, gave them something to eat, and gave them a place to sleep was more than enough already; and that giving them more wasn’t necessary.

So that was the difference in thinking between me, who had grown up in Japan, and Fina, who had grown up in an other world, huh.

“Thanks, but I want to show that I am grateful too.”

I patted Fina’s head.

“You should be tired since we were moving around all day today, right? Hurry up and go in. It seems that Shuri is also tired.”

Behind Fina, Shuri seemed to be nodding off.

“Okay.”

When we entered the Bear House, I showed them the rooms on the first floor. Shuri woke up. Was she interested in the Bear House?

“If you want to use the toilet or drink water, they’re on this floor, so use them, okay?”

We ignored the second floor, and I brought them to the bedrooms for guests.

“You two, use this room, okay?”

“It’s big.”

“We’ll sleep here?”

“We’ll take a bath first, okay?”

I made all the rooms on the 3rd floor big.

It was only the three of us, so I had the two of them use this room.

“We will wake up early tomorrow, so we should enter the bath now and go to sleep early.”

We headed for the bath on the 4th floor.

I had properly separated men and women’s baths.

We went past the curtain with the word 『Women』 written on it and entered the changing room.

“Undress here, the bath is just over there.”

The two put their clothes in the boxes and went inside the bath.

I also took off the Bear Suit and went after them.

“Waa, so big! We can also see outside!”

Shuri walked around with small steps.

“Huh, Sis Yuna, there’s no hot water inside.”

I also noticed it when Shuri said that. There was no hot water in the bathtub.

Well, that was absolutely normal. Nobody had been using it, and we just came here.

I went to the Bear Statue that poured out water and adjusted the magic stone on the Bear’s hand. When I did that, hot water came out from the Bear’s mouth. The Bear on the opposite side also poured out hot water.

How long will it take for the bath to be filled with water?

It would be great if it was filled while we were washing our bodies.

It wasn’t good to keep standing and do nothing while naked.

“You two, wash your body and hair carefully, okay?”

I told them.

“Shuri, stop looking outside and come here to wash your body.”

Fina took Shuri, who was looking outside, by her hand and went toward the washing area.

I adjusted the temperature of the water pouring out of the Bear mouth and went to the washing area.

As I was scrubbing myself, Fina and Shuri approached me.

“What is it?”

“Big Sis Yuna, your hair is so long and beautiful.”

“Sis Yuna, it’s beautiful.”

They touched my hair.

“It’s just long.”

“I will wash your hair.”

“I will do it too...”

“You don’t need to, really. I can do it myself.”

“We have been in your care, Big Sis Yuna. I didn’t do a lot of things to thank you, so I want to do this at least. Please tell me if it bothers you, though.”

She looked at me innocently. She was too dazzling for my impure heart. I couldn’t refuse when you looked at me with those eyes.

“Okay. Can I count on you then?”

“Of course!”

The two of them happily sat behind me and started to carefully wash my hair.

“How many years does it take for it to become this long?”

I didn't remember when I had started to let it grow out. I had no interest in taking care of my hair, so it became like this on its own.

“Should I grow my hair long like Big Sis Yuna?”

“I will grow it too...”

Fina asked while touching her own hair.

Shuri declared while raising her hand.

“It's a pain to take care of, you know.”

We finished washing while having this sort of conversation, and when we went to the bathtub, the hot water had filled up half of it.

The bathtub was big, so if we stretched our legs, it should be okay, right?

Since the three of us were small, we wouldn't have any problems even with this amount.

I extended my legs and submerged my shoulders.

I knew it, baths where you were able to extend your legs were great.

Fina and Shuri also entered and seemed to enjoy it.

Baths were the mankind's best invention.

Shuri was playing around; looking outside and putting her hand in the Bear Statue's mouth that was pouring out hot water. Fina did her best to stop her.

After bathing and relaxing for a while, Shuri said that she wanted to go out.

“Sis, it's hot.”

Shuri's face was bright-red.

“Big Sis Yuna, can we go out?”

“Of course. The dryer is in the changing room, so dry your hair carefully, okay?”

“Okay.”

Fina took Shuri’s hand, and they left the bath.

After submerging myself in hot water for a while longer, I also got out.

When I entered the changing room, Fina and Shuri were drying their hair.

Shuri seemed really sleepy.

“Okay, it’s finished.”

“Thanks, Sis.”

Shuri rubbed her eyes. She seemed to be barely standing.

Fina, who was beside her, started drying her own hair.

I wiped my body and put on the White Bear Suit. While I was drying my hair, which went below my waist, Fina came to me.

“Big Sis Yuna, can we go to our room first?”

Shuri, who was behind Fina, was already nodding off.

“Of course. Sleep tight. We will wake up early tomorrow, after all.”

“Okay. Good night.”

“Sis Yuna, good night.”

“Good night.”

Fina took Shuri’s hand, and they left the dressing room.

I dried my hair alone and went to my room.

I looked outside from the veranda and saw a beautiful, starry sky.

The hikikomori me, who had never went to the sea, only saw this scenery on the TV and the Net. In that moment, I thought it was good that I came to this world.

It was something I would have never seen if I didn't come to this world and stayed locked up inside.

The night's wind was cooling down my body that was hot from the bath, and I decided to go to sleep since we would be going out early tomorrow.

In my mind I wished the two, who were in the room beside me, good night, and slipped into my bed.

CHAPTER 113

BEAR-SAN GOES AND DIGS UP BAMBOO SHOOTS

There was a very gentle knock on the door, as if the person knocking was hesitating. I woke up and opened my eyes. I opened the window even though the sun had not risen yet.

I wasn't sleepy since I went to sleep early yesterday.

The door slowly opened, and a certain someone entered the room.

"Big Sis Yuna, are you awake?"

Fina called out to me softly.

"Good morning, Fina."

"Good morning."

"What about Shuri?"

"She's awake, since we slept early."

Oh right, she normally woke up early with Terumi-san to help her at the orphanage; the one who had trouble waking up early was me.

I asked Fina to leave first and followed her after I changed to the Black Bear Suit.

"Sorry for making you wait."

The two were already ready to head out.

It was still dark when we left the Bear House.

"Are you two cold?"

"I'm okay."

“I’m okay too.”

They had coats on, so it should be okay?

When I was wearing the Bear Clothes, I couldn’t really tell what the temperature was like.

“Tell me if you’re cold, okay?”

They nodded.

When we arrived at the city, Deiga-san was already waiting for us, holding a big hoe in his hand.

“Good morning, Deiga-san.”

After I greeted him, Fina and Shuri did the same.

“Well then, shall we head out?”

Deiga-san put the hoe on his shoulder and started walking.

The four of us headed towards the place where the bamboos were.

“Is the inn okay?”

“Yeah, I have been making preparations since last night, after all. The only thing that remains is the cooking, and Anzu should be able to do that on her own. If she can’t, I won’t let her to go to your place, Missy, and will make her re-do her training.”

I prayed that Anzu could do it on her own.

We arrived at the bamboo thicket soon after. There were a lot of splendid bamboos.

“Can you really eat something like this?”

Deiga-san knocked on the hard bamboo.

“You can eat the ones that haven’t come out of the ground yet.”

I looked around for places where the earth was bulging out. Was it here? I dug up the ground using earth magic. I uncovered a big bamboo shoot. It seemed that I had picked the right spot. I skillfully harvested the bamboo shoot.

“So, that’s a bamboo shoot?”

Deiga-san took the bamboo shoot and examined it.

“If you peel it and remove the poison, you can eat it.”

“Yosh, I understand. I just have to dig them up, right?”

Deiga-san went further inside the bamboo thicket with his hoe.

Did he know where to dig them up?

“Big Sis Yuna, will we dig this up?”

Fina asked while looking at the bamboo shoot.

“That’s right. My plan was to come here and dig up the bamboo shoots with the two of you.”

“I understand. I’ll do my best. I don’t have any tools for digging, though.”

“No problem. I will lend Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear to you.”

I summoned Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear.

“Can you two go with them and look for bamboo shoots?”

When I asked the two, they nodded.

As expected from animals?

“These children will dig up the bamboo shoots, so could you carry them?”

Swaying Bear was paired with Fina, and Hugging Bear with Shuri.

“Swaying Bear, I’m in your care.”

Fina petted Swaying Bear.

“Hugging Bear, we should do our best so we don’t lose to Sis, okay?”

“I won’t lose either.”

They headed in different directions.

Then, should I dig around here?

While walking around the area, I dug up all the slightly bulging places.

I didn’t find any shoots sometimes, but I was successful more often than not.

Meanwhile, Fina and Shuri were bringing bamboo shoots to me with their small bodies.

The shoots were all sorts of sizes, big and small.

They brought them over many times, but Deiga-san didn’t bring even one.

You just had to dig and you could find them, but he left during my explanation, so I wasn’t able to tell him the trick to finding them. I became worried.

I continued to dig while worrying about Deiga-san.

It wasn’t good to take too much, so I stopped after taking a moderate amount.

The next time Fina and Shuri came back, I told them that we would stop.

“I lost to Sis...”

Shuri seemed sad.

“Shuri, you lost because you went too far.”

“I thought I would find more if I went farther, though...”

“The next time we do this, think about how far you have to carry them, okay?”

“Ugh.”

Shuri puffed up her cheeks and clung to her partner, Hugging Bear.

“Hugging Bear, I’m sorry. We lost because of me.”

Hugging Bear lightly patted her head. Was he saying she shouldn’t mind it?

Deiga-san was really late though. How far did he go?

I used detection magic to find him. He didn’t go too far.

“I will go to Deiga-san, so please wait here for a minute, okay?”

I left them there and headed towards Deiga-san.

When I reached him, I saw a lot of holes. Even now, Deiga-san was digging a hole.

“Deiga-san, what are you doing?”

“What are you saying? I am digging up bamboo shoots. I’m having trouble finding them though...”

I knew it. He really was digging randomly!

“Deiga-san, there’s a trick to finding bamboo shoots, you know?”

“Is that so? You should have told me that earlier!”

“You went off on your own before I could tell you, right?”

“Was it so?”

“Yes, it was. You find bamboo shoots by carefully looking at the ground for places where the earth is bulging up a bit.”

I looked around and found a place that was bulging up.

“Deiga-san, that place over there bulges up, right?”

“Ah, you’re right.”

“Please go and dig over there.”

Deiga-san went to dig where I told him to.

“Oh! It’s really here!”

“It was about to sprout soon. If it did, it would have become a bamboo.”

“I see.”

Deiga-san swung the hoe carefully not to break the bamboo shoot.

As he continued to dig, the bamboo shoot was slowly being uncovered. A surprisingly big bamboo shoot was buried here.

“It’s big, huh.”

Deiga-san successfully dug up the bamboo shoot using his muscles.

I then told him we would go back since the sun was rising.

“I only dug up one, you know!”

“Time has run out already. If you continued to dig more, their taste would get worse, and that wouldn’t be good, right?”

Deiga-san looked sad when I told him that, but he obediently agreed to come back with us.

I was sure that he, as a chef, thought that he couldn't serve something that didn't have the best taste to his customers.

I put the bamboo shoots inside the Bear Box, and we headed back to the inn.

When we arrived at the inn, Anzu was collapsed on the table, exhausted.

"Anzu?"

"Ah, Yuna-san. Welcome back."

Anzu woke up.

"Oh, it seems that you managed on your own, huh."

"Somehow. I don't want to do it again, though."

"Right, right? Still, if you can't do this, you won't be become a full-fledged chef, you know!"

"I'll do my best!"

Anzu stood up from her chair.

"So, did you find the bamboo shoots?"

I brought out a bamboo shoot from the Bear Box.

"So, this is a bamboo shoot?"

"Should I prepare it, so we can eat it for lunch?"

I showed them how to remove the poison, and prepared the rice.

“I heard it from Anzu, but it seems that the people from the country of Harmony and Peace haven’t come yet?”

“Yeah. We’re troubled, since we can’t procure rice and other commodities. Still, thanks to the feudal lord of Crimonia, wheat is being transported here, and bread has become our main food.”

Fish and bread, huh. For me, who was born in Japan, it was an impossible combination. Fish went best with rice.

Wait, there were fish burgers too. Should I make some next time?

“The tunnel isn’t finished yet, right? They brought it anyway?”

The tunnel’s interior was dark; the installation of magic lines wasn’t finished yet.

“Missy, even though you subjugated the bandits and the Kraken, we still have a food shortage. We used to transport the flour by boat, but it’s now quicker to just get it from Crimonia, so we asked them to bring us food.”

Well, that was true. Even though they had fish now, with just seafood it was still...

It wasn’t my place to talk here, so I kept quiet.

I decided to make the bamboo shoots in front of me as delicious as I possibly could. First, preparing the bamboo shoot rice, then frying what had to be fried, and finally seasoning what had to be boiled. I made lots of different dishes using the bamboo shoots.

“Sis Yuna, I’m hungry.”

Now that I thought about it, we did work without eating breakfast, huh.

“It’s ready.”

I placed the finished dishes in front of the two children.

“It looks delicious.”

“It isn’t white today?”

Shuri asked while looking at the rice.

“That’s because the shoots that you dug up are mixed in. It’s delicious, so try it.”

Shuri nodded and brought the bamboo shoot to her mouth.

“Delicious!”

“Yes, it’s delicious!”

Shuri and Fina were eating it happily.

Seeing them eat it like that made me happy too.

“Can I also have some?”

“I prepared enough for all of us.”

I placed all of our portions on the table.

“It’s delicious and really tender. So the bamboo is soft like this, huh?”

“Well, you can’t eat it after it sprouts; it becomes too hard.”

“Big Sis Yuna, it’s delicious.”

“.....”

Shuri was eating silently.

“Somehow, Yuna-san looks more like a chef than me.”

“I can’t prepare fish, so Anzu is more of a chef than me.”

“Is that so?”

I had never prepared any, after all.

I knew a bit about them, but I had never prepared a fish.

“Yuna-san, you seem like you can do everything.”

“I only know how to cook it, so I am counting on you, Anzu.”

“Yuna-san...”

Anzu seemed happy.

“If we had rice, I would sell bamboo shoot rice in the shop, but...”

Deiga-san said while eating.

“Bamboo shoots are delicious even when you don’t eat rice with it, you know.”

“You’re right. It’s delicious enough to eat it with other ingredients. Although, is giving us these bamboo shoots really okay? Well, it would help us a lot if you gave some to us.”

Deiga-san managed to dig up only one.

We were able to harvest a lot of them since I used magic while Fina and Shuri got help from the bears.

“No problem. I harvested a lot thanks to these two. We could also go and harvest some more later if you want. It’s difficult to dig them up, right?”

“You’re right, there’s a trick to finding them. I will be okay next time though. You taught me a lot, after all.”

A little while later, after we finished eating our meals, people started coming in to eat lunch.

Deiga-san and Anzu would be busy soon, so we left the inn to avoid bothering them.

CHAPTER 114

BEAR-SAN AND THE TWO CHILDREN

TAKE A STROLL, PART 1

We left the inn and were walking on the streets when we met a familiar harem party.

“Yuna-chan! You came back?”

In the front was the thoughtful Tomea-san, and behind her were the harem party leader Blitz, the tiny Ran and the female swordsman Grimos.

“You were all still here?”

I thought that they would have left the city after they brought the food.

“Yeah, the guild master asked us to stay and kill the monsters in the area.”

Blitz answered.

“More importantly, is it true that you subjugated the Kraken? I can’t believe it.”

“Blitz, you are too skeptical. Everyone in the city is talking about it, so it has to be true.”

“But it’s the Kraken, you know. How could someone kill that monster on their own?”

“That’s right, but Yuna-chan completely ignores common sense, so wouldn’t she be able to do it?”

“You don’t have to believe it. It’s better for me if you don’t.”

“I believe it.”

“Well, since the residents are saying so, I think you did it?”

Ran agreed with Tomea-san.

“The residents have no reasons to lie.”

Grimos shared her thoughts as well.

“And there’s also the tunnel, right? I think that you are all strange for believing it.”

Blitz was the only one thinking logically.

“But Blitz, you’ve seen the tunnel too, haven’t you?”

“I saw it, but it’s also possible it was already there to begin with.”

“There’s no way we had such a beautiful tunnel before, right?”

She looked at Blitz as if saying: ‘Are you an idiot?’

“Still, thinking about it logically...”

“Did Yuna-chan seem normal to you when she was arresting the bandits?”

“She didn’t.”

Weren’t they saying some terrible things?

“Also, the residents are saying that she subjugated the Kraken, so wouldn’t something like a tunnel be normal for her?”

“Is it really normal?”

It seemed that Blitz still couldn’t accept it.

“So, what are you doing here? Didn’t you go back to Crimonia?”

“I came here to play with these two.”

I introduced Fina and Shuri.

They gave their greetings and bowed.

“They’re cute children.”

“So Blitz, will you guys stay here until the city’s renovation is finished?”

“Nope, we thought of going to Crimonia when the tunnel is opened.”

“Really?”

“Since you made the tunnel, there’s no way we wouldn’t use it, right?”

Tomea-san confirmed what Blitz said.

“If you come to Crimonia, I will treat you to a meal at the very least.”

I gave them the name of the shop, and we parted ways.

It seemed that the four of them were heading out to kill monsters.

After we parted ways, I decided to show Fina and Shuri around the city.

“Amazing. There are so many boats!”

“It’s a boat!”

When we arrived at the harbour, they were happily looking at the boats.

A lot of boats were anchored here.

They didn’t say it, but it seemed like they wanted to ride one.

Still, as one would expect, I didn’t have a boat, so I couldn’t let them ride one.

As we were walking through the harbour, I recognized two people.

“Ranya-san, Damon-san. It’s been a while.”

“Yuna-chan!”

“Yuna, you say!?”

“It’s been a while.”

“What happened? Do you need more fish?”

“Nope. I’m showing the sea and the boats to these two.”

“You brought these two small children from Crimonia?”

“That’s right.”

Damon-san seemed depressed.

“We thought we would die on our way to Crimonia, but you brought them here just to play. That’s...”

“You can easily come here through the tunnel, you know.”

“You may be right, but I just can’t agree with that somehow.”

“What are you saying. Yuna-chan saved us and the city. Why are you complaining now?”

Ranya-san smacked him.

“So, what are you two doing here?”

“Oh, we are doing maintenance of our boat. If we didn’t take care of it properly and it broke when we needed it, we would be in trouble after all.”

While we were talking, Fina and Shuri were looking at the boat as if it was something they had never seen before.

“Hmm, young ladies, would you like to ride it?”

“That’s...”

“I want to, but...”

The two said, holding back.

A boat, huh. Now that I thought about it, I had never ridden one either.

I rode them in MMORPG games though.

“Then how about getting on?”

““Is it okay?””

For some reason, they looked at me and not Damon-san.

“Do you want to?”

“I want to, but...”

“I’m a bit scared.”

Now that I thought about it, this was their first time riding a boat since they had never even seen the sea before. They might be interested, but they were also scared.

“Damon-san, sail carefully, okay?”

“Yes, of course. There’s no way I would put yours friends in danger, right?”

“It’s safe, you two, so please ride it.”

“What about you, Big Sis Yuna?”

“I’ll wait.”

“I want Sis Yuna to come too!”

Shuri grasped my Bear Clothes with her tiny hand and looked up at me.

I couldn’t refuse when she was like this.

So it was decided that we would ride Damon-san’s boat together.

We got on Damon-san’s boat and sailed out onto the sea.

“If you two feel sick, tell me immediately, okay?”

“...?”

The two of them were confused.

Since they had never been on a boat before, I didn't think that they would understand even if I told them what seasickness was, so that was all I said.

Yet, despite my worries, they were happily enjoying their boat ride on the sea.

It seemed that the waves weren't too high. They got excited each time the boat swayed.

I didn't feel sick either. Was it thanks to the Bear?

"Damon-san, thank you very much."

"No problem, just tell me when you want a ride."

We thanked Damon-san and left the harbour.

"Was it fun, you two?"

"Yes! It was so much fun."

"Boat was fun!"

They really seemed like they had fun. I was sure that there were no lies in their words. Just as we were leaving the harbour, we found a woman wearing clothes that emphasized her chest waiting for us.

"Atora-san?"

"It's been a while, Yuna."

"What are you doing here?"

"Don't ask me what I am doing here. If you came to the city, why didn't you come to my place?"

"Hmm, because I had nothing to do over there?"

"Yuna."

Atora-san glared at me.

"I'm joking. I planned to go over there now."

That was a lie of course. I didn't plan on going there.

"Really?"

She looked at me doubtfully.

"Yes, of course."

I answered while shifting my gaze subtly.

"Well, alright. So, Yuna, why did you come here?"

"I came here just to play."

"To play, you say... There's nothing interesting in this city, right?"

"There are plenty of things. Fish dishes, bamboo sprouts, the sea, the boats, and the beach. You two, it was fun, right?"

"Yes, it was really fun."

"It was fun!"

"Is that so? Somehow, there was something I don't know mixed in, but if you had fun, I'm happy. So, who are these children?"

"The children of someone I'm indebted to in Crimonia, I could say?"

Fina would get mad if I introduced her as my life saviour, so this time I introduced them like that.

"That's wrong! We are the ones indebted to you, Big Sis Yuna!"

"Mom told me that we can eat delicious food thanks to Sis Yuna."

They denied my introduction.

“Fufu.”

“Why are you laughing?”

“That’s because I can imagine what you did for these children. I bet you saved their family and didn’t even request a reward, right?”

“Amazing. How did you know?”

Fina confirmed Atora-san’s theory.

“That’s because Yuna did the same thing for this city.”

“I can understand then.”

How come they all came to an understanding from this conversation?

Didn’t that make me a simple character who could be described with just a phrase?

I wanted to correct them, but they were happily talking about me.

“She always says 『Don’t worry about it.』 , right?”

“Yes, she says that.”

“She says...”

Why were they so excited?

“Also, even though we are not allowed to give our thanks, for some reason, Yuna helps us even more.”

“Yes, I understand!”

“Understand!”

Did Shuri really understand it? It felt like she was just imitating her sister though.

“Hmm, how long are you going to keep talking like this?”

“Ah, I’m sorry.”

“Sorry.”

“Sorry.”

They apologized.

“So, what will the three of you do now?”

“I wanted to go and greet Atora-san, but since we already saw each other here, I thought about sightseeing the city.”

I didn’t really plan to meet Atora-san, but I really wanted to walk around the city.

“Then, should I accompany you?”

“Are you free?”

“You could say that. Cliff-sama dispatched adventurers from Crimonia to kill all of the monsters in the area, and it’s going well. Also, Blitz’s party came back, and they will be staying here for a while, it seems. All of this is also thanks to you, Yuna.”

“I didn’t do anything. The ones who did are Cliff and Mylene-san.”

“The only one who thinks that is you.”

Atora-san said, smiling, as she took Fina and Shuri’s hands and started walking.

I didn’t agree with her, but I still followed along.

CHAPTER 115

BEAR-SAN AND THE TWO CHILDREN

TAKE A STROLL, PART 2

Atora-san took us on a seafood tour.

At the market, a lot of seafood was lined up.

“Uwaa, it’s moving weirdly.”

“It’s really gross.”

Fina and Shuri were noisily looking at an octopus.

“It’s delicious, you know.”

“Is that true?”

Octopuses were delicious grilled, boiled and as sashimi.

“Sis Yuna, what is this?”

“It’s a crab. It’s delicious when boiled.”

Broth made with crab was delicious. Oh, and some shrimps might be good as well.

“All these things can be eaten?”

“Yes, you can eat them. They were in the dish Deiga-san made yesterday, you know?”

“Is that true!?”

Fina and Shuri looked at the crabs.

They slowly reached out...

“They are dangerous, so don’t touch them, okay?”

I warned them as they tried to touch the crabs. They could get hurt if they were pinched by their claws, after all.

They quickly withdrew their hands when I warned them.

“Fina, Shuri, come here. There’s a smaller version of the Kraken Yuna had defeated.”

When Atora-san called them, they went to see the squid.

“This is the thing Big Sis Yuna killed?”

“That one was a lot larger though.”

“A lot larger than this one!?”

“Yes, a lot larger.”

“That’s amazing!”

“Amazing!”

The two of them were praising me while looking at the squid, but I wasn’t happy for some reason.

After our brief seafood tour, we headed towards the stands.

When we got closer, a delicious smell drifted our way.

“It seems delicious.”

“I want to eat it.”

They were looking at the stand that was grilling squid.

“Fufu, no problem. It’s my treat. You two can eat whatever you want with this.”

Atora-san offered them money, but they didn't take it.

"Why aren't you taking it?"

"Well..."

The two of them looked at me.

They were surely hesitating to take money from someone they had just met.

I took some money out of the Bear Box and gave it to them.

"This is a reward for helping me gather bamboo shoots."

"But you brought us here..."

"You took the trouble of coming here. So, go and eat delicious things."

Fina and Shuri looked at each other and nodded. Did they come to an agreement? They took the money from my Bear Hands.

"Th, thank you very much."

"Thank you."

They thanked me. However, there was one sad person looking at the two.

"Could you take my money as well?"

The sad Atora-san, who was left aside, asked them.

Fina and Shuri looked at me again, so I nodded.

They thanked Atora-san and took her money. They then happily held hands and ran towards the stands.

"They are good children."

"Yeah."

They weren't rebellious like I was.

Atora-san and I sat on a nearby bench.

"Yuna, have you heard what happened in the city?"

"I heard a little from Anzu and Deiga-san."

"About the criminals?"

I shook my head.

"Well, they wouldn't talk about it when there were little children like those two around. The previous Commerce Guild master and all the people deemed guilty of conducting serious crimes have been executed."

"I see."

"It was a public execution, but not many people came to see it. The only ones who came were families who had lost someone dear to them and the elders. I believe that, with this, those families will be able to end this chapter and start a new one."

So, that's why they wanted to go to Crimonia, huh?

"So, has the mayor been decided yet? I think Cliff wanted you to do it, but..."

"There's no way I would accept, right? I'm lazy most of the time, so I wouldn't accept something that troublesome."

"What happened then?"

"The role was forced onto Grandpa Kuro's son. Nobody opposed the idea since he is from this city."

"So, it was forced onto someone, huh. I'm sure there are a lot of people who want to be mayor though."

"They all saw the previous mayor, after all. Every day, he was told to do something about the Kraken. When he tried to get food from the nearby city, bandits appeared,

and he couldn't procure food anymore. On top of that, the residents never stopped pressuring him. They saw him at that time, so nobody wants to do it anymore. That's why Grandpa Kuro pushed it onto his son."

I felt sorry for him.

I wished him luck even though I didn't know him.

"Has the previous mayor returned?"

"With how he fled, there's no way he would return, right? The citizens wouldn't forgive him even if he returned."

"In case he returns, what will happen to the mayor's position?"

"Nothing. This city is now under Cliff-sama's jurisdiction, so the people who fled have nothing to say. Even if something does happen, I'm sure Cliff-sama will deal with it."

Atora-san seemed to trust Cliff, huh.

Well, this wasn't something I needed to concern myself with; I could just leave it to Cliff if the previous mayor returned.

"It would also be dangerous for him to return."

"Dangerous?"

"There are a lot of people who resent him."

Well, people who had been abandoned would hold grudges, no matter what world they were from.

"On another note, where are you staying, Yuna? At Deiga-san's place or at the Bear?"

"At the Bear, you say... Deiga-san's inn is full, so I'm staying at my own Bear-shaped house outside the city."

"I knew it. We really have to make more inns quicky. More people will come once the tunnel is completed, and what we have now won't be enough."

“You haven’t started building them yet?”

The wood was prepared, but no buildings have been built yet.

“I think we will start building them soon, but we don’t have enough people. Also, we have to kill the monsters in the area or the construction can’t begin safely, so we postponed it.”

“I saw Blitz, but is the monster subjugation going well?”

“Thanks to the adventurers, the monsters aren’t seen around here anymore. I’m asking the adventurers to go farther out now. When that’s done with, a full scale construction will start.”

I would appreciate if they were done before the summer heat came.

Wait, did they even have summer here? I decided to ask that later.

While I was still talking with Atora-san, Fina and Shuri came back looking happy.

“Big Sis Yuna, Atora-san. We are back.”

“We are back.”

They seemed satisfied. Did they eat something delicious?

“I will go back to the guild; what will you be doing?”

“We will go to the Commerce Guild to check on how it’s going with the country of Harmony and Peace.”

“The country of Harmony and Peace, huh? They used to come once a month, but stopped when the Kraken appeared. I hope their boat didn’t sink.”

“Well, I will wait patiently.”

If nothing else, I might be able to get some information at the capital.

We parted ways with Atora-san and headed to the Commerce Guild.

The employees seemed busy when we arrived. Not a single employee seemed free.

“Yu, Yuna-san!”

One of the female employees noticed me.

Everyone turned my way when they heard her.

“Big Sis Yuna!?”

Fina and Shuri were shocked by the reaction of the employees.

To calm them, I put my hands on their heads.

“Is the guild master here?”

“Yes. Please wait a moment.”

The employee went to the room in the back to inform the guild master that I was here.

“Bear Missy.”

Jorumo-san, who seemed worn-out, came out.

“It’s been a while.”

“Yeah. You seem well.”

“Can’t say the same for you, Jorumo-san.”

“I regret accepting the role of the guild master. I’m just too busy. I can’t even take a break. The mountains of documents aren’t decreasing at all. There’s too much to do. Also, the mentor who came from Crimonia keeps persecuting me.”

“Please don’t speak badly of other people, Jorumo-san. There wouldn’t be any problems if you just learned how to do your job. I also want to return to Crimonia, so please learn faster.”

An intelligent looking woman in mid 20s appeared behind Jorumo-san.

If she had glasses, I was sure they would suit her.

“I’m teaching you because Mylene-san requested me to. I left my husband and my children in Crimonia, so get it together!”

“I understand. I will do my best, so...”

“Prove that with your actions please.”

Was this the person Mylene-san spoke of when she said that she would send someone to help Jorumo-san?

“Yuna-san, nice to meet you. I have been sent here from Crimonia. My name is Annabelle.”

“Annabelle-san, you know about me, huh.”

“I saw you in Crimonia a few times. Also, everyone at the Crimonia’s Commerce Guild knows about you. So, why did you come here, Yuna-san? Did you come to complain about Jorumo-san?”

“Why!? I didn’t do anything, right?”

“You should do your job.”

I didn’t know if I should respond to their exchange, so I decided to ignore it.

“I came here to learn about what happened to the country of Harmony and Peace.”

“About that, huh? A boat that went out onto the high seas came in contact with a ship from the country of Harmony and Peace. The fisherman told them about the what happened to the city, so I think that trade will resume soon.”

“Really!?”

That was good news.

“Yes, but I don’t know when they will start coming again.”

Annabelle-san seemed to be an excellent person. She answered really quickly. I could understand why Mylene-san sent her. Jorumo-san might become a splendid guild master under Annabelle-san’s guidance.

“Is Jorumo-san doing okay?”

“Let me see. He is doing his best even though he tried to ditch his work a few times. Still, it’s annoying when he asks for a break right after he starts working.”

“That’s because you don’t give me a break, right?”

“If you do your best, the residents will live happy lives. Please do your best for them without taking breaks.”

It was a business that exploited its employees.

If I was told that I wouldn’t get any breaks, I would have quit already.

A great person once said: ‘If you work, you lose.’

Thinking like that, I understood the evaluation the elders gave of Jorumo-san.

He was unsteady, but he did his job. He ditched it sometimes, but he was well liked by the people. He was someone who couldn’t refuse when asked to be the guild master, huh.

“On a different note, I would like to ask you to do something for me, Yuna-san. When will you be going back to Crimonia?”

“I plan on going back tomorrow or the day after.”

“I’m sorry for requesting this, but could you please give my report to Mylene-san?”

“Report?”

“Every ten days, we send a report about what we need, but since this idiot, Jorumo-san, was behind with his work, we couldn’t send the report the other day. It’s a pressing matter, so it will be too late if we send it in the next report.”

“No problem. I just have to give it to her, right?”

“Thank you very much. I will bring it now, so I’m counting on you.”

I took the documents from Annabelle-san, and we left the Commerce Guild.

“Will you two eat dinner?”

“Ugh, I’m sorry. I’m full already.”

“Me too.”

I had only looked at them from afar, but they had indeed eaten a lot at the stands.

“Keep me company while I eat mine, okay?”

The two agreed quietly.

I wouldn’t force them to eat, of course.

CHAPTER 116

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE ACADEMY

The following day, we were on our way to the inn to see Anzu.

“Do you two really want to go back today?”

“Yes, we had plenty of fun already.”

“I want to see mom.”

Like that, it was decided that we would be going back today.

“We will go back to Crimonia today.”

I told Anzu when we arrived at the inn.

“I will also head there as soon as the tunnel is completed.”

“If I am not there when you arrive, you can go to the orphanage and ask for a woman named Terumi-san.”

I didn't know when the tunnel would be completed, and I wasn't in Crimonia everyday.

“You might not be there, Yuna-san?”

“I have a troublesome job, you see. It's possible that I won't be there when you arrive. But don't worry. Terumi-san is the mother of these children, after all.”

“Really?”

Anzu looked at the two.

“Yes, mother helps out Big Sis Yuna.”

“I see. The orphanage, you said?”

After I finished talking to Anzu, I said goodbye to Deiga-san, and left the city.

I rode Swaying Bear while Fina and Shuri rode Hugging Bear.

We went through the tunnel and arrived to Crimonia.

First, I had to give back what I borrowed.

“I’m returning your daughters I borrowed.”

“Were they helpful?”

Fina and Shuri clung to Terumi-san, and she petted their heads.

“They did their best.”

“That’s good. Did you two have fun?”

“Yes, it was really fun. The sea was really vast, and we even rode on a boat.”

“The food was delicious.”

They reported what had happened during the trip to Terumi-san, who listened happily.

“Yuna-chan, thank you very much for giving them such a precious experience.”

“Next time, you should come with us too, Terumi-san.”

“You’re right. Should I go with you next time?”

When we finished talking about the trip, Fina and Shuri seemed tired and went to sleep in their bedroom. Did the fatigue from the trip kick in?

Left alone with Terumi-san, I told her about Anzu.

“When they come, I just have to look after them?”

“I’ll be counting on you. You don’t have to worry about money and can use it as you please, so I will leave the restaurant’s interior design to you.”

Thanks to Terumi-san, I didn’t have to worry even if I wasn’t here.

I said goodbye to Terumi-san and went to the orphanage.

I should make Anzu and the other women a place to live next to the orphanage. Should I make it like a company-style dormitory? Or more like an inn-style dormitory?

I made the first floor as the common area. On the second and third floor, I made a number of four and a half tatami large rooms.

They should be okay for one person each. Inns were also like this.

Also, with the number I made, it should be okay even if more people came.

(TN: 4.5 tatami is about 7.5m²)

A few days later, I used the Bear Transfer Gate and went to the capital.

I then waited at the Bear House for Eleanora-san to come.

“Good morning, Yuna-chan.”

“Good morning.”

“We will go to the academy, okay?”

“Am I really going?”

Dealing with people of the same generation as me wasn’t something I was good at.

Was it because I was a hikikomori?

“You promised, right?”

“That’s right, but you could have found a substitute or something.”

“Since you accepted, I didn’t even look for one.”

I see.

After giving up and following Eleanora-san towards the academy, I noticed students wearing uniforms walking everywhere. I sometimes saw those uniforms when I was walking around the capital. It was a navy blue and white uniform. They all came with a navy blue mantle.

As we walking towards the academy, the students tried to look at us discreetly.

Then, whispers,

“A bear?” “Why would a bear be at the academy?” “The one next to the bear is Eleanora-san, right?” “Why would she wear such strange clothes?” “It’s cute, but those are really embarrassing clothes.” “Wow, this is the first time I have seen such interesting clothes!” “Are they doing a play?” “Isn’t she embarrassed?” “I think it’s cute.” “Look at her hands. Those are bears!” “Now that you say so, the feet are also...” “Where do they sell such clothes?” “Will we be eaten if we approach her?” “I want to hug her.” “It’s a joke to walk around in those clothes, right?” “I saw her walking around the capital before.” “I also heard about her from my friend.”

came from the students.

“Can I go back?”

“Of course you can’t.”

She grabbed me by the shoulders so that I couldn’t run away.

While still hearing the whispers, we reached the academy.

It looked like a castle from the middle ages.

“So this is the academy.”

“Children ages 12 to 18 attend here.”

“It’s big.”

I was astonished by the size of the academy.

“That’s because a lot of children in the capital attend the academy despite the tuition fee.”

Should I make a small school at the orphanage too?

There were a lot of children, and even though they were already learning how to read and do simple math, they weren’t doing any social studies. Still, the children were also working, so they might not have enough time. I should think about this more.

We entered the academy, and I was brought to a place that seemed to be a staff room. It looked like I would meet the homeroom teacher of the students first.

Every time I imagined being in a staff room, I became uneasy, but that might be because I never went to school.

We entered the staff room and met a man who seemed to be in his 30s.

“Professor Schoerg.”

“If it isn’t Eleanora-sama.....and a bear?”

“This is the female adventurer who will be the escort.”

“Eleanora-sama, is this a joke? I only see a 12 or 13 years old girl, though. Could she possibly be a girl who wants to enter the academy?”

“She is a respectable C rank adventurer.”

“Rank C...”

He looked at me doubtfully.

If he said just one disapproving word, like he can’t trust me or any other negative word, I might be able to get out of this one, but...

Eleanora-san asked me to show him my guild card, and I, not being able to refuse her, showed it to him.

“Occupation... Bear?”

What were you looking at?

“Look at the rank.”

“Ah, I’m sorry. Adventurer rank C. Really? It’s not fake, right?”

“It’s real. I guarantee it with my, Eleanora’s, name at stake.”

“I can’t believe it, but I trust you, Eleanora-sama. Your daughter is in the group this girl has to escort, and I don’t think you would put her in danger.”

Wasn’t this the moment where he should say, 『I don’t trust you, so I won’t entrust my students to you!』 ? If he did, I would have an excuse to go back.

Did that mean he trusted Eleanora-san so much that it wiped out the anxiety my appearance gave him?

I took back my guild card and put it in the Bear Box.

“So, Yuna-san, was it? Do you need any explanation about the practice training?”

“I was told that I just have to protect them in case of danger, and that I had to report their attitudes.”

“Yes. Basically, let them be independent. Even if they go the wrong way, or if their actions are bad, don’t interfere. Stop them only if their actions could be dangerous.”

“You are telling me to do some difficult things.”

“That’s why finding someone to do this is difficult.”

I might have accepted a really troublesome request.

Also, the people I had to guard were of the same age as me. I couldn’t imagine it being anything but troublesome.

“So, how far are we going?”

It would be great if it was near.

“You are going to a village that is three to four days away by carriage, and you will be transporting wheat flour.”

“It will take about 10 days for the round trip.”

It was a bit far.

Still, I would probably be able to make the round trip in one day if I used my Bears.

“That means we will be going by carriage?”

“That’s right. That’s why, Yuna-chan, your bears are forbidden, okay? They would frighten the horses.”

I did remember her saying something like that before. Something about taking a long trip by a carriage and taking care of the horses.

“That means it’s okay for me to sleep in the carriage, right?”

“That’s right.”

“Eleanora-sama!”

“I’m joking. It’s true that you will have a lot of free time since you are an escort, though. You can just protect them using your own methods, Yuna-chan.”

After listening to the journey details, we went to the class where the people I would have to guard were.

“A bear?”

“Why is a bear here?”

“That’s a bear, right?”

“Yuna-san?”

There was only one student that had a different reaction.

Of course, it was Eleanora-san's daughter, Shia.

There were four students wearing uniforms in the classroom; two boys and two girls.

Were these four the ones I would have to guard?

If I had to describe them simply, there was an intelligent looking boy with slightly long hair, a seemingly cheeky short-haired boy, a girl with blond hair fashioned into drills, and of course, Shia.

They were all looking at me.

"All of you, be quiet."

"Professor, who is this bear?"

"Don't tell me that she is the additional member who is supposed to go with our party?"

"She is too short, so that's impossible."

While the other students were talking as they pleased, Shia smiled and waved at me.

"You guys are wrong. This is Kuma... *cough* this is Yuna-san..."

Just now, he said Kuma, right?

Their professor started to introduce me as a bear before changing it to my name.

"She is the adventurer who is going to be your escort."

"What are you saying, professor? No matter how I look at it, she is younger than us."

"That's right, professor. Stop joking please."

The blond drills became angry.

There really were people with this sort of hairstyle, huh.

“I’m not joking. This girl is a full-fledged C rank adventurer. She came here because I asked her to be your escort. There are no people here who would disrespect my recommendation, right?”

Eleanora-san explained to the students who were making a racket, though it looked more like a threat.

“Don’t worry. I guarantee her ability.”

If it was me, I wouldn’t be able not to worry.

I was a girl who looked younger than them.

Even more, I was wearing strange clothes.

Also, if I was looking at myself from their perspective, I wouldn’t believe that I was an adventurer either.

There was nothing I could relieve them with.

If the children vetoed me out, would I be able to go home?

“Eleanora-sama, is this girl really rank C? I was taught that it was really difficult to rank up to that point, though?”

Blond drills asked.

“Of course, it’s difficult. Just with that, you should understand how impressive this girl really is, right?”

“But, Eleanora-sama, if a little girl like her became a C ranker, there is no way that I wouldn’t know about it, right?”

Long-haired boy tried to show off his knowledge.

“That’s completely normal. This girl came from Crimonia, so she is not widely known in the capital. There are only few people who know about her here.”

“Still, if this bear could become a C rank, I can become a B rank.”

Short-haired boy laughed.

“It seems that there is someone who is ranked higher than me, so can I go home?”

There was no problem, right? He was stronger than me, so he doesn’t need a guard, right?

“That’s impossible, of course.”

Ugh, I really wanted to go home.

I looked at Shia and listened in her conversation with the blond drills.

“Hey, Shia-san, did you know that the academy was this stupid? They say they want a little girl like her to escort us. Honestly, won’t we be the ones who will have to protect her?”

“Fufu, Cattleya-san, that’s not true at all. She is the best escort we could get. Even if I had the choice to go with a S ranked adventurer, I would still choose her.”

“Ara, Shia-san, do you know this Bear?”

“Just a bit.”

“Really?”

“I thought that this practice training would be boring, but I’m now happy that it won’t end up as such.”

“Really? Personally, I don’t want to go since it seems troublesome.”

Then, couldn’t you refuse with a louder voice?

“Anyway, this girl will be your escort. You have no right to refuse.”

“Eleanora-sama, can we abandon this bear?”

“I don’t mind.”

You should have defended me there!

“If it’s okay even if she dies, I won’t say a thing.”

“I’m also fine with it. In the first place, even without an escort adventurer, a training of this level is easy.”

“I’m fine with it as well.”

“I am also okay with it, of course.”

They all agreed, and so it was decided I would be their escort.

CHAPTER 117

BEAR-SAN DEPARTS FOR THE PRACTICE TRAINING

They all introduced themselves.

Long-hair-kun was Timor.

Short-hair-kun was Marcus.

Blond drill was Cattleya.

Eleanora-san's daughter was Shia.

After those simple greetings, we headed to the carriage waiting for us outside.

We parted ways with the professor and Eleanora-san here.

This meant that, from the moment we left the classroom, the practice training began.

I was walking behind the group when Shia slowed down to walk next to me.

"Yuna-san, it's been a while."

"Yes. We haven't seen each other since the birthday party, right?"

"My mother told me that you came to the capital a few times. She said something about bringing delicious food every time."

"I brought those for Princess Flora, but somehow, each time I brought them, Eleanora-san popped out from nowhere, and ate with us, that's all."

"My mother's information network is incredible, after all."

More than incredible, it was such an impossible riddle that she could become one of the seven wonders of the world.

"I didn't know that you would be our escort."

"Eleanora-san told me you would be in the group when I accepted, though."

"Mother knew, but kept it a secret, huh."

She puffed her cheeks and pouted, annoyed by the fact.

It was cute when such a beautiful girl did it, huh.

Even if I did the same..... I should stop thinking about this.

After I finished talking with Shia, we exited the academy and went to the backyard.

Why did we come here? Was it possibly the thing that often happened in schools? You know, like being beaten up, threatened or robbed?

I thought that, but I seemed to be wrong.

There was a carriage there. Also, horses.

So, it was a place like that...

“I knew it, we were the last ones!”

Marcus said while looking around.

“The last ones?”

“There are more groups like ours, but they are going to different locations. Marcus is competing with the other boys on who will come back first.”

“It’s just foolish.”

Cattleya seemed annoyed by the boys’ behavior.

I agreed with her.

“What are you guys doing? We should hurry and go!”

Marcus, who was already at the carriage, shouted.

It was a roofed carriage. With this, we won’t get wet even if it rained, huh?

Two horses were harnessed to the carriage. I thought that they would be enough to pull it.

When I was passing the coach to enter the carriage, Marcus called out to me.

“I don’t know why you came with us, but at least don’t drag us down!”

“That’s right. Please don’t drop our score by dragging us down.”

Marcus and Timor said, as if making a fool out of me.

I wanted to go home. If Shia wasn’t here, I would have gone home without a doubt.

“Guys, you are being rude to Yuna-san. She is our escort, so you have to speak to her politely.”

“I can’t be polite to a bear! Also, we aren’t so weak to need protection from a girl younger than us!”

“I can’t believe she is a C rank adventurer. This must be some sort of a test for us.”

“You sure? If it is, does that mean we have to protect this girl?”

“It’s possible.”

“So troublesome. Shia, Cattleya, you should take care of this strange girl. You are all girls, right?”

“You are saying a really selfish thing, you...”

When Cattleya tried to complain, Shia interrupted her.

“I don’t mind. I will take care of Yuna-san.”

“Shia-san?”

“You said it. Now that you’ve said it, you have to look after her properly. We won’t, after all.”

The boys smiled, happy that they pushed the nuisance on others, and went to the coach.

Shia was also smiling, but I was sure that the reason they were smiling was different.

“Yuna-san, we should board the carriage too.”

Shia took my hand, and we climbed into the carriage at the back.

The wheat flour bags, that were to be transported to the village, were already in the carriage.

“I don’t mind taking care of Bear-san, but are you really okay with this, Shia-san?”

“Are you also fine with this Cattleya-san? I can take care of her by myself, you know?”

Hmm, normally, I should be the one taking care of the them, right?

“I don’t mind since taking care of a little girl is a lady’s duty.”

“Cattleya-san, thank you.”

“You don’t have to worry. Then, Bear-san, if you have any problems, please tell us, okay?”

That meant Cattleya-san didn’t trust me to be her guard, right? Or even more, she didn’t even think of me as a guard, did she?

“I will be in your care.”

Was all I could say.

“More importantly, didn’t they have a better carriage?”

Cattleya-san grumbled while looking around the carriage’s interior.

“There is no helping it, Cattleya-san. It’s a carriage to transport things, after all.”

“I understand that, but I still feel depressed, knowing I will have to stay in this carriage for the next few days.”

I totally agreed with her.

When I traveled, I did so wrapped in first-class fur while riding on a bear. I also slept in the Bear House, but I couldn't use either this time around.

"Yuna-san, you won't use Bear-sans?"

Shia whispered.

"Eleanora-san prohibited them."

"Why?"

"She said that I can't use them, since they would scare the horses if I brought them out."

Well, that might depend on the horses; Gran-san's and guild master's horses were perfectly fine, so I didn't believe it would have really been a problem.

"Too bad then. Noa kept bragging about them, so I thought that it would have been great if I were also be able to ride Bear-sans."

"Monsters don't approach when those children are present, so I don't think this could have been considered a training."

"You're right. I will have to give up this time."

"Give up what?"

"Cattleya-san, were you listening?"

"No, I only heard you say, 『I will have to give up.』 with a sad face."

"It isn't anything important, so you don't have to worry about it."

"You sure? If it is something I can help you with, don't hesitate to tell me, okay?"

"Thank you, Cattleya-san."

"No problem."

Cattleya-san took out a cushion from her item bag and sat on it.

She was well-prepared, huh.

“Yuna-san, you may use my cushion if you want.”

Shia offered me her cushion. She seemed to only have one. Did she want to give me her only cushion?

“No need. I have my own, after all.”

I took a cushion out of the Bear Box. The cushion had a bear embroidered onto it. One of the children from the orphanage made it for me to thank me for taking care of them.

It was a cherished item, so I had put it in the Bear Box.

I silently thanked the child who made it, and sat on the cushion.

“We will depart now!”

Marcus shouted to us inside the carriage.

“Okay!”

“We are ready to go.”

The two girls answered, and the carriage started to move.

We moved through the capital and then passed the front gates.

“We will drive for now, but we will switch at noon!”

The carriage slowly advanced towards the village we were headed to.

“Yuna-san, is Noa doing well?”

“She is. She takes any chance she gets to escape the mansion and come to my shop, after all.”

“I heard that you made a thriving shop from Father the other day. I’m really jealous of Noa.”

“Ara, Bear-san, you are managing a shop? Aren’t you an adventurer?”

“I’m an adventurer. I just built the shop, and someone else is managing it.”

“Ara, are you rich?”

“Well, money is the only thing I have, after all.”

“Father said that the food there was delicious. I really want to return to Crimonia soon.”

Shia said. Did she miss Crimonia?

“You will have to wait until the holidays.”

“Why won’t the holidays come sooner?”

“Shia-san, please take me with you when you leave, okay?”

It looked like Shia and Cattleya had a good relationship.

Cattleya didn’t seem to believe that I was a C rank adventurer, but I still thought she was a good person. If it was like this, I thought that I would be able to bear with these few days of travel.

While I was lost in my thoughts, the carriage moved onward without a problem.

From time to time, I looked around using detection magic, but everything was peaceful.

If I had to complain about something, it would be that the carriage was shaking too much. If I didn’t have my cushion, my butt would probably be hurting by now. Well, thanks to the Bear Clothes, it might have not, but I should still be thankful to that child from the orphanage. It might be good to buy a souvenir when I come back to the capital.

Some time had passed, and we took a break to eat lunch and give the horses time to rest. The students all took out bread or other easy to make things from their item bag. Such a sad meal.

In my Bear Box, I had a lot of prepared meals that were still hot.

Still, as one would expect, I couldn't just bring out a steaming meal, so I decided to eat one of the sandwiches Morin-san made for me.

Egg sandwich, cheese sandwich, vegetable sandwich, potato-salad sandwich, meat sandwich... I had a lot of different ones.

As expected from Morin-san; it seemed delicious.

"Yuna-san, it looks delicious."

Shia was looking at my sandwich.

"Want one?"

"Can I really have one?"

"Yes. I have a lot of them, after all. Ermm, Cattleya, was it? Do you want one as well?"

Cattleya was enviously looking my way, so I asked her too.

"Is it really okay?"

"Yeah."

I gave a sandwich to both of them.

"Delicious!"

"It is better than the food our chef makes."

"It's made by an excellent baker, after all."

I was happy as if I was the one being praised.

While we were happily eating our sandwiches, Marcus was looking at us from afar. When he saw that I had noticed him, he looked away.

We finished our break, and it was the girls' turn to drive. As one would expect, I wasn't fat enough to be forced to stay with the boys inside the carriage, so Shia, Katreia, and I were all on the coach seat.

The carriage continued to move towards our destination.

We were still close to the capital, so we didn't encounter any monsters, and now, the first night approached.

CHAPTER 118

BEAR-SAN FINDS GOBLINS

The sun was going down, so the students started setting up the campsite.

There wasn't really much to do, though. They just had to tend to the horses and start a campfire.

We then all ate our own food before going to sleep.

"So, I will be first lookout, then Timor, Cattleya, and Shia. Is that okay?"

"Yes."

They all nodded.

He didn't list my name, so that meant I could sleep, right?

The person on lookout also had to tend to the fire.

The others would be sleeping in the narrow-spaced carriage.

"Timor, are you okay?"

Cattleya called out to Timor when he left the carriage.

"I don't have the courage to sleep next to three girls. I will sleep outside with Marcus."

"I really appreciate this. After all, I can't sleep with boys either."

Cattleya-san thanked Timor.

The three of us found places to sleep inside the small carriage. Even without the boys, there was barely enough space. I was sure Timor had decided to sleep outside because he had realized that.

We wrapped ourselves in our blankets and lied down.

“Yuna-san, Shia-san, have a good night.”

“Goodnight.”

“Night.”

I thought we would have some girl talk, but they weren't used to traveling, so they fell asleep really quickly.

I didn't change into the White Bear either. I was sure that they would have mocked me if I had changed. I didn't use any magic and didn't do anything that would have tired me out either. If I had to complain about something, it would be that I was tired mentally.

I didn't think that being around boys of the same age as me would wear me out this much.

This must have been the reason I stopped going to school and became a hikikomori.

I dove deep under the blanket and summoned Hugging Bear in his cub form under it. Hugging Bear climbed on top of my belly; he felt light thanks to the Bear Clothes.

“Wake me up if any monsters or bandits come, okay? ...Also, I don't think they will, but if the boys come to assault us, tell me, okay?”

Hugging Bear cried out softly to avoid waking the other two up.

I used Hugging Bear as a stuffed toy replacement and went to sleep.

Hugging Bear was warm and gave me a sense of security; it wasn't long before I fell asleep.

I opened my eyes when Cattleya moved.

It seemed it was time for a lookout change.

“I'm coming.”

She silently said to someone. According to the lookout order, it should be Timor.

Cattleya climbed out of the carriage.

I hugged Hugging Bear and fell back asleep just after.

A while later, Cattleya returned and woke up Shia.

Shia was the last lookout, so it would be morning soon, right?

Shia left the carriage while Cattleya rolled up in her blanket and went to sleep.

Carefully, trying not to wake Cattleya up, I stretched and left the carriage with my blanket still rolled up around me.

I was still embracing Hugging Bear, of course.

“Yuna-san, why did you wake up?”

Shia whispered when she noticed me leaving the carriage.

“You see, I would feel bad if I was the only one sleeping without being on the lookout duty. So, I will do it with you.”

I sat next to Shia.

“Thank you very much.”

Shia thanked me. She then shivered and extended her hands toward the fire.

“Are you cold?”

“Just a little.”

The sun didn't rise yet, so it was probably chilly.

Not like I could feel it wearing the Bear Clothes, though.

I was also hugging something warm under my blanket.

“Shia, should I lend you something warm?”

“Something warm, you say?”

I showed her Hugging Bear from inside the blanket.

“B... Bear-san!”

“He is warm, you know!”

I offered Hugging Bear to her. Hugging Bear gave me a confused look, as if to say 『What is going on?』 .

“Hugging Bear, keep Shia warm, okay?”

“Is it really okay?”

Even though she said that, she was already stretching out her hand. Hugging Bear cried out softly and was then hugged by Shia.

She brought him under her blanket.

“He is warm. Yuna-san, thank you very much.”

She seemed really happy while holding Hugging Bear.

“But why is he small?”

“He is a summoned beast, so he can be made small. Well, even if you ask me about the specifics, I wouldn’t be able to answer.”

“He is warm and feels good. It makes me sleepy.”

She closed her eyes, enjoying the feeling.

“Sleeping is no good!”

“Yes, but I will be able to boast to Noa about this.”

“Boast, you say...”

“Noa was boasting she had slept with the bears, you see. And she was talking about it really happily! It made me really frustrated.”

I couldn't understand what those sisters were competing about...

After some time had passed, the sun began to rise, so we decided to wake everyone up.

That also meant saying goodbye to Hugging Bear.

“Hugging Bear, thank you!”

Shia said regretfully.

When everyone woke up, we ate a simple breakfast and departed towards the village.

The boys drove the carriage while the girls rode in the back.

When I was with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, I didn't really notice it, but traveling was really boring, huh. There was nothing to do in a shaking carriage. Would some games help kill time? Thinking about traveling, the standard games were Poker or Othello, but would we be able to play them in the carriage?

The carriage hit a rock and shook. Playing Othello would probably be impossible if the pieces weren't magnetized.

Poker might work since we would be holding the cards in our hand?

Asking for the impossible wouldn't help my job, so I used detection magic to check our surroundings.

Huh? I found two goblins in the direction we were moving towards.

If we stayed on this path, we would encounter them without a doubt.

What should I do?

Should I tell them?

I didn't think that just two goblins would be a problem.

Hmmmmmmmm.....

“Yuna-san, what is it?”

Shia called out to me as I was still troubled over what to do.

Would it be okay if I told her?

Worrying didn't really help, so I decided to talk about it.

“There seem to be two goblins not far ahead. You guys should talk about what's the best thing to do.”

“Goblins, you say?”

“You sure?”

“I didn't know if it was okay to tell you since this is a practice training...”

I replied honestly.

I wasn't their teacher, so I didn't know if the goblins were considered dangerous.

If it was a monster they couldn't defeat for sure, like an orc for example, I wouldn't hesitate to tell them.

“How do you know about the goblins?”

Cattleya asked the logical thing.

They weren't at an age where they would unconditionally trust me like Fina.

Fina would believe me for sure, but....

I was troubled over how to explain it to them; it was time for my Bears to shine.

I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear in their cub forms.

“Wh, What are those!”

“My summons. They told me about the monsters.”

“Summons...”

Cattleya was surprised by the Bears who suddenly appeared before her.

“Yuna-san, are the goblins really in front of us?”

“If we continue to move forward like this, we will encounter two goblins.”

“Marcus, stop the carriage!”

Shia shouted to Marcus who was driving. Did she trust the bears and me?

Marcus, surprised by Shia’s voice, stopped the carriage.

“What!? Did something happen!?”

“It seems that there are goblins ahead of us.”

“Haaah? What are you saying? I can’t see any goblins!”

Marcus looked ahead and was annoyed by Shia’s words.

Of course he would be annoyed when he was told something like that so suddenly.

“Yuna-san said there are two goblins in front of us...”

“Why would the Bear, who is inside the carriage and can’t see the road, know that there are goblins in front of us?”

That was a totally reasonable opinion.

“Well, Yuna-san’s bears...”

“Bears? What are you talking about?”

When she said something like that so suddenly, there was no way Marcus would understand, right?

Since she didn’t know how to explain, Shia didn’t respond.

That was why I decided to explain it myself.

“The reason I know about the goblins is thanks to these children.”

I showed him the bears.

“What are those!?”

“They are my summons. They told me that there are monsters not far ahead.”

I didn't really lie.

I knew about the goblins thanks to my detection magic, but these children knew their location too.

“And that's why I know there are monsters even from inside the carriage.”

“Something like that is just...”

“I know. Well, even if you don't believe me, you just have to move forward and you will see them. More importantly, what will you do about the goblins when you get there? If you can't kill them, I will do it in your place, but...”

“D, don't joke with me. There are only two goblins. We can kill them. Timor, we should move on!”

He wasn't saying that he would fight them alone, huh.

Marcus made the carriage move forward.

“Yuna-san, the Bear-sans had such an ability, huh.”

“Well, yeah. So, can you two kill the goblins?”

“Yes, no problem.”

“They are only goblins; we can kill them.”

They were saying some really reassuring things.

I would just watch this time then.

“More importantly, are these bears really your summoned beasts, Yuna-san?”

Cattleya looked at Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

“I summoned them right in front of you, didn’t I?”

“Would it be possible for me to touch them?”

When I gave her permission, she timidly extended her hand and caressed Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear’s heads.

“They are really docile, huh.”

“Well, they are docile as long as you don’t harm them.”

“I thought that bears were scary, but they are cute, right?”

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear narrowed their eyes and looked like they were really enjoying it.

While Cattleya was still caressing Swaying Bear, a voice was heard from the coach.

“Marcus, those are...”

When we heard Timor’s voice, we all looked ahead. There were two silhouettes. After the carriage advanced some more, they realized that they were indeed goblins.

Marcus stopped the carriage and looked at the goblins as if he couldn’t believe what he saw.

The goblins also noticed the carriage, of course. They were looking towards us while holding weapons in their hands.

“Marcus, what should we do!?”

Shia called out, and Marcus turned towards us.

“Timor and I will take on the right one and leave the left one to you two. Bear, you take care of the carriage, okay?”

Marcus gave us instructions and jumped down from the coach together with Timor.

“Yuna-san, I’m going.”

Cattleya and Shia also went towards the goblins.

I couldn’t drive a carriage, but I still took the coach reins.

Wasn’t this the most dangerous place for me to be at, then?

If the carriage started moving, I wouldn’t be able to stop it. Honestly, I was more scared of a horse running wild than fighting a goblin.

What was wrong with me? I was more stressed about being left alone with a carriage than in a herd of goblins...

Praying for the horses not to move suddenly, I watched the battle unfold.

CHAPTER 119

BEAR-SAN TALKS ABOUT EXPERIENCE

Marcus took out his sword while Timor stayed in the back with his short wand.

Shia and Cattleya were both wielding swords, trying to attract the other goblin's attention.

Marcus rushed towards the first goblin, and, at the same time, Timor attacked the goblin with fire magic. The goblin's movements became dull for a second. Using that moment, Marcus attacked the goblin with his sword. The goblin groaned, and parried with his rusty sword.

Timor was in the rear and used a short wand, so he was a magician, right? The power of his magic was really low, though.

I knew that I shouldn't compare it to mine, but it was still weak.

Was it because he was only a student?

Or did he lower his power since Marcus was close?

Wait, if he was able to kill it with one magic attack, there would be no need for Marcus to charge in, right?

Marcus's sword technique was also awkward. The goblin had a lot of openings, but Marcus was still being pushed back.

"Shit."

Marcus clicked his tongue and moved backwards to create some distance between him and the goblin. When he moved far enough, Timor launched a spell, but it didn't hit the goblin.

Marcus tried to hit the goblin again, but the goblin parried with its sword.

This situation made me want to launch magic at the goblin's unprotected head.

Hmm, I didn't know that looking at others fighting would be so frustrating and stressful.

I shifted my gaze a little and looked to see how Shia and Cattleya were doing. They were fighting a distance away from Marcus.

Shia kept their goblin in check while Cattleya covered her with magic.

They also had an advantage, but they weren't able to finish it off.

"Shia-san, I will launch stronger magic; use that chance."

Cattleya sent several fireballs from the distance.

They hit the goblin, but didn't deal a fatal wound. She stopped his movement, though.

Using the opening, Shia shortened the distance between her and the goblin, then launched the fireball she had in her hand at point blank range, pushing the goblin back. The goblin moved back one, two steps after taking that magic. Shia moved in and used her sword that was in her left hand.

She cut the goblin's arm, then pierced its throat. With its throat pierced, the goblin crumbled to the ground.

They managed to finish it off, but they apparently weren't able to defeat it easily.

Cattleya's movement and magic already became dull.

Was she really able to use stronger magic?

"Haa, haa, we killed it. What about Marcus and Timor?"

Their fight was also finished. They had a hard fight too, but managed to defeat it thanks to their combination.

Hmm, was this really something they had to struggle with?

"This was easy."

For someone who just said that, Marcus and Timor were breathing really hard.

With just one goblin...

Was this normal?

Still, they were able to kill a goblin, so that meant they had the strength of newbie E rank adventurers, right?

Didn't that actually mean they were strong for their age?

Well, facing a herd of goblin or orcs would still be impossible for them.

As Eleanora-san told me, taking on a goblin was their limit, it seemed.

From what I saw, the problem was the lack of power, but there was also the lack of experience.

Just like a novice gamer, they hesitated on how to attack.

I fought thousands, if not ten thousands of monsters and people in the game. I died a lot, lost a lot, but piled up experience. You could learn a lot from dying and losing. When you lost, you did your best to become stronger in order to win next time. What wasn't good enough? What was needed to become stronger? These children didn't have that experience. If they lost, only death awaited them, and when you died in this world, it was game over.

They were exactly like me who had never led a horse.

If I had experience with it, I could drive the carriage and wouldn't be this anxious. Since I had no experience with it, I wasn't able to drive the carriage, and I was really stressed out being the only one on the driver's seat.

Experience became your strength, be it your fighting technique or just how you see the battle; experience was linked to your growth, both physically and mentally.

Like me for an example, if I didn't have the experience from the game, I would have a lot of problems even while having my Bear Equipment.

I wouldn't have known how to use magic, nor would I have known how dangerous fighting was. I might not have even been able to kill things with magic.

I remembered how scared I was when I first fought a monster in the very realistic game. I was able to keep it together only after I did it a few times.

If I came here before I played the game, I would have probably just continued my hikikomori life here. Or I might have even been killed by the first wolf I encountered. All of this proved how much I really knew the importance of experience.

I think the academy was doing this practice training for that very reason.

The King and Eleanora-san also said that this training was to get experience.

The difficulties of traveling, the management of the horses, the terribleness of camping at night, the fear of monsters, the trust in comrades, the reliance on the guards, and many other things. I was sure fighting monsters was one of them.

I finally understood that my role was to protect them from dangers while they were learning about them, and how difficult my job really was.

I wanted to complain to Eleanora-san when we returned to the capital.

“I didn’t think goblins would really be here.”

Timor looked at the goblin corpses.

“I thought so too.”

“But with this, it is now proven that the Bear-san can detect monsters.”

Shia said happily.

“I still can’t believe it, though.”

They were all looking at the bears, who were sitting at my sides. The Bears noticed their gazes and looked back at them while tilting their heads.

“Isn’t it just a coincidence?”

Marcus said. He still didn’t believe it?

I looked at the Bears beside me. Yep, I wouldn't believe it either. They looked like normal bear cubs, after all. Even though I knew this was a different world, I still wouldn't believe it.

Someone spoke up in my stead, though.

"Bear-sans have no reason to lie, right?!"

"That's right!"

Shia and Cattleya confronted Marcus and glared at him.

Marcus stepped back one, two steps.

Shia and Cattleya moved forward one, two steps.

"The bears proved it, right?"

"Even if they found the goblins by chance, could you guess the distance and the number of monsters, relying just on your luck, Marcus?"

Cattleya was saying some impossible things.

The girls advanced one more step.

"I get it, so stop being angry, okay?"

"It's good if you understand."

The two were satisfied and backed off.

"But summoned beasts, huh. It's my first time seeing one."

Timor stared at the bears.

I was sure that if he had glasses, the action of pushing them up on his nose would suit him.

Well, if he did it in front of me, I would probably break his glasses, though.

“Yuna-san, right? How strong are these summoned beasts?”

“I won’t tell you. I told you about the goblins just because Shia believed me.”

“Yuna-san.....”

Shia seemed happy.

“You’re right. I’m sorry for asking something strange.”

Timor apologised obediently.

He was polite?

The students then proceeded to dismantle the goblins since, more monsters would come if we didn’t dispose of the corpses. They properly dismantled the goblins. Did they learn how to do it in one of their classes?

“We won’t have any problems with this practice training since we have these bears, though.”

Cattleya came back to the carriage after dismantling the corpse, and sat on the driver seat while embracing Swaying Bear.

I casually passed over the reins to her. Cattleya took them, not paying it any mind. Perfect, I could be at ease now.

“I’m sorry to say this, but from now on I won’t say anything if it’s just goblins, you know.”

“Ara, is that so?”

“It wouldn’t be a practice training if I did. I now know you can at least kill the goblins. I will tell you if any dangerous monsters approach, though.”

“But, if you do that, there would be no meaning to this training, right?”

Shia butted in.

“I mean, if it’s only goblins, we can kill them, and if you told us when stronger monsters approached, the training would be pointless.”

“Then, should I not rely on Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear’s powers?”

I brought the Bears back to Bear Hands.

“They really disappeared.”

Cattleya seemed a little sad when the bear she was embracing disappeared.

“I won’t use the Bears’ powers anymore, so you should be aware of your surroundings from now on, okay?”

I wouldn’t use the Bears, but I would still use the detection magic.

I would be troubled if they died because of a sudden attack, after all.

“We are perfectly okay even without the bears. We would have defeated the goblins even if you didn’t tell us!”

Marcus shouted.

I didn’t think he should be this proud for being able to kill just one goblin, though...

They all boarded the carriage, and we once again embarked towards the village.

Shia and Cattleya asked me to summon the bears again, but I refused.

This was a moment when I had to be firm.

Still, when they were sleeping, I secretly summoned my bears, so they could look around for any dangers.

During our travel to the village, the only encounter were the goblins again.

Only two appeared this time as well, so the students were able to deal with them on their own.

Unlike the last time, they killed them smoothly. They learned fast, huh.

Soon enough, we reached our destination.

CHAPTER 120

BEAR-SAN ARRIVES AT THE VILLAGE

A villager welcomed us when we arrived at the village.

More villagers slowly came until a few dozen villagers had gathered.

Wasn't this too much just for fetching us?

"Welcome to the village; we were waiting for you. I'm Kabos, the village chief."

The chief stepped forward and greeted us.

They must have been contacted in advance.

Even if it was just for a short while, the nobility from the capital's academy came to visit. It was normal for this many people to gather, right?

The chief looked at us. When his gaze reached me, it stopped for just a moment before moving on.

Marcus stepped forward and stood in front of the chief.

"We came from the academy. My name is Marcus. What we brought is inside the carriage."

Marcus responded as our representative.

Now that I thought about it, wasn't Marcus the leader of the party?

He was the one who gave orders during the fights and also decided on who would do what.

Sorry Shia, but it was Cattleya who seemed the most competent to me.

It was also like this in the game; boys were the leaders in almost every mixed party, right?

"Thank you very much. We will tend to the carriage right away."

When the chief said that, Timor, who was still holding the reins, climbed down from the carriage.

The chief then went to check what was in the carriage and tilted his head, confused.

“Is something wrong?”

“No, I just thought that there would be an adventurer inside the carriage. Is it possible that you came here by yourselves?”

Did he possibly think I was one of the students?

I wasn't wearing the uniform, you know? I was a Bear-san, you know?

“But I heard that you had an adventurer escorting you...”

I see. So, the chief was looking for the adventurer, huh.

When he said that, the students all looked at me.

“The adventurer is right here.”

Marcus looked at me with a difficult expression.

What was with that bitter smile of yours?

“Huh, are you saying that this missy is an adventurer?”

“Yep, more or less.”

When the chief heard those words, his expression crumbled.

Not just the chief, all of the villagers also wore discouraged expressions.

“Are there any other adventurers?”

The chief looked around.

“Nope, only her.”

When Marcus replied as such, the chief looked at me.

He then started to stagger as if he was about to collapse.

What!?

Wasn't that really rude?

Looking at me and staggering as if he had received a shock...

He was shocked to hear that a girl like me was an adventurer, right?

It didn't mean that he received a shock after seeing my face, right?

It was rude either way, though...

“Chief!”

The villagers rushed to the chief and supported his body.

“I'm fine.”

The chief looked at me again.

“Miss, are you an adventurer?”

“I am.”

“I see.”

The chief thoroughly looked at me and sighed.

“What? If you have something to say, just spit it out already.”

His attitude was really irritating me.

Just sighing after looking at my face.

“You seem to be acting a bit strange. Did something happen?”

Shia asked the chief.

“It’s not something we could ask the students to do.”

“You can’t know that if you don’t tell us what it is.”

Seeing the chief’s attitude, Marcus’s normal tone returned.

“Chief, isn’t it okay to tell them at least?”

One of the men supporting chief’s body said.

“But, asking the students is.....”

“As he said, you won’t know until you tell us.”

I agreed with Marcus and Cattleya.

The chief was still hesitating and looked at the people around him.

“I guess you’re right. Would you at least listen to my request?”

It was decided that we would discuss it in the chief’s house.

Judging by how the villagers and the chief were acting, something that needed the help of an adventurer had happened, so they wanted to speak to one, but when they saw that I was the adventurer, they all received a shock, didn’t they?

Wasn’t this the moment when they should look at my guild card or ask me how strong I was?

Weren’t they told that they shouldn’t judge a person by their appearance?

Almost everyone judged others by appearance, huh?

I did it too, so I couldn't really complain.

When we arrived at his house, the chief started to talk with a dark expression.

"Goblins have appeared close to the village."

"Goblins?"

I was guessing some monsters had appeared, but it was just goblins?

"Normally, the goblins stay deep inside the forest and don't appear around here."

"And now the goblins appeared close to the village?"

"Yes. You see, silkworms live between the village and the goblins. When the goblins try to come to the village, they become silkworm food. The silkworms keep us safe."

"And yet the goblins have appeared?"

"Yes. That's why we wanted to ask an adventurer to kill those goblins for us. We knew that an adventurer would escort the students during their practice training, after all. I know that I'm asking for too much, but if we can't enter the forest safely, it's all over for our village."

There was something strange about this story.

The silkworm ate goblins? Didn't they eat tree leaves? They were carnivorous?

More importantly, how big were they if they could eat the goblins?

"What do you mean by that?"

"A lot of villagers collect silkworm's cocoon for a living. We would all be troubled if they couldn't gather it anymore."

Ah, that was why so many people came to welcome us.

They weren't waiting for the students, but for the adventurer, huh?

I now understood why they all wore such desperate expressions.

“How many goblins are there?”

“The person who saw the goblins said there was quite a few of them. They have been seen at other locations as well, so we don’t really know their exact number.”

Were the goblins that we had killed on our way here possibly a part of the group?
I could understand why they were there in that case.

“I understand. We will go subjugate those goblins.”

“Marcus!?”

Everyone was surprised.

“I mean, they are in trouble, right? Also, it’s just goblins. We can deal with that much, right?”

“That may be so, but isn’t it dangerous when we don’t know their exact number? Don’t you think so too, Shia, Timor?”

Cattleya asked the two who were keeping quiet.

“Hmm, I understand Marcus’s feelings, but I also see your point.”

“I’m against it. There is no need to put ourselves in danger.”

“Timor, you’re against it too?”

“I want to help the villagers, but I think it’s dangerous. We should leave it to experienced adventurers, who really know how to subjugate the goblins.”

“Experienced adventurers.....”

Marcus and Timor looked at me.

Yes, I was an adventurer. What about it?

“Could you handle it?”

“..... Let me see. Village Chief, did you place a request at the Adventurer’s Guild?”

Would they ask other adventurers when they had an adventurer, who could easily kill those goblins, right in front of them?

“No, we didn’t. They appeared recently, and we knew that you would be coming soon, so we decided to ask the adventurer who came, and only ask the Adventurer’s Guild if he refused.”

Village Chief looked at me.

It would be nice if you guys stopped looking at me each time an adventurer is mentioned.

“And it’s okay if you don’t enter the forest until then?”

“If their adventurer comes soon, it should be fine.”

“So, it all depends on whether an adventurer accepts the request or not, huh.”

“Well, the adventurer would be the one to decide the reward.”

“Still, the Adventurer’s Guild won’t consider it an urgent request since no villagers have died.”

They were just students, but they all knew a lot about the Adventurer’s Guild, huh.

Was it considered common sense here?

Silence settled in the room.

“Shia, what do you think? You haven’t been saying anything for a while.”

“You want my opinion? Well, I don’t really mind what we chose to do. I will go with what you guys decide.”

“So, you don’t mind fighting?”

“I don’t mind.”

Shia look at me and smiled.

Shia knew how strong I was, so did she think that it wouldn’t really be dangerous?

“Shia, if I’m against it, and Marcus still decides to go and subjugate the monster, what will you do?”

“My job is taking care of Yuna-san; if she is going to protect Marcus, I will go with her.”

“Not with me but with this girl, huh!”

Marcus suddenly became mad.

“But, of course.”

“I get it, I guess. Marcus, I will also come to defeat the goblins. But, I have a condition. We won’t try to do the impossible. If we think that it’s dangerous, we will back down. If you accept this, I don’t mind coming with you.”

“Of course. I also don’t want to die by doing the impossible, after all.”

Marcus looked at Cattleya.

“I will help you as well.”

“It’s decided then. We’ll be doing a goblin’s extermination first thing tomorrow morning.”

Marcus managed to bring everyone together.

“Is it really okay? Putting students in danger...”

“This is also a part of the practice training. We won’t do the impossible. If we can’t do it, we will give up.”

“Thank you very much, and please don’t push yourselves too far.”

I wondered how I would mark them if I was their professor.

They were taking action without abandoning the village. That was a plus.

Even though they weren't adventurers, they were doing something dangerous. That was a minus.

Also, as their guard, should I have stopped them?

They told me to let them do what they wanted as long as I thought that they weren't in danger. With only goblins, there should be no problem, right?

CHAPTER 121

BEAR-SAN DEPARTS TO SUBJUGATE THE GOBLINS

After listening to the village chief's request, we went to the rooms they had prepared for us.

The boys' and girls' rooms were separate, of course.

We were all in the girls' room, having a meeting about tomorrow's goblin extermination.

We sat in a circle on a soft carpet that was spread out on the floor.

"So, we should discuss how to find and defeat the goblins. From what the village chief told us, it seems that they don't move as a single group. The villagers mostly saw only one goblin at a time and never more than three at once."

Timor asked for ideas for tomorrow's subjugation.

"In that case, isn't this a good time to rely on the Bear-san's strength? This subjugation is not a part of the practice training, after all."

Cattleya looked towards me.

Hmm, was it really so?

"An excursion is an excursion until you return home," was something that was often said...

Wouldn't everything before going back be a part of the practice training?

Or was this a special case?

"I agree. The situation is different than normal. It will be dangerous. We can defeat one or two goblins at a time, but it will be difficult if there are more. We can defeat the goblins safely with the bears' detection ability, though."

Timor and Cattleya went with the idea of relying on me.

Marcus, who got us in situation in the first place, spoke up.

“Could you please lend the bears’ abilities to us?”

Marcus asked me with a polite bow.

“Can I ask you just one thing first? Why did you accept this request? You could have left it to the adventurers, right? I really don’t think you had to force yourself to do it.”

This wasn’t a job for students who just had to deliver wheat flour.

Also, the goblin subjugation had nothing to do with the practice training, so there was no need to put themselves in danger.

“I aim to become like my father and uphold his policies.”

“Like your father?”

“When there are people who are in need of help, help them. It’s better to regret helping them than to regret not doing so. Still, don’t do what you can’t do. You need to put in a lot of effort to improve on the things you can’t do so that you can do them next time.”

“Marcus’s father is the captain of the second knight order.”

Shia, who sat beside me, whispered to me.

Didn’t that mean he was someone incredible?

Well, I didn’t really know the ranks of the official positions.

Still, if he was a captain, he should be someone important, right?

“That’s why, since the village is troubled, I will help.”

“But, he told you to not do what you can’t do, right?”

“We can do it; I just have to rely on my comrades and your bears. That is something I grew to understand from the two battles during our journey.”

So, he thought that if we picked off goblins one by one using my detection magic, they would be able to handle it?

“Still, you don’t really have to put yourselves in danger, you know. It’s not like any serious damage had been done, and the villagers just have to wait a few more days for an adventurer to arrive.”

“And what if they were attacked during that period? It’s not really a problem for men, but the goblins could attack woman and children who can’t defend themselves, you know!”

“Marcus really is kind to children. That’s why you didn’t argue with Yuna-san, right?”

“Shut up!”

Shia said something incredible.

Did that mean they considered me a child?

I was shorter than Shia and Cattleya, so I might look younger, but...

Treating me as a child just because I was short... I was shorter by only a bit you know!

Was this why I was always asked to stay put in the carriage when they were fighting the goblins?

“You also asked me to carefully protect Yuna-san...”

“Shia!”

Shia just laughed when Marcus shouted at her.

Was this for real?

Did that mean Marcus ordered Shia to protect me?

Well, Shia knew about my strength, so I was sure that she had no intentions of being my guard, but...the other three thought differently, right?

“Since I’m a girl, he nagged me to take care of you.”

“.....”

I never noticed such a conversation happening...

Was he possibly a tsundere?

I thought only girls could be one.

It wasn’t cute when a boy did it, you know.

Also, tsunderes were allowed only in the 2D world.

If you did it in the real world, nobody would realize, and you would just end up pissing people off.

“You don’t really have to be embarrassed, you know.”

Shia seemed to be only teasing Marcus.

Was this something funny for those who knew about it?

To avoid further teasing, Marcus forcefully changed the subject.

“Anyway, if I run away from this now, I won’t be able to become a first rate knight like my father. I know that with my current skill, it would be impossible for me to subjugate those goblins alone. That’s why, I would like you to lend us the bears’ powers.”

He said seriously.

“What would you do if I refused?”

“I would do anything, even get on my knees and beg you. If it’s to reduce the danger the villagers are in, doing that is nothing.”

That wasn’t an answer.

He thought that if he kneeled and begged, I would accept?

Was he a brainless idiot?

Well, I was planning on accepting from the start, but I wanted to hear what he was thinking, so I continued to question him.

“Isn’t that something you should have done before accepting the subjugation? If I don’t accept, all of you will face danger, you know.”

Sometimes, harsh words were needed too, right?

“I thought that if Shia said that she would come with me, you would use the bears.”

“So, you thought I wouldn’t refuse for Shia’s sake?”

Marcus nodded in an honest manner.

He planned it in advance, huh?

If Shia went with Marcus, I would come too, and if I went with them, I would use the bears.

This wasn’t really something I would do just for Shia, though.

After all, my job was to protect all of them, including Marcus.

“So... I will ask once more. Please lend us the bears’ strength.”

Marcus bowed again.

“...Okay. I will lend them to you.”

“Thank you, you are a lifesaver. I will protect you no matter what, so you don’t have worry about your safety.”

Before improving your swordsmanship, shouldn’t you first improve your ability to judge people?

The bear in front of you wasn’t so weak that it would need your protection, you know!

Next to me, Shia was looking at the floor, barely stopping herself from laughing.

Was this party really okay...?

“But, your practice training results might decrease, you know? I will properly report everything, after all.”

“I don’t mind. If I couldn’t save the people I wanted to because I aimed for good grades, I wouldn’t be able to become a full fledged knight. I want to become a knight who can protect the people he wants to, even if my grades are affected by it.”

“A low rating, huh. There is no helping it. Marcus, when we go back, treat me to a meal, okay?”

“In that case, I know a delicious restaurant. It’s expensive, though.”

“We will be able to order all we want, right?”

“You guys...”

Marcus said as if he was annoyed, but there was a smile on his face.

“But, before that, we have to defeat those goblins.”

“You’re right.”

“Then, we should think about how we will defeat them, together.”

When Cattleya said that, everyone nodded, except me.

They then started planning on what they should do.

I wanted to go sleep, though.

We were in the girl’s room, so I couldn’t really leave.

Also, I couldn’t really say that I was sleepy when all of them were this pumped up.

The discussion continued late into the night.

The next day, we got ready to head to the forest to subjugate the goblins.

I was a bit tired; the lack of sleep wasn’t good for my body.

The four of them were full of energy, though.

Being young sure was incredible.

I let out a small yawn.

“We will be going now.”

“Please don’t try to do the impossible, okay?”

The villagers were there to see us off.

We headed the forest by foot.

I confirmed the surrounding with detection magic.

There were about 12 goblins; all spread out.

One, one, two, two, three, two, and one.

The only problem would be the group of three goblins, huh.

“Yuna-san, how many are there?”

“There are 12 goblins.”

I gave them the locations and the numbers of goblins.

“You know that even without bringing the bears out?”

“Yes. I’m linked with them, after all.”

It would be troublesome to walk while hugging the bears, so I told them that.

“A group of three, huh. For now, we will start with the nearest goblin that is on its own.”

We moved towards the closest goblin, with Marcus at the front, then Shia, me, Cattleya, and finally Timor.

After walking for a while, we found the goblin and approached without alerting him.

“I’m counting on you two.”

They put the plan they had thought up before in action.

If there was just one goblin, Shia and Cattleya would fire magic at it, and Marcus would use that chance to finish it off. Also, if one of the girls missed, Timor would fire his magic as well.

Both girls hit the first goblin, and Marcus attacked as planned.

I was reminded of the game, seeing them like that.

The magicians attacked from the rear, then the warriors or swordsmen rushed in. It worked great especially when they had a healer as well.

I partied a bit too, of course.

I was a magic swordswoman, after all.

.....It's true, you know!

The next place had two goblins.

“We will split in two groups and attack at the same time!”

The other three nodded.

Timor and Cattleya were in the back acting as supports while Shia and Marcus were up front, ready to rush the goblins.

If they registered at the Adventurer's Guild, they would become E rankers in no time.

“That makes three of them.”

“The Bear-sans' detection ability is really incredible. To know their location so precisely...”

“Thanks to them, we can defeat the goblins easily.”

They removed the magic stones and buried the corpses.

The goblin hunting was progressing well.

They first defeated one and now two.

Both were surprise attacks, but they were able to kill them safely.

“We should take a break.”

“Yeah, next is the group of three goblins. Timor, is it really okay?”

“Don’t worry. I can hold two of them off while Shia and Cattleya defeat the other one.”

“We will defeat it quickly, so do your best.”

“I’m counting on you. Unlike you guys, I’m bad with fighting up close.”

We finished our break and went to where the three goblins were.

They should be just behind this thicket.

We reached an open field inside the forest.

When we arrived, the three goblins were attacking a wolf.

A wolf?

It wasn’t there a moment ago.

Ah, it might be that I just didn’t take note of it.

I was only looking for goblins.

“What should we do?”

“We have a good view from here, so we can see them if they approach us.”

While we were watching the fight, a black shadow arrived and killed all the goblins.

“What is that!?”

“Why would something like that be here?”

“This is a joke, right?”

They were looking at it as if they couldn’t believe their eyes. I was sure they didn’t want to acknowledge it.

What was standing in the middle of the field was bigger than Swaying Bear, a beast wrapped in a pitch black fur.

With a fiendish look, it was crunching a goblin with its enormous teeth.

“.....Black Tiger.”

Shia revealed the identity of the black beast.

Ripping the goblins apart with its sharp claws and growling from its large mouth, a Black Tiger was there.

The fact that I didn't detect this monster was completely my fault.

CHAPTER 122

BEAR-SAN FIGHTS THE BLACK TIGER

I used detection magic, but I hadn't noticed the Black Tiger.

I only looked in our vicinity, so it was my mistake.

If I had summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, they would have probably found it.

It was a complete failure on my part.

"Why is such a monster here?"

Marcus whispered.

Nobody answered his question, though.

They were all looking at the Black Tiger, which was devouring the goblins.

"Anyway, we should run away."

"Marcus, don't move!"

The moment Marcus tried to move, the Black Tiger looked our way while sniffing the air.

It was just a matter of time before it discovered us.

If we didn't move, it would discover us using its sense of smell.

If we moved, it would discover us by the sound we would make.

Also, there was no way we could outrun it.

"Marcus....."

Timor and Cattleya seemed worried and looked at Marcus.

I knew it, they were leaving the decision to Marcus, their party leader.

It was a terrible thing to do to a student who had no experience.

After looking at everyone, Marcus swallowed his saliva and spoke up.

“I-I will be a decoy, so you guys have to use that chance to flee!”

“Marcus!?”

They were all surprised by his words.

I was surprised too, of course. I really didn't think he would say something like that.

“I'm the one that got us in this situation. If only I didn't promise that I would try to kill the goblins...”

“That's not a reason for you to sacrifice yourself, right?”

“If it continues like this, we will all be killed, you know!”

“That's.....”

The Black Tiger was slowly approaching our hiding spot while smelling the air around it.

“I will make an opening, so make sure to use it!”

“If we all attack it...”

“That would be impossible, of course. Also, someone has to inform the village. If we all died here, who would do it? Adventurers who can kill a Black Tiger have to come from the capital. If the villagers aren't warned, they will also be killed, you know!”

“That's true, but...”

“Stop arguing and just go!”

It was finally my turn, right?

My role as a guard had come.

I tried to speak up, but Timor spoke up before me.

“Marcus, I will also stay with you.”

“Timor.....”

“We can’t let the girls die, after all. With two decoys, we will give them more time. No hard feelings for which one gets eaten first, okay?”

“Timor, you are saying some really cool things, but your hands are shaking, you know...”

Timor’s hands, which were holding onto his staff, were indeed shaking.

It wasn’t just his hands that were shaking. His legs, which were supporting him, were also trembling.

“Hahaha, Marcus, you’re also shaking, you know.”

Marcus and Timor were laughing, but they weren’t smiling.

Still, they must have been happy after confirming their friendship.

I had to barge into this serious scene with my Bear Clothes, right?

It was a really difficult thing to do, though...

I couldn’t just stay put, either; the Black Tiger was still slowly approaching us.

“When we rush in, you guys have to run, okay?”

Marcus said while looking at us, the girls.

“Marcus, Timor.....”

Cattleya hesitated a bit, then nodded.

“Okay. We will absolutely make it out alive. Shia-san, Yuna-san, we will be going.”

With her trembling hands, Cattleya grasped ours.

“Yuna-san...”

Shia looked at me with a worried expression.

“Timor, let’s go!”

“Y-yes.”

The moment they tried to leave the thicket, I grabbed their clothes.

“What!?”

“From here on, it’s my job.”

As expected, I couldn’t just let them go.

“What are you saying!?”

“It’s my fault that I didn’t find the Black Tiger. Also, my job is to protect each and every one of you.”

I stepped in front of Marcus and left the thicket.

I used the detection magic and saw wolves coming this way as if they were gathering under the Black Tiger.

Even if the students were able to flee from the Black Tiger, they would be attacked by the wolves.

I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

“Protect these four, okay?”

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear answered with a “Kuun” and went to the students.

“What are those!?”

Marcus, Timor, and Cattleya were all shocked when they saw Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

“They are Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear.”

Shia told them.

“But, their size is...”

“That’s their real size, you know.”

“The four of you have to stay near Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear. Wolves are gathering from all around here, after all.”

“Yuna-san...”

Shia looked at me with a worried expression again.

“Shia, I leave these three to you.”

“Okay. Please don’t die, you hear me?”

I smiled and waved.

“Shia, what are you saying? It’s definitely impossible for her.”

“Marcus. Please leave it to Yuna-san from now on.”

“There is no way I could do that!”

Shia stopped Marcus, who tried to stop me.

“There is no problem. Yuna-san can defeat it.”

I left the other three students to Shia and went to defeat the Black Tiger by myself. When the Black Tiger saw me, it stopped advancing and started to circle around me, as if to see what I would do.

It was huge. It was way bigger than the Tiger Wolf I had defeated before.

After looking at me for a while, the Black Tiger recognized me as its prey, roared and leapt at me, reducing the distance between us in an instant, and bared its sharp fangs at me.

I dodged by taking a big step to the right.

It was fast.

It was faster than the Tiger Wolves, and there was also a lot strength behind its attacks.

I was also stronger than I was in the past, though.

If it was just defeating it, there was no problem. I would just kill with a Fire Bear.

The problem was that if I used fire, its beautiful fur would be burned to a crisp, and that would be a waste.

I really wanted its fur to become a carpet in my home, if possible, in a perfect state. Fina should be able to skin it perfectly.

If I used a sword or wind magic, there would be holes in the fur. Launching ice magic at its head wouldn't be good, either. So, that left me with drowning it with my water magic?

I was thinking about how to defeat the Black Tiger while evading its attacks.

I tried to stop its movements with earth magic, but it was too fast for me to catch it. It evaded all the attacks that came from the ground.

Then, how about this?

I made wind magic flow from the ground below him. The Black Tiger sensed something coming from under it and tried to dodge with a big jump, but it wasn't enough, and the wind magic blew it high into the air.

It was my famous bungee jump without a rope.

The Black Tiger soared into the sky while spinning around.

If it fell down from hundred meters high, it shouldn't be left unharmed.

The Black Tiger reformed its posture in the air and dexterously landed like a cat.

Really?

It fell from that height and still had no wounds? It should have fractured something, at least!

The moment the Black Tiger had landed, it charged at me. I quickly made an earth wall to block it. The Black Tiger jumped past the wall and attacked me from the side. Using this chance, I bestowed it with a Bear Punch in the middle of its forehead.

The Black Tiger was blown away, tumbled on the ground as if it was gliding, and stopped after colliding with a tree. Then, it stood up as if nothing had happened.

It dodged the very moment my punch would land, avoiding a fatal wound.

It was stronger than I had thought it would be.

Hmm, it would probably be difficult to keep its fur undamaged while defeating it...

It was fast, so I couldn't use golems to attack it, either.

It would have been good if I could at least wound it with the no rope bungee jump from before...

Marcus's POV:

The Bear Girl had said some crazy things.

She said she would fight it...

Didn't she see the Black Tiger in front of her?

Its ferocious appearance... It wasn't a monster a girl like you could fight and defeat, you know!

I stretched my hand out to stop her, but it didn't reach her, and she left the thicket.

Before going out to fight, the Bear Girl left her two bears to protect us.

They were huge. Shia said that they were those cubs we saw before and that this was their real size.

They weren't as huge as the Black Tiger was, but they were still quite big.

I heard a few things about summoned beasts, but this was my first time seeing one.

Bear Girl told us not to move because wolves were coming to the Black Tiger from every direction.

Who was this girl, really...

It seemed that Shia knew something, but...

She said that the Bear Girl would kill the Black Tiger... There was no way I would believe something like that.

I thought that she would die immediately, but she was fighting with the Black Tiger on equal grounds.

The fight was really an unbelievable sight.

“Yuna-san is incredible!”

“Shia, you knew about it?”

I asked Shia, who seemed to know more about the Bear Girl.

“Are you talking about Yuna-san’s true strength? I already fought her, so I knew.”

“You fought her?”

“Not so long ago, I didn’t believe it when I heard that she was strong, so we had a match. I was completely destroyed by Yuna-san, who was even taking it easy on me...”

“Completely defeating Shia-san...”

Cattleya didn’t seem to believe it.

I couldn’t believe it, either. I knew how strong Shia was. She was the strongest girl in the academy. So, her being completely defeated sounded impossible.

“You’re joking, right?”

“From what Father and Mother had told me, I believe she is even stronger than that.”

“From what Eleanora-sama and Cliff-sama told you?”

“I will tell you since you would find out if you just looked into it, but Yuna-san, by herself, defeated a goblin horde, a Goblin King, two Tiger Wolves, a Black Viper, and

they also said that she was the one who took out Zamon's bandit group. Also, it seemed like Father and Mother were hiding some other things too..."

"You're lying, right?..."

"Do you really think I'm lying when you see her fighting right in front of you?"

In front of us, we saw her using advanced magic to fight the Black Tiger.

A goblin horde, a Goblin King, Tiger Wolves, Black Viper, Zamon's bandits...

Each and every one of them sounded impossible. How could she defeat all of them all by herself?

Still, seeing the Bear Girl fight the Black Tiger in front of me, there was no way I could call it a joke.

I looked at their fight.

The Black Tiger was moving around; both of their movements were fast, and all the magic she launched was strong.

Wh-what was with this... How could a human move so quickly, launch magic so fast, and use this many powerful spells?

Anyone who saw this Bear Girl's movements would understand that Shia wasn't lying. Still, even after seeing it, we felt like we didn't want to believe it.

"But, Shia-san, why didn't you tell us that Yuna-san was this strong?"

"There was no reason to do it, and even if I had told you, you wouldn't have believed me, right?"

"....."

She was right, I wouldn't have believed her.

I wouldn't have believed that someone in those strange Bear Clothes could be this strong.

I wouldn't have believed that a girl shorter than me could be this strong.

I didn't believe it when they told me that she was rank C.

I just thought that she was a student younger than me.

I thought that this was some sort of a test, so I asked Shia to protect her.

In reality, it was the opposite. We were the ones who were being protected.

Before our eyes, the Bear Girl was protecting us by fighting the Black Tiger.

“Also, I thought that there were other reasons for Mother to chose Yuna-san.”

“Other reasons, you say?”

“This is only what I think, but with Yuna-san as our escort, no one would think she is one because of her appearance. With how my mother is like, I think that she wanted to see how everyone would be treating Yuna-san.”

Considering what Eleanora-sama was like, it was possible.

I didn't believe that the Bear Girl was really our escort. That was why I had asked Shia to protect her in case something happened.

“Still, I don't think Mother predicted that we would have encountered a Black Tiger.”

Who could have possibly thought that such a monster would have appeared... Also, who could believe that such a small girl was fighting such a monster on equal grounds...

I was sure that if we told this to anyone else, nobody would believe us.

Even I would have laughed at it, mocked the people telling this story, and said that it was impossible if I wasn't here to witness it.

Yuna's POV:

I knew it, some scratches on the hide were unavoidable. I really wanted a beautiful black pelt, though...

The Black Tiger was fast, and its ability to sense magic was high.

It was fast enough that it was difficult to even make it do a second bungee jump.

With the second strike not working on you, which Constellation Saint Seiya Warrior were you? You were a tiger, right?

(TN: Saint Seiya is an old Japanese manga that was also made into an anime. Saint Seiya Warriors can see through any attacks they see at least one, so the same attack can't work twice against them.)

There was no helping it. I was afraid of the aftermath, but there was no other way than this.

The Black Tiger was circling around me, keeping an eye on the situation. Just like my attacks against him, its attacks weren't able to fatally wound me, either.

Did that make it irritated? Since a while ago, it had been groaning with a "Gyurururu" sound. It seemed very angry with his fangs showing.

If I didn't have my Overpowered Bear, I would have been afraid of it.

The Black Tiger jumped the moment it came behind me. I didn't turn around on purpose, in order to draw that attack out. The moment it noticed I wasn't facing it, it tried to bite me with its strong fangs.

I shoved my left hand, the White Bear, inside its mouth. The Black Tiger bit the White Bear.

The Black Tiger surely thought that it had won. I thought the same for me.

This fight was my win.

It bit the White Bear, but I didn't feel any pain.

That was a cheat item for you.

The Black Tiger bit into the glove with even more strength.

I gathered magic inside the White Bear Puppet; fire formed in the the White Bear's mouth and I released it inside the Black Tiger. It burned its mouth, throat, and brain.

They say, 'Let them cut your flesh, so you can break their bones.' I broke its bones without even getting cut, though.

The Black Tiger's jaw, that was biting me, loosened, and its big corpse collapsed onto the ground.

CHAPTER 123

BEAR-SAN REGRETS GOING TO SEE THE SILKWORMS

The Black Tiger collapsed.

Even though I went easy on it, its ability to detect magic made this a difficult fight. I managed to get its black fur though, so I was going to ask Fina to dismantle it when I returned.

“Yuna-san, did you defeat it?”

Shia came out of the thicket and asked timidly.

“Yes, I defeated it. It just took me a while to do it.”

“I can’t believe it; you defeated a Black Tiger all by yourself...”

After Shia, Cattleya and others came out, too.

The four of them approached the collapsed Black Tiger. Aside from Shia, the other three were looking at the collapsed Black Tiger as if they couldn’t believe it. Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear came out after the students.

“Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear, thank you.”

I gently stroked their necks when they approached me.

The wolves didn’t approach the students, and that was probably thanks to Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

I used detection magic to check where the wolves were, and saw them fleeing back into the forest in all directions. Did they scatter because the Black Tiger had been defeated?

Well, they weren't a part of our job, so who cared.

"....."

Marcus approached me as if he wanted to say something.

"What?"

"Y-you saved us. Thank you."

Marcus thanked me while stuttering.

"You're right. Yuna-san, thank you very much. You really saved us."

"Yuna-san, thank you very much."

"Err, thanks."

The girls and Timor thanked me, too.

"Don't worry about it. Protecting you guys is my job, after all."

Marcus seemed like he wanted to say something else, but he kept his mouth shut.

I was sure that he had some complicated feelings about being protected by someone he didn't even consider to be an adventurer.

This should be a good lesson for him, though. You shouldn't judge a Bear Person by their appearance.

The four of them were all poking the defeated Black Tiger. Staying here forever would be a waste of time, so I suggested that we should return to the village.

“With the way the things have turned out, wouldn’t it be best to return to the village for now?”

Nobody opposed my idea.

I put the Black Tiger into the Bear Box and made arrangements to go back. Well, I did say ‘arrangements’, but it was just disposing of the goblins, which the Black Tiger cruelly massacred. We didn’t forget to take the goblin magic stones as a proof of subjugation, either.

“Well then, you guys should return to the village first.”

“You won’t come with us, Yuna-san?”

“There is something I want to check out.”

“Check out?”

“The village chief was worried about what happened to the silkworms, so I’m going to take a look. Don’t worry; Swaying Bear will escort you to the village.”

I approached Swaying Bear and asked him.

“Swaying Bear, can I leave these four to you?”

Swaying Bear responded with a Kuu—n.

“Also, make yourself small when you approach the village; it would be bad to scare the villagers, after all.”

He cried out again.

“Well then, I think it should be okay with Swaying Bear, but please be careful when going back.”

I jumped onto Hugging Bear, and we ran off.

I was going to a place where, according to the village chief, the silkworms were.

Hugging Bear ran deep inside the forest.

It should be around here. We walked slowly so that we wouldn't miss the place.

Silkworms of this world really were monsters, huh? My detection magic gave me a proper reaction. If they really were monsters, I could understand why they were eating goblins.

...I immediately regretted coming to the silkworm nest.

Crawling on the ground was a silkworm, which was over a meter long.

It looked absolutely disgusting.

Just like in the game, the insect monsters here were really disgusting, too...

A hikikomori like me, who had been living in a city and never had any contact with insects, was repulsed twice as badly by them.

Here, these normally small worms were human-sized. If they had faces, they would have been the epitome of trauma.

Back when I was still just playing the game, the company released a secret event, but it was suspended in just 30 minutes.

In this event, you had to exterminate cockroaches... Human-sized ones.

Just after the event started, agonizing cries could be heard from everywhere. I logged out the moment I saw those cockroaches, but I still had nightmares for a few days after. It was a terrible memory.

Nothing was more terrifying than seeing human-sized cockroaches creep around.

It was so bad that the event had to be suspended, and we even received consolation items as an apology.

A few players were praising them for the realistic feeling it gave, but... this was the only thing that should absolutely never have been made realistic. They were really terrifying...

As one would expect, silkworms didn't creep around like cockroaches did, but their size was still intolerable...

Things like these made me more aware of my hate for insects.

The village chief said that the silkworms of this world had a scent that attracted animals and monsters, but..., as if to prove this, a lot of goblins and wolves were entangled in the spider threads, completely immobilized.

I really wasn't sure if they were silkworms, spiders, or a different type of monster...

The goblins that were entangled here were the goblins from the other side of the forest, right?

I got it now. The Black Tiger attacked the goblin nest, and the goblins fled here. The Black Tiger then chased after them, and ran into us.

I might get all the details if I went to the goblin nest, but that would have been troublesome, so I decided not to go. If the villagers wanted to know the details, they just had to investigate it themselves; I had no obligation to do it. I still decided to return to the village only after I investigated the silkworm's place a bit more.

After looking around, I determined that there was no damage. There were no signs of an attack. It seemed that the Black Tiger didn't come here. Well, even if it did, I didn't think that it ate insects. Whatever, it seemed that the silkworms weren't attacked; the villagers would surely be relieved with this.

When there were worms, inevitably, there would be cocoons. The color of these cocoons were strange, though.

If I remembered correctly, cocoons were yellow because of the mulberry tree leaves or something like that.

It differed on the species of silkworms, but their cocoons were mostly white or yellow. Yet, there were some green and red cocoons mixed in here.

It would be bad if I took these cocoons, right?

I would like one of each, though...

Well, even if I took them, I couldn't make clothes, so I wouldn't have any practical use for them, but they might still make a good souvenir for the children at the orphanage.

Still, when talking about souvenirs, it would be best if I took threads, right? If I took them back like this, it would only trouble them. I decided not to take the cocoons.

Both the students and the villagers were waiting at the entrance of the village when I finally returned there.

Swaying Bear was settled in Shia's arms; it seemed that he escorted them back properly.

"I'm back."

"Yuna-san, are you okay?"

"I'm okay. I had Hugging Bear with me. So, why are you all out here?"

Shia approached me and gave me Swaying Bear, whom I then petted.

"We were waiting for you, Yuna-san."

"For me?"

"Excuse me, you are Yuna-san, right?"

The village chief entered the conversation.

"These children said that a Black Tiger appeared and that you defeated it. Is that true?"

"Yuna-san, the village chief doesn't believe us."

Shia said, displeased.

"Well, of course, he wouldn't."

"I think I wouldn't believe it either."

"Same here."

The other three students understood the village chief.

It was difficult to believe something so unrealistic even when they saw it themselves.

“So, do you have proof?”

Oh, right.

I brought out the Black Tiger from the Bear Box.

All the villagers shouted in surprise when they saw the Black Tiger’s corpse.

“Did you really kill this thing?”

The village chief said as if he couldn’t believe it while switching his gaze between me and the Black Tiger.

“Yeah, I did. I also went to the silkworm’s place after that, and it didn’t seem like there was any damage.”

“You really went there?”

“You seemed worried, after all.”

“Thank you very much.”

“Oh, and there are wolves inside the forest, so be careful. You should properly make a request at the Adventurer’s Guild to deal with them.”

“Okay, we will. I’m really sorry that you had to go through all of that.”

The village chief bowed.

To thank us, the villagers made us dinner with a lot of delicious food brought out. Well, it wasn’t nearly as delicious as Morin-san’s cooking, but it was still quite good.

The villagers started talking about the reward, and everyone looked at me.

Did they want me to decide it?

It seemed to be that way, so I asked for thread, cocoons, or cloth made out of them. I also said that I would buy them if I was asking for too much.

The village chief said that he would prepare them by tomorrow.

The meal was finished, and since it was already late evening, we went back to our assigned rooms.

“The food was delicious.”

Cattleya sat on her bed, rubbing her stomach.

In the room, there were three beds, side-by-side.

I sat on the middle bed, and decided to eat something sweet to relieve the fatigue of this day. I took a pudding out of the Bear Box and started to eat it by myself.

When tired, sweet things were the best!

Cattleya was surprised to see me eat the pudding.

“Yu-Yuna-san, th-this... Is this possibly...”

“It’s pudding. Do you know about it?”

Was it possible that she ate it before?

I showed Cattleya the pudding I had on my spoon and then ate it.

Still, pudding really was delicious, right?

“It’s not about knowing it or not... This is...the legendary food, which was brought out at the King’s birthday party...”

Ah, she was talking about the King’s birthday party.

More importantly, what was this about? The legendary food? It was just a pudding, you know.

Oh, but now that she said that, I did recall Noa telling me that the assembly hall exploded in an uproar when the pudding arrived. I completely forgot that something like that had happened.

“Cattleya, were you present at the party?”

“Yes, I was there and ate the pudding. I still remember the taste, even now.”

She made a happy expression when she recalled the taste.

She was exaggerating. It was only pudding, you know!

“Yuna-san, you were the one who made the pudding, right?”

Shia, who was sitting on the last bed, joined the conversation.

“R-really? Yuna-san was the one who made the legendary pudding!?”

“I don’t know anything about this legendary thing you are talking about, but I did make the pudding...”

“Then, does that mean you were the mysterious cook, Yuna-san?”

I had been hearing things like legendary and mysterious for a while now, but were people really saying that when talking about pudding?

It had been a long time since the party, too...

“Shia-san, you knew about it even though the King didn’t say anything, no matter who asked...”

“Yuna-san gave me some pudding before the party, after all.”

“Really!? I’m so jealous!”

Cattleya looked at the pudding I was holding.

I looked at Shia, and she was also looking at my pudding.

“Hmm, do you two want some?”

I would feel bad if I was the only one eating, so I brought out a pudding for each of them.

“May I really?”

“Thank you, Yuna-san.”

They happily accepted the pudding.

“Ah, this taste!”

“I got to eat more pudding since Yuna-san often brought it as a souvenir.”

“Shia-san, that’s unfair!”

True. Whenever I went to the capital, I gave Eleanora-san some pudding for Shia.

“My little sister gets even more than me, you know!”

“What do you mean?”

“Anyone can eat pudding at Yuna-san’s shop in Crimonia. My little sister goes there to eat all the time.”

It wasn’t that often, though.

She only sometimes came when she slipped out of her house; her butler got angry every time.

“Yuna-san’s shop!?”

“Yuna-san has a shop in Crimonia. The pudding there is sold at a price even normal people can afford, and it is really popular...”

“The legendary meal that was presented at the King’s birthday party is being sold in an ordinary shop.....”

She was looking at me and the pudding, dumbfounded. Was she unable to find the words she wanted?

The pudding wasn’t such a high class food, you know...

“A shop... Yuna-san, aren't you an adventurer?”

“I'm an adventurer, but I also own a shop. I leave the management to someone else, though.”

“I see. If I went to Crimonia, I could eat all the pudding I wanted.....”

Well, there was a limit to how many puddings a person could buy, so she actually couldn't eat all the pudding she wanted.

“I really want to go back to Crimonia soon.”

Knock, knock.

While “we” were in a heated discussion about pudding, there was a knock at the door.

CHAPTER 124

BEAR-SAN RECEIVES AN APOLOGY

Someone knocked at the door.

“Who is it?”

Shia, who was closest to the door, asked.

“It’s me.”

“Marcus?”

“I want to talk, so could you open the door?”

Shia looked at us as if to say what should she do?

“I don’t mind personally.”

“If you want, I can summon Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.”

“That sounds good.”

Cattleya agreed, so I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

Pouf, pouf.

They landed cutely on my bed.

Once the bears were all settled in, Shia opened the door.

“So, why did you come here so late at night?”

“You see...”

Marcus seemed to be having some problems saying it.

Was this possibly... Confession time?

The rumored event that often happened during school trips... Well, I had never went on any school trips, so I didn't know if it really happened, but... I heard many couples were made on school trips. Was this practice training possibly similar to a school trip!? Would Marcus confess to Shia? Or Cattleya? Which one was it?

I started paying attention to see what he would say.

“What is it?”

His hesitation irritated Shia.

“You see, I just wanted to apologize before we go back tomorrow.”

“Apologize?”

Shia gave him a confused look.

I was confused, too. What did this mean?

That it wasn't confession time?

“Did you do something to me?”

“Not you! The Bear! I came here to apologize to the one in Bear Clothes, Yuna-san!”

He said Yuna-san, right?

Did I hear it wrong?

Also, he wanted to apologize to me?

“You came to apologize to Yuna-san?”

“That's right. Timor and I talked about it and came here to apologize before we leave tomorrow.”

“So, could you let us come inside the room?”

I heard Timor's voice from the other side of the door. It seemed that both of them were here.

"Yuna-san, what should we do?"

"There isn't really anything to apologize for, though?"

"We will just enter for now, okay?"

Timor and Marcus entered the room.

"So, what are you two apologizing to Yuna-san for? Did you guys do something?"

Shia asked them.

I didn't remember them doing anything in particular to me, though...

"We didn't believe that you were an adventurer."

Well, nobody would believe that a girl wearing a Bear Suit would be an adventurer, right?

"We didn't believe that you were strong."

I didn't think anyone who met me for the first time thought that I was strong.

"We were making fun out of you by saying that you were a strange girl wearing strange clothes."

Oh right, he did say that. Well, if I met anyone wearing these clothes, I would also laugh at them.

"We decided to do something dangerous without asking for your approval."

Well, they didn't see me as an adventurer back then.

"We never thanked your bears."

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear tilted their heads.

"We didn't properly thank you for saving us."

You guys thanked me plenty, though...

All these things were nothing to be upset about, you know...

Hmm, did I get used to it?

"You don't really have to worry about these things. I just kept my true strength a secret since Eleanora-san asked me to let you guys do what you wanted unless I considered it dangerous. So, I wouldn't have helped you if I didn't consider the situation dangerous."

"But, you were still protecting us from the shadows, right?"

"That's my job, you know."

"I was prepared to die when I decided to confront the Black Tiger. You saved my life."

"It was all my fault, but it was you, Yuna-san, who suffered the consequences of my decision. Thanks to you, we all made it back alive. I became arrogant just because I could kill some goblins. And because of my arrogance, you had to put yourself in danger."

What was this feeling?

Was I getting embarrassed?

"As I said before, you don't have to worry about it. No one could have imagined that a Black Tiger would have appeared. Also, you wanted to subjugate the goblins for the

sake of the village, not yourself. Finally, nobody would have ever thought that I was an adventurer the first time they saw me in these clothes, you know.”

“But...”

“It’s not like you personally did something to me. For example, if you decided to pick a fight with me, I would get mad, but you didn’t do something like that, so you have nothing to apologize for. That’s why, you don’t really have to worry about it.”

“.....”

“.....”

Marcus and Timor seemed like they wanted to say something else while Shia and Cattleya just kept silent and listened.

I wasn’t able to stand the silence, so...

“Want to eat something?”

The mood was getting really heavy, so I brought out potato chips, fried potatoes, sandwiches, and other snacks from the Bear Box and put them on the table.

“Can we?”

“Of course. I have a lot more, so go ahead and eat.”

Marcus took a potato chip and ate it.

“It’s good.”

Timor took a potato chip too.

“Yeah, it tastes great.”

It seemed that they liked it.

“Yuna-san.”

Shia and Cattleya were eyeing the snacks on the table.

They obviously wanted to eat them, too.

Cattleya was rubbing her stomach just a while back; was it really a good idea to eat more?

“You can eat it, but don’t blame me if you gain weight.”

I warned them.

They looked at their stomachs.

“I-I’m fine.”

“M-me too.”

Thanks to Shia and Cattleya acting like this, Marcus and Timor calmed down, and the heavy mood disappeared.

“This bread is delicious!”

“It’s better than the bread I eat at home.”

Well, of course. A baker I personally chose made it, after all.

“These potato chips are delicious as well.”

“Wait, did you two get to eat this before we came here?”

Marcus looked at them with an envious expression.

“It was just a little! We shouldn’t eat too much of Yuna-san’s food while we are in the middle of the practice training.”

“Honestly, we just wanted to eat Yuna-san’s food because it’s better than ours.”

I noticed that the snack-pile was decreasing little by little, so I brought out all sorts of bread that Morin-san and the children from the orphanage had made, and put them on the table. With the uncomfortable silence from before completely gone, all the food I had brought out was disappearing into their stomachs.

Guys, we ate dinner just a while ago, right? Why were you eating so much?

Was that how the stomachs of young people worked? I wasn’t able to keep up at all.

I hugged Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear while looking at them eating happily. There was no way I could eat any more, after all.

The next day, the four of them were rubbing their stomachs.

They couldn’t refuse the breakfast the village chief made for us, so they had to force themselves to eat it; they ate too much yesterday night, after all.

It wasn’t my fault. They decided to eat that much themselves.

“Well then, I’ve put all the luggage on the carriage.”

The village chief told Marcus.

“Luggage?”

With a pained expression, he asked Shia, who also seemed like she was suffering.

“The luggage we will be transporting from the village to the capital. If I remember correctly, it’s threads and cloth.”

I see. It was a local specialty, huh.

With those disgusting silkworms here, I somehow understood it.

After talking to Marcus, the village chief approached me.

“Yuna-san, we are indebted to you. It would have been terrible if something had happened to the students.”

“You have thanked me more than enough yesterday, so it’s okay.”

“But...”

It seemed that the village chief wanted to say something else, but they already thanked me way too much yesterday, so I didn’t think I could stand any more gratitude.

“Protecting the students is my job, you know.”

“I understand. Oh right, we prepared what you asked for yesterday.”

When the village chief said that, another villager brought a big box and gave it to me.

I looked inside and saw a lot of different colored cloth and threads.

Were these made from silkworm cocoons?

“Yuna-san, they look great.”

Shia, who looked a bit jealous, said after peeking inside the box.

“These are all high class items.”

“Really?”

“They are really popular with the nobles.”

Well, if they were really giving it to me I would gladly accept it, but was it okay?

“Can I really take this? I’m not lying that I had killed the Black Tiger, but I have no proof, either, you know.”

They couldn't really check the magic crystal without going to a town with an Adventurer's Guild.

I could have showed them a corpse from a Black Tiger I killed before coming here, and they wouldn't have known.

"Then I would be at blame for not being able to see through your lies. And more importantly, I would be embarrassed if we didn't give you our thanks simply because we didn't believe you."

The village chief said strongly.

"Thank you. I will accept it then."

I put the box with cloth and thread inside the Bear Box.

"Feel free to visit us any time."

The villagers sent us out, and the carriage headed back towards the capital.

CHAPTER 125

BEAR-SAN GOES BACK TO THE CAPITAL

For three days now, we had been traveling with the shaking carriage. We would arrive at the capital tomorrow. On our journey back, nothing had happened yet. The goblins we saw on our way to the village probably just tried to escape the Black Tiger. With the Black Tiger dead, there was no longer a reason for them to come on the road.

We didn't encounter any other monsters, either, so encountering those goblins was really just bad luck.

It was a peaceful trip back home.

Since the students already knew how strong I was, I had summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear in their cub forms, only for the two of them to be hugged by Shia and Cattleya. The bears had always been with me, so seeing them hugged by someone else made me a bit sad. Hmm, I would have never thought about something like this when I was still in Japan. This showed that Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear had really become my precious family members, unlike my real family.

Well, this sadness would be gone tomorrow. We were about to arrive at the capital, after all.

As the carriage peacefully rattled onward, Marcus called a break for today's lunch. Just as we were about to stop, we noticed another carriage parked by the side of the road. Some other people had already decided to stop and take a break here, it seemed.

"Isn't that Jigurd?"

Marcus pointed at the other carriage.

"Marcus, you have a really good sight."

Timor seemed not to see him even after Marcus pointed him out.

Shia and Cattleya looked out of the carriage.

“You’re right.”

“Jigurd and his party are here.”

The girls seemed to have a good sight, too.

“You know these people?”

“Their party is also in the middle of the practice training.”

Did that mean there were other people like Marcus out there?

I need to prepare myself, then. I could just stay in the carriage, right? That probably wouldn’t really work...

Marcus parked our carriage right next to theirs, and the other party approached us.

It was two boys and two girls, just like my party.

“I was wondering who it was, but it was just Marcus and Timor!”

“Jigurd, are you also on your way back to the capital?”

“Yeah, we are a running a bit late, but isn’t it the same for you, Marcus?”

“Well, a few things happened, you see.”

Marcus avoided the question with a laugh.

Shia and Cattleya also left the carriage to say hello to the girls of the other party.

It would have been a pain to explain Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear to them, so I returned them to the gloves them before we reached their carriage.

“Hey, Marcus, who is this girl wearing strange clothes?”

Jigurd asked Marcus when he saw me with a smile on his face.

His broad grin really made me want to throw a Bear Punch into his face.

Was it okay for me to punch him? It was okay, right? It was okay as long as he didn't die, right? The Bear God was telling me that I could do it.

As I was contemplating whether I should punch him or not, Marcus took out his sword and pointed it at Jigurd. It wasn't just Marcus; Timor, who was right next to Marcus, also took out his wand.

"M-Marcus, what are you doing?"

Jigurd was confused by their actions.

Well, I was also confused.

Why were they pointing their weapons at their school friend!?

"This girl is an adventurer. She is our escort."

"Your escort? That's a joke, right? Isn't she younger than us?"

"You can think whatever you want, but we won't let you make fun of her in front of us. We won't forgive you if you insult her."

Shia and Cattleya, who were a little farther away, and Timor all nodded when Marcus said that.

It seemed that they got angry for my sake.

That made me happy, but what happened to you guys?

"Marcus, what happened to you? Defending a strange girl like her..."

Jigurd, still totally confused, asked Marcus.

"Nothing happened to us; we just won't accept any insults towards Yuna-san, our escort."

"It's just as Marcus said. We will fight you if you make fun of Yuna-san."

Shia and Cattleya nodded again.

“I get it. We won’t make fun of her anymore, so please put your weapons away.”

Jigurd, who realized that Marcus was serious, promised he wouldn’t make fun of me anymore.

Marcus put his sword away.

“But, is this stran...cute girl wearing bear clothing really your escort?”

“Yeah, that’s right. She also saved our lives. So, we won’t forgive anyone who insults her, even if it’s you!”

“I get it, so don’t be this angry!”

Jigurd took a few steps back so that Marcus would calm down.

“You guys are noisy, what is going on?”

A male and a female adventurer came out of Jigurd’s carriage.

I remembered seeing these two somewhere before, but I couldn’t remember where.

“Jade-san.”

Jigurd called out the male adventurer’s name.

Jade? I never heard that name before...

Well, if I couldn’t remember him even after hearing his name, it must have been my imagination.

“Wait, aren’t you the Bloody Bear?”

“Ara, is it possible that you are the Bear Missy? If I remember correctly, your name is Yuna-chan, right?”

Those two seemed to know me.

I didn't know them, though.

Well, it wasn't strange for adventurers to know about me. I know, it was a bit strange for me to say that myself, but if there was anyone who didn't remember me after seeing my clothes, I wanted to meet them. If I met someone who was wearing a costume like I was, I would remember them even if I didn't remember their face.

“Jade-san, do you know this strange...”

Marcus reached for his sword.

“This cute girl wearing bear clothes?”

Oh, he corrected himself.

“Yea, she is an adventurer from Crimonia. There aren't any adventurers from Crimonia who don't know about her.”

They were adventurers from Crimonia, it seemed. It wouldn't be strange if I had met them at the Adventurer's Guild, so that was probably why they seemed familiar and I had the impression of seeing them somewhere before.

“It's been a while, Bear Missy.”

I tilted my head.

I had no memories of ever becoming that familiar with them.

“What, you don’t remember?”

Sorry, I didn’t tend to remember minor characters.

I didn’t have the memory capacity to remember everyone I met just once.

“Well, it can’t be helped. We only spoke to each other for a few minutes, so it’s more like we know you one sidedly.”

Spoke to each other?

We had a conversation?

I didn’t remember it at all.

“You see, we talked to each other in front of the request board.”

“If I remember correctly, it was the day after Yuna-chan became a rank D adventurer. Don’t you remember?”

.....Ah, I remembered now.

“I think I remember a party of four calling out to me when I was looking at the C rank requests...”

Even though I said I remembered, it was just that. I didn’t remember their names or faces. I could only remember that I talked to them, and that I went to kill the Tiger Wolves after that.

“So, you do remember. By the way, my name is Jade.”

“I’m Meru.”

“What about the other two?”

“They are escorting some other students right now. On that note, are you also an escort, missy?”

“Yeah, I am.”

“Jade-san, then it’s true, that this strange... cute, girl wearing bear clothes is an adventurer?”

“Not just any adventurer. She is famous for doing a lot of various things.”

Various things, he said... What sort of things?

There were too many things that came to my mind, so I didn’t know which ones he was talking about.

“Bear Missy, you’re also taking a break, right? How about we spend it together?”

Just like that, it was decided that we would take our breaks together.

We gave some food and water to the horses and prepared our own lunch.

“Still, I wouldn’t have thought that Bear Missy would be working at the Capital!”

“This girl’s mother asked me to.”

I looked at Shia.

If it wasn’t for Eleanora, I wouldn’t have accepted such a troublesome task.

“I see. This job is easy, and the pay is great, so it is really popular, you know.”

“Really?!”

I heard that there wasn’t enough people, though... Was it possible that Eleanora-san fooled me?

She did say that they made some sort of a selection, so it might not have been a lie.

“We only have to escort the students to a nearby village. And, there aren’t really any dangerous monsters since it’s near the capital.”

When my party heard those words, they smiled bitterly.

There was no way they would believe us if we told them that we encountered a Black Tiger on our way.

“The students don’t do anything dangerous, so it really is an easy job.”

Jade-san said while laughing.

I looked at his party, and the two boys diverted their gazes while the two girls smiled.

“Jade-san, is this girl wearing bear clothes really an adventurer? She seems to be younger than me...”

One of the girls asked him while looking at me.

Well, it was the same thing with Marcus; seeing a girl in a Bear Suit, you wouldn’t really believe that she was an adventurer.

“It’s true. She is an adventurer stronger than me.”

Jigurd and his party made surprised expressions.

What was this person saying...

“I can’t believe it.”

One of the girls murmured while still looking at me.

Yep, nobody would believe it, right?

If Jade-san and I were to fight, I was sure that not even one person would bet on me.

They would think they would lose for sure if they did.

“I’m sure you can’t. Everyone says that when they first meet her.”

Jade-san said with a smile on his face.

“Even though she looks like this, she is actually a strong and gentle girl.”

“Jade-san, you know a lot about Yuna-san?”

Shia asked.

“Just some rumors.”

“What kind of rumors?”

It seemed that the discussion was now going in a strange direction...

Even though this was supposed to be a break...

If I didn't stop them now, this would end up badly for me.

“More importantly, Jade-san, what are you doing at the capital?”

Hidden Technique! Subject Change!

“We usually work at the capital, you know. We sometimes go to Crimonia though, and we hear rumors about Missy there.”

“What sort of rumors?”

Huh? The conversation went back to where it was...

“Let's see... Oh, there is a really famous story on how, the same day she had registered at the Adventurer's Guild, she made a bloody mess of D and E ranked adventurers who decided to pick a fight with her.”

I didn't mess up all of them. It was only Deborane!

The other people all collapsed after taking just one punch!

“Bloody mess, you say?”

The girl looked at me again.

Well, Deborane really was a bloody mess, so I couldn't say it was a lie.

Still, he was the only one, you know!

“Yuna-san, you're incredible!”

Shia seemed happy.

“They were just weak.”

“So, what other rumors have you heard?”

Would this really continue?

Wasn't it about time for you to stop?

Also, Shia, you heard some of these things from Cliff, so you already knew a lot, right?

“She became even more famous when she subjugated a Goblin King.”

“A Goblin King!?”

“Yeah, supposedly the expression of the Goblin King she had brought back was brutal and filled with rage.”

Well, I dropped it in a hole and attacked it one sidedly, so of course it would get mad.

“I saw that corpse, you know. At that time, I was in the guild by chance, after all. I thought that you were really brave for fighting a brutal monster like that.”

So Meru-san saw the Goblin King.

After hearing this story, the expressions of the students were split.

The ones who believed it, Marcus's party.

The ones who didn't believe it, Jigurd's party.

If you saw their expressions, you could instantly tell that they were completely different.

"But the thing that made Yuna-chan really famous was *that* subjugation, right?"

"The Black Viper?"

"I heard it from Shia, but did Yuna-san really defeat a Black Viper?"

It seemed that Timor heard it from Shia but didn't believe it.

I didn't think about this before, but that story was really unbelievable, right? Without the corpse, I didn't think anyone would have believed it.

"It's true. I wasn't there then, but a lot of adventurers gave their word that it was true."

"How did it happen?"

"A village was attacked by a Black Viper, and a little boy came by himself to Crimonia's Adventurer's Guild to ask for help while crying. Sadly, no adventurers who could defeat a Black Viper were present. We also accepted a different request and were not there. Although, even if we were there, I'm not sure if we would have accepted the request."

"What happened then?"

"This Bear Missy here accepted it. Without even negotiating for a request reward, she went to help the attacked village on her own. All the adventurers who saw it thought that there was no way she would be able to defeat it. It was different from the Goblin King. The Black Viper was on an entirely different level in terms of size and strength. That's why, all the adventurers who were present thought that the Bear Missy went there to die."

Was that true?

I didn't think that the adventurers saw it that way.

Well, I did leave the guild quickly while taking the child with me.

“And yet, a few days later, she brought back the corpse of the Black Viper as proof of its subjugation. With it, no one could doubt her.”

“I mean, she had the proof of defeating it, after all.”

Jade-san and Meru-san talked about that story.

Just hearing it made me embarrassed...

“Is this story true?”

The girl from Jigurd’s party said. It seemed that she didn’t believe it.

Well, that was a completely normal reaction.

“Well, you are free to believe it or not. All the adventurers from Crimonia believe it, though.”

Jade-san said while looking at me.

“Since that happened, there are no more people in Crimonia who make fun of her, and everyone recognises her strength.”

Jigurd’s party didn’t believe the story Jade-san told. They thought he just made it up.

Well, who would believe that a girl in a Bear Suit would defeat a Black Viper?

Nobody, who didn’t know me, would believe it, for sure.

“Oh right, there is a new rumor that goes around recently, but...”

“Ah, that one... Well, they won’t believe that one, either.”

After Jade-san said that, Meru-san started laughing.

If we were talking about recently, was it about the Kraken? Or the Tunnel?

I was sure that if they talked about those now, Jigurd's party would think that the other stories were false, too.

It would be just another unbelievable story.

"What is the rumor?"

"There is a rumor that says that she defeated a Kraken, but as expected, that's..."

Jade-san looked at Meru-san.

"Of course, a Kraken is..."

The two of them laughed while looking at each other.

Everyone else looked at me, too.

"That would be impossible, of course!"

(TN: Author used Katakana instead of Kanji here to imply that Yuna is trying to lie with a forced, almost robotic voice.)

Was what I answered.

When Jade-san finished telling my embarrassing, old stories, the break also ended.

CHAPTER 126

BEAR-SAN MAKES A REPORT OF HER ESCORT MISSION

We arrived at the capital. With that, the practice training was now finished.

We passed through the gates and headed towards the academy. Like usual, the guard at the gates gave me a strange look when I showed him my guild card.

Today, I would finally be able to return to Crimonia after a long time and sleep in my house, all thanks to the Bear Transfer Gate, of course.

The carriage soon arrived at the academy.

A few carriages were already parked there.

I only saw our carriage when we departed, so this meant that those were all from the other students who already came back, right?

“My job is now finished, right?”

I got out of the carriage and stretched.

“We still have to check in with the teachers.”

Oh right, Eleanora told me something like that.

So troublesome.

“Jigurd, you are also going, right?”

“Yeah, we are, but please wait a minute.”

After we had joined up with Jigurd’s party on the road, we came back to the capital together.

There was no reason to split up since our destination was the same.

Also, it was less dangerous to travel in bigger groups.

If any monsters appeared, we would easily defeat them using our numbers.

If bandits were planning on attacking us, they would probably reconsider, just seeing the size of our group.

There were a lot of merits in traveling together.

Well, there weren't any dangers like that around the capital anyway.

We entered the academy and went to check in with the professors.

When we got to the staff room, we were met by someone who shouldn't have been there.

“Mother!”

Shia said with a surprised voice when she saw Eleanora-san next to her professor.

“Why are you here?”

“I told the guard at the gate to report to me immediately when you returned, of course.”

Wasn't that abuse of authority?

“I told him it was of a S rank priority, so he reported really quickly.”

This person was the worst. You shouldn't use your authority for something this trivial. I felt sorry for the guard who had to run to the castle all the way from the gate.

“Your practice training is now finished. We will deal with the luggage you brought back, so you are free to leave and rest.”

The professor told the students.

“Also, you will have to make a report on the practice training a bit later. Don’t think you can lie, though. We will talk to the adventurers about what really happened, after all.”

The students started leaving the staff room.

“Yuna-san, thank you for being our escort.”

Shia thanked me.

“It was a pain, but also fun.”

“Yuna-san, please say goodbye to Swaying Bear-san and Hugging Bear-san for me!”

Cattleya seemed sad.

She had asked me if I could lend them to her for a while, but I had politely refused.

They weren’t something I could have just lent out simply, and I didn’t want to do it, either.

“Yuna-san, I will train a lot more and become a knight like you, who can protect people he wants.”

I wasn’t a knight, you know...

“I learned something really important on this trip. Thank you.”

Timor said and bowed.

They all thanked me on their way out.

“Ara, they were all so polite.”

“What the hell is going on?”

The professor was tilting his head.

I didn't know what they were like in school, but I somewhat understood his feelings.

“Well then, Professor, I will hear the report from Yuna-san, so please hear the report from the other two adventurers.”

The professor nodded.

I couldn't go back yet, huh.

“Please take care of this Bear Missy, then.”

Eleanora-san and I moved away from the professor a bit.

It seemed like the professor would hear the reports from Jade-san and Meru-san.

“Yuna-chan, thank you for doing this for me. So, how did it go?”

“It was exhausting. I never thought that traveling with a carriage would be this exhausting.”

This journey made me appreciate Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear all over again.

I went ahead and reported all that happened during the practice training to Eleanora-san.

“A Black Tiger, you say?”

“Don't be too hard on the students, okay? I'm the one who was responsible for that encounter, after all.”

I didn't notice the Black Tiger even though I was using detection magic.

“But, they undertook a goblin subjugation, huh.”

“Will they lose points for doing it?”

“Considering their position in society, they should, but I believe that their decision was better than that of people who would just abandon the villagers. These children are responsible for the country’s future, after all. So, I don’t want them to easily choose to abandon people. If there is a life that can be saved, save it. But, you also have to give up if it’s impossible. I think this will be a good lesson for them.”

Raising talented people was difficult in every world, huh.

Everyone had a different way of thinking.

Also, in this world, a lot of children succeeded their parents’ work. I honestly didn’t know if that was a good or a bad thing.

Still, the children from this world were looking up to their parents and trying their best to become like them, like Shia and Marcus did. I didn’t want Shia to become like Eleanora-san, though...

I looked at Eleanora-san who was standing before me.

“Yuna-chan, thank you for protecting those children.”

“No need to thank me. It was my job, after all. I will refuse next time, though.”

“That’s a pity.”

She didn’t really seem disappointed.

I finished my report, so I decided to go back to Crimonia.

“Yuna-chan, wait a minute.”

Eleanora-san stopped me.

“Here, take this.”

Eleanora-san took a book out of her item bag and gave it to me.

It was the book I wrote for Flora-sama, 『Bear-san And The Little Girl』 .

It really became a book.

“Huh?”

I noticed something that bugged me.

Author’s name, 『Bear』 ?

It was correct, but why did they use Bear?

While I was still staring at the author’s name,

“It’s better than using your real name, right?”

That was true, but it still felt weird.

“Or would you prefer that we use your real name in the copies from now on?”

“No. Bear is fine.”

It was better than having my name spread around.

“You asked for ten copies if I remember correctly?”

One by one, she put ten books of each volume on the table out of her item bag.

“This picture book is quite popular, you know. It would be great if we could sell them to the whole country...”

“I absolutely have no intention of letting you do that right now, so...”

It would be a pain if they asked me to write the next volume after it became widely known throughout the whole country.

“Please tell me if you ever want to sell it. I will make sure it sells on a large scale.”

“I’ll have to politely refuse.”

“Really? That’s too bad... I will be waiting for the next volume, though. How about naming it 『Bear-san and Eleanora』 or something like that?”

“Why should it have your name in it?”

“I mean, you’re the Bear-san, right? Then, isn’t it okay for me to be in it, too?”

“If I had to add a new character, it would be Noa. If I ever added you, it would be as a villain, who deceives the Bear-san.”

“You’re horrible, saying that I deceived you! I would love to read a picture book with my daughter in it, though.”

“I won’t be writing anymore for a while, you know.”

“That means you will eventually write it. When the time comes, please draw Noa and me in cutely.”

I ignored Eleanora-san and put the books into the Bear Box.

I would leave them at the orphanage the next time I was there. I hoped they would help the children learn the letters.

My report was finished, and Eleanora-san didn’t seem to have anything else for me, so I left the academy the same time as some students came back. Didn’t I have a really bad timing?

“It’s the bear from before!” “So, this is the rumored bear.” “Cute!” “The bear is walking on two feet.” “I wonder where these clothes are sold?” “What sort of a relationship does she have with Eleanora-sama...” “I want to hug her...”

Just like the last time, the students made an uproar about my appearance.

Being concerned with it was useless, so I just ignored them and left the academy. I thought about doing some shopping while I was here, but I decided against it.

I could come here whenever I wanted.

I went back to Crimonia through my Bear Transfer Gate at the capital.

It had been a while since I was last at my house. To relax after a ten days long journey, I took a bath and changed into the White Bear. White Bear, I missed you. I ate a meal and dove into my bed. I knew it, sleeping on a bed was the best.

It had been some days since I last cuddled with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, so I summoned them in their cub forms on top of the bed for some skinship. They were monopolized by Shia and Cattleya for a long time, after all.

I petted them, hugged them, and played with them.

Sleepiness started to assault me little by little.

I soon ended up in dreamland, with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear at my sides



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