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Illustrator 029

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Kuma Kuma Kuma Bear

**- Volume 6 -
Bear Makes a Mythril knife**

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029**

[Xant & Minions]

CHAPTER 127

BEAR-SAN BRINGS THE PICTURE BOOKS TO THE ORPHANAGE

When I opened my eyes, I looked left and right, only to see Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear sleeping, curled up like two Manjuus. After caressing them for a bit, I brought them back to my gloves.

I changed into the Black Bear and headed to[Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

It was now easier to go there since I moved my house closer.

When I entered the shop through the back door, I was greeted by the smell of freshly baked bread.

Inside the room, Morin-san was baking bread with the help of several children. They were doing their best to knead the dough and make pudding.

"Yuna-chan, you're back?"

"Yeah, I returned yesterday."

Morin-san called out to me when she saw me enter while continuing to bake the bread.

Hearing her voice, the children turned my way.

"I understand that you are all happy that Yuna-chan is here, but we still have a lot to do before we open the store, so don't stop working!"

Morin-san warned the children.

"You guys should listen to what Morin-san says and do your jobs properly, okay?"

Being told so by Morin-san and me, the children returned to their work looking a bit

sad.

Morin-san looked at the children with an expression that was saying something like, 'It can't be helped.'

"Morin-san, could I have some breakfast?"

Being able to eat freshly baked bread was the employer's special privilege, right?

I also had to ask if I could replenish my Bear Box bread reserves with some freshly made bread. It had decreased a lot because of the practice training and the students...

"Of course. You can take whichever bread you want!"

Taking advantage of Morin-san's goodwill, I decided to take some bread, which had just came out of the oven.

They all seemed delicious.

While I was hesitating on which one to take, the children watched to see which one I would take.

Was some of this bread made by the children?

When I made my choice, some children looked really happy while some others looked sad; they were perfectly divided in two groups.

As one would expect, I couldn't really eat all the bread the children made, but I still felt sorry for those whose bread I didn't take.

I wanted to go to the fridge to get some juice, but Karin-san, who saw through my plan, brought me one with a smile on her face.

"Thank you, Karin-san."

I accepted the cold fruit juice.

“You’re so popular with the children!”

More than popular, it looked more like baby birds, which embraced you after you gave them food, though.

I looked at the children while eating bread.

“Karin-san, how has the store been doing recently?”

“As you already know, it has been very busy every day.”

“Do you have enough people?”

“Yes. The children are working hard, after all.”

When I heard those words, I felt a bit guilty for making these children work so hard.

In this world, it was normal for children to work, though.

Farmer’s children helped with the farm work, merchant’s children helped with commerce. A lot of children were helping their parents with their work; Karin-san was a great example of that.

“They are so hardworking that it makes me embarrassed remembering what I was like during my childhood.”

When she remembered her past and compared it to the children who were doing their best, a bitter smile came to her face.

“You didn’t help out?”

“That’s right. She was always playing around, after all.”

Even though I asked Karin-san, someone else answered in her place.

“Mom!”

Morin-san, who had been listening, joined the conversation.

“You see, she was sort of a problem child; she didn’t help at all, no matter how we asked her.”

“Mom! That was a long time ago...”

“Long time ago, you say... It was only a few years ago, wasn’t it?”

“Big Sis Karin, you weren’t helping?”

The children innocently looked at Karin-san.

“That’s not true at all! I just skipped work sometimes!”

Karin-san did her best to find an excuse.

“You sure it was only sometimes?”

Morin-san was laughing. Was she reminiscing on what Karin-san was like when she was little?

“Mom!”

“Fufu, that was a joke. I’m really happy that you do your best to help me now.”

“Even someone like me won’t stay childish forever!”

“You’re right. You have learned your father’s way of making bread properly.”

“Mom...”

The children intruded this hearty atmosphere of the mother and daughter.

“I-I’m also doing my best to learn it!”

“Me too...”

“Me too!”

The children started to show off their work.

“Oh dear, I’m really happy to have so many students. Karin, if you don’t keep improving yourself, these children will surpass you in no time, you know.”

“I won’t let them!”

Karin-san said and went back to her work.

The children chased after her while Morin-san looked at them happily.

After I finished my breakfast, I went to the orphanage to deliver the picture books.

I entered the orphanage, but no one was nearby.

Oh right, normally, at this hour, both the group that worked at the shop and the group that was in charge of the cluckers, were out. Only the youngest group should be here.

It was a group that ranged from babies to five, six years old children. In this orphanage, the five and six years old children took care of the ones who were younger together with the headmistress.

They were staying in a room on the other side of the orphanage.

I went and found them there.

“Headmistress, good morning.”

“Yuna-san, you were here?”

“I just arrived.”

The children all rushed towards me with their short legs.

I patted their heads while approaching the headmistress.

“So, why did you come today?”

“I came to see how the children are doing and brought some souvenirs.”

“Souvenirs? What kind of souvenirs?”

One of the children who was holding my Bear Hand asked.

“Food?”

“Delicious things?”

“Sorry, it’s not food.”

“Really?”

The children looked sad.

“It’s not good to be selfish! Thanks to Yuna-san, you can eat delicious food everyday!”

The headmistress scolded the children.

It wasn’t really thanks to me.

It was thanks to the senior group that was working hard to take care of the cluckers.

I only provided the necessary foundations. After that, the children worked hard to get to where they were now on their own.

“Sowwy!”

The children apologised obediently.

“I will bring some delicious food next time, okay? This time, I brought you picture books.”

“Picture books?”

I took the picture books out of the Bear Box.

“It’s picture books!”

One child took a picture book from my hand.

“Ah, not fair! I want to see it, too!”

“I want it, too...”

“Thank you very much, Yuna-san.”

“For now, there are only two volumes of the same story, but please do read it to them.”

I gave the headmistress the last copies of the first and second volume books.

“Oh, these illustrations are really cute.”

“If you want some more picture books, please talk to Terumi-san.”

“It’s okay, I’m teaching these children to not be selfish.”

“Those picture books will help them learn the characters, so I wouldn’t call it selfish.”

“Thank you very much. Children, you have to thank Yuna-san!”

The children, who were running around and happily fighting over the books, came back and thanked me.

“You should learn properly and not cause trouble to the headmistress, okay?”

The children agreed cheerfully.

CHAPTER 128

BEAR-SAN PICKS UP ANZU

After I returned from the capital, I took it easy for a few days.

I went to the Adventurer's Guild just to see what was going on there; took Fina, Shuri and Noa for a stroll with my bears; and visited the bear family near the Honey Tree. I was really enjoying this world.

Today, I was simply lazing around on my bed as there was nothing to do, or rather, I didn't want to do anything.

At times like this, when I had time all to myself, I really missed browsing the net or playing games.

This world was quite enjoyable, but there weren't many fun things to do.

Should I make a makeshift game and play it with some children from the orphanage?

Maybe something like Othello, Shogi, Chess, Sugoroku, Cards, or some other games.

While I was thinking about which game to pick, my stomach growled.

Well, when you didn't eat your breakfast, your stomach would become empty even if you were only idling around on bed. I decided to go to[Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

As I was about to leave my house, I ran into Cliff right in front of it.

(TL note: Shogi is Japanese version of chess. There are two sorts of Sugoroku: Ban-sugoroku is similar to backgammon, and E-sugoroku is similar to Snakes and Ladder.)

"You're going out?"

Cliff, who was by himself, asked. In this world, the nobles frequently went out on their own, huh. Noa was often at my shop by herself, even the king came to my house by himself... Well, in his case, it was probably an exception, though...

Was the town safe, or did he think that there were no dangers? Well, it was probably safe.

The guards checked for criminals at the gates, and I also saw patrols walk by from time to time. With that, the town was probably quite safe.

In other worlds, nobles always had guards; especially the ladies, they had handsome guards with them at all times.

Noa was a noble lady, too, but she didn't have a handsome guard, huh.

Well, logically thinking, if you put a handsome man as a guard for a lady, strange rumors would start popping up, and it would be hard to find someone to marry her.

This was the difference between reality and fantasy, huh.

If Noa was born in a fantasy world, would she be surrounded by handsome men?

"I'm feeling hungry and am on my way to the shop. What about you, Cliff?"

"I was on my way to your house."

"My house?"

"I had something to discuss with you. Hmm, I'm hungry too, so do you mind if I come with you?"

"I don't mind."

I didn't really have a reason to refuse, so I accepted his proposal. We departed from the Bear House and made the short trip to the[Bear-san Relaxing Shop].

We entered the shop, but there was no real reaction. If we were at the capital, there would have been a racket made by the people looking at me, and I would be hearing[Bear]from every direction, but in this shop, I didn't hear it at all.

This must have been thanks to the children, who were wearing their Bear Clothes, huh.

After we entered the shop, Cliff and I went to the counter where a girl in Bear Clothes was taking orders.

Hmm, what should I take? Everything seemed delicious.

After thinking about it for a while, I decided to take Morin-san's new bread, fried potatoes, and juice.

Cliff only said,[Same as always, please.]for his order.

I normally paid for my food when I came here, but Cliff took out enough to pay for the both of us.

“Is it okay?”

“Don’t worry about it.”

We got our orders and found ourselves open seats.

“So, what did you want from me?”

I asked Cliff and started to eat one of my fried potatoes.

“It’s not like I want something from you. I just came to tell you that the tunnel will be ready in a few days.”

“It will finally be finished, huh.”

I replied while munching on Morin-san’s new bread.

The Feudal Lord came to report this to me in person, huh.

“Yeah, it took time to make it so that carriages could use it. We needed to light up the tunnel, arrange a place for horses to take a break, amongst some other things.”

Cliff explained while eating his fried potatoes.

Well, I had decided to leave the tunnel to the specialists.

It wasn’t something a complete amateur like me could talk about. For me, there was no problem as long as I could get my hands on seafood easily.

“Then, it’s now possible to go to Mireera through it, right?”

“Well, we have already been using it for bringing wheat and other things we needed, but from now on, everyone will be able to use it. Also, you will now be given a part of the tax through your guild card as stated by our contract. Talk to Mylene if you want the details.”

A while back, Mylene-san and Cliff came to my house with a contract.

It was a pain, so I didn't really read it thoroughly, but I remembered something about being given a part of the tax, and the tunnel being free to use for me as well as anybody accompanying me.

“The inns are finished, too?”

“I have been told that two of them had been finished. We will have to wait and see if it will be enough. I'm sure that Mireera's mayor and Commerce Guild will do something about it if it won't. I told them to contact us if they didn't have enough workers, so it should be fine.”

He was right, we wouldn't know what would happen before the tunnel really opened.

People would go there to trade, just to see the sea, to work, or even to play. We didn't really know how many people would be coming and going.

Hmm, since the tunnel was about to be finished, that meant that Anzu would be coming soon, right?

The timing was perfect, then.

Even though I had asked Terumi-san to take care of Anzu, they didn't know each other yet.

It was a good thing I was here at the moment.

“But I must say, the food here is really delicious.”

Cliff praised the food.

If a noble gave us a passing mark, that meant our food must be good enough.

Well, I already gave it to the King even though I didn't tell him it was from the shop, of course.

This bread had been approved by the royal family and the nobles. There was no way it was bad.

Ah, this new bread was delicious, too. I always tasted the new sorts of bread before we even started selling them, and all of them were delicious.

After I gave Morin-san ideas on how to make the breads from my world with my half-baked knowledge of them, she started making some of her own, using her experience and knowledge as a baker.

I believed this to be the best bakery of the kingdom.

It was a bit late to think of this now, but she wouldn't leave me and go work for another place, right?

I should probably talk to her about her wage soon, so that it wouldn't happen.

"Well then, I have some unfinished work to do, so I'm going back. If you have anything you want to know, please come to my mansion."

Cliff ordered some bread before leaving; was it for Noa?

A few days later, the tunnel's completion was officially announced.

Most of the people already knew about it, so it didn't really cause a commotion.

Well, various information about the tunnel had already been leaked, like when the trees were cut down and when the road was made, and how the monster extermination was going.

Merchants who went over in advance shared all sorts of information.

So, since the tunnel had already been opened, people from Mireera should start arriving today. Anzu didn't tell me when exactly she would be coming, so I went to the gate to see how it was going.

When I approached the gate, it was noisier than usual.

As I got closer, I started hearing Mireera's dialect and saw a lot of carriages entering through the gate, one after the other.

It seemed that some people from Mireera had already arrived.

From one of the carriages, a man, who looked to be a merchant, was asking a guard some questions.

Where should we park our carriages?

Where was the Commerce Guild?

Was there an inn you recommend?

The guard politely answered all of his questions.

Many others, who had already been given permission to enter the town, were leaving their carriages. Climbing down from one of them, was a girl who didn't seem to have inherited any of Deiga-san's genes, Anzu.

I didn't think that she would have come on the first day.

She looked around her like some sort of a country bumpkin, so I decided to sneak up on her.

The Bear Shoes made no noise; there was no way she would hear me approaching.

"Yuna-san!"

Yet, she easily found me.

The Bear Equipment was just stupid sometimes. Even though they couldn't hear your footsteps, people would still recognise you upon seeing your clothes.

Well, in the first place, I didn't think I could have snuck up on someone while wearing a Bear Costume, though...

"Hi, Anzu."

"You came here to welcome me?"

“More or less. I knew that some people from Mireera would be arriving today, so I came to check, but I didn’t really think you would come already.”

“You see, the Commerce Guild selected us to come first.”

“Really?”

“Yes, but in return, they asked us to work hard at Yuna-san’s place. We will do our best, so please take care of us.”

Anzu happily said and smiled.

She was so cute. “You should smile like that at boys, you know,” was what I said to myself.

You would be able to find a husband in no time.

Did Anzu never have a boyfriend until now since Deiga-san was always around?

He asked me to find her a husband, but she might be able to find one herself, now that Deiga-san wasn’t around anymore.

“This is a really big town, though. I might get lost here.”

She was right; it was big compared to Mireera, and there were people everywhere.

While we were talking, I noticed some women listening to our conversation.

Oh, I remembered seeing them before; they should be the women who were captured by bandits. One of them grabbed Anzu’s shirt.

Japanese use the same character for town and city. When Mireera was first introduced we thought it was a city with all the talk about independence, and only later realized it was actually smaller than Crimonia. We will continue to refer to it as a city, and Crimonia as a town.

“Anzu-chan, didn’t you forget about us?”

“Yeah, won’t you introduce us to Bear-chan?”

The other women nodded when she said that.

“Ah, my bad. Yuna-san, these women here will help me at the shop.”

There were six of them, and they were all around twenty, twenty-five years old; that was, if they weren't like Eleanora-san, who looked younger than she actually was, of course.

“Can we call you Yuna-chan? Hmm, you will be taking care of us, so wouldn't Yuna-san be better?”

“You can call me whatever you want.”

Still, they should refrain from Bear-chan they had used before.

If they decided to call me that, I would use my power as their employer to stop them.

I could deal with Bear Missy, but, I didn't really know why, I rejected Bear-chan with all my heart. Something told me that it was the only thing I shouldn't let people call me.

“I will call you Yuna-chan, then. Well, we came here to work for you, but is it really okay? Won't we cause you trouble?”

“Our job is preparing fish and cooking, right?”

Two women, who seemed the oldest of the group, asked.

“That will be your main job. There will also be some other jobs, though.”

“We will be working at the orphanage if I'm not mistaken?”

“Yes. There are about fifty children and only two people looking after them, so I was thinking of having you help them.”

“There are so many orphans?”

“Well, we will talk about this later. You're all tired from the trip, right? I will take you

to a place where you can rest, okay?”

“Yuna-san, before that, could you take us to a cheap inn?”

“Inn?”

“If we don’t find one soon, other people will be taking it, after all. We were thinking about sleeping at an inn today and finding a place for all of us to live tomorrow.”

“We could also sleep at the restaurant, but are there any vacant rooms inside? If there are, we would like you to lend them to us cheaply if possible.”

A woman behind Anzu asked.

“There are some rooms, but never mind that. I already prepared a place for all of you to stay, so you don’t need to look for one yourself.”

“Really? We are happy about that, but if it’s too expensive, we won’t be able to pay for it.”

“That’s okay. It’s free, after all.”

“Free?”

“You could call it an employee dormitory? For those who work at my place, I prepare all they need to live comfortably.”

When I said that, the women were all at a loss for words.

“Shall we go, then? You’re all tired, right? Also, if we continue to talk here, we will bother the people who want to enter the town.”

They nodded and agreed to follow me.

KUMA SHORT STORIES 1

THE STRANGE GIRL WEARING A BEAR SUIT

Author's note:

I wrote these three short stories as a commemoration of the second year anniversary of the The Bears Bear a Bare Kuma.

I hope you enjoy.

My job was to guard the town.

My job had many different shifts. My main tasks were patrolling the town, watching the entrance of the town, and listening to the townspeople's troubles at the post.

That day, I was working at the entrance and my main task was to make sure that no criminals entered the town. Well, even though I said that, I only had to check the guild or citizen cards of the people leaving and entering the town, using the crystal plate to see if it turned red or not.

If it turned red, it meant that the person was a criminal; that almost never happened, though. To put it simply, it was an easy job with a lot of spare time, but even though it was easy and free, I still had to do it properly.

"Young lady, are you going out of the town?"

A ten-year-old girl wanted to leave the town, so I decided to warn her about the dangers.

The adventurers kept the monsters in the nearby forest in check, so it was relatively safe. If you went too far, though, you were bound to encounter some monsters.

"Yes. I'm going to gather some medicinal plants."

"Don't go too far inside the forest even if you think it is safe, okay!?"

"Okay."

The girl left the town with a little rucksack on her back.

After she left, a few people entered, but no one left the town. It was a really quiet time of the day.

I looked outside the town and saw a black silhouette walking towards me.

What was that?

The little girl, who went out not long ago, was walking next to it. A person wearing strange clothes?

As they approached, I got a better look.

A bear?

The identity of the black thing was a girl wearing a bear suit. Why would she wear that?

I spoke to the little girl.

“Did you find any herbs, young lady?”

“Yes!”

I was a bit worried, but it seemed that she found herbs without encountering any danger.

I proceeded to ask the girl, who was wearing the bear suit, what her clothes were all about. She told me to pay it no mind while looking embarrassed.

Well, she indeed wore suspicious clothes, but I didn't sense any danger from her. If she didn't want to talk about it, I wouldn't force her, as long as she wasn't a criminal. Anyhow, I asked for her identification card. The crystal would tell me if she was a criminal or not.

She didn't have a citizen card nor a guild card, so I had to check her magical power directly.

Well, if she really wasn't recorded, the plate wouldn't react.

There was no reaction, so I let her enter the town.

Hmm, I should make a report to the captain about this.

A few days after, the Bear Missy came to the gate again. Taking a closer look, those clothes were quite cute. How should I put this... Just looking at it made you feel at ease.

When I asked her where she was going, she told me she was going out and showed me her guild card; it seemed she managed to become an adventurer.

Anyhow, I told her to take care and saw her off.

When I was looking at her back, the bear's tail was swaying right and left; the suit was well made, it seemed.

Some time had passed while I was at my post, but the Bear Missy had yet to return.

Well, there were four gates to our town, all at key locations, so she might have used another gate. Still, I felt a bit anxious.

My worry was all for nothing, though, as the Bear Missy soon came back safely. I unconsciously petted her head when she passed by, and she scolded me. It was difficult to handle young girls...

Another day at my post, I heard rumors about Bear Missy.

It seemed that the first day she went to the Adventurer's Guild, some other adventurers picked a fight with her; I got nervous when I heard that. Why would something like that possibly happen?

"What happened then?"

I asked my colleagues, who were talking about it.

I couldn't believe what they told me; it seemed that she fought about 10 adventurers.

It was an unbelievable story, but they told me that some adventurers were really hurt.

She didn't look strong to me at all, though.

In the days that followed, I heard more and more rumors about Bear Missy, and they

were all unbelievable things.

I heard that she had defeated a goblin horde with a Goblin King, and there were even rumors about her defeating a Black Viper. Everything I heard was simply unbelievable, but a colleague of mine knew someone at the guild, and he said that the stories were all true.

I still couldn't believe the rumors, though. Especially the one about the Bear House.

What was a Bear House, even?

"It's a house in the form of a bear, of course. You will understand when you see it."

My coworker told me, so I decided to go and see the Bear House when I was finished with my patrol.

I should begin with the conclusion: it was a bear. No matter how I looked at it, it was a bear.

It wasn't a terrifying bear, though. How should I put it... It was a cute Bear House.

When I heard the rumor, I thought that it was a terrifying Bear House, but it was a really cute Bear House; it suited Bear Missy well.

She really was full of endless surprises.

CHAPTER 129

BEAR-SAN TAKES ANZU TO THE EMPLOYEE DORMITORY

Anzu was looking around restlessly. Did she find the town strange?

I had done the same thing when I had come here for the first time, so I couldn't really blame her.

Well, I had been looking around to determine whether or not this was the game or another world, though.

"There are so many people."

"Yeah."

"Will we really be working in this town?"

"Will I be able work here..."

"We all decided that we would do our best, right?"

"The people in this town are really stylish, though."

"Yes, but....."

"No one wears it."

They all looked at me.

Why were they looking at me?

"No one else is wearing the same thing as Yuna-chan."

"There are no bears."

"I thought that there would be a lot of people wearing clothes similar to yours in this town."

They all nodded.

That was what all of you were thinking!?

I was shocked.

There was no way people wearing Bear Suits would be walking around in town; that much was common sense.

As far as I knew, the costume culture didn't even exist in this world. If there was a place full of people wearing costumes though, I would love to see it.

Hmm, wait a minute... Did they think that there were people wearing costumes elsewhere since they had never left Mireera before?

Was it because they saw me wearing my Bear Suit and had no other information about Crimonia? No, that shouldn't be. There were a lot of people who traveled to Crimonia, so they should have known that I was the strange one.

"Are there no people wearing the same clothes as you, Yuna-san?"

This question was difficult to answer...

"Th-there aren't."

This was the only way I could respond as no other answers were possible.

The only ones who also wore such clothes were the children working for me.

Also, it was their work uniform, not their casual clothes.

As if to contradict my words, a few children wearing Bear Suits walked by.

They were the children working at[Bear-san's Relaxing Shop], without a doubt.

Hmm, they were walking around at this hour... What about the shop?

It didn't take long for Anzu and the others to notice the children, too.

“Those are!?”

They were looking at the Bear Clothes, of course.

Soon, the children noticed me and rushed to me.

As they got closer, I recognized the three girls.

“Big Sis Yuna!”

“You guys, what are you doing here? What about the shop?”

I asked them what was on my mind.

“It’s our day off!”

Oh, I see. Today was their day off. I forgot about it since I didn’t visit the shop.

“Yuna-san, who are these children?”

“They are the orphans working at my shop. Why are you guys wearing your uniforms, though?”

“Terumi-san asked us to wear them during our days off to advertise the shop.”

That person was just.....

“If you don’t like it, you don’t have to wear them, okay? I will tell Terumi-san off.”

“It’s okay! We all love these uniforms, after all!”

The girls answered with really cute smiles. No lies could be hidden behind such smiles.

“Terumi-san also said that we would be safe as long as we wore these.”

“Safe?”

“She said that these clothes have the divine protection of the Bear, and no one would dare to pick a fight with us or try to trick us.”

Was I the divine protection of the Bear?

From my experience, wearing those clothes actually made you an easier target, though...

Was it really okay... I should really talk to Terumi-san about this the next time I see her. This would have to stop if the children were put in any danger just for the sake of publicity.

“So why are you girls here?”

“Headmistress asked us to buy some ingredients.”

“Even though it is our day off, others are still working, so this is the least we can do.”

“That’s nice of you.”

I patted their heads.

I was really glad that this was a world where it was okay to pet children’s heads to praise them. In my world, there were some countries where it was seen as unacceptable.

“Girls, be careful while you do your shopping, okay?”

It wasn’t good for me to delay their shopping for too long.

The children happily replied and left.

“They are all very cute children.”

“I thought that they were all problem children when I first heard about the orphanage.”

“They seem to all be obedient and good children.”

The women gave me their impressions of the children.

“The headmistress, who takes care of the children, is a gentle person and loves them dearly, so they turned out to be good children.”

They really were good children.

When I was a child, I always opposed my parents and only played games and surfed the net.

After we parted ways with the children who rushed to buy ingredients, we once again headed to the employee dormitory.

As we were getting close to the dorm, which was near the orphanage, we inevitably passed by one particular place.

“What’s that?”

“A bear?”

“That’s a bear for sure.”

“Is that the shop?”

They were all looking at the [Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop]. Since the place they would all live in was near the orphanage, there was no other way but to pass by the shop.

Two big Bear Statues were here; a bear at the entrance and a bear on the roof.

Also, a signboard, saying [Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop] in big characters, was above the door.

The women didn’t move. They just stood there and looked at the bears and the shop, with their mouths wide open.

“I saw something like this before.”

“Ara, what a coincidence. I saw it, too.”

“I saw it as well.”

After they seemed to agree on something, they all looked at me.

“Yuna-chan, this is your house, isn’t it?”

They were only half-right.

“It’s not my house but the shop I manage.”

“Yuna-chan’s shop.....”

“Will we be working here?”

Some of the women seemed anxious and worried while some others were smiling.

“We mostly sell bread here, so I prepared another place for you.”

“You did?”

“I plan on making the new restaurant based on rice meals.”

Rice should be coming soon, after all.

“That reminds me, did you hear anything about the country of Harmony and Peace?”

“One of their ships came the other day, and they reopened trade.”

That was some great news.

I was really happy that I could eat rice again.

“The master of the Commerce Guild said that he would send you some rice soon.”

That would be great for the restaurant, then.

We left [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop] and headed to the dorm.

“This is the orphanage, and the big wall you see over there is the clucker's coop. Also, you will all be living in that building there.”

The dorm was the size of an inn.

It had a lot of rooms, a bath, and even a dining room. It could easily be used as an actual inn.

When we reached the dorm, they all stood petrified at the entrance.

“We will be living here?”

“It's big...”

“It's huge...”

Well, it turned out this big because I made it with the image of an inn with a lot of rooms in mind.

“I will explain everything inside, so please enter.”

At the entrance, I asked them to take off their shoes and put on the indoor shoes, which looked like slippers.

They all obediently did so.

“The interior is beautiful.”

“The first floor is the common area. You have a kitchen and a bath, so you should all discuss on how you will use them.”

They wandered freely throughout the dorm.

Anzu and a few others went to the kitchen while the others went to the storehouse and the bathroom.

“This kitchen seems tidier than the one at my inn.”

I heard Anzu’s voice from the kitchen.

It had just been made, so of course it was.

They would be troubled if the stuff I made for them was filthy, after all.

“The bath is also beautiful. And guess what, there is a bear inside.”

One of the women excitedly said after she finished exploring the first floor, making all of them go to the bathroom.

“It’s a bear.”

“It’s a bear indeed.”

“A Bear-san, huh.”

Just like at the Bear House, I made it so that hot water poured out of the bear’s mouth.

“It’s big.”

“Yes, it would be okay even if we all entered it together.”

“It will be difficult to clean, though.”

“That’s why we should discuss how to keep it clean.”

There was no point staying in the bathroom, so we went to the second floor.

“The second and third floors are bedrooms only, so you can use whichever you want.”

A woman opened a door next to her.

“Yuna-chan, could it be that it’s one person per room?”

There was only one bed per room, making them all single rooms.

“Yeah...”

“Is that really okay?”

“There are a lot of rooms, so it’s okay.”

“I didn’t think that we would each have our own room.”

“Yeah, we planned to rent one house for all of us, and, since we would have looked for a cheap place, single rooms would have been impossible.”

“Yuna-chan, you aren’t about to tell us that our wages will be nonexistent, right?”

One of the women said in an anxious voice.

Oh right, we didn’t discuss the wages yet.

I would have to talk it over with Terumi-san.

“You will receive a proper salary, of course. I just have to talk to the person in charge of finances about the amount first.”

“It’s okay as long as we receive something, even if it’s a small amount.”

“Since we will be living in such a place, it’s logical for our wages to be small.”

I should discuss it with Terumi-san soon.

“On a different note, this is a female dorm, so please don’t bring men inside. And when you get a man, please find another place.”

They were all at the right age, so they might have thought of bringing men over, but I would prefer for them to refrain from doing so here.

Also, I didn't want people I didn't know coming to my property.

"I will refrain from that for a while."

"Me too."

"With my husband recently passed away, it would be a bit..."

All of them agreed in unison except for Anzu.

Right, all of them had lost their children and husbands, so this rule probably wasn't necessary.

I regretted not choosing better words.

"Anything else you want to ask me? If there is nothing, I will let you rest today."

Night would come in a few hours, so there wasn't enough time to show them around the town.

Also, even though it was just a two-day trip by carriage, they should still be tired.

"What will our jobs be?"

"I will show you the restaurant tomorrow, so I will explain it then. Any other questions?"

They looked at each other and shook their heads.

"Oh, right. Anzu, do you have enough food for today?"

"Yes. We prepared enough for a few days."

"It should be fine, then. I will come here tomorrow morning, so be ready."

After I left the dorm, I decided to go to Terumi-san's place before returning to my house.

CHAPTER 130

BEAR-SAN TAKES ANZU TO THE ORPHANAGE

The next day, I was waiting for Terumi-san at my home.

“Good morning. Am I late?”

“No, you are right on time. Well then, I will be counting on you today.”

Yesterday, I told Terumi-san that Anzu had come to Crimonia, and asked her to accompany me today. I was worried that she would refuse because of her job, but she gladly accepted.

“What about the eggs?”

“It’s okay. My daughters are helping, and Liz is there, too. It might take them a while, but they will do it properly, so no need to worry.”

It was fine, then. I was always relying on Terumi-san for practically everything work related.

We went to the dorm and found all the women there, relaxing on the first floor.

“Ah, Yuna-san, good morning.”

Anzu, who was sitting on a chair and having a drink, noticed us entering.

It didn’t take long for the other girls to notice and greet us, too.

“Did you sleep well?”

“Yes, I slept like a log. The bed is great and really soft.”

“Yuna-chan, can we really use these rooms?”

“And not be charged for using them?”

“Even though you told us we will also get a wage...”

“Are we possibly going to be doing some strange jobs or something else like that?”

They all intently looked at me.

“I will properly pay you, and you won’t be working any strange jobs. We will properly discuss your salary and what you will be doing soon, so please don’t worry about it. You are also free to refuse if you don’t want to do it.”

Well, there was a saying that fits this situation very well. ‘Some things are too good to be true.’ It was normal for them to be worried.

I also didn’t really know how employees were treated in this world.

I once overheard that an apprentice was given food, clothing, and shelter, but no wages.

It probably depended on the employer, but I would definitely pay them wages.

“So, Yuna-san, who is this person?”

When Anzu asked who Terumi-san was, I told her that she was the mother of Fina and Shuri, whom she had met in Mireera, and that she helped me with the store, mainly anything related to finance.

I then introduced everyone else, starting from the oldest, Nifu-san, and ending with Anzu.

With introductions out of the way, we sat down and started to talk about the future.

“Well then, I will summarize your jobs, okay? If you have any questions, don’t be afraid to ask.”

I proceeded to briefly explain their jobs.

Anzu would be in charge of the restaurant and its menu while the others would help both at the restaurant and at the orphanage.

Some children would be sent to help the restaurant, too.

There would be six work days a week and one day off; the same as the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

"I'm in charge....."

"You don't have to worry; Terumi-san and I will help you, too."

I added my name, but it would be mostly Terumi-san who would help them.

Next to me, Terumi-san showed a bitter smile. Had she read my mind?

"Anzu, you just have to make food the way Deiga-san does."

"...I will do my best."

She said with a small nod.

"Anzu-chan, when you make the menu, you should also make a list of the ingredients and their amounts, so we can discuss the selling prices with them in mind."

"Okay."

Anzu answered with an earnest expression.

"Hmm, I want to check out the ingredients myself, so could you tell me where the shops are?"

"Sure thing. I will take you to my recommended meat and vegetable sellers after this."

Anzu thanked Terumi-san.

“I just have to follow Anzu-chan’s orders, right?”

“Yeah, I plan on leaving everything to Anzu.”

“Ugh, I have so much work...”

“Anzu-chan, if you need help with anything, just tell us. We will do our best to help you.”

“Okay.”

Anzu happily looked at her seniors.

After that, we moved on to the salary, and the use of the dormitory and the restaurant.

Nobody complained about the salary Terumi-san suggested.

On the contrary, they were even saying things like: “Is it really okay to receive that much?”

“Anzu, don’t regret agreeing to this amount later, okay?”

“Wh-why would you say such a thing?”

“Anzu, you, who inherited Deiga-san’s cuisine, are more amazing than you think. You should be more aware of your skills, you know.”

She should have a lot of customers, I imagined.

Well, on the other hand, I might be wrong, and nobody would come.

Still, Anzu had been taught by Deiga-san, who made very delicious meals, so I didn’t think that could really happen.

It might just take a while for the news to spread.

“My father’s cooking is delicious, indeed, but my skills aren’t there yet...”

“The meals you had prepared were delicious enough, you know. You should be more confident in yourself.”

“Th-thank you very much. I will do my best.”

“That’s why, even if it gets really busy, your salary won’t increase, okay?”

“I-I understand.”

I told Anzu her salary wouldn’t increase, but I was still planning on increasing it if the number of customers got high. We had to increase the funds for Anzu’s marriage, after all.

It wouldn’t matter whom she married since she wouldn’t be troubled over money.

After we finished discussing things about the restaurant, we went on to talk about the orphanage.

I told them that some of the children were raising cluckers while others were helping at the bakery.

“So, Yuna-san, what will we be doing at the orphanage?”

“Will we help taking care of the birds?”

Nifu-san asked.

“Well, basically, you will be taking care of the youngest children. With the number of children increasing, it has become really difficult for the headmistress to take care of them by herself. You will take care of the babies and other children up to six years old; I normally just call them the youngest group.”

“We just have to take care of the children?”

“We will have to discuss it with the headmistress and the other person in charge first, but yeah.”

It wouldn’t be good if I was the only one deciding; we had to discuss it with the people who were actually working there, or we could trouble them.

“I would also like for you to help them with their studies; reading and writing, and simple math.”

Terumi-san said.

She was right; it was very important for the children to study.

The children were already studying during their free time, but with their increasing numbers, there just weren't enough people to help them all.

If they couldn't read or write, they could be tricked by some written contract.

If they couldn't count, they could be tricked during a transaction.

For any kind of job the orphans wanted to have in the future, they would need those basic skills.

The conversation carried on, and we decided to all go to the orphanage to meet the headmistress and the children before going to the restaurant.

It would soon be time for lunch. At this hour, only the headmistress and the youngest group would be at the orphanage, but soon the children taking care of the cluckers would come back to have lunch. I wanted for us to meet before that.

We entered the orphanage, and found the headmistress and the youngest group in the living room.

The headmistress was surrounded by children and reading them a picture book.

"Yuna-san, welcome."

"Headmistress, good morning."

The children noticed me and rushed over.

They clung to my tummy, arms, and legs.

If I didn't have the Bear Equipment, I would have been pushed down, but thanks to it, I was able to properly catch all the children.

Nifu-san looked at the children with a warm gaze.

"Why do you come here today? Also, who might the people behind you be?"

I briefly introduced everyone, then told Headmistress all about the restaurant and the dormitory next door.

“I also asked them to help at the orphanage in addition to helping at the restaurant.”

“You did?”

The headmistress’s voice rose a bit in surprise.

“Since the number of children increased, it has become difficult for you, right? Liz-san is also having a hard time just by managing the children who are taking care of the cluckers.”

“I’m thankful for your concern, but we’re okay. The children are all well behaved, and since Terumi-san and Yuna-san are helping us, I don’t think of it as difficult.”

Even though she said that, I was able to see that it was indeed difficult.

The difficulties might have changed from when I first came here, but that didn’t mean it had gotten any easier. Honestly, the only thing Terumi-san and I had done was give work to the children.

“We would be troubled if you collapsed, Headmistress. That’s why you have no right to refuse our help!”

“The headmistress will collapse?”

“Headmistress...”

The moment I mentioned Headmistress collapsing, the children, who were still clinging to me, rushed to her and grabbed her clothes or clinged to her arms in worry.

Headmistress, who was just rushed at by all the children, didn’t waver a bit and received the children properly.

She might be stronger than me, even without the Bear Clothes...

“Don’t worry. I won’t collapse.”

The headmistress, seemingly troubled, patted their heads in order to soothe them.

It was a really heartwarming sight, worthy of putting a smile on my face.

“Headmistress, for the sake of the children’s smiles, you mustn’t collapse. I will help you so that it won’t happen.”

“Yuna-san... Thank you very much.”

Headmistress accepted, so I tried to leave before the clucker group came back, but the women started to talk with Headmistress and play with the children.

Were they possibly reminiscing about their own deceased children?

Only Anzu stayed by my side, not knowing what to do.

It was almost lunch time, so the children in charge of cooking should be coming back soon; the moment I thought about that, the door opened, and Liz-san and a few children entered.

“Yuna-san and Terumi-san?”

Liz-san looked at us, surprised.

“Good work, Liz. How did it go?”

Terumi-san asked about their work.

“We properly delivered the eggs to the guild.”

“Thank you.”

“It’s okay. Why are the two of you here, though? Also, who are these people?”

The children who came looked at the women who were playing.

I explained the same way as I explained to Headmistress.

“Really?”

“It’s been difficult on you and Headmistress, Liz-san.”

“It’s difficult, but thinking back on how it was before Yuna-san helped us, it’s not really that difficult at all. Back then, it was very difficult to even live. We didn’t have any food, and even though we did our best, we were hardly able to procure any at all. But it’s different now. It’s still difficult, but if we do our best, we can procure food and feed the children. It’s all thanks to Yuna-san, that we can have a delicious meal every day. That’s why we can do our best even though it’s difficult.”

Liz-san’s thoughts were similar to Headmistress’s.

Really, these two... It would be very troublesome if they collapsed, but they didn’t realize it at all.

Well, the children were all well behaved, but there were still a lot of them, so Headmistress and Liz had a hard time taking care of them all.

“Well then, we will go and prepare lunch. Will you eat here?”

I looked around the room.

The women were happily playing with the children.

We wouldn’t be able to leave like this...

“Can we?”

“Yes, I will prepare enough for everyone.”

Liz-san started to head to the kitchen with the children.

“Excuse me. Can I help you, too, please?”

Anzu requested.

“Hmm, you are?”

“I’m Anzu, and I will be working at Yuna-san’s place from now on. I can’t take care of children, but I can cook!”

Liz-san looked at me with a troubled expression.

She was probably thinking something like: “Is it really okay to ask a guest to cook for us? Can’t I just refuse her?”

“Anzu, we have a lot of people who will eat dinner, so can you please help Liz-san?”

“Okay!”

When I said that, Liz-san smiled at Anzu.

“I’m counting on you then, Anzu-san.”

Anzu happily went to the kitchen with Liz-san.

Terumi-san and I decided to stay in the living room and play with the children until the food was ready.

The children were all full of energy. I was sure that without the Bear equipment, I wouldn’t be able to keep up with them for more than a few minutes.

Headmistress and Liz-san were really incredible for dealing with them everyday; it would be impossible for me.

It wasn’t long before a delicious smell drifted from the kitchen and the children taking care of the cluckers returned.

Soon, the meals prepared by Anzu were lined up on the table, and we all ate them together.

KUMA SHORT STORIES 2

BEAR-SAN IS A CUPID

Hello, Gentz here. I used to be an adventurer, but I was now working at the Adventurer's Guild.

One of the reasons I retired from adventuring was that the two members of my party married each other, but, right around that time, I also got invited to work as the guild's storehouse keeper.

The daughter of the previously mentioned married party members was right in front of me now.

"And that's how you cut it."

"I see."

This little girl was dismantling a wolf with a knife; her name was Fina. She was the legacy of my two party members, Terumi and the now deceased Roi. Terumi was bedridden with an illness; we went to the doctor, but it seemed that there was no other way to treat her other than to just suppress the illness using medicine.

Since her mother couldn't work, Fina worked to take care of her mother and little sister.

The only thing I could do for them was to give Fina a job; I tried to give them money, but Fina refused.

She didn't want to accept it because she wouldn't be able to repay the favor and she didn't change her mind even after I told her that she didn't have to repay it at all.

Instead, I gave Fina a job, so she could pay for the medicine herself.

It was sadly impossible for Fina to work everyday since there were days when we had nothing she could do. I really wanted to do something to change this situation, but I wasn't able to. I couldn't protect Roi's precious daughter, nor could I save Terumi; I really was a worthless man.

One day, Fina came to the guild accompanied by a girl wearing a cute bear suit. Fina told me that this girl had saved her from the wolves, which had attacked her in the forest.

I scolded Fina, of course. If something had happened to her, what should I say in front of Roi's grave? What should I tell Terumi, who was already depressed because of her illness? I was very grateful to the Bear Missy, who had saved Fina.

Soon after, the Bear Missy became an adventurer, and she brought in a lot of monsters she subjugated but not dismantled. Contrary to her appearance, she seemed to be an excellent adventurer. Like, when some adventurers decided to pick a fight because of her clothes, she made short work of them.

Fina also seemed to take a liking to her, so I decided not to talk too much about her clothes.

Today, she had brought the monsters she had killed again. There were a lot of adventurers who dismantled the monsters on their own, but some adventurers found it a pain and left it to the guild. The missy seemed to belong to the latter group and couldn't dismantle the monsters; that was when I got a good idea.

I would ask the Bear Missy to leave all of her dismantling work to Fina.

The guild's profit would diminish, of course, but if it could make Fina a little happier, I didn't mind being scolded.

Also, the more time passed, the more the Bear Missy became infamous for her strength; it would become harder and harder to make this request.

She luckily accepted my request and Fina became her exclusive dismantler. Every time I saw Fina, she was talking really happily about her work, as the Bear Missy allowed her to take some meat from the wolves she dismantled.

The meat was nutritious, and missy also told her to buy bread and vegetables with the money she earned. I couldn't thank this missy enough.

Although, there was a time when my heart almost stopped when I heard that Bear Missy had brought Fina with her on a Tiger Wolf subjugation. I really hoped she wouldn't take Fina to such dangerous places ever again.

Still, killing two Tiger Wolves... Wasn't missy a bit too strong?

Fina was really happy when she successfully dismantled them; it was a good experience for her.

A few days later, Fina came to my house in tears.

She told me that her mother's illness had worsened, and so she came to me because she didn't know what to do. I was happy that she relied on me, but I couldn't really do anything...

I went to see Terumi, but she was suffering and was barely able to speak. I noticed she had lost a lot of weight, too. She apologized and thanked me for taking care of them, but those words weren't the ones I wanted to hear.

I couldn't bear with the situation anymore and rushed out of the house. I needed a doctor. Many doctors have examined her already, though. Even if I got a doctor, he would just shake his head and tell me there was nothing he could do. I was powerless and couldn't do anything for them.

When I returned to their house, Fina wasn't there anymore, and I only saw her sister, Shuri, embracing her mother while crying. It seemed that Fina also left the house after I rushed out.

I just held Terumi's hand and tried to keep her awake. Was there really nothing I could do!?

As I was biting my lower lip to the point where it almost bled, Fina returned with the Bear Missy.

Why would she bring the Bear Missy?

Just as they approached, Terumi's consciousness cleared up a bit.

She apologized again and even said she was entrusting her daughters to me. I couldn't keep my tears in anymore. Couldn't I have done something before the illness became this bad? Had I really done everything I could have?

I might have only been running away from reality by just giving some assistance to her family, and believing I helped and did all I could, yet, in reality, I wasn't able to do anything. I wasn't able to save her. I was full of regrets, but it was too late to change anything now.

As I was dwelling in self pity, Bear Missy clapped her hands.

She then said some incomprehensible things and when she touched Terumi, missy's hands shone.

It looked like the light of the great priests. Terumi was wrapped in this light and her expression softened; it was an unbelievable sight. After missy used a magic-like chant, Terumi rose up from the bed.

I just witnessed a miracle. Terumi's illness was cured. Who would believe something unbelievable like that?

I suddenly felt relieved and tears started to pour from my eyes.

Terumi, who returned to her energetic self, anxiously asked how much this treatment would cost. She was right, when missy used something so mystical, of course, it would cost us a lot of money.

The Bear Missy sent Fina and Shuri buy food, and now only the three of us remained here. Did she want us to talk in private, without Terumi's daughters?

Bear Missy then proceeded to say that Terumi and I should live together, and we just stared at her with our mouths open.

Well, it was true that I loved Terumi, but this was a completely different story.

Yet, Bear Missy managed to corner us.

She said it was for Fina's sake, that this family needed someone to support them, and also noticed the fact that I liked Terumi.

"You like her, don't you?"

She was right on the point. If I got together with Terumi, I would be able to take care of her and her family. I felt bad for Roi, but I confessed to Terumi.

"....."

A short silence followed, and Terumi's cheeks turned red.

I forgot to breathe while waiting for her response.

Terumi thanked me and accepted my confession with a smile on her face.

Today was a great day.

KUMA SHORT STORIES 3

BIG SIS BEAR-SAN, ORPHAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Cold wind blew in through the cracks in the walls when I woke up that morning, hungry and cold.

It didn't take long for the other children to wake up, too.

We were in an orphanage: a place for children without parents.

Like everyone else here, I didn't have parents. I didn't remember the faces of my mother and father, but I still had a faint memory of being embraced.

I had no idea how long I had been here; the first memories I had were already at the orphanage.

At first, we had been able to eat both breakfast and dinner, but recently, we only ate dinner. When we asked the Headmistress why, she just apologized to us.

We knew that the Headmistress and Big Sis Liz were getting us food, so we all agreed we wouldn't complain. Headmistress and Big Sis Liz were the only ones who cared about us, and we didn't want them to hate us; we trembled at the thought of the two of them abandoning us.

We were still hungry, though.

We drank water when we woke up, but water didn't fill our bellies. We needed food, so we went to the place where a lot of food stands were lined up. The Headmistress told us not to, but we still went there since we were really hungry.

The owners of the stands gave us unpleasant looks when we arrived. We had no other choice but to eat the leftover food; we couldn't really be picky being this hungry.

A delicious smell was drifting from the stands, and it made our bellies growl.

We were all gazing at the stands and the people buying food, waiting for them to throw away the half-eaten food.

I really hoped that at least the youngest children would be able to get some food today.

We had promised not to steal; one of the children tried to steal food once but got caught, so Headmistress and Big Sis Liz had to go and apologize. If we did bad things, we caused trouble for our dear Headmistress and Big Sis Liz, so we promised we would behave.

While we were gazing at the stands, a Big Sis wearing strange clothes came.

What were those strange clothes?

One of the children said it was a bear. Was it a Bear-san?

It looked really fluffy and warm.

The Big Sis, who was wearing the Bear-san, looked at us and then spoke with one of the stand owners.

The Big Sis Bear bought a bunch of delicious looking skewers from the stand.

As I was wondering if she would eat all of them herself, Big Sis Bear approached us and offered us the skewers.

“Here, one for each of you.”

For a moment, I couldn't comprehend what the Big Sis Bear had said.

“We can eat them?”

“They're hot, so eat them slowly.”

We all looked at each other and quickly reached for the skewers.

The meat was delicious; we were all eating them like we were in a trance. Big Sis Bear told us to eat them slowly, but we paid no mind to that warning.

When we finished eating, the Big Sis Bear told us to take her to the orphanage if we wanted to eat more.

We hesitated, but hoping we might be able to eat our fill, we decided to take her to the orphanage.

As we were walking, we were all staring at the Big Sis Bear, but no one dared to speak to her, so I decided to do it.

“Ehm, thank you.”

I didn't really know what to say, so I just thanked her.

Big Sis Bear said, “Don't worry about it,” and patted my head.

Her hand was really warm and soft.

The Big Sis Bear was shocked when we reached the orphanage.

“Living in a run-down place like this...”

She muttered.

It didn't take long for Headmistress to notice and approach us.

When she heard that we went to the stands, she got angry and showed a sad expression.

We all apologized for going there even though she told us not to.

Big Sis Bear and Headmistress started to talk. It seemed that Big Sis Bear would give us some food.

They headed to the kitchen, and we followed. When we got there, Big Sis Bear brought out a big chunk of meat. She cut it and then grilled it together with some vegetables, making a really delicious smell drift through the kitchen.

Our bellies growled again, and our mouths started to drool, so Headmistress told us to sit down and wait, and we obediently did so.

Soon, an incredible amount of food, like I had never seen before, was lined up on the tables; I even saw some bread.

We didn't reach for the food yet, though.

Headmistress told us to first thank Yuna-san before we start eating.

So Big Sis Bear was actually Big Sis Yuna.

We thanked her and started eating the food.

It was really, really delicious. The bread wasn't hard like it usually was; it was really soft and delicious. We all ate with smiles on our faces.

Seeing that we would be busy for a while, Big Sis Yuna asked the Headmistress for permission to check the orphanage.

I quickly finished my food and ran after her. She left the building and sealed up the cracks on the walls with her magic.

She was incredible; the cracks all disappeared one after the other.

After making it all the way around the orphanage, she went back inside, and sealed up the cracks there, too.

"It won't be cold like this, right?"

Big Sis Yuna said with a smile. She looked sad when she saw our small blankets. She brought out enough wolf furs for everyone and gave them to Headmistress. The furs seemed really warm. Headmistress received them while thanking Big Sis Yuna over and over again.

When we returned to the dining room, all of the children had already finished eating. There was still a lot of meat left. They said they wanted to leave it for tomorrow.

I agreed with them. We ate today, but we didn't know if we would be able to eat tomorrow.

When they said that, Big Sis Yuna brought out even more meat and bread.

After bringing out a few days worth of food, she left the orphanage.

As we were about to go to sleep that night, we all thanked Big Sis Yuna while embracing our wolf furs.

When I woke up a few days later, I felt really warm.

Wind didn't blow through the cracks, and the wolf fur was really warm.

After all of us woke up, we prepared for breakfast. Thanks to Big Sis Yuna, we were able to eat breakfast today.

With our bellies full, we went out and found a big wall next to the orphanage.

We were all asking each other: "What is that!?", "What is that!?". Yet no one knew what it was.

We called Headmistress, but she didn't know what it was either. It wasn't here yesterday, so we were really anxious.

When we were about to go back into the orphanage, Big Sis Yuna came.

She was the one who made this wall, it seemed.

The wall was amazing, but why did she make it?

She told us it was to raise some birds and said that we would have to collect their eggs, clean their living place, and take care of them.

Doing that, we would be able to earn money and buy food.

"What do you want to do? Yuna-san wants to give you work. If you work, you will be able to eat. If you don't, we will return to how we were before; the food Yuna-san had brought is already gone."

The headmistress asked us. She didn't just say, "Do it."

We all looked at each other before one of us raised his hand and said, "I will do it," in a big voice. More hands soon followed.

I also raised my hand and said,

"I will do it too!"

Seeing us like this, Headmistress seemed really happy.

Just like that, we started to take care of the birds.

We first had to give them food and water, and then clean and collect their eggs. We also had to clean their coop properly, because it would be terrible if the birds were to fall ill. The eggs were important, too; we would be able to make money by selling them.

The following day, we went to do our work and entered the coop. The bird-sans were all in a corner, not moving. When I picked up a bird-san, I found a white egg under it and took it. We collected all the eggs, rinsed them well, and put them inside the boxes Big Sis Yuna had prepared specifically for the eggs; the boxes had 10 spaces shaped to fit the eggs, so we could safely put 10 eggs in each box.

After all the eggs were placed in the boxes, we took the bird-sans out and cleaned their coop.

There weren't a lot of bird-sans, so we quickly finished.

We had to leave the bird-sans outside for some time, so we took that time to play and study before taking them back into the shed. These bird-sans couldn't fly, but they ran quite fast, so it was difficult to catch them.

It was fun chasing them around, though.

With that, our first day of work was finished.

The next day, we went to the shed to take care of the bird-sans again.

Huh? There were more bird-sans... We all tilted our heads.

"There are more bird-sans!"

We counted them, and there were 10 more than the day before.

We did our work even though we found it strange. While we were working, Big Sis Yuna came again. We told her that the bird-sans had increased in number, and she said she brought them during the night.

I was surprised, but I believed her. It seemed that the number would continue to increase from now on, so we had to do our best.

CHAPTER 131

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE RESTAURANT WITH ANZU

After we finished our meal at the orphanage, we all headed to the restaurant they would be working at. Fina and Shuri also went with us, still smiling happily because Terumi-san had praised them.

“Headmistress and Liz-san are really kind people.”

“The children are obedient and cute, too.”

“Some of them looked a bit egoistic, but they were all obediently listening to Headmistress, right?”

“You were right, though. Taking care of all these children with only two people seems really difficult.”

They all gave their impressions of the orphanage.

With what they said, I guessed it should be fine for them to do both jobs.

Nifu-san looked at me, and just as I started to wonder what she wanted, she spoke up.

“Yuna-chan, I wanted to speak with you about this, but would it be possible for me to only work at the orphanage?”

Nifu-san stopped walking and looked at me seriously. We all stopped, too, and when she realized what she had just said, she turned to look at Anzu.

“It’s not like I don’t want to work at the restaurant with you, Anzu-chan. It’s just... you know... taking care of the children...”

Nifu-san was trying her best to explain, and I kind of understood what she wanted to say. She just really wanted to take care of the children. Anzu answered with a smile.

Did she understand her feelings, too?

“If Yuna-san is okay with it, I don’t mind, either.”

Anzu left it to me.

If this was Nifu-san’s choice, I had no problem with her only taking care of the children.

The other six women didn’t complain, either, so there was no problem.

“I don’t mind, but are the others okay with this, too?”

I said that while looking around, and the answers followed soon after.

“I’m okay with it.”

“Nifu-san was the one whom the children liked the most, after all.”

“Yeah, fine by me.”

“I have no problem with it.”

All of them agreed.

“Thank you, everyone.”

Nifu-san thanked them happily.

“Yuna-chan, how many people do you need to help at the orphanage?”

Arn-san, the second oldest of the group, asked.

“If it is just to help Headmistress and Liz-san, two people should do, I think.”

“Then, can I also do the same as Nifu-san?”

Arn-san wanted to work at the orphanage, too.

“If all of you want to work at the orphanage, we could also make rotating shifts.....”

I looked around while saying that with a reserved voice.

“I also want to help at the orphanage, but I will leave it to Arn-san.”

The other four nodded.

“If we all said that we wanted to work at the orphanage, Anzu would be troubled, so I will help at the restaurant.”

Eshuna, the youngest of the group, said to calm them up a bit.

“I won’t be troubled, just sad.”

“That’s exactly the same thing.”

We all laughed.

After everyone agreed to let Nifu-san and Arn-san take care of the children, both of them decided to return to the orphanage without visiting the restaurant.

“Thank you, everyone. I will come and help out at the restaurant when it’s too busy.”

They started to walk towards the orphanage while we continued to make our way to the restaurant.

From the six people who came, two had decided to work at the orphanage. As long as the other four all decided to work at the restaurant, there shouldn’t be any problems.

On our way to the restaurant, we once again passed by [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

"There are a lot of people, huh."

Even though we were still far away, we were able to see the customers, who went in and out of the restaurant.

Checking the time, there should be a lot of people who were just leaving after eating their lunch.

"The girls we saw wearing the Bear Clothes yesterday are working right now, right?"

They seemed to remember the children we saw yesterday. They were now intently staring at [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop]; it seemed to have piqued their interest.

"Please endure it for today. I will show it to you next time."

"Okay."

So they said, but their gazes were still on [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

It was no use just staying here and staring at it, so I started walking onwards, and they followed.

We soon arrived at the restaurant where they would be working, and now their gazes were fixated on the ex-mansion in front of them.

"That's a mansion, right?"

"It was; I remodeled it into a restaurant."

Even though we called it a mansion, it was still a small one. It wasn't even half the size of Cliff's mansion. It just looked like a mansion, honestly.

When we entered it, we were met by a big open room with nothing inside. Tables would be put up here, but the arrangement had not yet been done.

“There is nothing here, huh.”

“It’s big, though...”

Well, I did remove most of the inner walls on the first floor and only left the kitchen and the storehouse in the back.

“I will leave it up to you guys to decide the interior design.”

“We will be the ones to decide it?”

“It will be Anzu’s restaurant, after all. You can arrange it as you wish. After you have made your decision, you can speak to Terumi-san, and she will order what you need.”

I didn’t know any furniture or carpentry stores, so I left it to them.

“I knew that I would be the one to deal with it.”

Terumi-san sighed.

I glossed it over by laughing while Anzu looked apologetic about it, and the other three were all making conflicted expressions.

“If you have any cooking utensils you need, just tell me, okay?”

“I brought some things I already used at home just in case, but I don’t have enough for everyone, so getting some more would help a lot.”

“Unfortunately, I don’t really know much about cookware, so we should go and buy it together.”

Terumi-san said.

We proceeded to discuss all the basic details about the restaurant and decided what each of them would be doing.

As for today, Anzu and Terumi-san would go shopping while the other four would be

guided around the town by Fina and Shuri. It would be inconvenient if they didn't at least know the basic locations in the town.

The real work would begin tomorrow, with arranging the interior of the restaurant and deciding on the menu.

"This should be all for now, I think?"

"You're right. We have discussed everything we need for now."

I confirmed.

Terumi-san also seemed content, so there shouldn't be anything we forgot.

"Well then, we should separate into two groups and go our separate ways."

The moment when we were about to leave... the door burst open.

"Wait a minute!"

"Mylene-san!?"

"It's been a while, Anzu-chan."

When Mylene-san entered the restaurant, she greeted Anzu and approached us.

"Yuna-chan, Terumi-san, isn't there something you forgot?"

No, no, no, before saying that, why were you here?

Did you listen in on our conversation?

Where were you hiding?

I didn't even know where to start.

“Why are you here, Mylene-san? Did you listen in on our conversation?”

For now, I decided to ask what was bothering me the most.

I looked at Anzu and the other women, who were asking Anzu, “Who is this?”.

“You ask me why I’m here? It’s because I did my best to finish my job and rush over. Also, I overheard your conversation through the gap of the door.”

I had the impression that I should retort some more, but decided to ignore it.

“So, why did you rush here?”

“I overheard that Anzu-chan had arrived, you see. That, of course, meant that she would work at Yuna-chan’s place.”

“Haa, yeah, you’re right.”

“And, since she would be working here, you will all need something, right?”

“We just talked it over right now.”

“Yuna-chan, you forgot something really important.”

“Something important?”

“The uniform. U • N • I • F • O • R • M. Will it be Bear Clothes as expected?”

As I was wondering what she was talking about, she brought out this trivial stuff.

“I haven’t decided yet. Also, those uniforms were something you decided on your own.”

I said that, but the people in town all believe I was the one who had decided upon the Bear Uniform used at[Bear-san’s relaxing shop].

Well, if you didn’t know about what had really happened, it was normal to think it had been my idea since I owned the shop.

“A normal uniform would be just fine, wouldn’t it?”

“A normal uniform is no good! Without the Bear Uniform, you can’t call it Yuna-chan’s restaurant anymore!”

I looked around for support.

Terumi-san was laughing while Anzu knew that Mylene-san was the guild master of the Commerce Guild, so she was panicking, and the others had no idea what to say.

“Does that mean that you want them to wear Bear Clothes?”

Hearing me mention Bear clothes, Anzu and the women all looked surprised.

“That’s a little... You know? Their ages are.....”

Mylene-san murmured after looking at them.

It wasn’t really the polite thing to say, but I agreed with her.

“What about using bear embroidered aprons and hats? The hat would be in the place of the maid headband.”

The only thing that came to my mind was a toque; I already got a bad feeling just thinking about it.

“Hmm, I will leave it to Anzu.”

“Yuna-san!”

I decided to flee, while, being left with the decision, Anzu was looking left and right, not knowing what to do. The other women were also showing complicated expressions.

Before them was the woman who reestablished Mireera's Commerce Guild; they knew she did many things to help them, like arranging food and preparing the tunnel.

How could they refuse such a person when she was right in front of them?

I wouldn't be able to do it, and that was probably partly the reason why the uniform at [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop] turned out to be Bear Clothes. I guess, I just had to let it happen, and what happened, happened.

KUMA SHORT STORIES 4

GOING TO THE CAPITAL FINA'S PERSPECTIVE

Author's note:

This one is to commemorate the 5th volume release.

It had been decided that I would be going to the capital with Big Sis Yuna; it was my first time going there. I was a bit anxious but was also looking forward to it. Yet, those feelings soon changed due to a terrible pressure.

I was told that the one who would be coming to the capital with us was none other than the Daughter-san of the Feudal Lord of this town, Noire-sama.

The moment Big Sis Yuna told me, I was assaulted by fear.

Would I be killed if I was impolite? If I had known that Noire-sama would be coming with us, I would have refused from the start. Even though Big Sis Yuna said she was a good girl, I was really worried.

We were now heading to the Feudal Lord-sama's mansion. I wanted to return to my house, but I couldn't simply run away.

Still, even though I would feel bad for Big Sis Yuna, I would return home immediately if Noire-sama said that she didn't want to go with me.

As we approached the Feudal Lord-sama's house, I was able to see a girl with beautiful blonde hair from far away; it was Noire-sama. She was waiting in front of the door, letting out an imposing aura.

Was she angry because I was here?

When we got closer, it became clear that she was indeed incredibly angry as she was looking at me with burning eyes.

I'm really sorry; I will go back now, so please forgive me.

I hid behind Big Sis Yuna, who asked Noire-sama why she was angry. It was because I was here, of course! Or so I thought, but I seemed to be wrong; Noire-sama was really

looking forward to going to the capital, so she had waited for us for a really long time.

I thought that it wasn't Big Sis Yuna's fault, though.

Big Sis Yuna asked Noire-sama for permission for me to come with them. After Noire-sama fixedly looked at me for a while, she accepted, then pointed her hand at me and declared something that surprised me.

"I won't hand over the Bear-san!"

It seemed that she wanted to monopolize Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, yet Big Sis Yuna asked the two of us to ride the Bear-san together. Noire-sama pointed her finger at me again.

"I won't give up the front!"

Ugh, she was so scary.

Without me daring to oppose her, it was decided that Noire-sama would ride in the front of Swaying Bear, and I would ride in the back.

I tried talking to Noire-sama, and found out she actually was really kind. She didn't look down on me even though she knew that I was just a commoner. We were getting along really well, talking about the Bear-sans. She happily told me about her round trip with the bears around her mansion and that she slept with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear afterwards.

I was really worried about how it would go at first, but I now thought that it would be a really fun trip.

Yet, it didn't feel like a trip at all since we didn't sleep outdoors.

Thanks to Big Sis Yuna's Bear-san house, we were able to sleep safely inside warm beds. The food was also warm, like it had just been made. The most incredible thing, though, was that we were able to take baths. Being able to take baths during a trip, what sort of Noble-samas were we? Did such luxurious trips even exist, elsewhere?

I heard a lot about trips from adventurers at the Adventurer's Guild, but they never mentioned a comfortable trip like this. They only ate simple food and had to keep guard at night. It was impossible to take baths, of course, and they didn't sleep in

comfortable beds.

Yet, we didn't have to keep watch at night, and we slept in warm beds; Big Sis Yuna was really amazing.

During the day, monsters didn't attack us thanks to Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, so we were traveling completely safe. If I mentioned this to adventurers, they would be jealous for sure.

Somewhere in the middle of this fun journey, Big Sis Yuna stopped the Bear-sans and said there were people being attacked by monsters in front of us. I couldn't see them, but since Big Sis Yuna was the one saying it, I was sure it was true.

Big Sis Yuna asked Noire-sama what we should do; should we abandon them, or should we save them?

If we were to go and save them, we would be exposed to danger, and it seemed Big Sis Yuna was worried about that.

Noire-sama and Big Sis Yuna talked it over and decided to save them.

Big Sis Yuna then started to run really fast, while we stayed on Swaying Bear and slowly moved forwards to see what was happening. From far away, I saw a carriage and a monster that looked somewhat like a big man near it.

It was an orc; a monster stronger than a goblin, a monster that should be hard to defeat...

or not.

When Big Sis Yuna approached the carriage, the orc collapsed. Big Sis Yuna... What did you do to make him collapse so easily?

"How did Yuna-san do that?"

Noire-sama didn't seem to understand it, either.

A few minutes after Big Sis Yuna went to help the carriage, all of the monsters were defeated. She must have defeated them all while I was still wondering what was going on; she really was incredible.

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear started walking towards the carriage; was it safe now?

As we approached the carriage, an adventurer pointed her sword at us in surprise, but then put it down immediately.

It seemed that the ones who had been attacked were a rich old man and a girl, both Noire-sama's acquaintances; Noire-sama seemed really happy to see them.

The girl's name was Misa-sama, and the old man was Gran-sama. They were both nobles, so I became anxious again; Noire-sama was kind, but they might not be. I would have to mind how I spoke and acted; I should be okay as long as I didn't have to speak before we parted ways.

Yet, my prayers didn't reach, as it was decided that we would travel to the capital together.

I became even more anxious, but there was no way I could have said that I didn't want to travel with them. I really hoped they were good people...

Traveling with them brought inconvenience, as we couldn't use Bear-san House. Big Sis Yuna said she couldn't use it in front of other people; Noire-sama and I were exceptions.

I felt happy when she said that.

It was unfortunate that we couldn't use the bath or the beds, but that was how trips should normally be, so I didn't say anything selfish.

Noire-sama now rode in the carriage with Misa-sama, so I was now the only one riding Swaying Bear. My happiness must have shown on my face, because Noire-sama said, "I will hand over the Bear-san this time, but that is still my reserved seat, okay!?"

I had to be more careful in the future.

Since we had to keep pace with the the carriage, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear had to walk slowly. Big Sis Yuna seemed a bit irritated by our slow pace then fell asleep on top of Hugging Bear. Oh right, sleeping on Swaying Bear felt really good. He was really fluffy and warm, and when I embraced him, I instantly became sleepy.

As I was embracing Swaying Bear, Noire-sama jealously looked at us from the carriage;

I really had to control my facial expressions better. He was so fluffy, though, and my expression was on the brink of loosening up.

The night arrived, and since we couldn't use the Bear-san House, we had to sleep outside. I thought it would be cold sleeping outside, but I was sleeping with Big Sis Yuna and Hugging Bear, so it was not cold at all. Hugging Bear was really fluffy and warm while Big Sis Yuna was really soft and comfortable; I was really happy.

Noire-sama and Misa-sama were both sleeping with Swaying Bear, and thanks to that, Noire-sama didn't end up being jealous of me this time.

I spoke with Misa-sama the following day, and learned that she was a kind person, too. We excitedly talked about Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear; Noire-sama seemed to have already told her all about Bear-sans' greatness. Misa-sama told me that she also came to like Bear-sans when she slept with Swaying Bear.

Big Sis Yuna overheard our conversation and warned us, "If a real bear appears, you shouldn't approach it, okay?"

I had never seen any Bear-sans other than Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, but they were normally scary, right? Looking at Big Sis Yuna's Bear-sans, they didn't seem to be like that at all; they even allowed us to ride them. They were really gentle and good Bear-sans.

Nothing happened after we encountered the orcs, and another day came to an end safely.

We slept the same way as we did yesterday, but in the middle of the night, I was shaken awake by Marina-san, one of the adventurers who traveled with us.

Had something happened?

Big Sis Yuna, who was supposed to be sleeping next to me, wasn't there. Marina-san told me that Bandit-sans had appeared and that Big Sis Yuna had went to subjugate them on her own.

Big Sis Yuna told her, "You should let the others sleep," but Marina-san couldn't just do that and decided to wake everyone up. She then asked us to prepare everything we needed so we could leave at any moment.

We all put away our blankets and sorted our luggage, and were prepared to run away at anytime. Marina-san asked Gran-sama what we should do; did that mean she was thinking of abandoning Big Sis Yuna and fleeing?

As Gran-sama thought about what to do, we heard a sound.

As I wondered what the sound was and who made it, Marina-san and the other adventurers took their weapons out.

A big black shadow slowly approached us, and when it got closer, we saw that it was a giant Bear-san dragging a huge cage with Bandit-sans inside.

Big Sis Yuna captured Bandit-sans on her own, it seemed. The fact that she captured them was incredible, but we all hesitated on what we should ask about first: the cage or the giant Bear-san.

Big Sis Yuna simply said, "I made it with a bit of magic."

She told us that she first captured Bandit-sans with magic, and then used some more magic to make the huge Bear-san; we were all so amazed we couldn't even say a thing.

I didn't know a lot about magic, but I thought her doing all that on her own was strange.

While we were all still speechless, Big Sis Yuna said,

"Well then, we should go back to sleep."

We all had the same thought: "There is no way I can go back to sleep after this."

Big Sis Yuna's suggestion was refused, and we departed in the middle of the night.

There were no problems from then on, and we safely arrived at the capital.

We were all happy, but Bandit-sans were not in that good of a shape.

Bandit-sans were brought to the capital without even being fed once as the others believed that we could have been killed or even worse if it was not for Big Sis Yuna, and they didn't know what would have happened if Bandit-sans were full of energy because they were well fed, so they told me not to feed or approach them, even though I was feeling sorry for them.

Bandit-sans asked me for food, but I couldn't give them any since Big Sis Yuna was the one who was carrying all the food, and I wouldn't be able to give them any even if I wanted to.

Bandit-sans were taken away by the guards at the entrance; they should be fed now, at least.

We got back into Gran-sama's carriage and entered the capital; I really wondered what sort of place it was.

Author's note:

This was Fina's point of view of the trip to the capital.

I would really appreciate if you all bought the 5th volume. Thank you in advance.

CHAPTER 132

BEAR-SAN MAKES A REQUEST FOR AN EMBROIDERY

Since Mylene-san's intrusion, all of us showed exasperated expressions.

I felt especially sorry for Anzu and the others, but with the talk about the uniform now finished, the subject of the conversation had changed.

Still thinking about embroidery, I suddenly recalled the girl from the orphanage who embroidered a bear onto a cushion and then gave it to me; the very cushion which had proven useful during my guard request of the academy students by making the carriage trip a bit more comfortable.

"Mylene-san, do you have a place in mind for getting this embroidery made?"

"I was planning on asking the tailor who made the Bear Uniform for the Bear-san Relaxing Shop. Why do you ask?"

"A girl from the orphanage made this for me."

I took out the cushion, which had a deformed bear embroidered onto it, from the Bear Box. She probably used the Bears at the shop as a reference.

"Wh-what is that!?"

Before I knew it, Mylene-san snatched the cushion from me.

"A girl from the orphanage gave it to me."

"It's cute and really skillfully made."

Mylene-san gave her impression while touching the cushion.

The deformed bear seemed cute enough to me, too.

“Would it be alright if I asked this girl to do the embroidery for us?”

She was good at it and was able to depict bears really well.

If she was able to do this much with just simple embroidery, I was sure that she had a lot of talent.

“Did Sherry-chan give you this cushion?”

Terumi-san asked while looking at the cushion that Mylene-san was still holding.

“Yeah?”

She was right, a girl named Sherry had given it to me.

Well, it wouldn't be strange for Terumi-san to know her as she worked at the orphanage.

“I knew it. She is really skilled with her hands and is always sewing things. The embroideries on the curtains and the cushions at the orphanages are all done by Sherry-chan.”

I already knew that; when Sherry gave me the cushion, she also showed me a lot of her other works. Her deceased mother had taught her how to do it, and Sherry was doing it whenever she had the time ever since.

I had even given her some of the threads I had obtained from my guard request.

I had given it to her as thanks for the cushion; it wouldn't be fair if I had been seen giving a present to only one of the children, so I had used the cushion as an excuse.

“Fina and Shuri, if I'm not wrong, you should have one as well, right?”

Terumi-san looked at her daughters.

“Yes, she embroidered a towel for me.”

The two of them produced a towel out of nowhere.

There was a deformed bear on the towel, just like the one on my cushion.

Why a bear, though?

We all looked at the bears embroidered on the towel and the cushion.

“They’re cute.”

“Wearing an apron embroidered with that.....”

“But isn’t that embarrassing?”

“Yeah, a little...”

Mylene-san smiled when she heard them.

“Would you prefer the costume, then?”

“N-no, the apron is fine.”

Forne-san immediately answered after she compared the apron to the costume.

“Looking at this work, it might indeed be good to ask Sherry-chan. No, we will ask Sherry-chan.”

Nobody went against Mylene-san’s decision.

With the talk about the apron finished, I thought that we were done, and I could leave, but Mylene-san brought up another subject.

“Next would be the signboard and the outer appearance.”

She was right, we did need a signboard. If we opened the restaurant without a signboard, people would have difficulties knowing what it was.

What about the outer appearance, though?

I could only think about one thing.

“Also, has the restaurant’s name been decided yet?”

When Mylene-san said that, they all looked at me.

“Since Anzu will be the manager, I will leave it to her.”

“To me?”

I had left naming the[Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop]to other people, too. I wasn’t really picky about names.

“Yep, you can decide, Anzu.”

“Hmm, if I remember correctly, the other shop you have is named [Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop], right? Then, how about[Bear-san’s Diner]?”

I thought it was good, but Mylene-san didn’t seem to like it very much.

“Anzu-chan, that is not sophisticated enough.”

“Ugh, when you tell me to pick a name so suddenly, there is no way I can think of a good one. It’s Yuna-san’s restaurant, so Yuna-san should decide!”

It was up to me again...

I was really bad at coming up with names...

Bear-san's Diner seemed good enough to me...

"What was the name of Deiga-san's place? Since you are going to manage it, couldn't we use 'The Second' or 'Crimonia Branch' for the name?"

"Hmm, the restaurant doesn't really have a name..."

"Seriously?"

I looked at the other women, and they all nodded.

"I don't know it, either."

"Calling it Anzu-chan's restaurant or Deiga-san's inn was enough to know what we were talking about."

They all nodded in agreement.

Now that I thought about it, I remembered Atora-san had been calling it Muscle Man Inn...

If that was its real name, I would have really pitied Deiga-san.

Well, we were in no rush to make a signboard, so we decided to all think about it and talk it out later.

The outer appearance was left to me, though.

I had no special ideas and could only imagine things like bears that caught fish, wolves, or cows; and bears eating fruits, vegetables and such.

Mylene-san accepted my idea when I told her.

It was the same for the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop]. Mylene-san decided on all sorts of things, but it was still my restaurant, right?

Even though it was my restaurant, I decided to agree to Mylene's idea without refuting it.

I wasn't like Anzu and the rest, but I was still grateful for all the help she had given me

as a Commerce guild master, one way or the other, especially with things concerning Mireera, and because of that, I couldn't really refuse her.

Also, refusing to make bears outside was a bit late at this point. All of my houses were Bear Houses, there were bears at Morin-san's shop, I was wearing Bear Clothes...

It was a bit late to make something that wasn't bear related...

With the outer appearance decided to be bear related, the talk was finally finished, and we went our separate ways.

Anzu and Terumi-san went shopping, as they had discussed earlier, while the others went with Fina and Shuri to tour Crimonia.

It was also decided that Mylene-san and I would go and see Sherry at the orphanage.

I wanted to dump everything on Terumi-san and Anzu and enjoy my free time at home at first, but Mylene-san caught me before I managed to get away and dragged me to see Sherry at the orphanage with her.

That was how, I returned to the orphanage for the second time today.

Sherry was in the group that was taking care of the birds, so we headed to the coop, thinking she would probably be there, but when we entered it, we saw the children playing. Did they already finish their work?

I asked the children where Sherry was, and they told us she had already gone back to the orphanage. When we got there, we saw Nifu-san and Arn-san talking to Liz-san and Headmistress. I told them that we had some business with Sherry, and Liz-san gave us directions to Sherry's room.

"Sherry, are you here?"

I knocked on the door and entered together with Mylene-san.

"Big Sis Yuna?"

A girl, around 12 years old and a bit tall for her age, was sewing on a bed. It was Sherry;

the girl who gave me the cushion.

Although this was a four person room, Sherry was the only one inside.

“Can we talk with you for a bit?”

“Yes, no problem.”

With Mylene-san and me coming so suddenly, an anxious expression showed on her face.

It was surely because Mylene-san was scary.

It wasn't my fault.

“Were you just doing some embroidery?”

“Yes, I love doing it, after all.”

She was holding an unfinished embroidery in her hands.

“Would you mind showing it to me?”

Mylene-san and I both looked at it.

It was a bear again; a deformed bear that could be seen at the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

“A bear?”

“One of the children wanted one.”

This deformed bear seemed to be really popular.

“You're really good at this.”

“Thank you.”

She thanked me with her cheeks dyed red.

“So, Sherry-chan, I had something I wanted to ask you if that’s fine with you?”

Mylene-san held Sherry’s small hand and told her about the restaurant.

“And you are asking me to.....”

Sherry said with a surprised expression.

“Yes, can we ask you to do it?”

“But, you know.....”

Sherry lowered her head.

If she didn’t want to do it, I wouldn’t force her.

“You don’t want to do it?”

“It’s not that I don’t, but.....”

“But what?”

She wasn’t against it, so why did she waver?

“But if my embroideries are unpopular, and nobody comes to the restaurant because of that, the orphanage might disappear...”

“.....”

How did she come to that conclusion?

“I know that the orphanage is here thanks to all the work Big Sis Yuna did. We can eat delicious meals and sleep in warm rooms all thanks to you. That’s why, if people don’t come to the restaurant because of me.....”

She said in complete seriousness. So, this girl believed that... I knew it was not good, but I just couldn’t stop smiling. I was really happy that she was thinking about the orphanage.

“Sherry, you don’t have to worry.”

I patted Sherry’s head with my Bear Hand.

“Big Sis Yuna?”

“The restaurant wouldn’t go out of business with just that. You know that a lot of customers come to the bakery every day, right?”

“Yes.”

“The eggs sell well, right?”

“Yes.”

“It’s a restaurant that I’m making. And I’m the one who is asking you to make the embroideries. Do you still think you should be worried?”

“But, for me to.....”

I took the cushion I had gotten from her out of the Bear Box.

“That’s.....”

“I was really happy when you gave this to me. I think that it’s done really well. Couldn’t you make cute embroideries on the aprons like the one you did for me?”

“Big Sis Yuna.....”

Sherry's head rose a little.

I just had to give her one more push.

"And if it fails, it will be Mylene-san's fault. She is the one who asked me to let you do it, after all. But if it works, it will be all thanks to Sherry."

"Wai... Yuna-chan..."

Mylene-san tried to object, but I ignored her.

"There is no reason to worry. It's really cute, after all."

I touched the embroidery on the cushion.

"Is it really okay for me to do it? I am an amateur, you know?"

"It's okay."

I told her with a gentle voice.

She bit her upper lip. She thought, she worried, and then lifted her head to give me her answer.

".....Okay, I understand. I will do it. I will do my best for Big Sis Yuna's sake."

"Thank you."

I patted her head once more, and her whole face bloomed into a smile.

Yet, there was one person who dared to break this great moment.

"I will take Sherry-chan from now on, okay?"

Mylene-san said, instantly destroying the moment we had.

“Awawa.”

Sherry suddenly became flustered by Mylene-san who was still holding her hand.

“Mylene-san, where do you plan on taking her!?”

“To the tailor, of course. It’s necessary to discuss the apron, right? That’s why I will be taking her there.”

She pulled Sherry by her hand.

“Awawa, please wait a little! Please stop pulling me!”

Unable to resist Mylene-san’s strength, Sherry was taken out of the room.

I could hear her voice all the way until she was taken out of the orphanage.

I was left behind, so I told Liz-san that Sherry had been taken away by Mylene-san and that she would be helping with the restaurant for a while.

Since I was left at the orphanage, I decided to play with the children before going home.

CHAPTER 133

BEAR-SAN AND THE BEAR-SAN'S DINER OPENING

A few days had passed since Sherry had been kidnapped by Mylene-san.

The preparations for the restaurant were advancing well, and everyone was doing their best to get everything ready for the opening day.

I was also doing my best!

I made bears outside the restaurant, made bears inside the restaurant, made bears outside the restaurant, and made bears inside the restaurant. It was something important, so I said it twice.

To make it look like a restaurant, I made deformed bears holding plates, forks, spoons, or chopsticks at the entrance. To point out that we would be serving fish, I also made a bear holding a fish.

Since I was sure that we would be getting a lot of male visitors, I made the interior design different than that of the[Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

I carved out real bears on the pillars since it was important for the restaurant to look cool.

I used the bears I had met at the bee tree as a reference, since they would only end up cute if I made them with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear in mind.

As for the ingredients, a lot of rice and seafood had already arrived from Mireera.

The seafood had been kept frozen by the ice magic stones I had procured from the snow daruma at the top of the Erezento's mountain range. Sadly, normal adventurers couldn't really climb the high mountain to bring us more.

I heard that you could easily procure some if you went north where there was snow. I had Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, though, so I was able to climb the mountain easily, the feat which was impossible for normal people like Ranya-san and Damon-san, who were crazy enough to try.

No wonder there was no trade between Mireera and Crimonia until now.

With the tunnel finished though, trade had finally started to pick up.

I had given the ice magic stones I had gotten from Erezento's mountain range to the Commerce Guild at Mireera. In exchange, they had promised to give me good prices and all the fish I wanted.

Mylene-san got angry when she heard about this deal since it put her Commerce Guild at a disadvantage, but she calmed down as soon as she heard about the tunnel.

Even though the tunnel was more or less managed by Cliff, the Commerce Guild would also profit from it quite a bit.

I would also be getting a part of the passage fee, but looking at the long term, those reduced prices wouldn't really mean that much as the Commerce Guild was now selling both seafood and salt. Salt transactions were overseen by Cliff, who was acting under the king's command, of course, but I was sure that the Commerce Guild also made some profit.

I didn't know the exact method of making salt, but it was depicted as difficult in one of the fantasy novels I had read.

That was why, when I heard them talking about the salt, I asked them to not cause too much trouble for the people of Mireera.

If they were used under terrible conditions,

“The tunnel might end up being destroyed by some natural occurrences.”

was what I whispered in Cliff's ear.

I didn't plan running the restaurant if it caused too much trouble for the people of Mireera, and Cliff also seemed to understand what I meant since he nodded in agreement.

The restaurant's name had finally been decided as [Bear-san's Diner].

It seemed that, just like me, the women from Mireera didn't have any naming sense.

Mylene-san complained that it had no impact, but when she couldn't find a better

name, the [Bear-san's Diner] was set in stone.

“My job isn't to think of a name, but to decide from one of the names you propose, after all.”

She said as an excuse.

I shouldn't be talking about others, of course, since I couldn't think of a better name, either. It might be more correct to say that I didn't think of a name at all, and more importantly, I honestly already thought that [Bear-san's Diner] Anzu came up with was good enough, so I put my vote on that one.

Anzu and the others also voted for it, of course, and since almost everyone voted for [Bear-san's Diner], it was unanimously chosen. Mylene-san couldn't really oppose it, and the signboard was ordered.

Sherry finished the Bear Aprons in no time. She was really good, being able to make several for everyone in such a short time.

She didn't make the aprons only for the five people working at the restaurant; she also made aprons for Nifu-san and Arn-san, who came to encourage the restaurant team, and for the children who would help at the restaurant.

The couple from the tailor shop was really impressed by her speed.

Sherry didn't just do the embroidery; she also helped to make the aprons themselves.

The couple at the tailor shop recognized her skills, and it seemed that she would be working at their place from now on. She wouldn't only do embroidery but also learn how to make things like clothes.

She still seemed to lack confidence, though, as I often heard her mutter:[For me to...]

Yet, she seemed quite happy that the things she had learned from her mother were recognized. She didn't know how far she could go, but she decided to do her best at the tailor shop for now.

She thanked me for giving her this chance, even though I didn't really do anything. I told her that it was all thanks to her skill and the effort she had put in, and she responded with a happy smile.

As the opening day was drawing closer, we also made sure to get some publicity with the help of Mylene-san and Terumi-san's advertisement, and a tasting party at the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop].

Anzu prepared some fish and other sample foods while we made some onigiri, bamboo shoot rice, and a lot of other different rice meals prepared with all sorts of ingredients.

We also made a few things with soy sauce, and even prepared a hot pot, then offered everything to the people who came to the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop.]

There was a great proverb for this situation: You must lose a fly to catch a trout.

Even though we knew it was delicious, it was difficult to get people to pay for unknown dishes, but they were always willing to eat it for free, and when they learned it was delicious, they were sure to come to the restaurant to eat it again. Also, the customers who ate it would tell others that it was delicious, bringing in even more customers.

As long as they tasted Anzu's food at least once, I was sure that her skills would be recognized.

On the opening day, a lot of people came, and the restaurant was really flourishing.

This must have been all thanks to the tasting party and the power of gossip.

Rice was, surprisingly, the most popular dish, especially appreciated when served with other side ingredients.

Second place went to the soy sauce as many people ordered it because they liked the taste.

By the end of the day, a lot of bodies were lying around; it was so busy that even though Nifu-san and Arn-san came to help, everyone was collapsed on the tables.

I helped, too, of course.

I was stationed at the entrance, threatening anyone who might have tried to make a fuss. I wasn't alone, though. I hired Rurina-san and Gill, who previously helped me at the [Bear-san's Relaxing Shop], and as thanks, they got free food for a week.

So, with three adventurers (one not really looking like one) at the entrance, there was

no trouble.

“So tired...”

“I’m going to die...”

“To think that it would be this busy...”

“I want a raise...”

They all looked at me resentfully.

It wasn’t nice of them to look at me like that. I had told them that this would happen; Anzu’s food was delicious, so of course it ended up being popular.

Still, the tasting party must have helped more than I had thought, bringing in so many people.

“If you want to be mad at something, be mad at Anzu’s delicious cooking.”

The children were tired, too, but they were still talking to each other happily; it seemed that they had more stamina. They were the ones who normally took care of the cluckers and helped Liz-san cook lunch; I felt quite bad for taking five of them from Liz-san.

At least the restaurant would eventually calm down, and Nifu-san and Arn-san would be able to go back and help the orphanage.

“So, Anzu, do you think you can keep this up?”

“I was anxious at first, but I’m really happy that so many people are enjoying my food.”

“There were so many of them that it became unbearable, though...”

“Well, people will come here from everywhere since this is something unusual for now, but the fish and rice markets will stabilise soon, so they will be able to eat them at many different places, and when that happens, the restaurant should calm down a bit. Then, the most important thing will be the taste. You will have to show them your skills, Anzu.”

“I will do my best.”

Anzu answered vigorously, even though her body clearly showed exhaustion.

As long as she stayed that way, the restaurant should be just fine.

Author's note:

Anzu's arc is now finished.

CHAPTER 134

BEAR-SAN TRIES TO DISMANTLE THE BLACK TIGER

Anzu's restaurant was doing well now, with plenty of people coming in every day, though it wasn't as busy as it was the first few days. Was it because other places started selling rice and fish, too? I did hear that some people, who came from Mireera like Anzu and her group, opened their own stores and restaurants. I was quite happy that rice and fish were now popular in Crimonia.

Still, I hoped that Anzu and the others would do their best so that our restaurant wouldn't lose to the newcomers. Well, I honestly didn't think that Anzu, who inherited Deiga-san's cuisine, could lose to others, but then again, life was hard, and you didn't know when your arrogance could bring about your end.

Although Anzu was modest and never arrogant, I still hoped she would be careful not to bring about her own undoing. I hope that her colleagues and Terumi-san would do something if it was ever about come to pass.

There was nothing I could do to help the restaurant, so I decided to leave it be and focus on what I was planning to do today, instead.

I called Fina to the Bear House; I planned on asking her to dismantle the Black Tiger, so that I could have its beautiful black fur.

It wasn't like I had forgotten about it, but when I had returned from the guard mission, I had decided to take some time off, and when I had thought it was about time to ask Fina to dismantle it, Anzu had arrived, and I became busy with all sorts of things, like arranging the restaurant and getting everything ready for its opening, so no wonder I had completely forgotten about the Black Tiger.

So, now that I remembered it, I decided to finally have Fina dismantle it.

I thought about this from time to time, but it was really bad to ask a 10-year-old girl to dismantle monsters for me...

This wasn't something that I, who had asked her to dismantle hundreds of monsters, should be saying out loud, though.

I idled around while waiting for Fina, and she arrived right on time.

“Good morning, Big Sis Yuna.”

“Morning, Fina.”

Her energetic greeting made me smile.

“So, what did you want me to do?”

When I was about to ask Fina to dismantle the Black Tiger yesterday, we were surrounded by people, so I decided not to mention the Black Tiger yet, in fear of the uproar it could bring. I simply told her that I had a task for her, and that she should come to the Bear House this morning.

“I have something I want you to dismantle for me.”

I took Fina to the warehouse I had built next to the Bear House, and brought out the Black Tiger there.

“Big Sis Yuna!?”

Fina let out a surprised voice when she saw the Black Tiger.

I knew it; this was indeed something to be surprised about.

“I killed a Black Tiger on my latest trip, so could I ask you to dismantle it? I will pay you, of course.”

Fina looked at the Black Tiger.

“I don’t mind trying to dismantle it, but it might be impossible for me.”

Fina gave a slightly troubled answer.

“Really?”

Even Fina couldn't dismantle it?

It was a superior rank monster like the Tiger Wolves, so I thought that she could do it. Did I really not have any other choice other than to bring it to the Adventurer's Guild?

Fina took out her knife and tried to plant it into the Black Tiger's stomach.

She groaned, making 'UuUu' sounds.

Fina let go of her knife.

“Big Sis Yuna, as I thought, it's impossible for me.”

“Isn't this the same thing as the Tiger Wolves?”

“No, that's not the problem. The iron knife I have won't be able to dismantle a Black Tiger; its skin is so hard that the knife can't pierce it.”

That meant the problem wasn't Fina's technique, but that she needed a sharper knife, huh.

“You could do it if you had a better knife, right?”

“Maybe. I think it has the same structure as the Tiger wolves.”

“Should we go and buy a knife that can dismantle a Black Tiger, then?”

If you knew what had to be done, things tended to progress smoothly.

So, if there was a need for a knife, we only had to buy it.

“Knives that are able to dismantle Black Tigers are so pricy that I can't afford them,

you know.”

Fina shook her head as if to prove it was impossible.

“I will buy it for you, then. I always have you dismantle things for me, so take it as a thanks for all you have done.”

“But I have already received a lot of things as thanks from you, Big Sis Yuna.”

“Don’t worry about it; let’s just go.”

I put the Black Tiger back inside my Bear Box, took Fina’s hand, and headed to the blacksmith. We went to the place where I had brought a sword with Fina when I had first arrived at this town; a smithy that was managed by a dwarf couple.

When we entered the shop, the wife, Nert-san, greeted us.

“Welcome. Oh, isn’t it Fina and Bear Missy? Why have you come today?”

“We came to buy a dismantling knife.”

“What happened to the knife you bought before?”

“We haven’t come to buy one for me but a new one for Fina.”

“For Fina? But we polished hers just a few days ago, I believe...”

“We need a knife that can cut better than her iron knife.”

I told her that we couldn’t dismantle it with an iron knife.

“What the hell are you trying to dismantle? You won’t tell me that you want to dismantle a dragon, right?”

“I want to dismantle a Black Tiger, but the iron knife that Fina has wasn’t able to cut it.”

“A Black Tiger, you say? In that case, iron knife is no good indeed. You need at least a mithril knife to dismantle it.”

Oh right, mithril! When you think of a rare ore from a fantasy world, it had to be mithril.

If I remembered correctly, there were mithril swords in the game, too.

It also existed in this world, huh.

There were only iron sword in this shop, so I couldn't have known.

"So, could I have two mithril knives?"

I didn't really plan on using it, but I still asked for one for me, too.

Even if it was really expensive, I wanted one. If they had a mithril sword, I wanted one of those, too!

"I'm sorry, but we don't have any mithril right now."

I knew it, it was a rare ore, so it was difficult to get it. I really wanted some no matter what, though...

"Do you have any other knives that could cut the Black Tiger then? The price is not a problem."

"I'm really sorry, but it's not just mithril; we lack silver, copper and iron ores, too. So, we sadly don't have a knife that could dismantle a Black Tiger at the moment."

"You are short on all ores?"

"That's right; my husband is only sleeping these days, not doing any work because of the shortage."

She didn't lie; I couldn't hear the omnipresent sound of iron being struck from the back.

"Also, it isn't just our smithery that is like this; almost all of the shops that use ores are

having a shortage.”

Now that she mentioned it, I did remember Terumi-san asking me if I was okay with buying the necessary cooking tools for Anzu and the others even if the price of iron and copper rose when I told her to buy them. I also remembered vaguely answering that those tools were necessary, and that it was okay even if the price was a bit high.

So, this must have been why she was worried, huh.

I didn't really care when the Black Tiger would be dismantled, but if you asked me if I wanted it, I would have answered positively. It was the bad side of being a gamer.

“Why are you short on iron ore, though?”

I heard of fantasy stories where they gather a lot of iron ore in case of war.

Still, this country wasn't at war. Well, it might be that I only didn't know about it.

“I heard that there was a problem at the mine, and that they can't dig anymore.”

“What is this problem?”

“I don't know. I think the Commerce Guild should know, though.”

What should I do... Even if I knew the reason, that didn't mean that I would be able to get a mithril knife.

Would a weapon shop at the capital sell it?

I had a Bear Transfer Gate there, so should I go over and check?

“Thank you. I think I will drop by the capital for a bit.”

“The capital!? Ah, you are the Bear Missy, and you have your Summoned Bears, right? Wait here for a bit, please.”

Nert-san was surprised for a moment, but quickly came to a conclusion. She was a bit off, but I couldn't really tell her about the transfer gate, so I just nodded.

Nert-san went into the back room, and we soon heard her trying to wake her husband up.

The room was really noisy for a while before calming down again. As I was starting to wonder what was going on, Nert-san returned.

“Thank you for waiting. Here, take this with you.”

She gave me a letter.

“What is this?”

“At the capital, there is a smithy managed by a man named Gazar. You should take a look at his place. If you give him this letter, he might give you a better price.”

“Gazar, you said?”

“He grew up in the same village as we did.”

That meant he was also a dwarf, huh.

“It’s possible that they have ore shortage over there, too, so don’t get your hopes up too much.”

“Okay. Thank you, though.”

I thanked her and took the letter.

After we left the shop, I put my hand on Fina’s head.

“Well then, shall we go to the capital now?”

“Now!?”

“We have the Bear Transfer Gate, so there is no problem.”

“That’s right, but...”

“Is there any problem on your side?”

“Normally, you can’t just go to the capital this casually, you know!”

“Well, good for us, right? Want to go sightseeing around the capital with me?”

We went back to the Bear House and took the Bear Transfer Gate to the capital.

CHAPTER 135

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE CAPITAL TO LOOK FOR MITHRIL

After leaving the blacksmith, we set out to the capital to look for a mithril knife. Well, even though I said set out, it only took us a few minutes, thanks to the Bear Transfer Gate.

I had actually gone to the capital just a few days prior to this; I had gone to see Princess Flora since I finally got some rice to spare.

I made a lot of bite-sized onigiri that would suit the taste of a child and brought them to her.

Like usual, Eleanora-san and the king managed to sniff out my presence and came to eat them, too.

Well, Princess Flora was still a child and couldn't eat a lot of onigiri even though I made them small, so it was okay for them to have some as well.

Although it hadn't been long since I was last at the capital, it was different for Fina.

"It's the capital!"

Fina said happily as we left the Bear House.

"It's really a strange feeling, somehow. I can't believe that we were in Crimonia just a moment ago."

"It's been a while since you last came to the capital, so is there something you want to see? We could pass by if you want."

There was no reason to hurry, so I asked her if she wanted to go anywhere in particular, but she shook her head.

“Just walking around is fun enough.”

She was right, simply walking around aimlessly was a way to have fun.

Doing some sightseeing might also be good, so we decided to have fun on our way to the smithy. I soon realized something important, though. I had no idea where the smithy was.

I had asked Nert-san where it was, but she didn't know.

Since I didn't know where it was, I brought out the Bear Map, which showed me the whole capital in detail.

Yep, I had no idea where it was.

The capital seemed just like Tokyo's metropolitan area on the map; it was impossible to find a specific shop in this mess.

Well, it might be possible if there was some sort of search function, but sadly there was nothing like that, so I had no chance finding it using just my eyes.

Well, it was a smithy, so the Commerce Guild should be able to tell me where it was.

We headed to the Commerce Guild, which meant we had to go to the main avenue: a really large avenue where carriages were always coming and going. There were other ways to get to the guild, but that would mean taking a detour, so we resigned ourselves and walked onto the main avenue.

Even for a main avenue, there was a lot of pedestrian traffic here, and a lot of people around also meant a lot of people looking and talking about me: something I was used to by now.

Hey, mother over there, please tell your child that it's not nice to point at people with his finger.

Hey, the person over there, stop being so astonished just by seeing someone, please...

You there, weren't you taught that you shouldn't laugh at other people?

Also, the person on the other side, the suit isn't on sale, so even if you go to a tailor,

they won't sell it to you. So don't go to a clothing shop, please...

The person next to the one from before, don't order one for yourself, too, please...

Yes, I'm a Bear...

Yes, it's embarrassing. I'm used to it now, though.

You think it's cute? Thank you very much.

You want to hug me? Please refrain from doing so.

You're going to tell someone else that I'm here? Please don't.

'I will stand guard, so go,' you say... I'm not an animal, you know! Do you plan on capturing me?

Yeah, I'm the rumored Bear.

You want to touch me? That's strictly prohibited.

I rebuked everything that was happening around me in my head, and as I continued to do so like some sort of idiot, we reached the front door of the Commerce Guild.

As expected from the Commerce Guild of the capital, it was an immense building, and there were a lot of people going about.

There were also a lot of people at the Commerce Guild of Crimonia, but it was still incomparable to the amount of people here.

With this many people around, even more people were staring at me, but there was no way that I wouldn't enter after coming this far.

I took Fina's hand, and was about to enter the guild, when a voice called out from behind.

"Yuna-san!"

I turned around, wondering who was it, and was met by Shia, who seemed to be out of breath.

“Shia? Why are you here?”

“I should be the one saying that!”

She was right; it was weirder for me to be here than her.

She was still catching her breath. Was it because she had been running? Her hair did look a bit ruffled, and she was trying to put it back in place. It was before lunchtime, so shouldn't she still be at school?

“What about school, Shia?”

“It's a holiday today.”

“Why are you in your uniform, then?”

“Ah, I was on my way to the Adventurer's Guild, you see.”

“.....?”

I didn't understand her. What did her being in her uniform have to do with going to the Adventurer's Guild?

When I asked her about it,

“This uniform and mantle are made from a special material, so their defence is rather high,”

was how she answered.

Oh right, I might have heard of something like that during the guard mission. So, she was going to the Adventurer's Guild in her uniform because it had such an effect, huh.

Why was she on her way to the Adventurer's Guild, though?

“So, why are you here, Yuna-san? Oh, and Fina is here as well, I see.”

Fina bowed and greeted her a bit nervously.

Even though they were getting along just fine last time, they were still a noble and a commoner, huh.

“There should be a dwarf named Gazar running a smithy here at the capital, but I don’t know where it is, so I came to the Commerce Guild to ask.”

“A smithy, you say? Gazar.....”

Shia started thinking about it while tapping her forehead then clapped her hands loudly.

“Ah, I know about it and can show you the way. Why a smithy, though?”

“You know that Fina can dismantle things, right?”

Shia nodded.

“I asked her to dismantle the Black Tiger I had killed on the guard mission, but we learned that it was impossible to dismantle it without a mithril knife. We’re here since we couldn’t get the knife at Crimonia.”

“So you came to the capital simply to get a knife!?”

Well, she didn’t know about the Bear Transfer Gate, so no wonder she would be surprised.

“Well, yeah. I had some time to spare.”

“Even if you have time, is it really normal for you to come all the way to the capital just for a knife?”

“So, you said you know where the smithy is? If you do, I would like you to tell me since I really don’t want to enter this place.”

I looked at the entrance of the Commerce Guild which was packed with people entering and leaving.

Every time someone passed through the entrance, they always turned their heads to look my way.

I really wanted to get away from here as soon as possible.

“I will show you the way, then.”

“You sure? You’re on your way to the Adventurer’s Guild, right?”

I said even though I had no idea why Shia would go there.

It would really save me if she showed me the way, though.

“I have some time left, so it’s okay.”

Taking advantage of Shia’s kindness, we departed towards Gazar’s smithy.

Crimonia was quite big, but the capital was so much bigger that they couldn’t even be compared to each other.

“So, you came all the way to the capital, taking Fina along, only for a knife?”

“If I’m buying a knife, I want it to fit Fina’s hand well, after all. If I brought it on my own, and it was too big for her, she would have a hard time using it.”

“I can use big knives, too, you know.”

“That’s no good. If you were to hurt yourself with a knife that was too big for you, I would be the one to blame.”

People would confront me for making a 10-year-old girl use a knife... Wait, we weren’t in Japan. This was a different world where there were 10-year-old children who were required to use a knife.

Also, Fina had done her best dismantling many things to obtain the techniques she had now, so I didn’t want to take away her job. If Fina later decided that she didn’t

want to dismantle anymore, I would have to deal with that then.

We passed by a stall on the way to the smithy, so I decided to buy some food, like I normally did when passing a stall, and ate it while walking.

“We’re here.”

Thanks to Shia, we arrived at the smithy, which seemed to be on the edge of some sort of industrial zone.

Well, if they were striking iron every day in the middle of residential area, they would trouble other people, right?

As we were walking down a gloomy street, we noticed a short dwarf sitting on a chair.

“Ehm, excuse me.”

“What is it?”

“Are you Gazar-san?”

“That’s right, but who are you, wearing such crazy clothes?”

This was the first time someone had called my clothes outright crazy.

“Please don’t worry about my clothes. Could you have a look at this?”

I gave him the letter I had received from Nert-san.

“What is this?”

“Nert-san from Crimonia gave it to me? Or more exactly, it’s from Gold-san, I think?”

Nert-san had went to wake up her husband and had made him write it, right?

Gazar-san read through the letter after I mentioned the couple.

“I understand your problem, but there’s nothing I can do to help you. We are short on ores even here at the capital. The closest mine stopped supplying the ores, so we have to get them from elsewhere, but even then, not much of those ores get to me. I would love to make something specifically for you since it’s on Gold’s request, but it’s impossible right now.”

I knew it, they were short on ores at the capital, too.

“So, why is there a shortage in the first place? I heard that they aren’t able to mine it anymore, but...”

“It seems that a golem came out of a cave and made it impossible for them to mine the ore.”

Golem, an inanimate creature. A monster made from earth, stone, or even sometimes iron, mithril, and other ores.

“And how is the subjugation getting along?”

“I don’t know. I heard that some adventurers went to subjugate it, but since we still aren’t getting the ores, it seems that they didn’t kill it yet.”

Well, that made sense. There was no way the guild wouldn’t do anything.

If a monster appeared at the mine, there was sure to be a subjugation request.

“Now that I think about it, Mother mentioned something about this. She said that the subjugation started to go bad and that we might have to send in the knights.”

“The adventurers who were sent weren’t able to defeat it?”

“I don’t know the details, sorry.”

“I don’t know, either. If you want to know more, go to the Adventurer’s Guild. This isn’t an intelligence bureau, you know...”

He was right, but did that mean that I had to go to the Adventurer's Guild now?

I had the feeling that they were handing off their problems to me...

"We're going to the same place now, huh."

Shia said.

Oh right, Shia had told me something about being on the way to the Adventurer's Guild.

Hmm, what should I do? I wanted the mithril knife, not the information about the mine.

"Hmm, I know it's strange for me to ask you this since you are a smith yourself, but does any other smithy have mithril?"

"You might be able to find one, but I don't think they would sell mithril to a stranger."

I couldn't get it at Crimonia, and I couldn't get it at the capital.

Now that it had come to this, I had no other choice but to go to the mine, and that meant I would have to go to the Adventurer's Guild first.

I thanked Gazar-san and left his shop.

Since staying here wouldn't help me at all, I headed to the Adventurer's Guild.

Also, if I didn't say hello to Sanya-san while I was at the capital, I had a feeling that she would end up being angry at me.

CHAPTER 136

BEAR-SAN MEETS MARCUS AND HIS PARTY AGAIN

When we reached the Adventurer's Guild, we saw Marcus and the rest of his party standing near the entrance.

The three of them noticed us and rushed over.

"Yuna-san, why are you here?"

"More importantly, why are you with Shia-san..."

"Shia, what's going on?"

Marcus, Cattleya, and Timor all started speaking at the same time.

"Hey guys, long time no see. Are you all doing well?"

"More or less."

"It has been a long time since I last saw you, Yuna-san."

"Yuna-san, it's been a while indeed."

They all answered vigorously, but something was still bugging me.

"Marcus, what's with the bruise on your face?"

"Ah, this..."

Marcus pointed at a purple bruise on his right cheek.

"My father hit me for putting everyone in danger with my selfish actions and not listening to your instructions. He got really angry. He even went as far as to ask me: 'Who the hell do you think you are?'"

“And then he punched you...?”

Marcus laughed while pointing at his cheek again.

“He’s right, so this is normal. He also praised me, though. He said that it’s better to take action than to pretend not to see anything, but also told me to only take action after considering my strength, the strength of my allies, and the information we have on the enemy.”

Now that he mentioned it, Eleanora-san had also told me something like that.

Well, all of this was partly my fault, but since Marcus had already accepted his punishment, there was nothing I could really say.

“I was really surprised the first time I saw his bruise. He came to the academy just a day after he was hit, his face still really swollen.”

“Yeah, it really surprised me, too. It used to be a lot worse compared to now, after all.”

“I was really wondering what happened when I saw him.”

“You’re saying that he used to look even worse?”

Well, quite some time had already passed since the guard mission, and for the bruise to remain until now...

How hard did his father hit him?

“Is it okay now?”

“Yeah, it is. It’s no big deal, really.”

Marcus lightly rubbed his cheek.

“You say that even though you made so much ruckus just when we touched it before?”

“I remember correctly, you even had tears in your eyes.”

“Of course it hurt when you touched it the day after I had been hit.”

Shia and Cattleya laughed as they reminisced about it, but I agreed with him.

Even though I had no experience with being hit like that, I knew that if you touched a swollen cheek, it would hurt. Honestly, even just imagining it made my cheek hurt.

Wasn't it weird that when you saw someone else hurt, you started to feel the pain as well?

“What about the others; was it okay for you, or did people get mad at you too?”

“Professor and Eleanora-sama did get angry.”

“My mom was mad because I didn't back you up, Yuna-san.”

“They got mad at me, too, saying irrational things like ‘You were supposed to stop Marcus’... They said it like I was his guardian or something...”

“But in the end, no one punched you guys, right?”

Marcus said sulkily, which made everyone laugh.

Well, the way I saw it, Marcus was the leader of the party, so he had to take responsibility for the others. His father must have taken that into account when he punched him.

Also, this world wasn't like Japan, where they would say, ‘He's just a child’. I was sure, he must have been scolded hard.

If his father said something like, [It's not our child's fault, the one who was in the wrong was the adventurer.], I would have had to use the favor I had with Eleanora-san or the King.

“So, why are you two together then?”

“I had something to do at the Commerce Guild, and met with Shia there.”

“When I was on my way here, I saw a Bear-san in front of me, so I rushed to catch up with her.”

You didn't really have to rush...

"At the Commerce Guild?"

I told them why I had been on my way to the Commerce Guild, and what had happened afterwards, then presented the dismantling master Fina to them.

When I introduced her like that, Fina dismissed it by saying,[I can only dismantle simple monsters,] and looked at me reproachfully.

Why? Even though I only told them the truth...

Look at me, I couldn't even dismantle a wolf...

"Are you telling us you brought such a little child all the way to the capital just because you wanted to buy a mithril knife?"

"I think it is okay since it is Yuna-san, but just two girls traveling alone is dangerous, you know."

Timor and Cattleya looked at Fina and me with surprise.

Well, it was normal to think that two girls traveling from Crimonia to the capital was dangerous.

"Yuna-san has Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, so there is no need to worry."

Marcus threw me a lifeline.

"Oh, that's right."

"Still, dismantling a Black Tiger, huh. Is it really impossible with a normal knife?"

"If they could, they wouldn't have had to come to the capital to get a mithril knife."

"You're right. If it was easy to pierce the Black Tiger with a normal knife, it wouldn't be so hard to defeat it."

“Marcus, you should stop saying stupid things and start studying.”

“I know this much, at least. I just wanted to ask!”

Marcus became sullen since they were making him look like an idiot.

“But I didn’t think that I wouldn’t be able to get a mithril knife even though I came all the way to the capital!”

“Ore shortage, huh.”

“Now that I think about it, some adventurers were talking about it, weren’t they?”

“I also heard about it a few days ago: something about monsters appearing at the mine.”

“Well, it doesn’t really affect me, so I don’t know the specifics.”

“The mine is too far away, so we can’t go there, either.”

“More importantly, if I were to go at a place like that, my father would punch me again.”

They all laughed again when Marcus said that.

“So you guys don’t know much about it, huh.”

They all nodded.

This meant that the information about the shortage wasn’t widely spread among the citizens.

Gazar-san said that they were getting ore from another place, so the shortage wasn’t as bad as to bring about chaos.

“But mithril, huh. I also want a mithril sword...”

“It’s too soon for you, Marcus.”

“Yea, too soon.”

“I also think so.”

“Why are you all saying that... Well, my father said the same thing too, though... Still, if I had a good weapon, I would be a bit...”

Marcus mimicked raising a sword.

“It’s not good to blame the sword for your lack of skill.”

They all retorted.

“Anyway, why are you guys here?”

I had something to do at the Adventurer’s Guild, but I couldn’t think of anything that would make students come here, too.

“We registered ourselves at the Adventurer’s Guild.”

“Even though you’re nobles?”

“It’s to get some experience since we don’t want something like before to happen again.”

Something like before... Did they mean the Black Tiger encounter?

“Even if you guys did your best, I don’t think you will be able to defeat a Black Tiger, though.”

“We don’t plan on fighting a monster like that... but we would like to be able to defeat low class monster without any difficulties at least.”

“And that’s why you decided to come to the Adventurer’s Guild?”

“Yeah. I had trouble getting permission from my father, though.”

Marcus started to explain how hard it was to get his father’s permission to register.

He told us about almost getting hit again by his father, being made to fight him, and learning tactics from him.

“The one who had it hard was me. Your father is the captain of a knight order, so you were fine, but my father is the minister of finance... He wouldn't allow his son to become an adventurer even if it was only for a short time.”

“I apologized for that many times already, didn't I?”

“You really had it hard, huh.”

“What about you, Shia?”

“I didn't ask my father but got permission from my mother.”

Cliff... You were just pitiful... Your daughter didn't even talk to you about such things...

“In the end, they allowed us to do it as long as we only accepted requests to defeat low class monsters from the nearby forest.”

They told me that wolves were the only monsters at the nearby forest. That's why the forest was named The Beginner Forest, and only rank F and E adventurers could enter it.

It was meant to train the adventurers of the capital, it seemed.

Well, it made sense. If low class monsters were all exterminated around the capital, the new adventurers would have to leave the capital, and the capital wouldn't be able to raise capable adventurers anymore.

The Adventurer's Guild considered everything carefully and managed it well, huh.

I also recalled being scolded once for killing too many wolves around Crimonia.

They asked me to refrain myself from killing everything and leave the wolves to the new adventurers. It was the same for both cities.

So, Marcus and his party went to the nearby forest to hunt wolves when they had time now.

There were other monsters in the forest as well, of course, so they hunted them while they were at it and...

“You all became rank E?”

“Well, it’s normal for us to get rank E at least .”

“I think it’s amazing.”

“Yuna-san, you’re younger than us, but you are already rank C, right? Even if you praise us like this.....”

Just now, what did he say?

Younger?

It seemed that Marcus didn’t only have a problem with his head but also with his eyes...

Were there any eye doctors in this world?

If we didn’t bring him to one soon, it might be too late.

“You’re right. I’m not happy that someone younger, who is already rank C, is praising me when I just became rank E...”

Huh? There was one more person with eye problems over here...

“You’re totally right. When Yuna-san, who is rank C and younger than us, says that, I can’t really feel happy.”

This was strange... The people with eye problems kept increasing...

The last one was doing her best to contain her laughter as if she already knew my age.

“Could I have a moment?”

“Yes?”

“How old do you guys think I am?”

“13 years old, right?”

“Aren’t you 13 years old?”

“Taking adventurer rules into consideration, it has to be 13 years old. It is impossible to register before that, after all.”

Shia was the only one laughing.

“Hmm, really... from which angle can you see me as a 13-year-old?”

“Don’t tell me you’re younger!?”

“That’s impossible, Marcus. There is an Adventurer Guild’s rule for that, after all.”

“Yuna-san, don’t tell me you lied about your age and...”

The three of them gave me doubtful looks.

“I’m 15. No matter how you look at me, I’m 15, right?”

“.....”

The three of them turned stiff when I said that.

“Hmm, Yuna-san, you’re the same age as us?”

“That’s right.”

“You’re joking, right?”

“Oh, I got it. Yuna-san, you’re an elf, right?”

“Nope. I’m a normal human.”

I wasn’t from this world, though.

Shia was still laughing next to them.

“Shia, you knew!?”

“Yep, I heard it the first time we’ve met after all. She showed me her guild card as well.”

“The same age as us... I can’t believe it...”

“I can’t, either...”

I showed them my guild card to prove that I was 15.

I was just a LITTLE shorter than other people, that was all, you know.

CHAPTER 137

BEAR-SAN MEETS THE CAPITAL'S DEBORANE

As I parted ways with Marcus and his party, who were headed to the forest, and turned to enter the guild, I noticed Sanya-san standing at the entrance.

“I knew it would be you, Yuna-chan.”

“Sanya-san?”

“People inside the guild were making a ruckus; all I could hear was bear, bear, and bear from everywhere, so I knew that they were talking about you.”

“What are you talking about?”

I didn't remember doing anything.

She said it was noisy inside the guild... Of course there would be a commotion when I entered, but I hadn't even entered yet.

“They were making a racket about how a bear arrived and was getting involved with the rookies at the entrance.”

True, I was at the entrance, but were the rookies they were talking about Marcus and his party?

Also, being involved meant that I was happily having a conversation with them, right?

This was what could be called harmful rumors, right? Such rumors were really scary, weren't they?

“There's a commotion in the guild, you said?”

“Yeah. A person who knew you and a person who didn't had a big argument.”

“...I can't really understand what you're talking about...”

Why was there a quarrel between someone who knew me and someone who didn't?

Could someone explain it to me using understandable Japanese, please!

“A guild member who didn't know you was surprised by your clothes, while another who did was scared, making the one who didn't know you laugh at the scared one, which made the one who was laughed at angry, so an employee had to fetch me before it became an all out fight, and I had to hear them out and mediate the situation.”

While I was talking with Marcus and his party, something like that was happening inside the guild?

How mysterious.

“So, why are you here, Yuna-chan? And with Fina-chan, too?”

Fina greeted her with a bow.

“A lot happened, you see. I have something to do at the Adventurer's Guild, so I came here now.”

“A lot happened, huh?”

She looked at me accusingly.

“Just enter for now. If you stay here, you will cause trouble for other people.”

I would prefer if you didn't treat others as if they were a calamity, please.

Still, I did what she said and obediently entered the guild.

“The bear entered!”

“So this is the rumored bear?”

“Why was everyone so scared of such a cute bear?”

“You shouldn’t believe rumors, huh.”

“That’s...”

“It’s just a girl wearing cute bear clothes, right?”

“And she’s a child?”

“She isn’t just a cute girl.”

I heard from the adventurers who were sitting at the entrance, but decided to ignore them.

“So, the bear is here. Should we go and talk to her?”

“You shouldn’t involve yourself with her, you know!”

“I don’t want to fly into the sky...”

“If you want to meddle with her, do it by yourself!”

“What?... You guys are afraid as well?”

“You don’t know about it? The Bear Warnings?”

“Bear Warnings?”

“She’s dangerous, so don’t approach her.”

“If you want to fly, I won’t stop you, though.”

Bear Warnings he said... Which mountain warning board did he take that from!?

This is strange coming from me, but... I think that saying a cartoon-character costume was dangerous is a bit...

Meanwhile, on the other side:

“You shouldn’t involve yourself with her! An adventurer who did so before was killed!”

“I heard that he was eaten.”

“You’re wrong. He was minced, wasn’t he?”

“He was eaten after she minced him then?”

Wasn’t the discussion becoming strange, somehow?

The worst thing I did was making them do some bungee jumping without a rope, you know!?

Didn’t they mix in a bit of Crimonia’s story, too? If I remembered correctly, the first time I had come here, there had been an adventurer who had called me the Bloody Bear, right?

Now that I thought about this, it wouldn’t be strange for some of the people at the capital to know about what I had done to Deborane.

I had punched his face until it had become all swollen, after all. That must have been how they had come to think that I had minced him, huh. Or wait, was it possible that some of the adventurers had been crushed while doing the bungee jumping?

Still, eat them they said... I wasn’t a real bear, you know...

“You guys are being too noisy! Shut up!”

Sanya-san shouted at the adventurers, making the guild quiet down.

“Guild Master, who is this bear girl?”

One of the adventurers asked Sanya-san.

“Her name is Yuna. She might be wearing these kind of clothes, but she is a rank C adventurer.”

She knew that I was rank C, because I had told her when I had met her the time I had went to see Princess Flora in the castle.

“Rank C?”

“That’s a lie, right?”

“That bear is rank C.....”

The guild, which had been made quiet just a second ago, became noisy again.

Just like that, my personal information was spreading again...

Well, it was just my rank, so it was okay, I guess.

If my three sizes were being spread, I would kill them all, though.

My three sizes>>>An adventurer’s life.

Its value was at least that much.

“Guild Master, does that mean that if I win against this bear you will make me rank C?!”

A man just like Deborane stood up and said that.

I will call this man Deborane 2.0 from now on.

“There’s no way I would do that. Are you an idiot?”

Sanya-san said bluntly.

“But, there’s no way I would believe that this Bear is rank C.”

More than half of the adventurers in the guild nodded in agreement.

Deborane 2.0 saw he had others on his side, so he decided to approach me.

“Oi! Stop!”

“Then, if I beat her too, I should become rank C as well.”

“You guys should really stop.”

“I will be the third one!”

“You will die...”

The opinions of the adventurers were splendidly divided in two.

“Daju, if you take one more step towards Yuna-chan, I will be the one you will face.”

Sanya-san called Deborane 2.0 by his actual name: Daju.

So, his name wasn't Deborane 2.0....

“Let me have a match with her, then. It's impossible for a little lass like her to be rank C when I'm rank D!”

“Her strength is the real deal; you won't be able to win!”

Sanya-san raised her voice a bit.

“I won't know that until I try!”

Deborane (Daju) responded by raising his voice, too.

Somehow, this discussion was going in a weird direction.

This was strange... Even though I only came here to hear about the mine... Why did it turn out like this?

It must have been because of my clothes; I reached that conclusion instantly.

I was getting irritated, so I spoke up.

“Sanya-san, I accept this match.”

“Yuna-chan?”

“If I lose, make him rank C. In return, if I win, this man will have to do one thing for me.”

“There’s no way I can do something like that. There are proper rules for ranking up. If I yield here, the Adventurer’s Guild will lose its credibility!”

“Sanya-san, if...this man can win against me, he’s strong enough to be rank C.”

As long as I was wearing this Bear Cheat, I didn’t think I could lose.

“Or, do you think I could lose?”

“Hmm, I understand what you mean. But, what will you make him do, Yuna-chan? I won’t allow it if it’s something unreasonable.”

“I will just use him as my shield if something like this happens again, that’s all.”

“Shield?”

“If other adventurers decide to involve themselves with me like this again, I will have him stand in front of me.”

When I said that, Deborane (Daju) gave me a slight smile and nodded.

“Okay. If other adventurers pick a fight with you, I will make mincemeat out of them.”

“Alright. If there are people who won’t be happy with the result of this match, they will be expelled from the guild. If you are okay with such conditions, I will officially accept this match as the guild master.”

Sanya-san declared while sighing.

Deborane (Daju) nodded in agreement.

We proceeded to the practice ground at the back of the guild, accompanied by the adventurers who were inside the guild.

Then, the match started.

..... A few minutes later:

“Uhaaa...” “Please stop...” “I was wrong...” “Ugyaaah...”

Deborane (Daju) flew into the air. It wasn't like he did it on his own accord; the moment the match started, I made him fly up by using wind magic under him.

Deborane (Daju) let out a shriek and started to fall.

The practice ground was so big that it was almost as if it had no roof.

I caught Deborane (Daju) with an invisible cushion, and then, like he was on a trampoline, I made him fly up again.

“Help me...”

Yep. I looked at Deborane (Daju) flying. What a nice weather. If it wasn't for Deborane (Daju)'s screams, I might have wanted to take a nap.

The adventurers who came to watch had their mouths wide open while looking at Deborane (Daju).

“I beg you...”

I brought out an Oren Juice from my Bear Box and drank it. I had walked around the capital all day, after all. I wasn't tired thanks to the Bear Equipment, but I was still thirsty.

“I'll die...”

“Want some too, Fina?”

I asked Fina who was standing on the side.

“Big Sis Yuna.....”

Fina looked at me with an exasperated expression.

Why did she look at me with like that?

“Hmm, Yuna-chan, shouldn’t you stop soon?”

Sanya-san asked me while looking at Deborane (Daju).

“Huh? Well, I mean, the match isn’t concluded yet, right? You didn’t say a word about victory, so I kept going.”

“Eh? It’s my fault!?”

Sanya-san looked at me dumbfoundedly.

I mean, didn’t a match continue until the referee said that it was finished?

“Anyway, just stop it already. He already lost consciousness.”

When I stopped my wind magic, Deborane (Daju) fell onto the floor, motionless.

[There’s no reaction. He’s just like a corpse.]

Stopping with the jokes, I launched water magic at his face; I had to hear the words of defeat from him.

“You woke up?”

“...You are...”

“Do you accept defeat? Or, do you want to fight me one more time?”

Deborane (Daju) looked around him, bowed his head, and declared his defeat in a whisper.

“I lost. I won’t pick a fight with you ever again. If there are people who will come to pick a fight with you, I will become your shield as best as I can.”

Deborane (Daju) stood up, his steps staggering.

“Guys, if you don’t want to end up like me, don’t fight the Bear. You should understand that she was going easy on me, right? If she didn’t, I would have fallen from up high and died.”

As if they understood it well, all of the adventurers nodded.

“Well then, since this match is finished, you should all go back inside the guild.”

Sanya-san said to everyone.

“Sanya-san, what are you saying? There were two more, right? Two more adventurers who wanted to have a match with me, I mean. They already made a reservation, so we have to let them fight me.”

“Yuna-chan, you’re being somewhat scary.”

In this case, two was better than one, and three was better than two.

It would be better if I had more shields.

“Hmm, who was it again? The adventurer over there?”

I pointed at a random adventurer with my Bear-san Puppet.

I didn’t know which person it was, of course.

The one I pointed shook his head with all of his strength.

“Ahh, was it you, then?”

I pointed at another random adventurer with my Bear-san Puppet.

Just like before, the adventurer shook his head violently.

“Yuna-chan, you should stop this. Don’t you see that they have already learned their lesson? You guys shouldn’t go against her. It’s not just Daju, I won’t have mercy on you guys either, okay?”

When she said that, the adventurers fled the practice grounds.

Deborane (Daju) approached me.

“My name is Daju. Your magic is really incredible. If you have any trouble, just tell me.”

After saying that, Daju left the practice grounds.

“You should excuse him for this. He’s stressed because he can’t raise his rank. He has already reached the strength of rank C adventurer, but he simply has no luck.”

Even if he was stressed, I was the one troubled when he came to pick a fight with me... Still, it was good publicity, so I was fine with it.

With what happened previously and this time, I shouldn’t be bothered when I came to the Adventurer’s Guild next time, right?

After all, there were a lot of adventurers at the capital, so there were a lot who thought of approaching me like Daju did.

“Well then, Yuna-chan, I will hear what you have to say in my room.”

We were getting to the real issue at last.

Why was it that just because I had come here to hear about the mine, it had become

something so big?

Fina and I were led by Sanya-san to the Guild Master's room.

CHAPTER 138

BEAR-SAN LISTENS TO THE TALK ABOUT THE MINES

Sanya-san took Fina and me to the Guild Master's room. Before entering the room, as if she just remembered it, Sanya-san asked an employee to bring us drinks.

This Guild Master's room was quite big. In front of the window at the back of the room, there was a big desk where Sanya-san must have worked. On both sides of the desk, there were bookshelves backed to the walls. On the desk, there were things that seemed to be documents, stored side by side.

It honestly looked like a mayor's room.

In the center of the room, there was a table with chairs on each side; it looked like a place to hold meetings.

Sanya-san didn't go to her desk, but sat on a chair on the other side of the table instead.

Really, how did it turn out like this...

I didn't think that getting a knife would end up being so troublesome, and that wasn't even taking into account that I wasn't even getting the mithril knife yet, just information on the mine....

Ugh, if I had known it would have ended up like this, I would have just taken a nap. I wanted the Black Tiger dismantled, though, and wanted the mithril knife, too.

Maybe I should just abandon the knife for now.

As I was thinking about what I should do after this, Sanya-san asked us to sit down.

"Please sit wherever you want."

Fina and I sat down in front of her, and then, with perfect timing, someone knocked on the door. The employee, whom Sanya-san had sent to get us drinks, entered and served us the drinks.

When the employee put the drinks down, I made sure to thank him.

“Yuna-chan, I have seen you a few times recently, but it has been a while, Fina-chan.”

“Yes, it has been a while, Sanya-san.”

Fina greeted her with a bow.

“So, what did you want to hear about that it made you come all the way to the guild?”

I explained to her what had happened until now and how I had ended up at the Adventurer’s Guild.

“A mithril knife to dismantle a Black Tiger, you say?”

“I wanted to buy one at Crimonia but couldn’t get it, so I came to the capital, but...”

Crimonia’s blacksmith → Capital → Capital’s Commerce Guild → Capital’s blacksmith
→ Capital’s Adventurer’s Guild → To be continued.

There was no goal in sight.

“Well, it’s a precious metal, so it makes sense. We couldn’t obtain a lot before, but now that we can’t mine anymore, it’s even worse. Even if someone were to sell it, it would surely be really expensive.”

Well, I didn’t really care about the cost, but I didn’t want to buy it at a rip-off price.

Since mithril ore became more expensive, it made sense for the price of mithril products to increase too, but I wanted to buy it at the normal price if possible.

“What happened at the mine, then? Blacksmith Gazar-san told me that a golem appeared.”

I really couldn't understand why a golem had suddenly appeared in a mine that had been active for years...

Did things like this happen because this was a different world?

"It's just as you said: a golem appeared at the mine. As the miners were mining, they discovered a huge cave, and it seems that the golem was sleeping in this cave."

"The golem slept there?"

"From what the miners told us, supposedly one of them approached the golem, which suddenly woke up and attacked the man, who panicked and barely managed to get away alive."

"And now the golem is rampaging throughout the mine?"

If there was only one golem, wouldn't the adventurers normally be able to defeat it, or...

Was it possible that the golem had destroyed the passageway and the mine was now blocked in?

"It isn't really like the golem is rampaging, it would be better to say that it only stayed there. It doesn't leave the mine, after all. It attacks when we enter the mine, though."

Since it was a golem, was it protecting something?

In novels and games, they were often used as guardians.

"Didn't adventurers go there to subjugate it by now?"

"A number of them already went to subjugate it, but..."

Sanya-san said with difficulty.

"It seems that it's really troublesome."

"Troublesome?"

“It seems that there isn’t only one golem.”

“There are more of them?”

“We have reports of a number of subjugated golems, but for now, we aren’t able to grasp how many golems are in the mine.”

Were the golems spawning infinitely?

If this were a game, people would be happy with how much experience they could get, right?

Still, wouldn’t I know how many golems there were if I used detection magic?

The problem was that it might not be possible for me to detect monsters inside the mine.

I already knew that I could detect monsters in a goblin-nest-sized caverns, but would it work for something like a mine, where there were multiple levels? Was it only possible to detect on the level I was on, or was it possible to detect on multiple levels at the same time? I had never tried it out, so I didn’t know.

“There’s another problem; when we go further inside, iron golems start to appear.”

Iron golems, she said?

They were a troublesome bunch to fight inside a cave.

Since it was a cave, I couldn’t use fire magic. If I used earth magic, I didn’t know how much damage a physical type of attack would cause. I wasn’t sure if using wind magic to cut iron would work. Water was out of the question, and using ice magic would have the same effect as earth magic. When it came to things like iron golems, having a mithril sword, which could cut iron, was something I would have liked to have.

To summarize, it would be troublesome to fight the golems inside the mine.

“We had it as a rank D request until few days ago, but now that iron golems started to appear, I put it as a rank C or higher request.”

So, it increased from a rank D request to a rank C request, huh.

When talking about rank D, that would be adventurers with the strength of Deborane or Deborane 2.0, right?

I tried to recall their strength, but... I realized that I didn't know their strength since I only one-sidedly punched or used magic against them.

The only rank C acquaintance I had was Jeid-san, who I had encountered not too long ago, but I didn't really know how strong he was.

I didn't really understand this, but wasn't he quite strong, being at rank C?

"So, if I go to the mine, will I be able to get mithril ore?"

What I was looking for was information about mithril ore and not golems.

"Hmm, I don't know. That information is Commerce Guild's jurisdiction, after all."

That meant that I had no reason to go to the mine, then.

I might be able to get some, but the opposite was also possible.

It would be troublesome, so should we just go home?

I decided dropping it was better and stood up from my chair.

"Sanya-san, thank you very much."

I thanked Sanya-san, drank the drink that the employee had served me, and was about to leave, when there was another knock on the door.

"Come in!"

Sanya-san called out, and somebody I knew well entered.

“Oh? Yuna-chan and Fina-chan were here?”

“Eleanora-san!?”

“Why are the two of you here?”

That was what I wanted to ask.

“I came here to get some information. What about you, Eleanora-san?”

“I came to speak with Sanya.”

Eleanora-san approached us and sat down next to Fina.

“Fina-chan, are you well?”

“Yes.”

Fina answered a bit nervously.

“Is Noa doing well too?”

“Yes, we played together just the other day.”

I saw the two of them together from time to time; they were obviously getting along well.

They even came to the Bear House sometimes and asked me to summon Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear.

“Oh, is that so. May I leave that girl in your hands from now on as well?”

Fina smiled and nodded.

“So, Eleanora-sama, what did you want to speak with me about?”

Sanya-san asked to Eleanora-san, who intruded so suddenly.

“I came here to learn more about what happened with that case.”

“You’re talking about the mine?”

“Yes, if we keep being unable to procure ore, the whole country will be troubled.”

“A few days ago, two rank C parties went to the mine.”

“I thought about sending the soldiers if it proved impossible for the guild to handle this, but shouldn’t it be okay with rank C adventurers? How many people did you send?”

“Four to five people in each party.”

“Hmm, I will continue overseeing how it goes for a while longer, then. If they won’t be able to deal with it, I will send out the soldiers.”

“I understand.”

I was thinking that if they could bring out the soldiers, then they should do it sooner, so I asked about it.

They told me that monster subjugations were adventurers’ jobs. If soldiers were to take care of subjugations, adventurers would be out of work.

Only when the adventurers couldn’t handle the situation would the soldiers be sent out; this was the unspoken agreement between them.

That was why the adventurers were sent to subjugate the golems and not the soldiers.

This seemed like a really troublesome relationship, but I guess they had no other choice, huh.

If the soldiers took care of all the monsters, adventurers wouldn’t have anything to do, and if a real crisis were to fall upon the country, and the soldiers were deployed hunting monsters, it could end up really bad.

“So, Yuna-chan, why are you here?”

I proceeded to explain everything to Eleanora-san.

“Mithril, huh.”

“Is the ore shortage really that bad?”

“We can manage to get iron and other basic ores, but as for mithril and other more precious metals, we can only procure a small amount, so the shortage is quite bad. Their prices keep rising, and normal adventurers can’t afford them anymore.”

Mithril did cost a lot as expected, huh.

“Yuna-chan, if you want mithril, would you mind listening to my request? When we procure some mithril, I will prioritize sending it to you, or, if you prefer, I could give you the mithril knife I have at home.”

“Your request... Is it the golem’s subjugation?”

Listening to what she was offering, I could only see it ending up like that.

“Yes, I think now that rank C adventurers were sent, it will be fine, but I would still prefer for it to be resolved as soon as possible.”

“I do want mithril, but you could also ask a rank B or A adventurer, not just me, right?”

I had never seen them, but I was sure that there were some high ranked adventurers at the capital.

Yet, they smiled bitterly.

“We do have some high ranked adventurers at the capital, but it’s quite difficult to ask them.”

“.....?”

I tilted my head.

I couldn't understand why they couldn't ask them when the adventurers were here.

“The first reason why is because high ranked adventurers often wander around. We don't know where they are or when they'll return. So, we can't ask them.”

“They go to undiscovered lands, looking for strong monsters. They don't have much to do at the capital, you see.”

“High ranking adventurers are mostly free and hard to control, and they don't like to be bound to one place.”

Eleanora-san and Sanya-san explained to me.

So, that was why I had never encountered high ranked adventurers before, huh.

“Also, a lot of those high ranking adventurers are eccentrics, so it's quite difficult to ask them.”

Eleanora-san and Sanya-san looked at me at the same time.

Why were they looking at me, I wondered?

Wait, someone else was looking at me, too. Fina, why were you looking at me as well?

I would become sad, you know.

I wasn't an eccentric person.

“Yuna-chan is not an *eccentric* person, so it's okay.”

Eleanora-san said, still looking at me.

The way she said it was strange, somehow.

“Like I said before, high ranking adventurers are all people who either love adventure, are shut in researching magic, or going on long trips looking for strong foes. They also

have a lot of money, so they don't really accept many requests."

Oh! Somehow, these adventurers were giving me a good feeling.

I also had a lot of money, so I didn't really want to work. I also wanted to see this new world, so I did want to go on adventures. New magic research also seemed quite interesting. I didn't really want to look for strong foes, though (or maybe just a little).

When I thought about it now, I was a comrade of these eccentrics.

Still, it was all due to my way of thinking, and absolutely not because my clothes were eccentric.

"But it's not like all of the high ranking adventurers are eccentrics, right?"

If that was the case, this world would end...

"But of course. There are also some normal high ranking adventurers, but they are mostly taken by other countries."

I see. That was why the only high ranked adventurers who remained were eccentrics.

"So, it's difficult to ask high ranked adventurers, and because of that, could you please accept my request, Yuna-chan?"

It somehow seemed to me as if they were already putting me on the same level as those eccentrics, though.

I wanted mithril, so it would be okay to accept, but the problem were the iron golems.

Normal golems made from earth or rocks were fine, but I didn't know if I could subjugate iron ones.

"You will give me enough mithril to make a knife only?"

"Hmm, mithril is a precious metal and is difficult to process, so it has quite the price

attached to it, but if it's knives, I will give you enough for two of them."

I glanced at Fina, who was shaking her head. Was it because mithril was more expensive than she thought?

"Big Sis Yuna..... You don't have to push yourself so hard; I don't need a mithril knife. I think it will be fine if we just ask the guild to dismantle the Black Tiger."

When someone said that they didn't need it, it was human's nature to do your best to obtain it for them.

Also, thinking of the future, I had the feeling that we would need the mithril knife again.

"Okay, I accept, but I'm not sure if I can take care of them."

"Yuna-chan, thank you. You saved us. While you're away, I will take care of Fina-chan at my house, okay?"

""Huh?""

When Eleanora-san said that, both Fina and I let out surprised sounds.

"Don't tell me that you planned on bringing her with you?"

Eleanora-san asked in astonishment while also hugging Fina at the same time.

I didn't plan on bringing her with me, but as one would expect, I couldn't really tell them that I was planning on sending her to Crimonia using my transfer gate.

"I'm counting on you."

I answered.

“Big Sis Yuna!?”

Fina gave me a surprised look, and I apologized to her in my heart.

I learned where to find the mine, and I once again went to the Bear House, used the Bear Transfer Gate to ask Terumi-san to lend Fina to me, got her approval, and went back to the capital using the gate before finishing this troublesome task by handing Fina to Eleanora-san.

Fina had a sad expression since she had to stay at a noble’s mansion; I really hoped she wouldn’t lose her soul from the stress this would cause her.

I will come back soon, so please wait for me.

Just like that, it came to be that I had to go to the mine on my own in order to save the imprisoned princess Fina.

I felt that my goal had somehow changed, but I departed without paying any mind to it.

CHAPTER 139

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE MINE

(THE HERO GOES TO THE MINE)

Princess Fina had been captured by the witch Eleanora, and she would surely be forced to eat delicious things, live in a beautiful room, wear gorgeous clothes, and sleep in a really soft bed.

The witch Eleanora was trying to wreck her heart (stomach).

Not to mention that, before the hero Yuna would come back to save her, she would have to sightsee the capital and play with the witch's daughter, Shia. I was sure that Princess Fina was crying (smiling) when she was alone.

The hero Yuna was on her way to the mine that held the golem materials that the witch wanted. The hero Yuna had to bring the materials to the witch in order to take Princess Fina back.

"Princess Fina, please wait for me. I will defeat the golems without fail and come back for you."

I have to save her as quickly as possible. Yes, that was what the hero Yuna promised in her heart before she turned her back on the witch's mansion and started walking towards the mine.

.....Okay, enough with the jokes. After I had given Fina to Eleanora-san yesterday, I had also spent the night at the manor before going towards the mine this morning.

From what Sanya-san had told me, the mine wasn't too far from the capital, so I decided to go to the mine using Swaying Bear.

Still, golems, huh?

Golems made of earth or stone were okay, but the iron ones would be really troublesome.

I couldn't use any large-scale magic in the mine, so how should I deal with it...?

Well, I still had some time to think before I reached the mine.

I was sure Fina would be having fun, so I didn't really have to rush myself.

I made Swaying Bear run leisurely and took a break when I was halfway there.

“Thank you, Swaying Bear. Hugging Bear, I'm counting on you.”

I pet both of their heads before embarking on another light run, this time on Hugging Bear.

After traveling for a while, I noticed some buildings ahead of me.

As we got closer, I climbed down from Hugging Bear and approached them on foot.

It was a small town, and the mine was right next to it.

The sun was already going down, so I decided to find an inn for now and start the investigation tomorrow.

Most of the people who lived there had something to do with the mine: people who wanted to get ore and people who traded with the mine workers. When people gathered like that, shops started to pop up.

It made sense for this town to be established next to the mine.

Also, Sanya-san had told me that there was a proper inn here, meant for the adventurers and the merchants who came to purchase ore.

I entered the town and, like usual, gathered attention from the surroundings.

I decided to pay it no mind for the time being and looked for the inn.

As I was walking through the town, someone called me from behind.

“Is that possibly you, Yuna!?”

I turned around and saw Jade-san and his party members.

“I knew it, it’s Yuna-chan!”

Meru-san seemed really happy.

“Who wouldn’t recognize her just by seeing her?”

An expressionless girl, who seemed to be about twenty, said.

“Oh! This brings back memories, Bear Missy.”

A man holding a sword said.

I didn’t remember him, but I was sure he was a member of Jade-san’s party.

I remembered that there had been four of them at Crimonia, but I never remembered the faces of people I had met only once and talked to for only a few seconds.

As Jade-san approached me, I had a feeling that even more people were starting to look at me.

Jade-san’s party already stood out on its own, and a girl in a Bear Suit didn’t help with that; it would be more strange if we weren’t attracting attention. I would like the party to stop making a fuss, though. I didn’t want to stand out even more than I already did.

I had a feeling that I shouldn’t be complaining about others making me stand out but decided to ignore it.

“So, why are you here, Yuna?”

“Well, to do my job, more or less?”

“Are you here for the golems?”

“Yeah. You’re here for them too, Jade-san?”

Well, it made sense for them to be here for the golems.

So, they were the rank C party that had been sent, huh.

“Yea, we received the request and have been subjugating the golems for the last few days. We just came back from the mine after today’s round.”

“How’s it going? I will go back if it’s almost finished.”

I asked without getting my hopes up even though it would be really great if it was going well.

“It’s not going that well.”

“Really?”

C rank adventurers were having problems, too?

“Jade, we shouldn’t talk here. How about we go back to the inn and discuss this while we eat?”

Meru-san chimed in.

She was right. We stood out talking in the middle of the road like this, and I also wanted to reserve a room at the inn before it was too late.

If there were no open rooms, I would have to find a place that didn’t stand out and bring out the Bear House I used for travel.

I accepted Meru-san’s proposal, and we headed to the inn.

On the way there, Jade-san’s party introduced themselves.

I already knew Jade-san and Meru-san since I met them during the guard mission, but even though I had seen the other two at the Crimonia’s Adventurer’s Guild, I didn’t remember them at all. I honestly only remembered their genders.

The male swordsman was Toya, and the expressionless girl, who was wearing light clothing, was Senya.

We arrived at the inn, and I managed to reserve a room, even though the inn was crowded.

It seemed that the merchants came from all over to fight for the ores. They didn't come only from the capital but also came from many other towns.

I was actually lucky with the room I booked; the merchant that had it before had just left today.

When I entered the inn, I was the center of attention, as expected. I ignored them all, of course, and thanks to Jade-san and his party, no one dared to pick a fight with me.

The only thing that bothered me was, when I went to speak to the wife of the owner of the inn, she looked at me with a meek smile and then, switching her gaze to Jade-san, said:

“Will this girl, who wears clothes that look like a bear, be staying here?”

Why was she asking Jade-san and not me?

“Yeah, that's right. Could you prepare a room, please?”

Jade-san said while laughing.

I was thankful to Jade-san for being able to reserve a room, but... I wasn't a child; I was a proper rank C adventurer, you know...

“Too bad... If there were no free rooms, I would have you sleep in ours...”

Meru-san said.

“Our room only has two beds, you know.”

Senya-san chimed in.

“Eh, isn’t that okay!? If you like, I will sleep with Yuna-chan. She’s small, so if she took off this bear, we would be able to sleep together.”

Nope, I wouldn’t take it off.

If I was at my home, I would be okay with it, but at a place where I didn’t know what would happen, I would never take off my Bear Equipment.

Anyway, since my room was safely booked and it was time for dinner, we sat down at an open table and ordered some food.

“So, how is the golem subjugation going then?”

“I guess we should say that we don’t really know.”

“Even though we continue defeating the golems every day, they keep replenishing, so they are back to their initial numbers the next day.”

I knew it, it was a spawnpoint.

Hearing this information would make any gamer really happy.

If this was a game, I would be happy too, of course.

“We think that the first golem the miners found is the cause of all of this.”

I also thought that the first golem was suspicious.

It was the simplest reasoning that governed in games and novels; when something was discovered, it would also trigger something else.

“You haven’t defeated that golem yet?”

If it was possibly the cause for all of this, we just had to go and defeat it. If we were wrong, we just had to think of another method.

“It’s not that easy, you know. The further in we go, the stronger the golems get.”

“Are you talking about iron golems?”

“You knew about them?”

“I heard that they were the reason that this became a rank C request.”

“Yeah, but it’s not like we can’t defeat them; they are just a troublesome bunch.”

I thought so as well; defeating iron golems seemed really troublesome.

“But you can still defeat them, right? Shouldn’t you be able to make progress then?”

“There’s a big opening just before the cave where the first golem was found, and five iron golems stand guard there. As you can expect, that’s too much for us.”

“That’s why we’re now thinking about what we can do.”

I see.

So, if we could do something about those five iron golems, it was possible to reach the cave, huh.

It would somehow work out, then. As we continued to talk, the entrance became noisy.

“Ah, I’m tired. So tired!”

“So true! I really want to stop fighting these iron golems over and over again!”

“But we get a lot of money from them, right?”

“There’s really a lot of iron golems, huh?”

“I’m really hungry; we should get something to eat.”

When I turned towards the noise, I saw five adventurers entering the inn.

The moment I saw them, I knew that they were in the type of people I didn’t want to involve myself with (even though this wasn’t a nice thing to say).

They seemed to be three times worse than Deborane.

Also, what was up with those clothes?

The one in front was wearing equipment that was completely red, maybe to go with his bright-red hair? If a buffalo was here, he would have been attacked for sure.

Also, for some reason, the second one was wearing blue equipment, the third wore green, while the fourth one was probably a magician wrapped in a black mantle. The last one was the only woman of the group? She looked about 30 years old, and she was wearing a white mantle.

They represented the five color squadron quite well.

If they weren't white and black, but yellow and pink, it would have been perfect, but as expected, in this world, even though a yellow mantle would barely pass, a pink one would be completely out of the question, so there was no helping it.

This five color squad approached us.

“Yo, Jade! Since when did you start keeping a bear as a pet?”

The red man dared to say while looking at me, making the other four behind him laugh.

Okay, it was decided; I would call these five the Idiot Rangers from now on.

The Power Rangers were the superheroes who represented Japan, so it wasn't like I was making a fool out of them.

“She's an adventurer, you know. She's the same rank as us.”

“You're joking. Hey guys, he's saying that a bear is an adventurer! Stop making us laugh.”

That was what you were laughing about!?

It wasn't something you would retort about, was it?... Well, he was right, but... wouldn't you normally retort about the rank?

“And rank C, you say? If you want to make me laugh, tell me something more ridiculous. Well, her existence itself is enough to make me laugh, though.”

Idiot Red laughed.

“Well, we should stop talking about the bear for now. How did it go today? We defeated three iron golems, so we are doing great.”

“We defeated two.”

“I see. Well, we will defeat those five golems, so don’t worry. And the prey behind them is also ours.”

“Do as you wish. But if we don’t hurry, the soldiers will be sent out, it seems.”

“Really!? Then we have to hurry, because if the country took this delicious prey, it would be a big loss for us.”

Idiot Red left while laughing.

“They are adventurers who came to subjugate the golems, too. They are rank C, and even though their attitude are the worst, they are quite skilled.”

So, they were the second rank C party that came to subjugate the golems, huh.

Like Jade had explained to me, I also noticed that they had the worst attitude, but if they were able to kill iron golems, that meant they had at least some skill.

“It’s the same as usual, though.”

“Still, it was terrible to say that Yuna-chan is a pet! Even though she’s not a pet but a mascot...”

That was also wrong, you know... I retorted silently.

“But seeing how they were like before, they must be selling them at a good price.”

“Selling them?”

“Yeah, they are selling the iron golem materials, and it seems like they are selling them

at quite the price.”

I see. The golems were treated as monsters, so when you defeated one, its body, which was left behind, was considered yours, right?

“You said ‘it seems’. Does that mean that you guys aren’t selling them? You just said that you defeated two, though...”

“We are selling them through the normal route, so we don’t get that much out of them. Well, I said that, but they are still buying them from us at a 20% increased price.”

“From what I heard, they are selling them at a 50% increased price.”

I didn’t know how much the iron cost normally, but it seemed that they were profiting quite a bit.

I didn’t need money, but unlike in the game, if you killed the golems, their whole bodies would remain behind as they were, right?

If I defeated one cleanly, would I be able to keep it as it was?

If I did, it wouldn’t be bad to use it as a golem decoration somewhere.

Our meals arrived, and while we were eating, Jade-san gave me a lot information about the mine.

“Is it okay for you to tell me this much? Normally, the information shouldn’t be given away like this, right?”

“We won’t lose anything by telling you this time. If we, the adventurers, don’t figure out why the golems are replenishing, the country will move, meaning that we would all fail this request.”

“If I can deal with the golems, does that mean that you guys will also complete the request?”

Those Idiot Rangers as well...

“Yeah, that’s how it works this time around. You need the magic stones from the golems you defeated to prove that you took part, of course. If you don’t have any, they take it as if you didn’t participate, and the request isn’t marked as completed.”

“Also, when you look at the reward for the one who personally completes the request by defeating the final enemy, there isn’t much of a difference from the reward for people who just participate.”

“Don’t forget that we can make a lot of money by selling the iron golem raw materials, too. So, because of all this, we don’t have any problems telling you, Yuna.”

“On the contrary, we would be saved if you could defeat the last golem.”

As they said, this was a special request.

Normally, adventurers struggled to find the monsters, so they wouldn’t share the information this easily.

“Thank you for the information; it will help me a lot.”

I thanked them, finished my meal, and went to my room to sleep.

Starting tomorrow, I would have to start exploring the mine.

CHAPTER 140

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 1

The hero arrived at the mine to obtain the materials needed to save Princess Fina, who had been captured by the witch Eleanora.

A golem stood in front of the hero. As the golem launched its punches, countless pebbles flew through the air.

The hero dodged, but she couldn't dodge every strike, and a few pebbles hit the hero's cheek.

Petchi, petchi, petchi, petchi

It didn't hurt, though. It was as if they were soft. Such weak attacks wouldn't defeat the hero.

The hero ran at the golem while it continued to launch countless harmless pebbles.

Such weak attacks were of no concern at all, so the hero didn't stop her assault.

Petchi, petchi, petchi, petchi

The pebbles continued to hit the hero's cheek, but they still didn't hurt.

Then, the hero, who was about to slice the golem with her sword, suddenly couldn't breathe anymore.

What sort of attack was this!?

It felt as if something was pressing against her face.

She was suffocating.....

'So, I will die because of an unknown attack like this.....'

The hero lost consciousness.

“Uwaaaah, I can’t breathe!”

Thud

When I woke up, something fell from my face.

“Hugging Bear?”

I saw Hugging Bear, tilting his head in front of me, and Swaying Bear next to him.

“Is it possible that the dream I just had was your fault?”

Those soft attacks from the golem and the suffocating feeling at the end.

I looked at the two, and they let out small ‘Kuun’ cries.

I looked around the room and saw that the sun was shining into it; they seemed to have woken me because it was already morning.

“Thank you, but you two should think of a way that won’t make me suffocate next time, okay?”

As a protective measure, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear yesterday night.

I was never more defenseless than when I slept, after all.

I recalled them into their gloves, changed back into the Black Bear, and went to the dining room to have breakfast.

I was thankful that the bears woke me up, but I would like it if they stopped jumping on my face as they did it. I almost died of suffocation. If it had lasted any longer, I might have appeared on the obituary section of a newspaper. The title would have been, [A girl wearing a bear suit has died.]

Well, it wouldn't have been like this at all if I just woke up when Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear were softly hitting my cheeks. People didn't easily wake up everyday, though. There were times when they wanted to wake up late, too.

Still, I had work this time around, so Hugging Bear had to wake me up. I should be thankful and just bear with it.

As I was thinking about Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear, Meru-san and Senya-san arrived.

I couldn't see the two men yet.

"Good morning, Yuna-chan."

Meru-san greeted me, while Senya-san just lightly waved her hand.

"Meru-san, Senya-san, good morning."

"Yuna-chan, will you go to the mine after breakfast?"

"I will just check the situation for now. I can't just stand around, after all."

I had to save the imprisoned Princess Fina, too.

"Then, how about coming with us?"

"With you guys?"

"We know your strength from the rumors, but... your appearance is..."

"I can only see a cute bear."

They started petting my head when they said that.

"We are worried, since you don't seem that strong..."

"...So, the two of us talked about it and decided we should go together."

They displayed their worries for me quite firmly.

It was easier for me to move around on my own, though. Well, I did want to see how strong rank C adventurers were, so...

What should I do?

First of all, how about they stopped petting my head?

The two sat down next to me and ordered breakfast.

“But won’t it be a problem if you two don’t ask Jade-san first?”

“It’s okay, even if we don’t talk to him.”

Meru-san said.

No wait, Jade-san was the leader, right? This was something you were supposed to discuss with him, right?!

While I was talking to the two of them, Jade-san and Toya-san came down from the second floor.

“You’re all early, huh.”

“You’re just late. By the way, Yuna-chan will be coming with us today.”

Wait... I didn’t accept it yet, you know!

Also, she said it like it was a done deal.

“Okay.”

“I’m also fine with that.”

Hey, were you two really okay with this!?

Shouldn’t you normally discuss it before agreeing?

In the end, my silent protests didn't reach anyone, and I had to go with them.

There were many tunnels we could use to enter the mine.

I didn't know how many decades or even hundreds of years the mine had been here, but it seemed ancient, and they made new tunnels every now and then.

The golems had appeared in the most recent one, which they had already been digging out for a few years now.

It seemed that there were two entrances you could take to get the first golem. It didn't matter which you took, though, since they met halfway.

The Idiot Rangers always used the same entrance, so Jade-san's party always entered through the other one.

It seemed that they did that so the Idiot Rangers couldn't say anything about Jade-san's party stealing their prey or the like.

This was the correct way of dealing with the Idiot Rangers; it was better to avoid the idiots than to crush them.

It was similar to arguing with stupid people. They were selfish, narcissistic, didn't listen to other people, altered the facts to their liking, and acted rashly. When they failed at something, they blamed others for their mistakes. There had been many similar idiots in the game, and I had learned that it was better to stay away from them.

However, if an idiot came to me, I would crush them...

The entrance to the mine was a short distance from the town, and when we arrived at the mine, it was pitch black inside. Just as I thought that a magic light would be necessary, Jade-san stood next to the wall close to the entrance and put his hand on it, making light appear inside the tunnel.

It seemed that it had been made like the Bear Tunnel; the light magic stones were linked by magic lines, which lit the path when the switch was hit.

Well, it was the same lighting method used in houses.

The tunnel was large enough for a carriage to pass through without a problem, but I saw no mine wagons or even rails; it seemed that they didn't use them in this mine.

Honestly, I didn't even know if wagons existed in this world, but how were they transporting the ores without them...?

When I asked Jade-san, he told me that they first put them into cloth bags and then placed those in item bags.

As expected from another world. By putting the ore into an item bag, they made it easy to carry. Most likely, less people were needed to transport it when compared to using a wagon; depending on how much you could put inside the item bag, a single person would be able to transport more than a wagon.

Still, since big item bags were high-class items, they probably weren't used at the mines, right?

When we entered the tunnel, I saw that it continued for a long time; I couldn't see the end from the entrance.

I tried using the Bear-san Map, and it showed the entrance of the tunnel.

It seemed that I could even use it freely while underground. I wouldn't get lost with it. Sadly, only the places I had already been to were shown, but it still automatically updated as I explored, so there was no real problem.

I tried using detection magic next and detected several golems in front of us, but since the area they were in had not been explored yet, I only saw their dots in the dark part of the map. I didn't know if they were on our level or not.

Well, this was a good time to test my Bear Skills.

We moved with Jade-san in front, Meru-san and me right behind him, and Senya-san and Toya-san at the rear.

"We will first encounter Earth and Stone Golems."

"They are easy to defeat, but unfortunately, we can only sell their magic stones, and those don't sell for much."

Earth Golems, huh. It might be a good idea to test them against my Bear Golems.

Just as I thought that, an Earth Golem appeared, right where my detection magic had

spotted it.

It was about two and a half meters high and had thick limbs.

Being hit by such thick limbs wasn't something that could just be brushed off; it would be dangerous for normal people.

Jade-san gave instructions to the party and ran in.

Meru-san instantly cut off the golem's arms with wind magic. Did they always do it this way? It wasn't enough to stop the golem, and it continued to advance towards us before Jade-san cut off its leg with his sword. The golem, with its limbs cut off, fell down where it stood. Senya-san jumped on golem's back, made a hole around the golem's heart with a knife, and took out its magic stone, making the golem crumble to dust.

The party had good coordination and teamwork.

Toya-san's role was to keep an eye on the surroundings.

Hmm, would the golem stop moving if I broke its magic stone?

Since I didn't care much for magic stones, it might be simpler to just destroy them.

Anyways, now that I had seen them fight, I understood how their party worked.

Jade-san used his big sword, Toya-san wielded a smaller one, Meru-san was a magician, and Senya-san used a short sword.

CHAPTER 141

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 2

Jade-san's party was able to easily kill the Earth Golems, and judging by what I saw, I should be able to do the same just by using wind magic.

The golems couldn't move after their arms and legs were cut off. Well, that was true for all monsters.

Still, what would happen if I cut off the golem's head?

Would it stop moving, or would it keep going? I should verify it.

It would be easier if it stopped moving after I cut off its head, like other monsters, but since Mel-san cut off its legs instead of its head, did that mean that there was no point in cutting its head off?

I kept following Jade-san's party through the tunnel, still analyzing how they fought.

We encountered a few more Earth Golems along the way, but Jade-san's party disposed of them without a problem.

Was it because a rank C party was just that strong, or were the Earth Golems just that weak? I didn't know.

Either way, I had nothing to do.

Having it easy was great, but having nothing to do was boring.

I decided to take a look at the map, but only the parts we had already passed through had been recorded.

I had learned something really obvious soon after entering the mine; there were signboards at each intersection. They told which way the entrance was, or your destination if you continued down the path.

It was written in a code like A-1 and A-2.

A was the name of the tunnel, and the number specified which branch. For example, the tunnel labelled A-3 was the third branch of the main tunnel A, and A-3-2 was the

second branch of A-3.

Well, it wasn't really a complicated system. The path was straight for the most part, and there were big openings from time to time, proof that there had been some excavation there.

Still, even though there were signboards, the Bear Map was still really convenient.

Once I finished recording the path that Jade-san's party took, I would like to do the same for the Idiot Rangers' path. In games, it was common sense to have a 100% completed map, after all.

I used my detection magic again and found four Earth Golems in front of us.

I was bored and wanted to know the Earth Golem's strength, so could you please leave one for me?

Since Jade-san's party could easily defeat them, I didn't really get a turn... but it would be weird if I suddenly complained about that.

Jade-san's party checked the surroundings and decided to move forward; we quickly arrived at a big open place with three golems.

Huh? Where was the last one?

I checked with detection magic, and it was behind a big rock pile to our right.

It was in our blind spot, so Jade-san's party didn't know that it was there and started to run towards the three golems in front of them. No matter if it was one, two, or even three, the golems didn't stand a chance against the combined attacks of the party. Even if there had been more golems, the party would have disposed of them in no time.

Well, since it seemed that they didn't notice the one in the back, was it okay for me to attack it?

They overlooked it and just went past it, so it was probably fine.

It would be strange for me to suddenly attack an unseen golem, so I decided to attack it only once I could see it.

Jade-san's party, after easily defeating the three golems, started to move towards the next tunnel without spotting the golem behind them, so I decided to attack it before

they did.

Still, the moment I finally saw the golem, Jade-san and Mel-san spotted it as well. Wow, they reacted the instant they saw it... or had they reacted to the sound it made? Well, that much was expected from a rank C party.

Well, it didn't matter, since I had already launched my wind magic at the Earth Golem that was coming out from behind the pile of rocks, cutting it to pieces.

Head, arms, and legs; I cut off all five parts.

They broke away easily, just as I had expected. Well, it made sense that Earth Golems were not that hard; they were made of earth. I didn't even need to use Bear Magic for them.

"So there was another one!"

Jade-san shouted in surprise.

"Yuna-chan, you're amazing."

No, you two noticed it as well, and reacted really quickly. Well, I didn't see how the other two had reacted, since they were still behind me, but if Jade-san and Mel-san reacted that quickly, Toya-san and Senya-san had probably also reacted that fast.

"Yuna's reaction was strange, though. She was already preparing to attack before it even entered our vision."

Senya-san, who had been watching from behind, shared what she had seen.

She really paid attention, huh.

"Yeah, Bear Missy reacted the moment the golem came out."

"She was really quick indeed."

It seemed that Toya-san also noticed.

I couldn't really tell them how I had known that the golem had been there, so,

"It might be a girl's intuition?"

was how I responded.

"Girl's intuition?"

Jade-san gave me a dubious look, while Mel-san grabbed my Bear Hand.

"So true! Girl's intuition exists, right? Jade and Toya say that it doesn't."

"Yeah, it exists."

Senya-san agreed with Mel-san.

"Still, if you told me that there was a monster around the corner without any real evidence..."

Jade-san said, and Toya-san nodded in agreement.

"And when we ask, you only say that it's a girl's intuition..."

"But there really was a golem there, right?"

The female members of the party didn't seem to accept their argument, and the male side didn't want to give in either.

It seemed that the two simple words I uttered had divided the party in two. Well, it wasn't like they were really fighting each other, but if it continued like this, we wouldn't move on, so I decided to change the subject.

“Now that I think about it, does a golem continue moving even if you cut off its head?”

I asked since I wasn't able to confirm it here.

“Yes, it does. No matter how you cut a golem, it will continue moving. There are only two ways of stopping it: take away its magic stone or do enough damage to it.”

“Enough damage?”

“You know that a golem's strength comes from its magic stone, right?”

I had vaguely heard about it, but I understood, so I nodded.

“When you damage the golem, the strength of the magic stone decreases, so if you deplete all the magic in the stone, the golem will stop moving.”

I see. So, as long as I damaged it enough, it would stop moving.

In that case, I should be able to somehow deal with the Iron Golems as well.

Even if magic wouldn't work on them, I could just use brute force to stop them.

My ultimate secret technique, Change the Conversation, seemed to have worked, since they had forgotten all about our previous girl's intuition discussion.

After taking the magic stones from the golems, we moved on to defeat some more Earth Golems before going down a gentle slope.

I checked the Bear Map and noticed that it had changed.

Had we arrived at a different level? The previous map was gone and had been replaced by a new one.

I see. The map changed when I went to a new level, just like it did in the game.

Since I now knew that this was a new level, I used detection magic and found a Stone Golem reaction in front of us.

Stone Golems would appear from this level onward, huh.

“I think you will be okay, Yuna-chan, but please be careful. Stone Golems will start to appear from now on.”

I knew that already because of my detection magic, but I still obediently nodded.

“Are Stone Golems strong?”

“Stone Golems are like rocks that have been reinforced with magic. You can just think of them as moving rocks.”

I didn't really get it.

What did she mean by rocks that were reinforced with magic?

Well, I somewhat understood what she was trying to say, though.

Basically, they were sturdier than normal rocks.

They probably weren't strong enough to withstand my Bear Magic, but I wouldn't really know until I fought them, so I should try it out.

We moved on for a little longer before encountering a single Stone Golem.

The golem was made of stones and rocks that were stuck together, and it looked like it would crumble easily if I just punched it a bit.

When the Stone Golem noticed us, it lifted one of its arms and launched a baseball sized stone at us.

The stone flew towards Mel-san, who was in front, at 160 kilometers per hour (just my imagination here).

Mel-san didn't dodge it, but blocked the stone by using magic to make an earth wall, big enough to protect us all.

As the golem was preparing to launch a second stone, Jade-san jumped out of the earth wall's protection, acting as a decoy.

Mel-san followed up and, as if to say a stone for a stone, made a baseball sized stone with magic and launched it at the golem's right leg. She didn't send just one stone though; she continued to launch stones until the leg of the golem was destroyed.

With its leg destroyed, the golem lost its balance and fell, giving Jade-san an opening to attack it.

Once he hacked it enough, the golem stopped moving and crumbled, turning into a pile of rocks and stones.

The way it fell apart was strange, though; it gave off a different feeling than the other monsters did when defeated.

After the first Stone Golem, we continued to encounter more Stone and Earth Golems, but Jade-san's party defeated them all.

The pattern was always the same. To dull their movements, Mel-san's magic destroyed their legs while Senya-san threw knives at their joints, and then Jade-san and Toya-san hacked them down.

They never messed up or got confused, and everyone knew what they had to do.

As I was watching their routine, I recalled the game.

Using the same attack patterns was often the most efficient way to earn experience; it was something I often did myself.

I also did it in parties, of course... but only sometimes... I wasn't a loner, and I really did party up from time to time!

I wanted to fight a Stone Golem at least once, though.

Just as the thought crossed my mind, five Stone Golems appeared.

Would the party leave one for me this time around?

"Jade, what should we do?"

Mel-san asked.

Until now, there had never been more than two Stone Golems at once, but there was

more than double that amount here.

Jade-san looked at me.

“Yuna, would you mind taking one?”

“Yeah, no problem.”

Finally, my turn had come! They even asked me to do it. That meant they trusted me, right?

I wanted to try many different things, but for now, I wanted to see how much a Stone Golem could take, so... Bear Punch?

“Thank you, it will help as a lot. When we defeat ours, we will come and support you.”

They each picked a Stone Golem and headed their way.

I still hadn't completely decided which attack I should use, but the Stone Golem had already started to approach me.

I dodged its attack, then hit it in the chest with a Bear Punch with all my strength.

The golem flew through the air, collided with the wall, and crumbled to the ground.

It was a beautiful three stage execution.

Huh... it went down with just one Bear Punch?

All members of Jade-san's party froze when they saw it.

For the time being, I should save them, right?

I used Bear Punch on each of the four Stone Golems that were about to attack them; they also flew, collided with the wall, and crumbled.

So weak.

“Yuna-chan, you really were strong, huh.”

“Just like the rumors said.”

Meru-san and Senya-san said as they approached me.

“So, it’s true that you killed a Black Viper and Tiger Wolves on your own, huh.”

“I really didn’t think that Bear Missy was that strong.”

Hmm, since Stone Golems were so weak, Iron Golems would also be fine, right?

CHAPTER 142

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 3

After I destroyed the Stone Golems with one punch each, I noticed that the party was looking at me differently.

“Where does all that strength come from when you have such a small body?”

The tall Toya-san said while patting my head.

“I can’t think of her in the same way as before.”

Senya-san said and touched my arm.

“Hmm, so soft!”

What was soft? The Bear-san? Or my arm?

I shook the two of them off and moved forward.

Thanks to my recent demonstration of skill, our formation had changed; for some reason, I, a frail girl, was walking in front with Jade-san.

Mel-san said she would cover us and that I didn’t have to worry, then went to the back of the group.

While walking at the front of the group, I silently wondered if it was a good idea to change the layout of the party this suddenly.

Well, since I could defeat the golems with a single punch, I didn’t really need others to

watch my back anyway.

I decided to deal with any Stone Golems that appeared from now, but when we got to the Iron Golems, I would first see how Jade-san's party fought them.

Since I could basically defeat the Stone Golems with a single Bear Punch, I decided just to keep going with it and not try other attacks.

Well, I wanted to try using magic, but I was worried about the tunnel's stability. It would be bad if the tunnel collapsed because I used magic poorly.

"The tunnels were strengthened with magic, so they won't crumble from just a bit of magic, you know."

Jade-san told me, but how much was just a bit of magic? Would a light Bear Punch or weaker magic be fine? I really had no idea when he told me like that.

If I tested it and the tunnel collapsed, we would end up being buried alive...

Since I didn't know how much strength I could use, I decided to just keep Bear Punching the Stone Golems.

"Our roles have completely reversed now, huh."

Jade-san said after I defeated another Stone Golem with a single Bear Punch.

"Yuna-chan, you're too strong."

"Defeating Stone Golems with a single punch each is just unbelievable."

"It's a good thing I didn't make fun of you earlier."

"Yeah, because if you did, you would have become like those Stone Golems, you know."

“Yeah, and I would properly engrave your gravestone with, [Here lies Toya. He was mauled by a bear.]”

“Don’t just kill me off!”

Everyone laughed at his retort.

We kept moving forward without a problem and arrived at the next floor, where Iron Golems would start to appear.

Based on how the strength of the golems changed based on the floors, this kind of felt like a dungeon. There had been dungeons in the game, but were they in this world too?

If they were, I would like to dive into one at least once.

However, before considering a dungeon raid, I first had to deal with the Iron Golems in front of me.

I could melt iron with Fire Bears, but doing that in a tunnel would be suicidal.

It would be great if I could wrap their heads with water and drown them, but they wouldn’t suffocate, right? Hmm, they might rust and be unable to move if I doused them in salt water, but I probably wouldn’t be able to sell their materials afterwards.

Would I be able to cut them up with Bear Wind Magic? No, I would probably destroy the tunnel faster than I could defeat them.

I could try using Earth Magic to make a Bear Golem and pin the Iron Golems down, but I didn’t really want to use that in front of Jade-san’s party.

I could also make a pit to bury the golems inside, but if I dug up the floor like that everywhere, it might cause the tunnel to sink. Also, I wouldn’t be able to get the iron that way.

I wanted to give some of the Iron Golem bodies as souvenirs to Gold-san and Gazar-san, but I would also love to take some for myself and turn them into pieces of art.

I decided to just try using a random attack for now, while also watching how Jade-san's party defeated them.

Since the floor had changed, I could now detect several Iron Golems, including five of them far away from us.

So, those were the five Iron Golems they had been talking about.

Huh? From what they told me, the golem that started this all should be behind the five golems, but my detection magic didn't pick it up.

Was it not there, or was it among those five?

Overthinking wouldn't help, so I decided to just defeat any Iron Golems that came our way for now.

When the first Iron Golem came into view, the party immediately moved into battle formation.

The Iron Golem looked just like an Earth Golem, but made of iron. Its thick arms looked like giant hammers; getting hit by those would surely mean death. If the golem could understand me, I would have definitely recommended that it become a carpenter...

"By the way, how do you defeat an Iron Golem?"

"Normally, there is no other way than to just keep damaging it until it stops moving."

"Though if we weren't in a tunnel, we could defeat it with strong magic."

Mel-san muttered with a sigh.

I knew it, they had it hard because we were in a mine.

This location made it hard to use magic, which reduced the variety of usable attacks.

Well, this didn't change what I had to do: approach the golem and hit it with a Bear Punch.

Using the mobility of the Bear Shoes, I drew close to the Iron Golem, which swung its giant hammers towards my head.

For an instant, I considered using the White Bear Glove to block it, but I realized that it could turn out badly and decided to avoid it instead, and the hammer-like arms hit the floor with loud bang.

After getting past its arms, I hit its body with a Black Bear Punch.

Normally, hitting iron would hurt, but thanks to the Bear, it didn't hurt at all.

The golem was pushed back a few meters, but it didn't collapse.

I knew it; it was different from Stone and Earth Golems.

This one was hard, heavy, and solid.

Yep, it was troublesome.

Just hitting it with enough power to take down Stone Golems wasn't enough here. I had to hit harder.

Since I had already tested my attack, I decided to leave the rest to Jade-san's party.

Immediately after I hit the golem with a Bear Punch, Mel-san sent an Earth Golem at it. Magicians could compress the earth to make it harder, so the Earth Golem that Mel-san sent was able to dull the Iron Golem's movements for a moment, but it didn't seem to have dealt any damage. Toya-san used the opening to attack and knocked the golem's arms aside.

It was like attacking an iron pillar. There was no way a sword could cut it.

When the golem turned to face Toya-san, Senya-san prepared to attack it from behind.

She was holding her knives; was she planning on attacking it with knives!?

Senya-san quickly closed the distance and cut its leg. Well, I said cut, but it wasn't like she actually cut it off. Still, there were visible traces where she cut it. I didn't see that wrong; she had cut it with a knife.

"Senya is wielding mithril knives, you know."

Mel-san explained to me when she saw that I was surprised.

So, she had mithril knives, huh. Well, considering her rank, it wasn't that strange.

Senya-san continued to slash at the same place until the golem's leg finally broke off.

Amazing, she was able to cut that giant leg with just a knife.

She showed a satisfied expression when the leg hit the ground, and Toya-san, who had been keeping the golem's attention all this time, finally got a chance to catch his breath.

"Jade's sword is also made of mithril."

Toya-san and Senya-san backed away from the golem, which lost its balance after its leg were cut off, and Jade-san came in to strike the golem with his sword.

The golem tried to use one of its arms to protect itself, but Jade-san was able to cut it off in a single strike.

Amazing! A mithril sword was able to cut off an Iron Golem's arm?

"It isn't just the mithril sword, you know. It's also thanks to Jade's skill."

Mel-san explained to me as if she had read my mind.

She was right. If anybody was able to defeat an Iron Golem with a mithril sword, they would just have to loan the swords to rank D and rank E adventurers and resolve this problem in an instant.

It was only thanks to Jade-san's skill that he was able to cut off a golem's arm; that was why he was rank C.

In this case, Senya-san being able to cut it with a knife was quite amazing as well.

I wondered what my sword technique was like.

I used a sword in the game, but I didn't know how good I was in this world.

If I had a mithril sword, would I be able to cut it?

It would be great if the Bear Cheat had an effect on my sword skills as well.

The Iron Golem tried to get up but couldn't with only one leg left, so Jade-san took his time to deal with the remaining golem's arm.

He dodged it by taking a few steps back, attacked it, and then dodged again.

“Ah, if only I had a mithril sword myself, I could cut it as well...”

Toya-san watched Jade-san with a frustrated expression.

“Impossible.”

Senya-san spoke a single word of denial, and when he tried to rebuke,

“Last time Jade lent you his sword, you weren’t able to cut it.”

Senya-san added, shutting him up.

“Giving you a mithril sword would just be a waste.”

Senya-san delivered the final blow.

Jade-san continued to carefully cut the golem, making its movements duller and duller, before it finally crumbled down into a mountain of iron.

The remnants looked pitiful; if they couldn’t be defeated more cleanly, the golems couldn’t be made into artwork.

CHAPTER 143

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 4

Senya-san placed the whole Iron Golem inside her item bag.

Watching their fight had made me realize that I really wanted a mithril weapon.

I didn't know if I would be able to use it well, but I still wanted it for situations when I couldn't use magic or the monstrous strength of my Bear Suit.

The golem would stop if I just destroyed the magic stone in its chest, but that would also render it unusable, so nobody would buy it. Well, I didn't really care about the magic stone, so destroying it was fine with me.

If I had mithril, I could just pierce the stone and be done with it, or if I had some sort of vibration attack, I might be able to destroy only the magic stone within and leave the body intact. I had seen a lot of such attacks in manga, where they had done no harm to the exterior but had destroyed what was inside. Such unrealistic things could only be found in fantasy worlds.

Hmm, maybe I shouldn't be saying this while being in one myself...

Anyway, I might be able to make vibrations with magic and send them inside the golem's body.

Well, I didn't think that it was possible right now, so I decided to put it on hold.

After the Iron Golem's body was safely in Senya-san's item bag, we decided to take a short break to check on how everyone was doing, since we would encounter more Iron Golems from now on.

"So, Jade, how deep are we going today?"

Toya-san asked while refreshing himself with a drink.

"Like we usually do, we will go as far as we can without doing the impossible. Maybe

those five Iron Golems won't be around this time."

Sadly, I knew that those five were present because of my detection magic.

I had noticed five more reactions, though. It was five people, most likely Idiot Rangers and they were near our tunnel. If we continued down this tunnel, would we cross paths?

The map was still dark, so I didn't really know where exactly would we meet.

Still, Idiot Rangers were closer to the five Iron Golems than we were, so if we both kept our paces, they would get to the golems before us.

Well, that meant if all went well, the world might get to see its lucky day.

Just as I decided to not let the others know about this, Jade-san spoke to me.

"So, Yuna, after seeing us fight, do you think you could defeat an Iron Golem on your own?"

"Hmm, it might be complicated."

"Complicated?"

"As Mel-san said, magic isn't usable inside caves, so that makes it hard. Also, if I use brute force here and miss, the mine might collapse as a result. I could defeat it if we were fighting out in the open, I think."

"I see."

Jade-san seemed a bit disappointed.

Well, if they really wanted to get past those five Iron Golems, I could drop the golems in a pit, but we wouldn't obtain their materials that way.

"If only I had a mithril sword..."

Toya-san joked around.

“You should stop with this joke. It’s not funny.”

“Yeah, it’s lame, Toya.”

“I’m not saying it as a joke!”

“Toya, you can say that only after you polish your skills a bit more, okay?”

“Tch!”

His final reaction made them all laugh.

We finished our break and continued moving forward. It didn’t take long for us to arrive at the passage where I had detected Idiot Rangers before.

So, this was where the tunnels linked together. Would it be okay if I went back taking their path? I would be able to complete the map that way.

Any time an Iron Golem appeared, Toya-san and I would block it, while Mel-san covered us with magic.

Senya-san and Jade-san would then use the opening we made to hack it down.

Using this tactic, we had defeated three more Iron Golems.

“Just a bit farther.”

We were about to arrive at the place where the five Iron Golems were, but Idiot Rangers, who were still ahead of us, should have already encountered them.

I decided to check on them with detection magic.

Huh?

The signal of the five Iron Golems had disappeared.

The last time I had checked, they had still been there, but now they were gone.

Did Idiot Rangers defeat them? I couldn’t detect them either, though.

Were they not on our floor?

Wait, the five Iron Golems might have also went farther down. I finally understood

why I couldn't have detected Idiot Rangers or the first golem before.

Jade-san slowly crept forward and looked at the crevice where the five golems were supposed to be.

"They aren't here."

"Yeah."

"There are traces of a fight, though."

There were indeed traces of magic and something rampaging about all over the place.

When we were sure that the Iron Golems weren't here anymore, we entered the wide crevice.

"Babord's party maybe?"

Babord?

Ah! It was Idiot Red's name.

He would always be Idiot Red to me, though.

"I can't think of any other reason for this."

"So, they managed to defeat those five Iron Golems, huh."

"Their personalities are the worst, but they do have skill."

So, it seemed that Idiot Rangers had defeated the five Iron Golems.

The lucky day hadn't come, huh.

Ugh, how disappointing.

"Jade, what will we do?"

Mel-san asked while keeping her eye on surroundings.

“Babord opened a path for us, so we should keep going. Getting even a little bit more information would be great, after all.”

“We just have to make sure Babord doesn’t find out.”

Senya-san agreed with Jade-san.

“I don’t like troublesome things, but as adventurers, our only choice is to keep going.”

“If they complain about it, we’ll just have to go back, right?”

What? There wasn’t a single mention of them fighting together.

Well, I also didn’t want to fight together with Idiot Rangers.

We continued on our way, and as I had expected, we descended a slope.

The map changed, and Idiot Rangers appeared again. There was another signal next to them; signal of a Mithril Golem.

We already had difficulties dealing with Iron Golems, so wasn’t it impossible to take down a Mithril Golem?

When we reached the end of the slope, we began to hear sounds of a fight.

“Fuck, it’s so hard!”

“Magic isn’t working!”

“Engai, do something!”

“That’s impossible!”

Idiot Rangers were fighting in a large tunnel.

Idiot Red was hacking at the Mithril Golem with his sword, but it was bouncing off.

Idiot Blue was stabbing it with his spear, but it was bouncing off.

Idiot Green was attacking it with a giant hammer, but it was bouncing off.

Idiot Black was launching earth magic at it, but it was bouncing off.

Idiot White was using wind magic, but it was also bouncing off.

Hmm... Yeah, it was completely impossible.

Even though the crevice was quite large, fighting underground was still disadvantageous.

How could a Mithril Golem, with its absolute defense, even be defeated?

It wasn't like Idiot Ranger's level was low; compared to Deborane, who was rank D, they seemed to have great movements and cooperated well as a party, but they still couldn't damage it.

Even though they knew that, Idiot Rangers continued to fight it, and after a while, Idiot Red finally noticed us.

"What did you guys came here for!?"

"We just came to watch. We also thought that if you were done in, we would defeat it in your place, you see."

"Don't joke with me! There is no way that my great self would be done in! You bastards won't get a turn. Just go back and sleep! If you stay here to watch the fight for any longer, I will have you pay the watcher's fee!"

He said while pointing his sword at us.

"Not to mention that you came here with your pet!"

The pet he was talking about was me, right?

Should I summon Swaying Bear and attack him from behind?

Swaying Bear could be more terrifying than a real bear, you know?

“Okay, we will go back. If you die, I will tell the guild about this, so don’t worry.”

“We won’t die!”

Idiot Red turned back around and rushed at the Mithril Golem.

Personally, I would have liked to watch the fight for a bit longer, but it seemed like Idiot Red would be a pain if we did so, so we decided to leave.

A Mithril Golem, huh?

I wanted its materials. Was it the only one, though?

I believed it was impossible for them to defeat it, but it would still be bad if Idiot Rangers got the kill.

I would be able to make a dozen swords if I managed to claim the whole golem.

“They can’t defeat it.”

“Yep, impossible.”

“What was it, though?”

“Well, it’s clearly harder than an Iron Golem.”

“I don’t want to acknowledge that there is something harder than an Iron Golem.”

“Even Babord’s mithril sword didn’t seem to cut it.”

“Is it possible that he isn’t skilled enough?”

“His personality is the worst, but he is skilled enough to wield a mithril sword.”

“Babord couldn’t cut it even though he is strong.”

“Wouldn’t it have been better if we helped him then?”

“He wouldn’t accept our help, and he doesn’t want to be saved.”

“Exactly. If he had asked for help, we would have helped him, but since he didn’t ask, we didn’t help. It’s the unspoken adventurers’ rule.”

“Yeah, splitting materials and request fees becomes really troublesome when helping

someone, after all. That's not the case when you save someone, whose life is in danger, of course."

"If you saved Babord, he would only complain about it after."

I didn't completely understand what they were talking about, but still somewhat got what they meant.

Most adventurers weren't heroes, and they wouldn't save someone for free. For instance, they hadn't accepted this request because people were troubled for not being able to mine anymore, but because it was a paying job. It was normal to do things for money rather than for free.

That was why they didn't want to help Idiot Rangers, who hadn't asked for help either.

They might have had a chance to defeat it if they had worked together, but they had thrown that opportunity away.

The same thing had happened in the game as well. The less people in the party, the more loot for each member.

So, if they said that there was no helping it, they were probably right.

I also wanted to monopolize the Mithril Golem.

In the end, we decided to leave and go back to the inn for the day, and since I wanted to complete the map, I asked Jade-san's party if we could take Idiot Rangers' path on our way back, and they agreed.

When we came back to the inn, we first got something to eat.

"So, Jade, what will we do?"

"Do about what?"

"This golem. It didn't seem like Babord's party could defeat it at all."

"I can't cut it, either."

"Even if I had a mithril sword, it would still be impossible."

We all ignored Toya-san's remark.

"If Babord's party somehow manages to defeat it, the request will be completed, but if defeating it seems impossible, we should contact the guild."

"There is no helping it, huh."

"It's frustrating, but yeah."

A way to defeat the Mithril Golem, huh?

I could defeat it by digging a pit under it and using brute force, but that wouldn't work in the mine, since the tunnels might collapse in the process.

Underground, I couldn't defeat it even with my Bear Cheat.

Burying the last boss wouldn't work since it wouldn't die of suffocation, and as long as it wasn't defeated, other golems wouldn't stop spawning.

Well, we weren't even sure if killing it would stop the other golems from spawning.

If I defeated the Mithril Golem, but the golems kept popping up, would the witch Eleanora even return Princess Fina to me?

As I was enjoying my tea after a day's work, the inn entrance suddenly became noisy.

"Fuck, as if we could defeat something like that!"

"Magic didn't work at all!"

"It's way too hard!"

"I don't have a smudge of magical power left."

"I'm hungry, so let's just eat!"

Idiot Rangers entered the inn.

They survived, it seemed.

“Babord, you came back alive!”

Jade-san thoughts were similar to mine.

“As if I would die!”

“And, did you defeat it?”

Just by hearing their rant and seeing the looks on their faces, he should have known the answer, but Jade-san asked anyway.

“Because you bastards came, I lost my concentration, so I decided to let it live this time.”

Which one let the other live, I wondered...

“I’m really sorry about that. I didn’t think that someone as skilled as you, Babord, would have lost his concentration just by having us arrive at your battle, after all.”

“Tch!”

When someone retorted like that, you could do nothing but stay silent.

If he had argued more, people would have thought that his rank must have been low.

“Well, leaving the jokes aside, what really happened back there?”

“It was just impossible. Physical attack and magic didn’t work at all. Well, it might have had a bit of an effect, but our stamina and magic ran out long before its magic stone depleted.”

“I knew it. It was impossible, huh.”

“If you want to have go at it, you should prepare yourselves well.”

“Will you stop trying to defeat it?”

“It isn’t worth it. Rather than wasting my time with it, I prefer making a profit by defeating Iron Golems. So, until the soldiers come, we decided to try and earn as much as we can from Iron Golems. What about you guys? You watched our fight, right?”

“We will also pass on it. There is no way we could defeat it. I was honestly hoping that you guys would be able to defeat it, but...”

“Well, excuse me for disappointing you.”

Babord sat down close to us.

“Thanks for telling us. Waitress! A beer for Babord on my tab!”

“Just one, huh!”

“If you have a way to defeat it, I will treat you to more.”

“If I had something like that, I would have gone and defeated it myself without telling you.”

Babord and Jade-san both laughed.

I didn’t really know if they were on good terms or not.

I had later heard that after all of this, they all drank into the night together.

Me? I had went back to my room to sleep, of course.

CHAPTER 144

CAPTURED PRINCESS' PERSPECTIVE

Author's note:

It's been a long time since last Fina's Perspective.

Big Sis Yuna left me behind, and I had watched Bear-san's back disappear out of sight.

Why had it turned out like this?

Big Sis Yuna had wanted me to dismantle a Black Tiger, but since I would have needed a mithril knife to do it, she had suggested for us to go and buy it together.

I knew that mithril knives were expensive.

I had told her that she could ask the guild to dismantle it, but she had said something about it coming in handy at a later date and had decided to go and buy one. At a later date... Really, Big Sis Yuna, what were you planning on making me dismantle?

Since there had been no mithril in Crimonia, we had went to the capital using the Bear-san Gate at Big Sis Yuna's Bear-san House. It had brought us there in an instant. Big Sis Yuna was incredible for having such an amazing magic tool.

After coming to the capital to buy a mithril knife, I ended up being captured by Eleanora-sama because she had given Big Sis Yuna a job to do, and I had to stay at Eleanora-sama's mansion while she was away.

We couldn't have told them that I could have returned to Crimonia through the Bear-san Gate since that was a secret between Big Sis Yuna and me.

I also couldn't go with Big Sis Yuna, who was going to fight some monsters.

That was why, there had been no way to avoid staying at the capital.

Still, just imagining a commoner like me staying at a Noble-sama's mansion, on my own no less, made my stomach ache.

I had asked Big Sis Yuna if I could stay at her Bear House, but they had rejected my

idea.

Ugh, even though I was fine being on my own...

In the end, I had no other choice but to stay at Eleanora-sama's mansion.

Yesterday, I had been with Big Sis Yuna, but now, Big Sis Yuna left me here alone and headed to the mine.

I didn't want to cause any trouble to the people here, so I decided to stay in my room, but soon, I wasn't alone anymore...

Eleanora-sama and her maid Suririna-san came to my room with a mountain of beautiful western styled clothes then smiled widely while browsing through the clothes.

Who would wear them?

Just imagining what would happen made my stomach ache. I wanted to believe they were Shia-sama's clothes, but I knew I was wrong.

"Which one would suit her best?"

My fears of this being a really dangerous situation were confirmed when Eleanora-sama took a piece of clothing and looked at me.

"Fina-chan, let's change clothes, okay?"

Eleanora-sama said and approached me while still smiling widely. She was scary.

Big Sis Yuna wasn't here, so she couldn't save me. I had to refuse her myself.

If I were to dirty those clothes... or if something else were to happen to them... just imagining it made me tremble.

"I'm already wearing western style clothes, so it's okay."

I tried my best to refuse.

“Ara, that’s no good! You have to properly change your clothes. You already wore these yesterday, right?”

“They aren’t too dirty, so...”

I took a step back, but they both took two steps forward.

“That’s no good! A girl has to keep herself clean!”

Big Sis Yuna, please save me.....

Eleanora-sama and Suririna-san came even closer.

Shia-sama had already gone to the academy, so there was no one in the mansion who could save me.

I tried backing away again, but there was a bed behind me, and they were too close already for me to flee.

“Even if I tried wearing these beautiful clothes, they wouldn’t fit me, so...”

“Ara, that’s not true at all! I’m sure you will look good in them.”

“Yes, I also think so. Fina-san is cute, after all.”

It was no good! They cornered me and were approaching from both sides.

“Still, if I were to dirty these high class clothes...”

I was desperately looking for a way out.

“It’s okay to dirty them. I won’t be mad at you.”

“If they are stained, I will just have to wash them.”

“But...”

No matter what I said, I couldn't escape.

Big Sis Yuna, *save me*...

My cry for help didn't reach her, of course.

I had to change clothes in the end.

They had a lot of cute frills and were made of a high grade material, that felt great against the skin.

Suririna-san had promised me that she would take care of them if they became dirty, but what if they got torn?

The word reimbursement crossed my mind, and my stomach ached again.

Now that it came to this, I decided to stay still like a doll and not leave my room until Big Sis Yuna returned. As long as I did that, the clothes wouldn't tear or get dirty.

Yep, that was a great idea.

"Well then, Fina-chan, let's go out."

"...Huh?"

My idea was destroyed in a few seconds.

I wasn't done in yet, though.

"I will stay behind and watch the house."

"Fina-san, you're a guest. You don't have to do that."

"But, I don't know when Big Sis Yuna will return, so..."

"What are you talking about? Yuna-chan just left, didn't she? Even though it's her, she won't be back for a while."

She was right, Big Sis Yuna had just left.

In the end, I couldn't find any other excuses and was forced to go out with Eleanora-sama. We went to the castle.

Mom, if I'm put to death, please forgive me.

No, I had to do my best so that it wouldn't happen.

If I encountered a Noble-sama at the castle, I had to make sure to be polite.

I would do my best to survive.

We entered the castle, and everyone we met there greeted Eleanora-sama. As I thought, she was an incredible person, and such an important person was guiding me through the castle. Was that really okay?

At one point, she even took me to a garden full of beautiful, blooming flowers.

"They are beautiful..."

It was just like the castle flower beds I had seen in Big Sis Yuna's picture books.

No wait, we were at a real castle here.

There was a bench where we could sit and watch the flowers peacefully.

This might be the last scenery that God had prepared for me.

Thank you very much.

No, no, I had to do my best to return home alive.

Mom, Dad, and Shuri were waiting for me. I couldn't die in a place like this.

For now, I decided to just watch the pretty flowers to calm my heart.

The flowers were really beautiful. Red, blue, pink, yellow. There were of all kinds of colors.

Haa, watching them really calmed me down.

"Eleanora, you're on a break?"

Someone spoke to Eleanora-sama while we were watching the flowers.

It was someone of a higher position than a noble; it was the King-sama himself, whom I first met when he had visited Big Sis Yuna's house a while back.

Wh-what should I do?

Would I die today as I expected?

If I did something discourteous in front of the king, I might not be the only one to die; my whole family might get executed.

"I'm not working today."

"Why are you at the castle then?"

"I'm taking a stroll with this girl."

Eleanora-sama glanced at me.

I was petrified, and my voice didn't come out.

"Huh? I have a feeling I have seen her before."

"Ahh, have you seen her with Yuna-chan somewhere?"

"Ahh, it's the girl that was at Yuna's house."

"Yes, my name is Fina."

I might have been petrified, but I still did my best to politely introduce myself.

I was about to die from the stress, though.

"Unlike Yuna, you're really well-mannered, huh."

King-sama patted my head.

King-sama was this close to me, and he even patted my head.

So, this was my last bit of good luck, huh.

Goodbye, Mom.

“Ara, I feel bad for Yuna-chan when you say something like that.”

“That girl, you see, has never come to me to greet me, you know. Such a thing normally wouldn’t happen, right?”

“Well, she comes here to see Flora-sama, after all.”

“When I go to Flora’s room, she gives me a look that says,[You came again, huh?], you know!”

“Well, she is right, after all.”

“I’m sure she doesn’t even think of me as a king!”

Big Sis Yuna, what had you done to King-sama?!

Big Sis Yuna would be killed at this rate. I had to warn her when I see her again, so I had to survive and leave the castle.

“Well, Yuna-chan is like that with everyone. Not too long ago, Cliff sent me a letter saying she did the exact same thing to him. You don’t hate her for it, right?”

“Well, yeah, I don’t. She is kind to my daughter and had helped me a lot. Most importantly, she brings delicious things every now and then.”

The King-sama was being tamed with food!

Well, it was the same with me, though... The food Big Sis Yuna made was delicious.

King-sama seemed to forget all about me while talking about Big Sis Yuna.

I might be able to leave this place without being disrespectful to the King-sama... or so I thought.

“You said your name was Fina, right?”

The King-sama suddenly started talking to me.

“Yesh.”

This was bad. I was so surprised that I let out a strange voice.

I didn’t think that he would just start talking to me like that.

“It’s not good to startle Fina-chan like that! Even without confronting her like this, your face, your dignified aura, and the fact that you are king are scary enough by themselves, you know.”

“You... Didn’t you say a lot of terrible things about me? Well, I didn’t want to startle you, Fina. I just wanted to know about your relationship with Yuna.”

My relationship with Big Sis Yuna?

Even if he asked me that, I didn’t know.

A friend? An employer?

I will just state the one thing I knew.

“Big Sis Yuna is my savior.”

That much was true for sure.

King-sama then made me tell him the story of how I met Big Sis Yuna, and I somehow managed to talk without too much trouble while he earnestly listened to my story.

“So, Yuna isn’t here?”

“Just today, she left for the mine to do some work for the Adventurer’s Guild. I’m taking care of Fina while she’s gone.”

“The mine? Ahh, it was on one of my reports. Golems appeared at the mine, and in case the adventurers won’t be able to deal with them, I got a request to give permission to

send out the soldiers.”

“Please look at your reports more carefully! Especially when it comes to sending out soldiers.”

“But, Yuna went there, right? We don’t need to send the soldiers then, do we?”

Incredible. Even the King-sama himself seemed to trust Big Sis Yuna.

“Well, it is Yuna-chan, after all.”

“Even now, I can’t believe how strong she is when she is dressed like that.”

“She is cute, after all.”

I also thought that she was cute.

“So, Eleanora, what will you two do after your stroll?”

Oh right. We should get away from here as quickly as possible. Just being near King-sama was taking a big toll on my mental health; my health bar was about to reach zero.

It was almost noon, so we should head back to the mansion.

I looked at Eleanora-sama hopefully.

“Fina, are you hungry?”

She seemed to have figured out my look.

“Well then, Yuna-chan gave me a few gifts for Flora-sama, so let’s go to her room.”

“Is it food?”

“Yes, food for lunch.”

“I will come too, then.”

What did they just say?

Did I hear it wrong?

I just heard that we would be going to the Princess-sama's room and eat with the King-sama, didn't I?

Big Sis Yuna, *save me*...

We went back to the mansion a few hours later.

I couldn't really remember what happened at the castle.

I ate lunch with Flora-sama and King-sama, but I couldn't even recall what it tasted like.

Queen-sama also appeared halfway through, which was the final push to make my brain stop working.

How had this happened?

I collapsed on the bed.

Big Sis Yuna... Please come back soon...

Kuun, kuun, kuun, kuun.

I heard a weird sound coming from the item bag Big Sis Yuna had given me.

When I opened it, I saw that the Bear-san doll was crying.

It was a magic item named Bear Phone that made it possible to talk to someone that was far away.

I took the Bear Phone and poured magic power inside it.

[Hello, Fina, can you hear me?]

“Big Sis Yuna!?”

[How are you doing, Fina?]

“Big Sis Yuna... It’s terrible! Today, Eleanora-sama made me change into beautiful clothes and go to the castle, where we ran into King-sama, and then, I even had to eat lunch with the King-sama and the Princess-sama!”

[Well, same as always, huh.]

“Even if it’s the same as always for you, Big Sis Yuna, it’s terrible for me! Because of all of the stress it had caused me, I couldn’t even taste the bread I ate!”

[But you had fun, right?]

“It wasn’t fun at all! Big Sis Yuna, how is your job going?”

[Hmm, I just arrived today, so I can’t really tell yet.]

“Really?”

[Don’t worry, I will do my best to come back quickly, so please enjoy the capital.]

Big Sis Yuna had given me a lot of money to use as I wished while I was here.

I had tried to give it back, but she had forced me to hold onto it, even after I had told her that I would be eating at Eleanora-sama’s mansion and I wouldn’t need it.

I was also a bit scared of walking around the capital by myself, so shopping for other things was out of question as well.

“Big Sis Yuna, please come back quickly.”

[Okay, I will come back as quickly as possible.]

I then couldn't hear Big Sis Yuna anymore.

It was a mystery to me, how this thing made the conversation possible.

I had promised to go out with Shia-sama tomorrow, so I decided to sleep early after this long day.

The bed was really soft.

Mom, Dad, Shuri, good night.

I had wished goodnight to my family who was still at Crimonia.

The day was really long, so I feel asleep right away.

CHAPTER 145

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 5

IRON GOLEM PART

The adventurers started drinking, so I promptly fled to my room.

There was nothing worse than drunkards.

I couldn't talk to them normally, and they even picked fights with me, which made them really annoying.

No matter which inn I stayed at, this happened every time.

It was something common in every world, and the only way to protect myself from drunk people was not to approach them.

After I got to my room, I made sure I locked the door so that no drunk people could enter before laying down and thinking what should I do now.

Jade-san's party and Idiot Rangers seemed to have given up on subjugating the Mithril Golem and when they told the Adventurer's Guild that it was impossible for them, the soldiers would be sent out.

They probably wouldn't move out straight away, but the Mithril Golem should be defeated as soon as possible, right?

I really didn't want the country to take the Mithril Golem from me, so I had to somehow defeat the Mithril Golem myself before it was too late.

Still, after seeing the fight between the Mithril Golem and Idiot Rangers, I couldn't think of an easy way to defeat it. I also had to take care of the Iron Golems guarding it.

Well, I might be able to avoid fighting them, but that wouldn't really solve the problem.

On our way back from the mine, I had brainstormed different ways of subjugating them and got a few ideas. They would be really effective if I could make them work, but I had to try them out first, so I installed a Bear Transfer Gate inside my room and

went to...

Petchi, petchi.

Yesterday night, I had experimented different ways of defeating the golems, and it had been late when I had finally gone to sleep, so I was tired and wanted to sleep some more.

Petchi, petchi.

The adventures downstairs had still been noisy even after I had come back.

Petchi, petchi.

Had they not been tired after fighting so much during the day? Well, that much was probably expected from adventurers; they were supposed to have a lot of stamina.

Petchi, petchi.

Still, did C rank adventurers really have that much stamina?

Petchi, petchi.

“I’m awake.”

I grabbed Swaying Bear’s and Hugging Bear’s paws. They had been tapping my face all over for a while now.

I felt well rested thanks to the White Bear Suit, but I was a bit sleepy. Well, it would be the worst if the White Bear also took away my sleepiness since I loved sleeping. It felt so good, after all.

Sadly, I couldn’t keep sleeping today and had to wake up.

“Good morning, Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear.”

I stretched my back, then petted Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear’s heads.

I was sleepy but had to get to work. Working at the age of 15... Had this world managed to taint me at last?

I climbed out of my bed and changed into the Black Bear Suit before going to the dining room.

Ugh, the whole room reeked of alcohol...

“Oh, Bear Missy, you’re up early, huh.”

The innkeeper said, coming out of the kitchen.

“Good morning. It reeks of alcohol, doesn’t it?”

I said while pinching my nose with the Bear Hand.

“Those idiots continued to drink until morning, it seems. I left my husband to deal with it and went to sleep though. He only came to bed early in the morning; he kept them company till the end, it seems.”

“And, your husband is?”

“Sleeping. I let it go this time, but if he does this again, I will need to discipline him.”

The innkeeper laughed and opened a window, allowing a pleasant wind to enter the room.

“Fresh air will come in soon, so please endure it for a short while. To make up for this, I will make you a good breakfast on the house, so please sit down and wait a bit.”

I sat down and yawned.

It was still early, so I was the only one in the dining room.

Other than the adventurers, there were also merchants, who came to purchase ore, staying at the inn. However, since nobody was here yet, I could leisurely wait for breakfast without somebody trying to talk to me.

As time passed, the air changed bit by bit, and the smell of alcohol disappeared by the time the innkeeper brought me breakfast.

“Here you go. Sorry to keep you waiting.”

“Thank you very much.”

“What will you be doing today? I heard that you’re an adventurer, Bear Missy, but I don’t believe that the others will wake up anytime soon.”

“Hmm, I think I will go to the mine by myself for now.”

“...By yourself!?”

The innkeeper said loudly after being stunned for a few seconds.

“Yep. I want to get it done quickly, so I can go back, after all.”

“Get it done, you say... It’s impossible even for Jade and Babord, you know!”

Right, people normally wouldn’t think that a girl wearing a Bear Suit would be strong.

Still, she was genuinely worried for me, so I didn’t object.

“As an innkeeper, you would be troubled if the mine stayed like this, right?”

“Well, of course. If it stays like this, merchants and miners will stop coming here.”

“I don’t plan on doing the impossible. I will run away if I think it is dangerous.”

“It’s a promise, okay? Run away if you think it is impossible, alright? What has the world come to, for such a young girl becoming an adventurer”

I thanked the worried innkeeper for the abundant breakfast and headed to the mine.

Well then, I hoped that my plan, which I had sacrificed my sleep for, would work.

Since I left early in the morning, the streets were more or less empty, and no one tried to pick a fight with me.

I entered the tunnel, and since I was on my own this time around, I used the Bear Map so that I wouldn't get lost on my way to the Mithril Golem.

Soon, an Earth Golem appeared, but I cut it to pieces with wind magic without even slowing down.

Now that I was alone, the tunnel was quiet and a bit lonely without Toya-san saying idiotic things, Senya-san wielding her sharp tongue, Jade-san giving instructions, and Mel-san talking to me.

I didn't think that the tunnel would be this quiet when I was on my own.

Okay, since music wasn't an option, and I still wanted something that would give me a sense of security, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear. With them, I wouldn't be lonely.

I now walked with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear close to my left and right.

This made me somewhat happy. I was thankful to God for giving me Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear as my summoned beasts.

I continued to quickly dispose of any Earth Golems that crossed our path with Wind Magic.

They had all respawned, huh.

I was able to see many of them with detection magic.

When had they resurrected, though?

There had been no golems when we had gone back using the Idiot Rangers' path yesterday.

I didn't know if they had respawned a few hours after they were defeated or if they all respawned at a fixed time. Well, no matter what, the miners couldn't do their jobs with them around.

I blasted through the Earth Golem Floor and descended to the Stone Golem one, where I defeated the Stone Golems that crossed my path with Bear Punches.

While fighting, I noticed that Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear seemed like they wanted a turn.

“Well then, I will leave the next ones to you two, okay?”

When the next batch of two Stone Golems appeared, I left them to Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear; they took on one each and defeated them using real bear punches.

Yep, they were cute, strong, soft, warm, and useful during travels, so every household needed one.

The Stone Golems were all defeated by Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear from here on out, so I didn't get a turn anymore, but we would soon arrive at the Iron Golem floor, and I couldn't leave those to Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear. They would probably be able to defeat them, but they would probably also make a mess out of the tunnel in the process, so I decided to face the Iron Golems myself.

Going by the results of yesterday's secret training, I should be able to defeat the Iron Golems easily.

Well, if I couldn't, I would just have to use brute force. I still hoped my plan would work, though. I had used my precious sleeping time to come up with it, after all.

We arrived at the Iron Golem floor and it didn't take long for us to encounter an Iron Golem.

I told my Bears not to move and approached the golem on my own.

Well then, would this work?

I created an image in my head, and a pale yellow light appeared, cracking and coiling around the Black Bear Puppet. It was Lightning Magic. Electricity was the best option against iron, after all.

I hoped that when I hit the golem, electricity would flow through it and destroy the magic stone inside.

I didn't really know if Lightning Magic even existed in this world. It wasn't in the beginner's book I had bought before.

Electricity probably wasn't even used in this world. They must know about lightning but most likely didn't understand where it came from or how it worked. That was why, it made sense that they didn't have Lightning Magic.

Well, I was only guessing this, though.

So, having thought of it, I had slipped out of the inn to practice Lightning Magic last night.

I had trouble imagining it at first. There were a lot of games and anime where the lightning just came straight down from the sky. Protagonists would do it by creating an image in their heads and calling out things like *Lightning* or *Thunder*.

However, the magic in this world worked differently. I had to change the magic I had in me into the form I wanted and then throw it at my enemies; I couldn't just make lightning fall from the sky.

That was why I had thought of making the lightning coil around the Bear Hand.

It was easy to make the magic inside me transform into lightning; I just had to imagine it coiling around the Bear Hand, like a crackling discharge.

I had tried to make this electricity fly from my hand, but I couldn't do it properly; my image seemed to be too fixated on the lightning falling from the sky.

It was too difficult to imagine it flying away from the Bear Hand, so I couldn't do it.

Well, I had stopped trying because it had been late at the night, and I had thought that just being able to use lightning magic was good enough in itself.

Neither *Lightning* nor *Thunder* could come out, but I could call it a Bear Lightning Punch.

(TL note: Lightning and Thunder were written in english as a reference to Dragon Quest and Final Fantasy, hence the use of italics. Author also censors Lightning due to copyright.)

This lightning I got with the special training was now coiling around my Bear Hand and making a crackling sound.

I didn't really know how strong it was; it might only sting a little, or it might be stronger than a real lightning.

I had trained until I had been able to produce electricity, but I hadn't tried it out against monsters yet.

If this worked, it might become a practical magic I could use even in cramped areas.

I ran at the Iron Golem and hit it with a light Bear Punch coiled with lightning. It was more of a touch than a punch since I was trying out electricity and not the strength of my Bear Punches, after all.

My Bear Lightning Punch hit the Iron Golem with a loud creak, sending the electric current through the golem instantly.

The Iron Golem, which was about to punch me, stopped moving, so I pushed it with a light Bear Punch, and it fell on its back.

It didn't move, so I tried kicking it, but it still didn't move.

My plan worked, it seemed; electricity must have flowed through it well and properly destroyed the magic stone within.

I put the whole Iron Golem inside the Bear Box and moved on to find more of them.

CHAPTER 146

BEAR-SAN DIVES INTO THE MINE, PART 6

MITHRIL GOLEM PART

Since I was now able to easily defeat Iron Golems by using Lightning Magic, I moved forward without a problem.

Anytime an Iron Golem crossed my path, a Bear Lightning Punch took care of it.

Having it easy was great, but Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear seemed bored while only walking beside me and not even getting a turn.

I was happy with them just staying here by my side, though.

“Please help me when I’m in a pinch, okay?”

There was always a chance of something going wrong in fights, so I asked them to help me, just in case.

They suddenly seemed happier. Did they feel better because of what I had said?

Well, they would save me even if I didn’t ask them, right?

You guys would save me, right?

I patted their heads, and they tilted their head in confusion since this was so sudden, but still seemed to like it.

As we kept going forward, I defeated four more Iron Golems without a hitch, so the Bears hadn’t gotten an opportunity to help me.

Now, there were only the five Irons Golem in our way to the Mithril Golem.

Idiot Rangers had defeated them yesterday, but my detection magic confirmed that the five golems had properly respawned.

Wouldn’t it be possible for someone to obtain a permanent iron supply if they could keep defeating those five every day? Well, if they did that, miners would lose their jobs

and become homeless.

These golems had both good and bad sides to them.

People who could defeat them would be able to earn a lot of money, but others would suffer in return.

Also, there was more to mine than just iron here, bringing even more trouble to the miners.

Well, it wasn't my job to think about the mining industry; that job was for nobles.

My job was to defeat the golems that had appeared in the mine. More precisely, my job was to defeat the one we believed was responsible for all of this, the Mithril Golem.

I would be done here if killing the Mithril Golem ended the golem troubles. If it didn't end it, I would just have to leave them to the country.

Either way, what I had to do didn't change. Using my Bear Lightning Punches, I defeated the five Iron Golems, then descended to the lower floor to defeat the Mithril Golem.

The map changed, and I found the Mithril Golem's signal with detection magic. I really hoped this would end after I defeated it.

I kept moving forward until I reached the crevice where the Mithril Golem was and saw traces of fighting all around. There were a lot of crumbled rocks and slashes on the walls left behind by wind magic.

Was it from when Idiot Rangers had fought the Mithril Golem yesterday?

They probably hadn't paid attention to the possible collapse, so it was great that nothing had happened.

In the middle of this mess, the Mithril Golem stood looking at me.

So, it already noticed me? Well then, time to fight.

I told Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear to fall back, and faced the Mithril Golem on my own.

Still, I shouldn't fight here. I wasn't like those Idiot Rangers and couldn't just use strong magic or Bear Punches because I feared the tunnel collapsing.

All I needed was to take this to a place where I could use my Bear Cheats to their full potential, so I took out a Bear Transfer Gate big enough for even Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear to pass through. Since the golem was about the same size as my Bears, it should also be able to use it.

Okay then, should we go to a place where we can fight fair and square using our full strengths? Golems usually had high defense, but since they were slow, a brute force approach should work.

As the Mithril Golem charged at me, its feet making loud ‘Thud’, ‘Thud’ sounds, I opened the door with the Bear Hand.

I felt as if I was waiting for a bull to charge at me, but since the golem was slow, I wasn’t scared at all. If it had been as quick as the Black Tiger, then I would have been scared and might have even needed a red mantle.

I sidestepped the approaching Mithril Golem, ducked behind its back, and used Bear Punch to send it into the Bear Transfer Gate.

My Bears and I quickly followed through and were met by a vast coastline.

It was open enough to fight without holding back, and all that was above us were some clouds in a blue sky. Unlike the mine, this place couldn’t crumble even if I used my Bear Cheat.

We were close to Mireera, but far enough that nobody could see us.

Also, this was where I had practiced Lightning Magic yesterday, so I knew I could go wild here.

Well then, should we fight to our hearts’ content?

I faced the Mithril Golem and saw it had fallen from taking my Bear Punch.

“With this, we can both fight without having to take care of our surroundings, right?”

I said without expecting an answer, but as if it understood me, the Mithril Golem stood up and faced me.

Well, even though I had said we both, I planned on attacking it one-sidedly.

I launched a fireball at the golem and scored a direct hit, but the golem took it as if

nothing had happened. Wind Magic, Earth Magic, and Ice Magic didn't work either.

Wasn't this a bit unfair?

I shouldn't be the one to complain, though.

How about this then?

"Bear Cutter!"

I imagined bear claws and launched wind magic.

The golem was sent flying from the impact, but there was no visible damage.

No wait, when the Mithril Golem stood up, I saw three thin lines on its chest. I was able to damage it, it seemed.

Would I be able to defeat it if I just kept launching Bear Cutters at the same place?

Maybe, but I had already launched my next piece of magic: a Fire Bear from my Bear Hand.

I didn't believe I could melt the golem, but I still tried throwing one at it.

The golem grabbed the Fire Bear with its hands; doing so would have been the end for any normal monster, but the golem managed to stop the Fire Bear; the flames warped around its hands before disappearing without dealing any damage.

As expected, it didn't work?

Wait, now that I looked more carefully, it did seem to have melted a little bit?

I should be able to defeat it if I launched enough Fire Bears, but I couldn't get its mithril if I melted it, so I put that idea on hold.

Well then, I didn't believe it would work, but how about the Lightning Magic I had learned yesterday?

I gathered lightning around the Bear Hand and hit the slowly approaching Mithril Golem with a Bear Lightning Punch. The Mithril Golem was sent flying by the Bear Punch, but the electricity didn't seem to have effected it.

Hmm, it really didn't work, as I had expected.

I was attacking it one-sidedly, but could the Mithril Golem really do nothing more than try to strike me down?

Well, I shouldn't really call being hit by those enormous arms nothing, but I could escape the moment it got close, so in a way, this felt as if I was attacking some sort of indestructible dummy that could be found in games.

I had tested out everything I wanted, so it was about time to end this.

I gathered magic power inside the Bear Hand and charged at the Mithril Golem. Once I was close enough, I used wind magic and hit it from underneath with a Bear Uppercut.

Wind magic combined with a Bear Uppercut sent the Mithril Golem high into the sky.

It went a thousand meters up... or at least that was what it seemed like to me since there was no way for me to know how high it had actually flown.

I didn't happen to have a special power that let me know how high a plane was flying or how high a skyscraper was.

Well, I did know that there was nothing that wouldn't break from falling from this height.

Even though it was made of mithril, considering the golem's weight, the fall distance and speed, it shouldn't come out unscathed, especially when it was also spinning while falling.

Had that happened because I had put some rotation into my Bear Uppercut?

The Mithril Golem crashed into the ground with a loud noise, causing a small earthquake.

This should be enough to defeat it, right?

Just as I thought that, the Mithril Golem tried to get up like some sort of a broken robot.

It could still move after falling from this height, huh. How tough could it be?

The magic stone should have been destroyed from such a shock.

Still, even though it managed to stand up, it was in a really bad shape.

One of its arms had been destroyed, and its head was bent at a strange angle. Its whole body was fractured in many places from the hard landing, and I even saw the magic stone in the midst of the cracks where I had first hit it with my wind magic.

Well then, destroying the magic stone should finish this.

I ran at the now even slower Mithril Golem and sent a Bear Lightning Punch at its magic stone; the electricity passed through the cracks and destroyed the stone, making the golem stop completely.

It would be great if the golems stopped spawning at the mine now.

With my fight finished, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear approached, seemingly worried about me.

“I’m okay.”

I petted their heads and put the Mithril Golem inside the Bear Box.

I killed it in a really terrible fashion, but I had no other choice. Well, I wanted to make weapons and a dismantling knife from it, so there was no real problem.

With the golem securely put away, I went back to the mine through the Bear Transfer Gate.

I then put away the Bear Transfer Gate at the mine, but I would also have to put away the other Bear Transfer Gate even though it was at a place nobody went to.

I would have to go there tonight or tomorrow.

Since I was now back in the mine, I looked around.

In games, there was always something in the boss room...

A treasure, or a treasure... or there might be the thing that made the golems respawn.

There might also be a hidden room, so I inspected every wall to check.

There was nothing.

Even though I had been sure that there would be something...

Well, there was no helping it, so I should just go back. When I turned around to leave, I saw Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear digging a hole.

“What is it?”

I asked and approached them.

They were digging at the place where the Mithril Golem had been standing before.

I hadn't thought about this possibility. It might have been protecting something.

I looked at the hole my Bears made and saw two dully shining stones.

“What's that?”

I asked the Bears, but they only tilted their heads.

You two had dug it up, right? Why didn't you know then? I grumbled to myself.

I took the stones out of the hole and noticed that they were only about the size of my fists.

I inspected them, but since I wasn't a blacksmith or an ore maniac, I had no way of knowing what the stones were. They could just be normal stones, or they could be special.

This was where my Bear Skills could shine.

I used the Observing Eyes of the Bear.

Bearmonite, a mysterious ore.

That was all that it said.

More importantly, what was up with this name...

Was it mocking me?

The god that had brought me to this world must have named it like this, right?

An ore with such a name.... It wasn't spread throughout this world, right?

Wait, there had been something about this in the letter I had received from the god when I had come here.

[There are other presents, so do your best to find them, okay?]

Was this ore possibly one of them?

Still, even if this was the case, couldn't he do something about his horrible naming sense?

Also, how was I supposed to use this mysterious ore?

There had always been some hints in the game, you know!

I couldn't accomplish anything by complaining, so I thanked Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear for finding it by petting their heads.

I wondered how many times had I petted their heads by now. Well, it was my way of thanking them, so I would keep doing it as long as I wanted or until the Bears started to dislike it.

They looked quite happy right now, though.

CHAPTER 147

BEAR-SAN LEAVES THE MINE

I decided to stop thinking about the two stones I had just obtained and headed back to the upper floors.

Bearmonite?

There was no use in thinking about something I didn't understand, especially since it wasn't something that important.

After going up a floor, I used detection magic to check if there were any golems remaining.

Hmm, there were.

They hadn't stopped moving with their boss defeated, huh. Well, it was also possible that they had no connection to the Mithril Golem at all. I would be troubled if that was the case, though.

Even though it was troublesome, I had to defeat every golem that was here and see what happened.

They might not respawn, after all.

Still, doing this on my own would be really troublesome...

Just as I thought about asking Jade-san's party to help me, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear nudged me.

"Will you two help me?"

They cried softly.

"Thank you."

I hugged them while thanking them.

“Well then, I will take care of the Iron Golems but leave the Stone and Earth Golems to you two, okay?”

The Bears nodded and ran down the tunnel.

“You two get along, okay?”

I only got a *kuun* from the distance as a reply.

The upper floors were going to be taken care of by Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, so that left only the Iron Golems to me.

The mine didn't branch out a lot, so this shouldn't take too long.

I still used detection magic to decide which path to take before storming off.

I crossed paths with the Bears once, and they seemed to be properly disposing of the golems.

When I finished dealing with the Iron Golems, I decided to help them, but all golem signals had already disappeared.

I headed for the entrance and found Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear already waiting there for me, happily sitting side by side.

Yep, they had dealt with them quickly.

“Thanks for the hard work, Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear.”

I thanked them and put them back into their gloves.

As I had expected, having to clean up all of the golems after defeating the Mithril Golem had left me tired. I wanted to get back to the inn quickly and sleep.

On my way back, I noticed some people looking at me curiously but decided to ignore them, and when I got to the inn, Idiot Rangers and Jade-san's party were already there.

“Yuna, you're late.”

“I thought you would be fine, Yuna-chan, but you made us all worried by coming back this late.”

Well, that was because I had to clean up the mine, you know.

“It got late while I was defeating the golems.”

“It’s useless to defeat them since they will revive tomorrow anyway.”

Senya-san bluntly said.

“About that, Jade-san, could I ask you to do something for me?”

“What is it?”

“I defeated all the golems including the golem at the lowest floor, so could you check tomorrow if they respawn or not?”

“...I’m sorry, what did you just say?”

“I defeated all the golems including the golem at the lowest floor, so...”

“...Yuna-chan, you’re joking, right?”

“No, I really defeated it, but I don’t know if it will respawn or not.”

I wouldn’t know until tomorrow at least.

“Hey, you, pet over there, stop lying! You’re telling us that a pet like you defeated a golem that the five of us couldn’t? Don’t joke around.”

Idiot Red approached us with a beer in hand. Had he listened in on our conversation?

While I had been cleaning the mine, I had experimented with lightning magic some more, and in order to see the results of my training, I hit him with a light Bear Lightning Punch.

“Ugya!”

Idiot Red let out a strange voice and collapsed.

“Babord!?”

Babord’s friends quickly ran to his body.

They called his name, but he didn’t answer.

He just lost consciousness and was still alive, right?

Hmm, had I made it a bit too strong? I had to practice it some more, it seemed.

Well, it was just the right strength for him since he kept mocking me and calling me a pet.

I decided to try to deceive them for now.

“Didn’t he just collapse because he drank too much?”

I said and pointed at the beer that was now spilled over the floor.

Luckily, he had drunk most of it, so not much damage had been done.

“There’s no way Babord would be drunk with just that much...”

“He’s sleeping, though.”

They all believed that I had done something, but they had no proof without even knowing what it was.

Idiot Red’s friends didn’t say anything else and took his big body to his room, so I sat down and asked for a meal.

“Yuna-chan, you really didn’t do anything just now?”

I tilted my head as if I didn't understand what they were asking me.

"Yes, Yuna-chan, you didn't do anything, right? Babord only collapsed because he was drunk, right?"

Mel-san was nodding to herself.

"So, Yuna, is what you said before true?"

"Before?"

"About the golem."

"Ah, about that, huh. I defeated all the golems, including the one at the final floor, so if it doesn't respawn, we're done here. It's up to you if you believe me or not."

"You're telling the truth, right?"

"Yuna was faster than us, huh."

Faster than you, you said... You hadn't even planned on defeating it...

"To tell the truth, we hit it off with Babord's party while drinking yesterday. We decided to defeat the golem together since it would be better to split the reward rather than let the country have it."

"We also decided to take today off and defeat it tomorrow."

"But I was the one who took the kill, huh."

I hadn't known anything about that deal.

Hadn't they all abandoned the idea of defeating it?

"In any case, you did well defeating it on your own."

"Well, there's a different method to do it, after all."

“Ugh, I wish I could have seen your fight, Yuna-chan...”

If you had been with me, I couldn't have used the transfer gate, though.

“Yuna, I'm sorry, but could you show us the golem? You have it with you, right?”

Hmm, even if they see it up close, they wouldn't find out that it was mithril, right?

Since I had no real choice, I went outside and took out the Mithril Golem.

“Uhaa, it's in a terrible state.”

They reacted to the crumbled Mithril Golem.

“How could you put the golem, which even Babord's party couldn't defeat, in such a terrible state...?”

“The bear's strength is incredible...”

“Even if its strength is incredible, could it really put it in such a terrible state?”

When Jade-san tried to inspect the golem in more detail, I heard the innkeeper calling me from the inn. My meal was ready, it seemed.

I answered the innkeeper and put away the Mithril Golem. Since I didn't want them to inspect it too well, this was perfect timing.

I entered the inn, happy with this outcome.

“Yuna defeating this golem might have had an effect on the other golems.”

“You're right. We should check it out tomorrow.”

“We planned on going in with Babord's party anyway.”

“True. If any golems still appear, we can just head straight to where the Mithril Golem was, or search the tunnels if they don't.”

After the meal, I went back to my room and considered going to the place where I had fought the Mithril Golem.

Even though people didn't go there, I didn't really want to leave a Bear Transfer Gate there.

I was tired and wanted to sleep, but if I go to Mireera during the day tomorrow, someone might see me, and that would be troublesome.

I had no other choice but to go now, huh.

I could also do it tomorrow night, but something might happen in between.

Since I had no other choice, I installed a Bear Transfer Gate and transferred to the Bear House in Mireera. I looked outside, and it was already dark, which meant it would be easier for me to move without being seen.

Also, it was great that my clothes were black! It was a Bear Costume, though...

I rushed out and disappeared into the darkness as if I was some sort of assassin.

Like the last time, I left the city; it was really practical to have the Bear House near the city's edge in such cases. If it had been at the center, I would have had a difficult time moving undetected, even at night.

When I was far enough from the city, I summoned Hugging Bear and rode him to the Bear Transfer Gate. I put away the gate and returned to Mireera as quickly as I could, then transferred back to the inn, changed into White Bear, and dove into bed.

I had Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear with me while I slept, of course.

The next day, Idiot Rangers and Jade-san's party went to the mines.

I lied about still being tired from yesterday so that I could stay in.

By the way, Idiot Red didn't remember what had happened yesterday at all. He actually believed that he had fallen asleep because he drank too much, it seemed. Yep, it was great that he was an idiot.

I ate breakfast and went straight back to sleep.

I had done my best yesterday, so I should take it easy today, right?

I was sure that Fina had been enjoying the capital the last few days, so it was okay, right?

I had asked Eleanora-san to take Fina to the castle. We hadn't been able to sightsee the castle at all last time since we had been caught by Princess Flora. I really hoped she had enjoyed the castle tour.

Well, when I had called her with the Bear Phone, she seemed to have been having fun, wearing beautiful clothes, and sleeping in a luxurious bedroom.

Eleanora-san had also properly showed her around the castle, and she even had the luxury of having a meal with Princess Flora and the King, so the castle tour had been a great idea.

I had also asked Shia to show her around the capital since we had been here during the King's birthday last time, and the normal capital gave off a different feeling, so she should be having fun.

I had troubled Fina, after all.

She had to fully enjoy herself.

I woke up for lunch, and while I ate, the adventurers came back.

"You guys came back quickly."

I said and took a spoonful of soup.

"Yeah, we couldn't find any golems, so we just wandered the mine for a while."

"I couldn't believe my eyes... There wasn't a single golem, even though there had been so many before."

I didn't know if it was due to the defeat of the Mithril Golem or the removal of the Bearmonite, but it seemed that the golems weren't respawning anymore.

"Did this pet really defeat that golem on her own?"

Idiot Red said while looking at me.

Should I electrocute him again?

“You confirmed that the last golem wasn’t there anymore, right?”

“Yeah, but to take down the golem that the five of us couldn’t defeat...”

“We told you a lot of things Yuna had done before, right?”

“How she defeated the Tiger Wolves, Black Viper, Goblin King all on her own?”

“Well, normally you wouldn’t believe something like that, right?”

Mel-san seemed to agree with Idiot Red’s logic.

I looked around and saw that it wasn’t just Mel-san; they were all nodding.

Well, it didn’t really matter, did it?

“Okay, so does this mean the request is completed?”

I would head back today if it was.

“We have to report to the person in charge of the mine first and consult with him on what to do now.”

Oh right, there must be someone in charge of the mine. I had completely forgotten that they could exist.

Still, reporting to them would probably be a pain.

“Yuna, will you come to make a report with us?”

“It seems like it would be troublesome, so I will leave it to you, Jade-san.”

I tried asking him since I had nothing to lose.

“You’re really..., whatever, if it’s just the report, we can do it. You come too, Babord.”

Oh! I should really ask others to do things for me more!

I was really grateful to Jade-san for this.

“Why me too...”

“If you come with us, the report will be more credible, right?”

“You just have to take the pet that defeated it then, right?”

“Would you really believe me if I told you someone like Yuna completed the request?”

Idiot Red looked at me.

“...I wouldn’t”

“And that is why you have to come too.”

“There’s no helping it, I guess.”

Were they insulting me, somehow?

It wasn’t just my imagination, right?

Well, they were going to do the troublesome report for me, so I should forgive them this time.

Jade-san’s party and Idiot Rangers headed to the person in charge of the mine, so I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear and took another nap.

I napped for a while, and then the outside got noisy. I opened my window to check, and saw Jade-san’s party and Idiot Rangers surrounded by the residents, who were thanking them.

Jade-san's party had troubled faces while Idiot Rangers waved their hands.

Jade-san's party then somehow managed to escape to the inn without the residents following them.

Thinking something had happened, I went down to the dining room on the first floor.

"Did something happen?"

"Yuna..."

"You see, they believe that we were the ones who defeated the golems in the mine."

Jade-san's party then proceeded to explain.

The residents had seen the nine of them on their way to the mine first thing this morning.

They had seen them on their way back.

Then, they had seen them reporting to the person in charge of the mine.

They had even seen that person thanking them.

The news of the golems being defeated then quickly spread...

Yep, I understood how the story went.

"So, that's why they now believe that we were the ones who defeated the golems."

"Not to mention this idiot waving his hand as well..."

"Shut up, I only waved because they were thanking us!"

"We tried to explain that Yuna-chan had done it, but..."

"...No one even tried to listen."

"We're sorry."

Jade-san apologized with a bow.

Hmm, the way this turned out wasn't bad, right?

I didn't want to be surrounded like they had been, and I didn't want to be famous either, so there wasn't really anything to apologize for.

Although, I still wanted to be the one credited for the subjugation at the guild, so I asked them about that.

"I will properly report it was you, of course. Babord, you're okay with this too, right?"

"Of course. I wouldn't stoop so low as to take achievements from others."

"You say that, but you were waving your hand before, weren't you?"

"I waved because they were calling out my name."

Well, the request should be finished with this, but since it was late already, I decided to go back tomorrow. Fina was waiting for me, after all.

I shared my plans with the others.

"About that, you see, it was decided that we should wait for a while longer."

".....?"

"This is the first time the golems didn't revive over the night, so we don't know if it will be the same tomorrow or the day after, right?"

"So, it has been decided that we should stay here for ten more days."

"Huh?"

I couldn't stay here for ten days.

"Are you kidding me?"

"You can go back, though, Yuna."

I was relieved to hear that; I couldn't just leave Fina in Eleanora-san's care for ten days.

“Since we will be staying here, could you please go to the Adventurer’s Guild and make a report?”

“But what will you guys do if the golem appears again?”

“Nothing. We will leave it to the country. If that golem keeps reviving even when we defeat it, our hands are off.”

Jade-san reinforced his statement by raising his hands into the air.

“Okay, I will go back to the capital tomorrow then.”

CHAPTER 148

BEAR-SAN GOES BACK TO THE CAPITAL

By alternating between riding Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, I managed to arrive at the capital.

There weren't a lot of people at the gate, so I was able to enter the city without having to wait long. Did I arrive at a perfect time or what?

After getting in, I went straight to the Adventurer's Guild to give my report and as soon as I entered, the adventurers' gazes turned my way before quickly veering away.

I wondered why for a moment before recalling what I had done the last time I had been here.

Well, they weren't picking a fight with me, so wasn't this okay?

I went to an open counter and asked for the guild master, Senya-san, and the receptionist quickly rushed off to call her. Did she know who I was?

"Yuna-chan!"

Senya-san greeted me after coming out from a door in the back.

"I'm back."

I said and greeted her by lifting my Bear Hand.

I wondered if we were going to talk here, but she took me to the Guild Master's room, where we sat down and were brought drinks.

This felt as I was treated like some sort of company president.

"So, how did it go?"

I proceeded to tell her that the golems hadn't respawned after I had defeated the golem on the lowest floor and that Jade-san's party had stayed behind to make sure they weren't just late to respawn.

"You can ask Jade-san for more details."

"Okay. If the golems really stopped reviving, we won't have to send out the soldiers. You really saved us, thank you."

"We don't know for sure yet, though."

"Judging from what you told me, it should be okay. The golems always revived over the night, but now they didn't. I still have to wait for Jade's report, so the request won't be completed until then. Is that fine with you?"

"Yeah. Is it okay for me to return to Crimonia?"

"Yes, that's fine."

I had no problems with it, then.

"I will be off, then."

I had to get Fina as quickly as possible, after all.

I tried to stand up, but Senya-san stopped me.

"Leaving the request aside, why don't you start living at the capital rather than Crimonia, Yuna-chan? It would be great for us if you did."

She suddenly said.

"I don't plan on doing that for the time being."

Over the time I had spent here, Crimonia had become easy to live in.

People had stopped staring, and the adventurers had stopped picking fights with me.

Not to mention that I had my shops there, so there was no real merit to living at the capital. On the contrary, my workload would probably increase here, and I wouldn't like that. I also had the Bear Transfer Gate, which made it easy to come to the capital, so there was really no point in moving here.

"I see, that's really unfortunate."

"I will still come here to play sometimes."

"I might have a request for you when you do, so please come here to check, okay?"

She finally let me go after that, so I went to Eleanora-san's mansion, where I was met by Fina running to me in beautiful clothes.

"I'm back, Fina."

"Big Sis Yuna!"

She clinged to my waist.

I had a big belly, so I was able to properly catch her. By the way, I didn't mean that my actual belly was large. I meant that the costume's belly was big.

"Fina, you really are wearing cute clothes, huh."

The clothes suited her so well that she could only be seen as a young lady of high status.

"Big Sis Yuna, I don't want to hear that from you when you're wearing this cute Bear-san Suit! And it's not like I'm wearing them because I want to. Eleanora-sama forced me to wear them!"

She said my Bear Suit was cute, but that was totally different than her clothes.

There was a big difference between the cuteness of a costume and the cuteness of beautiful clothes. Any girl would be happier hearing she looked cute in beautiful

clothes than when wearing a costume, you know.

I was happy to see that Fina was well, though.

It would have been hard to face Terumi-san if something had happened to her, after all.

“Yuna-chan, welcome back. You finished with the mine?”

Eleanora-san came from the mansion.

“More or less. They just need to wait and see if there is a chance of golems still respawning, so I decided to come back.”

“You must have worked hard, right? I will prepare a delicious dinner today, so please eat with us.”

I wanted to take a bath before dinner, so I used this chance to talk with Fina as we bathed together.

“Fina, did you enjoy the capital while I was away?”

I asked Fina while washing her back, but she didn't reply.

Huh? Had she not enjoyed herself?

“You went to see the castle, right? And also walked around the capital...”

“Eleanora-sama made me wear beautiful clothes, so my stomach ached as I tried my best not to dirty them.”

“Ahhh, I see.”

“This isn't a laughing matter! She even took me to the castle in those clothes, you know!”

“But you were able to sightsee the castle, right?”

“Yes, Eleanora-san showed me all around the castle; I even got to see a beautiful garden.”

Ah, now that she mentioned it, I also recalled seeing the garden; it had a lot of beautifully blooming flowers.

“But then, King-sama came to the garden, and I don’t really remember what happened after that.”

“Can’t a girl get some peace while watching flowers...”

“Because of his appearance, I can’t even remember the taste of the food you had prepared, Big Sis Yuna. I’m sorry.”

“It’s okay, I can make it again. Still, I will have to properly lecture this King...”

“Big Sis Yuna?”

Anytime I came to the castle, he always sought me out... Was he even doing his job as a king?

“I will tell him not to get close to you anymore, so we can sightsee the castle without him ruining it next time, okay?”

“Don’t say that!”

Fina’s voice echoed throughout the bathroom.

Why did she get mad?

When we left the bath, Eleanora-san and Shia, who was already back from the academy, were already waiting for us.

“Ara, you’re in your White Bear Clothes already?”

“I will go straight to bed after we eat, after all.”

I had been invited to sleep at Eleanora-san's place tonight, so it was easier this way.

"Yuna-san, were the golems strong?"

Shia wanted to hear about what had happened at the mine.

"I'm not sure if they were strong or not, but it was hard to fight them in the tunnels."

"Because you were underground?"

"Yeah, I didn't want to collapse the walls by using too much strength, after all. The other adventurers who came to subjugate them had the same problem as well."

"So, how did you defeat them, then?"

"Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear helped me."

I wasn't really lying, they had helped me with the Earth and the Stone Golems.

"Oh right, Shia, thank you for taking care of Fina."

"Fina is a good girl, so it wasn't a problem at all."

"That's not true, I caused you all sorts of trouble."

Fina denied it, but Shia just showed a pleasant smile.

Well, I was happy that they got along.

While we ate, I briefed Eleanora-san about what had happened at the mine, mainly talking about Jade-san's party, so that I wouldn't stand out.

I didn't mention lightning magic and the Bear Transfer Gate, of course.

I deceived them by keeping my fights vague.

"Yuna-san, we are of the same age, but you're just incredible."

“Shia, you’re a noble, so you don’t really need to be strong, right?”

“It’s because I’m receiving education that I want to be strong.”

“I let you do it, but don’t forget that you’re only allowed to go to the nearby beginner forest.”

“Yes, I won’t forget, mom.”

Shia obediently agreed with her mother.

We finished the delicious meal, and when I thought of going to sleep in the room that had been given to me, Eleanora-san stopped me.

“Yuna-chan, please wait a minute.”

“What is it?”

“You’re going back to Crimonia tomorrow, right?”

“Yeah, I plan on doing so. Fina’s parents will be worried if I don’t return her soon, after all.”

When I said that, Eleanora-san signaled Suririna-san, who then left the room.

“Wh-what is it?”

“I need to give you the reward for the request.”

“I will get the reward at Crimonia’s Adventurer’s Guild in ten days time when they are sure it’s really finished.”

“I’m not talking about that. Did you forget? I promised you a mithril knife.”

She was right, she had promised it, but since I had already obtained mithril, I didn’t really need it anymore.

“Did you think that you don’t need it, just now?”

Was she an esper!?

It didn't take long for Suririna-san to come back with something wrapped in a cloth and gave it to Eleanora-san, who unfurled it to reveal an embellished tantou and presented it to me.

(TL note: Tantou is a traditional Japanese ornamented dagger.)

"Yuna-chan, here."

The tantou had a very detailed engraving on it and seemed really expensive...

My consciousness was telling me not to take it.

"What is this? This beautiful tantou?"

"It's the knife I had promised you."

Eleanora-san pulled the tantou out from its sheath.

It really was beautiful.

"This isn't something used for dismantling, right?"

"Yes, that's right."

"It's also not used for fighting, right?"

"It's not, but it's made of mithril and is very sharp."

It looked like something a woman would carry for self-defence, but I had the feeling that this was different.

"I don't want it."

"Why? It's your reward, you know."

“There seems to be a trick to this...”

The Bear Danger Sense was going off... even though there was no skill like that.

“There’s no trick, okay? Don’t worry, you can take it.”

Eleanora-san said while showing a frightening smile.

I couldn’t lose here!

“I will have to politely refuse.”

“Jeez, your intuition is top notch...”

Eleanora-san said and pouted.

“As I thought, there is a trick to it, right?”

“It’s not really something significant. This tantou just has the Foshuroze crest on it. You can get out of almost any bad situation by simply showing it to the other party.”

So, it was like Koumon-sama’s seal.

(TL note: In his TV show, Komon-sama is a popular judge that puts on disguises and goes out to catch bad guys together with his followers. Whenever he apprehends someone, his followers show his seal to the culprit, and the culprit cowers just by seeing it.)

“Why... to me...”

“I mean, Yuna-chan, you get into trouble a lot, don’t you?”

She was right, so I couldn’t deny it.

I got into all sorts of trouble because of this Bear Suit.

“Is it really just because of that, though?”

“Honestly, my real motive for giving you the tantou is that I wanted to let the other nobles know that you and I are involved parties.”

“Involved parties?”

“It would be bad if people who know about your strength tried to misuse you, so the tantou is to prove that the Foschurose family stands behind you.”

She wanted to give me the tantou for my own good, it seemed.

“You can use it all you want.”

“I won’t use it.”

There was a good saying that could be used here: Nothing was free in this world.

If I kept using the crest all the time and was then suddenly asked for compensation... That wasn’t something I wanted to chance.

“You can use it to buy land at the Commerce Guild without needing a letter of introduction, you know.”

“Ugh.”

“If you get into trouble with some idiot nobles, the crest will make them go away.”

“Ugh.”

“Still, it won’t work if you show it to people who don’t know of Foschuroze’s Crest. It should come in handy in most cases, though.”

Eleanora-san offered the tantou again.

“I could do something bad while using this tantou that represents your family, you know.”

“Ufufu, Yuna-chan, you really say funny things from time to time.”

“Is this really something to laugh at?”

“In which world would a girl, who has an orphanage under her wing, who went to kill a Black Viper on her own for the sake of a worried boy, who dug a tunnel for everyone and didn’t even ask for any compensation, and who went to defeat an army of monsters just to protect a girl’s father, do something bad?”

Eleanora-san said while also poking my cheek repeatedly.

“I might be scheming in secret and waiting for the right time, you know.”

“Well then, shall I ask this girl?”

Eleanora-san looked at Fina.

“Fina-chan, is Yuna-chan a bad person?”

“Big Sis Yuna is a really kind person. If she hadn’t been around, my mother and I would have been dead, and the children of the orphanage wouldn’t have been happy like they are now. I heard that she didn’t ask for compensation when she killed the Black Viper and when she helped at Mireera either. Big Sis Yuna is strong and kind; she would never do bad things.”

Eleanora-san nodded.

“Fina, I get it, you can stop now. I’m becoming embarrassed...”

“But, I haven’t even said half the reasons why you’re wonderful, you know.”

“You should still stop, though.”

I told Fina to stop singing praises of me.

When you praise a hikikomori, who was not used to it, they only get troubled.

I turned my gaze at the tantou again.

“Eleanora-san, if I take this, you won’t call me your subordinate, right?”

“I won’t.”

I took the tantou in the White Bear Hand.

“If something happens, you can use the Foschuroze family’s name, okay?”

Even though accepting it was fine, I didn’t plan on using it for now. I could probably call it my insurance policy.

I put the tantou straight into my Bear Box.

CHAPTER 149

BEAR-SAN GOES TO THE CAPITAL'S SMITHY

The next morning, we ate breakfast and bade farewell to Shia, who was going to the academy, and Eleanora-san, who was going to work at the castle.

“Fina-chan, come again, okay?”

“I will, Shia-sama.”

“You two can always come to play, okay? There are some places at the castle I didn’t get to show to Fina, so I will make sure to take you there without anyone bothering us next time, okay?”

“...Okay.”

Fina answered with a troubled expression.

The King must have really done some bad things to her, huh. Poor thing...

If I ever took Fina to the castle again, I had to protect her.

Shia and Eleanora-san were about to leave, so we departed too.

We weren’t headed to Crimonia, though, but to Gazar-san’s smithy.

“Big Sis Yuna, we’re not going back?”

Fina asked me when she noticed we weren’t headed towards the Bear House.

“I plan on making use of Gold-san’s letter before going back, so we’re headed to Gazar-san’s smithy.”

Well, I could have went back without going there, but I had something to ask him and give him a souvenir. Also, I wanted to have a few mithril knives made.

Fina held my Bear Hand as we walked. I had left her at the mansion for a while, so she might have been lonely. I should let her do what she wanted. Also, it wasn't like I had a reason to shake her off.

We arrived at Gazar-san's smithy, still hand in hand.

"Excuse me. Gazar-san, are you here?"

I called out when we entered the shop, and he came out from the back.

"What... I was thinking who it was, but it was you, the one wearing those strange clothes."

"Good morning."

"Why have you come so early in the morning?"

"To tell you that the mine has been cleared, I guess? It won't take long for the ores to start coming again."

"You aren't telling me that you were the one who took care of it?"

"I helped."

I then gave him a brief report of what had happened.

"I see, thank you for telling me. A Mithril Golem, though? I don't believe it..."

"Well, I defeated it and took its mithril, so could I ask you to make a mithril knife for me?"

"You could just ask Gold to do it, right?"

"I plan on asking him too. Making mithril weapons takes time, right?"

"You're right, processing mithril is difficult and is not done overnight."

"I want to have four knives made, so I planned on asking Gold-san and you to make two each."

“I understand your reasoning, but you live at Crimonia, right? If you don’t plan on coming back here anytime soon, it might be easier to just ask Gold to make all of them.”

“It’s fine since I have a way of coming here quickly.”

“If you will really be coming back here to receive them, it is fine by me.”

“Thank you. I will take out the Mithril Golem now, okay?”

I took out the crumbled Mithril Golem from the Bear Box, and it just barely fit into the shop.

“So, this is the Mithril Golem, huh...”

Gazar-san approached the golem and examined it with a serious face, paying close attention to where the cuts were.

“What’s with this fake?”

“Fake?”

I tilted my head when I heard his unexpected words.

“That’s right. It is a Mithril Golem but at the same time it isn’t one.”

“...?”

I didn’t understand what he was saying at all.

“Here and also here. You can see that the color is different below the surface, right?”

He said while pointing at the cuts with his thick finger. He was right, the color behind the cuts was indeed different.

“The interior is iron. Only the exterior is mithril.”

“Really!?”

“Yep. You can ask Gold when you return to Crimonia if you don’t believe me.”

I didn’t really think that he was lying, but it was still hard to believe that the interior was iron.

Well, it made sense for him to call it a fake if that was the case.

“There is still mithril on it, right?”

“I would say that it’s only one fourth of it, maybe one third at best.”

God had been really stingy, giving me a fake Mithril Golem. If mithril only covered the surface, didn’t it function just as a coating? If it had been gold coated then it would have been a Gold Golem?

I felt as if I had been scammed.

“It’s still enough to make a few knives, right?”

They were my *main* goal, after all.

“Yeah, if all you want is knives, it’s enough for a number of them.”

Whew. If he had said that it wasn’t enough, I would have had to buy them.

“If I remember correctly, you wanted a dismantling knife, right?”

“That’s right, but might I ask you to make me two fighting knives? This request made me want a mithril weapon.”

I had started to want them when I had seen how Senya-san fought.

I wouldn’t mind a long sword, but they didn’t seem easy to use while I could use knives for other things as well.

“What about the dismantling knife?”

“I will ask Gold-san to make two of them for me.”

It was better to ask Gold-san to make the dismantling knives since he would also be the one maintaining them.

“Okay, then. You’re asking for two knives; is it one for you and one for the missy next to you?”

“No, I will use them both, so one right-handed and one left-handed knife if possible.”

“You will dual wield them, huh.”

“Yep.”

“Well, that’s fine by me. You want two knives, so I will make two knives. Show me your hands.”

I showed him my Bear Hands.

“You... Are you kidding me? I asked you to show me your hands because I need to know their size, so I can make knives that fit them.”

“I will hold the knives with my gloves on, though...”

I made the Bear Hand’s mouth open and close.

“Just remove these strange gloves and show me your hands for now!”

Since he persisted, I removed my gloves and showed him my hands.

“Such tiny hands.”

Gazar-san touched the palm of my hands, which made me a bit ticklish.

“They are really soft too. You really fight with these hands?”

“I mostly use magic, but yeah.”

“It’s okay then, but you will have to train, or you will get blisters on your hands. Well, I got your hand sizes now, so put your gloves back on now.”

I put my gloves back on, and Gazar-san held my hands again.

“Nice fabric you’re using, huh.”

“You can tell just from touching it?”

“Pretty much, yeah. Okay, I have a feel of what your hands are like, now. Do you need the knives made quickly?”

“Not really, you can take your time. How long does it normally take?”

“It takes time to process mithril, so about 10 days.”

“Okay, fine by me.”

“So, which mithril type do you want? From what you told me, the magic one would be the best for you, but...”

“Mithril type?”

I tilted my head, hearing those words for the first time.

“You’re asking for a mithril weapon without even knowing about its types?”

I couldn’t help not knowing about it. After all, mithril weapons had no types in the game.

Gazar-san proceeded to explain.

“If I just rely on the pure mithril ore, I can draw out its sharpness. Such weapons are generally used by those who can’t use magic. If I add a magic potion to the mithril ore,

I can make a magic type mithril weapon. Wielders can then use magic to reinforce the mithril. Its sharpness is lower without magic, but with it, it can be stronger than a regular mithril weapon.”

“Doesn’t everyone possess a certain amount of magic power?”

Anyone was able to light a light magic stone and make water from a water magic stone.

“If a person doesn’t have the magic power of a mage, they aren’t strong enough to reinforce mithril with magic power.”

So, people without enough magic power couldn’t use them, huh.

“I somewhat get it, but which one is better in the end?”

“That depends on the user. Pure mithril weapons are generally stronger than magic ones, but with enough magic, magic mithril weapons triumph over the pure mithril weapons.”

“Can you make it a bit easier for me to understand, please?”

“Magic users use magic type. Others use pure type.”

He said as if giving up on me.

Well, he did make it easy to understand, so I didn’t mind.

“Please make the magic type mithril knives, then.”

Gazar-san let out a sigh as if the explanation had left him tired.

“I will take enough mithril to make two knives, then.”

Gazar-san took a part of the Mithril Golem. It should have been heavy, but he lifted it easily.

As expected from a dwarf, huh?

“If I will have some leftover, I will give it back to you when you come to get the knives. Is that okay?”

“Yes, fine by me. So, how much do I have to pay?”

“Hmm. You brought the mithril, so this much should be fine.”

I didn't know the market prices, but Gazar-san didn't seem like a person who would trick people, so I accepted his offer.

“You can pay when I give you the knives.”

“Oh right, this isn't meant to act as my payment, but do you want this?”

I put the rest of the Mithril Golem back inside the Bear Box then brought out an Iron Golem.

I brought it out still standing up, the way I had defeated it.

“What is this!?”

Gazar-san yelled out in surprise.

Well, it made sense for him to be surprised when seeing a standing, undamaged Iron Golem.

“It's an Iron Golem. I thought it might look good inside your shop. Maybe you could even put it in front of your door?”

“The clients would stop coming if I did that!”

“I thought it would be a great idea, though... It could be a great advertisement if you gave it a sword and a shield and put it at the front...”

“Is it supposed to be a gatekeeper!?”

Gazar-san shouted.

I still believed that an Iron Golem would go well with a smithy, though...

“I can’t accept something this big for free anyway.”

“I don’t really need payment. I have a lot of them, after all.”

The Iron Golems were not of much use to me anyway, so I had no problem with giving one or two away.

“A lot of them... You... Who are you, really? In his letter, Gold wrote that even with your appearance, you’re an excellent adventurer, and that he wanted me to help you, but...”

“I’m technically a rank C adventurer.”

“Rank C... I guess it makes sense if that’s the case?”

Gazar-san looked at my Bear Suit with a complicated expression.

“It doesn’t really matter. I will take this Iron Golem as a payment for the mithril knives. I will add one maintenance free of charge, too.”

“I will pay for it properly.”

“You don’t need to. If this Iron Golem becomes a hindrance, I will just have to dispose of it.”

“Do with it as you please. I will leave it in the corner, okay?”

I dragged the Iron Golem to a corner of the shop using my Bear Hand.

“It won’t be a hindrance here, right?”

I turned around and was met by Fina and Gazar-san looking at me with their eyes wide open.

“What’s wrong?”

“Big Sis Yuna...”

“You... You really are strong even with those soft hands of yours.”

Ah, they were shocked because I moved the Iron Golem, huh.

A frail maiden normally wouldn’t be able to move Iron Golems around, right?

“Oh right, Gazar-san, I wanted you to take a look at something. Would you mind?”

I changed the subject to dodge the issue.

“What is it?”

I took the Bearmonite out of the Bear Box and handed it to Gazar-san.

“Do you know what this ore is?”

Gazar-san started to examine it closely.

I made sure to hide its name, in case he didn’t recognize it and I also didn’t want people to think I was the one that gave it this name.

After examining the ore from every angle, Gazar-san tilted his head.

“I have never seen this one. Where did you find it?”

For a dwarf like Gazar-san to not know of it, what was this Bearmonite, really?

“It was where the Mithril Golem stood guard.”

“I know that it’s not a normal ore, but no more. My master might know it, though...”

“Gazar-san’s master?”

“Yes. He is in the dwarf country at the moment, so I can’t show it to him, though.”

“The dwarf country!? There was something like that!?”

“Why are you asking me something so obvious? Well, it’s a small country, smaller than the capital.”

“Where is it?”

Wow, a dwarf country... Which fantasy story was it from!?

Anyway, if there really was one, I wanted to visit it either way.

“Inside a mountain.”

“Is its location a secret?”

“Not really, anyone can enter it, but it is a bit far away from here.”

“Could you tell me where it is?”

“You want to go there?”

“Someday, yeah.”

I could visit the dwarf country. If I asked Senya-san, would she tell me where the elf country was?

This wasn’t a game, but a real world, which made me want to see them even more.

“If you really want to go, I can write you an introduction letter for my master.”

“Really!? That would be great!”

“I will give it to you when the knives are ready, then.”

“Thank you.”

Information on the dwarf country... Obtained!

CHAPTER 150

BEAR-SAN IS LECTURED BY FINA

After leaving Gazar-san's place, Fina and I used the Bear Transfer Gate to transfer to Crimonia's Bear House.

"We're finally back."

I was finally back at my home, the Bear House.

It should have been a one-day trip; I really didn't think that it would end up taking several days.

This made me recall game events, though it was a bit different in that case, since the trip ended up being a pain.

Well, I was able to obtain mithril, so I was happy with the outcome.

I had troubled Fina, though.

"Big Sis Yuna, what should I do today?"

Hmm, we had already bought some food at some stalls in the capital on the way to my Bear House, and it was only early afternoon.

"Fina, you're tired, right? You should go home and take it easy today."

A ten-year-old girl should be tired after being away from home for several days, and I also wanted a break.

"Come tomorrow morning, and bring Shuri."

"Bring Shuri?"

Fina tilted her head.

Had I said something strange?

“You don’t have to force her to come if Terumi-san doesn’t allow it, okay?”

“Okay, see you tomorrow morning then. I will make sure that Shuri comes too.”

“Please say hello to Terumi-san for me as well.”

Fina nodded.

“Also, Big Sis Yuna, thank you for taking me to the capital even though a lot of terrible things happened this time.”

“You had fun, right?”

Fina showed a complicated expression.

“It was fun, but getting to see the King was a real surprise.”

I knew it. She wasn’t able to enjoy it because of the King...

“I will make sure that we will be able to sightsee the castle without meeting the King next time, okay?”

“Okay. I want to see the garden one more time.”

“It’s beautiful, isn’t it?”

“I want to show it to Shuri.”

“We will all go together someday then.”

“Great. Big Sis Yuna, thank you for taking care of me.”

“Thank you for putting up with me. See you tomorrow.”

After saying goodbye, Fina left the Bear House.

Since I was now left alone, I decided to just stay in today and went to my room to rest in comfort with my Bears.

The next morning, Fina and Shuri arrived at the Bear House.

They were good children and arrived on time.

“Big Sis Yuna, good morning.”

“Good morning, Sis Yuna.”

The two sisters greeted me.

“Good morning, you two. Shall we go then?”

I greeted them back and left the Bear House with them.

“Terumi-san didn’t mind?”

“Yes, she was fine with it. She wasn’t worried since we would be with you, Big Sis Yuna.”

I didn’t know if I should be happy for being trusted this much or if I should get angry at her being so irresponsible as a parent. I was kind of troubled by this.

“Sis Yuna, where are we going?”

Shuri asked with Fina in one hand and me in the other.

“We are going to commission knives at Gold-san’s place.”

“Commission knives?”

She said while tilting her head.

Oh, I had never mentioned it to her.

“Fina and I got an ore named mithril the other day, so we are going to ask Gold-san to make knives from it.”

I tried to explain in a way Shuri would understand.

“Why am I going too, though?”

“That’s because we will ask for a small dismantling knife that will fit your hands.”

I gripped Shuri’s little hand. Gosh, it was really small.

“But you already got me one last time, Sis Yuna.”

Recently, Shuri had been interested in a lot of things.

Anytime Fina came to the Bear House to dismantle monsters or animals for me, she also came along to look at the process or even help.

When we visited my shop, she grew interested in the bread and other meals that Morin-san and Anzu made, so she now sometimes visited the kitchen by herself.

On top of that, she was also making sure to study, help Terumi-san, and even help take care of the birds at the orphanage.

She was at an age where many different things started to interest her.

So, since she was interested in dismantling, I had asked Gold-san to make my dismantling knife (which I had never used before), fit Shuri’s little hand.

I thought that making a seven-year-old girl do dismantling work was strange, but she wasn’t against it, and Terumi-san and Gantz-san didn’t say a thing either. If we had been in Japan, I would have been scolded for giving a knife to a child, but this world

was okay with children handling knives when needed.

By the way, I didn't just let her walk around with the knife. It was stored safely in the Bear Warehouse. She only used it while helping Fina.

I had no idea what Shuri would do in the future. She might follow her father's footsteps to become an employee of the Adventurer's Guild and dismantle monsters there. Having a mithril knife wouldn't be a bad idea in that case.

"This knife will be a bit different."

"Different?"

Shuri tilted her head again.

Hmm, even if I explained the difference to her, I doubt she would understand.

"This knife will cut better than the one you have right now."

While I did my best to explain it to Shuri, Fina suddenly entered the conversation.

"Big Sis Yuna, are you planning on having a mithril knife made for Shuri too!?"

"That's right."

Even if I got a mithril dismantling knife for myself, I wouldn't use it, so it was better to get one for Shuri, who would at least sometimes use it.

Fina, though, gave me an angry glare.

"Big Sis Yuna, that's ridiculous! Did you hit your head or something?!"

"Why did you get so angry all of the sudden?"

It was really rare for Fina to get this loud, and even rarer for her to get angry.

“Do you even know how much a mithril knife costs!? Even I feel anxious about getting one, so it is just ridiculous for you to consider having one made for Shuri too!”

Fina scolded me.

I noticed even Shuri got flustered seeing how Fina got angry so suddenly.

“Ehm, Fina-san? Why are you so angry?”

I didn't really know why, but seeing Fina like this, I couldn't help but to add [-san] to her name.

“How many of my mother's monthly salaries do you think just a single mithril knife costs?!”

Fina kept scolding me.

I didn't really know how much the knives cost.

Gazar-san only charged the price of labor, so I didn't have any idea how much they cost together with materials.

How much did Terumi-san earn anyway?

When we had been deciding it, I had just arrived at this world and had no idea how high normal wages were, so I had to ask Mylene-san for help.

It was me, who was living a super-irresponsible life while not caring about money, we were talking about here.

Also, I didn't even know that mithril existed until not so long ago.

I only knew that it had a high value.

I wasn't from this world, so it was hard for me to answer your question, you know.

Still, I couldn't just say that, so I threw a guess at her.

“Hmm, about three months worth?”

Even though this could hardly be relatable, I remembered hearing that an engagement ring in Japan cost three monthly salaries.

“Wrong, that’s way too low!”

She raised her voice again.

Having a ten-year-old get angry at me at a public street was...

“You have no sense for money, Big Sis Yuna! I kind of knew that since the day I met you.”

“I’m sorry.”

We were getting slightly off-point here.

Not that I could point that out with the way Fina was right now.

She also made a point, so I couldn’t really oppose her.

All I could do was keep listening to her lecture.

Honestly, I was surprised that even several Terumi-san’s monthly salaries couldn’t buy a single mithril knife.

That meant her salary was low, right? I had to give her a raise.

Now was not the time to think about this, though.

“Big Sis Yuna, you should think more before doing things!”

“Sorry.”

She would just keep scolding me if I tried to refute her, so I obediently apologized.

As I did so, I felt a tug on my arm. I looked to check, and saw Shuri looking up at me.

“Sis Yuna, I don’t need a knife, you know.”

Being startled by her big sister’s sudden outburst, Shuri tried to avoid getting the knife as well.

“You’re right. If I simply give it to you, your Big Sis will get angry, so I will only lend it to you.”

I petted Shuri’s head.

“Big Sis Yuna!”

“It should be okay if I’m only lending it to her, right? We just need to store it at my warehouse. She can use it when she needs it, and when she doesn’t, it will stay at my warehouse.”

“But...”

Fina still didn’t seem to agree with my reasoning.

“Also, she will only be allowed to use it when you’re present, Fina.”

That was already the case anyway, but it seemed that I finally started to sway Fina.

“Fina, you should also consider this; do you think that even if I made a mithril knife for myself, would I be able to use it?”

I said while thrusting my chest out. (Not like the action could be seen though my suit, though.)

I had tried dismantling once, but I hadn’t been able to do it.

I was able to cut the wolves bellies and such; I had already experienced doing that in battles.

There was no way I could put my hands into those cuts, however.

That was simply too much for a girl born in a Japanese city.

I also hadn't experienced it in the game since items had been automatically sent to my item box after I had defeated the monsters.

"Big Sis Yuna, you're an adventurer, aren't you?"

Yes, I was an adventurer.

Fina looked at me exasperatedly.

I couldn't do what I couldn't do, okay?

Giving me a mithril dismantling knife would be like giving pearls to a kuma (buta).

It would be great if my Bear Cheat had given me dismantling skills...

Well, no use in asking for the impossible.

I showed a depressed expression, and Fina started to laugh.

(TL note: Kuma is japanese for bear, and buta for pig.... Yeah, she made a bad pun here...)

"Fufu, it was a joke, Big Sis Yuna. Please don't get depressed."

"Fina?"

"I already resigned myself to be your dismantler. I would be troubled if you could suddenly do it yourself, since dismantling is the only thing I can help you with. So, it's okay if you can't dismantle, Big Sis Yuna. If you had known how to dismantle, we might not have been as close as we are."

Fina showed a sad expression for only a second.

"I will dismantle in your stead, Big Sis Yuna."

"Fina..."

"I will help too."

Shuri declared while still holding our hands.

“Well then, next time I will defeat a dragon and will be counting on you two then, okay?”

“Yes, I will do my best to dismantle it.”

“I will do my best!”

I petted Fina’s and Shuri’s heads.

They were a really cute pair of sisters.

“You still have to fix your sense of money, okay?”

“I will do my best.”

We all smiled.

Fina finally let me off the hook, so the three of us continued on our way to Gold-san’s smithy.

CHAPTER 151

BEAR-SAN COMMISSIONS

TWO DISMANTLING KNIVES

Still hand in hand, Fina, Shuri, and I arrived at Gold-san's smithy.

"Excuse me..."

I called out and entered the shop without waiting for a response.

I thought that Nelt-san would be the one inside the shop like usual, but I was wrong.

With a curt expression on his face, Gold-san was polishing the wares behind the counter.

"Gold-san?"

"Oh, Fina and Shuri. And Bear Missy as well, huh?"

"It's rare to see you inside the store..."

Rather than rare, it might have been the first time.

"Nelt would literally kick me if all I did was sleep for having nothing to do, so... that's why I'm now reluctantly polishing the wares."

"And Nelt-san is?"

"She is out with one of our neighbours. So, what are you doing here? Didn't you go to the capital?"

"I went there and met Gazar-san. Your letter helped a lot, thank you very much."

I had already thanked Nelt-san but hadn't yet gotten the chance to thank Gold-san, who had written the letter.

“How did you come back so fast? Ah, right, you can summon those bears, can’t you?”

He both asked the question and found the answer on his own, so I just ignored him.

“Is Gazar doing well?”

“He is.”

“Good. It’s been a while since we last saw each other, after all. Well, I have nothing to do right now, so I might pay him a visit.”

He said, looking into the distance and stroking his long beard as if recalling some time long past.

“So, did you manage to get a mithril knife?”

“There was a mithril shortage at the capital as well, so I couldn’t obtain it, but I did manage to get my hands on some mithril in the end.”

“So, did you ask Gazar to make it for you?”

“I asked him for two fighting knives. I want you to make two dismantling knives, one for each of these two girls.”

I said while putting my hands on Fina and Shuri’s heads.

“For Fina and Shuri?”

“Yep.”

“Bear Missy... Do you know how valuable mithril is?”

“I do.”

Fina had explained it to me on our way here.

“Okay, it’s fine as long as you do. So, I just have to make two knives, right?”

“Yes, please.”

“Still, is it okay not to get one for yourself?”

“I wouldn’t use it even if I had one.”

“Aren’t you an adventurer, missy?”

Everyone was thinking the same thing, huh?

Did every adventurer really need to know how to dismantle?

I didn’t plan on ever doing it, though.

“Oh right, I already showed it to Gazar-san, but I think you will also like to see this.”

I took out the Fake Mithril Golem.

“It’s technically a Mithril Golem, but...”

“Did you just say Mithril Golem!?”

Gold-san didn’t wait for me to finish and rushed towards the Mithril Golem.

“What the hell is with this fake!?”

He yelled out after inspecting it for a while.

He reacted the same way as Gazar-san had, huh.

So, it really was a fake; he answered my question before I even asked it.

“Mithril exterior and steel interior, huh? This is my first time seeing a Mithril Golem. It’s also the first time I have heard of a two-layered golem.”

Gold-san hadn't heard of such golems either, huh.

"There is more than enough mithril, though. I'm guessing Gazar took the missing part?"

He was right; Gazar-san had taken some of it so he could make my knives.

"Well then, I will also take my share to make the knives for you."

Gold-san said while taking his share.

Dwarves were really strong, huh.

"When will you need them?"

"I'm not in any real hurry. I would prefer to have Fina's made first, though."

"Okay. I will get that one made in three, no, four days time."

"Thank you. How much will you charge me?"

The price should be different compared to the fighting knives I had commissioned at Gazar-san's smithy, right?

He answered differently than I had expected, though.

"No idea. I leave those things to Nelt."

This dwarf was no good... Gazar-san was a craftsman, but he made sure to know his cut. On the contrary, Gold-san seemed to be a craftsman who only cared about his craft and nothing else.

"Hmm, what should I do, then?"

"Ask Nelt!"

How could he run a store like this?

Well, I just had to come back another day and ask Nelt-san.

She wouldn't try to overcharge us, either.

I probably shouldn't give the Iron Golem to Gold-san right now as it might get melted down into weapons and ironware by the time I returned.

I hoped it to be a shop decoration, so I would only give it to them when Nelt-san was present.

Gold-san proceeded to measure Fina and Shuri's hands and asked me what I wanted the grip to be made of.

I had no knowledge of grips, of course, and neither did Shuri, so we left it to Fina and made a round of the shop.

"Well then, we leave it to you."

Fina said and bowed.

"You done?"

"Yes. I think he will make great knives."

Fina said, looking happy.

"I see. That's good to hear."

It was a bit disturbing seeing a 10-year-old girl be happy after discussing knives.

It wasn't my fault, though; she had already been using knives when I had met her. Gantz-san was the one who had taught her how to use it, and Gold-san was the person who had provided her the knife. It was all their fault.

Anyway, seeing Fina happy made me happy, no matter what the reason was.

Since the knives had now been commissioned, we left Gold-san's smithy.

I had nothing in particular to do, so I just accompanied Fina and Shuri home.

Even though I had Terumi-san's permission, I wanted to apologize for making Fina spend several days away from home.

"It's okay, Yuna-chan. It's you, after all. You can take her anytime you want."

She said after I apologized to her.

I should have told her that treating her daughter like that wasn't good, but I already knew that just accepting it was simpler.

"Thank you. I will borrow her when I need her, then."

Fina and Shuri laughed at my response.

"Oh right, I have a message from Anzu."

"From Anzu?"

I wondered what it was. Had something happened?

"One of your acquaintances came to the restaurant and asked for you, it seems."

"...Who?"

"She didn't say."

Who could it be?

The old man who sold me cheese? No, he would have come with the potato man, and they would have gone to Morin-san's shop. Also, Terumi-san would have known about it.

No one came to my mind.

Well, just standing here couldn't help me, so I decided to go to Anzu's restaurant.

"I will go to Anzu's restaurant, then."

I said goodbye and headed for Anzu's restaurant.

The restaurant was doing well, its regulars increasing in number day by day.

I was happy to see that rice was becoming popular.

I could already see the Bear Statue at the entrance. It really stood out, luring in those who didn't know of the restaurant.

Well, it didn't really have much to do with the restaurant, though.

Terumi-san had made me stay at her place for a while before letting me leave, so it was already well past noon. There shouldn't be a lot of customers at this time, so I wouldn't bother Anzu, right?

I entered the restaurant, and it was more or less empty since lunch time was already over.

"Yuna-chan?"

Enata-san, who was wearing a Bear embroidered apron, was the first to notice me.

"Is Anzu here?"

I was sure she was, but still wanted to check just in case.

"She is. Anzu-chan! Yuna-chan is here!"

She shouted towards the kitchen, and soon, Anzu came out.

"Yuna-san, where have you been!?"

“I had something to do quite far away. Terumi-san told me that someone came here looking for me?”

“Yes, Blitz-san came here the other day.”

“Blitz, huh.”

Ah, I completely forgot about him. Yeah, I remembered now. He had told me that he would come here once things calmed down at Mireera.

“He asked about your whereabouts, so I went to ask Terumi-san, who told me that you went off somewhere with her daughter and said she would let you know when you return.”

“Did he say where he would be? Like the inn he would be staying at?”

“I’m sorry, he didn’t say, but he did tell me that he would be working here for a while, so he might be at the Adventurer’s Guild. I will make sure to ask him the next time he comes here.”

“Okay, I will go to the Adventurer’s Guild for now. I might not find him there, so please ask him if he comes.”

I left the restaurant and headed for the Adventurer’s Guild.

He might have already accepted a request and was out, but I could at least ask Helen-san about him and when he would be back. If his request would be finished today, I could wait; I had all the time in the world and nothing in particular to do.

The Adventurer’s Guild was quiet when I entered it. It was the time of day when not many people were here, and those who were didn’t look at me unpleasantly but rather just looked away, probably thinking [The bear, huh?].

I looked around the room and didn’t see Blitz and his party.

Were they not here since they had taken a request as I had expected?

“Yuna-san, what are you doing here at this hour?”

Helen-san, who was at the reception desk, called out to me. She must have thought it made no sense for me to be here since it was late in the day already and too late to look for a request.

“I had something I wanted to ask you, Helen-san.”

“Wanted to ask me?”

“Recently, an adventurer named Blitz should have come here. Do you know where he is now?”

“Blitz-san, you said?”

“Just because he is somewhat good looking, he has three women with him. One of the girls is beautiful, one is cute, and the last one is strong and dependable. He is a male adventurer who might be considered enemy of all men since he made something they all dream of come true.”

“Hmm, I think the person you are describing is standing right behind you.”

I turned around, and Blitz was there, looking at me angrily.

“It’s been a while.”

I raised my Bear Hand and greeted him.

“I know it’s been a while, but what was with that description of me!?”

“I just wanted to give her an easy to understand explanation...”

“How could that be easy to understand?”

I looked at the three girls behind Blitz.

“But, I’m not wrong, right?”

They all showed ambiguous smiles.

“Yuna-chan, it’s been a while.”

“Yeah, it’s been a while, Tomea-san. You seem to be doing well.”

“But of course.”

“I’m happy to see that you are well too, Yuna.”

Ran and Grimos both seemed well too.

“You finished with your request?”

“We didn’t take one today.”

Blitz-san answered bluntly.

“We were sightseeing the town until now.”

“This town is big!”

Tomea-san and Ran responded since Blitz was so blunt.

“Why are you at the Adventurer’s Guild then?”

“We plan on accepting a request tomorrow and wanted to see what sorts of requests there are first.”

“And then, a bear came out of nowhere and started bad-mouthing me.”

“You must have a persecution complex. I didn’t badmouth you, Blitz.”

“Where did you hear of such a complex? You telling her I’m somewhat good looking...”

He had been there from the beginning, huh...

“It’s a compliment, isn’t it?”

“And I have three women with me?”

“Is it a lie?”

“What about the enemy of all men thing then...”

“That’s also true, is it not? What would you think if someone else was here with three women following him?”

“Th-that’s... This and that are...”

“The same thing.”

I looked at the other adventurers in the room, and when Blitz followed my gaze, the male adventurers all nodded, making Blitz fall silent.

I decided to ignore him and continued my conversation with Tomea-san.

“So, Yuna-chan, you came here because you spoke with Anzu-chan, right?”

“Yeah, I just spoke with her today. I was away from Crimonia for a job until yesterday.”

“We talked with many different people about you, Yuna-chan, and there was no one who didn’t know you.”

“Taking on a Black Viper and a Goblin King on your own... It’s just unbelievable.”

Tomea-san and Ran talked about their impressions on what they heard about me.

“Also, we heard you own another shop, not just Anzu-chan’s restaurant, Yuna-chan.”

“And the food in both places... is so delicious.”

“Yeah, the bread we had for lunch today was so good...”

Gumoris, who normally didn’t show much expressions, said with a smile.

“You already ate it? I was planning on treating you to it, though...”

“We have no problem with eating more of it, so you can still treat us.”

Tomea-san said with a smile. C rank adventurers should have plenty of money, right?

Well, I had offered it, so...

“I will treat you to dinner, then. Which place would you prefer?”

“Anzu-chan’s meals are delicious, but all those breads are also delicious, right?”

“I can’t choose...”

Tomea-san and Ran were both seriously troubled by this choice.

“I was in your care for a while, so I will treat you to both. You won’t be leaving by tomorrow, right?”

“Yes, we plan on staying here for a while and enjoy the town while also taking on some requests.”

“Well then, Anzu’s restaurant tonight? You just ate bread for lunch, after all.”

They agreed, and even though it was a little early, we decided to go now.

Author’s note:

With this, the mine arc is now finished.

It will be a bit of a relaxing story from here on out. Or, that is what I plan at least.



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