

The Beauty's Secret - WN Chapter 01-03

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01. Beautiful Crossdresser

T/N: I'm back! Please visit the [announcement page](#) and [The Beauty's Secret](#) main page for more details.

01. Beautiful Crossdresser ¹

The impression of what others think of a person and what a person thinks of oneself may not necessarily conform with each other.

No, in fact, it should be said that it's natural to have some degree of difference between the two impressions.

If the difference between those impressions is infinitesimal, mutual understanding should be relatively easy to accomplish.

But conversely, if there is a big discrepancy between those impressions, understanding each other will be impossible even if a hundred statements were exchanged.

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“Look, it's Julius-*sama*!”

“Julius-*sama*!? Where, where is he!?”

“Right there standing by the wall!”

“Ahh, that appearance is as lovely as ever!”

Girls of marriageable age, clad in vivid-colored dresses, made a commotion after catching sight of the [young man] standing against the wall in a corner of the banquet hall, which is now holding a dance party.

The high-pitched shouts of joy they raised seemed to reach the ears of the person in question. The [young man] put his hand against his forehead and sighed.

“Oh, he placed his hand against his forehead and sighed!”

“That expression of hiding his sorrow is also beautiful!”

“How dreamy...”

“I wonder what's troubling him? If he discussed it with me, I'll assist as much as I

can!”

The [young man] who attracted the ladies’ attention and caused girls of marriageable age to raise a fuss, had extremely beautiful features. Instead of being filled of manly appeal, it’s more adequate to call that appearance as delicate androgynous beauty, his facial features were really well-proportioned.

They were currently narrowed in an expression of distress, but those blue eyes emitted brilliance just like sapphires.

Long blond hair spilled in a gentle wave, and coupled with those looks brought about an air of refinement.

His height was just somewhat above average but he looked taller than his actual height probably because of his slender build.

That physique may appear frail at a glance, but when observed by assessing eyes, they will notice the hidden flexible muscles which were trained thoroughly.

From what can be perceived from his outward appearance, he was probably around 20 years old.

“His” name is Julius Rosenberg.

From the noble lineage of the Olren Kingdom, he is the eldest son of Earl Rosenberg.

However, the people who recognize “him” as a man in this country is practically none.

『The Earl Rosenberg who didn’t have an heir, raised his newborn daughter as a man in order for a direct descendant to succeed the House. 』

It was the open secret that everybody knew.

Some time after “his” birth into the Rosenberg Earldom passed, this unfounded rumor spread among the noble society out of nowhere.

At that time, it was only to the extent of being a popular conversation topic as a mere gossip, and the rumor also vanished naturally before long.

Nevertheless, the rumor revived and rapidly wore on reality as soon as the person in question showed up in high society.

The [boy] who appeared was so dashing and beautiful that he hardly seemed like a man.

[Beautiful Crossdresser]—among the people who know “him”, everyone would agree that there is nothing more suitable than these words.

Having the body of a woman, her abundant chest was bound tightly by a cloth and she wore shirts and slacks instead of dresses. A person who dressed as if she were a man, that is the Beautiful Crossdresser.

And yet, even if she wore clothes for men, the mannerisms and the coquettish nature peculiar to women showed from her behavior.

That will occasionally result in a dubious androgynous charm, fascinating men and women of all ages without regard.

In fact, there are a lot of people who have feelings of yearning for Julius. Julius’ popularity among younger girls in particular was tremendous, and an organization called [Protection Squad²] comprised of the people who longed for him was formed secretly.

Of course, since Julius is not a royalty even if he is a noble, it does not adhere with the original meaning of being a protection squad. It is merely an unofficial, informal group of admirers who imitate real bodyguards.

But it’s impossible to treat it as a laughing matter when this group, which should be merely a gathering of fans, amount to almost twice the number of the crown prince’s own guards.

In addition, this [Protection Squad] naturally doesn’t possess anything that can be considered military power, since it is mainly composed of young girls. However, because it is a frightening organization joined by most of Olren Kingdom’s noble young ladies, there is a danger of incurring immediate destruction to oneself if they were thoughtlessly antagonized.

Actually, when the Viscount’s second son behaved rudely to Julius, it led to a protest. He was repulsed by ladies all over the kingdom. On top of having his fiancée annul their engagement, clients stopped dealing business with their House.

In this manner, although Julius Rosenberg’s [real gender] was recognized as an open secret, he still became the object of adoration of his surroundings as the [Beautiful Crossdresser].

Nonetheless, in addition to his open secret, [he] has another secret which is

extremely limited to his relatives.

That is——

——[He is actually a man.]

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“Haaaah.... this again?”

Julius, who was standing at the corner wall of the ballroom currently hosting the dance party, sighed while placing his hand against his head, in reaction to the high-pitched cries of the girls in dresses.

“Your popularity is immense as ever, Julius.”

“Will you give me a break, Maxian?”

Maxian Evriac, Julius’ friend who was standing aside, said a joke mixed with admiration, but only received a tired answer in return.

Maxian Evriac is the second son of a Marquis and Julius’ friend since childhood. He is a young man with short, light brown hair. He also has well-proportioned features but when compared to the androgynous Julius, he still gave off a masculine charm.

He is of the same age but he’s slightly taller than Julius and also has a larger build.

“There’s no need to be embarrassed, right?”

“No, it’s not that I’m embarrassed...”

Julius, as a man, also thought that it’s a good thing being seen favorably by beautiful girls.

...However, it’s another story when those gazes are not caused by [Julius as a man].

The ladies’ admiration towards him right now is for the [Beautiful Crossdresser Julius] and is somewhat different from the real him. In a manner of speaking, it is for a fictional character who doesn’t exist.

Therefore, no matter how much favorable glances he received, Julius is in a complex state of mind and can’t honestly be happy.

“Haaaah....”

“?”

Moreover, this isn't a story that started just recently. Shortly after he became old enough to understand what's happening around him, Julius realized that those around him thought he was a woman. No, it's more accurate to say they misunderstood that he is [a woman acting like a man]. Of course he himself knows that he is no doubt a male and flatly denied such misunderstanding. He denied it but———

“You guys. It seems like you misunderstood somehow, but I'm a man, you know?”

“Aah, poor you, Julius-sama. Because you became a sacrifice for the sake of your House, you're saying such things.”

“Y-yeah? Do you really get it? I'm saying that I'm a man...”

“Yes, of course I understand. I will see to it that it will reach other people so please be relieved.”

“...You don't really get it, hey.”

“? Is there something you want done? You look like you do. If there is something you need me to do, please say it without holding back.”

“...No, I give up.”

No matter how many times Julius personally declared he's a man, it was interpreted as [a brave woman who acts as a man and killed her true self in order to succeed their House] and he was not taken seriously. On the contrary, it resulted to sympathy.

Once a person established an assumption, it's difficult to overturn it. Julius always feels that strongly.

Because his body is no doubt male, it will surely clear up people's misunderstanding if he took off his clothes and get naked.

But undressing in the presence of others and showing his body to random people is impossible for Julius who was strictly disciplined to constantly behave gracefully since childhood.

For similar reasons, it's out of question to make someone touch his body to make them understand. In the first place, it's impossible to solve the

misunderstanding about his gender if he won't let them touch fairly private parts.

Such being the case, the misunderstanding can't be cleared up. In the end, only a small fraction of his relatives knew that Julius is a man, and a great majority of the people see him as a beautiful woman in male clothes.

“...Goodness.”

Today, while also being showered with high-pitched happy voices, the [Beautiful Crossdresser] Julius breathed a sigh.

1. 男装の麗人 literally “beautiful woman in male clothes”
2. 親衛隊 protection squad/elite guards/secret service; can also mean “ardent fans/groupies”

02. Hidden Story of Birth

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[Young Noble of Crimson Rose]

That is the title of the book that explosively became popular in the Olren Kingdom long ago.

A novel where the protagonist is the Viscount's daughter who was brought up as a man from childhood to inherit their House, and depicts a person earnestly living despite suffering because of her gender. The protagonist's real name is Alice but since she was raised as a man, it was narrated using the name Arius. Without revealing information about the author, it's a work that gave birth to various speculations.

The literary work, which stepped into the standards of gender differences that the works so far never touched as it was a taboo, was very sensational.

It was particularly liked among noble women and their daughters and gained several wildly enthusiastic fans.

These wildly enthusiastic fans called the protagonist [*Arius-sama*] and talked zealously with other fans about [him]. Of course, it goes without saying that one will suffer a terrifying experience if they neglect adding *-sama* in front of these fans.

Elizabeth Rosenberg was one of these crazy enthusiastic fans of [Young Noble of Crimson Rose].

An attractive girl born as the second daughter of a Marquis House, distinctly known for her blond wavy hair, calm disposition and gentle smile.

Coupled with her small stature, she looked relatively younger than her age... or rather, she is often seen as a child. She is already the mother of one child, but there are still people who will be doubtful even when they're told that she's already in her teens.

She read the book for the first time in her teens, around the time she married into the Rosenberg Earldom and completely became engrossed. She was so impassioned that she brought the book wherever she went.

When that type of woman gave birth to a boy from her husband Ernest Rosenberg, she thought— —

— — “Eh, doesn’t this child resemble Arius-*sama*?”

Of course, that was a hallucination. Otherwise, a delusion.

Though the child’s looks that will blossom in the future and his atmosphere resemble Elizabeth overall, saying something like that to a newborn baby is absurd.

In the first place, the book [Young Noble of Crimson Rose] is a novel and not a picture book, so there was no illustration of the protagonist Arius’ appearance. Elizabeth’s thought that he resemble Arius is the product of her delusion based on the novel’s description.

However, Elizabeth pushed on believing that hallucination and delusion. Her unbending personality took a bad turn at a critical moment.

Right, she made up her mind to raise the newborn child, Julius, as a man.

If at this time someone took a peep inside her head, they would have retorted — — “That child is a boy from the start.”

Naturally, no one can peek inside a person’s head so there was no one who could retort to this disappointing woman. As for the person who can stop her...

The fine play of Earl Rosenberg who narrowly prevented Elizabeth’s scheme to name the baby [Arius] should be given due praise.

Elizabeth tried to raise Julius, who was already a male, as a man.

If she tried to raise a girl as a man or a boy as a woman, she should have been opposed.

As expected, Earl Rosenberg would have stopped her if she really did this.

It’s natural since even putting aside ethical aspects, there’s no merit in lying about the gender either.

It’s true that this country requires a male heir except for some exceptions, but even if there’s only a daughter, adopting a son-in-law will allow the family line to continue.¹

Additionally, Julius is a man to begin with so his father can just declare him a successor. There was no need to do anything at all.

Even if it’s the Earl or other people, they will not approve of Elizabeth raising a child while falsifying his gender.

However in this case, she plans to raise a boy as a man, there doesn't seem to be a problem with that. It's actually reasonable.

So how the hell did it lead to such result?

Even when the relatives who knew the truth looked back later, they couldn't help but be puzzled, not seeing the connection between the cause and result.

It is indeed terrifying, the tenacity of an enthusiastic fan sublimating into the level of being a religious fanatic.

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The education that Elizabeth introduced to Julius includes a lot of topics. Swordsmanship, horse-riding, literature, history, arithmetic, art, music, manners and so on.

He was given an extensive, special education both in academic and practical lessons.

Naturally, Elizabeth is not familiar with all those subjects since she is an ordinary noblewoman. She did not teach them by herself to Julius. The respective teachers for each subject took charge of them.

Nevertheless, Elizabeth made sure to always be present in Julius' classes. This is an unusual behavior from an ordinary noblewoman. She meddled with educational plans in order to control it towards the direction she wants.

The subjects Julius studied were intended to acquire the appropriate education for a noble son. It wasn't anything special. Even if there are some differences since he was a boy born into a noble's house, everyone learns the same thing. However, Elizabeth got involved, and the lessons advanced towards a slightly diagonal direction.

For example, in swordsmanship...

"As a noble, you must keep in mind that each movement should always flow elegantly."

"Yes, Mother."

"It's immodest, so don't open your legs more than necessary."

"Eh? Immodest? Umm, I understand."

"M-madam...?"

Although Julius and the instructor were puzzled with the instructions mixed in,

as a noble, it's not wrong to demand elegant bearing for basic stances. Therefore, they could not argue even if they're both doubtful.

But absurd demands that they still can't understand sometimes come out.

"Keep your sweat to minimum."

"Th-that is quite difficult..."

Julius broke into cold sweat at Elizabeth's demand. The instructor also broke into cold sweat like Julius, letting out a vague smile and not understanding why it should be done.

"Don't get too close to other people. Keep your interactions light. More importantly, be careful not to let others touch near your chest area."

"Why is there so much emphasis with the chest?"

"It's absurd to let men touch them."

"That is, I don't think other men will want to touch..."

Meanwhile in dancing...

"Refined movements are born from flexibility. Draw an arc, not a straight step."

"Yes, Mother."

"Practice the steps for the female side, too. You will be a considerate escort to your partner if you also learn it."

"I understand."

Elizabeth's teaching did not cut corners in neither practical skills nor academics.

"Uhm, Mother? I understand setting questions on a character's emotions, but why do all the questions lean towards women's sentiments until now?"

"If you thoroughly know women's feelings, you can behave like a true gentleman."

"I-I see..."

The result of that much training led to Julius growing up as a young man brimming with androgynous charm, completely according to Elizabeth's plan. When the person in question and the surrounding people noticed that something was strange, it was already too late.

It goes without saying that everyone except Elizabeth were at their wit's end.

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Elizabeth's scheming did not stop at education. She intentionally spread a rumor shortly after Julius was born. However, even though she was bringing up a girl as a man, that doesn't mean she went around announcing it. Immediately after Julius was born, she just boasted about him using expressions usually used on a girl such as "cute" and "pretty" at social functions. Afterwards, when a formal announcement of Rosenberg Earldom's heir was made, the adult ladies and young daughters who previously heard Elizabeth's story already made the preconception that a girl was born. Naturally, the women who heard the announcement asked Elizabeth about the child's gender but she remained silent while looking down sadly. Seeing that appearance made the imaginative noble women labor under various delusions and rumors spread in no time. ...They were also unaware that they were dancing on Elizabeth's palm.

Earl Rosenberg naturally denied it when he learned about the rumors. It was an unfounded rumor from the start so when it settled at that time, he also became negligent.

That the rumor was smoldering secretly, and for it to possibly revive several years later, no one had expected it.

No one except Elizabeth.

1. *Adopt a son-in-law.* This is a case of the guy *marrying into the family* and adopting the girl's family name instead. He inherits the peerage with that, allowing the continuation of the family line.

03. Fiancée

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“Julius-*sama*, it has been a while.”

While Julius was chatting with Maxian, a girl approached and curtsied, lightly pinching the hem of her lovely dress.

Her name is Emilyn Verj. She is the daughter of Viscount Verj and also the fiancée of Julius.

Emilyn is two years younger than Julius and still an innocent girl. She is more suited to be described as pretty rather than beautiful. Her peach-colored hair reached her back and was adorned by a small embroidered red rose.

She is wearing a simple sleeveless violet dress which was really suitable to her slender figure.

The pink diamond necklace matching her hair and adorning her bare neck was a present from Julius in the past.

Julius immediately smiled upon noticing Emilyn’s appearance, smoothing over his expression and bowing elegantly. He then took her hand and gently placed a kiss on it.

At this action, Emilyn cheeks slightly turned red.

“Lady Emilyn, it has been a while indeed. The time I have not seen your beautiful face, I endured the feeling of eternal waiting.”

“I-I’ll be embarrassed if you say such things.”

Unlike his conversation with Maxian sometime ago, Julius completely changed and delivered a theatrical statement. Although he was thoroughly trained by his mother on attitude towards women, it’s actually because this speech and conduct is almost conditioned response. Incidentally, for him, his intention is to show a gentlemanly behavior.

It is also a fact that it started becoming appropriate when Julius says such pompous lines, but it’s just disgusting when other people do. The surrounding ladies who were listening attentively also let out heated sighs.

And Emilyn who received a direct hit somehow answered back even with her ears

dyed red.

However it can be said that Emilyn only reached this level due to her long association as his fiancée. If this was another girl, they would have surely fainted in bliss.

His appearance, atmosphere and voice possessed that much offensive ability.

“It’s a rare dance party. *Ojou-sama*, would you dance with me for a song?”
“Yes, it would be my pleasure.”

Emilyn smiled and nodded at Julius who invited her while presenting his left hand.

With Julius as the escort, the two of them went towards the center and began to dance.

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The Houses of Earl Rosenberg and Viscount Verj have neighboring territories and their deep relations existed since old times.

It became a natural thing to bind marriages between these two families but when the fourteen-year old Emilyn heard the engagement announcement with Julius then, she felt as if she received a blessing from heaven.

This is because she was also an ardent fan of Julius.

Emilyn unhesitatingly nodded and the talk settled smoothly afterwards. She became engaged with Julius.

Before her enthusiasm, the awareness that the other person was a woman did not become a hindrance.

Yes, a woman.

Only Julius’ family and the employees working before he was born knew that Julius is actually a man. Other people believed he was a woman disguising herself as a man.

Emily is obviously not an exception, she’s still convinced that Julius is a woman. Despite that, she accepted the engagement.

The priority of nobles is the continuation of their family line above all. In this case where having a child is impossible between two women, such marriage should not be something expected from a person born into a noble house.

That she dared accepted, it indicates her fervor.

Coincidentally, it wouldn't be strange to arrive at the idea that the Rosenberg Earldom's side wouldn't want such kind of marriage, but Emilyn became obsessed with the notion that this marriage is [a camouflage to hide that Julius is a woman].

It would be difficult to keep falsifying his gender if the marriage happens but it's a different story if the spouse cooperates with the concealment. It is just the right cover.

Julius would lead a married life outwardly and have the child of a distant relative become his successor... Emilyn accepted the engagement with Julius while resolving to live such unfortunate life.

She will be satisfied if she can help Julius whom she admire.

However it's wrong to say that Emilyn is homosexual.

She longs for [Julius] to the very end, it doesn't mean that she likes girls.

“You are skilled at dancing as ever, Lady Emilyn.”

“That is because Julius-*sama* is leading me.”

“It is an honor.”

Julius whispered to Emilyn, who danced while gently placing her right hand on Julius' outstretched left hand.

Emilyn answered with a smile while desperately suppressing the flush in her face caused by the hand in her waist.

Actually, their dance was flawless. The surrounding spectators also stopped dancing before anyone noticed it. They watched with heated eyes while sighing.

“Is this pace alright, Lady Emilyn?”

“Yes, it's alright. I'll follow wherever Julius-*sama* goes.”

It was natural for Julius to be skilled at dancing since he was strictly trained by Elizabeth, but Emilyn is also at an equal level.

That is the proof that Emilyn strenuously exerted great effort to be able to stand next to Julius.

Julius' popularity among the people around him is high. But on the other hand, the number of people intensely paying attention to his fiancée, Emilyn, are in no way small.

There are many young ladies attracted to Julius but their feelings are roughly divided into two categories.

Those who hold serious romantic feelings for Julius and those who admire him as an idol.

As for the ratio, the latter is overwhelmingly numerous than the former.

Realistically, there are various obstacles in pursuing a romantic relationship with Julius. Most people understand that.

The people who admire Julius can be further divided into those who dream to stand beside him and those who appreciate him from a distance.

The young ladies who regard Emilyn with hostility are those who hold serious romantic feelings for Julius and those who want to stand beside him.

It is widely known that Julius deeply cares about Emilyn so it can be said that these girls never harmed Emilyn directly. If they did something like that, they will surely be hated by Julius.

But if Emilyn showed an unsightly appearance, they will take the opportunity to raise a fuss that she isn't suitable as Julius' fiancée.

Because Emilyn also understood that, she endeavored to conduct herself as a perfect lady suitable to stand next to Julius. She eagerly exerted effort in every field, never laying herself open for an attack.

Nevertheless, not all surrounding people are Emilyn's enemy.

Julius' family and their close friends approve Emilyn as Julius' fiancée. There are also a lot of young ladies who warmly watched over their figures standing together.

Above all, Julius himself is actually in love with Emilyn.

"How long can I happily dance like this with you? If my wish can be granted, I want this to last forever."

"Me, too. If it's possible, I want to stay like this through eternity. Even if I cannot be by your side in the future, please let me stay beside you for now."

...For all that, as long as Emilyn thinks Julius is a woman, those feelings will never be transmitted.

No matter how many times Julius conveys his feelings, Emilyn won't take anything seriously since she believed that the engagement is just a camouflage.

"Please don't say something so dreadful. My heart will break if you aren't by

my side.”

“Saying that to me is unnecessary, Julius-*sama*, since it’s not possible.”

“Then we can always be together, right? Since the moment when I won’t need you anymore will never come. ”

“Oh how happy will I be, if those words were true.”

Contrary to their conversation that won’t mesh, their steps are in perfect harmony with each other.

At the center of the spectators who stopped dancing, only the two of them were dancing gracefully. That image make it seem like they were the protagonists of this ball.

It was mortifying, but even the young ladies who can’t stomach Emily can’t help but recognize that.

“Then I will endeavor to make you believe that I am telling the truth.”

“Yes, please make me believe in you.”

While fully receiving looks of praise from their surroundings, the young lovers continued to dance.

Although they were in love with each other, their hearts have yet to truly connect...