

恶之P (mothy)

绿之摇篮曲

恶之娘



The Daughter of Evil

- Volume 2 - Wiegenlied of Green

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[Translated by: Wiegenlied of Green]

– SYNOPSIS –

“I’m sorry for being alive.”

In order to prevent the collapse of the “Yellow Country”, the Kingdom of Lucifenia, the mage Elluka has asked the earth god Held for a favor.

At the same time, Clarith, a racially different girl living through the rampant racism of the “Green Country”, Elphegort, prayed to God about her feelings of loneliness. “Anyone is fine, I just want them to be my friend.” Michaela, a girl with beautiful green hair, appeared in front of Clarith one day, and the two began living together. But life for the two is about to change, as their world collapses by The Daughter of Evil in the neighboring country. Riliane made the Witch Hunting Order to kill the green-haired women and Elphegort is suddenly wrapped up in a war. Michaela wishes to escape with Clarith, and Clarith wishes for Michaela’s safety. Is there a way to save the girl? And now, has Elluka’s behavior attempted to prevent the collapse of the country?

In the Green Country, will the day the Diva’s lullaby, its “wiegenlied”, flows come again?

An illustration of two anime-style characters. On the left, a young man with short, spiky white hair and a blue tunic is looking down at a glowing golden orb he is holding. On the right, a young woman with long, flowing blonde hair and blue eyes is looking towards the viewer. She is wearing a dark purple and gold outfit. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a faint, ethereal figure in the distance. The entire scene is framed by an ornate, golden, Art Nouveau-style border.

凯尔·玛隆

亚连·阿巴多尼亚

A close-up illustration of a young woman with long, flowing blonde hair that has a pink-to-purple gradient at the ends. She has blue eyes and is looking down at a glowing, multi-colored orb she is holding in her hands. She is wearing a dark, sleeveless top. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a faint, ethereal figure in the distance. The entire scene is framed by an ornate, golden, Art Nouveau-style border.

莉莉安娜·路西菲恩·多图里修





「著作権保護コンテンツ」



「著作権保護コンテンツ」







PROLOGUE

*Long long time ago, there was a green country.
There, whether young or old, they have green hair.
However, only one young girl, her hair was white.
The people of the green country who loved to bully her, squeezed her out.*

*The lonely white-haired girl walked into the forest.
“Please give me friends”, she prayed to the tree in the forest.
The Tree God was very sympathetic to the white-haired girl.
A friend is what will be given to her.
The Tree God made a body and gave birth to a girl.
A very beautiful girl with green hair.*

*The two girls became good friends.
The Daughter of the Tree——“Wooden Girl”‘s beauty has been a crowd favorite.
Soon, the king of the other side of the sea asked her to marry him.
The Yellow Queen was not very happy with this.
The Queen sent an army to the Green Country.
The “Wooden Girl” died in their hands.*

*The white-haired girl shed a tear before the corpse of the “Wooden Girl”
When her tears dripped to the “Wooden Girl”‘s body,
The unthinkable happened ——the young girl’s corpse turned into a small sapling.*

*The small sapling gradually grew up.
And would always be there in the forest.*

And they lived happily ever after.

—— From the Freesis Fables 《Wooden Girl》 ——

CHAPTER 1

Section 1

— Dream of a Mage —

The great death of the Queen.
Not only is she my monarch, she's my friend.
She is one of my friends during a few years of boredom.
Today, she was dead.
Yes ah, people dying, this is normal.

It seems that I don't need friends.
If there was only me alone.
Right, if I had only been just one person.
I don't need to weep about that.
I always thought that the tears have already dried up a long time ago.

It's time to leave this country.
This way, I will no longer be sad.
If I was alone, there will be nothing to make me sad.
I have my goal.
I must find these things called:
"Vessels of the Sins" —

Section 1, Scene 1

☉Elluka ~Lucifenian Palace's "Hall of Mirrors"~

The icy air.

Lucifenia has a cool climate all year round. Even though I was born in a country where it hardly ever snows, I think the weather here is a bit hot.

At the Hall of Mirrors in the Lucifenian Palace, I saw the person waiting for me at the back of the door, staring at the painting portrayed on the ceiling.

That was Nikolay Tolle's creation of the "Three Heroes". At the center of the painting, the king holds his sword up high, and the three warriors knelt by his side. Apart from that, the painting also depicts the king wielding a shield with the princess at his side. Anne loved this painting of him.

The person waiting for me didn't seem to be aware of my arrival. She opened the door and got in as fast as the wind, as her transparent silver hair blew over her.

I silently took out a dagger from behind her. She's usually more vigilant than anyone else, but it seems that she wasn't aware of my presence. What happened to her? Has she lost her mind over the painting? Or is she recalling the tragedy that happened in it?

I was almost at her back. I raised the dagger on my right hand, towards her and..... Mariam barbed it down at her back.

"Hey!"

"Ah."

A sharp pain immediately struck my wrist.

The dagger that use to be firmly on my hand, flew to the air. As I heard it falling behind me, Mariam quickly kicked my right hand. Oh, that's remarkable.

"Mariam, that was brilliant, but that kicking habit is really bad."

I told her jokingly; I saw Mariam's sullen stare at me.

"What are you trying to do, Elluka?"

"Nothing~! Since Anne is already dead, it's almost time for me leave Lucifenia! So before that, I need to kill all the people who know me."

"Toy knives can't kill people."

Mariam picked up the wooden dagger that fell on the ground. She gently touched the blade with a finger; a razor-like thing retracted on the handle.

"Sophisticated toys."

"Thanks for the praise. I was supposed to use that on you."

"But I avoided it before you did so, didn't I?"

Mariam smiled and shrugged, like I felt helpless.

"I'm not joking that I want to investigate, I'm accustomed to do so..... But you leaving this country? What do you mean?"

"Can't you see the meaning? Ever since the death of King Alth and Princess Anne a few days ago, according to the contract, I have no reason and obligation to stay on this country."

I got acquainted with this generation's king Alth 20 years ago. As I was still new; Alth, as well as his lover, Anne; concluded a contract(This world praised it as the "Sanosun Bridge Oath", but it's really just an employment relationship) to become one of Alth's subordinates.

From that day, I had been dedicated to expand the territory with a blood-stained blade. As a result, Lucifenia was incomparable to what it was before. But King Alth died because of an incurable disease—— the Gula disease. In this way, the monarch became Queen Anne. The Queen didn't focus on territorial expansion, but was committed to enhancement and development of national power. Despite the dwindling number of wars, my work didn't change easily.

Now, even if you say Lucifenia was the Evillious region's most fertile country, it's not the same as it was before. "I want to make a country where kids laugh all day long", this was Anne's motto.

However, a few days ago, Anne, like her husband's life was taken away by the same Gula disease.

War, accidents, diseases..... Many of my peers were killed. The only ones who lived were: Leonhart the Commander of the Guards, me, and Mariam. Nowadays, the prosperity of Lucifenia, was exchanged with numerous sacrifices.

Ever since I met Mariam, she was a young child back then, she had long been a good fighter.

You could say that one of Mariam's instruments of death is one pair of bleak eyes.

Even so, she has always been an elegant lady, with a role of a maid in the palace, making perfect achievements.

"Elluka, you're the same as always."

"Oh, if you mean a priveleged mage with a warehouse full of magic, then yes."

"Yup. When I met you, you were already a female adult, I didn't expect you to be still like that after over 20 years. Your beauty. Maybe this is what you call magic, or for some other reasons....."

"Do you want to know?"

"Not interested."

"Oh Mariam, you always say such cold things~"

"Stop talking like a little girl..... Seriously, you're still the same, no matter if it's appearance or character."

"Or am I?"

"As I was saying Elluka,..... please don't leave Lucifenia this early, I hope you'll come help this country."

“20 years, that should be enough for it.”

“Although the Belzenian empire is no longer a threat, the friction between Asmodin and Elphegort is still unsettled. Moreover, Princess Riliane is still 13 years old and her nature is quite clear..... This country needs your magic.”

Magic.

The ones who use magic in this country, I'm the only one. Anyway, this magic thing has long been supposed to be an extinct skill. I believe only a few people know its existence. Even though the place I was born in was known as the “Magic Kingdom”, there are only few now.

Understanding this, I spoke up.

“Can't you just find another Mage?”

“That's impossible. You know best.”

“Well, I have an idea.”

I pretended to think, but in fact, I already have an answer.

“You do know that I could train an excellent Mage for this country.”

Yes, Lucifenia needs a new Mage, someone like me.

“You mean an apprentice? But I don't know how long an apprentice takes to be mastered.”

“Why are you worried? As long as there's magic talent, it will only take 2 or 3 years.”

“There's a person with magic talent..... that you've heard about?”

“So you're saying, as long as I have successors, I don't matter anymore, right?”

Mariam had surprised eyes as if to say “That's not what I meant!”

Suddenly, Mariam gazed at her back. Evidently, someone had entered the room. I turned around and saw behind us, a blonde-haired girl, swept up in a crooked pony tail, standing.

“I’m sorry to interrupt the conversation of you two. Mariam-san, Leonhart-san has been looking for you. It seems that he wants you to take a look at the new palace servant boy.”

“.....Ah, I see, I’ll come with you. Elluka, let’s discuss the things you just said in another day.”

Mariam sighed helplessly and left the room together with Ney.

That girl was named Ney Futapie, the daughter of Mariam. They don’t show their mother-daughter relationship in front of others. I don’t know if it’s how Mariam educates her or it’s her own cautious temperament.

The teenager that Leonhart brought is the twin brother of the princess. This is Leonhart’s personal way to reunite the two dismantled siblings.

(I really like to see what he looks like, but I’d better go out now.)

I gently stretched my legs and paced. As I was just leaving the Hall of Mirrors, I heard the voice of the Prime Minister Minis ringing in my ears.

“Oh, Elluka Your Excellency, you have to go out?”

“Yes, I’m going to Elphegort, intending to receive an apprentice.”

“Apprentice? There’s no need to cross the national borders, I could make arrangements with several guards right now.”

“No need, the people here are rather garish..... By the way, I heard that there’s a new palace servant. Do you still prefer young men?”

“You’re joking, I am not that stupid to lay my hands on the offspring of the old King..... Elluka, Your Excellency, that thing you said to me about the servant..... The true identity of Allen, you could make sure that it is confidential.”

“Of course I know that. Well, I’ll be going.”

Minis was not yet finished but his dialogue would be eloquent, so I decided to turn away and leave.

Teach an apprentice for 2 or 3 years..... I don't really know if that's enough time.

I somewhat regret saying those words. Even if I said that and found noone, I would leave this country directly.

To attempt to change the direction of the gears of fate; this approach is nothing like me.

I occasionally predict the future by means of a dream. That being said, I could not dream of a specific time and place, only some fragments of what is to come.

However, those dreams, without exception, will come true.

I don't know when it will, but if it continues.....

Lucifenia shall perish soon enough.

Section 1, Scene 2

☉Elluka~ Elphegort Country's "Thousand-Year Tree Forest"~

The Elphegort country is found in the north of Lucifenia; we've got a long history with these neighboring countries.

Lucifenia and Asmodin originally belonged to the territory of the Belzenian Empire; Going through the country's reconstruction of the regime system from my point of view, Levianta still can't be regarded as what it was once called as Magic Kingdom.

Elphegort maintains independence all year round; In addition, the crops in the fertile soil have successive years of good harvest; As well as accounting a quarter of their land for a forest, which is their element to avoid invasion from other countries.

For a period of time, Elphegort had to implement single nationalism; the nations outside Elphegort had already implemented it. The Netsuma tribe are indigenous people who have been treated pretty harshly; until now, you couldn't see a few people from the Netsuma tribe. This trend has been somewhat eased, but I heard that in some regions, discrimination remains deeply rooted.

The current monarch, Sohni Elphen as a pacifist, uses his army merely for self-defense. Although the military strength is not as powerful as its neighboring countries Lucifenia and Asmodin, the Elphegort people consists of an army that has a military commander with extremely high power and morale, which is one of the reasons why the other countries don't dare send armies hastily.

When it comes to religion, the main faith of Elphegort is Evillious' Levin Church, which also has many different sects. However, there are also other religions in the area. Elphegort has the deeply rooted Cult of Eldoh/Eldoh Sect. Eldoh was the name of a primordial powerful earth deity. Now, people pass down tales of this deity manifesting as an enormous ancient tree, bringing peace and prosperity to the country.

In the forest I was in, which was once also called "Eldoh's Forest", is the pilgrimage place of the Eldoh Sect. But then, it was renamed by Levin Yappai(?) – the former king referred to it as the "Millenium Tree Forest".

“There has been fewer pilgrimages recently..... people with deep feelings too”

My old friend, who was in front of me, sighed.

Although I said an old friend, he is not a man, but a giant tree that had leafy branches that blocked out the whole sky and had face-like figure on its stout. No, it really is his face. At the moment, I’m having a conversation with the “Millenium Tree” – the earth deity.

“I didn’t come here to listen to your complaints. Eldoh, what are you babbling about?”

“What an impatient old woman. Hmm, for spirits to reincarnate into humans and to develop a mastery of magic...”

It’s been a long time since I spoke with him. Eldoh could not conceal his puzzled look.

There are a lot of forest spirits that depend on him. As compared to humans , forest spirits have plenty of magic in them. For as long as it can reincarnate as a human, that would give me a good disciple.

“Your ideas are so whimsical. Reincarnation is your specialty, so it’s not impossible....”

“That’s true. C’mon, give me two or three of your companions.”

I was near Eldoh, so I forced him to give an immediate answer.

To search Evillious for someone with magical talent is too tedious and I have no more time left. In order to change the fate of Lucifenia’s demise, I should at least need an apprentice to help me.

Eldoh slowly opened his eyes.

“However, I do doubt your prediction of such a big country being destroyed”

“I’m afraid it is related to the ‘demons of sin’”

“Demons of Sin – The “original sin” was born in this forest and is divided into seven, scattered throughout the world, each incorporated by a demon”

“Yeah, Venomania and Banica... Individuals who are the “victims of sin” would set off a catastrophe. The princess of Lucifenia... is called Riliane. Can we not drive out the demon influencing her?”

Alth and Anne had twin children. The girl called Riliane, at the age of six, was found out to be possessed by the “demon of sin”.

At that time, when Alth had died, the twin brother was chosen to be the next heir. Their mother Anne temporarily became successor and ruled the country until they were adults. However, the prime ministers raised objections, saying that Riliane should be the next rightful heir.

Because of this, a political strife occurred.

In fact, the prime minister who raised the objections wanted to use the “vessel of sin” which was attached to Riliane’s body, so she can become his puppet. Only later that it was figured out that his initial goal was the prince. But something went wrong when the demon possessed the princess instead. This prompted him with the previous claims. It was more shocking that he even attempted to assassinate the prince.

In order to protect the prince’s life, Leonhart adopted him and it was announced that the prince has died. Because of this, princess Riliane would eventually become queen.

After the dispute, the only problem left was the demon attaching itself to Riliane’s body. I spent all of the magic I had to get rid of the demon, which caused her to lose some of her memories. I also extracted a “collector’s(?)” hand mirror from her, so this matter should be settled.

“Yes. I’ve driven out the demon inside Riliane. However, once again, she was possessed by the demon when she grew up. Accompanied by the growth of the host, the demon is deeply rooted in her spirit... General purification magic is ineffective”

“So you want to use the ‘clockworker magic’”

“I cannot do that. For as long as I can have apprentice or...”

“That spell is very powerful but very dangerous. Once you fail, the entire country will be destroyed. You burned down your own country right?”

“... I have now matured. I guarantee it to be fool proof”

“I... do not trust you”

“Don’t worry. Having said that, I do not understand why Riliane is still in demonic possession. It’s either the initial purification is incomplete or there are other reasons...”

“or ‘it’ isn’t complete”

“‘it’? what do you mean?”

“Each of the sins is boarded by a demon. But anyhow, the time when the ‘sins’ was scattered was five hundred years in the past already. A ‘vessel’ cannot be separated into several parts”

“Do you mean this hand mirror is incomplete?”

I removed a small hand mirror from her, it was very rough. Riliane said she picked it up as a child in a beach. I’m afraid it might be a trap set by the minister. There was a seal talisman on the lens of the mirror, losing its function as a mirror.

“Perhaps the mirror in your hand is only one part of it. And the ‘other part’ is still living somewhere else... Well, this is just a speculation”

“All in all, I cannot let her be the same as Venomania and Banica... I must seek to prevent it from happening again”

I said, mocking myself.

Five-hundred years have passed since I was entrusted by Eldoh to collect all of the sins. Having said that, I never really took it seriously. I only accepted it because I was bored and just to kill some time.

If I took it more seriously, like gathering information and taking immediate actions, the tragedies would not have happened. If the one who gave me the mission were not Eldoh, I would have been dismissed a long time ago.

“Elluka, the dreams you had... can you specify them?”

“I’ve seen four images. The first was at the square where the princess Riliane is sent to the guillotine. The second is when the palace is surrounded by many armed men.

The third is when Lucifenia sent troops to attack Elphegort. The fourth was when I saw the head maid Mariam... dead in the heavenly yard”

I do not know the sequence of the images and what period they would occur.

“What dream was in purple?”

“The third one, where Lucifenia invades Elphegort. This future can no longer be changed”

There is a clear difference from my prepositions and other dreams I have; they have special “colours”. Through colour, I am able to distinguish the true reflection of the future.

At the same time, if the dream isn’t “purple”, then the dream can still be changed. Conversely, it cannot be avoided for the gear has already been established.

“If it fails, what are you going to do?”

“I’m going to flee Lucifenia. I don’t want to get caught up in the mess”

“.....Well, you are that kind of person. However, it’s not the same as before right, Elluka?”

A gust of wind blew in the forest.

“..... What do you mean?”

“The things that belong to you... You are afraid to watch them disappear right before your very eyes, right? Instead of watching your beloved person die, you might as well escape and leave it behind. You don’t want to repeat the “Levianta’s Great Fire Disaster””

“Shut up! Stop spouting non-sense, smelly old man!”

I flew into a rage. I punched Eldoh’s “face” to vent my anger. But Eldoh only had a poised look; my fist was in severe pain.

“Elluka, you are not entitled to serve ‘justice’. To the world, it may or may not be better for Lucifenia to exist”

“I know... Even from the start, I didn't fight for 'justice'! In short, Lucifenia's destruction is because of the 'vessel of sin' and it is my duty to suppress even before this situation occurs, yes!”

“.....Yes. About that apprentice problem... I'm getting sleepy... Yawn”

“Hey! Old man! Don't sleep yet! Hey!”

I kicked Eldoh's yawning face. I didn't get any answer from him yet. As soon as he falls asleep, he won't wake up for a month or so; nothing will wake him up.

“Smelly old man~”

I was in a restless mood; I continued to kick Eldoh's roots when suddenly...

Whoosh

Something came flying from behind me. Accompanied by a faint cry, there was a slight pain on the back of my head. I touched the place I was hit... It had a sticky feeling. I thought I was bleeding but soon I understood that it wasn't the case - my hand had a sweet aroma. I turned around and saw on the ground a smashed red fruit. It was a pomegranate fruit. I do not know who smashed that fruit on my head.

“Do not bully Eldoh-san!”

The sound was coming from the tree. Stationed on the branch was small robin; it had nice green feathers. I looked around and saw the suspect who threw the fruit - a small chipmunk that stared at me.

It is more reasonable to explain to the Robin.

“I'm not bullying him, Michaela”

This mockingbird/robin is called Michaela, a spirit who is serving under Eldoh. Originally, forest spirits have no form or simply cannot be seen by the naked eye. But they (forest spirits does not have gender. “It” may not be appropriate to call them. I personally treat them as female) have the ability to transform into forest animals. Because of this, forest spirits are allowed to be recognized by mankind and can participate in human activities.

Then again, I am able to communicate with them because like me, they also possess magic and they can also understand human language.

Of course, the chipmunk and Michaela are also forest spirits and the name of the chipmunk is Gumillia.

“Elluka, violence is never the answer.”

“You are no different, Gumillia. However, throwing a fruit at me then saying something like that, is admirable”

“Thank you for the compliment”

“I’m not complimenting you.”

I lifted my head and gazed at the sleeping face of Eldoh.

“.....Your master has dozed off. I’ll be coming back another day”

I sighed. Michaela expanded her wings and suddenly flew all the way to my shoulder.



“I think it’s a good idea, knowing there isn’t a breath of humanity in a distance.”

“Oh, there isn’t any in the forest?”

“Ah ~ I don’t know. People don’t usually come here..... Anyway, isn’t it bad for a Lucifenian magic user hanging around here?”

“It looks like you have a deep understanding of humans”

“Yeah, just a little. I learned from the people in the village and from a woodcutter named Pant”

“Michaela, are you interested in humans?”

“Hmm. But Eldoh-san doesn’t let me out of the forest... there’s no other way”

“Your master really is a stubborn old man”

“Yeah, Ha ha ha”

Michaela’s laugh sounds like she’s singing.

“I’ll be going now, forest spirits”

I waved at them and headed for the forest entrance.

Michaela and Gumillia, two magical beings that serves Eldoh. My apprentice should be either one of them.

On the way back, I caught a glimpse of a girl holding a basket and was picking fruits from the forest. She must be the human Michaela was referring to. I hid in the bushes and stationed myself.

(It was really rare to see a member of the Netsuma tribe in Elphegort)

The characteristics of someone from the Netsuma tribe was white hair and red eyes. There was a bruise on her right arm. Upon closer inspection, not only was the right arm bruised but also the her legs and face was injured.

Repression, Persecution - I do not know why such words came to my mind. I shook my head, maybe those are just scars when she had an accident. Looking at her face, she seems to be a clumsy kind of girl. I could not afford to associate with her for she is from the Netsuma tribe.

The girl passed by in front of me and walked into the depths of the forest.

“ -Ahh?”

As she passed in front of me, I heard her murmur some words.

“I’m sorry. I really shouldn’t be alive”

She wasn’t aware of my presence. She must be talking to herself.

I decided not to think about the phrase she just said.

Eldoh, perhaps you’re right. At the end of the day, I just blindly escape.

I walked out of the bushes and walked again. I have to take advantage while it’s still not dark. I don’t want to get sermoned by Mariam.

CHAPTER 2

Section 1

—The So-called Humans—

This forest is very peaceful.

This forest is very boring.

Eldoh-san said to me, it's a very good place here.

A thousand years have passed. I learned a lot of things.

About the *flowers*.

About the *seeds*.

About the *stones*.

About the *springs*.

About the *wind*.

About the *soil*.

But I have a lot of things I don't know.

Such as things outside the forest; I don't know them.

Humans in or outside the forest; I don't understand them.

So I have no idea.

Why that child is crying.

For me, I can't understand the point of it.

These “humans” are incredible creatures.

I would really like to know about them.

Section 1, Scene 1

✿Michaela~Elphegort's "Lake of Amusement"~

At the moment is a vast lake.

A valiant breeze and a cloudless sky.

This is the most suitable weather for birds to fly in the sky.

If you pass through the Eldoh's Forest, there's a huge lake at the north. The lake seems to be referred by the humans as the "Lake of Amusement". Every "Millenium Tree" Festival, the elderly people respectfully invite the youth to come together and tell the legends of the lake. According to the legends, this lake is used to serve the Earth God, Eldoh's spirits, who come frolicking on a full moon night.

When these spirits frolic, they produce famous gems called "Stones of the Wild Spirits". When you take home these gems and buried them on the ground, the ground will have a large harvest.

I miss hearing these legends, but unfortunately, the old people are only half-right. A long time ago, we spirits often came to the lake to play. At that time, there were a lot of people who had special abilities to see spirits with their naked eye. Because of these people, the legend was believed and there were intentions of bringing the spirits back to obtain the "Stones of the Wild Spirits".

And that's pretty much of what is true. But to say that spirits can make "Stones of the Wild Spirits" is nonsense.

Originally, spirits don't eat things of nature, but of course, animal forms are a different matter. Although spirits don't feel hunger, they have a habit of eating tasty things. Amongst the most popular is the Trauben Fruit.

Trauben is a bluish purple fruit that grows in the west coast; it seems to be related in some way with winemaking. When spirits come here to play, there is always ones that are gluttonous that look for trauben that children left behind and they bring them back to the forest. Probably someone saw this scene with a moonlit trauben that was

mistaken as a gem, which is why we have a legend about the “Stones of the Wild Spirits”.

As the saying goes, to see is to believe; that’s why I’m going to that lake and take back those Trauben, saying that it’s not true.

Doing so is a violation of Eldoh-san’s regulations, but now is the day to get those fruits back. I’m sure immediately saying it to them shouldn’t be a problem. Moreover, even Eldoh-san says that almost no human can see a spirit’s animal form. The only reason for the prohibition order is Eldoh-san’s too much cautiousness. Even though the forest is a very good place, for the spirits, living thousands of years in the same place feels pretty boring.

Looking down from the sky, I could get a clear glance of the growing Trauben. The west bank of the lake is completely dyed bluish-purple. At the northwest of the lake, there is a small village with a brewery (that seems to be brewing trauben) inhabited by humans.

Returning to their homeland, I suddenly got that nostalgic feeling. Everything was the same as before; without any changes.

I landed on a nearby branch of the orchard, in front of the goal of this trip. Seeing the freshly grown trauben made me involuntarily swallow my saliva. Although I feel a bit uneasy eating the trauben grown by the humans, a little bit wouldn’t hurt, would it? I’m sure the humans wouldn’t mind.

First, I tried to taste the flavor. The mellow sweetness and the slightly sour taste quickly spread in my mouth. Well, it’s really tasty! Did these get tastier than before or is it just because I’ve never eaten one for a long time now? Or did the humans’ gardening skills improve? What really caused this to happen, I wonder?

Knowing that we birds are small, there’s no way I can bring back a lot of fruits. So I picked the dark ones that looked very delicious and grasped them inside my claws. Just tasting them is enough.

If everyone likes it, I’ll remember to invite them next time and enjoy it together.

(Ah, but then again, if we eat too much, it might pose a problem for the humans)

Prior to that, keeping it hidden from Eldoh-san would also be a problem.

I got up and flew to the sky. Probably because the greedy me took too many fruits, I stumbled during flight; insisting to fly to the forest shouldn't be a problem.

I tried to flap my wings but I suddenly felt something close behind. When I looked behind, I immediately saw a huge shadow.

“Hey?”

Obviously, the shadow was targeting me, and gradually catching up on me at a great speed.

Aware of the danger approaching, I tried to speed up as well but it was still no match for the other huge pair of wings. Six sharp stout claws were going to catch me.

“I beg you! Not again! I- I'm Michaela!”

Although I'm afraid to shout, it seems as though the other one couldn't here. Evidently attacking me, it couldn't be a spirit nor a forest partner.

Subsequently, my body felt an impact. The other one's claws grasped my whole body. Because of the intense pain, I let go of the trauben I had been grasping. At that moment, the attacker let go of my body and went chasing for the fallen fruit.

Aaaah, what just happened. He (or was it a she?) just wanted those trauben? I'm saved..... I guess. Even so, I found out that my wings had a very serious injury.

My right wing was completely unable to move; blood scattered in the air.

This is bad, REALLY BAD, I'm falling down!

My body lost control and rotated spirally as it dropped to the ground.

Section 1, Scene 2

❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country “Yatski Village” ~

I woke up in a place I wasn't familiar with.

I was surrounded by walls that were made of processed stones; even the sky, I cannot see it. This is a place I've never seen in the forest.

(.....It seems to be a familiar place)

Where on earth am I? It got me thinking... ah! Come to think of it...

(Pant)

Pant was a wood cutter. A family of three, together with his wife and children, was living in the forest of Eldoh-san. I used to sneak into his house, so that's where I got this feeling. But Pant's house is made of wood and this place is a mixture of wood and stone.

(This is where humans live. But why am I here? I remembered being attacked by a large black bird while flying...)

There is no such species of that kind of bird in Elphegort. There are also people who would stray into the forest. Because by nature humans are militant, Eldoh-san would always warn us to be careful especially when we encounter one.

(What bad luck... even the trauben was lost.)

For now, I must return to the forest as soon as possible. Eldoh-san and the other might be getting worried about me.

(But... to get out of here, what should I do?)

If I was in my spirit form, I could easily pass through the wall, but I can't do that as a robin. I remembered Pant saying something about a “door” that helps you get in and out of a room. Is there anything like that... Ah! Found it!

I tried to fly my way through the “door” but...

“Ouch!”

There was a sharp pain on my right wing. So to say, my right wing was attacked by that bird. What bad luck this is...

I gazed upon my right wing, only to see cloth wrapped around it. White thin cloth was wrapped around my whole body, restricting my movement. I desperately tried to loosen the restraint but to only break loose a little, while the rest is still tightly wrapped around me.

(What a wicked thing to do...)

“Oh my...”

I voice coming from the door; a woman came in. This woman who is holding a small box must be the owner of this house. Compared to the other humans I’ve seen so far, this one is too thin. This woman with a bundle of white hair on the back of her head looked at me with a funny and surprised face with complex expressions.

“That Clarith... the bandages are all wrong... I’m sorry little birdie”

The old lady placed the small box aside then gently lifted me up. After taking off all the bandages, she dressed me up again. Although the bandages were more tight than before, it was more comfortable than before.

“Before healing the wound, the bleeding must be stopped first”

Oh, this cloth is used to treat wounds. Because I never got hurt before, I never knew about it... Eh? Injured?

(... As a robin, I can get injured. But as spirit, this wound would heal in no time and I could get back to the forest in no time.)

Wait... why didn’t I think of that earlier?

Although I tried lifting up my robin form, nothing happened. Why is that? I soon figured out the answer. Because to change forms, I must be in the forest to do it.

(It appears that today is totally out of the question...)

While I was being upset, someone came in from the door again.

“..... I’m back”

The one who spoke had equally long white hair and sullen looking woman holding unto a huge basket. This woman looks like a younger version of the old lady excluding the gray hair. It’s probably natural(?).

“Mom, with your poor health, you need to rest”

“Having said that, it’s also inappropriate to bask in the sun; it would be bad for your health..... Ah! Yes, Clarith, the robin woke up.”

She called the old lady “mom”, telling me that these two are mother and daughter. The old lady’s hair must be because of her age.

The old lady smiled then placed the small box in front of me. What’s inside it? I became curious and peeked inside...

(Eww! Gross!)

The small box was filled with earth worms.

The old lady smiled and said, “eat it”. For a real robin, this would be a good meal. But I’m a spirit... eating an earthworm or something like that... forget it.

“Oh, it seems it doesn’t like to eat it”

“Then try to give it this”

Clarith, with a gloomy face, placed the large basket on the ground. How do I say this, this kid seems to be a really cold girl. Suddenly, she grabbed something from inside the basket.

(Eh? Is that... Trauben?)

I was filled with sudden happiness; I could not help but dig in. The old lady saw my expression and could not help but have a surprised expression.

“Robins generally eat insects or fish... but this would be the first time I meet a robin like this and with beautiful green feathers. Is it an incarnation of the forest spirits?”

“Talking about spirits is nonsense”

Clarith interruptedly said to her mother.

There’s already a spirit right in front of you eating trauben~

“There is no such thing as spirits”

She said. I suddenly remember of Eldoh-san saying that “the youth today lack belief”. Gods and spirits do exist.

“There is no such thing as god or spirits... if so, how could my mother end up is such a dilemma...”

“Clarith...”

“The trauben are also... not of good quality; I cannot sell them. I’ve spent so much effort and time...”

Bad quality? This is considered bad quality? Although the shape is kind of mellow but the taste says it otherwise.

Clarith forced herself not to cry and tried to maintain a calm face. She turned to me and said:

“.....Birds are more relaxed than humans”

With that said, she walked towards the door.

“Where are you going Clarith?”

“..... The village is calling me out today”

Clarith just frowned then walked out.

The old lady had a sad look on her face. She then discovered that when I ate a trauben, I headed for the basket to grab some more. She immediately took out some trauben and laid them in front of me.

“I’m sorry birdie. Although she is like that, that child is a very gentle person. She was the one who saved you when you were injured so please forgive her”

The old lady smiled at me again.

However that smile was not coming from the heart. Though somehow, I get this feeling...

That cast of shadow over their hearts, what was it again?

After two weeks.

Although I could still feel some pain, my wings have already recovered. Maybe another two or three days and I should be able to fly through the skies again.

During this time, the old lady’s body doesn’t seem to be doing very good and she was just lying on her bed. Therefore, Clarith had the responsibility of taking care of her.

“Meal time, Grune”

Clarith initially had a cold expression but then she gave a smile. Grune, Clarith gave this name to me. In Elphegort language, it appears to be defined as “green”. Because the name is very good, I liked it.

I would always eat the unsold trauben from yesterday.

“Grune, is it delicious?”

Yes! Very delicious!

Although I wanted to answer her, all she would hear was my tweeting cry. Even though there is no way for us to communicate, I’m very happy.

She would always tell me how her day went; like how something would go wrong and always being scolded... basically bad experiences. She seems to be a very clumsy girl.

To Clarith, whether cleaning or cooking, she would always work harder than the others. Because she is always focused on something, she tends to forget about other things. Today, she looked worried. As always, she has a blank expression on her face.

Clarith personally built a bird cage for me. She was able to collect waste materials smoothly but when she finished building it, it was very crooked; it was full of holes.

I had to use it because I saw her dedication to it. Also, her hands were full of scars when she finished it.

It was a sunny day so Clarith placed the bird cage beside the window, allowing me to gaze upon the scenery outside.

One day, I saw Clarith and some people farming at the fields. Clarith didn't speak with anyone. The others rested (or too lazy?), chat with each other and continued to work. Even so, Clarith work progress is still slower than the others. There was nothing wrong about Clarith's actions but her tool was the problem. She had a broken tools with her, leading to her inefficiency in work. The others did not even bother helping Clarith, but instead they would deliberately bump into her and trample on the ground which she plowed.

But even in such situations, Clarith's expression still didn't change; she still had a blank expression. Only when she is with her mother or with me she would expose a little smile.

Clarith and the others are significantly different. The others have green hair and only Clarith has white hair. Though I think her hair is beautiful in the sunlight, I think that would be the reason why she is being bullied; because she is different.

Clarith would always have lots of wounds. These wounds were probably from her work or when she would accidentally fall for some reason. Yet sometimes, she would have serious injuries not caused by her clumsiness but more like of a human. While I care about those injuries of her, but it would be impossible to help her so Clarith just rans to her bed side.

In those two weeks, I have learned more about this "human" understanding.

The next day,

Clarith went out to work while her mother was resting in her body.

Because the weather was sunny today, the bird cage was placed near the window sill. I couldn't see Clarith's figure outside; her work today must be to go the forest and pick up some fire wood.

—BUMP—

Something hit the window. I initially thought that someone might have got it wrong but then there was another sound again. Someone was throwing stones at the window. I wondered who it was until a figure of a chipmunk's head poked below the window. The chipmunk squeezed itself through the small gap in the window and went for the cage.

"I finally found you, Michaela"

".....Gumillia!"

The chipmunk's true identity was the of the forest spirit, Gumillia. It must be because I've been away for a long time to an unknown destination that made her to look for me.

"So you were caught here. Okay, let's get going"

Gumillia, with her two small hands, opened the caged and urged me to escape quickly.

I didn't expect that I would go back earlier than expected. I can finally go back to the forest. However, I was a bit hesitant leaving the bird cage.

"Are you going back?"

Behind our back was, to our surprise, was the old lady.

"I see that your spirit friend has come to pick you up"

"Huh? Why do you know.....?"

I asked in surprise, although she shouldn't be able to hear me from the other side of the room.

"I already knew from the start"

“No way? You can also hear us talking too?”

“In the past, I worked as a magician, but Clarith didn’t believe in these things so I never mentioned it”

This is so amazing. Besides Elluka Clockworker, I have never met, for a long time, a human than can talk to us.

“..... Thank you for the hospitality. Thank you very much for taking care of me”

“I also want to thank you. Although it was a very short span of time, Clarith seems to look very happy.”

“..... Well, I’m also very happy”

Although we couldn’t communicate with each other, I felt happy when I became friends with Clarith. If I could become human, I would go out and play with her and hear out her problems.

“I have not seen the girl smile. Perhaps for Clarith, you are her only friend”

“Clarith has no friends?”

“You’ve seen the scenes outside the window. This should give you an idea about her situation. Clarith is of the Netsuma tribe which is discriminated by people of Elphegort.

Why is there a person of the white-haired Netsuma tribe in the green-haired Elphegortians? Aren’t you also of the Netsuma tribe?

“I have white hair because of my age. I’m also not from Elphegort. And because Clarith is my adopted daughter, she was estranged by others, but even so, they allowed us to continue to live in this village. We are thankful to God”

This so-called adopted daughter refers to two people who aren’t connected by blood. This two unrelated people called the other mother and daughter. And merely because of racial differences, they are mutually exclusive? Humans really are amazing creatures.

“As a human being, bullying others without any reason, is very strange”

“Forest spirits wouldn’t understand. Oh yes! please bring this back with you”

The old lady took a bunch of trauben from the basket gave me some.

“Thank you. Thank you very much”

I solemnly thank her again then I tried to move my wings. Although there a little bit of pain, returning to the forest wouldn’t be much of a problem.

“Good bye! I would certainly come back to play”

The bored Gumillia waited for me then we slipped through the window. The old lady stood by the window, waving and watching as we leave with a smile on her face.

I grabbed the trauben with my claws. As we entered the forest, Gumillia just kept up with my flying speed. While flying, I looked around for that large black bird whereabouts. Getting attacked again is not joke.

On my way back, I scanned for Clarith’s figure, but she was nowhere to be found.

I wanted to thank her personally.

Section 1, Scene 3

❁Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Thousand-Year Tree Forest"~

The "Thousand-Year Tree Forest" Eldoh-san is guarding is a quiet place. However, last night was not so quiet.

"You naughty child~~~~~!"

As I returned to the forest, I was greeted with Eldoh-san's roar. I originally thought that tears would welcome me, but I guess it turns out that I was too naive?

This was because of breaking the regulations by secretly leaving the forest and being lost for a long time; Eldoh-san reprimanded all night.

"Ohhhh... This is going too far... Clearly, you don't have to reprimand them so harshly
~~~~~"

The next morning, Gumilia came to comfort me as I cried. It was something I wasn't expecting.....

"Michaela isn't looking good."

How emphatic.

"But, I couldn't help it! I never expected to encounter a big black bird's attacks in that kind of place; I was unable to move because of my injury!"

"It's your entire fault for secretly leaving the forest from the very beginning."

"\*whines\*....."

From afar, the other spirits could not help but laugh.

Gumilia was that kind that calmly and objectively judges everything. What right is right, what wrong is wrong, and she'll clearly say which of them something is. But this time, she gave me a little sympathy since I had no one else.

"Michaela, we spirits have eternal life. As Eldoh-san's dependents, we will never die. However, this is limited to our spirit form. We could change to animals and have contact with the real world. We would also have an impact like that of the real world. We couldn't just be injured but it could be even more serious: death."

"Yes, but....."

"Do you even know what death is? That way, you'll completely disappear from this world. And I wouldn't like that. I wouldn't like Michaela to disappear."

Although Gumilia talks straight like that, she's definitely not a bad person.

".....Well, I knew that. I'm sorry Gumilia, I wouldn't do it again next time."

However, if you can't contact with the real world, then what is the significance of your existence?

I came to Eldoh-san again and apologized for such a rash action. Eldoh-san became calmer than last night.

"Learning from your mistakes is just fine, Michaela; just don't let me be too worried about you. Because for me, you're very important; my most precious child."

"Yes, I'm sorry. I would never again leave the forest without permission."

"Ah, that's good. And now, I sleep....."

As his voice faded, Eldoh-san fell asleep once again.

"Well then, now Eldoh-san's asleep, I could let everyone taste the delicious trauben."

As I was going to gather the others around, I suddenly became aware of someone coming..... Could it be that pilgrim? But it doesn't sound like Elluka.

"Hey? It's Clarith! Why is she here?!"

Clarith kneeled in front of Eldoh-san and began to pray. I remember her saying that she didn't believe in gods, why come here? Clarith murmured softly as I quietly leaned next to her to hear her prayer.

"Dear God. I don't have any friends."

Clarith bowed her head, obscuring her face as her bangs went down. I couldn't see her expression.

"From the day I was born, the only memories I had was about abuse and scorn. I did not know why I was being treated like that until I grew up. My white hair and red eyes was the reason why I was not accepted in this country. Everyone called me a "demon's child", saying that I should be tied up on a cross and burned."

I also heard of the "Netsuma Tribe discrimination" thing but I didn't know of the cruel treatment to them. Clarith continued.

"My heart is getting weak; I cannot believe in anyone anymore and I am very, very afraid with talking to others. My thoughts and the others are very different. That is the reason why I cannot integrate myself with them. Only talking to myself all day... I have lost interest in life; there is no significance of my existence."

I can see her face now. As usual, she had a blank expression or—

"Until one day, at the lake, I picked up an injured Grune – a robin. I took it home to treat its wounds and take care of it. Because of Grune, I was able to find peace of mind every day. Since Grune and I were very intimate, I thought that I might be able to communicate with other humans too. I had new courage in this silent heart of mine. I've finally made up my mind and invited the girl next door to dinner..... the results... I only got verbally abused. Nobody would like to eat with a filthy Netsuma girl..... Smooth human interaction... is just a product of my own wishful thinking."

I have not said a single word to Clarith and yet, my existence had such an impact in her life. The result just hurt her more. I stayed at her home, completely unaware of the sad story she had.

"When I got home yesterday, Grune has already escaped from her cage. It was obvious because Grune would want to go home for she had her own friends... I have a mother to whom I have no blood relationship with to keep me company. But mom is very ill and wouldn't last for long now. When she passes away... I don't want to be alone...."

Clarith's body was slightly trembling. I looked down and tried to look at her face.

"Oh God, I, in fact, don't believe that you exist. However, if you do exist... if there really is this so-called god..."

A teardrop hung on her face. The teardrop was crystal clear, very beautiful and also very sad.

"I want a friend. Anyone would do."

Her prayer was complete. Clarith departed.

I thought of following her, but I didn't do that. What she really needed is not a robin, but a "human" friend.

Today, Clarith would go to the fields to work, come home, take care of her mother and then go to sleep. And that cycle will repeat again and again. Her heart will always be in endless solitude.

Unfortunately, Clarith's prayer did not reach Eldoh-san's ears for he was happily snoring. I was the only one who heard Clarith's heart cry out. But for me... neither God nor I, will be able to grant her wish.

For this matter, I was very upset.

A few days later, when Eldoh-san finally woke up, I immediately approached him and discussed what Clarith said.

"Ah, a person from the Netsume tribe? Originally, there were people from the Netsuma tribe in Elphegort. Although they were not exclusive and powerful, it was evident that Elphegortians are unwilling to accept them."

"Is there any other way? Like fleeing the country or something like that?"

"Fleeing the country would be best but doesn't she have a sick mother? I'm afraid it would be difficult to just walk away. Also, leaving your homeland that you inhabited for a long time, only to experience bad things. Michaela, didn't you also just experience this?"

"Yes, I can understand... Is there any other way?"

Clarith not only saved my life, but she also me a bird cage, took care of me and addressed her troubles to me... So I want to do something for her too.

“Michaela, as I always said, do not go near humans. Us and humans are different. Even God should not interfere with the human world.”

Eldoh-san would always tell this to us. Because of this, we would always try to avoid getting out of the forest and have any contact with them.

But.....

“I never would have thought to hear something like that from someone like you, Eldoh”

On the prestige, a beautiful pink-haired lady stood out with a glamorous atmosphere.

The Magi, Elluka Clockworker. She is a friend of Eldoh-san. She came from the neighbouring Lucifenia country as a powerful court magician. Although Eldoh-san called her “human”, but excluding her, I’ve never seen any human that could live up to five hundred years. And further to say, she was completely different when I first met her. This change is not because of her growth and development, but because of her “body swap technique”; every once in a while, she would replace her old body with a new one, thus, maintaining as an ageless immortal.

Elluka, although she looked like that for three hundred years, still looks beautiful. She has her own secrets to keep.

Elluka brushed off the hair that was on her cheek then walked to Eldoh-san with a faint smile.

“If you do not want to interfere with the human world, then why did you give me this mission?”

“Elluka... because ‘sin’ has been produced. Although I have no direct relationship with it, and I cannot interfere, for that reason, I send you out, a “human”, to gather them.”

“So, have you made a decision? Have you considered it?”

“Consider what?”

Eldoh-san was a bit confused to what Elluka said. Elluka gave a wrinkled brow, an unhappy expression. Her beautiful expression disappeared.

“Don’t try to steer the topic up OLD MAN! I want a forest spirit to become human and become my apprentice.”

“Oh, I don’t remember, but.....”

“I told you about the ‘sin’ thing right?! My short, predictable dreams would become reality. I must train an apprentice to help me repel the ‘demon’ out of Riliane... and, I also have a care about some things.”

Elluka looked up towards the northeast sky.

“In Elphegort, I can slightly feel the ‘sins’ breath. As you said, fragments of the mirror... might be in this country”

“.....”

Eldoh-san’s face changed from a serious expression into a meditative one. He looked at me and to the other spirits as well for a while then unto Elluka. He finally spoke in a low voice.

“In that case, how about this arrangement? I will give you two spirits. One will be your disciple and the other one will stay in Elphegort and look for the ‘sin’ fragment. With this, all of the problems will be addressed at the same time.”

“..... really? I honestly didn’t think you would agree at the outset”

Elluka asked Eldoh-san. In fact, I also have the same question in my heart. Eldoh-san would always tell us “Do not interfere with the human world”. Why make this decision?

“Up until now, I created this forest full of trees, flowers, insects, spirits... then ‘sin’ was created. I did not take the responsibility over it. I am not fit of God’s duty. I may soon depart from this world for humans have trampled upon us and they lack retribution.”

“Eldoh.....”

“Sin was born from the filth of the forest. I would do it myself, but as you can see, I cannot leave the forest. Even so, I cannot make this as an excuse for everything. I pushed the responsibility so I have considered to help you... and you alone. I first thought that you would be able to collect it all in a hundred years or so.”

“Yes. My ability is limited. Now, who would be appropriate?”

“Make Gumillia your disciple. She is a very serious child; she can effectively monitor you and does not let you get lazy.”

“Ha, double the supervision...”

“And the other one would be... Michaela, can you do it?”

“Eh?”

Suddenly mentioning my name, I looked at Eldoh-san.

“You seem to be very interested in humans. This is a rare opportunity; you can go and learn more about them as much as possible... but don’t forget your mission. Elluka, I will give you a three year period. After three years, this two will become spirits again. If you accept these conditions, I will accept your request.”

“It’s more than enough. I will be able to fix the problems now”

After that, Elluka and Eldoh-san talked about a lot of topics.

Just recently, I was told “I am not allowed to go out of the forest”. How did it come to this?

Although I do not understand the content of their dialogue, but does it mean.....

Did I want to become human?

Away from Eldoh-san, we have walked towards west for some time. Elluka said that we should find a place most suitable for astronomical ceremonies. When we walked through the forest, Elluka quietly muttered.

“Eldoh probably has his own ideas. So do me and the both of you”

“Me?”

“If you are afraid of change, you just simply stop. Eldoh wanted to let you become human in order for you to better understand human beings”

“Well, I still don’t understand.”

“It does not matter. You just have follow your own ideas and you’ll be fine”

“Like how you do it?”

“Ha ha ha, yeah”

Elluka happily laughed then she looked away. What is she thinking about?

When we reached the destination, Elluka began to draw something on the ground. Soon, the ceremony of me and Gumillia reincarnating as a human will now begin.

“What exactly do we have to do?”

“Yes, you have to think about images of people from Elphegort, preferably beautiful women”

“A human that we have seen?”

“Well, you will become the human you imagined. In particular, because you have to live in Elphegort, the Elphegort look would more suitable. But it has to be someone who is not alive anymore. It should at least someone from fifty years ago. Since there are two of you, we will only do it once. We don’t want the two of you to have the same appearance.”

After doing the necessary precautions, Elluka gave a long sigh. She seems to have remembered something.

I had a mutual agreement with Gumillia and said the names of the person, to avoid duplication.

“.....However, why beautiful women? We are genderless. Being men can also be good.....”

I am somewhat surprised as I asked Elluka with no hesitation.

**“Because I want to”**

As Elluka said that, the magic circle on the ground was finished. Probably because of the pattern on the ground, it looked crooked.

“It doesn’t look like the draft. Is that okay?”

“This is just for formality. C’mon. Let us start”

Frankly, I’m very upset. Is this really okay?

“Are you ready? You must come up with a good looking, inflexible beauty! I shall now begin—“

At the moment Elluka said that, my consciousness began to fly away.

Floating constantly while I was still being aware of it.

Through the forest, through the clouds, and even went through the sky.

Until we reached a space of nothingness.

Subsequently, we fell.

Straight down, we fell.

It was even higher than when I was attacked by that black bird. I dropped at a fast pace.

Down. Down. I dropped at my destination. “She” was waiting for me.

Crying, her arms were clutching as she was carrying a pair of twins.

My consciousness disappeared this time.

## Section 1, Scene 4

### ❖ Michaela ~ Lucifenia Kingdom's "Forest of Bewilderment • Abandoned House" ~

Eldoh-san and us live in the forest located at the junction of Elphegort and Lucifenia's border. Humans who live in the vast forest in the north; Elphegort is a member of the area known as "The Millenium Tree Forest". While the portion at the south that is in Lucifenia's territory is known as the "Forest of Bewilderment". Elluka found an abandoned house in the forest of bewilderment for us to take shelter from and practice.

Elluka said that this abandoned house existed five hundred years ago. Probably because it is not inhabited that this house has become dilapidated. But inside the house, traces can be found that it has been recently used (presumably bandits made a base out of here). The only good news is that there are furniture and cooking utensils. Because of this, us three is able to avoid the rain. It appears that it's not a problem living here for the time being.

"Hey! Hey! It's time to get up! It's spiritual practice time~"

I beat the rusty pans to wake up the sleeping Elluka. She rubbed her sleepy eyes. The annoying banging of metal made her climb out of her bed.

"Good Morning Michaela. You're early as usual..."

"Good morning. Gumillia got up earlier than I did. We've already eaten breakfast outside. Come! Hurry! Hurry!"

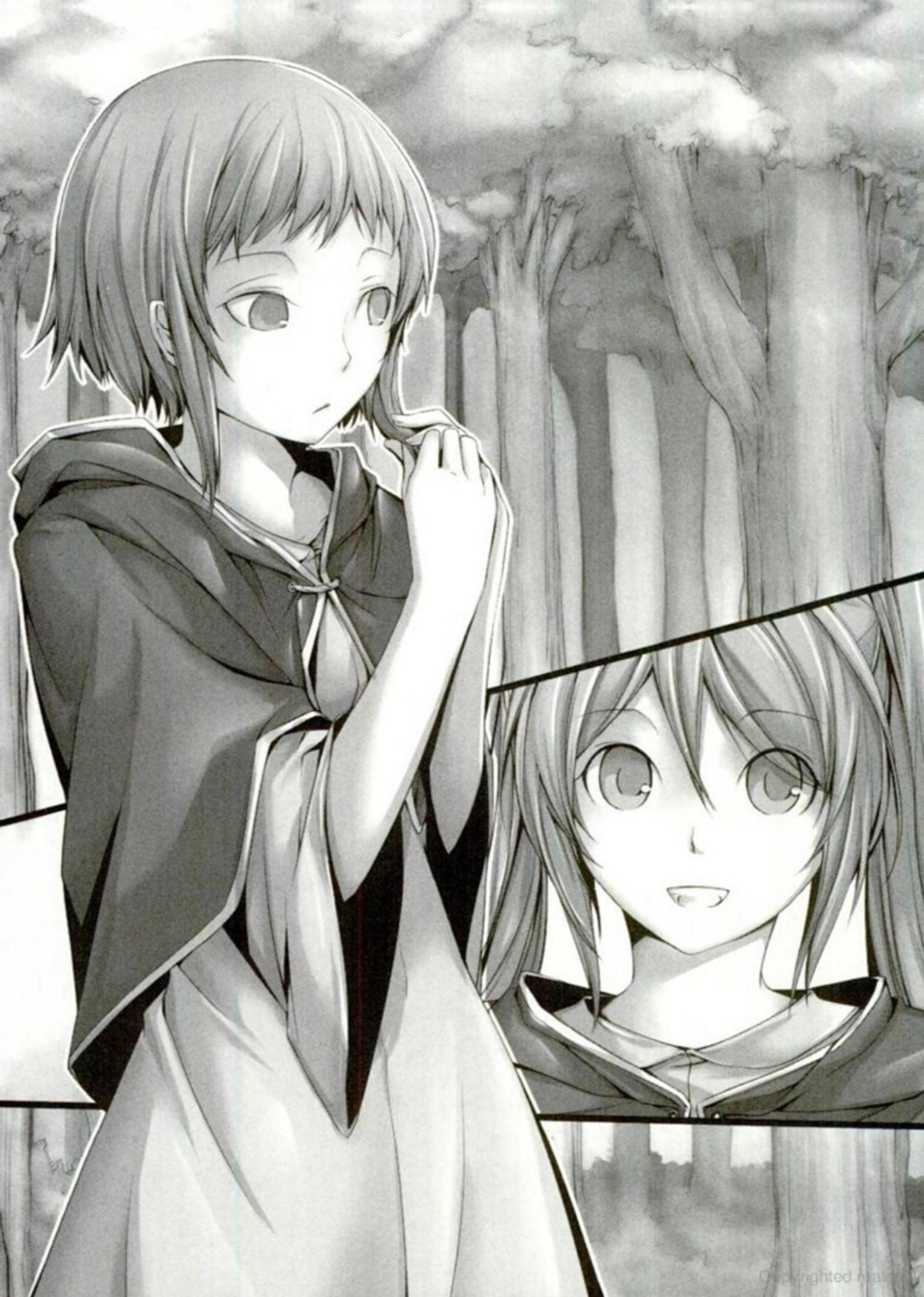
"Alright already. I'm getting up... Hey"

Elluka noticed something as she was staring at my face.

"Michaela, your eyes... you have morning star. A woman's charm is her eyes. Always remember to wash your face every now and then"

“Yes!”

I reminded Elluka not to fall asleep again. Waiting outside was a girl playing with her short green hair.



“Gumillia, Elluka is up. I’ll come join you in a moment.”

“I know... Michaela, where are you going?”

“I’m going to wash my face~”

Nearby the house, there was a spring with clear water. Directly drinking the water will not pose a problem. I gazed at the reflection made by the spring; a young girl with a pair of long green pigtails and a pair of green eyes. I smiled, she also smiled.

Yes, the reflection made by the spring wasn’t made by someone else, but “myself”.

I am now “Michaela”, a human existing in this world.

Before living in the human world, it’s important to learn some basic stuff such as national history, geography, human life and habits... we need a bundle of knowledge in order to live in the human world. Elluka will be teaching us for a month. During this period, she will be teaching us personal stuff about the one we reincarnated to.

During the reincarnation, Gumillia imagined Elphegort’s first female prime minister, Gumina Glassred, appearance. Gumina wasn’t from Elphegort but an aristocrat from Asmodean. But for some reason, (According to Elluka and from the “Venomania Incident”) she was exiled to Elphegort, since she would often visit Eldoh-san’s forest (because she is a dedicated Eldoh follower). Gumina, who was temperament and had a beautiful face, along with those gentle and mysterious eyes, was a woman with unique atmosphere when she was alive three hundred years ago.

Gumina’s calm expression matches as Gumillia’s external image.

When Elluka saw the body I imagined, she had a confused look on her face.

“You actually chose the appearance of the original sinner...”

The original sinner was the most wicked of wicked people, who created the deadly sin vessels. She had caused it, and I had witnessed it... it was most certainly a frightening event. Although, when she saw the resemblance to she who went mad with malice, there was a strong sentiment of fear, as well as the feeling that she was beautiful.

The court magician Elluka didn't always stay at the abandoned house. She would occasionally go back to the palace. Now, the royal palace— is being governed by an evil princess.

Elluka takes her time teaching us about humans and magic. With that said, I mostly follow her disciple —Gumillia to teach me. Because I have to carry out the order to look for the “sin” fragment, I at least need to practice the necessary magic to do so. That magic would be...

“Michaela, show me what you learned.”

“I understand!”

I faced the sky and opened my mouth to inhale. Accompanied by a soothing rhythm, a melody blurted out.

“Lu Li La, Lu Li La -♪”

My voice can be heard throughout the forest, across the sky, across the region. The sound wouldn't disturb anything as it was gentle enough for plants, animals and humans. I was singing to my heart's content.

As I finished singing, I closed my eyes and listened carefully.

“... How is it Michaela? Can you hear anything?”

“Yes...”

A distant voice returned to me... the only one that echoed... that is mixed with slight dissonance.

“Do you know where the sound is coming from?”

“From here to the north... after Eldoh-san's forest, move forward... but to be more specific...”

“I see... the border”

Elluka patted her hands. Today's practice is over.

“So far, the basic things I taught you are OK in general. You will just have to practice repeatedly and find any errors. When you have mastered it, you should be able to find the exact location.”

This magic song is used to find things... under the guidance of Elluka, after a series of attempts, would be most suitable for my practice. For this month, I only have to learn this magic song because the knowledge I need is to understand about the world.

According to Elluka, Gumillia seems to have more potential to learn magic. She was able to accurately predict today’s weather and also allowed withered flowers to bloom again. As things are now, she may be admitted as the palace’s official court magician disciple and be allowed to practice magic.

The three of us living together is coming to an end. Starting tomorrow, I’ll be going to Elphegort to search for the “sin vessel”.

“It would be better to go to the capital, Aceid, where lots of people gather. It would be easier to gather intelligence there.”

During our last supper together, Elluka told me this.

“Aceid...”

“According to the present situation, the ‘sin’ is most likely to be possessed by someone unique and powerful such as King Sohni Elphen, Duke Parukeiji Merudo and the aristocrat, Keel Freesis... they all live in Aceid”

“Yes... I know.”

I don’t know why, but my head is aching. That wasn’t a right answer to give.

“Are you okay? Your face looks pale”

“I don’t know why but... my body is feeling hot.”

“Do you have a cold? You have to be more careful. Humans and spirits are not the same; humans feel hunger and can feel sick if not careful. It may also cause an irreparable loss.”

“When I was a chipmunk, I didn’t feel anything like that.”

“Eldoh-san has the power to turn you into an animal. God’s power and mine cannot be compared. Morphing is different from reincarnating. In addition, magicians and normal humans are no different. Don’t forget that.”

Elluka repeatedly warned Gumillia and me. The pain I’m experiencing right now is completely different from when I was a robin.

“Ahhh...”

“Here, drink this. You have to go to bed earlier for today.”

Elluka got some powder from her luggage. It seems to be herbs.

I ate what is left on my plate.

After drinking the herb Elluka gave me, I went to bed.

“Well, we have to go now”

The next morning, when I opened my eyes, they already had their luggage packed and was about to leave the abandoned house.

“Although it was a short period of time, thank you very much... Please take care”

“Your body? Are you feeling better?”

“The medicine seems to be effective. I’m feeling more comfortable now”

I felt a gaze on me; Gumillia was looking at me and had a worried look on her face.

“I’m worried about you, Michaela.”

I grabbed Gumillia’s hand and said with a smile:

“Don’t be! I’ll be having a new life in Elphegort. It’s very close to Eldoh-san so there’s nothing to fear of! You’re the one that should be more careful Gumillia, we do not know what the future has for you in Lucifenia.”

“Michaela...”

Gumillia expression was not clear for she didn't know how to make facial expressions; she is mostly expressionless. In this regard, I'm feeling quite good, thanks to Elluka.

I smiled cheerfully. Gumillia tried to imitate how I laughed. However, she looks too unnatural, not so much like laughing but was more like staring me down. Gumillia, with a strange smile, said:

"Michaela, if you would ever be in trouble, I'll come and rescue you no matter what happens."

"Thank you, Gumillia. I will also help you if you're in trouble."

I hugged Gumillia. The heat from her body passed through mine. We never like these when we were spirits; the human body is very warm.

"Eldoh has given us three years to accomplish our objective. I will be hoping for the best... in short, I will be looking forward to seeing the three of us meet her again!"

Elluka said. They then set forth for Lucifenia while I headed for Elphegort.

Elluka and I weren't able to achieve a final agreement.

Reincarnating as a human, "I" didn't realize it.

That this would be our last meeting as humans.

## Section 2, Scene 1

❁Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski Village • Clarith's home" ~

".....Ugh."

When I regain consciousness, I was greeted by a familiar ceiling and Clarith's face.

My head hurts. There is no way to ponder; I cannot even my body freely.

Even so, why am I here? Why am I lying down in Clarith's home? My priority was going to Aceid, but I wanted to visit Eldoh-san first. I didn't expect that midway, I would fall unconscious and then, and then...

"You're awake. But you still have a little fever. Please continue to lie down."

Clarith took off the towel on my forehead and replaced it with another one. It was soaked in water and gave a cool feeling.

"I..."

"In the forest... I found you fainted nearby the Millennium Tree. I know you don't like people of the Netsuma tribe to take care of you, but unless your fever is gone, I hope you would bear with me."

Clarith's words reminded me of my own identity of being one of Elphegort's people. How humiliating it must be to be found unconscious near Eldoh-san and to be found by Clarith.

Elluka repeatedly said that we shouldn't let others know of our spirit identity and we have to be careful to not let others be aware of us. I heaved a sigh of relief. In recognition to the time when we first met:

"Thank you for your help."

Probably because when we reincarnated from spirits to humans, we are not familiar and couldn't cultivate our own magic, and became a great burden for us. Even getting up is difficult to do with this human body. I wonder how Gumillia does it.

“May I ask where this is?”

“This is Yatski Village; a village north from the Millennium Tree Forest or it should be easier to understand that we are between Aceid and the Lake of Amusement. This is my house, small and dirty. I’m sorry.”

Clarith hung her head and said with a small voice. Her cautious attitude made her nervous and just say something simple.



“There’s nothing to apologize about and I really appreciate your help.”

In order to ease the tension, I smiled and thanked her again.

“I’m called Michaela. What about you?”

“.....Clarith. Michaela, why did you faint in such a place?”

“Eh?”

“Luckily I was just passing by the Millennium Tree Forest when I found you. Generally, only a few people pass through there...”

When Clarith said that, my heart jumped. It’s true that Eldoh-san having visitors is quite rare.

“Ah, I wanted to go to Aceid...”

“Why are going to Aceid coming from Millenium Tree Forest? That forest is opposite of Lucifenia.”

“Ah... eh... I was coming from Lucifenia.”

As Clarith said, going through the forest would lead you to Lucifenia. As an Elphegortean, there is no need to walk through the forest because there are other roads that I can take.

I shouldn’t have said that. Walking through the Millennium Tree Forest coming from Lucifenia is not the right choice. If she continues to question me further, I might not be able to answer anymore.

“I never heard of an Elphegortean living in Lucifenia before.”

“Well, Lucifenia is inhabited by different races of people...”

Elluka said it herself that she wasn’t from Lucifenia so it must be true.

“I’ve been there sometimes, so you’re probably right”

The house has become silent for a while. Clarith did not seem to believe the things I said. I secretly gazed at her. Tears seem to be floating in her eyes.

I can't help but stare at her. I don't know if she is aware that I'm staring at her. Clarith embarrassedly wiped the tears from her eyes.

"I'm sorry! I really shouldn't be alive! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!"

Suddenly shouting strange words, I don't know if she wants to cause a ruckus or she is just plain frightened. But in any case, it didn't need to come to this point. I already know her true personality when I was in my robin form.

"Hey! Clarith! You shouldn't speak loudly when there is a patient in the house."

Clarith's mother's voice came from inside the room.

"I heated up the soup. Do you also want some, Miss Michaela?"

Clarith's mother, carrying a bowl of steaming soup, walked slowly into the room. I suddenly remembered that she knows my robin form. I got a glanced inside the bowl; thank god it's not full of earthworms.

"Please wait a moment. I'll put some seasonings on it."

"Ah! Mother!"

Clarith hurriedly grabbed the bowl her mother was carrying as she getting something from a small box.

She got the bowl of soup. I pretended that I didn't see what was inside the small box that resembled a caterpillar.

Clarith handed to me the bowl of soup and drank it. It was delicious!

She knew my name even though I haven't introduced myself. She must be nearby when I and Clarith were talking. When I was a robin, she saw through it and knew my true identity. My identity might be revealed sooner or later.

She was still the same as before; a steady smile and an expression I cannot read through.

Suddenly, a knock on the door.

“Clarith! I know you’re in there! You haven’t paid your rent for this month!”

The one who came in was an old man with a cane and a big strong man. The old man was hunched over, had dark green hair and a long beard. Clarith was filled with fear as she bowed her head.

“Chieftain! I’m sorry... I don’t have money on me right now... Can you give me some more time?”

“If you have no money, then leave. People like you will never be welcomed in other villages other than here”

“But.....”

“Otherwise, you can come to my place tonight and work off your debt~ Hahahaha!”

The old man said with a wretched laugh. Hearing his words, Clarith became pale. Maybe Clarith became like that because of what that old man did to her arms and legs.

“Can I say something?”

I placed the bowl of soup aside, interrupting his laughter. The old man immediately turned his sight from Clarith to me. He became alert as he saw me.

“You are not from this village. This is an internal problem of our village. I hope outsiders would not interfere.”

“Clarith, can you help me with my bag?”

I softly said to the trembling Clarith. She bowed her head and passed me my bag. I took a handful of silver coins inside.

“Is this much enough for you?”

Everyone was surprised and stunned. There was total silence for a while until the big man spoke.

“No... It’s too much”

“Then use this as payment. My head is aching and I need peace and quiet... can you please leave us alone?”

This time, I didn't know what to answer. I tried to say what Elluka would say in this situation. I couldn't understand the old man's facial expression as he continued pounding the floor with his cane.

“Why are you helping the Netsuma girl?”

“Because she saved me when I fainted in the forest and this money is her reward for doing so, get it?”

“Okay, okay. Let's go, Eugen”

The old man, murmuring some complaints and went out of the house with the big man. A loud “slam” was heard as they closed the door.

“Michaela... I'm really, really, really, really sorry!”

The pale Clarith shouted.

“As I said earlier, you don't have to apologize. This is the least I can do for you.”

“But this is already too much...”

I repeatedly said not to care about it but Clarith kept bowing in gratitude.

Elluka gave me a sum of money for me to rent a house. Although I still don't understand the concept of money, but I have lots of it.

But looking at the stunned look of the people around and when Elluka said to only use “little” amount of money, I'm afraid what I took out wasn't a small amount.

But with this money, I can help Clarith.

“.....Clarith.”

“Yes?”

“I have to tell you something that will please you.”

“What is it?”

As I was about to speak, in panic, Clarith lifted her head and hit the cupboard I don't know if that was painful, but she crouched down, holding her head.

“Are you okay?”

“Ahh... Ouch!... But I'm just fine. What did you want to say?”

Clarith's mother was surprised as Clarith said that with a tearful look but she didn't particularly look worried. It must be already be normal for them.

I strived to tell this to Clarith:

“I can pay rent, so can you let me stay here for a while?”

## Section 2, Scene 2

### ❁Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski Village" ~

My eyes were set on a broad field full of fruit crops. The people in this village probably use them as their own food or they sell them to the people of Aceid. Other fruits and grains are being made into wine and bread.

When I first saw these artificially planted crops, rather than harvesting naturally growing ones, I was amazed on how humans have lots of means to earn money and live differently.

Due to over population, people have to grow their own crops or raise some poultry. The results gave them a steady source of food even when their numbers is still increasing.

"Today, the land is not dominated by God, but by the people."

Is what Eldoh-san would inadvertently complain. But as I witnessed people doing farm work in the village, I think what he was saying is true. This, in some sense, is close to "creation" and to "create", which is an act of God. Human "creation", in comparison to God is very incomplete. But this is understandable, because humans are unable to start this process from scratch. This human behavior is not to "create" but to manifest it and auxiliary do nothing. However, when I saw this scene, I am deeply impressed with human intelligence and their dedication to survive.

"Though I have lived for a thousand years, I know next to nothing about humans."

It never occurred to me that farm work would be very tedious; the pain on my wrist and waist is unbearable. Sometimes, I want to go back to Eldoh-san and live a life of leisure and ease.

The old man next door complained about the low temperature we were having; we harvested a lot less compared to last year. But it was still more than what Lucifenia has harvested.

Speaking of Lucifenia..... I wonder how Gumillia and Elluka are doing. I haven't seen or heard of them in a few months now. This country lacks information about other countries.

I looked up at the sky and saw that it was already getting dark. I picked up my tools and headed for home.

Up to now, I was still living in Clarith's house.

Even if I wanted to go to Aceid, I don't have the strength or any clues to go after. Also, this village isn't very far from Aceid; I can look for 'sin' anytime. Thanks to Clarith's saving grace, I still have lots of money in my purse...

Staying home and doing nothing is very boring. Clarith asked me if I wanted to help her in farm work. I really didn't expect such a miscalculation. At first, I had a lot of anticipation of finding 'sin', but it was all wasted in idle.

Clarith was assigned with a very small land for harvest. It wasn't enough for our living expenses. Clarith had to do extra work to earn more. While substituting for Clarith in farm work, I made lots of friends and gathered some information about the village.

This land, including the whole of Yatski Village, belongs to Count Felix. All of the land fees are to be collected by the chieftain then is to be given to him.

It was said that whenever the chieftain comes to collect land fees, he would always be accompanied by a big man named Eugen, his nephew. He was previously in the army but after dispute, he became the chieftain's assistant. At first, he was against the chieftain's greed, but soon after, Eugen realized the power he was given. He only vented his dissatisfaction at Clarith.

Although the people of the village are nice, they have a bad attitude towards Clarith. For Elphegortians, they think of "individuals of the Netsuma Tribe as heretics; even persecution is not enough". This idea is deeply rooted into their hearts. I do not have the slightest idea why they think like that nor is the idea of persecution needed. Perhaps it has something to do in past events or something to do with politics. However, for a long time, the exact reason has been forgotten and only the word "Netsuma Tribe" retained. Even so, Clarith doesn't deserve this kind of treatment.

Of course, I think that Clarith's clumsiness and cowardice promoted their discrimination towards her. Perhaps because of the discrimination, Clarith's

personality has become like that. In the end, what came first will never be known. Clarith never mentioned it to me yet because there was a subtle difference between us. It was impossible to restore the relationship we had when I was in my robin form. I want to tell her my origins, but for some reasons, I cannot tell her.

“Well, I don’t exactly know what to do until then.”

On my way back, I found Clarith talking to another person nearby a truck. It was very unusual.

The other person was the chieftain’s son, Ein. He is entirely different from his father; a fine young man and very popular among the women of the village. I hesitated to say hello but Ein seems to be aware of my existence. I wildly turned and waved my hand. Clarith nodded.

“Miss Michaela...”

“Ah! Michaela! Thanks for the hard work!”

Ein said with a hearty smile; healthy white teeth that shone in the sunset.

“We were talking about the harvest festival”

“Aren’t you a little impatient? I heard that the harvest festival is still far away from now.”

“The sooner we prepare the better. We have poor harvest this year. Nevertheless, I want it to be grand as possible.”

“If we had poor harvest this year, what’s the point of having a grand festival?”

“Even if we have poor harvest, we still have to celebrate and to cheer everyone up.”

We chatted for a while until Ein said goodbye to Clarith and went home. From start to finish, Ein had concerned smile while Clarith always remained silent. I tried to politely ask the reason why.

“I am not very good at dealing with boys. To be honest, Michaela’s arrival here really helped me a lot.”

Clarith said while her eyes were casted down. Even while continuing the conversation, she just kept her eyes casted down.

“Does Ein often talk to you?”

“Yes... more recently, he takes the initiative and talk to me.”

“Before, when Michaela hasn’t come to this village yet, we rarely spoke to each other.”

“Ahhh...”

Clarith suddenly stopped and looked at the sky. The sun in the sky has almost completely set.

“That man... I mean Ein... might actually like Michaela.”

“Eh?”

“I think the reason why he talks to me... is to get closer to you, Miss Michaela”

“Really?”

Putting it that way, I became embarrassed. I do not understand this so called human expression of love. Although my identity is female, I am originally a genderless spirit. Of course, I understand the concept of biological sex and reproduction activities. However, I still don’t understand the delicate relationship between a man and a woman...

“What does Michaela think of Ein?”

“.....What?”

“I think beautiful people match very well.”

“Although you say that, I’m not really interested in men...”

When I finished my sentence, I suddenly realized the words I was saying can be easily misunderstood. I looked at Clarith, she seems to be pleased to with what I said.

“Me too, I’m also not interested in them”

.....I have to choose my words carefully!

As we were about to open the door, the girl next door, Chelsea, appeared right behind us like a ghost. She had the appearance of an actress, wearing a fancy dress and makeup. Behind her were two girls. If I remember correctly, they are Chelsea's friends... or should I say... her henchmen.

"Clarith, I have something to tell you. Please come with me for a moment."

Chelsea, with her hair all messy, walked towards the side of her house. She was urging Clarith to follow her behind her house. I now know what she really meant.

"Yes. I'm coming"

As Clarith said this, she immediately followed behind them. Because I'm concerned for Clarith, I intended to follow them.

But Chelsea suddenly stopped.

"This does not concern you, Michaela."

Although she didn't allow me to follow them, but the atmosphere around them worries me. When the four figures disappeared, I took a deep breath and walked slowly and quietly, hiding in the shade made by the house and secretly watched them.

"What were you trying to do?"

Chelsea crossed her arms, pressing herself against Clarith.

"I saw it. A dirty Netsuma girl was talking to Ein. I hope you weren't planning to do something to him..."

"No! I wasn't!"

"You are planning something!"

**"I'm sorry!"**

"I don't want to hear your excuses!"

This is what you call “Woman’s Envy”. If that were the case, why isn’t she targeting me? I’m the one they should be targeting because Clarith didn’t even say anything to Ein. Or maybe they saw the scene when I haven’t arrived yet. Maybe that’s it...

Even so, they are bullying her too much. Poor Clarith began to tremble and curl up her body.

“Eve Ein finds it disturbing when you are close to him. Listen, I forbid you to take a single step near Ein.”

“.....”

“Don’t just ignore me! Speak up!”

Chelsea raised her voice and lifted Clarith’s arm. Clarith’s body trembled; she isn’t able to escape for she was too afraid to do so.

“Wait a minute!”

I immediately jumped and shouted. Chelsea loosed her grip on Clarith’s wrist. I took the opportunity and got in between them.

“Miss Michaela...”

Chelsea was taken back. She still didn’t let go of Clarith. I grabbed her wrist and placed her hands down.

“Fighting is not good! I know eavesdropping is not also good but I think what you’re doing is wrong! I cannot just watch and let you have your way with her!”

“What’s wrong with that? We just hate how this Netsuma girl is getting cheeky with Ein”

“I think you have misunderstood”

I faked a smile and added more force unto her wrist.

“But...”

“Moreover, resorting to violence is not good. Everything can be talked out peacefully”

“Fo-forget it! Let me go! Hey, you two, we’re leaving!”

I let go of Chelsea’s wrist and the three of them left together. When Chelsea’s figure disappeared, I gently patted Clarith’s trembling shoulder.

“Are you okay?”

“I’m alright. Thank you!”

“Clarith, you have to speak out your mind. If you don’t tell others your thoughts, you will be misunderstood.”

“I’m sorry, Miss Michaela.”

“Hey, you should just call me “Michaela”. We are friends after all.“

"Friends?"

“Yeah, aren’t we friends yet?”

“Yes. I’m sorry. Thank you Michaela! I’m so happy...”

Clarith wrapped her arms around me. Although there was little force, but I can feel she was holding me tightly.

“Michaela, I have a request.”

Clarith said in a vague voice. I asked: “What is it?”. She answers with a smaller voice.

“Can you hold me for a little longer? This is the first time other than my mother somebody has embraced me”

“Of course”

I held Clarith tighter, as if I was ready to break her body. Clarith, I promise to protect you.

Since that day, every day we would go out and go home after work together. Clarith gradually shown her personality to me when I was a robin.

Although it's only a little bit, but I feel our relationship has become more intimate.

## Section 2, Scene 3

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski hill" ~

It was the dead of night.

I stood on top of a hill that is near the village. From here, I can immediately see the city lights of Aceid and also the starry night sky. Although the view of the stars here is different from the forest, it doesn't really matter.

If I returned to the village, I would see small houses all lined up. Standing here, even if I yell or cry, it wouldn't bother anyone.

I took a deep breath then exhaled. Although it was a bit cold, the air circulating through my body feels comfortable.

Once again, I took a deep breath and blurted out a melody.

From air to language and from language to music.

Elluka taught me the "Music box Lullaby", a very old song.

I let my song be heard throughout Elphegort, the earth and the sky.



I sang until my voice became hoarse.

Over and over, I closed my eyes and listened carefully.

I listened to the countless echoes coming from every direction.

I could hear the sound of the mountain spirit.

It is mixed with shrill echoes of different kinds.

I concentrated, wanting to know where a certain voice is coming from.

That sound was coming from a building in northern Aceid. The building is larger than the ones surrounding it and is more luxurious. I don't know who owns it, but to be living in a large, it must be an aristocrat.

Anyway, I now have a clue where the 'sin' is.

I've been busy with my "human" life, spending a lot of time establishing relationships. After a lot of singing, I've finally found it. The only thing to do now is to plan how to get my hands on it.

"Your singing is wonderful!"

A voice coming from behind, my heart jumped.

A turned around and saw Clarith standing there.

"Clarith, why are you still up?"

"That's my line Michaela. Michaela..."

"I just can't seem to get a wink of sleep..."

"Oh"

Clarith seems to have something to say. I sat on a large flat stone I found nearby.

“Please come sit, Clarith”

After hearing what I said, Clarith timidly came and sat beside me.

“Has Michaela become accustomed to life here?”

“Hmm... Although the farm work is hard, but I’m very happy”

“Happy... I never felt like that. It must be because you’re rich”

“Rich? Me?”

“Michaela must have come from a wealthy family, otherwise, you wouldn’t have lots of money”

“Well... Ha ha ha”

Although I can’t deny it, I still have to hide my true identity. Well, even if I told her, she wouldn’t believe me. Her mother doesn’t seem to have found out of my identity yet.

Clarith’s mother has been bedridden because of a fever.

“How is your mother’s condition?”

“She isn’t going to last long. The doctor said it’s already too late and because Gula disease has no cure. She is only given some pain killers and sleeping pills”

The Gula epidemic started in Southern Belzenia. Lucifenia took this opportunity and invaded Belzenia. The disease did not only spread throughout Lucifenia but in Elphegort as well. Patients have an abnormally high fever and a weird taste for food. Clarith’s mother would pick up and eat bugs from the road side.

“Aced’s doctors are still currently studying the Gula disease...”

As we expanded our view on Aced’s scenery, Clarith feebly bowed her head. I skipped to the next topic, but apparently I choose the wrong topic again.

I pointed out to Clarith the large house in Aced and said:

“Speaking of Aced, Clarith, do you know who owns that house?”

I was pointing to the large house where 'sin' responded from.

"That's Mr. Keel's house. Why do you ask?"

The aristocrat Keel Freesis. Elluka did say that she suspected him.

"Nothing in particular. I just thought that his house is bigger than the others. Mr. Keel must be the head of commerce?"

"Yes. He is the richest man in this country. It was said that every month, he would invite many people for dinner. He's really admirable..."

Clarith whispered with a lonely face.

"Dinner? For the country's richest man to serve dinner, the cuisines must be exquisite"

"No, that's not it. I just thought that if he had so many friends around him, he must be really happy."

"Does Clarith want lots of friends?"

"Ah? Yes. But it's okay. I know I can't make friends."

Clarith holding her knees, a gust of wind blew. It feels a little colder.

"Because Clarith is of the Netsuma Tribe?"

"Yes and because I'm not Michaela, who is beautiful and cheerful"

I always thought that Clarith is a kind person.

While that is what I would like to say, but I can't. Because I don't know Clarith for very long yet and I also don't know how many scars she has in her heart. I'm afraid that what I say wouldn't be able to pierce through her heart.

"Even so, I accept you for who you are"

Clarith looked at me in the eyes. She smiled and said:

"Even if....."

Suddenly, a gust of wind blew, concealing what Clarith said.

“I’m sorry. What did you say?”

When I asked her, Clarith shook her head with a face that is crying out. She smiled and said: “Nevermind”.

“For as long as Michaela is by my side, I’ll be fine”

This is what Clarith said. Although the wind is a bit cold, but my chest warmed up a little.

“Thank you, Clarith”

“Strange. Why would Michaela thank me?”

Yes. It’s already in the past. It doesn’t matter anymore.

What’s important now is how the two of us would go on.

“It’s starting to get windy. Let’s go home”

I gently stood up while Clarise panicked and fell. I smiled and took her hand, holding her until we got home.

Clarise did not want to wake up her mother. She gently opened the door.

As I was about to go in, Clarith just stood there and did not move.

“What’s the matter Clarith?”

I looked over Clarith’s shoulder to see what happened.

“.....No! Mom!”

The house was shrouded in darkness.

Clarith’s mother vomited blood and laid there, motionless.

## Section 2, Scene 4

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski Village • Clarith's house" ~

The funeral for Clarith's mother was very simple.

Only two people attended; Clarith and me. After the priest finished his prayers, she was buried in the northern public cemetery.

Clarith did not cry; she just bowed her head, biting her lips.

"What are your future plans?"

I finally asked her. I don't know what to ask anymore.

".....I don't know."

Clarith whispered while squatting, half of her body is leaning against the wall.

Her back looked more thin than usual. She must have lost weight again.

Though I don't know the reason to why Clarith is adopted and wasn't raised by her own family. It must be hard for her to lose her only family.

The bed, dishes and all other things belong to Clarith's mother. For Clarith, living in a home where her mother is already gone must be painful for her. I can't let Clarith's fragile heart continue on living here.

"Clarith, would you like to..."

I've decided to tell her my idea. I don't know if she would agree to my proposal but if nothing is done, she would live a life being crushed by reality.

"...leave the village..."

At that moment, I can't read Clarith's expression on her face. She didn't want to think of such things; it was a look of surprise.

“... and go to Aceid, to start a new life.”

An environmental change and clearing up the sky full of painful memories is what she needs to have right now.

These words... although I speak these words, it has no logic at all.

In fact, I cannot live here anymore. Now that I know the whereabouts of ‘sin’, I have to take action. I must end this already. I haven’t met up with Elluka for six months now.

I don’t know if Clarith would agree to my proposal but we cannot just stay put here.

“It’s fine, leave without me. Michaela should be living in Aceid with her family anyway.”

“.....Huh? What are you talking about Clarith?”

“Chelsea said that the reason you remain by my side is to set off your beauty. People would also say that you’re a gentle person if you treat a Netsuma, like me, kindly.

I became speechless. Is that how people look at me?

“Of course, these are just Chelsea’s random babbles. But Michaela, deep in my heart, I do have doubts about you”

Clarith maintained her posture. She was laughing but she had an unusual smile; a timid smile that rebuked of her cowardice.

“Breathtaking beauty, a carefree smile, a beautiful voice, someone who can bring joy to others, a cheerful character. You have everything I do not have. Although I’m glad, but I have doubts about our relationship”

Clarith stood up and pressed her chest against mine. Her eyes became more crimson.

“You don’t have sympathy for me; you just accompany me for you to have self-esteem.”

“No!”

“But it’s okay, for as long as you remain as my friend, it’s fine by me.”

“Clarith!”

I have to clear up the misunderstanding. The mood at the moment cannot be expressed with words. Even so, Clarith sounded like I was just using her as an excuse.

I stayed silent, hugging her more tightly than before. She slightly struggled but was unable to push me back.

I could feel Clarith’s heart beat. She should be able to hear mine as well. Perhaps by doing so, it would allow us to understand each other’s feelings.

“Clarith, I like you for who you are”

Clarith did not say anything; her face did not show any cowardice.

“No matter what others say, to me, you’re a wonderful person. Your kindness can never be compared to anyone.”

As I finished, Clarith slowly closed her eyes then opened them again; tears flowed through her eyes.

For a period of time, Clarith has been lying on my arm, crying. She just leaned on me, bursting into tears, letting it all out.

“Use this to wipe your face”

I handed over a handkerchief. Clarith finally calmed down.

“Thank you Michaela! Thank you very much!”

Clarith wiped off her tears then she asked:

“Going to Aceid is not a problem, but what will we do after we arrive there?”

“I haven’t thought about it. I have lots of money... we can do whatever we want. If Clarith wants to of course...”

“I would feel bad for Michaela... Except in helping you with farm work, I have never really done anything for you. I would feel uncomfortable”

Although Clarith just had a sad experience, a smile is emerging from her face.

“However, it doesn’t matter anymore. Together with Michaela, we can overcome various difficulties. I will become stronger.”

After some talking, the two of us just faced each other and laughed. We were looking forward to our new life, full of hope and uncertainty.

Suddenly, the door of the house was being forcibly opened.

“Clarith! Clarith! Are you home right now?”

It was Ein’s voice.

“Ein? What’s the matter?”

Ein had a hard time breathing while he trying to say something.

“Did something happen?”

“Eugen was killed by my father. Father is insisting that he was killed by Clarith. A bunch of people are getting ready to arrest Clarith. We must hurry and escape!”

After hearing what Ein said, my head became blank.

## Section 2, Scene 5

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski Village • Backstreet" ~

On a hill, a little north from the village, was a steep cliff path. The road was too narrow; the slightest mistake we make, we would slip and fall down the cliff. No one ever dared walk this path.

Ein lead us; taking us along safer routes. Although Clarith slipped, but did not fall several times, we managed to safely escape from the villagers.

"Let's take a break"

Ein pointed at a conifer. Because we had to take the long way around, Clarith and I were exhausted. We leaned our body against the tree.

Clarith hasn't been able to sleep since her mother died. She immediately fell asleep as her fatigue reached its limit.

"What happened in the village?"

To avoid waking up Clarith, I whispered to Ein. He just simply described the situation.

The chieftain pocketed some of the money he was supposed to give to Count Felix. Eugen threatened the chieftain to give the proper amount of money to him. In the end, the chieftain poisoned Eugen and is framing Clarith as the suspect.

"Father said that Eugen was killed when he finished eating the food on his dish. He also said that because of the debt, Clarith resented him. In order for her to pay back her shortcomings, my father would call her over and made her serve food."

"But how did such things..."

"In fact, even if father did not say anything, Clarith would still be suspected. No one objected to his accusation. Of course, I would have objected, if I had more power..."

Ein clenched his fist and punched the tree. The tree shook, dripping some rain from the leaves.

“I am ashamed to have a father like him.”

Ein was unwilling to distort his face. He never showed this kind of expression in the village. I originally thought he was always a cheerful person all the time. Every person, whoever it is, always have a dark side in their heart.

“After this, what is Ein going to do?”

“I intend to go to Count Felix and tell him everything”

“If you do that, your father will be arrested. Is that okay with you?”

“It doesn’t matter anymore. Michaela, would you come with me...”

“Thank you for the offer, but we intend to leave the village and live in Aceid”

“Ahhh... I agree with your plan. It’s more easier to hide when there are more people around you. No one should be able to find you there.”

Ein’s face looked a little lonely. I don’t know why but I feel he is regretting something.

“...I’m sorry!”

“You don’t have to apologize. It’s better if Clarith remained by your side.”

Ein looked at Clarith who was sleeping and leaning on my shoulder.

“When I become stronger and removed all the guilt I have, I will be able to talk face to face with her.”

“Ein?”

“Oh, never mind. After we take a break, I’ll take you two to Aceid.”

I have lived in Yatski village for six months. In my thousand years of living, this was a special moment.

There was a lot of discovery, a lot of encounter.

I feel like I have finally understood humans a little bit.

“Humans” are such incredible beings—

I would like to know more and more.

# CHAPTER 3

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## Section 1 –Waltz of the Diva–

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Aceid • Inn" ~

Elphegort's largest city – Aceid. As the nation's capital, Aceid is divided into five regions: The North, South, East, West and Central. The central area of the city brings all the residents together. Trades with Lucifenia are most prevalent in the southern area. All kinds of open-air stalls can be found there. The Western and Northern part is the residential area for Nobles and Wealthy people; they cover a broad area. While the majority of the eastern part is where poor residents live, the general public will not easily close the area.

Today, Clarith and I spend the night in a small hotel located in the central region of Aceid. The owners of the inn seem to be the midwife who delivered Ein. Because of Ein, we were able to stay in the inn. After dropping us here, Ein went to Earl Felix's mansion.

"The naughty little boy has become such a promising man."

While pointing to Ein, the owner of the inn scratched the bald side of his head. Ein's mother died when Ein was still young. The owner's wife had to take a mother's role and take care of him.

The couple makes a profit by operating the inn. We stay in it and pay some accommodation. Apart from anything else, the couple accepted us. The couple were immigrants; not natives of Elphegort and thus, does not wear tinted glasses when looking at Clarith.

We were staying in the inn for a week now. Tonight, we were sitting in the living room and drinking tea.

“As immigrants, it’s difficult to do business in this country”

“Mr. Keel is just the few immigrants who are successful in business. This is just simply a matter of having business savvy.”

Complaints made by the couple while computing their accounts. Managing a hotel doesn’t seem to be a very good business.

“Speaking of Mr. Keel, doesn’t he live in the northern part of Aceid?”

“Oh, so you know about him. As immigrants, he represents as the star of hope for us.”

My question made the owner talk about all the incidents they had and, at the same time, talked about people he respected. The boss goes on and on and I talked a lot too.

In this country, or even the whole of Evillious, Mr. Keel Freesis’s name is known. His business, the Freesis Foundation, is a chamber for commerce. Needless to say, he has a branch in Lucifenia’s Kingdom, in Marlon, in Divine Levianta and in Elphegort.

Not only that, but Keel also combined with other trading associations. His plan to make a union where sharing of useful information to get better benefits was a success. Keel’s authority even catches up among the royal family. He bought his knighthood to become a noble, giving him greater political influence.

Keel was born in the West Island of Marlon. Among Marlon’s people, he was known to be a young man who owned an unfair business. Because of it, he is being hunted down. He fled the country together with his lover to Elphegort.

His lover is now his wife.

“The Freesis couple has three children. We would sometimes help and take care of them. Mr. Keel has become the first big business man in Elphegort or even in Evillious as a whole. His house was larger than some of the lower nobility; very spacious like that of the Royal Palace.”

The owner is telling some of his own stories in general, a little complacent.

“Managing an inn like this requires lots of servants...”

“Eh? Has missy thought of a good idea?”

Inadvertently emerging can also be associated with bright ideas. But at this time, the owner was just making fun of me. The owner has the tendency to be attracted to good ideas. Even calling me “missy” is kind of disturbing.

The inn is not operating properly and I’m beginning to worry about money. The money Elluka gave me is slowly vanishing and we couldn’t sell all the property we had as we had to escape from the village. Thus, we have to earn a living.

Though it’s kind of irritating, but the inn has not enough money to hire someone. Due to the poor harvest this year, the city is in a downturn. Although we exerted effort, beside me, no one would hire someone from the Netsuma tribe like Clarith. We were hoping that we could work in the same place but given the hopeless situation, it’s impossible. The owner is a kind person, but if you mention money to them, they become stingy. If we were unable to pay for the accommodations, the owner would relentlessly kick us out. If it comes to that, we have no choice but to work alone.

“Can I ask if Mr. Keel’s wife need of some new servant?”

By any means, I have to investigate Keel and look for ‘sin’. If we can sneak into Keel’s home as servants, we would be hitting two birds with one stone.

“Though if you’re looking for that kind of work, will you be able find one?”

“Mr. Keel and his servant will be coming here tomorrow. I can ask him if you like.”

She said while counting the coins. This is very exciting news. While the inn provide accommodation, during their leisure time, they operate a business of selling Lolam bird feathers. Every month, the servant of Mr. Keel’s wife would drop by and buy the feathers. I have no special memories about the Lolam bird but for Elphegortians, its feather is a very precious item than can be used as a feather pen.

“Thank you! Thank you very much madam!”

“Ha ha! You can thank me later when you get hired.”

Keel and his wife are not Elphegortians. If it all goes well, maybe Clarith will get employed too. We have finally seen hope. I slowly and quietly got back to our room and saw Clarith lying in bed, sleeping. To find a job, everyday she would run around the city. She must be really tired. When we wake up tomorrow, I’m going to tell her all about it. As I kept thinking about it, I fell asleep.

The next day, the one who came to the hotel wasn't Mr. Keel but his wife...

Of course, I haven't seen Mr. Keel's wife before but I could tell from her appearance. Even her servant looks very temperament.

"Today, I'm the one who is going to pick the goods. We have to tidy up things today."

She approached the counter then quietly sat next down. The owner was surprised and had ordered me to fetch some tea in the warehouse.

As I brought the tea, we all gazed at her. She is entirely different from the people of the village. She gives out an atmosphere of elegance. I heard she was originally from Marlon, becoming the wife of a noble and now a businessman's wife. Even all through that, she has not lost her elegance.

".....Do you mind removing your gaze at my red hair?"

The lady said while drinking a cup of tea. She then smiled at me.

"Ah... I'm sorry for staring at you..."

Even though she was looking down on me, she still kept her smile. She must already be accustomed to people staring at her.

"Well, it doesn't matter. In this country, excluding green hair, other hair colors is very rare."

"No, it's not that. It's just that you're too beautiful... god has blessed you very much."

"I'm very happy. Thank you very much. You also have a beautiful face. I was startled when I saw you. The sound of your voice is also very pleasing to my ears."

"Thank you. It is an honor to receive a compliment from you."

"You don't have to restrain yourself. Looking at your hair, I wonder, are you a pure Elphgortean? The couple who owns this inn doesn't seem to be your relative... and you also have an unusual aura; something not from this world."

As a businessman's wife, she seems to have a very good eye to judge a person. Although she wouldn't be able to see my true identity, but I'm still getting a little worried."

"For some reasons, I'm currently staying here."

"For someone as young as you, it must be hard"

She said but she looked younger than me. This is the consistent problem with aging. Even so, she has a youthful face, not showing to anybody her real age.

"I have been through a lot when I was young. It was especially harder when we arrived in this country!"

"Elphegort is a country that treats immigrants fairly harsh. Even so, The Freesis Foundation handled it and has achieved great success. It's really fantastic. From what I heard, even from a distant, Mr. Keel's house is as spacious as far as the eyes can see."

We're about to reach the right topic. Although I'm not very confident with my speaking skills, but it's worth a try.

"Thank you. But having a large house is also a problem... Recently, several of our servants have resigned so we lack some manpower... Although it's a little embarrassing to say this, but that is the reason for my trip today."

"Sooooo..."

The lady had a distressed smile.

Even so, lacking in servants is rare.

"Well, I may be able to help... but actually we are two people who are looking for a job..."

Mrs. Freesis has become aware of my intentions. Her fingers caressed her eyes and her palm holding her cheek, showing a serious demeanor.

"Are you telling me... to hire you?"

"Yes..."

Mrs. Freesis gave me a judging eye again. I'm getting nervous; hands trembling.

"Didn't you say there are two of you?"

"Yes, she just went out... she will be back soon"

As I finished saying that, the door opened. It was Clarith. Looking at her frustrated expression, I'm guessing she isn't successful again.

Clarith found out about Mrs. Freesis. She has not thought of anything to say to her. Mrs. Freesis approached Clarith.

"Is she the one you were talking about?"

"Yes"

Her bright eyes were in awe. Clarith took a step back. As if to tie with Clarith, she also took a step forward, followed by Clarith taking a step back. After a while, they were outside the inn."

"White hair, red eyes... This is the first time I've seen someone from the Netsuma Tribe"

As Mrs. Freesis said this, Clarith's footsteps stopped. She seems to want Clarith to have peace of mind. She smiled then got back inside and sat down.

".....I haven't asked for your name yet."

"My name is Michaela. Her name is Clarith"

Clarith had a nervous expression. She doesn't seem to know what is happening.

"You have a good name. I understand. Please come to my house to work... but only this Clarith person."

I swallowed the gush of joy I just have.

"Hey... We are two people..."

“Does that mean because you two are friends, you both have to have the same job? Work is not such a simple thing.”

“But... why can't I...”

**“Because I hate Elphegortians”**

A senseless sentence. The moment I asked why, she gave me a hateful stare.

“.....I'm joking. In the surroundings, not only the Netsuma but other immigrants as well, have a hard time finding a job. Even if it's just a little contribution, I hope to provide some help by allowing them to serve as servants in my home. You, Michaela, as a Elphegortian, can find work elsewhere and—“

Mrs. Freesis sighed then looked at my body, as if she had figured out the whole situation. Clarith had an uneasy expression.

“You are too beautiful. If I hired you, there is no guarantee that individuals will not come by the house and bring unnecessary trouble.”

I can understand her reasons and I now understand that searching for 'sin' is now irrefutable.

At this point, Clarith, who was silent till now, stepped forward and bowed her head.

“Please, I beg of you. Please hire Michaela as well!”

“You also suffered from the cruelty of Elphegortians right? Why are you siding with her?”

Mrs. Freesis showed her disbelief. Although it's a little off topic, but for her to “hate Elphegortians” must be her true feelings.

“Yes, I constantly suffered from the hands of Elphegortians but only Michaela befriended me. Because of her, I'm very happy”

“Even so, but I also said that even if you're friends doesn't mean you have to work in the same place right?”

“I know I'm headstrong! But...”

Clarith bowed her head. I've never seen Clarith have a firm tone when begging. In the end, tears still flowed from her eyes.

"Even if just for a short period of time, I want to be with Michaela..."

Clairth still had her head down. I also bowed and begged. After a long moment of silence, Mrs. Freesis lifted my head and said:

".....Alright. Starting tomorrow, both of you come to my home to begin working. I warn you, it will not be easy."

There was a big smile in Clarith's face. She then hugged me tightly.

"I'm so glad Michaela! We will be able to work together!"

"Clarith..."

I also hugged Clarith with joy.

In this way, we decided to work in the Freesis home. Servants should live in their master's house so Clarith and I packed our luggage and left the inn.

## Section 1, Scene 2

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion" ~

After a one/three(?) month(s) probation, I have finally become a low servant in charge of washing clothes.

Originally, Elphegort has a cold climate but as of today, we are in the cold season. We are doing laundry today. The water is so cold you would get frost bite immediately. To prevent freezing, I blow hot air unto my hands. Today is the worst time to get employed as a servant.

As I finished washing the clothes for the third time, Clarith came carrying a basket full of children's clothes.

"Thank you for the hard work Clarith. The water is too cold, you have to be careful"

Even though I warned her, Clarith still dipped her finger into the water and said: "It is!" Clarith whispered out. The people doing laundry with us laughed.

"Just be careful. We don't want you to slip and get frozen to death"

I jokingly said. Clarith rubbed her hands on her clothes then she smiled.

Unlike most servants, Clarith has a particular job to do. She had to look after the Freesis couple's eldest daughter, Yukina Freesis. She just turned nine this year and is too mischievous for servants to handle. She likes to read and write her own stories (I heard from Mrs. Freesis the reason why they buy the Lolam bird feather is for Yukina to use as a pen). She would also sometimes want her servant to write down her feelings. Only a small number of servants are literate. Even if they are literate, in most cases, they would be busy with work to look after her.

With Clarith being a farmer, I never would have thought that she could read. According to her, she was taught by her mother at an early age. Because of her ability to read and her red eyes and white hair, Ms. Yukina has become attached to her.

Therefore, Clarith has been tasked to take care of Ms. Yukina. All of the parent's energy is used to take care of their second son and reason why Ms. Yukina is feeling lonely. For her, Clarith is a suitable playmate. In the outside, she is working very hard, but in the inside, I can see that she is very happy.

"Michaela and Clarith, can you please come inside?"

While we were drying the clothes, Gerda called us out.

"Mr. Felix wants to see you"

"Us? Why?"

Originally, the butler Bruno is in charge of greeting guests but the day before yesterday, Bruno became an entourage for the Freesis couple for they had to go to Lucifenia's Kingdom. It was said they had to participate in the birthday party of Lucifenia's princess.

However, senior servants are supposed to greet guest. Why us?

"The Earl named the two of you. Are you two acquainted with the Earl?"

Gerda looked at us with an expression of disbelief. Of course, we know that Earl Felix is the owner of Yatski Village but we haven't actually seen him in person. What we didn't expect that the Earl has awareness of us ordinary people of the village. We attentively studied the etiquette when greeting guest and how to place the tea set on the table.

"Mr. Keel has just arrived and will be attending to him in a moment. You mustn't make any mistake"

With that being said, after all, this is our first time entertaining our guest. We nervously opened the door to the living room and walked in. In the room, an elegant middle aged man was sitting on a chair while a young man was as if waiting in the side of the room.

"Excuse me. Here are your drinks and snacks. Master will be attending to you in moment."

I carefully poured tea into the cup. As Clarith was about to place the snacks, she suddenly gave a faint cry.

I asked Clarise what went wrong. When I looked up, I saw the eyes of the young man standing next to the Earl.

“Ein?! Why are you here?”

Mr. Keel entered the room and had important matters to talk about. Clarith and I were sent out of the room.

“I heard from the owner of the inn that you have come here to work. I asked the Earl to take me along. I’m glad that you two are doing well.”

Ein did not change at all. He still had a hearty smile to present.

“Are you OK Ein? What about the Village?”

“My father was arrested. I can’t replace him as the chieftain so somebody else has to do it”

“You haven’t returned to the village?”

“I haven’t yet because the Earl appointed me to join Elphegort’s army”

“The army?”

Quietly hiding behind me was Clarith. She seems to be shocked by the sudden news.

Before leaving the village, Ein’s job was to look after poultry. In order to protect their things, he asked Eugen to teach him how to use a sword.

“My dream is to be a great swords man like LeonHart Avadonia and Gast Venom. If I become strong, I will be able to protect the person most important to me. I would also consider killing my father to avenge Eugen”

“An important... person?”

Ein’s eyes became shy and slender. His line of sight was not on my face but was behind me a bit.

The door to the living room was opened by the butler Bruno. The meeting seems to have finally ended.

“I see. Lucifenia’s financial problems has become difficult to handle”

“I was afraid to show authority. I was shocked when they showed that giant cake”

“And in contrast, the public is struggling from poverty... right?”

“Yes. Lucifenia’s poor harvest had a huge impact on them”

“Well, I’ll listen to your remarks, but more than anything else, everything is okay. Thank you very much, you’re Excellency, Keel Freesis”

As the duo came out of the room, the three of us straightened our posture. At that moment, we saw Ms. Yukina all exhausted from running across the hall.

As Ms. Yukina was running, he bumped into Mr. Keel.

“Ah?!”

“Daddy!! You came back!”

Ms. Yukina bumped into Mr. Keel’s chest. Even so, Mr. Keel just gave off a smile while his glasses slightly slid off. He gently patted his daughter’s head.

“You came back and didn’t come see me first!”

“I’m sorry Yukina. Father has lots of work to be done. How about I read a book for you?”

Seeing Keel being a fatherly figure to his daughter, Earl Felix just squinted his eyes and laughed.

“It seems the great Keel Freesis has an image that he has never shown to the kingdom”

“Even so, I would rather have a child like Yukina than Lucifenia’s Daughter of Evil”

Keel said, the Earl laughed out loud. He then called out to Ein and walked towards the direction of the entrance.

“E-E-Ein!”

Suddenly, from behind me, Clarith jumped out and shouted at Ein:

“Thank you for helping us! Thank you very much!”

Ein did not look back. He just gently waved his hand and left with the Earl.

Although he was far and it was quite unclear, but I think you can faintly see Ein rubbing his eyes, he’s probably crying.

## Section 1, Scene 3

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion • Garden"

After we had dinner, I was waiting for Clarith in front of the fountain in the garden.

This garden's vegetation is planted in accordance to Mrs. Freesis's preference. It was a lonely landscape; because of the cold weather, plant do not bloom their flowers.

"I'm sorry! Ms. Yukina was refusing to sleep..."

"It's alright. Thanks for the hard work"

"It's cold right? Don't you want to get warm?"

Clarith ran all the way here then she immediately hugged me. Seeing her smile, It naturally eased down my face.

We are always quite busy during the day. Us servants are always in a hurry and we really couldn't get some alone time in the servant's room so we would always come here in garden after dinner. We wouldn't do anything special in particular; we would just chat together. Clarith would always tell me Ms. Yukina's naughty deeds or tell me the story that she wrote. It was such a happy moment where we talk outside without others intruding; a scenario that would never happen in the previous village.

"Ms. Yukina's written stories are very interesting. For a nine year old to write such a story, she really is a genius!"

The Clarith now cannot be compared to the previous Clarith. Her smile has become more cheerful. Perhaps because of the environmental change, she has become more colorful. She is much more beautiful now than when we first met and also seems to be full of vitality.

"Ms. Yukina's stories can be published thanks to Mr. Keel's contribution. I think this time I definitely want to be famous like her."

While looking at Clarith who is happily talking about Ms. Yukina, I feel somewhat lonely. Perhaps because I had the privilege of being the only one who can make her happy.

“.....Michaela, what’s wrong?”

I didn’t notice that I let my emotion surface on my face. Getting jealous from a nine year old is somewhat embarrassing.

“It doesn’t matter. The most important person to me will always be Michaela”

Clarith, again, leaned her body towards me. She seems to want me to understand her encouragement.

“Hey, Michaela, your singing when you were up that hill was really good. I want to hear it again”

“.....Okay. Because my singing might disturb others, I will sing softly only”

I inhaled a mouthful of cold air and sang the music box lullaby, letting Clarith and god hear the song.

Thru singing, I can look for ‘sin’. Singing can also be comfortable, forgetting all the hard work we did in a second.

Just when I was singing the song, the ‘sin’ echoed very loudly.

It came from the warehouse. I can feel its existence when I approach it.

However, the warehouse is tightly sealed off, not letting any low servants inside. To not get any attention from the people of the mansion, I have to contact Elluka in Lucifenia.

When I finished singing, I heard clapping hands behind me. Clarith and I looked back only to see Mr. Keel.

“Good! That was great Michaela. I never knew you had such talent.”

In a whim, I unconsciously sang loud. It must have reach Mr. Keel’s room. Clarith should have let me know that my singing was too loud.

“I’m sorry for making such loud noises...”

“No, you don’t have to apologize. Anyway, Michaela, do you like singing?”

“...Yes”

I took a quick glance at Clarith. She seems to have a concerned look.

“Starting tomorrow, I would like you to sing your favorite song during the day.”

“Eh?”

“I’m going to call for a vocal teacher and ask him to help you improve your vocal skills.”

“May I ask... what does that mean?”

“You will see. It’s getting cold now. You better get back to your room. Good Night”

Although Mr. Keel always wears a smile, but his eyes seems to be flashing with demeanor.

Two weeks later, I sang in front of others with my own song.

## Section 1, Scene 4

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion•Lobby" ~

In the Freesis household, Mr. Keel would invite friends to dinner every month. The guest include members of the Freesis Foundation from other countries. Here, they would share intelligence, do transactions or to take advantage of the opportunity of further enhancing their own authority.

While ignoring the noise of the venue, Mr. Keel clapped his hands to get everyone's attention.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, although the banquet has reached its climax, I'm still going to show to you all my treasured items!"

"Treasured items? You're not going show that again today?"

"Forget about shabby performances like magic"

I don't know who started the joke but the people blurted out a little laughter. When the laughter stopped, Mr. Keel showed a confident smile.

"I am very confident because today, I have something new to show you! Let me present to you Michaela, an Elphegortean with a beautiful voice so please enjoy!"

As Mr. Keel gave the signal, I slowly walked on the path set in the venue's stage. The atmosphere of the stage changed.

".....What beauty!"

"Who would have thought that Keel-san knows such a beautiful person..."

I wore a gorgeous dress and make up, attracting all those who are present. This is the first time I'll be singing in front of so many people. I broke a cold sweat.

“You can do it!” Clarith cheered standing in the shadows of the stage. As I found her, I clenched my fist and tried to ease my mood.

I was accompanied by a pianist. I focused all of my attention to time the opening concert with the piano accompaniment. I deeply inhaled the warm indoor air.

I had a rough beginning when I opened my mouth but eventually, the song smoothly came out. When you start singing, tension eventually disappears.

Do I sing well and do not let people feel silence? Is what I thought while singing.

As the song ended, I hastily bowed. After a moment of silence, an overwhelming applause burst out.

“Splendid!”

“That was way worth it Keel-san!”

I heard a lot of praises. I understood the situation; the mood suddenly lightened. Mr. Keel stood with a demeanor of triumphant and a smile on his face.

I sang three pieces in a row, each winning the audience. Due to the rising tension and high emotions, I’m already getting tired but my work isn’t done yet. I have to come with Mr. Keel and socialize with guests by introducing myself and giving greetings.

I received kind words. Being praised is not a bad thing. I exposed a heartfelt smile.

“You really are successful, Keel”

A blue haired man with a deep voice said to Mr. Keel. Among the guest we have today, I think he is the youngest of them all.

“Last time, you weren’t satisfied with the performance but are you satisfied now, Kyle?”

“Yes. A goddess with such a beautiful voice... you discovered a treasure.”

This man was called Kyle, smiling brightly in my direction. His smile is somewhat similar to Ein’s.

“Michaela, I want you to meet Kyle, the King of Marlon. He is my good friend who comes to my house every month to attend the party. A real playboy”

“Marlon’s...! Sorry, that was rude of me”

I didn’t know the man in front of me was such a big shot. I panicked a bit, immediately avoiding his gaze and was about to kneel but I was stopped by him.

“I intended to be in incognito when I attended this dinner party. If you are too respectful, it might cause a problem. I don’t mind it if you treat me like Keel does.”

“Well... then I’ll do so”

“Hey Micheala, talking like this seems a bit to casual”

“But just like what Mr. Keel said... a ‘playboy’ ...”

“Oh... this... although I did say this...”

Kyle suddenly panicked while wanting to refute. Mr. Keel and I laughed out loud.

"Ha ha ha, what a interesting child”

While showing an innocent smile, people wouldn’t think that he belongs to the royal family but instead he would be just an honest young man.

From that day on, in addition to doing laundry, my job was to sing.

I didn’t only sing for the Freesis family but also in some other residences as well. I slowly became famous and this fame even spread to the public. Gradually, I became known as Elphegort’s singing girl, Michaela, who is known by everybody. My payment slowly rose but what was more important was that I get joy in singing in front of others.

I got accustomed to human life.

I even forgot my original purpose and mission.

It has been past a year since my reincarnation.

## Section 1, Scene 5

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion • Living Room" ~

Since my first performance in front of everybody, I am now familiar with many aristocrats as well as business men. Along with it, problems came one after another. Young nobles even began to ask me to marry them.

While Mr. Keel was pleased with the offer, but I can't just accept. My time as a human will end in two years. After that, I have to change back into a spirit.

Further to say, I am still not able to clearly understand the feelings of human love.

#### **(How do you even love a person?)**

I used to be a genderless spirit and have never been in love before.

By observing the visitors coming to the forest, several times I would see the man telling the woman or the woman telling the man his or her love then they begin kissing each other. I have seen the result of reckless love that only leads to a tragic ending. But even so, I still couldn't resonate those feelings. In my eyes, those feeling are only unique to humans

I'm very fortunate to win an applause again for tonight's dinner. Before, I was happy to sing for them but now, it has become a pain because I had to deal with people's praise and some are full of discontent. But I mostly get good answers.

"Are you okay? If you're getting too tired, you can leave and rest for now"

Mrs. Freesis is always very caring. I thanked her and bowed then walked towards the living room that serves as a lounge during dinner.

"I'm so tired"

I sat on the sofa. The living room was decorated with several painting which are all part of a collection. I looked around and one particular painting caught my eye.

In comparison to the other paintings, this one was more conservative. Though it was a picture of a blond girl smiling and standing on the coast but it can give you an ominous sad feeling. Although the painter's name is on the lower part of the painting, I can't read and identify him.

(It would have been nice if I learned a little from Elluka)

In those three months of training, she didn't even give some spare time to learn how to read. Although Elluka told me I will learn in time, but starting life as a farmer, this is impossible.

(Clarith's mother knows how to read and write. I should have let her teach me)

I stared at the signature.

"Kachess Crim is my pen name."

From behind, some told me the name of the author. The one who walked into the room was none other than Kyle, the King of Marlon.

"Ky-Kyle, you Royal Highness! You scared me. Please don't scare like that!"

"I'm sorry. I knocked on the door... but no one responded"

I was probably too focused to notice the knock on the door. For him to just walk in... he should at least called me out.

Sometimes, this person does commensurate the Royal Family's dignity but has a speculative atmosphere; he just looks like that with no effort. The ladies attending the dinner party would always crowd over him; he seems to be very popular with them.

"I did this painting when I was a kid"

There seems to be a strange tone coming from Kyle's mouth. His faced looked very gentle.

“It has been seven... No, eight years ago. At that time, I was a fourteen year old boy who wanted to be a painter. I even considered leaving the Royal Family and go meet with Keel”

It was surprising that he was very honest. Even if he had a secured future, he wanted to abandon in all and follow his own ideals..... Even in this, he was very similar to Ein.

“Under the manipulation of my mother, I quitted painting. She hired art dealers and critics to demean my moral and make me leave the world of painting. Up to now, I never painted again.”

“But how did that happen.....”

“After all, the heir to the throne cannot be a simple painter. When father died, I collected all my paintings and burned them... The rest of the painting were bought my Keel”

“Kyle, your Highness, do you hate becoming the king?”

“It’s not like that. I’m proud of my position as king. One word from my mouth can either save my country or plunge it to hell. It’s a heavy responsibility. Although I walk the path paved by my mother, in the end, she is still unsatisfied.

At this point, I was feeling unwell. What exactly is this feeling..... My body is trembling and I unconsciously began to rub his arm.

“.....Up to now, I still have to give up the idea of leaving my position, mixing with the civilians and live a simple life surrounded by my beloved wife and children”

Speaking of which, Kyle was staring at my face.

“Until then... For me, people like you are the most wonderful”

He said, getting all shy and red from his face to his ears. Looking at him, a strange feeling filled me up. This must be the emotions said by those ladies as “cute”. I can somewhat understand it.

“Does Kyle, his Highness, love me?”

“.....I see you’re very straight forward”

It suddenly became difficult to say something. Even so, Kyle said it quite clearly:

“Yes, I like you. Perhaps it started when on our first meeting...”

I looked at Kyle and thought... If I was an ordinary woman, then should I say I'm happy? Or should I be shy about it? Or ask him “Why me?” looking all confused? For me, these feelings are not true. Loving a person categorically is not a bad thing. Well, he would be the fifth person that proposed to me. I should have no problems rejecting him.

“I am very happy for being able to receive your love. But for me, I do not know how to love a man so I can't give you an answer. I'm really sorry”

I honestly replied. I think that would get him to leave me.

“You don't understand... what is love?”

“Up to now, I haven't been in love... so what is it?”

I can see the “Do you take me as a fool” expression on his face. Kyle seems to be angry and is now considering.

“Michaela, besides your brother or sister or your family, do you have anybody that is precious to you?”

“.....Yes, there is someone”

“When this person is in trouble, you want to protect him right?”

“Yes, of course”

“If you are with this person, you feel happy right?”

“Yes”

“The other side has friends other than you and talks about them a lot. Would you accept that?”

Before being able to fluently answer the question, my heart felt a little pain.

“.....Although I have to accept, but in my opinion, I can't accept it”

“Then, you might be in love with this person. But in my personal point of view, I think that kind of love is capricious. Wanting to meet each other's thoughts but, on the contrary, they just want to occupy the other one. The other one shifts his attention to other places and you will be jealous of their friendship. Although there are many other concerns, but for me, this is the difference of friendship and love.”

“Although.....Even so.....”

“What?”

“Even if... the other person is a woman?”

“..... That would make me embarrassed.”

Kyle raised his head and looked up. Of course, the one who came to my mind is Clarith.

“Well, love is not only limited to heterosexuals... if it's about love, I'm still very immature”

“There is no such thing. At least you know more than I do.”

“.....Michaela”

Kyle brings out a shell necklace and places it on my neck.

“It represents my pure love. If you are willing to accept it, I would be very happy”

“...I...I can't accept it”

“Are you refusing a gift from the King of Marlon”

Kyle seems to be a spoiled child. I knew it was a joke; his cheeks became bright red.

“It's unfair that you start using your power”

“I'm sorry for messing up the mood. I would like to start as friends first to know you better. Is it alright with you?”

He bowed his eyebrows with a mischievous smile. I caressed the necklace.

“I guess it is okay to start off as friends.”

“Being able to be friends with the King of Marlon is incredible”

“.....Do not anger me”

“I’m kidding~ please take care of me”

As we finished, Kyle walked to the dining room.

I took a short break. I slowly relieved my fatigue then as returned to the venue, I saw Clarith.

“What’s wrong Clarith?”

“.....I just saw the Marlon King. What did you two do?”

“Eh? Just a little chat”

“And... What’s this necklace?”

“He... gave it to me”

“That necklace is clearly—“

Clarith looks very unhappy. Her tone became different.

“Clarith, is something wrong?”

“Michaela, please don’t get closer to other people”

“Eh? Why?”

“I’m afraid Michaela will be taken away from me. I would feel terrible... I hope you feel the same way”

Clarith wrinkled her brow as if she was about to cry. Although I’m beside her, why is she still afraid?

“.....I’m sorry. I said some strange things today. Please forget what I said”

As Clarith said these, she ran back. Miss Yukina was awoken and angrily shouted: “Don’t run in the corridors!”. Clarith panicked and immediately bowed her head, asking for forgiveness.

I was again reminded of what Kyle said.

**“Love is capricious. Wanting to meet each other’s ideals, but on the contrary, we just want to keep the person. We feel envy whenever the other person looks in other places.”**

I feel these words consistently resonated through Clarith.

“Am I.....”

## **Section 2, Scene 1**

### **—The Lady who staggered—**

❁ **Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Residence • Laundry Room" ~**

Compared to the time I first worked here, the weather today was much warmer. The torture we endured doing laundry has become less difficult.

For the last few weeks, the Elphegort King's messenger would come by after dinner. Because of the impact the poor harvest had on Elphegort, Mr. Keel decided to assist in related procedures.

Yesterday, the Elphegort King and the King of Marlon, Kyle, came by and had a private chat with Mr. Keel. They must be deciding their plans for their assistance.

During our spare time, we servants would gossip about such matters.

"Lucifenia has been in unrest recently"

"I heard one of the three heroes, LeonHart, was assassinated! How terrible!"

"Their meeting must also be about Lucifenia's problems"

"It would be nice if a war wouldn't start..."

"They wouldn't be taking the opportunity while the other is pinned down right? That's what the meeting is trying to prevent right?"

"Did you know? In Lucifenia, they call the king's daughter the "Daughter of Evil" because of her tyrannical rein?"

For decades, Lucifenia has expanded their territory but because of their frequent change for a leader, Lucifenia's system is in chaos. Coupled together with the poor harvest Lucifenia had and the "Daughter of Evil", Rilliane's tyranny, Lucifenia is beginning to decline.

Speaking of Lucifenia's princess...

(The marriage contract)

Mr. Keel secretly told me about Kyle and Rilliane's engagement.

I was just being teased? Although it has settled down, I still feel somewhat angry.

In Kyle's short-term stay here, we would frequently see each other (almost every day). It was always fun to be with him; he would talk about Marlon's ceremonies or tell me stories about him fighting with pirates. Occasionally, he would buy me things. He was very careful not for me to feel humble.

"Michaela, are you there?"

I do not know when Kyle would come by and say hello. He would always walk in without hesitation.

"It's a nice day today. wouldn't you rather go outside instead of doing laundry?"

Kyle spoke in a cheerful tone. I suddenly felt uncomfortable. In order to make him feel displeased, I didn't answer back and just got back on doing the laundry.

"I'm about to go back to Marlon today. I just wanted to say hello and bid farewell to Keel..... but unfortunately, he had some official things to do. I don't want to keep the captain waiting so Michaela, could you tell my farewells to Keel?"

"If you have something to say to Keel, tell it to his butler, Bruno, instead"

".....Are you angry? Are you going to feel lonely because of my departure? Michaela... You have finally...!"

"That's...not...what..."

I snapped and dropped the washing board into the water, splashing all over.

"..... I heard you have a fiancée?"

"Fiancee? Oh, you're referring to Rilliane..... She's like a little sister to me. I do not love her in the perspective of the opposite sex"

"But you're about to get married with her right?"

“Maybe... I feel happy that you’re getting jealous but I...”

“I’m angry at you because you’re deceiving me!”

Although I vented my anger on the washboard, I have to think. After all, there are others watching and for a monarch like him to do such a thing is impossible. I took a deep breath and calmed down.

“..... Are you about to leave? I can guide you to the entrance”

I briefly said. Kyle closely followed behind me and I heard his sighing and footsteps. On our way to the main entrance, Kyle ordered me to turn around and said:

“Michaela, even though I and Rilliane are engaged, it was determined by our mothers— Queen Dowager of Marlon, Prim Marlon and Lucifenia’s previous queen, Queen Anne, decided it. I honestly do not want to marry Rilliane”

“Kyle-san hates the King’s daughter, Rilliane?”

“It’s not like that. Although civilians ridicule Rilliane as the “Daughter of Evil”, she is definitely not a bad girl. She became like that because of the environment around her. I like Rilliane but... not that kind of love. I grew up with her and I can only look at her as a lovely sister”

For him to specifically say “like” implies that like is different from love. Love is what I do not understand

Anyway, I must refuse Kyle’s marriage proposal. If people knew a monarch like Kyle refused to marry Rilliane, who is also a “victim of sin”, I do not know what tragedy might happen. If I let Kyle do what he wants, it will only give himself trouble.

“But even so, you cannot defy your mother’s... Queen Dowager Prim Marlon’s decision right?”

“I know but.....”

I looked at him straight into the eye.

“In the future, please do not express your love to me and just address me as a house maid. You are the King of Marlon and yet you choose someone like me to marry you? If this goes on, we might have problems with the other countries”

Kyle stopped in amazement and just looked at the sky. Soon after, he looked at me in the eyes.

“.....For a monarch to be preached by a mere servant... I understand. I will not do anything to cause harm”

He said in a firm voice. He instantly revealed a sad expression and walked for the door.

I wordlessly took a step and followed him. We both fell into silence. Finally, we saw the main entrance and saw the Kyle's men waiting for him.

“I wish you Bon voyage”

“I look forward to your singing at the next dinner party”

Kyle walked into the direction of his entourage. I intended to watch until he left but as I gazed on him, he turned around and ran up to me, holding me tight.

“Kyle your Highness!?! Please don't do this!”

“Michaela, if I said I intended to disobey my mother, give up my throne and ran away... will you go with me?”

It's happening again. It was the same feeling I got when we first met that night. I'm not quite sure what this feeling is but I can only feel it when I feel Kyle's body temperature.

“I.....”

“...I'm sorry. Forget about what I just said”

Kyle released me and turned to leave.



Do humans really give up everything for love?

For Kyle to do that, even if it was mad love, made me feel stupid. I, however, felt a little envious.

Is this... the feeling when falling in love with someone?

As I went back to the laundry room, I suddenly felt a strange atmosphere.

The “sin” was moved from the warehouse. Who took it out? As I became aware that it was moved, I quickly ran. It seems to be in Mr. Keel’s private room.

“Ah, Michaela, you seem anxious. Is something there wrong?”

When I reached the room, of course, I saw Mr. Keel inside.

“Nothing’s wrong. It seems messenger-san has already left”

“Ah, yes. It ended earlier than expected so I thought of going to the warehouse to tidy things up”

“Then this is.....?”

Mr. Keel was holding a sword. I could feel the dissonance of “sin” on it.

“A girl like you is also interested in this kind of thing?”

“No, it’s just... the shape of the sword seems kind of weird”

“It’s one of my favorites. Indeed, as you say, that this sword has a rare shape. Even my wife particularly said so. But in fact, it’s not really valuable”

It was different from a two-handed or one-handed sword; it had a scabbard engraved into it.

“What was its name..... I recall a travelling businessman said it was called the ‘Venom Sword’”

I now know the “sin’s” location, shape and name. The next thing I have to do is find a way to give it to Elluka in Lucifenia.

That night, I stood in the garden. I wanted for Clarith not to hear my “song” so I went here a little earlier than usual.

I took a deep breath and sang a song, different from my usual song.

“Recollective Music Box”— this song was called “Clockwork Requiem” that seemed to be a tragic song for workers. I sang endless melodies so that it would reach Lucifenia.

This song is to inform Elluka about the “sin’s” whereabouts. But as for the meaning of the song, I know nothing. Elluka understood that we only had a short time to learn from her so she didn’t teach us the unnecessary things.

**(It didn’t really matter for as long as I know how.)**

Now, I just have to wait for Elluka. She will definitely come here.

## Section 2, Scene 2

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Aacid • Central Region" ~

It has been a few weeks since I sent my song to Elluka. I rarely come to the central region. The inn we stayed at has greatly suffered. Because we ran out of laundry soap, I went to the market and got side track here.

"I heard you're doing well missy~"

The owner of the inn said. It has been more than six months since we last met. He became really thin than before. If I talk to him about it, it might ruin his mood. I'll choose to remain silent for now.

"How is Clarith doing?"

Her wife was also in the same spirits.

"Well, almost everything she does goes wrong, but she is very energetic. She recently was able to make delicious dim sum\*!"

Clarith, since becoming a maid in the Freesis Mansion, was able to bloom her cooking skills. When the chef had a fever, she made snacks for Ms. Yukina and had unexpected results; she was praised. After that, she became responsible of making snacks for Ms. Yukina. Occasionally, she would make dim sum for our visitors.

"Next time, we will come by and bring you Clarith's delicious stollen\*"

"I can see being with Clarith makes you really happy. You really like Clarith don't you?"

Like the face of her daughter, the lady said in a smooth face.

Although she is very clumsy and would always miss the essentials, she is occasionally headstrong. For me, there is no one who can replace Clarith.

Because of this, I fear when the “sin” problem is resolved, I would eventually have to turn back into a spirit; I do not know when we have to part ways. Will Clarith’s heart be able to withstand it?

(No, I cannot use Clarith as an excuse. But deep in my heart... I don’t want to leave Clarith)

Suddenly, a door opened with a crunch. A young Elphegort child came in. I do not know if it has something to do with the developmental stage but his two front teeth made him look like a mouse.

“This child is?”

“It’s rare for you to come across. Have a chat with him. His parents were businessmen but they died from Gula disease. He is now a poor orphan”

Gula disease... Clarith’s mother also died from it.

The lady waved and invited the juvenile. Looking at him, I could not help but think of Clarith; he had sad eyes. I do not know what to do...

“I believe this is our first meeting. My name is Michaela”

“.....How do you do?”

“Do you like to sing?”

“.....Well, my mother would often sing”

“What song?”

“‘South North Story’ ...”

I know that song. This is one of the songs I learned from my teacher.

“Is that so.... Listen, for children to experience the pain of parting with their beloved... is painful. However, separation is part of our lives. After the parting, you will encounter new people that can heal your wound. Occasionally, you will think of your parents and you will not help but cry. But if you sing... sing the song your mother

would often sing to you, you will feel better. Your heart will not feel the absence of your parents and you would feel that they are just right beside you”

“.....Hmm”

I took a deep breath, preparing myself to let out my voice. At this time, the owner’s wife stopped me.

“Wait a minute. A rare song should not be sung in a closed space. We should go somewhere more spacious; the city square. For a diva to sing in a small hotel would be a waste”

We departed from the inn and went for the main square in the central region. It was filled with stalls and people all around; it was full of life.

“This will be my first time singing outside... I’m feeling a bit nervous. Can you stay beside me?”

The patted the head of the juvenile. After hearing what I said, he revealed a faint smile. I adjusted my posture and began singing “South North Story”.

If this song would stay in the young boy’s mind, I hope I can save his heart.

I caught myself surrounded by people. Some were in awe and some shed tears. This song was dedicated to everyone present here.

As I finished singing, I stood up and gently bowed. I immediately heard a thunder of applause.

“Wow! That was great!”

“Really nice! So wonderful!”

The crowd cheered. The owner, his wife and the young boy laughed and applauded.

“Thank you! Michaela-nee!”

“No, not at all... How was it? Did it cheer you up?”

“Yes! From now on, I will work hard! Even if I’m alone, I will not give up!”

“Don’t you have to thank the owner of the inn for the favor?”

“Yes! I’ll thank them right away!”

He turned and quickly returned to the inn. The large crowd gradually disappeared.

We do not know when we have to part with our beloved ones. However, you should not stop if it happens. For as long as we keep this feeling, Clarith and I can courageously move forward.

(I have to go back)

Just when I was about to go back to the hotel to get the soap...

“Excuse me...”

“Cute foreign boy, do you need something from me?”

“Uh, uh... Do you, by any chance, know a girl named Gumillia?”

## Section 2, Scene 3

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Aacid • Central Region" ~

In the central region, I encountered a blonde haired boy claiming to be "Allen Avadonna" . He's Lucifenia's palace attendant and is now a messenger of Princess Rilliane. He said he was supposed to go to Mr. Keel's mansion but he took a break because of discomfort. Because he was coming from the Royal Palace, Gumillia asked him a favor. He seems to be looking for me.

"I got your name from Gumillia-san. I first thought I wouldn't be able to find you"

Although he was only fourteen years old, Allen had a reassuring expression on his face.

He had to go to the Freesis Mansion and he brought me Gumillia's gift. In gratitude, I told him a shortcut to the mansion. With his kind invitation, I rode on his carriage. Upon arriving on the Northern streets, we set our sights to Mr. Keel's house.

Allen seems to have a serious character; He would always use honorifics. Because I felt uncomfortable, I asked him not to do it again. He listened to what I said and immediately turned into an intimate tone.

"Gumillia works in the palace right? How is she?"

I haven't seen my friend for a year now. I'm getting curious of what kind of lifestyle she has.

"She is now acknowledged to be Elluka's apprentice. She's been practicing every day. She has been recently appointed to be Elluka's assistant during her work. Ah, do you even know who Elluka is?"

"Of course! We should meet and catch up with each other"

My message reached Elluka-san! Maybe soon we will be able to progress with the sealing of the "sin". Although, I would like to ask some questions about Gumillia, however, Allen doesn't seem to have opportunities to talk to her. I didn't get much information from him.

“By the way... What is that?”

Allen pointed to the gift Gumillia gave me. She gave me the root of a Green Onion... however, it wasn't a normal Green Onion. Yes! It was a **“very amazing Green Onion!”** Elluka taught me a legendary magic when we were staying at the abandoned house.

It was said that this magic originally came from Sacred Levianta. One of its effects is to be able to link with a specific person. After I had my job as a servant in the Freesis Mansion(?), Elluka had a hard time tracing my movement(?). But I think my encounter with Allen was not by chance because this magic has incredible strength in it. The green onion has other secrets but I must wait until I'm alone to fully enjoy it.

**“Ha ha ha, anyway, it's incredible”**

Allen and I had the same duty.

Although we have different masters, he and I are servants. While riding the carriage, we talked about a lot of things. It was a rare opportunity to talk to a Lucifenian juvenile; I was very happy with our conversation.

Sure enough, the rumors about Lucifenia's decline and the princess Riliane were true. However, when we were talking about her, Allen doesn't seem to have a disgusted tone. Instead, he was like an unruly brother to her, full of helpless feelings.

“You look very happy. Although this might be a bit rude, but do you adore the princess?”

“How you should I say this. This may be a bit too arrogant coming from a mere servant, but I want to protect the princess”

He said in a disturbing but very prideful expression. To protect someone— I can't help but think of Clarith.

Although I want to talk more, but the Freesis Mansion is already looming on the horizon. When Allen found out, he had a regretful expression.

When we dismounted from the carriage, there were two mean-looking men standing in front of the gate. While they stared at us, they didn't seem to have any intentions

on confronting us. I only pretended to not noticed while Allen and I entered the residence.

“Bruno, may we ask something?”

I asked Bruno the butler. Allen stepped forward and had awe-inspiring look and said:

“I am Allen Avadonna, a messenger sent by Princess Rilliane of Lucifenia. I was sent here to discuss some matters with merchant Keel Freesis”

“I’m sorry. Unfortunately, Mr. Freesis is attending to another guest. For the mean time, would you like to wait in a different room?”

“OK, no problem”

Allen followed Bruno to the waiting room.

“Good bye Allen! I hope we can meet again someday!”

I said, waving at Allen. He even bowed before leaving. Clarith passed by him then confronted me.

“You came back late Michaela. I was worried about you”

“I just stopped by at the inn and got a little side track”

“Ha ha ha, are both of them alright?”

“They were still the same as before. There was a lot of things I wanted to say to them but I’ll save it for next time”

“I’ll be looking forward to it. By the way... who was that man with Bruno?”

Clarith said in a low voice.

“That child was called Allen. He came from the Kingdom of Lucifenia. I met him in the central region and he let me ride in carriage back here”

“Then...”

Clarith's expression changed with a hum of discontent.

"No! No! We didn't do anything!"

"..... I did not say anything"

Upon hearing my words, Clarith revealed a look of surprise. Even if I didn't say anything, why would I have to explain?

"Michaela, Gerda has been nagging about the unwashed clothes"

Upon hearing her words, I remembered the reason why I bought soap.

"Oh! I have to get going!"

"Later. Ms. Yukina is going to kill me if I don't wash her dress."

I said "good bye" to Clarith and ran for the laundry room"

After washing the clothes, I can finally rest. At this point, I strange figure appeared in the hallway.

A person with purple hair and beautiful face appeared. At first, I thought he was a woman but I was well from his actions that he was a man.

When he went out of the room, two men greeted him.

"Tough luck, Gast"

"Yarera, Zasuko, I thought I told both of you to wait outside?"

The purple haired man was called Gast. He seems to have an unpleasant expression when his order was ignored. I listened carefully to their conversation.

"Ha ha ha, it was a pain in the ass waiting for you. So, how did it go..."

"He did not agree"

"Then how about the plan to steal it?"

“For now, it is not necessary to do so. However, the “Venom Sword” originally belonged to my family. There are still ways to get it back”

“Indeed, we must rely on the leader of the mercenary group, Gast Venom!”

“Let’s head back”

Gast left with the two men.

(He also wanted the “Venom Sword”?... Why?)

## Section 2, Scene 4

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion • Garden" ~

Late at night, I quietly left the servant room alone and headed for the garden in which not long ago, Clarith and I were chatting about the inn.

On my right hand, I was holding the "amazing green onion" Gumillia gave me, waving it up and down. At first, it gave off a faint glow but after some time, it began to shine a dazzling light.

I set the root on the ground. The glowing green onion's root has exceptional hardness, making it easy to set unto the soft soil. The green onion suddenly said:

"Michaela, can you hear me?"

After a brief silence, a nostalgic voice was accompanied with noise.

"Elluka! Long time no see!"

This is the "Amazing Green Onion's" ability. For as long as it has the magic of its owner, it can make long-distance conversations. This is an ancient creation of God and man has made it close. People has yet to make a big deal out of it.

The only problem is the frequency, duration and limited durability. Its design has no significance but once it decays, it can't be used anymore. Elluka sealed it in a box to prevent corruption and will only be used as a last resort.

My spring onion(?)— I reported to Elluka everything that has happened so far: Becoming a servant in the Freesis Mansion, the "Venom Sword" hidden in the warehouse and also a swordsman named Gast Venom plotting to get it.

"So it seems 'sin' has nothing to do with Lucifenia's collapse"

"Really?"

“The Venom Sword once belonged to a Duke of Asmodin, Sateriakis Venomania. He was possessed by the Devil of ‘Lust’. Rilliane is ‘Arrogant’... Although I don’t want to assert, but I think it has no relation to our problem”

“How did this... What are we going to do?”

“Just keep an eye on it. Although it has nothing to do with our problem, it might do something in the future. Anyway, Gast Venom is a nostalgic name”

A sudden change from Elluka’s tone.

“Do you know him?”

“He was previously my partner... and now my enemy. I already know Gast’s purpose in finding the sword”

“..... How is it on your side? Is Gumillia OK?”

“She’s doing great. If she continues on like this, she should be able to use “Clockwork Magic” in the next six months or so. She really is a smart girl”

The sound is gradually fading. It seems we are nearing the time limit.

“Remember to contact me if an unexpected situation occurs. You don’t have to worry about a thing, Michaela. Just stay put and relax”

The voice was suddenly interrupted.

In the next six months, Gumillia will be able to seal away the demon inside Princess Rilliane. After that, I will have to depart with everyone... and with Clarith too.

In the meantime, all I have to do is relax and enjoy the peaceful days I have left.

However, the very next day.

Because of Princess Rilliane’s wrath, the situation has come to its worst case scenario... And I didn’t know anything about it.

## Section 2, Scene 5

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion" ~

It seems two messengers of Lucifenia came to Mr. Keel's house. It wasn't Allen but a woman with blonde, pig-tailed hair.

After she left, Mr. Keel summoned me. When I arrived at the door, Clarith, Gerda and Bruno were also there.

"Did Mr. Keel call for all of us?"

Clarith and Gerda had confused expressions. Only Bruno knows the story behind it. When he saw me, he had a bitter expression.

Bruno mentioned that Mr. Keel and the messengers were talking about us. So we ought to know about it. However, only veteran servants like Bruno and Gerda should know. Why are Clarith and I also called?

After we knocked, we entered the room. Inside, Mr. Keel was holding onto his son while his wife was beside him. The two of them seem to have unusual expressions on their faces.

"Things have become difficult"

Mr. Keel said as an opening.

"Bruno, please explain the situation"

He has served the Freesis Mansion for years. He took a step forward and told us the whole story.

"Five days ago, we received the news that the King of Marlon, Kyle has been placed under house arrest. As he prepared to go to Elphegort, Queen Dowager Prim Marlon chained him up and imprisoned him"

Bruno's tone had the slightest emotion. He continued to mechanically speak:

"His Highness Kyle disapproved of his engagement to Princess Rilliane of Lucifenia. His reason was because he had a sweet heart living in Elphegort. It was unclear who it was"

Kyle's lover is in Elphegort? Then...

Bruno gazed on me and said:

"Mr. Keel has speculated Michaela to be his Highness Kyle's sweet heart"

"But....."

Impossible. Is what I thought but I then remembered Kyle's remarks when he left. He didn't say he would abandon his throne and country and run away right? He would if I agreed... Is he really that desperate?!

The time we converse was very short. Don't tell me he would give up everything just to go out with me? I don't understand. Human love is really difficult for me to understand. One will not be able to casually know what the other person would do.

"That guy... Kyle is a fool"

Kyle said while groaning.

"I can't believe he would do such a thing. He would rebel against his mother for such trivial matters. For him to go against his mother's will of getting engaged to Lucifenia's Princess... He is such a spoiled brat! He didn't even consider the consequences of his actions to those around him"

Mr. Keel slammed the table with both his hands. The loud sound made Clarith jump out of fright. Mrs. Freeis coaxed her son and gently patted his head.

"However, that guy wouldn't be foolish enough to the point where people... what would happen then?"

Indeed, for him to "give up" everything is impossible. He would just give up and complain. He wouldn't do anything...

“Michaela, you have caused much confusion upon this family”

Mrs. Freesis stared at my direction. Am I really the reason?

“I’m sorry my lady... I did not expect this”

“I’m not blaming. As Keel said, Kyle is at fault. You have been doing well in this household. Am I not a big fan of yours too?”

“I... thank you”

Happiness and shame filled me and made me cry. If I knew things would become like this, I would have thoroughly rejected him.

“The messenger was one of the Three Heroes of Lucifenia, Mariam’s maid. She is very good at spying and brought useful intelligence. We now have to work out our countermeasures”

Mr. Keel has finally calmed down. He coughed and intended to tell us his future plans. The first order was to tell everyone in the mansion about it and not to speak about it in the dinner party. In addition, if the Princess was there...

“If the “Daughter of Evil” Rilliane knew about it, the worst case would be—“

“To kill Michaela?”

Gerda asked. Mr. Keel neighed.

“More terrible I’m afraid. But just in case, I will give you refuge”

I was shocked when Mr. Keel told me about his hideouts. I never would have thought I would do such a thing.

“... I would like to say something...”

Clarith said while her hands trembled.

“As much as possible, Clarith has to always accompany Michaela. You two are best friends right? If that is the case, you should protect her”

“You’re already mature enough to do so. You don’t have to worry about Yukina anymore”

“..... Yes!”

After hearing the two incentives, Clarith firmly replied.

“We show equal love to our servants and their family, that is one of the Freesis’s mottos. Michaela is no exception. C’mon you guys!”

“Yes!”

After hearing her command, we all replied in a single voice.

“I.....I’m sorry. Thank you...!”

I tried to speak out but Clarith suddenly hugged me and cried out.

“I am in deep gratitude for Michaela... Without you, I would have certainly led a boring life. So this time, I will be helping Michaela. No matter what happens, I will never leave your side. For as long I can see a smile on Michaela’s face, that would be my greatest happiness”

The tears would not stop. My eyes and nose hurt too. I finally gave up struggling and threw myself into Clarith’s chest.

I also wanted to be with Clarith. If I can, I wouldn’t go back to being a forest spirit. I would let go of everything, even my eternal life to be with her; to remain as a human. I-I...

I was unable to suppress my feelings. One of which the reason I was vaguely aware off. However, I refused to agree as a rational human female.

A week later, the worst situation happens.

The gears have started to turn.

## Section 2, Scene 6

### ✿ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion • Garden" ~

The southern sky was of bright red. It wasn't the sunset anymore because the sun has already sunk below the horizon.

Even for just a while, I would like to rush out of the house and go to the forest. However, under the present situation, I cannot go out, otherwise, it would become dangerous. I had the urge to leave this house.

Some people would go out and view the current state of the forest. It seems Lucifenia is setting the forest outside of Elphegort's territory ablaze. If this continues, the fire would reach The Millenium Tree forest in a matter of time.

(They... Must be alright...)

The forest animals, plants and people living in the forest, Eldoh-san must be worried about them.

Although I tried using the "Amazing Green Onion" to contact Elluka, I didn't get any response.

So far, I haven't tried to "pray" to God because I was an existence close to God and there was no point in praying. However, this time, I wanted to pray to God and wish for God's safety. While this is an extremely contradicting behavior, I have no choice but to pray. It has already a year and half since I became human and I was able to adapt human behavior. I deprecated myself for not being able to do anything.

Beside me was Clarith who was also praying.

"God lives and blesses The Millenium Tree Forest"

She said. Of course, I know that because he actually exists in the forest. However, I cannot tell her that.

No, it is not necessary. My heart is already fully determined.

A red sky set by fire can be seen in the horizon. It was covering the whole of the forest but clouds suddenly gathered together. They then scattered heavy rain, extinguishing the fire.

It was already late at night. Because of my worry for the forest, I could not sleep. Suddenly, the “Amazing Green Onion” started flashing. I hurriedly grabbed the green onion and ran for the garden.

“Michaela, can you hear me? Answer me! Michaela!”

I heard Elluka’s voice from the green onion. She seems to be panicking.

“Yes! I hear you Elluka! What’s happening?”

“I’m sorry I couldn’t contact you immediately Michaela. It’s total chaos here. You have to get out of your current place... No, you have to escape Elphegort!”

“What do you mean?”

“Lucifenia is going to attack Elphegort! Step by step, my “Purple” dreams are becoming reality!”

The situation is getting worse. We only need six more months to seal the demon!

“Why... How did this happen?!”

“Rilliane is burning the forest because, for her, it is a hindrance. Gumillia and I are trying to lessen the mortality rate... Gumillia was very helpful. If she weren’t here, I wouldn’t be able to make such a large rainfall. She has grown so much in a short period of time. The only left to teach is...”

“Wait a minute! Why is Lucifenia attacking Elphegort?!”

“..... Rilianne is under command. I was too careless; I never would have thought she would wage war. You know the Marlon King’s lover lives in Elphegort right?”

“Yes, I already know...”

“It is simply hate and envy. Because she does not know who the Marlon King’s lover is, Riliane ordered to ‘exterminate everyone in the country’ instead”

I almost fainted. That woman could actually do something like this. Or is this because of the demon’s deeds?

“Whoever charmed the Marlon King is giving me a head ache!”

“.....Elluka, I’m sorry”

It’s because of me. If I just refused his proposal... if I haven’t been there at all... then...

After telling Elluka the details of the whole story, I felt Elluka’s anxious feelings from the other side of the onion.

“Is the royal family made up of idiotic fools?! What a strange guy... but Michaela, you have to run away! You are Rilliane’s target! If she can’t find you... then she will order to kill every green haired woman in Elphegort!”

Green hair... I touched my pony tail and suddenly realized something frightening.

“Wait! What would Gumillia? Is she OK?”

“Don’t worry, she’s OK. We have already fled the palace because Gumillia was about to be pursued.”

“Great...! However, many innocent civilians will be killed...”

“There is nothing we can do about it but we will try to reduce the casualties. I have many acquaintances in Elphegort’s Palace. Anyway, if my dream is to occur right away, Lucifenia will fall because of a revolution. Until this happens, you just have to run and hide...”

According to Elluka’s interpretations, her “Purple” dreams will always come true. We can only accept it and decide on our future actions.

“Michaela, the only way to guarantee your safety is to return yourself into a forest spirit. It would faster if I could do it myself but the current situation is not in our favor. You must go north from Aceid to a magical place in the Evillious region(?). If you are there, you should be able to use magic. I’ll teach a simple reincarnation method and...”

“I can’t do that”

“.....eh?”

I have decided. An image of Clarith’s face emerged from my head. I decided to Elluka.

“I do not want to revert back into a spirit. I have decided to live on as a human. I do not want to leave the important people around me”

I finally said it. I was surprised she didn’t get angry... or because there was no response from the other side. Is the onion broken? As I leaned in and listened more carefully, I heard Elluka crying. She suddenly buzzed:

“Ah~~~ Enough! You are all fools! Rilliane, Marlon’s king, Allen and LeonHart too! Everyone is an idiot!”

I heard Elluka’s bursting sound as well as the voice of person comforting her.

Soon the sound stopped. I heard a voice, not from Elluka but a nostalgic voice.

“Michaela, long time no see. Gumillia here”

“Gumillia!... I’m sorry I said some wayward words”

Because I only hear sounds, it was difficult to tell her feelings. She doesn’t seem to be angry.

“Because it is something Michaela has to do, I will not ask for a reason. I’m fine with whatever you will to do. I also learned a lot after being a human so I can somewhat understand your feelings”

“..... Thank you, Gumillia”

“I have also decided. If Michaela wants to stay as a human, then I also don’t want to revert back into a spirit”

“Huuuuuuuuuh!?” Screams from Elluka was heard from far away.

“I also have important people to protect. I want to protect that person and to survive as a human”

I did not ask who it was. Since she didn't ask me, I was in no position to ask her. And even if I asked, I would vaguely know who it is.

At this time, Elluka calmed down and her voice came through the onion again.

"Oh, you two are such unfaithful people... Eldoh will be very disappointed"

"Well... then I should make an offer"

"Well, back to the current situation. Do you have some ways to escape?"

I told them the hideout Mr. Keel told me.

"I know that place. After everything has calmed down, we will meet you there. Michaela... don't die"

Before I could answer, I did not hear any voice coming from the onion. The time has come.

I once again had to do it; to tell them "Thank you"

## Section 2, Scene 7

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Freesis Mansion"

The next day, sure enough it was as Elluka said; Lucifenia has started to invade Elphegort. Because nearly half of the forest was burned down, Lucifenia were easily able to rush, launching a surprise attack on Elphegort's army.

In the living room of the mansion, including the servants, the whole family has gathered. Many of us has already fled while the forest was being burned down. Unexpectedly, Lucifenia was able to invade more rapidly. Prior to escape, the whole of Aceid is already surrounded.

At this point, Mr. Keel has already fled and so as the other servants. It was his idea; if we are fewer in numbers, the less chance of us getting found. He also proposed that I should escape from Aceid.

"For as long as the resistance can hold, we will not die."

I am the only Elphegortean among the servants. But as Mr. Keel said, there is no guarantee that Lucifenia will not kill non-Elphegorteans.

"But... I don't want to leave."

"Michaela, we understand your feelings, but there is no other way. If you stay here, the others might get harmed as well. It would be best if you escape from Lucifenia"

Mr. Keel's sharp tone was very deliberate. But Clarith doesn't understand his plan.

"You want to give up Michaela?!"

".....If you think so, then you can accompany her too. I will not stop you."

Mr. Keel had an indifferent tone. After Clarith finished glaring at him, she grabbed my hand tightly.

“Let’s go, Michaela”

Clarith wanted to put an end to this; she took my hand and gazed at Mr. Keel’s line of sight.

“So far, I would like to thank you for caring for us”

“Don’t think this is good bye yet. Who do you think I am? I’m Keel Freesis-san right? How could I die in such a situation... I intend to show the other servants the escape routes. You can go now”

I bowed. Clarith also slightly bowed her head. At this time, the anxious Ms. Yukina faced Clarith as she was urging me to hurry up.

“Clarith, do you have to go?”

“.....Yes, I have to. Ms. Yukina is a strong girl. You have to protect your brother and sister just like your parents. Do not worry, we will meet again. Then I’ll give you a super delicious cream cake. Please look forward to it.”

Clarith patted the head of the weeping Ms. Yukina. Clarith softly smiled. Her smile is exactly like her mother’s smile.



At the back door, Mrs. Freesis was waiting for us, holding a cloak.

“Put this on to cover your hair. Your escape might get obscured by your hair... be careful”

She said and handed the coat to me. Mr. Keel went to her side.

“I will not say good bye for this is not the last time we shall meet. You have to come back and work yes?”

Mrs. Freesis started wiping her tears.

We left the Freesis Mansion through the backdoor quietly. Mr. Keel told us where to go.

## Section 2, Scene 8

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Yatski Village"

If I had an opportunity to see hellish scene, this would be it.

Being together with Clarith, I have learned a lot of human virtues. Now, however, human stupidity and relentless cruelty is being demonstrated right in front of me.

During our flight from Aceid, we saw female corpses scattered around the city. Even if they do not resist, for as long as you are a green-haired woman, Lucifenia soldiers will slaughter you.

We were walking through Aceid Northern Region's hidden underground passage to get to the western region which is not far from the cliff near Yatski Village.

It's has been eight months since we fled from Yatski village.

Most of the houses were destroyed. I saw corpses of people I knew being stacked around. Carla was good as sewing, the big eater(?) Hannah, Chelsea, our neighbor and the one's with loaded pockets(?), Alma and Barbara. The bodies were mostly female and the males were dressed in Elphegort Army uniform. Did the men leave the village? Or were captured by Lucifenia?

Seeing man destroying things he built... This feeling of disgust that brings me to tears. The disgust I have for Rilliane whose only interest is territorial expansion.

"The house we used to live..."

Clarith whispered. The house we lived together with Clarith's mother; a home full of memories.

Miraculously, the house was alright. Although the interior was turned upside down, it wasn't destroyed or burnt down; it was the same as we left it.

But the slightly more valuables were swept away. This may have been done by the villagers. But it doesn't matter anymore because this house and this village is no more.

"Let's... go"

I said. Clarith silently nodded. Our destination was a place south from here.

"Wait"

Clarith suddenly said.

"What?"

"Did you hear something?"

As I listened, I heard horse hoofs and roars. The noise gradually became louder and their statements became clear. It was "There's somebody in there!" sound.

"Are those Lucifenia soldiers?!"

At the next moment, we did not dare look at them and just ran.

"There's a woman! Catch her!"

The sound of hoofs approaching, although we were on foot and was on a plain, it was clear in our difference in speed. We were surrounded by Lucifenian soldiers.

"I didn't expect there were still some villagers left"

There were a total of eight people on horseback, either holding a gun or a sword. A man dressed in the finest armor dismounted and came up to us.

"Let me see her face"

The men pulled me up and removed my cloak.

"Green hair... kill her"

As he gave the order, the soldiers raised their arms together. It was already too late. I closed my eyes, ready to die.

“Stop!”

Suddenly somebody shouted. I opened my eyes and saw a man rushing and tackling the soldiers.

“Run! Clarith! Michaela!”

This was the second time I heard of this sentence. He saved us again.

“Ein! Why are you here?!”

“Shut up and run! We’ll talk later!”

We took advantage of the chaos and fled towards the south.

“You won’t get away!”

A Lucifenian soldier on horseback was catching up to us.

At the same time, Ein turned over and catch up with us.

“Ein?!”

“What are you doing Ein?! Hurry up and flee!”

“I’m going to lure them away. You guys head towards the forest. The soldiers aren’t familiar with the terrain there so they wouldn’t be able to catch up with you.”

“Why do you have to do this?! Why not just come with us?”

Clarith cried in grief. Ein just looked at us and gave us his trademark smile.

“Don’t worry. I’ll catch up to you later. I have secret plan.”

Ein turned towards the Lucifenian soldiers.

I grabbed Clarith’s hand and desperately ran towards the forest.

“Let’s go, Clarith!”

I ran, pulling her in reluctance.

Behind us, I heard the sound of a horse neighing.

## Section 2, Scene 9

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Millennium Tree Forest"

We arrived at our destination. I missed the Millennium Tree Forest.

Shortly after we entered the forest, Ein was able to catch up. It was much earlier than expected. We failed to hide to surprise him.

"How did you do it? There were so many soldiers!"

"I had my own experiences when it comes to horseback. Although horseback is a way of increasing speed and momentum but if you are unable to control its flexible rotary and the horse becomes violent, it would be dangerous to ride on it..... in other words; I cut off the horse's tendons."

Ein proudly said. He looks very reliable right now.

While walking, Ein gave us a short briefing of the situation. Yatski Village was attacked and Ein, along with some troops, defended but was overwhelmed. The remaining soldiers fled to the forest and dispersed. I'm glad to be alive.

"I was surprised when I saw the two of you..... fortunately, swordsmanship school came in handy. I was finally able to protect someone..."

Suddenly, we heard a loud noise. It seems it wasn't far away. A roar came as it came from leaf to leaf; it sounds like a lot of people.

"They called for reinforcements..."

"It's no use trying to hide. Come out!"

It was the voice of the man before. It was no use trying to run because they would just find us. Clarith stared at Ein and made up some kind of determination.

"Michaela, lend me your coat."

Clarith said with firm eyes. As I gazed at her eyes, I was finally aware of her true intentions.

“No... you can’t...”

“I’ll distract those soldiers while Michaela make a run for it. It’s okay, if they take off the cloak, they wouldn’t do anything to me because their goal are green-haired women; they wouldn’t kill a white haired one!”

“What the hell are you thinking Clarith?!”

“Absolutely not! I absolutely cannot afford to lose you! I, I, I...!”

My voice was shaking and I became speechless. Clarith was clinging on my shoulder.

“Michaela, can you hold as tight as before?”

“If I do, would you still continue your plan?”

Clarith did not answer. She just quietly pulled me over with open arms, tightly holding us together.

“Michaela’s body is very warm. I’m able to feel at ease”

Her head was on my shoulder. She suddenly pushed me and stared at my face.

“Michaela, I love you”

Clarith scraped her lips, overlapping with mine.

I felt around, Ein only gasped. I only obeyed Clarith with no resistance at all. With her big eyes and short eye lashes, everything about her was lovely.

After a while, Clarith pulled the distance between us.

“Clarith... I... always for you...”

My view of Clarith’s face suddenly became blurry. I became sleepy. In my dim consciousness, Clarith’s voice became so distant.

“Clarith... what did you...”

“I just slip a sleeping pill my mother used to use that I found in the house. Thank you  
Ein... Hideout... Michaela... Brought...”

The voices became blurry. I fell into a deep sleep.

## Section 2, Scene 10

### ❁ Michaela ~ Elphegort Country's "Millennium Tree Forest • Well"

I woke up and found myself inside the well.

South-East from the Millennium Tree Forest, there was a small well. As a forest spirit, I could sense some traces of human life in here. I never would have thought there was hidden room here.

There was a horizontal iron bared window and I was lying on bed. The place was basically deserted. There was a used first aid kit on the table.

"Clarith...? Ein...?"

There was blood stain on the floor. Who got hurt?

"Clarith! Ein! Where are you?!"

I searched the room; there was no else around. I opened the door and climbed up the wall ladder. When I reached the top, there was nobody but I found a familiar silhouette nearby.

".....Ein!"

It was Ein. I hugged him but then found out he was not breathing. He was suffering from an arrow wound and there was a sword beside him. He must have been protecting Clarith.

When we left the village for the Freesis Mansion, Ein left and joined the army. He said he wanted to protect someone. I didn't immediately understand but now I do... Ein was protecting Clarith.

"I'm sorry... I'm sorry... Ein..."

I buried Ein's body under a tree and I placed his sword above it instead of using a tomb stone as future burial mark. I just hope someone would find him buried here.

I went back inside the well and searched the room. Thankfully, there was food, enough to sustain for a long period of time.

I was waiting for Clarith. Surely she will come. Until she comes, I'll be waiting.

After a few days, the door suddenly opened.

At that moment, I couldn't help but look forward to seeing Clarith while also worrying not to be found by Lucifenian soldiers.

However, the one standing at the door wasn't Clarith or a Lucifenian soldier but a blonde boy.

"Ah... Allen! What are you doing here...?"

"Michaela! I'm glad you're doing fine"

Rilliane wanted Mr. Keel arrested. Mr. Keel was currently imprisoned in Lucifenia's basement but the servants seems to have successfully escaped. Mr. Keel has nothing with him right now.

Allen seems to be on our side because he told me the current situation.

I am Kyle's lover. Moreover, it seems Lucifenia and Allen has not noticed this. They called this massacre the "Green Hunting". In addition, before he got arrested, Mr. Keel wrote a letter to Kyle. Kyle left the city and was about to come here. If so, he should take not more than five days to arrive.

"It's becoming dangerous here. Come, I'll take you to a safer place"

"There is a safer place than here?"

I wanted to wait for Clarith and Elluka here. As I refused, Allen seems to have disappointed expression.

"I know the situation is difficult... but this is my last resort. Even if it's an illusionary delusion, please let me wait here for the time being."

“Well... I understand”

He is from Lucifenia. I cannot trust him completely. But the teenager right in front of me doesn't seem to lie. I can only choose to trust him.

“I'll be back, Michaela”

“Ah! Be careful out there Allen”

Allen stood up and pushed open the Iron Gate. Before the door closed, Allen said:

“Michaela... I... you...”

“What was that, Allen?”

“.....Never mind, good bye”

And with that, Allen closed the door.

“.....Liar”

Allen was the kind of person who would show his thought through his expressions. If he was in front of me, he doesn't know what to say, but now I understand. Because I know how to love.

Allen's eyes were the eyes of a man caught in love. He is like me.

But... sorry Allen. I cannot respond to your feelings.

The next day, it was already evening.

For the whole time, I've been hiding in the well and getting lonely. I decided to go out and get some fresh air. I believe in what Allen said that Lucifenian soldiers will not come out at night.

Today's moon was very beautiful. Clarith, are you also looking at the same moon? I forcibly repressed the urge to sing.

I should wait for Elluka. Although I brought the green onion, it is neither emitting light or sound. It must have a life span.

But they know where I am right now.

Lucifenia is gradually nearing its own end. At first, we only had to look for 'sin' but now, my mind has completely changed.

(Lucifenia will perish? That's great. Really great.)

Everyone is dead. Because of Lucifenia, Elphegort is done for. I cannot forgive this. This is retribution.

(If permitted, I would like to live in the forest with Elluka and Gumillia. Would Keel also like to live in the woods? But he has responsibilities to do.)

Just when I was thinking these, I heard a voice. Are Lucifenian soldier coming? I hurriedly hid in the well.

"Michaela, it's me, Allen."

Emerging from the shadows was Allen. His whole body was wrapped around in a cloak.

"Allen? Why are dressed like that?"

"Because I was taking advantage of the night. It would have been bad if my face was shown so I'm hiding it as well."

".....You sound a bit different?"

"Eh? I'm just a little tired. It was a long walk from here"

As the night darkened and because of his cloak, I could not see his face. However, I felt he was very anxious.

"Your presence is already known by the princess. We must quickly escape from here!"

"How is that... Is that true?"

But I have to stay here and wait for Clarith! But I can't give up. If I get arrested, it's all over.

“Please wait. I need to prepare my things.”

I needed to prepare my luggage. I went down the well.

At this time...

Allen suddenly rushed towards me. My body flew for a moment then suddenly dropped heavily in the bottom of the well.

(What just happened?)

Allen... why did you betray me?

A shadow slowly climbed down the ladder. Allen was standing right where I was lying down.

“Ha ha, Ha ha ha...”

As he removed his cloak, long hair flew. This person wasn't Allen but someone with blonde hair as well.; it was a woman.

“You, who are you?”

As I gazed upon her, I realized who she was. She was the messenger from Lucifenia who came to the Freesis Mansion. Mr. Keel said she was one of the three heroes' maid.

“Mother-sama, Ney did it! Your daughter, Ney Futapie has finally succeeded! Hahahahahaha!!”

She madly laughed.

Ney Futapie? She is obviously from Lucifenia but why does she bear a Marlon name?(?)

Exactly why, I do not know.

The only certainty now is that my life is ending.

“Drop dead! ‘Lonely Magi’ Elluka Clockworker's apprentice!”

Ney raised a knife then stabbing my chest.

“!”

.....

.....

I managed to save my consciousness.

The pendant Kyle gave me was able to protect me from certain death.

However, the wound is deep; I’m suffering from severe bleeding.

Ney did not confirm my death and just left. After a while, I heard the sound of someone coming down the ladder.

I immediately knew who it was.

“Why... Why has it come to this!?”

Allen held my hand while crying. He must have missed Ney when he went here.

“I did... escape... I did want to abandon it all and flee with you!”

He is saying the same thing as Kyle while weeping.

(Hehe, this boy is truly a fool)

At this time, I also thought of such things. I have been completely infected with human habits.

“Michaela! I like you! Although I only seen you twice, I was still unquestionably in love with you!”

I was unable to answer. My consciousness and feelings gradually faded away from me.

(Clarith, I’m sorry. I-I wanted to tell you how I feel about you... Clarith, I want to see you. Even if it’s just for a day, I would be glad...)

My vision blurred and my eyes began to dim. Finally, I have learned what it means to “die”.

“AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!”

The last thing I heard was Allen’s scream.

# CHAPTER 4

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## Section 1 –Lost Destination–

“I am sorry for being alive”

I do not know when I started this habit I keep on saying.

I was always a downcast, living a boring life.

However, you gave me the hope to live.

For me, you are my everything.

At anytime, I can tell you that.

Even if the world is full of scorn and hatred, for as long as you are with me, i’ll be happy.

Ah, Michaela,

Where are you now?

## Section 1, Scene 1

### ♥Clarith ~ Elphegort Country's "Toragay City" ~

Toragay City was located from the northeast side of the Amusement Lake and it has now become a station for Lucifenia's forces.

As the King of Elphegort had captured the northern fortress of Marigold Plateau, the army have set up base on the front-lines.

The Lords of Toragay-Count Felix has/have been arrested, and transported to Lucifenia country/kingdom. Now occupying Toragay is Lucifenia's army commander General John Ausdin.

The three generals- Daniel Ausdin was recently recruited this year; at the moment, he was sitting across the table in front of me with a gloomy expression.

"Will you under any circumstance not reveal the 'Daughter of Green's' location?"

Daniel seemed to be getting somewhat tired interrogating me, who kept my mouth firmly zipped.

"We already know the Elphen woman you let escape in Yatski Village is the 'Daughter of Green' we're looking for. You two must have planned to meet up somewhere, right? You just need to tell me the location. Clarith, you've been here for two months already. Surely you wish to go home?"

"....."

"You're still keeping silent... Really, if you would just say it, this war might have ended already"

The freckled Daniel Ausdin's brows wrinkled again – maybe if he could just retain his child like face, he would look dignified.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

"Excuse me"

A middle-aged man came in. He doesn't seem to look like a soldier.

"You look stressed out, Daniel"

"Koopaa? What is the Queen's businessman doing here?"

The bearded man was called Koopa

The man called Koopa was combing the whiskers on his face with his hands while calmly telling a surprised Daniel:

"This Netsuma girl here is an acquaintance of a friend of mine. I'm taking her away."

"What did you say? How can it be, this person is a military prisoner, how can we just release her so easily..."

"I've gotten permission"

Having said that, Koopa took some documents out of his bag, and then handed it to Daniel. Daniel's expression changed from surprise to confusion.

"How much did you pay."

"Heheh, it wouldn't be good if the word was spread. The staff in the palace aren't so well-off these days.

"Nevertheless, we cannot hand her over to you because she has relevant information about the 'Daughter of Green'"

"That is not important anymore"

What the merchant said caught my attention. Unimportant? This is how it was. Koopa's eyes instantly fell upon me and grudgingly said:

"The 'Daughter of Green' that was have been looking for – Michaela was confirmed dead. The Palace sent assassins to search for her alone."

".....!"

I made no sound.

Michaela..... died.

That person, whom I loved the most, is dead.

I clenched my teeth.

“What did you say? Was that the exact message?”

“This information was obtained from one of the Palace Servants. I trust that this is not false. Clarith, you...!”

I heard Koopa panicking. There was a strong pain in my mouth and some warm liquid came out.

“This woman bit her tongue?!”

“Hurry! We have to heal her!”

It became difficult to breathe. The voices gradually lessen.

Ah, Michaela.

I will now be by your side.

Due to Lucifenia’s advance military aid, I didn’t die.

I was immediately treated and sent to Koopa’s mansion.

## Section 1, Scene 2

♥Clarith ~ Lucifenia Kingdom's "Koopa's Mansion" ~

"Clarith! Clarith!"

When I first entered Koopa's mansion, someone was calling my name and clinging on my leg. Man, I missed my little master.

"Ms. Yukina... I see you're doing alright"

"That's because my father, mother and brother is doing alright too!"

The Freesis family was imprisoned in Lucifenia and was released a few days ago. During the imprisonment, the Freesis Mansion was burned down so the whole family boarded into Koopa's Mansion – is what I heard.

"I've been spending a lot lately. I'll be expecting Keel to pay me back~"

Koopa said while holding his belly and with a smile on his face. Not only do they have a good relationship but he also helps in the better development of the Freesis Foundation.

I led Ms. Yukina into a room. When we arrive, Mrs. Freesis was also in that room.

"Clarith...! You're safe!"

The lady got up from the sofa and clung unto me.

"I'm glad you're safe and sound... You also lose some weight."

"Lucifenia's meals are of low standards. I want to eat your cooking"

"Thank you very much. I'll begin preparing."

I thought the lady would smile but she suddenly laughed.

“Clarith, forget it. You have to rest”

The beautiful lady’s smooth hand was on my cheek.

“Because of Michaela... You’re suffering.”

“.....Is it true? That Michaela was killed?”

“The assassin described the “Daughter of Green’s” characteristics... There was no doubt about it.”

This is the reality I do not want to believe in. In the corner of my eye, tears were flowing.

“...Why... Michaela...Why...”

I collapsed and was lying on the floor, crying.

Everyone is dead. My mother is dead, the villagers are dead, Michaela is dead.

The gentle Michaela who was loved by all.

I would be glad if I was the one who died instead of her. Because of this thought, I should have fought against the Lucifenian soldiers before.

Why? Why is it always like this?

I could not help but cry. Mrs. Freesis and Ms. Yukina just silently stood beside me.

“Have you calmed down, Clarith?”

I finally stopped crying when my tears became dry.

“Your face looks terrible. Wipe it off with this.”

I took the handkerchief she gave me and used it to wipe off the tears.

(And my face)

Michaela also did the same at my mother's funeral. As I reminisced, my chest began to heat up.

"Clarith, are you OK?"

"I'm alright, Ms. Yukina... Say, where's Mr. Keel?"

I realized I haven't seen him when I got here. I asked the lady about him but my expression was a little uncomfortable.

"He is in the next room, talking to a guest"

"...I would like to say my greeting to him..."

"I think it's OK. Keel also wanted to see you a while ago. And the guest seems to be a bit violent. I'm a bit worried... can you go check on him?"

The lady was really concerned about me.

".....OK"

I walked out of the room and knocked on the next door.

"I'm sorry if I'm bothering something but can I come in?"

"I don't mind. Please come in!"

I opened the door and came in. Mr. Keel was pleased as he got up from his chair.

"I was worried about you, Clarith"

"Mr. Keel... about Michaela... I'm sorry I wasn't able to carry out your orders..."

"It happened because of this war... Actually, I should be the one apologizing."

"What...?"

"Ah, forget what I just said."

Mr. Keel's eye glasses suddenly clouded and tried to avoid eye contact with me.

“Mr. Keel...?”

“Do I need to leave?”

The person who spoke was a girl in red. That girl was a beauty whose short, brown hair matched her confidence. Standing by her side was a burly one-eyed fellow, who folded his arms unhappily. Just like his wife said, he gave off the impression of a brute.

“Ah, apologies. Let’s continue the conversation.”

“Sorry to disturb everyone, I’ll leave first.”

That man stared at me until I shrank back a little. That’s why after a hurried bow, I prepared to leave. But the girl in red stopped me.

“Wait for a while. Mr Keel, if possible, I’d like this person to listen. Is this the person? The child named Clarith mentioned just now. Then she must be like us, hating Lucifenia’s ruler. In that case...”

“Wait, Germaine! You plan to drag her into this Resistance? Does she look like the type who’d participate in a war?”

“It’s good to have one more comrade. Anyway, it’s up to her to decide.”

The girl in red and the one-eyed man spoke at the same time. Resistance Army? War? What were they talking about. I sneaked a look at Mr Keel, he had an ugly expression.

“Clarith, I’ll start from the beginning so you can understand. I am Germaine, and he is York. We’re preparing to launch/initiate a revolution on Lucifenia. We’re here to beg for assistance... Honestly speaking, we’re short on both manpower and funds.”

Germaine stood up and begun to pace around the room as she spoke. She explained to me that the comrades are people who harbour resentment towards Lucifenia’s ruler, and to secure financial assistance, they would return to Mr Keel his properties which were confiscated by Lucifenia (but Mr Keel said that it (the properties) didn’t cost him much).

“Clarith, if you can’t accept your friend’s murder, join our revolutionary army. Don’t you want to personally avenge her?”

“.....Let me think about it”

“I understand. This is a big deal to think about so think twice before deciding. But if you were to turn on us...”

Germaine had a threatening attitude towards me. Mr. Keel immediately replied to her:

“I can assure this. She will not tell on us.”

“.....Mr. Keel, about your assistance...”

“Ah, I’m not good with these kinds of things. But I’ll be taking a look at it.”

Mr. Keel cleverly evaded the matter with Germaine. In fact, he doesn’t seem interested.

“We are sorry to have bothered you today and we thank you for your hospitality. York, let’s go!”

Germaine and York silently left the room together. As the door shut with a bang, I once again looked at Mr. Keel.

“.....What frightening people”

“Aren’t they? But to me, they are just being bravado.”

“Really?”

“Haha, who knows. Clarith, you just came from Toragay which is very far right? You should get some rest. You are not a servant here but a guest. You should speak with one of Koopa’s servants.”

“Yes... I know”

A servant brought me into a room which had more space than our house in Yatski Village or in the servant’s room in the Freesis Mansion. As the fatigue suddenly overwhelmed me, I fell into bed. The bedding was soft, particularly comfortable to sleep on but I settled not to.

However, I was still able to sleep like in the past.

After a few days, I did not do anything except being Ms. Yukina's play mate. My life became placid. All of the duties and cuisines were done by the servants of the mansion.

There was nothing I can do.

Was there no other way to save Michaela? If there was, I would like to go back in time. Although I knew it was impossible, but I kept thinking about it.

I wondered whether there was still hope. But for those who wish to wait before me(?), only infinite despair awaits you.

"Clarith, I'm coming in."

I heard a knock on the door. It was Mr. Keel. He was as busy as he was in Elphegort. He hasn't been sleeping recently; there were dark lines beneath his eyes.

"Mr. Keel... you should have called for me instead of coming here..."

"I don't really care nowadays. Today, I would like to you about your future plans. Do you mind if I sit here?"

I replied with a "please". Mr. Keel sat on the wooden chair near the entrance.

"I decided to help the rebel army. After I've done my investigations, it seems the revolutionary army is at an advantage."

"....."

"What about you? Are you going to help them?"

I tried to avoid his confident eyes:

"No, I still refuse. I don't have the courage to wield a sword"

I replied in a low voice.

Yes, I am a coward. While my hatred for the princess is growing, but the thought of venting it on her is what I'm afraid off.

I do not have the courage to kill.

“Well, I think that’s good. You aren’t fit to start a revolution.

Mr. Keel has guessed my answer. He continued:

“There are other things. Because the mansion was burned down, I’m planning to go back to Marlon. Although we have no good memories there, but the guy who used to live there is gone. Also, the things I can do here is limited.”

Marlon country... although I haven’t been there, there level of prosperity is same as Elphegort and Lucifenia despite being surrounded by the ocean.

“If you like, where do you want to continue as a domestic worker? It may not be applicable to you but it’s a livable place. I think you’ll get used to it soon enough.

Perhaps it’s a good idea. I began day dreaming about a life near the sea. But I still want it as before: cleaning Mr. Keel’s mansion, doing laundry, giving Ms. Yukina some cake and whenever I feel angry or sad, I would talk to Michaela in the garden at night...

No, it’s out of the question. It’s impossible to turn back time. There is no smiling, pleasant singing Michaela anymore.

The Michaela I loved is not here anymore.

Unknowingly, there were tears on my cheeks. I already decided not to cry anymore but memories still makes me teary.

Even after several days or maybe years, I might not be able to forget about Michaela.

“Thank you for the consideration, however, I’m sorry, I can’t go with you. Mr. Keel, no matter what I do...”

“You always think of Michaela, correct?”

“Yes.....”

Keel stood up and went for the window to watch the scenery. From here, we could see the Levin Cathedral.

“Clarith, do you believe in God?”

“I did not in the past, but for the present... I do”

“Right”

He seems to be considering something. After a while, he spoke again:

“There is a port town in the west end of the country. There is an elder(?) who built a monastery there which is very rare in this country. Do you want to work there?”

“Do you want me to become a nun?”

“No, I don’t want you to become a nun. They have an orphanage there and they are also understaffed. Would you like to help them? It is a place near the sea, very suitable for some peace of mind. What do you think?”

“Near the sea...?”

During my time in Yatski Village, I have never seen the sea.

“If you like the life there, then you can be a nun. But I do hope you would come back to my house. Without you, Yukina would become lonely.”

Even so I still needed. However, I...

“Clarith, I have to bluntly say it – you have to accept Michaela’s death. While it is indeed sad, there is nothing you can do. But you are still alive. I don’t know how but you’re still alive. I hope you continue on living with a smile on. I think this is what Michaela would have wished for you to do.”

When I cry, Michaela also cries. When I laugh, do you also laugh in heaven?

“I don’t want you to say that you two are supposed to live together. Michaela is Michaela and you are you”

Michaela is watching over me. At the same time, she is also hoping that I can be strong. In response to her expectations, I have to work alone and become stronger in the future. If I become weak, Michaela would become sad.

“.....I see. I want to go to the monastery sometime”

“Good, I’ll contact you. Clarith, you have to remember that even if you are separated from us, you are still part of the family”

“Thank you very much...”

He held out his hand and I firmly hold it.

The next day, I headed to the bar where Germaine and York is to give them a reply. Also, Mr. Keel wanted to talk to them.

After hearing my reply, Germaine was a little disappointed. But she didn’t force me anyway.

On the day for my departure to the port town monastery, Mr. Keel came to see me off.

Ms. Yukina cried and gave me a baby thick book. It is filled with her up-to-date stories.

The wagon started. I continued waving at them even when they were out of sight.

Thank you and Good bye.

I have another group of people to see.

## Section 1, Scene 3

### ♥Clarith ~ Lucifenia Kingdom's "Port Town • Monastery" ~

It is said that Levin religion's Eldoh faction was formed in the now-defunct Eldohgort (present-day Elphegort) when the Magic Kingdom Levianta (Divine Levianta) broke off.

With the Twin Dragon Gods Levia-Behemo as the absolute gods of the Levia opposition, the Eldoh faction worships the dragon Eldoh. Therefore, they were initially regarded as heretics and suffered severe repression. Afterwards, due to the "Levianta Disaster", the number of people in the Levia sect/faction was reduced. Only then did the Eldoh faction grow in strength. For some time, the congregation increased until it was comparable with the Levia faction. But over the passage of time, due to the political influence the members of Levia faction had on the country, it (Levia faction) soon became the mainstream religion again.

The elder's decorations for the church was rather simple compared to other(?) churches. They prohibit idolatry so there weren't any statue in the church. Mr. Keel, despite having finance, had simple decorations in his mansion. That may be probably because he chose this religion.

Every morning, I have to wake up early. We had to pray even before the sun rise. We also had to pray before and after having breakfast. Preparing the meals was one of my duties.

I am primarily responsible for the children's meals. Because a lot of the children are picky eaters, I have to consider them one at a time so I have to make a menu that will satisfy all of them and it's giving me a headache. If the menu is too biased, I'll get scolded by the dean.

After breakfast, the nuns begin to do their duties. The monastic life is essentially self-contained. In addition, we had to publicize the activities of the church. We also engage in agricultural activities like wine making. We don't have to always do it for as long as we pray, it's good enough.

I just came here four months ago and I'm already leading a busy life. Although I have to say that my everyday life is very fulfilling but there is still a big hole in my heart that I am not able to fill up.

My life was based on many human sacrifices. Even if I pray for these people every day, I still continue to live on of course – because I am alive.

Mr. Keel said to me “I hope you continue on living with a smile on”. I know it must be the correct view, but I wasn't able to laugh. Will the issue of having a sincere smile last for a long period of time? Also, will I still have it after the revolution? I think not.

I can't go back to the Freesis Mansion. If Michaela weren't there, I wouldn't be happy. Maybe I should get baptized as a nun and continue to cook here. I'm interested in the wine.

If Michaela were here, she would have said with a smile “If Clarith wants to do so” and I'll rebuke with a “I can't do it”. But I can't say it, because she is not of this world anymore.

God, please grant me a miracle. I would at least like to say good bye to Michaela. Well, of course, God will not move for a cowardly person like me.

“Are you Clarith?”

Some people arrived right after lunch, just shortly after the nuns have gone to resume their duties.

“Yes, I am... and you are?”

“I used to be Lucifenia's Court Magician, Elluka Clockworker. This is my apprentice, Gumillia”

The pink-haired woman said with a smile. I don't know why but the child beside her is staring at me.

“Today, we have come to challenge you”

Gumillia, who seems to be an Elphegortean, came up to me. Elluka stopped her.

“H-Hey! No, Gumillia. Today, we came to give her a gift.”

Elluka suppressed Gumillia's provocative attitude. Elluka took out a pot with a sapling on it.

"This is...?"

"Your most precious friend"

"Eh?"

When it comes to my most cherish friend, only one person flashes into my mind. However, this sapling is my friend? So this is how it happened.

"Let me start from scratch. The story is a bit long... could we please have a cup of tea?"

Elluka had mischievous smile. I did what she said and prepared the tea in the cafeteria.

"First off, your friend, Michaela... is a forest spirit reincarnated into a human by my magic."

After a cup of tea, Elluka simply began to present. She was surprised that I wasn't surprised because I clearly understood it.

".....You're not surprised?"

"I always felt... that she was not an ordinary person"

I was young when my mother told me of the existence of spirits. I originally thought she was just making a fool out of me, but when I met Michaela, I could not help but wonder if spirits do exist. She must be one of them.

I always had chills whenever Michaela would sing.

"Is that all?"

Elluka suddenly gazed at my face then she suddenly understood everything and just nodded.

"It's only a little bit, but you seem to have magic in you. Setting the topic aside, during the times of war, Michaela was at the Millennium Tree Forest's ancient well right?"

“Yes”

“But it was too late. When we got there, a useless man was already hugging her and crying... the Marlon King”

“The Marlon King?”

“He seems to have heard about Michaela’s whereabouts. We didn’t have time to save her. Although he brought back her bones, he didn’t acknowledge her death. In my point of view, he also contributed to her death.”

I also agree with her. If I ever saw that man again, I would beat him to a pulp.

“He only retrieved the low-level gift he gave to Michaela. Her bones then became tree saplings.”

“.....Wait a minute, why did her bones become tree sapling? Is it because she’s a spirit?”

“Ah, although this is a bad reason, the simplest way to say it is... she has been chosen to become the next millennium tree... Eldoh’s successor.”

Eldoh’s successor? A spirit becoming God? My mind will not be able to keep up with it.

“Do you know of the Millennium Tree? That tree is the host for the Earth God, Eldoh. I recently learned that his life depends on the Millennium Tree itself. Although Eldoh cannot die, after the tree dies, he cannot stay on this earth anymore. The reason why Eldoh chose Michaela before he would depart the world is because it was important for the next guardian to be very knowledgeable about humans(?). That was the reason why she was allowed to become human. It was abominable, being fooled by that old man... I’m sorry, did you understand?”

“Generally, yes...”

“Generally, the truth is what is most important. You will later slowly understand it all. Before we came here, we took Michaela’s sapling to Keel Freesis. Because he was taking care of her, I wanted to go to him and had some private discussions... Can I have some more tea?”

“Ah, yes. I’m sorry”

I didn’t know her tea cup was already empty. I carried the teapot and placed some on her cup. She briefly said “Thank you” then continued:

“Keel said to give Michaela’s sapling to you. He said when Michaela turns into a tree, the first thing she will see is her best friend. Naturally, I also got benefits and it cannot be denied.”

As Elluka spoke, she was playing with her rod. Although the shape of it is strange, it seems to be like a sword.

My heart was pounding fast and loud. I can’t wait for Michaela to become a tree. Even if her form has changed, for me, she is still my most cherished person.

“However, I don’t know about you but Gumillia wants to keep her(?)”

“We can’t decide if Michaela is a sapling.(?)”

Elluka and Gumillia became silent for a while. It seems Michaela is an important person for her as well.

“So, we will let Michaela decide what to do... Gumillia, can you do it?”

Gumillia nodded.

“Begin”

Gumillia placed her hand on top of the pot and began saying an incantation.

“Stellub evilh, tiw nug a, em evag Atnas”

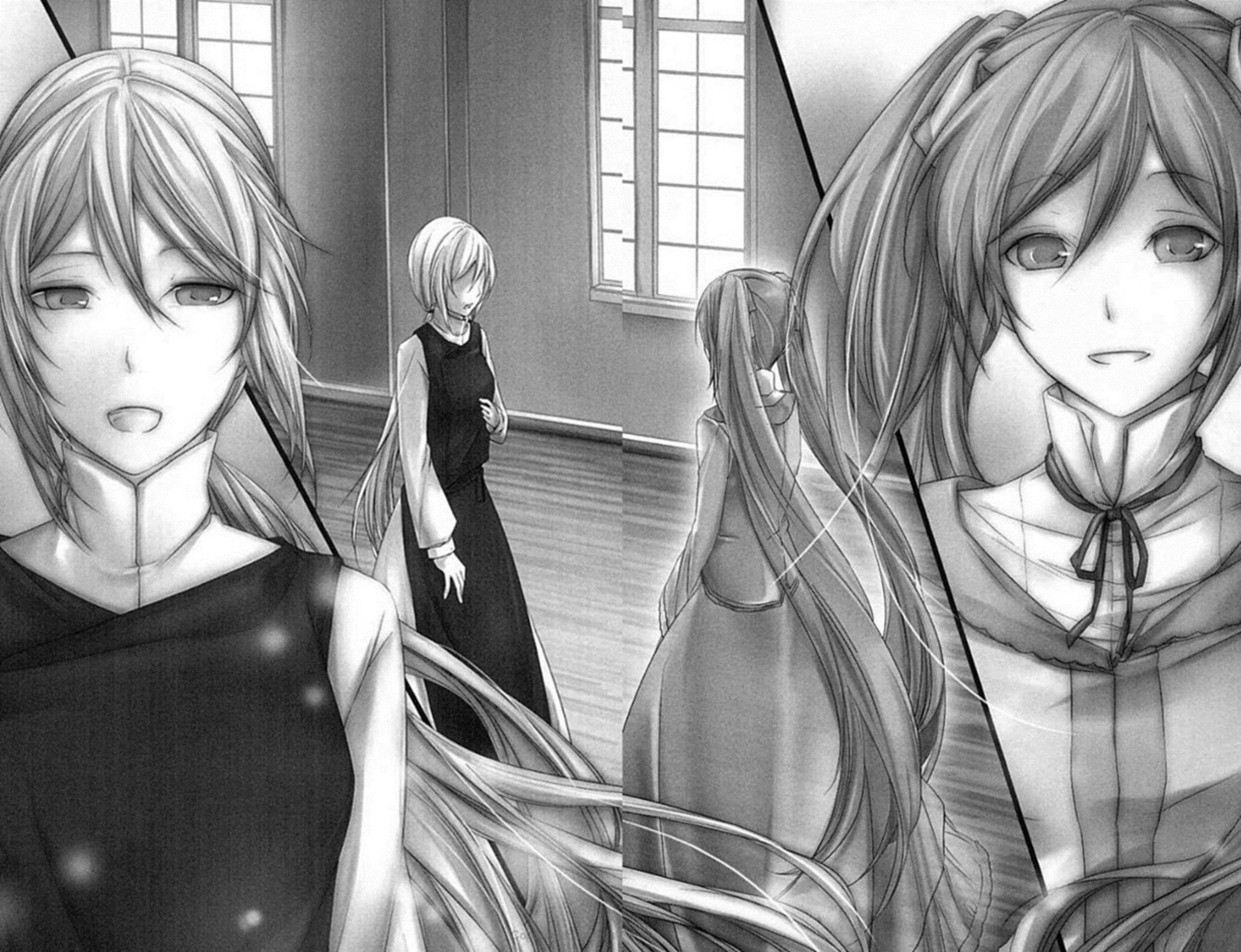
The sapling gradually vibrated. Shortly after, a dazzling light covered my eyes.

I can’t help but close my eyes.

“.....!”

As I opened my eyes, my mood became indescribable.

In front of me was a figure I could only dream off.



“Michaela!”

I quickly ran towards her but my body went through her body and just directly hit the opposite wall.

“Ouch...”

I took a second look before realizing that Michaela’s body was transparent. Even if I wanted to touch her hand, it would just go through her.

“You’re still too bold, Clarith”

“Michaela... I missed you”

“Me too. When I saw your face, I was really pleased.”

Michaela and I stared at each other for a while. I had lot of things I wanted to tell her but when I was facing her, I could not think up of any.

“.....Are you back to your full health?”

It was a silly and unexpected question. Michaela died as a human, how can she be healthy...

“Ah, although I seem to look healthy... but this is just an illusion. But since I can be seen my Clarith, I want to thank Eldoh-san. However, this spell cannot be used many times. So this is my only chance to speak to you.”

“.....Michaela, I want to live in a better future where you and I are...”

If this was my last chance, I hope she would give me an answer. Depending on what she answers, is how I will be able to live.

However, Michaela did not answer.

“I can’t answer that”

“What... why...?”

“My time as a human has already ended and you have to live on. When you worry about the pains the future might bring, you can no longer rely on me. You have to find the answer on your own. If I give my answer now, those words will be forever trapped inside of you and will never be able to stand up for yourself. You decide what you want to do with your life. Even if your decision is erroneous or distorted, for as long as it’s your own choice, it’s meaningful”

Those words like and, at the same time, not like Michaela at all. She will become a god to protect the earth. So maybe these words are god’s revelation for me.

I taste the joy of meeting with Michaela again without any human despair and the profound understanding that Michaela also refuses death.

“Clarith”

Michaela called out my name. I don’t know if she understands my feelings.

“Before I died as a human, I wanted to tell you something when we meet again”

“...I also wanted to tell you something”

The wish we want to say must be the same.

“I”

“I”

We only needed simple words to understand each other.

“Clarith”

“Michaela”

Good bye and thank you, Michaela.

“I love you”

“.....So who won?”

Elluka asked Gumillia in a stubborn way.

“...Wait”

Gumillia recited again and Michaela’s body disappeared. She then gave the pot to me.

“I’m giving you Michaela. If she dies... I don’t care”

I just experienced something incredible, really incredible. If common sense applies, this should have never happened. Perhaps this is all a lie. This two people united and are lying to me. Maybe.

“About the tree sapling... what are you going to do about it?”

My problem was revealed by Gumillia because I had a “What am I going to do?” look on my face. She immediately replied with all her feelings:

“Of course, you can plant her in the forest. But it’s up to you to decide. Just like what Michaela said, decide for yourself”

“.....OK”

“We have to go. Take care of yourself”

“Thank you for the tea”

Two people with little baggage came out from the door. Gumillia seems to have remembered something. She turned back and said to me:

“I forgot to tell you. The revolution was a success and the princess has been sentenced. Michaela has been avenged.”

## **Section 2, Scene 1**

### **—Seaside’s Small Bottle—**

♥Clarith~Lucifenia Kingdom’s “Harbor Town’s convent”~

The warm season has arrived, and the actual farming starts.

A new member has arrived in the convent.

“This has gone too far! Why are you slacking here again!”

A voice thundered from inside the tool shed. I hurriedly ran to the scene, it turned out that the older nuns and the blonde girl were arguing.

“If you don’t work, there won’t be any lunch today, Rin.”

“You’re so noisy, how can anyone move such a heavy tool alone!?”

(Not again...)

Even though I was getting a little fed up, I still scooped up a few shovels lying on the ground with my hands.

“I’ll help you take half of these, let’s go together, okay?”

“Clarith! Mollycoddling isn’t good for the child!”

The older nun who had her hands on her hips looked surprised.

“She is not yet accustomed to life here... I beg you to forgive her.”

“That’s not Rin’s only problem. Anyway, everyone is waiting. Leave the fertiliser to me, you two hurry along with the shovels.”

The Sister easily heaved two sacks of fertiliser onto her shoulders, and hurriedly headed for the fields. After watching the Sister’s retreating back, I turned my head to Rin.

“Come, let’s go, Rin,”

“Don’t wanna, it’s troublesome.”

Rin sat down and turned her head left.

“No pain, no gain. If you don’t carry these, the Sisters won’t allow you to eat.”

“Clarith can just secretly give me food.”

“I can’t do that every time. If we’re discovered, we’ll both get scolded.”

“I don’t care, I won’t do it! I— don’t—wanna!”

Rin simply flopped onto the ground. With a child like her, it’s no use even if you get angry or try to persuade her.

(I’ve got no other choice...)

I called a slightly bigger kid who was playing at the nearby orphanage.

“Donnie, can you come here? I need you to do something.”

“What’s the matter, Clarith?”

“I’m sorry, I’d like you to help me bring these shovels to the field.”

“It’s no big deal. Leave it to me!”

Donnie smiled while picking up the shovels.

I looked at Rin from the corner of my eye, and spoke deliberately loudly so that she could hear:

“Donnie is indeed fantastic! She can carry so many shovels! That person who’s always lazing around certainly can’t do it!”

Donnie was also aware of the situation, and replied just as loudly as me:

“What are you talking about, big sister Clarith! The convent doesn’t even have trash that can’t lift a few shovels! Even a smaller kid than me is able to carry these!”

Rin was lying down, and secretly spied on us. Her pride seems to have been hurt. Children here should work hard. Let her pride have another blow.

“Donnie’s so amazing! To thank you for helping, I’ll give you some bread and butter as a snack later!”

At that moment, Rin jumped up and snatched Donnie’s armful of shovels away.

“Rin can do it too! I’ll take all of them. Therefore, the snack is mine!”

“Wow! The fantastic one is big sister Rin! She’s so reliable!”

Donnie winked at me after exaggerating her surprise, then went back to playing.

The shovels were actually rather heavy. Despite that, Rin behaved at ease, and so that I won’t discover her false ease, she said to me:

“Yes, let’s go, Clarith. Come with me!”

“Hmm, yes. Let’s go, Rin.”

We walked towards the field. The sky over our heads were cloudless, and it was good weather for farming.

There were some steep slopes in front of the convent. I found Rin there, a week after Elluka and Gumillia visited the convent.

Back then, she was thinner than she was now. The bakery owner and I saw that she was almost dying of hunger, and carried her back to the convent.

Rin said she had nowhere to go. When I had let her stay in the convent, no one objected. As for Rin’s personality, she won’t talk about her personal life. Although many people would like to know, no one asked her. However, the Head inferred from Rin’s behaviour and demeanour, her literacy and good breeding, that she might be a runaway from an aristocratic family.

At first, everyone were gentle towards Rin, but her every word and action haughtily disregarded others. For example, she would complain that the meals were not good; she hated the children working there, and she as rather spoilt. So gradually, the nuns viewed her as a troublesome devil.

I, too, felt that I couldn't cope with Rin's wilfulness, but I was still determined to treat her gently.

Back in Yatski village, I was viewed as a nuisance too. I had always been alone. That wasn't what I wanted. I just didn't know how to get along with people.

Rin, who usually had a tough attitude, sometimes reveals a lonely expression. She definitely didn't want to be alone. When I rescued her, She said in her sleep: "I don't want to be alone". Even though I don't know what had happened to her, it must have been that she was separated from someone she liked very much, or something sorrowful like that.

That's only what I have guessed, though. But, I think that as long as I can be honest with her, one day, she will open her heart to me. I think I can save her.

As Michaela once did for me.

"How is it? Rin, is the food delicious?"

After that, we were also roped in to help with farm work. Rin was already exhausted, but nevertheless, she carefully cut her vegetables with a fork and knife, and fed herself with elegance.

"Hmm... not bad."

Rin did not complain about the food like she used to.

Although she would only eat desserts in the past, but now that she was involved with farming, she now feels that food is hard to come by. Of course, she won't ever say it out loud.

I watered the potted plants while watching Rin.

The canteen lets in the most light in the convent, it couldn't be better for the growth of the plants.

“What’s that plant?”

Rin asked while breaking her bread with her hand

“Um- what it is. I don’t know, either.”

“Why would Clarith raise something she doesn’t know?”

“It doesn’t matter what kind it is. No matter what kind of plant it is, it’s still growing. All life is equal. And... that child is my friend. “

“A plant friend? You’re really gloomy, Clarith.”

“Heheh, maybe.”

After sighing in surprise, Rin’s expression suddenly turned serious.

“All life should be equal...huh.”

“Yes. Regardless of whether they are plants or humans.”

“I don’t think that is so. In this world, only the concept of ‘dominance and being dominated’ exists. If everyone were equal, it would be impossible to constitute a society. Helm, politics and culture needs it to function properly. Everyone is equal. Sophistry is what makes it difficult.”

I was surprised that Rin would suddenly speak about such a profound topic. But I quietly replied:

“Perhaps your opinion is the correct one. But I... but I still support equality.”

“You really do think like a saint. Is everyone’s mind-set like Clarith’s after they stay in the convent for too long?”

“Heheh, Rin should be able to understand my idea in the near future.”

“Who knows. I’m not a believer of the Eldoh faction in the first place.”

“Regardless of Eldoh or Levin, they should essentially be the same.”

“Maybe.”

Rin appears to have finished eating. She set her cutlery down onto the table.

“Put back the utensils yourself.”

“I know. ...Hey, Clarith.”

“Yes?”

Rin anxiously asked while clearing up her utensils:

“No matter what kind of person I am... for example, if I were a heinous, wicked person... will you still treat me like you do now?”

Rin’s eyes were very serious.

“Yes, definitely.”

I smiled as I replied.

I was surrounded by the sea, the earth and prayers every day.

Some people may think that this kind of life is boring.

However, in the midst of boredom, even the smallest change may bring about the greatest joy.

Rin is becoming more frank, little by little. Rin, who was gradually growing from a cute girl into a beautiful woman, was beginning to take her work seriously, and is starting to use honorifics on her seniors. A few days ago, she also asked me for culinary advice.

To me, her change was a great surprise. I was happy, as it was like I’ve gotten a cute little sister.

Unconsciously, I was beginning to think less about Michaela.

## Section 2, Scene 2

### ♥Clarith ~ Lucifenia Kingdom's "Evening Monastery" ~

That night, as I was going to sleep, I found out I was missing a hairclip.

(Eh? When did it fall off...)

I recalled what happened today. After breakfast, we did some farm work and in the afternoon, we cleaned the confession...

Now I remember, during that time in the confession room, the hairclip broke. I placed it aside and left it there.

(It can still be used)

I can't waste my stuff. I have to get it back in the morning... but I will forget about it when I wake up, so I have to do it now. I grabbed a candle stick and headed for the confession room.

On my way through the cafeteria, I saw Michaela's sapling grow very well. There were already some branches and leaves growing from the pot.

(Where should I plant her...)

I can take my time and plant her in the Millennium Tree Forest. Since she is Eldoh's successor, then she should be placed in the most appropriate place.

Although once again I will be away from Michaela, but I think I will not become sad as before.

The monastery at night was very dark because not a single candle stick is lit. I can't even see my own feet. I placed my hand on the wall and was able to arrive at the confession room.

When I arrived, I remembered something important – the confessional should be always locked at night. I simply could not remember.

(Oops, I forgot...)

The key should be in the dean's office but that place was a bit far from here. I also don't want to intrude on the dean but I can't do it tomorrow.

Before going back, I hoped and cling to the door handle of the confessional.

(.....Eh? It's open!)

It was a nun's duty to lock the door. I carefully and quietly opened the door.

(.....is someone in there?)

There was a figure in the confession room. Who is confessing this late at night?

(A thief... that's impossible, right?)

The figure was kneeling... and praying.

“O God, I have killed a lot of people. Although I wasn't personally involved, a lot of people lost their lives because of my command.”

This is a confessional. This person is sneaking in the night to ask God for repentance. However, murder is not an easy topic. In the end, who is in the confessional?

“People who disagree with me are placed in the guillotine. I was convinced that in order to make the country prosper, the ruler must have absolute power. However, it all ended up in capricious and arbitrary ways. I was just using my own power for my own prestige. I was just a stupid ignorant little girl.”

It was a female voice. I already knew who it was but my head was trying hard to deny it.

“.....I don't even know why I did such nonsense. No matter how head strong I was, it was all foolish. To casually kill a person who accused me. All the people around me gave painful smiles. It was all because of those cunning ministers... and my own quibbles”

I don't want to hear her confessions. Her confessions is going to make me crash from my determination. However, contrary to my mood, I didn't leave.

“When the authority of the ministers faded, I heard all of the opinions. It was already too late. At that time, I felt the power to dominate the entire country. Anyone who hindered me was murdered. Eventually, all important people to me, even my family, were murdered.

Beautiful blonde hair – her short hair became long and she seem more mature. So far, I've already considered her as my little sister.



“My malicious intent even reached foreign countries. When I knew my fiancée had another lover, I frantically became jealous. I cannot stand the idea of someone rebelling against my own ideas. My envy was not pointed at my fiancée but to the woman he loved. Because I didn’t know who she was, I ordered to destroy the whole country and murder every woman with the same hair color...”

I crept back to my room.

I can’t listen anymore. I already know everything, understand everything...

How do I say this...

She... Rin is the cause of Michaela’s death.

**She is Lucifenia’s Princess – “The Daughter of Evil”.**

## Section 2, Scene 3

### ♥Clarith~Lucifenia Kingdom's "Unknown Coast"~

The coast was very quiet at night.

I could hear the slight noise of the waves.

This coast was far away from the port town. During the day, passenger ships from Marlon and local fishing boats would be around here. It would be unusually noisy. Although, at times like midnight, one can only see a few fishing boats scattered across the sea.

Even further away from the streets is a small place, where you couldn't see even from the fishing boats. It extends to the southern end of the coast and the vast sea.

Upon returning to my room, I took out a certain something from a cupboard and returned to the confessional. However, Rin wasn't there anymore. I saw her silhouette walking away from the convent when I looked out of the window. Even though I didn't know where she was going, I still trailed behind her.

Rin was now standing on the shore, staring blankly out towards the sea.

I peeped at her from slightly further away.

(What does she plan to do here.)

Before long, Rin took out a bottle and set it out to the sea.

(... .. Ah, I see.)

I have heard the Mother Superior speak of the legend of the sea. If you put in a bottle a piece of parchment with your wish written on it, then let the bottle flow out to sea, then your wish would come true.

(However, Rin, do you know the whole legend.)

From my hiding place, I tiptoed closer to her.

I heard a murmur next to my ears. It was a whisper mixed with the crash of waves.

'Definitely does not know, that child is ignorant.'

(Yes. That child does not know anything. It was a covenant with a demon.)

Rin hasn't noticed me. She merely kept on watching the bottle drift out to sea.

The whispers became louder.

"That's right, that was entering into a pact with the devil. If the contract is established, then..."

(I will have to offer up my life.)

I tightly clenched the knife I took from my room.

The whispers grew even louder, it was like a siren wailing in my mind.

'In that case, we will have to help her.'

(Yes, Michaela. She must die if she wants her wish to come true.)

What can she repent for. Even if she confesses now, Michaela won't ever come back. She can't laugh and cry again. A plant? A god? That definitely wasn't what Michaela had hoped to be. She must have wanted to always be a human, and to live with me forever. You've taken all these away. You have snatched it away regardless of whether it was Michaela's wish or my wish. What a joke, that a person like you still makes wishes!

'Clarith, I was stabbed to death, and it was painful. Oh, it was so painful.'

(Poor Michaela. Please wait. I'll let that child have a taste of her own medicine.)

I was already in front of Rin's back. Even though I was so close to her, she was too focused on the bottle, and didn't discover my presence.

'Do it, Clarith. Avenge me!'

I raised the knife.

...who?

Who are you?

Why are you interfering with me?

The boy who looks exactly like Rin. Who are you?

Go away, I must kill her!

Why do you have such a sorrowful expression?

No, don't look at me in that way.

Hey. Michaela. Tell that child...

...who?

You are not Michaela.

Michaela would never have such an expression full of loathing.

She always had a gentle smile on her face.

Who are you?

Who are... ah, yes.

You... that devil-like expression is...

...my...

I don't know how much time had passed, but I felt like I had suddenly woken up from a dream.

Once I've re-oriented myself, I saw that Rin was looking at me in surprise.

She seemed to have noticed the object I was holding, and looked at my right hand in astonishment.

“I see, the person outside the confessional was you.”

Rin, who now understood everything, kept her expression neutral. I think that her next action would be either fight or flee from here.

Instead, Rin quietly closed her eyes. After that, it was like she had accepted everything, smiling a sad smile I’ve never seen before.

“Okay, Clarith can do whatever she likes.”

I don’t know what I should do. No one could tell me what to do. Michaela was gone, too. I could only decide for myself.

Rin had killed Michaela.

Rin was like my cute little sister.

Rin was the Daughter of Evil, who had committed despicable deeds.

Rin is a sad and lonely person.

Rin is... Rin is...

“Aah... AAAAAAHHHHHH!”

Steeling myself, I aimed my knife at her and slashed downwards.

The coast was very quiet at night.

I could hear the slight noise of the waves.

# EPILOGUE

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## Scene 1

### The whereabouts of the devil?

❖ Kyle ~ Lucifenia Kingdom's "Hall of Sounds" ~

The Lucifenian Revolution was a success. The "Daughter of Evil" was sent to the guillotine, which is only natural. But what we didn't expect was the one who was executed was a substitute. The real Rilliane is nowhere to be found.

Even so, I don't have any intention of finding her, even if I hate her to the point of vowing vengeance. My hate for her is indifferent. Maybe because of the servant who willingly replaced her, impressed me. I don't really know.

If I would trace back, will I be able to know when and where did the fate of Michaela's gear gone out of control? From the point when her body was found inside the well? Or because of my declination of engagement with Rilliane? Or much more earlier... from when I saw her in Keel's mansion?

No, it has to be much more further. Back at the time when Keel showed me his collection.

It was – I remember the magical sword called the "Venom Sword"... When I handled that sword for the first time, I immediately felt a wrenching, fearful and but comfortable feeling.

Keel asked if I wanted to buy it, but I refused. I had a strong hunch that I wouldn't be able to handle it.

Since then, I was unable to suppress the feeling of intense passion. Out of my love for Michaela, the consequence bought Lucifenia and Elphegort into a big mess.

The cause of this incident was no other than me. Even when I joined the revolutionary army, I am still to blame.

It's terrible. Is there anyone who can stop me?

I removed the handle from the hand mirror, which was a gift from my mother when I was a child. Even though I hate her, I can't discard it. This mirror severed my confusion.

A whisper came from the mirror.

Commitment.

Everyone is committed to their feelings.

.....I'm not wrong. The road I'm following is the right road. Not only for Lucifenia but for Marlon as well will justice be served.

My revenge is not over yet. Not until I find the one who killed Michaela.

"Kyle your highness! I have something to report!"

A soldier frantically ran and kneeled beside me.

"Did something happen?"

"York and Germaine escaped from the palace. We heard they are going to station southeast from the lake."

I underestimated those rebels. I thought they were just a bunch of fools but they seem to be a lot smarter than I thought.

"We have been found out. But it doesn't matter, stop them when they reach the Reitanan Fort."

"Yes your highness!"

"What about the "witch hunting"?"

“A few days ago, we received some notifications in Lucifenia and Marlon but there wasn’t any reliable source...”

That blonde girl was Rilliane’s servant. She said she was the daughter of one of the three heroes, Mariam. That is absolutely unexpected information – information relating to the real murderer of Michaela.

My mistake was I let the real murderer run away before I could take action. Even so, I must find her.

“Go find and arrest the leader of the revolutionary army, Germaine Avadonna!”

## Scene 2

### ♣Gumillia~Asmodin country“Inn”~

My name is Gumillia, I was once a spirit, and I am now apprentice to the Sorceress Elluka.

Here, I will make a simple record of what Elluka and I did after leaving Lucifenia Palace.

First, we worked together to bring down rain to extinguish the fire in the Bewilderment Forest- unfortunately, at the expense of the octopus.

At that time, even though we encountered the Lucifenian army tracking us, we still found a way to escape.

We went to the Freesis mansion located in Elphegort, but the residence had already been burned down. We then infiltrated the nearby barracks to retrieve Keel's collectibles, but the Venom Sword was not in their midst. After a short rest, we rushed to Michaela, but we didn't expect that she was already murdered.

After the Marlon king, who was facing her body, expressed moderate violence such as kicking and punching, we retrieved her body.

Just then, an incredible thing happened: Michaela's body changed into a sapling.

No one knew why; we went to see Eldoh . Subsequently, he got into a heated argument with Elluka. I told Eldoh about what I wished to do, and after listening, he looked rather lonely, but he still accepted it. Afterwards, he fell into a deep slumber again.

The revolution had ended, and the world is starting to calm down. Once again, we head towards the Freesis mansion. When he saw what had become of Michaela, he wasn't short on surprise. After some negotiations, Elluka returned his Collectibles to him, and he gave us the Venom Sword.

Keel's children were very cute, but I didn't understand why Elluka was so surprised upon seeing Mr Keel's wife.

We returned to Lucifenia again, and entrusted Michaela's sapling to Clarith. She didn't look too happy, but she shouldn't be doing anything absurd any time soon. I still felt a little worried and snuck back to check not long after. I was shocked when I went to check, for Riliane was there as well. After Elluka's observations, she decided to leave it alone, because there shouldn't be any demons around her now.

On hindsight, we couldn't stop Lucifenia's revolution, and we never did figure out why Riliane would be possessed once again, or why the demon had inexplicably vanished. However, Elluka didn't mind.

"I'm used to it."

She said. It seems that to her, getting the Venom Sword was the greatest victory.

That being said, Elluka would have a pained expression on her face whenever she hears the church bells ring. Although she didn't say it out loud, but I understand that Elluka was grieving for her lost friends.

At the moment, we are on our way to the eastern kingdoms, and are currently staying in an inn in Asmodin to prepare. A vessel of sin might exist in the east. I wonder what kind of country it is, and I'm a little excited.

"Aaaah!"

Elluka, who was observing the Venom Sword, seems to have discovered something which made her shout, and soon started tearing away at the seal on the sword.

".....No wonder... I was wondering why its magic was so weak..."

A disappointed Elluka vented her anger by flinging the Venom Sword onto the ground.

"We were cheated."

"It's a fake?"

"No, this is the real deal, but it's empty. The vessel doesn't contain a demon, so it's all pointless...ah, could it be that!"

Elluka retrieved another vessel of sin from her luggage- a hand mirror- and ripped out the same seal. Before long, she slumped onto the ground.

“How can it be..... I remember that the last time I made the seals it was still inside... the demon in the mirror has vanished...”

“There’s such a thing as demons disappearing from the vessels?”

“Generally speaking, it’s impossible. Even if the demon is attached to a human body, its original body will remain in the mirror. So it is necessary to seal it into the vessel if you had to drive the demon away from the body. Despite that, the demon actually vanished into thin air...”

Perhaps for the sake of being shocked, Elluka sat motionlessly for a while, but she soon stood up and started packing the luggage.

“Gumillia, I’m sorry, but I’m afraid we can’t move east yet. We have to tie up a few loose ends first.”

Sigh; there goes my eagerly anticipated Grand Tour of the new world.

But having said that, this is nothing.

## Scene 3

### ♀ Eldoh ~ Elphegort Country's "Millennium Tree Forest" ~

Since ancient times, I have been watching over this piece of land but I am now approaching my end as the time for God's time has ended. There is nothing that can be done. My old friends have embarked on a journey. For the rest of my time, I quietly wait through it.

The only left that concerns me is how to resolve the "sin" issue. We don't want the devil to influence the world as it can cause the elimination of this world. However, this issue can only be entrusted to my heirs and the humans. It doesn't matter for they are stronger than god and will be able to draw a conclusion with their own hands.

Two lovely guest came to me today. A white-haired female I have seen before and a blonde, short-haired female.

"Is it here, Clarith?"

"Yes, this should be her original home"

These two people are friends. After praying for awhile, they began planting some kind of seedling on the ground beside me.

My dear child is back. Before I depart from this world, I have to give her all of my knowledge. This is my mission and my atonement.

"... I'm sorry for cutting your hair short, Rin"

The white-haired woman – Clarith hurriedly apologized to the blonde girl.

"It doesn't matter. Short hair is easier to handle"

Rin replied then fell silent as she dug up some soil.

The duo dug up a pit then transplanted the sapling out of the pot.

“Ah, right”

Rin suddenly remembered something.

“It’s not that I want you to compensate for my hair but... will you please teach me how you bake some brioche? I tried but they weren’t as good as yours.”

“..... Well, OK, I’ll teach you. You will be able to learn more quickly”

After planting the sapling, they offered a prayer again.

“.....I’m sorry”

While praying, Rin suddenly whispered while sobbing. I don’t know to whom she was apologizing to and why she began to cry.



“I’m sorry.”

Rin continued to mumble then was followed by Clarith.

In this way, the both of them continued to cry till night fell.



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