

公爵令嬢は

騎士団長(62)の

幼妻

おさなづま

笥千里 SENRI KAKEI

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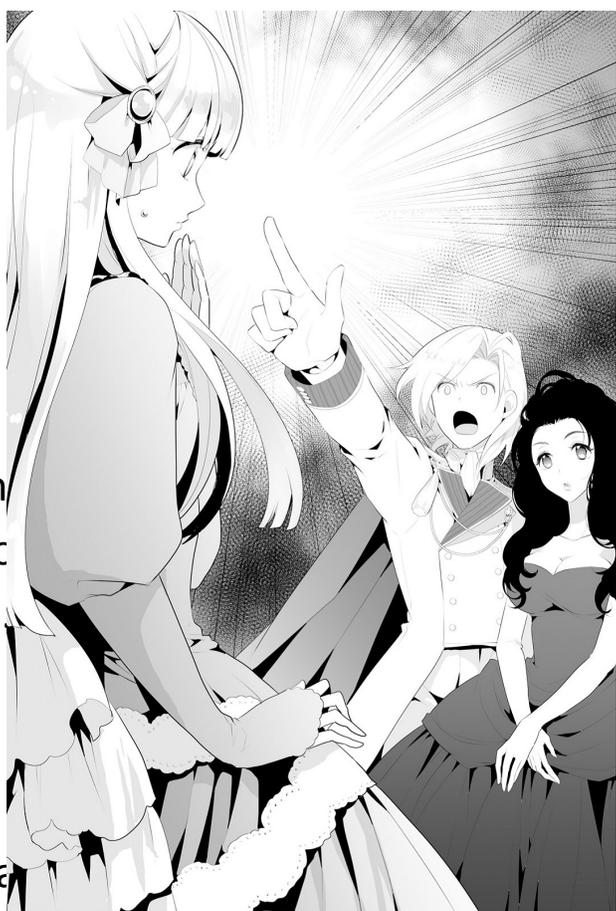
# The Duke's Daughter Is the Knight Captain's Young Wife - WN Chapter 01-11

## Table of Contents

1. [Light Novel Illustrations](#)
2. [Chapter 01 – The Beginning From a Canceled Engagement](#)
3. [Chapter 02 – Mayhem of the Evening Party](#)
4. [Chapter 03 – True Love](#)
5. [Chapter 04 – The Seven Year Old Carol's Love](#)
6. [Chapter 05 – The Unilateral Engagement](#)
7. [Chapter 06 – Confession, and After That](#)
8. [Chapter 07 – The End of the Banquet](#)
9. [Chapter 08 – Awakening](#)
10. [Chapter 09 – The Family's Breakfast](#)
11. [Chapter 10 – The Mother of the House of the Duke](#)
12. [Chapter 11 – Side Story: The Melancholy of the Knight Captain](#)

# Light Novel Illustrations

## Volume 1



m  
yc  
“..

Ra



Carol, Rayford, Mary?

“Thank god  
you’re safe,  
please don’t  
make me  
worry

ar



Chris

# Chapter 01 – The Beginning From a Canceled Engagement

Hello hello~

I found this in a [request to pickup forum](#) on novelupdates, and it seems like my type of thing!

Like I said before though, I'm not cut out for projects, so if another translator is interested in this, please pick it up! The age gap is pretty controversial but the heroine is really amusing xD

Again, this is a teaser! If I feel like translating more, I will, though it'll be at a slow pace.

Enjoy the first, rage inducing chapter. Prince is a brainless idiot!

(Also, this is unedited and fresh off the translator's block so I apologize for mistakes.)

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[Directory](#) |

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## Beginning From a Cancelled Engagement

Formerly, I—Carol Ambrose was the fiancée of this country's Prince, Reyford el Fureakisuta.

Even though we were engaged, there wasn't particularly any love between us. I was the daughter of a duke, and Reyford-sama was royalty. This engagement was just made in the thoughts of『tying pedigree to pedigree towards the next line of royalty.』 Simply said, this was a political marriage.

Even so, at the very least, being aware that I would become the next Queen I attended classes, making an effort to become someone worthy of being the Prince's fiancée. At the academy I kept my grades at the top, and despite all that I gave up my holidays to take lectures on manners and decorum. I couldn't shame myself at dance parties, so I also practiced dancing. I gave my utmost. To

come even a little closer to what a Queen should be, I encouraged myself and persevered.

But, those days— —Today, I was told they were to end.

「Carol! The engagement between you and I is cancelled as of today! Never show yourself in front of me again!」

Yes, while holding a woman who wasn't me, the one who declared such was none other than my fiancé, Reyford-sama.

In the end we were only engaged, we never exchanged marriage vows, so to the most extent at the academy, I didn't approach him. This was『to protect one's purity until their bridal night』, my duty as a noble. In addition with that I desperately studied and learned etiquette, so at the academy I barely exchanged words with Reyford-sama.

So, the woman Reyford-sama was embracing, I had no idea who it was.

「.....Your Highness, um—」

「I won't listen to your excuses! Listening to a woman mad with envy ramble will only be unpleasant!」

「I don't..... quite understand the meaning of what you're saying, though.」

That, and please consider our surroundings.

Not only was this the royal palace, today was also an evening party. As the daughter of a duke, I received a written invitation so I attended together with my father, and I was currently in the middle of talking with my acquaintances.

I didn't think that my engagement would be broken off so abruptly and in this manner.

「Silence! The numerous unjust things you've done to Mary, I know them! A person with such a filthy heart, as if I could let them be my fiancée!」

「.....What.... have I done?」

「You, still trying to dodge the subject when it's already gotten to this point.....!」

”Tch,” Reyford-sama clicked his tongue.

Exactly what have I done to anger him so much, I completely have no recollection of it. This is also the first time I've heard of this Mary, and I have no idea who she could be. Though judging from His Highness' attitude, it was probably the girl who was hugging his arm.

I really don't remember ever seeing her before.

Different from me, she was quite a cute girl.

With blinking eyes and sakura colored small lips. I vaguely felt a charm from her drooping gaze, and she was considerably short.

I'll say it once more.

I really don't remember ever seeing her before.

「Mary was drawing closer to me, and driven to madness by jealousy, I heard you performed many atrocious deeds! Especially today, before the evening party you tried to push Mary down the stairs!? If I wasn't still a prince, your head would be gone!」

「.....Hah?」

「Listen well, as of today our engagement is cancelled! Never show yourself in front of me or Mary ever again!」

Our conversation isn't meshing.

What in the world could I say to clear up this person's misunderstanding? In such a social gathering and having my engagement cancelled one sidedly, I wish he would consider my standing.

Even so.

Just like that, while holding the woman next to him he left me.

「.....」

「.....Carol.」

「.....Hah. Excuse me, dearest Father. It was such a shock, I lost myself for a moment.」

The one who raised their voice to me, who was blankly staring at His Highness' back, was my Father, Giliam Ambrose.

Since the host of tonight's party was His Highness the King, I asked my Father to be my partner. Normally I would ask my fiancé His Highness Reyford-sama to be my partner, but as everyone saw my engagement being cancelled, I suspect he wouldn't be my partner anymore.

Even though it was a misunderstanding, he threw aside our relationship of being engaged and cancelled it. It wasn't strange that the nobles who saw would say I was problematic woman.

Towards the gloomy future, a headache began to form.

「What was that just now, Carol?」

「.....No, I don't understand either.」

「You, towards that Mary girl..... I believe she's the daughter of a Baron, Mary Hopkins.....Saying you harassed that girl, what does that mean?」

「.....I completely have no recollection of doing so.」

「What about today, where you tried to push her down the stairs?」

「.....How could I to push a person downstairs when I've been nowhere near them?」

Sighing, I wearily told my Father.

There was no evidence that I had harassed her or more, and even more so today, the case where I tried to push her down the stairs was without a question, not me. Coming to the royal palace the entire way in a carriage, and afterwards while holding the arm of my Father all along, I attended the evening party.

While in such condition, pushing another person off the stairs, I couldn't possibly do such a thing.

「Then, this is His Highness' misunderstanding.」

「.....That would make it so.」

「I wouldn't say this in a loud voice, but.....is His Highness really a person to make such thoughtless remarks?」

Sighing, Father held his head.

And, in the depths of his gaze, a cold anger burned with strength.

「Without a shred of evidence, while holding the wrong impression he denounces his fiancée, and while embracing another woman he forces an engagement cancellation. Furthermore in a place for everyone to see..... Carol, it's a shame, but give up on this engagement with His Highness Reyford-sama.」

「Well, I suppose.....」

It wasn't as if I held a romantic inclination towards His Highness anyways.

Rather, if the heavy responsibility of becoming Queen was taken away, then it would actually make me happy.

Saying that though, since I was his fiancée, I wanted to support His Highness, but that just made the me who once thought that look stupid, so I became depressed.

The surroundings whispered indiscernible things towards us.

Well, that was only natural. We had been engaged since we were young, and our marriage was a set matter after we graduated from the academy. Since it was abruptly cancelled, of course it would become a topic of conversation.

「.....Even if I'm told to marry him again, I would like to refuse.」

「I wouldn't do such an impudent thing. Good grief.....This marriage was brought forth from the royalty, so without a choice, I cooperated. To think it would be arbitrarily cancelled in this manner, and furthermore, to be groundlessly denounced in this sort of place..... How foolish. His Highness has made enemies of the Ambrose Ducal House.」

「Father, if you say it in such a loud voice, it will be treasonous.」

「Still.....Carol, leave it to me. Without fail, I will make His Highness take responsibility.」

If Father said so, then I could be at ease.

As one would expect, having such a long standing engagement cancelled, saying I didn't feel a thing would be a lie. But, being accused with such childish reasoning, rather than sadness I felt a sense of astonishment well up.

I never thought that he was a person who wouldn't listen to people to such an extent.

「But.....Carol, you may not get any more marriage offers.」

「.....I am aware.」

On this day, I was affixed with the label of 『a noblewoman whose engagement with royalty was cancelled』. I probably wouldn't get anymore marriage proposals.

If someone were to marry me, there would be friction between them and the royalty. Such discord, nobles did not wish for.

Seriously..... How did it become this way?

But, this was a good opportunity.

「Father.」

「Hm?」

「If it could be granted, then it would be splendid. If impossible, then it's fine. I have a wish.」

While saying that, I stared at the person in the far distance.

Since childhood, the person I've yearned for. But the engagement to the Prince was already decided, so I thought I wouldn't have a chance to be tied to him.

But since it's come to this, then wouldn't it be fine for me to live for true love as well?

「.....Can I propose an engagement with Wilhelm Aibringer-sama?」

For the longest time, I thought I would have to hide these feelings in my heart.

If this was possible, then I wanted to fulfill it.

My beloved Wilhelm-sama.

From now on, Carol will live for true love.

Before my eyes, he was silent but he let off a kind aura, and while looking at

the white bearded knight captain, I breathed out a hot sigh.

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## [Directory](#) |

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TL:

- Prince speaks in a very rude manner, using [Ore] to refer to himself, and [Kisama] to refer to Carol. Jerk. [Ore] is an arrogant way to refer to oneself, a masculine pronoun. [Kisama] is a very rude way to refer to others. Think of it like, “you bastard” or something.
- The first time Carol calls out her father, she uses [Otou-sama]. The other times it's [Chichiue] and as far as I've seen, she uses [\_\_ue] to refer to most of her family members. [Chichiue] is more formal and old-like in terms of speech. They both mean “Father” though.

Taking advice for some names, since I can't really figure some out (I've left those in Romaji). *i.e.* Anburausu and Freakisuta.

Edit// Anburausu has been changed to Ambrose.



And, he lightly sighed.

「This isn't really a matter I can agree to.....」

「But Father, it's not likely for marriage proposals to come towards me anymore. Since His Highness said that much, even going as far to break off the engagement personally, there will be no more suitable candidates. I probably can't attend the academy anymore either.....」

That was my only regret. If possible, I wanted to graduate from the academy. Even though I still had a lot of things I wanted to study.

But judging by His Highness Reyford-sama's attitude, he and.....What was her name again? I forgot. Saying not to appear before him and what's-her-name in such a blaming manner, as if I could continue to attend school.

The most profitable plan for the current status quo was to immediately become independant and drop out of school. Then, to find a good house that wouldn't mind to take me in as a bride.

I think Wilhelm-sama fits all those requirements though.

「But, why does Carol, with Knight Captain Wilhelm.....」

But with a "hah," Father's eyes opened wide.

Then, as if he understood everything, he looked at me. It seems like he suddenly had a spark of inspiration.

「.....I see, Carol. So you meant it that way.」

「Haa.」

「As expected of my daughter, I want to praise you. When you mentioned wanting to wed Wilhelm-dono, I doubted your sanity.」

While laughing "kuku," a strange, villainous smile floated onto Father's face.

However, it seems that Father has taken a positive approach to my marriage with Wilhelm-sama. I completely don't grasp what his intention is though.

While meekly listening to Father's talk, I doubted his character.

「Father.」

「Don't worry, Carol. I will definitely tie an engagement between you and Wilhelm-dono. What, I just have to play some of the cards in my hand.」

「.....I understand.」

Father was magnificently misunderstanding, but since it was heading towards a situation that was convenient for me, then it was fine.

It seems as if he didn't think that I really yearned for Wilhelm-sama, but it was meaningless if I carelessly resolved his misunderstanding.

「Well then Carol, you return to the mansion first. Leave the rest to your Father.」

「I understand, Father.」

If he says to leave it to him, then I will grandly entrust this to him.

Actually, if I interposed unskillfully, then I would say needless things. If possible then just like this and without a fuss, it's best to leave it to Father to proceed as planned.

Well then——And, just as I was withdrawing from the evening party.

「W-wait! Carol!」

From behind, an urgent voice called to stop me.

There weren't many who addressed me by my first name「Carol.」Specifically speaking, they were my family and my fiancé——No, my former fiancé now. Only Reyford-sama.

And, the ones attending this evening party were my Father and I alone. Naturally, I knew who that voice belonged to.

「.....Do you need something from my daughter, Your Highness?」

But towards His Highness who stopped me in that way, my Father stood in front of his path.

Just before, didn't you just declare「Never show yourself before me again!」? Why are you coming to me yourself?

「Kuh.....Duke Ambrose, I'm in a hurry. I must get Carol to.....」

「Whose mouth is saying that, when you arbitrarily broke off your engagement with my daughter right in front of her parent.」

「Guh.....!」

For some reason, His Highness had gotten in an argument with Father. Honestly, I don't understand why he came here in this manner.

It seems as if he has business with me, though.

「I apologize, Giliam. I command you.」

But from even further behind, a solemn tone of voice resounded.

The same age as my Father, but a man with far more dignity than my Father. Entering the confusion was not only His Highness, but the surrounding nobles as well. Because primarily, he didn't stand on the same stage as the other nobles, and he was usually was present on his throne overlooking the festivities, but now he was here. Father wasn't perturbed, however.

That was——the King.

In regards to Fureakisuta Country, he had the highest amount of authority, and was His Highness Reyford's father.

The King of this country——Galius el Fureakisuta.

「Why your Majesty, without a word of greeting, I've been rude.」

「It's fine. Just before, I've heard the circumstances from this fool. Good grief.....Since he was the sole Prince, I may have spoiled him a little too much. I apologize, Giliam.」

「An apology is unnecessary. It's already a closed matter. Besides, I think the one who's apologizing and the one who's being apologized to is incorrect.」

「.....Reyford.」

Even though he was facing the King, I didn't see a shred of fear coming from Father.

In fact, more so than the King, the one with the self-important air was Father.

「But Father! Without a doubt, towards Mary, Carol tried to.....!」

「Where is the evidence for that. Saying such things that someone can't confirm whether truth or not, like being pushed from the stairs today, don't easily believe such things. No matter how I look at you, you're just a fool driven mad by a woman's wiles.」

「No way! Father!」

「First, apologize to Carol. You can speak afterwards.」

Saying “guh,” His Highness Reyford gritted his teeth.

As for me, the conversation from before was plenty. Whether it was an apology or not, it was my true feelings that I didn't want to listen to His Highness' words anymore.

Furthermore, that face.

No matter how I think about it, I can't assent to this. He was simply apologizing as he had no choice because His Majesty the King told him to, but his pride wouldn't allow it, so he was distressed.

Such an apology, there's no meaning in receiving it.

「Well then, Father, I will be returning.」

「Aah, Carol. Be careful on your way back.」

「Yes.」

「Wa-wait— stop Carol!」

How noisy, since before.

Since before going “CarolCarol” as if he were still my fiancé, I wish he wouldn't address me in such a way. There's an extent to how shameless you can be.

Should I just refuse him completely?—Yes, just as I was thinking that, at that time.

「Why does His Highness have to apologize! The one in the wrong here is you isn't it, daughter of Duke Ambrose!」

A heart filled with anger, she pointed a finger towards me.

.....Ummm, who was this again?

I don't know her name, but the girl His Highness Reyford was infatuated with was standing there.

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| [Directory](#) |

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TL:

The name "Anburausu" has been changed to Ambrose! Thanks for the suggestion, Amaryllis and Tina!

I left some intangible things untranslated (romaji) like when her dad goes "kuku" or goes "aah" and stuff. If you really don't get it, then you can look below.

「.....I see, Carol. So you meant it that way.」

「Haa.」

- Carol saying "haa" can be equivalent to "okay???" like when someone is confused, or when they don't understand and simply given up on trying to.

「Aah, Carol. Be careful on your way back.」

- "Aah" here is more of a confirmation, like when someone grunts in response (only it's Aah)

If there's anything you don't understand I'll be happy to give my interpretation (as I'm not 100% confident in my accuracy, so just interpretation).

Also, I still need name suggests for Fureakisuta... What could that even romanize into?

...I had something else I wanted to ask too, but I forgot what it was. Darn. Oh well. Hope you enjoyed! Spread the word if you can. ;v;

## Chapter 03 – True Love

I-I'm finished!!

I have a killer headache right now. >\_<

I also have work later so I should sleep... Oh, if only I could be a NEET.

Many people asked for DDKC so here it is~ I'll try to work on Drop later, if possible.

Seriously though, this BAKA-couple..... (= \_ = | | | )

Anyways, enjoy~!

Also, for those who didn't see it, this is the audio drama for chapters around 13-15. Feel free to take a look~ (and yes, I've translated it) [<<link>>](#)

There were some terms/sentences in here I couldn't fully understand (plus with a raging headache, it's hard to concentrate) so I apologize. ;-;

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| [Directory](#) |

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### True Love

「Mary! I told you not to come!」

Ahh, that's what her name was. If I remember correctly, Father said she was the daughter of a baron or something.

Originally, since she was just a baron's daughter she wouldn't be able to attend the evening party sponsored by the King. A written invitation wouldn't be sent out to someone only of a baron's standing after all. Meaning, His Highness Reyford probably forced his way and brought her here.

Leaving that point aside, telling her not to come, just how much does he not think things through?

「Reyford-sama! But!」

「I'm currently having an important conversation! If I handle this poorly and it

gets more complicated, our future will be in jeopardy! I'm sorry, but please don't butt in!]

「B-but, Reyford-sama.....!」

Somehow, they arbitrarily spread out a harmonious atmosphere. How are you saying I should take in this situation?

Arbitrarily misunderstanding, arbitrarily breaking off the engagement, and arbitrarily leaving, I wonder just what kind of talk does His Highness want to have. Even if it was something like「sorry, Carol」, my Father or I wouldn't forgive it.

「I-it's fine so get behind me!」

「.....Reyford, at this sort of venue, and with a position as a baron's daughter, do you understand what it means for her to call out to a duke's daughter?」

「Father! P-Please wait a moment more! I-I will properly instruct her later!」

Grinding his teeth "gugugu," while I thought that if shame could kill a person then he would have died, his expression was anguished. Probably because he was born with the position of a Prince, he possessed cheap pride.

But enduring his shame, His Highness Reyford lowered his head.

To me.

「.....I, I apologize, Carol.」

「.....」

There were completely no feelings conveyed at all.

Frankly, I no longer held any feelings towards His Highness, and I truly wanted to return home quickly.

In actuality, he'd only lowered his head for a moment, and afterwards he glared at me as if he would go mad with anger. Did he really intend to apologize with this attitude?

「.....Excuse me, Your Highness.」

「W-what is it?」

「Those words, just what exactly are you apologizing towards?」

「.....T-that is...」

His Highness' speech faltered. Of course it would. His Highness probably didn't even understand what he'd done wrong.

Certainly, I was grateful of the matter of where I could now able to be wedded with my beloved Wilhelm-sama, but that was just a personal matter. If the one in this situation wasn't me, then it wouldn't be strange for the girl to commit suicide.

「I.....I was awakened to true love.」

「Haa.」

「When I'm with Mary, my heart feels at ease. If I can't be with Mary, then I will never be satisfied again. If it's not Mary, then I don't want to be together.....A partner I feel that way towards, it's the first time I've met someone like that.」

「Your Highness.....」

His Highness saying that, the cheeks of Mary who was behind him were dyed in color. By no means was it me.

In response to that, I stared at them with emotionless eyes.

「Carol.....I want to be with Mary more that I want to be with you. That's why.....My will to break off this engagement will not change. Instead, I hereby swear to make Mary my fiancée.」

「Reyford!」

「No matter what Father says, I won't change my mind! I will walk together with Mary, I've decided!」

「T-this.....Idiot son!」

What exactly is this.

Was this not supposed to be an apology? Rather, on top of reciting what a wonderful girl Lady Mary was, he'd even proclaimed his plans of engagement. That has absolutely no relation to my existence at all.

Glancing at him from the side, Father had a similar expression as the one I

had over here. By now, he must've not had any feelings towards His Highness, with the exception of being appalled.

「Father! I want to pursue true love.....!」

「Do you understand!? What being tied to the Ambrose Ducal House means to the Royal family!? If you don't even understand something of that simple extent, what have you been studying until now!?!」

「I am not a political tool! I want to choose the person I love by myself!」

「For a person of royalty to utter such nonsense.....!」

Snapping, the King bit his lips hard.

If he yelled anymore, wouldn't his blood pressure rise?

There——

「Your Majesty, please regain your composure.」

It was the sound of a low voice, but it held an air of intimidation, and sounded resigned.

With a jolt, my heart leapt. It was skipped about to the point where I thought it might explode. If my heart was connected with my throat, I thought it would fly out just like that.

That was a voice I'd heard countless times when I was young.

As I matured and grew, it was a voice I gradually didn't hear anymore.

Since my Grandfather had died two years prior, it was a voice I hadn't heard at all.

Wilhelm-sama——

「.....Mu, it's you, Wilhelm.」

「This is the venue for the evening party. It's not a place for a Father-Son dispute. If the surrounding retainers learned that the next in line for the crown Reyford-sama and Your Majesty had a falling out, it would give them unnecessary anxiety.」

「.....Apologies. The blood seems to have rushed to my head.」

"Haa," the King heaved a large sigh.

But more importantly to me was the presence of Wilhelm-sama who was in front of my eyes.

With a large body that couldn't be compared with mine, who was a little smaller than my peers. And his arms, wouldn't just his wrist be thicker than my thigh?

He had most of his white hair swept back, and it was overall a pale grey in presentation. The moustache that hid his mouth was white, and likewise his beard was as well. A great number of wrinkles ran across his finely chiseled face, as well as left behind scars.

This was the Fureakisuta's strongest general and Knight Captain—— Wilhelm Aibringer-sama.

Without thinking, I was charmed.

「Reyford.」

「.....Father.」

「Withdraw. I will impart your verdict later. As for me, I must settle the mess you've made.」

「But, Father!」

「I told you to withdraw!」

After being ordered so resolutely by the King, His Highness finally retreated. Of course, being led by with Mary's hand, though.

Now then, we can finally have a composed conversation.

「Giliam.」

「I do not believe it's longer necessary to confirm, but is it fine to believe that it's alright to break off the engagement of Carol and His Highness?」

「.....Ahh, I don't mind. But」

「This situation only happened because Carol was engaged to His Highness. Putting myself aside, Carol won't forgive His Highness. At such a location as this evening party, she was made to taste such humiliation. We will make His

Highness regret that he's made enemies of the Ambrose Ducal House.」

「Guh.....Lady Carol.」

With a sour expression that was twisted and while biting his lips, the King looked at me.

Having made enemies out of the Ambrose Ducal house because of me, I have no idea what will come forth of this to the royal family. Such things, it was better for me not to know.

But to the King's frantic look, for some reason I wanted to answer.

「Yes, Your Highness.」

「My foolish son.....Truly, I feel regretful. In this matter, I will hand down an adequate punishment. And then.....A fitting marriage proposal for Lady Carol, I will use my own name to tie it. Although it's fine for you to ignore talk to this degree of asking for repentance.....」

「Your Highness.」

To the unexpected words, I stopped the King's speech without thinking.

Normally, it would be fine if they just asked for punishment. No matter how flustered, they'd committed a mistake.

But——This was a good opportunity.

「Mu.....What is it, Lady Carol?」

「I'm not particularly angry. Just, I have misgivings about the future ahead. A woman formerly engaged to His Highness, such a reputation has been spread, and I believe it's not likely that any marriage proposals will come my way anymore. But if Your Majesty says that he will use his name to arrange my marriage, then.....May I take your words in meaning that way?」

「Ah, ahh. If this would become atonement for what that idiot son did, then I will arrange for it no matter what it is.」

「Then.」

I'd wished for it from the bottom of my heart.

I've longed for it ever since I was young.

I— —Carol, will live for true love.

Smoothly, I took one step forward, I slightly lifted my skirt and performed a bow.

Then I held that powerful arm— —and said it.

「Wilhelm Aibringer-sama, I love you. Please, take Carol as your wife.」

Doki doki, my palpitations pranced about.

My cheeks flushed red.

Finally, I conveyed my feelings— —!

「.....Hah?」

「.....Hah?」

But.

But to my once in a lifetime confession, “I don’t understand the meaning,” with their jaws dropped His Majesty and Wilhelm-sama replied shortly with that single phrase.

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| [Directory](#) |

---

## Chapter 04 – The Seven Year Old Carol’s Love

I know I said I’ll try to work on Drop next, but yep. As I thought, it’s daunting.

I’m also trying to get some scanalation experience under my belt but as I thought, yep, it’s daunting. Lol

I got a ton of comments before, so thank you very much to everyone! Even though I don’t reply to them all, I certainly read all of them and appreciate them!

Here is another chapter of DDKC for you guys to read!

I gotta say though, I feel like I took more liberties than usual while translating this chapter... Yeah, don’t trust my translations 100%. I try, but me and failure are blossom buddies.

Failure: Ew, no! Why would I want to be friends with you!?

Me: ..... {ಝಞಢ}

Sigh. Another long TLN by me. Really, sorry.

Enjoy~

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| [Directory](#) |

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### The Seven Year Old Carol’s Love

I was told that the first time I met Wilhelm-sama was around the time when I had yet to gain awareness of my surroundings.

Originally, in those days my Grandfather was Duke Ambrose, and Wilhelm-sama was an acquaintance he met from school. Because of that, Grandfather would invite him to his house, and there were times they ate together.

Being the Knight Captain, Wilhelm-sama had been sent on many expeditions, been on many battlefields, and I’d also heard of those previous recognition of services. I’d also heard that he was my Grandfather’s friend, and I also understood that.

The Wilhelm-sama of those days was a head taller than my Grandfather, and was more than twice the width. Additionally, he bore scars all over his body, and was a person who had an overall stern impression. It was to the extent that it was feasible that if a normal child stood across from Wilhelm-sama, they would run away.

But during that time when I was young, towards the Wilhelm-sama who had come to our house often to eat, I was aware that I didn't find it hard to deal with him. Quite the opposite, those robust arms of his would catch me and hold me in the air, and I would make a ruckus going "kya kya!" I'll say it myself, I was a tomboy. The past Wilhelm-sama didn't mention it, but I wonder if he'd been concerned about it.

A tomboy— —Yes, I was too much of a tomboy.

Born as a duke's daughter, it was a life of being taught by private tutors and learning various things daily. But I was unable to bear it, and my eyes were always drawn away, stolen by the scenery of outside of our manor. If I exited the manor, there would usually be a group of children playing, and I would blend myself into the crowd.

That day as well, I was playing with a group of children like always.

「Hey you. If you're done for today, do you have anything else to do?」

「No, not particularly.」

「Then come with me for a bit. They said they have some business with you.」

So I was told by the young boy who held the leader position of the children.

I didn't quite understand his words, but I only thought it was strange for somebody to have business with me, and accepted it to that degree. I was around 7 years old in those days. Having such business with a mere child, if thought of normally, there was no way that could be true, but I didn't realize it.

Being led by the boy, we came to the edge of the royal capital.

Where the slum quarters were, so to speak.

「Um, what sort of business do they have with me.....」

「Just shut up and follow me.」

「.....Ok.」

Led by the boy, we arrived deep into the slums.

There— —Much older than the boy, there were five adult men gathered.

Without exception, they all had something vaguely vulgar about their faces.

As if they were licking me all over, they directed an appraising gaze towards me.

Out of instinctual fear, I hid behind the boy's back.

「Well ain't she pretty. If she weren't a kid from the Ambrose family, I'd sell her to a slave dealer and make some good money.」

「Ain't that fine? Just get the ransom first and then sell her off. Wha~t, if her luck is good she'll meet some people. At a brothel, that is!」

「Hey brat, your job here is done. Leave that girl behind and scram.」

Evidently, I was in a pinch.

No matter how I thought of it, it certainly wasn't a friendly behavior, and the things they were saying were all disturbing. No matter how I decided to process those words from before, they could only be kidnappers.

While thinking “hii” in my thoughts, I raised my voice without intending to and screamed.

「Ah, for the time being, block her mouth. Hey, how much are we going to demand from that duke's house?」

「Wa-wait a minute! I kept my end of the deal! My sister.....!」

「Haaah? We've already sold your sister a long time ago. Get lost. Unless you want to be sold too.」

Laughing “shi shi” towards the boy's words, the robbers waved their hands at him.

To those cruel words, as if he'd lost his soul, the boy hung his head. What scoundrels these men were. Being deceived by their words, he was probably ordered to bring me here.

And they didn't keep their promise— —They probably had no intention to.

「W-what do you intend to do with me.....」

「What, you say, naa?」

「Ahh, even though she's a brat she's a beauty, should we do her at least once?」

「If we do her sales price will go down. She'll fetch a nice price for those perverts who like brats and can't endure it.」

No matter how I thought about it, I wouldn't come out of this situation alive.

I'm so scared, I can't bear it.

Somebody, save me.

Please, someone— —。

Then, a single robber— —He'd probably intended to seal my mouth, the approaching man was blown away.

「.....Ah?」

The four bandits, as if taken aback, stared in my direction.

But the one who captured their gaze was not me, it was a person who was much taller than me.

「Don't speak any more than that, you trash.」

That was without a doubt, the voice of Wilhelm-sama, who I was well accustomed to.

「You bastard!?!」

The four bandits simultaneously pulled out the items at their waist. The shapes were various in size, but they were all bladed objects.

Confronted with the bloodlust they contained, I stepped back a step reflexively.

And, when I stepped back, what was there was warmth.

「Lady Carol, close your eyes.」

「Y-yes!」

「What, I'll be done in a flash.」

As Wilhelm-sama told me to, I closed my eyes.

Afterwards, I heard a thunderous sound and the sound of screaming. The sound of wind cutting, and the sound of people being blown away. I wasn't able to make a conjecture on what had happened just by the sounds, but all I could do was believe in Wilhelm-sama.

Plus, always touching my head, was Wilhelm-sama's palm.

I entrusted my body to that warmth, and it felt as if I was in the world's safest place.

「Lady Carol.」

「Yes.」

The sounds stopped, and the kind Wilhelm-sama's voice called out to me.

Just by that it felt as if the beating of my heart would fly away, but as Wilhelm-sama had told me, I didn't open my eyes.

Then, my body suddenly lost weight.

「Kyah!」

「I shall escort you back to the mansion. This much excitement is a little too much for Lady Carol. Please close your eyes for a bit longer.」

I was being hugged by Wilhelm-sama.

The moment I comprehended that, I probably turned red up to my ears. I was already 7 years old, it was fine to call me a "lady." For such a lady to be held like a baby would, it was embarrassing.

But at the same time, it was a situation with a pleasant sensation.

「Lady Carol, it's fine to open your eyes now. Was it scary?」

I heard Wilhelm-sama say that, but I didn't open my eyes.

Right now, I didn't have the confidence to speak with Wilhelm-sama while looking him in the eyes. He was very likely to be smiling tenderly at me now, I

thought, and I couldn't possibly stand to see that.

That's why.

「.....Oh, she fell asleep?」

Just for a little bit, I'll pretend to sleep.

Wilhelm-sama, I'm sleeping. I don't mind if you play a little mischief on me.

For example, giving me a gentle kiss with those lips of yours, I wouldn't mind at all.

Though surely at that time, I would explode from happiness.

「It's fine to sleep. I'll escort you safely back to the mansion.」

Now then, I've prepared my heart, Wilhelm-sama.

Please, now, to me.

While continuing to feign sleep, when I noticed, I'd actually fallen asleep.

Wilhelm-sama hadn't done anything to me. What a pity.

This day, Carol Ambrose, seven years old.

I fell in love with Wilhelm Aibringer-sama.

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| [Directory](#) |

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# Chapter 05 – The Unilateral Engagement

It's been a while. A slightly depressing chapter.

Straight off the translator's block so I apologize for typos (as always). Hope you enjoy~

If you look to your right (not mobile viewers though) you can see a new sort of progress area. It's updated manually with roughly guesstimated values, so don't count on them being too accurate. Knowing me, I'll forget to update it sooner or later but for now, whatever...

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Dedicated translators, please pick up my projects~!

No need to ask, just drop me a link to the next chapter and I'll redirect people to the story's new home. ;3

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| [Directory](#) |

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## The Unilateral Engagement

Ever since I fell in love with Wilhelm-sama, I began to read love stories frequently.

There were various stories, and each ended with a happy conclusion, so when I read them I also became joyful. Especially when I thought of the actions the leading lady, gently embracing or tenderly kissing, and when thinking of doing those things to Wilhelm-sama, I floundered around in bed by myself.



Father often teased,「reading love stories, Carol is very precocious」, and then I would puff out my cheeks. I have already become nine years old. I am a splendid lady.

However, there was one dissatisfaction I had towards love stories.

In any one of them, the leading ladies would always be wedded with a thin

and young prince.

No matter how I searched, there were no stories of being married to a husband that was 46 years older. When I asked the freely associated rental library, they said that there was no such story.

If it was possible I wanted to read such a story and apply it to my circumstances, or so I was thinking, but what a shame.

Love would be fulfilled without fail.

Without ceasing to believe so, I was undoubtedly foolish.

—Then, one day.

A world altering discussion arrived.

I went to the royal palace with Father.

I was only lead by Father, and was clueless as to what sort of discussion it could be. But all I was told, was that it was an important discussion.

Then, deep inside— in the small, parlour like room besides the throne room, the one that first appeared was a woman.

「My my, Duke Ambrose. Welcome.」

「Responding to your invitation, I've come.」

I had seen this woman in the evening parties I attended. She was this country's Queen.

Always youthful, I thought she was a beautiful person.

Behind her, who was separated from his usual duties as an Imperial Knight, was Wilhelm-sama, who had a manly face on today as well. It was likely the reason he was here was because he was serving as the Queen's escort.

I wanted to greet him, but it was improper to take arbitrary actions in front of the Queen.

Somehow able to suppress my urge, I sent my gaze behind the Queen.

There, a young boy sat in a chair.

「Say your introductions, Carol.」

It could be said, 「uwa, how self-important」, was my first impression of the boy. With a face that looked like he would cluck his tongue any moment, he looked towards me with a glower. Overall he was a pretty boy, but my true opinion was I didn't really want to become friends with him.

He wasn't that far in age with me, but I thought him to be more of a child.

「Nice to meet you, I am Carol Ambrose.」

However, since Father told me to greet them, I slightly pulled up the edges of my skirt and introduced myself.

Towards my introduction, the boy turned his face away with a hmph.

Did I do something wrong?

「Reyford, that sort of behavior is unbecoming.」

「.....Mother.」

The boy said while looking disgruntled and looked towards me. Just by that, I knew the true identity of this boy.

Even I am a noble's daughter. As expected, I've heard talk of his Majesty the King's only son. His name was his Highness Reyford. I hadn't met him even once yet, but I never thought that I would meet him at a place like this.

But, why did he wear that sour face that looked like he would click his tongue at any moment?

「.....Reyford el Fureakisuta.」

「It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Your Highness.」

「.....Hmph.」

Dear me.

Did I do something to make him hate me? I don't have any recollection of doing so, but I likely wouldn't have dealings with his Highness anymore after this, so it would probably be fine.

There, with a "pon" Father clasped his hand onto my shoulder.

「Be happy, Carol.」

「Yes?」

「You and his Highness Reyford will be betrothed. The relation between the Ambrose Ducal house and the Royal family will be stronger than ever from now on.」

.....Eh?

To Father's unexpected words, I lost the words I was thinking of.

I was, His Highness', fiancée?

「Just as I've heard, she's an excellent lady. Gilliam, Wilhelm.」

「It's an honor to receive your praise. Even though she's this age she's fairly precocious, and whenever she reads her love stories she would have her cheeks dyed red.」

「I can guarantee the virtue of Lady Carol's capability. Even though she's still young, she sufficiently understands etiquette. She is qualified to be his Highness' fiancée.」

「As expected, girls grow up fast. Speaking of Reyford, even though he's the same age as Carol, he's still so childish it's troubling.」

「Hahaha, boys are like that. Even my son, they're all naughty and troublesome. Even though he will have to support the Ambrose house in the future.」

「No, just having children is a wonderful thing. To a single man like me, such a conversation is envious.」

「Isn't it because you declined all your proposals, Wilhelm? Even though his Majesty and I are always telling you to hurry up and get married.」

While I was speechless, Father and the Queen, even my beloved Wilhelm-sama were discussing with considerable excitement.

The one I loved dearly, was none other than Wilhelm-sama. By no means did I hold any affection towards his Highness.

Additionally, from the outset he took on a behavior as if he hated me.

Why did I have to get engaged to his Highness?

And right in front of Wilhelm-sama's eyes.

「Look, Reyford. In the future, Carol will become your wife.」

「.....Mother, I...」

「With you married to Carol-chan, the country will be even more strengthened. As the next King, you understand your responsibility, don't you?」

「.....Yes.」

Even though he was plainly discontent, his Highness nodded.

Engagement between the Royal Family and a Ducal House—— For me from the Ducal house counterpart to reject it, it would be discourteous.

However, even though there was dissatisfaction, his Highness seemed to consent.

His Highness——The Prince.

In love stories, where many ladies had been tied to in marriage, the ideal partner.

Since I was able to become engaged to such a partner, I supposed I should consider myself a fortunate person and have no choice but to be delighted.

「Carol.」

「Yes.」

「As the future Queen, you must support his Highness Reyford. Like so the kingdom will become a firm rock. Leaving the official engagement ceremony for a later date, for today at least offer your formal greetings.」

「.....Yes.」

No matter how much I tried to escape from reality, reality relentlessly cornered me.

I understood it. I also resigned myself to it.

From the start, it was something I was prepared for.

I was the noble daughter of the Ambrose Ducal house, Carol Ambrose. Towards marriage, there was no way I would have the liberty of choosing.

No matter how dearly I loved Wilhelm-sama, I understood that there was no

way this love could be fulfilled.

But even so.

「Your Highness Reyford.」

Wilhelm-sama.

「I am an incompetent person, but I am in your care.」

If possible, while in front of you who I love.

Like this, while I became someone else's belonging, I didn't want you to see this.

I, Carol Ambrose, age 9.

I learned that in this world, God didn't exist.

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| [Directory](#) |

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## Chapter 06 – Confession, and After That

Ufufufufufufufufu~~~

Didn't want to leave everyone off on a downer for too long, so here's chapter 6! PLEASE! ENJOY!!

If you find any typos be sure to tell me so I can correct it. Always appreciative. ;v; I spent a long time trying to find a good gif for [paa] but I have to make do with this one I guess. >.>

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Dedicated translators, please pick up my projects~!

No need to ask, just drop me a link to the next chapter and I'll redirect people to the story's new home. ;3

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| [Directory](#) | (Picked up by Paichun Translations)

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### Confession, and After That

My engagement with his Highness Reyford was decided, and after we held an official ceremony on another day, my lifestyle completely changed.

Firstly, along with turning 10 years old I was admitted into the Royal Academy. I knew I would originally be enrolled, so I wasn't particularly overwhelmed. But because I was to become Queen in the future, various studies were forced onto me.

Concretely speaking, I always had to sustain top grades at the academy. Furthermore I received queen training directly from the Queen. The contents were manners and decorum, introductory etiquette, law and understanding of the noble territories, and on top of that I even learned about officials of foreign countries. It was something I had to learn.

If these were peaceful times then it would be fine, but in regards to times of war the King would often head out personally to the battlefield, and during that time, the Queen would act as his agent doing the things in his place.

But if I were to sigh over those things, I wouldn't be able to support his Highness in the future. My love was dedicated to Wilhelm-sama, but since that love didn't bear fruit, I thought I should put effort into becoming a wife that could support others and be depended on.

Reyford-sama was largely cold towards me, but it didn't change the fact that I was his fiancée. That's why I studied with all my might and did my best at behaving in a way that wouldn't embarrass me as the Queen.

Well, everything came to naught though.

In the end our engagement was broken, and the one who would be taking queen training from now on would be Lady Mary. I spent six years to somehow remember crucial information. Having to conduct those studies from the beginning from now on, I sympathized with Lady Mary.

Because she was from a Baron's house, she probably hasn't conducted herself as a noble much either. The Queen was usually a kind person, but when it came to studies she was relentless.

Like that,

I finally became free.

「Wilhelm Aibringer-sama, I love you. Please, take Carol as your wife.」

「.....Hah?」

「.....Hah?」

His Majesty and Wilhelm-sama were left with their mouths agape.

Did I say something that strange?

Well certainly, apart from myself I hadn't heard of anyone being in love with a man 46 years older, so it might have been a little bit strange.

However, I wouldn't lie about these feelings. I loved Wilhelm-sama dearly, and since my engagement with his Highness has ceased, I wouldn't restrain myself any longer.

「L-Lady Carol.....Wh-what are you saying?」

But the first words Wilhelm-sama said was, unbelievably, words that were

doubting my head. I thought I had expressed myself pretty directly, but was it not transmitted?

My heart was still pounding. To make me speak even more words of love, as expected Wilhelm-sama is harsh.

But as long as Wilhelm-sama requested it, I would respond.

「Wilhelm-sama, I love you. Ever since I was young, I have always been in love with you. Please, bestow your affection unto me. I am an incompetent person, but I will become a lady who will be an appropriate wife for you.」

「W-wait, a moment, Lady Carol!」

For some reason, Wilhelm-sama looked restlessly at the surroundings and then stopped me. Why in the world is he so flustered?

And then, for some reason he grandly held his head.

「Wilhelm-sama, please call me Carol.」

「N-no, that's.....」

「Then, I wouldn't mind "Honey."」

「That's even worse!」

Now then, what is so bad about it?

I tilted my head. I loved Wilhelm-sama, and my engagement with his Highness had disappeared. Wilhelm-sama's age was advanced being at 62, but there wasn't a single frivolous rumor as of yet and he was a bachelor.

There was no problem at all.

「Um.....」

Perhaps.

Thinking of the possibility, my legs shook out of reflex. My heart jumped in a bad meaning, and sweat flowed. If possible, I didn't want to think of something like that.

It couldn't be.

Wilhelm-sama, towards me——

「Wilhelm-sama.....Do you hate Carol?」

「Urk.....!」

「Carol loves Wilhelm-sama. Wilhelm-sama.....Do you detest Carol?」

「I-it's not that I hate.....」

“Paa,” towards my heart that was about to be crushed with anxiety, light streaked through.



I thought perhaps, he disliked me. Treating me well when I was a child, perhaps it had just been because he was Grandfather's friend, and in truth he actually hated it. But, it seems that by no means did Wilhelm-sama hate me.

「Then, Wilhelm-sama, do you like Carol?」

「N-no, that's.....Well... 」

「If you don't detest me, then please let me be by your side. Just that alone will make me happy. If you say I'm not suitable to be your wife, then I will expend great effort to become someone who is.」

There could be nothing more joyful than to spend my life with Wilhelm-sama. Though I'd received training to become queen, but I could probably support Wilhelm-sama.

Even so, if he said that wasn't enough, then I would persevere even more. If I could be wit Wilhelm-sama, then there was nothing painful.

「Wilhelm.」

「.....Yes, Your Majesty.」

「It seems Lady Carol.....that is, she seems to want to marry you.」

「But.....」

For some reason, Wilhelm-sama breathed a large sigh.

Maybe he thought it was a child's willfulness and was troubled? As expected, saying please make me your wife so suddenly, perhaps it was too hasty.

But, these feelings that were always hidden in my heart, I couldn't stand not

conveying them.

「Giliam-dono.」

「I respect Carol's will. It appears that Carol truly fancies you.」

「.....No, but—」

Things like “but,” or “however,” somehow Wilhelm-sama was being inarticulate.

It was recognized by Father, and it was also recognized by his Majesty. Even so, only Wilhelm-sama seemed somewhat troubled.

Having my Father approve it, was to say the Ducal house approved it. Meaning that my family also accepted it. Marriage is said to be a connection between two houses, and my house has already allowed it. At the same time, to be approved by his Majesty meant that the country would also approve it.

I dearly loved Wilhelm-sama, and Wilhelm-sama didn't dislike me.

There was no problem to be found.

「That is.....Lady Carol」

「Yes.」

But Wilhelm-sama still treated me like a child.

Is it alright for me to sulk a little?

「I am Duke's.....Lady Carol's Grandfather, I knew him well.」

「Yes, I am aware.」

「That is, I'm not saying Lady Carol insufficient. Just.....To me, Lady Carol is more like a grandchild.....More of a family member. To have someone like that suddenly propose marriage.....」

「Wilhelm-sama.」

I know, since Wilhelm-sama always treats me like a child, let's carry out a little revenge.

Probably, the reason why Wilhelm-sama approached closely to discuss was because of the other knights. They were looking over here with worry. It was

likely that at their area, our voices didn't reach them.

「Can you lean forwards just a little?」

「.....Mu?」

「There is a leaf in your hair. I will get it for you.」

「Mu, is that so.....?」

To my words, Wilhelm-sama stooped over. Where my hands could reach, little by little.

That was the perfect position for me.

“Chu,” to that cheek sprouting a beard, I gave a small kiss.

「——!?!」

「The leaf was a lie. Wilhelm-sama.」

Ufufu, I laughed while facing Wilhelm-sama, whose face had turned red.

Undoubtedly my face had also become bright red. This is embarrassing. Giving a kiss while being observed by people, I've done something immodest.

My first kiss, his beard was a little prickly.

# Chapter 07 – The End of the Banquet

殿下 = Denka = Your/His Highness, mostly used on nobles and royals

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## Chapter 7: The End of the Banquet

「What is the meaning of this really!」

After I immodestly, instinctively kiss him, I could not help my cheeks blush and faced down after all.

I do not know what expression Wilhelm-sama was making. But, I think that it had got through for sure how much I have been deeply yearning for Wilhelm-sama. I feel bad that I had lied, but I thought for sure that Wilhelm-sama would not be convinced how much I talked through.

But——the one that destroyed that lingering of mine, was a hysteric voice like that.

「.....Rayford, Withdraw, I am sure that I had told you」

「Father! W-Why, are you forgiving Carol's act of a fool! Even though you have opposed about Mary and me, why did Carol who needs to protect her chastity, did something like that to Wilhelm!」

「You, do you really understand what you are saying.....」

Ha~, the King His Majesty had left out a deep sigh while looking to the ceiling.

Of course, the hysteric voice's owner was my ex-fiancé, Rayford-denka desu. It looks like, this Denka seems to not accept that I had expressed my yearning love for Wilhelm-sama since earlier.

Although the first one who threw me away, was Denka.

「No, I cannot accept this, Father! With how Carol had said it, she meant that she had yearned for Wilhelm since she was young! Then, while having a fiance like me, did she not do adultery!」

*Gii*, Rayford-denka glared at me.

But, I wonder why. There was nothing to be scared at all.

「Carol! I am disappointed in you! To think that you had me as your fiance, you were like that towards Wilhelm!」

「I do not understand what is Denka thinking, but it is the truth that I am yearning for Wilhelm-sama. But, I had never shown that to Wilhelm-sama until this day」

It is the truth. Until this day, I had prepared my will to live while having this feeling.

Until Denka had discarded our engagement, I was planning on supporting Denka.

But, Denka had nothing to do with that.

「Hmph! You're a woman whose excuses are even annoying!」

「Your Majesty」

「Rayfore.....you, you were that stupid huh.....」

Even though Father had just called His Majesty by his name, His Majesty was looking at Denka with an almost crying expression.

However you thought of it, Denka's words are only accusations. I wonder why Denka, thought that everyone would be convinced by those words. In addition to that, the curses against me were gradually increasing.

Probably, I was, being hated by Denka even since I was his fiancée.

「Father! Please, punish this woman!」

「Today's banquet will be closed. The matters with Lady Carol and Wilhelm, it is too hasty. It is not like it is needed to be decided by tonight」

「Father!!!」

「Shut up, Rayford! Right now, I am infuriated that I had a son like you from the bottom of my heart!」

To Denka's continuous calls, His Majesty finally roared strongly.

Probably, he did not think that he was going to be yelled at in that way. *Biku,*

Denka trembled to his surprise.

Please do not tell me, he had never been scolded before. If it was like that, His Majesty's education policy for him would have problems.

「R-Rayford-sama.....」

「Mary.....I'm sorry」

「I-It's okay. I, if only I'm on Denka's side.....」

「Mary.....」

And Denka and Lady Mary, had created something with they own worlds by themselves. Honestly, I could not bear watching it.

*Ohon*, His Majesty cleared his throat silently.

「Wilhelm」

「.....Ha」

「I am, not planning to oppose, your engagement with Lady Carol. But rather, to compensate the selfishness that was done by my son, I would rather recommend your engagement. But, Lady Carol had not meant of making Wilhelm troubled. The final decision, I will leave it to you」

「.....」

To His Majesty's words, Wilhelm-sama was still lowering his head, not moving.

For a little bit, I wonder if I had said too much. The feelings that I had kept inside my heart ever since I was 7 years old had overflowed, and I could not stop even myself.

It was until now, that it started getting embarrassing.

「Lady Carol」

「Yes」

「You know, that there is no transient rumor about Wilhelm」

To His Majesty's words, I nodded.

Something like that, of course, I knew it. He was always by himself since he was young, and they told that he did not have a wife. Wilhelm-sama himself is the

third son of an Earl's House, together with his stature, I had heard that that was one of the reasons that he was not forced to get married.

In addition to that, he had the position of the Captain of the Knights, he had a status that he needed to go to the battlefields immediately if there was a war with other countries. It was being said that rather than making his family sad after he died in the war, he had chosen to be alone.

And because Wilhelm-sama was like that, that I was yearning for him.

「You had probably heard a lot of things. With the status that he has, he needed to go battlefields and die anytime, he did not want to leave a family, he was saying those things that sound good, but in reality, he is only a shy type. If it was not like that, he would not have fallen into a panic this much with Lady Carol's words」

「Y-Your Majesty.....!」

To His Majesty's words, Wilhelm-sama's face blushed.

Inside the banquet that had become quiet because of Rayford-denka being scolded, it was a voice that echoed very well. Being said by that in front of the public, I wonder what Wilhelm-sama is feeling right now.

「With how he looked, he was not someone who was popular with women. With an intimidating beard, body that was like a bear, in addition to that, his voice is very low and does not talk a lot so he was hard to approach. He was approximately the best example of someone who had reached an old age without getting involved with women in his whole life」

Ma～.

Then, other than me, was there no one else who had yearned for Wilhelm-sama.

That is a very happy thing, but I rather felt that it was strange. A person that was as wonderful as him, I wonder why women did not yearn for him that much.

「I am looking forward to it. Lady Carol.....if it was you, you might be able to live together with Wilhelm」

「Thank you very much, Your Majesty」

「Well then, you can go now. Tonight, has been a great cause!」

His Majesty said that, together with the declaration of the end of the banquet.

The night where the distance between Wilhelm-sama and I had suddenly closed up, had ended.

「.....that was unexpected, that was wonderful, Carol」

「Yes, Father」

「If Wilhelm-dono could be welcomed into our House, the House of the Duke would get stronger from now on. Carol also, whispering sweet words to an old man like that, I had let you do an embarrassing thing」

*KuKuKu*, Father who was making a villainous expression, had assessed my words like that. I had just purely let out what was inside my heart, though.

To Father, at least that I want to let him know.

「His Majesty right now is a very wonderful person, but the if it was the turn of Rayford-denka in the next generation.....the palace would get messy. And the thing needed for that, is a rock-solid domain and strong military powers. Our Ambrose House of the Duke, has a very wide domain granted by His Majesty. Then the thing needed is military powers.....if something happens, in this situation that we might rebel against the kingdom anytime, being able to welcome the Captain of the Knights, Wilhelm Waiblinger, to our House is huge. The child born, would surely be treated as the successor of Wilhelm-dono」

「Father」

「If Wilhelm-dono, the captain of the knights, was on our side, we can also command the order of knights on our side. In addition to that, we can to make training for our domain's private soldiers that was on the same level of the order of knights. It is wonderful. To think in that instant, I did not expect that you had read the changing state of affairs and nominated Wilhelm-dono. Carol, you are truly a wonderful daughter」

「Father」

He had greatly misunderstood.

I am only a 16-year-old girl. I had not lived like Father within the aristocratic

society that was full of forethought and foresight. It should be easy to figure out, that there was no way that I had understood that in that instant.

For even a little, even Father has probably prejudice towards his own child.

「Firstly, I want to say something」

「But, the problem is if Wilhelm-dono could make a child in his age.....when it comes to it, leave the child making to someone else.....mu, what is it?」

「No, Father. I am.....」

Father was, thinking that all of the things I had done during the banquet was only an act.

He was thinking that, I proposed an engagement with Wilhelm-sama assuming that I had seen the state of affairs of the politics. Probably, the only person who was thinking of that was Father.

「I am, really yearning for Wilhelm-sama」

「.....Carol, it is only me in here. Jokes are」

「It is the truth. I have the resolution, at the time Wilhelm-sama would point his spears to the Ambrose, House of the Duke, that I would line my bridles with him. I am.....Carol have, from the time since she was young, yearned for Wilhelm-sama」

To my declaration.

Father——with his expression with overflowing confidence as it was, dropped his jaw open.

[Chapter 6 <-> Chapter 8](#)

## Chapter 08 – Awakening

Ojou-sama(お嬢様) = Lady, My Lady.

Ojii-sama(お祖父様) = Grandfather

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### Chapter 8: Awakening

「I looks like it was not a dream」

After returning to the mansion after the banquet, I slept in my room after a short bath.

At first, my heart was throbbing so much that I could not fall into sleep easily, but nevertheless, there was the exhaustion from doing such a thing in front of the public. I have fallen to sleep without noticing it.

But, it looks like that, that series of event on the banquet, was not a dream.

The one-sided discarding of the engagement from Rayford-denka.

The confession towards my beloved Wilhelm-sama.

The engagement of Wilhelm-sama and me that was approved by His Majesty the King.

Ahh, what should I do from now on.

Was not able to help it, *BataBata*, I horsed around on top of the bed.

But, I cannot spend the whole day on top of the bed like this. Reluctantly, I woke up, and changed. For someone who is a lady, you cannot stay on your sleepwear around even if it was your own house.

I have no any schedule for today, so a simple room wear should be fine.

Originally, it was being said that a Lady from the House of the Duke, should let maids change her clothes. But, in Ambrose, House of the Duke, it seemed like Ojii-sama had hated tradition like that. That is why, I was thought that I should be able to take care of myself at the least.

Regardless of being a daughter of a duke, I can cook very decently. I have a retainer that was a cook, so I asked to be taught from time to time.

I was busy with the education needed as a queen this past six years, so I had not learned a lot.

I know.

Men should be caught by their stomach, I heard that from somewhere. It means that, I only need to be able to make the food that Wilhelm-sama would like.

Immediately, I quickly went towards the kitchen from my room.

「Good morning, Natalia」

「Ahh, Good morning to you too, Ojou-sama」

On the way, I encountered the maid who had most likely come call me for breakfast. Usually, the maids that would call for me like this, I meet them on the way. Because it seems that I wake up a little early.

Natalia is, my exclusive maid.

With a descent from not around here, she was a 27-years-old woman who has a brownish skin. After I was saved by Wilhelm-sama when I was almost kidnapped by bad men at 7-years-old, Father hired her.

After that, Natalia would usually go with me everywhere. I do not know a lot about it, but it seems like Natalia has a finesse for martial arts, and she was also my bodyguard.

「Mu～.....」

「Yes? What is it? Ojou-sama」

Natalia learned her work quickly, she also takes cleaning very delicately, she also follows courtesy etiquette properly, and it can be said that she was the best model for a maid.

I had not seen her fight, but if she was strong, I can feel relieved with her as my bodyguard.

But, the more that I looked at Natalia, there was a small shadow that starts to dwell inside my heart.

「Natalia」

「Yes, Ojou-sama」

「Is it really.....uhm, does men, really like bigger ones?」

I had lived, without any notable difficulty in my life.

Regardless of that, I am smaller than Ladies of my age, and my growth was entirely bad.

Specifically where, I do not want to say it, but the part that men mostly likes, that one that can be said as the woman's feminine part.....that, it was small.

Compared to that, Natalia was *TayunTayun* desu. It bounces when she is walking. I got annoyed by it for some reason.

「N-No.....I think that, Ojou-sama is very lovely. There is no need to grief for it being small」

「I wonder what should I do to make it bigger」

「Please let me think.....it is a common opinion, but I had heard that, something like milk would be good」

Milk huh.

I really like cheese, but milk as it is, I do not really like it. Its distinctive smell, how can I say this, I really am not fond of it.

Of course, as a daughter of the House of the Duke, as long as I am living through the blood taxes from our subjects, I cannot ask for a change because of my preferences, I know that. But, it could not be helped that I do not like what I do not like right.

「But, it is more lovely around how much Ojou-sama has. Even if it was too big, there is nothing to gain from it」

「.....that is, I can only hear it as the sarcasm from someone who has them」

「No, not at all.....in reality, men really likes smaller ones. Someone like me, it seems like men do not really like」

I wonder if that was true.

The butler, Richard, I saw him look at Natalia's chests very often, though. Things like that, even if the side who was looking intended to be not noticed, it is surprisingly easy to tell.

I think that Natalia also, for sure, have noticed about it.

「In the first place, even if it became bigger, there was nothing to gain from it. It would just be easier to clean high places」

「.....high places?」

「Yes. Even if the height got bigger, that is only the perks for it」

.....

I, for some reason.

Somehow, got very embarrassed. Was I, such an immodest girl.

For the mean time, I passed by the entrance of the dining room, and went towards the kitchen.

Natalia was like “A-re?”, and was tilting her head, but without saying anything, she followed me walking.

Natalia who was ordered by Father to call for me, basically needs to follow that order. But, Natalia is also my exclusive maid, so between Father’s orders and my orders, she needs to give priority to my order.

It means, if there was something more important that I needed to do rather than going to the dining room, it is Natalia’s job to follow that.

But that being said, the thing that I was going to do, was really a simple thing.

「Excuse」

「Hey, you there! Isn’t that dirty again! Clean it properly! Hey, newbie! Until when are you planning to peel off the potatoes! I told you many times to wash them after you peel them right! Don’t stand there and start moving!」

「.....Chris」

「Ah~, my gosh.....oh, Ojou-sama?」

The one who was making a ruckus even if it was morning, was out House's exclusive cook—the person who takes commands for them, the Chief Cook.

Even though she had not reached her thirties, she was a brave woman who commands men older than her with her chin.

That is, Chris.

「Good morning, Chris」

「Good morning to you too, Ojou-sama. Then, what did you came for? The breakfast will be ready soon, so please hurry up and go to the dining room」

Chris was probably using honorific words to talk to me, but it had somehow crumbling here and there. I mean, I think it was better to say that she was only taking the pose that she was using honorific words.

Well, I do not mind such trifle things, so I really do not mind.

And also, Chris was the teacher that teaches me how to cook.

「Before breakfast, I came to ask something of Chris」

「Haha~, I see. Then, what is it? We're just starting the preparation for lunch right now, so there's not a lot of time」

The cooks that our House was hiring was, three.

The head cook, Chris, and two others, a man who was over his thirties, and a man who was around his forties. There was someone who stopped working recently, so the newest newbie was the oldest, it had become a really weird situation.

But regardless of that, Chris, even if it was older men, she was a brave woman who can stand with her chest out.

「There is no need to hurry. I have no scheduled appointments for the whole day today, so I just thought that I would like to ask Chris to teach me how to cook」

「Ahh, if it was like that, it should be okay around noon. I mean, for the whole day today? Ojou-sama, what about school?」

「School is, I do not need to go there anymore」

「.....Hmmm～」

She looked at me suspicious of something, but Chris did not say more than that.

Well, that should really be the case.

I had asked her to teach me many times before, but recently, there was really no opportunity. Because of the Queen's education, I was also tired.

「Then, what of food does Ojou-sama requests?」

During the morning, I will tell Chris the food that I want to be taught. If it did

that, she would buy the ingredients from the market.

The one that she taught me before, was fish Meunier if I was correct. It was easy to cook it, but I was not able to prepare the fish properly.

「Food that can catch a man's stomach, please」

「Oh, it means, you're making hand-made food for Denka? Men at his age, deeply seasoning meat should be enough. I'll prepare for it」

「No, the person that I am going to make it for is not Denka」

「.....ha?」

Chris narrowed her eyebrows, and looked at me.

Well, that should really be the case. My fiance, known publicly, is Denka after all. To think that the engagement was discarded last night, that was probably not yet well known throughout the House.

But regardless of that, I need to say it properly.

「The person I am making it for is a man, who is 62-years-old. Thinking of that, please」

「Ha~, 62-years-old.....62?!!」

For some reason, Chris was overly surprised, she was so surprised she choked.

Was I really saying something that strange?

[Chapter 7 <-> Chapter 9](#)

# Chapter 09 – The Family’s Breakfast

## Chapter 9: The Family’s Breakfast

「Good morning」

After the request for Chris, I went towards the dining room. For some reason, Chris was greatly surprised and then got in a daze, but it is about the excellent her, the cooking classroom for the afternoon should be alright. Firstly, breakfast, I entered the dining room.

They are already have gathered other than me, Father on the head of the table, Mother beside him, and Big Brother in front of Father. I would, as usual, sit beside Big Brother.

「Good morning, Carol」

「You’re pretty late, Carol. I thought that you have eaten earlier」

「Albert, do not say that too much. Well then, Carol also had gathered, let us start eating」

Meals at the Ambrose, House of the Duke, was customary to start when the whole family had gathered. Because of Father and Big Brother’s work, there are times when someone was absent, but normally, by eating at the same dining table at the same time, the ties of the family deepens, they said that we were doing it with that on purpose.

By the way, this was also, the policy of Grandfather.

「Being late, I am so sorry」

「I don’t mind it, Carol. Come now, you should eat too, Carol」

I was prompted by Father, and for the meantime, I reached out my hand to eat breakfast. It also looks delicious today. As I have thought, Chris is really good at cooking.

Although it was a simple menu, I feel the craftsmanship that prepared it properly.

「Carol」

「Yes, Mother」

「.....from Gilliam, I have heard it. Albert also knows about it. And above all of that, I will ask you.....you are really serious?」

Sitting diagonally to me, Mother——Elizabeth Ambrose. To the extent that she did not seem to be my mother, a very young appearance. When she was beside Father who was the same at his age, it almost looks like they are parent and child, if I would say that, I think you understand. Probably, one of the causes of my unsatisfactory growth, I think that it was this Mother's blood.

From that Mother, a piercing gaze.

Most likely, the contents of what she is saying, is about, I was yearning for Wilhelm-sama. And that, Big Brother had already, known about it.

It is a little embarrassing, though.

「Yes, Mother. Carol is very serious」

「The captain of the knights, Wilhelm-dono huh.....I had also known him since before, but to think that Carol was thinking of that, I had no idea」

Wilhelm-sama was, going to our house ever since a long time ago. That is why, Mother also have acquaintance with him.

But, to the extents of the feelings that I had hidden, as I have thought, she did not notice.

Well, it is also because I did not tell anyone. If someone noticed it with that, it would be a magician.

「Carol」

「Yes」

「As a mother, this marriage.....it is not something that I can agree upon. An acquaintance of our late Father, and has the same age with 62-years-old. Compared to that, you are still 16-years-old. Knowing all of that, you really are saying it, Carol」

「Yes」

An age gap of 46 years.

Something like that, I know all about it. I am a little bit strange, that is something that I am aware of, I also noticed it on how the people around had reacted.

And if it was for Father and Mother, a man that has the same age as their parents, would become their son in law. To that, it is natural that there would be opposition.

It is quite complicated.

「Well then, I will not say anything from me anymore. It was Gilliam who decided by himself the engagement with Rayford-denka, and since the engagement had been lost, I do not mind for Carol to live freely」

「Thank you very much, Mother」

「But, Carol. You have decided to support Wilhelm-dono and the rest of his life. If that is so, never move with infidelity, and have the resolution to give all of your life to Wilhelm-dono. It would be in conflict with the Ambrose House of the Duke, if you would say that, I will forgive you even if you disobeyed our House」

「Yes」

To Mother's strong words, I nodded.

By the way, the head of the Ambrose House of the Duke is Father, but the substantial authority is Mother. The direct blood descendant of the Ambrose House of the Duke is Mother, and Father was a son in law taken in the family.

And because of that, even Father would not hinder Mother's words.

And even I, most probably, because I had seen Mother's back who was like this, became stubborn as much as I am right now.

「.....but, to think that my brother in law would be Captain. Honestly, I was surprised」

And beside me, Albert-aniue said that.

Unlike me who had poor growth overall, Big Brother has a tight body and tall height, and in addition to his sweet mask, he was a splendid handsome man. In

the social world, there were many beautiful princesses that dressed themselves up to get noticed by Big Brother, I head. Well, they said that he had said sweet lines with a polite tone, and most probably he had looked like a real gentleman.

That Big Brother is, currently affiliated with the order of knights. Big Brother is 18-years-old right now, but he will be resigning the order of knights when he is 20, and looks like he would study to inherit Father's title, but they said that he is free until then, that was the education plan for him.

「Albert, what we have talked today, do not reveal it to others as much as possible」

「Even if you told me do not reveal it, I am going to meet Captain from now you know. That Captain had blushed because Carol had kissed him on the cheeks, if I see him in person, I am very worried I might laugh out loud」

「.....Big Brother」

It is very embarrassing. My immodest action, it was known even by my family.

But that could not be helped. In that place, Father was also there, and if I think of it carefully, in front of the public, how unbelievable what I did.

Other than Wilhelm-sama, there is no one else who would take me as a bride. Because something of that much, I had done in front of public.

「In the first place, it is my rest day today. Regardless of that, suddenly last night, "Come to the order of knights tomorrow with a fast horse", there was that captain's order. However I think about it, the reason I was called, there is nothing else besides Carol」

「Big Brother.....from now, are you going to meet with Wilhelm-sama」

「Hey, it's work alright? Why are you looking at me with those envious eyes? Did you not just clicked your tongue for a little right now?」

It can't be helped, I'm envious.

Thinking of it very carefully, Wilhelm-sama and I had no ties at all. Even if I thought that I wanted to meet him, I cannot.

There is also no way of contacting Wilhelm-sama. Even if I wanted to close our distances, Wilhelm-sama is a very busy person. There is no simple way, that I am

able to meet him.

From now on, I wonder what I should to take approaches.

「But, that stupid prince, he cannot be saved. Leaving this very lovely Carol alone, I wonder what he is thinking. In the most part, he probably just fell for that Lady Mary or whoever she is, but for a prince of a country to do such inconsiderable action, it is already incomprehensible」

「Well, Big Brother is only loyal to Chris right」

「Yeah. Right now, I am in the middle of courting her though」

Big Brother also, as the person who will succeed the Ambrose House of the Duke, it seems that there are numerous marriage proposals that had come to him. But, he is refusing all of them.

The biggest reason for that, was because he fell in love with our House's cook, Chris. This was something that Big Brother is not hiding, and he was even taking a clear approach to the person itself, but there was no sign of her looking at Big Brother's way.

But it seems that Big Brother, also thinks that that part of her is good too.

「Albert, I will completely respect Chris' will. If you do such thing like forcefully make her compromise, you know what is going to happen right」

「I know that, Mother」

For the next head of the House of a Duke, Big Brother, to be fond of a cook that had a commoner birth, it would look very weird if it was looked from outside. Chris was also near 10 years older than Big Brother.

But, all of that, Mother had allowed. Because only fools would go against Mother in the Ambrose House of the Duke.

In other words, because Mother had permitted it, Big Brother was taken an approach that was fierce towards Chris.

「A-re? Speaking of that, Carol, since there is no longer the engagement with the prince, is it alright that you will not go to school anymore?」

「.....well, that would be the case」

Right now, even if I returned to school, it would only be a bed of thorns for sure. I cannot think that I could spend time with it very peacefully.

That is why, today for the whole day, I have no appointments at all.

There, “Hmm”, Big Brother made a smile with a villainous personality.

I really cannot say it to to him, but when he is making that villainous smiling face, he really looks like Father.

「Then, Carol, do you want to go to a field trip?」

「Yes?」

「A field trip to the order of knights. What, don't worry, in the future, Carol's husband is the captain of the knights. Then, taking a look at his workplace, don't you think that it isn't it not that bad?」

*Paa~!*, with Big Brother's suggestion, flowers had bloomed within my heart.

Field trip to the order of knights, that means, there would surely be the captain of the knights, Wilhelm-sama there. And on top of that, being able to see Wilhelm-sama's gallant face while he is working, there is no happiness more than that.

That Big Brother was working in the order of knights, I thought from my heart that it was really good.

「I will go!」

「Then, after you eat your breakfast, go and groom yourself」

“Kuku”, similar with Father, he made a wicked smile.

「Listen now? To make sure that you can entice Wilhelm, captain of the knights, properly, you should wear makeup very prettily?」

Just like that, with a tone that showed that he was really having fun, he said.

## [Chapter 8 <-> Chapter 10](#)

# Chapter 10 – The Mother of the House of the Duke

## Chapter 10: Mother of the House of the Duke

Soon after breakfast ended, I went to the kitchen, and told Chris that the cooking classroom for the afternoon is postponed. Most probably my return to the house, I think that it would be around evening. And so, the cooking classroom in the afternoon will be rescheduled to tomorrow.

In the first place, I will go to the order of knights with Big Brother, so it would be better to come home together with Big Brother. In addition to that, if I were to be able to see Wilhelm-sama's gallant look, I can spend time however long it is. I also thought of that, and decided that the cooking classroom for today is impossible.

And I returned to my room, and started thinking of what to wear.

「U~n.....」

I, do not have that many clothes. It might not be good for a lady from a house of a duke, but compared to ornate clothes, I prefer functional clothes better. I do not like clothes that have a lot of decorations and have many frills that much.

And, it is strictly a field trip today. It would not be good to go while wearing flashy clothes. And because of that, I need to wear clothes that are not too flashy, and cute ones that Wilhelm-sama would like.

If it was like that, there is me who lined up clothes and could not decide which one to wear.

If this was a normal outing, I would not have worried which clothes to wear though. I wonder if the people of the order of knights know that Wilhelm-sama and I are to be engaged. If that was the case, I need to have an appearance that is not shameful as the fiancée of the Captain of the Knights.

Big Brother, he only said to dress up, but for me, this is something like a fight

right.

「Carol」

「Yes」

And suddenly, without knocking on my room, Mother entered.

Mother is the most powerful person in the Ambrose House of the Duke. Knocking, she does not need to see about my convenience. And so, there are times when she enters outrageously like this.

I am only wearing underwear right now, but Mother is of the same sex so there is no problem.

「Even though you are in your own room, you look immodest」

「I am sorry, Mother」

「I guess, that you are worrying about what to wear right? This is something that I wore from the past, wondering if it would suit Carol for today, I brought it」

What Mother had on her right hand, was a light blue one piece.

Without any flashy decoration, but there is a silk gloss, and you can tell from one look that it is a luxury item. But regardless, you can enjoy cleanliness from its hues, that was perfectly what is suitable for today's look.

With Mother's hands, she let me wore it.

There was a button on the back, so it is difficult to wear alone.

「Yes, Carol. It really suits you」

「Thank you very much, Mother. Is it really okay? Clothes that is this good」

「It is what I have worn. I will give it to you just as it is, Carol. I know already,

that it is unbecoming of my age to wear such clothes」

Mother sighed with that, but I think that they would still suit her very well.  
She also has an appearance, that you cannot tell that she is my mother too.

「Carol」

「Yes, Mother」

「.....you have become beautiful」

While looking how I looked in the mirror, Mother said that.

It is somehow embarrassing. I who can be seen younger than my age, even though I have been told as “cute”, I have never been told “beautiful”.

And, wearing clothes as good as this, I feel like that I am being worn instead.

「Mother.....」

「It is true. Have confidence, Carol」

「.....but」

While looking at the mirror, I really think of it.

I am——childish.

Wilhelm-sama for sure, rather than a childish girl like me, he would really prefer a mature woman instead. For me to stand beside Wilhelm-sama's robust body, I am too small and thin.

With this appearance, there would be no way for Wilhelm-sama to think of me as beautiful.

「Carol, listen」

「.....yes」

「Infatuation makes a woman beautiful. You are right now, infatuated right. When infatuation turns to love, a woman gets stronger. And when she had a child with her partner, a woman becomes a mother. Carol, you are still on the way. You are still going to get more beautiful, and get more strong. Have confidence」

Infatuation will make a woman more beautiful.

Love will make a woman stronger.

When a child is born, a woman becomes a mother.

That is, when I was young, the words that I have heard from Mother.

I, when I was young, I could not really understand it.

But right now— one of those emotions, I can understand.

「Carol, please forgive your disappointing mother」

「Mother?」

「You who have returned from the banquet last night, you seemed very happy. Gilliam and I, both of us really cherish you so much. But, that you were making a false smile, we did not notice until now」

.....

To Mother's words, I cannot say anything.

With last night's banquet, I was released from the chains called engagement with His Highness. After seven years of time, I was able to be free.

But, until then, I was always chained. Becoming the Queen in the future, and support His Highness. I became desperate only for that purpose.

Really, the smile that I made towards my family, it might have been a false one.

「Seeing your face, I understood. You are really, yearning for Wilhelm-dono

right.]

「.....yes, Mother.]

「Listen to me, Carol. You need not be falsehood anymore. In front of your family, there is no need to be a falsehood. With the person that you want to be with, be with him.]

「Yes!.]

To Mother's words, I nodded strongly.

Mother is a person who is sometimes scary, and sometimes frightening, but most of all, she is a reliable mother. I am sure that even if there were obstacles where Wilhelm-sama and I would go, Mother would do something about it, I even felt like that.

And Mother, smiled to me sweetly.

「You are beautiful you know, Carol.]

「Thank you very much, Mother.]

「Well then, go now with Albert. Listen, until Albert's work is done, you surely should not go away from the order of knights.]

「I know, Mother.]

Nine years ago, ever since I was almost kidnapped by bad men, Mother is a little bit overprotective. She would not let me go outside alone.

It is only the round trip from the order of knights and the mansion.....I think, but I cannot afford to make Mother in a bad mood. And, to be able to stay in the order of knights until Big Brother's job is done, is rather favorable. It means that I will be able to look at Wilhelm-sama that much.

「I have, something to talk about with Gilliam for a while.]

「.....with, Father?」

「Yes. Gilliam, Carol thinks of the engagement with Rayford, His Highness, very happily, he said. She is delighted with the honors, he reported to that to me. But that it was an idiot who suddenly discards the engagement, one without courtesy, shaming Carol in public, on top of that, a fool that claims the relationship with Wilhelm-dono is adultery, I had not heard about that. From 9-years-old until now, the one who stole happiness from Carol, was not His Highness or anyone else, it was Gilliam」

“Ufufu”, Mother laughed sweetly.

Behind that sweet smile, a dark thing was emerging and it was very scary.

「With that so, you should not return while it is noon for any reasons. We have a lot to talk about, so please come home after the maids have properly cleaned」

I wonder what will the maids clean.

I wonder what will happen during noon.

But, to Mother who had not had a smiling gaze, there was no way for me to ask.

「I understood, Mother」

「Yes. My lovely Carol, you should properly greet Wilhelm-dono alright」

「Yes」

I nodded with that, left the room, and went towards the entrance where Big Brother was waiting.

From now on, Father, I wonder what will Mother do to him. It is so frightening that I could not ask.

That is why, what I can only do, is to get away from the mansion as quick as possible, and not get in the way of Mother's action.

「Big Brother, I have kept you waiting」

「Ya～, Carol. You look very cute. With that, even Captain should be knocked off his feet」

“Hahaha”, together with Big Brother who was laughing, I went towards the order of knights.

Father.....I will pray for your safety.

[Chapter 9](#) – [Knight Captain's Young Wife](#) – [Chapter 11](#)

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Sponsored by Sunandar Tjipto-san.

# Chapter 11 – Side Story: The Melancholy of the Knight Captain

## Chapter 11: Side Story – The Melancholy of the Knight Captain

Wilhelm Aibringer is the Flarekista Kingdom's strongest general.

Originally born as the Aibringer House of the Earl's third son, as long as the eldest son and the second son is alive, he will not inherit the patrimony of the House of the Earl, so he was able to live comparatively freely. Because of that, although he was obligated to go to school as the son from the House of an Earl, he entered the order of knights after graduating.

After entering the order of knights, Wilhelm gradually stood out, and on his fifth year, he became a commander that led a corps.

To Wilhelm that originally have a bear-like stature, the strength that matched it, and a scary face that intimidated enemy soldiers, to him that had all those three characteristics, the battlefield was exactly the stage where he could completely show his talents.

The skirmishes that had continued from long before, during wars with the neighboring country Ainz Empire, Wilhelm had taken the head of the enemy generals for many times.

And from his way of fighting, he was even called『Impregnable Wilhelm』by the enemy army.

When he was thirty-five, he was entrusted by his predecessor as the Captain of the Knights.

He had no reason to refuse, and to Wilhelm's appointment who was called the strongest in the Flarekista Kingdom undisputedly, there was no one who objected. And even after becoming the Captain of the Knights, he continued to fight on the front lines, and even now when he is sixty-two, his body is still robust, he was the best example of a man who lived in battlefields.

But—because of that, Wilhelm was a bachelor.

「Mu.....」

The dispute with the Ainz Empire is still continuing, but it can be said that it is currently a lull. Wilhelm killed the Empire's famous general, so they are currently lacking for excellent commanders. Even so, the Empire had more power as a country than Flarekista, so they could not use brute force to go to an offense in this chance.

Because of that, they could only create a treaty that was slightly favorable to Flarekista, and makes it a lull.

Even this situation, it is unknown for how long it would continue. But, for such a balance could be broken anytime, Wilhelm was always reinforcing himself, and the knights that follow him.

That is why, for also today, Wilhelm, to the order of knights' garrison—to the training grounds, he came.

A room filled with useless things, called the Captain's Chamber. To Wilhelm who prefers modesty, it was not furnished to his liking, but because it was the room passed through generations, he is doing his basic office work here.

But, for Wilhelm today, he does not have work originally.

But still—although Wilhelm did not have something to do, he was in the order of knights.

「What should I do.....」

The thing that worries Wilhelm's mind—that was, the girl that continues to disrupts Wilhelm's heart since yesterday.

Entering the school as the third son of the House of an Earl, the friend that he had been close at that time, Dukeridd Ambrose. The heir of the Ambrose House of the Duke, which was being said has the largest power in Flarekista.

There was a gap between Wilhelm and Dukeridd's status, but they were close as school friends. Wilhelm was saying it was more than what he deserves, but even so, Dukeridd had treated him very equally. That is why, Wilhelm also opened his heart towards Dukeridd, and got close to him that he could call him as his best friend.

Even after graduating from school, he cannot count how many times Dukeridd invited him to home parties. And to Wilhelm who would not stop being a bachelor, he could not count how many times he was told to “settle down”.

But, Wilhelm did not have the appearance of which women would like.

His bear-like body frightened women, his strong face scared women, and his rough personality that came from his continuous stay on battlefields, did not let women approach him. And the result of not being involved with women because of that, he had given up his own marriage.

Even if many marriage proposals had come he had no will to accept, and there was even one time when he came to say a word of refusal to the marriage partner at least, but the woman cried the instance she saw his appearance. “No, being married to something like a bear!”, when his partner shouted that, he had even felt distrust in women seriously.

That is why, to Wilhelm, Dukeridd’s family, he had even thought of them as his own family.

Because they are already acquainted since she was young, Dukeridd’s daughter that he got along with, Elizabeth. Even though she was still a child, but because they met since she was young, she did not fear Wilhelm especially. Instead, she even liked him for playing with her. Unfortunately for Dukeridd, he did not have another child other than Elizabeth, but if a boy had been born, he might have thought of him as his own son.

For about twenty years ago, with a twelve years older Marquis’s son, when he heard Elizabeth’s engagement with Gilliam, he had truly got delighted as if his own daughter’s marriage was decided. In the wedding ceremony, as if his own daughter got married, he even felt a deep loneliness.

And, the son and daughter that Elizabeth gave birth to, Albert and Carol.

Even when Dukeridd had his grandchildren, he still continued to invite Wilhelm to parties. Because he was around over 50 years old, he stopped telling him to go get married, but instead when he brought out about an adoption relationships, it is new to his memories how he thought what he should do with it.

And Wilhelm, Albert and Carol, he treated both of them as his own grandchildren. He even has an impossible delusion that if he had built his own happy family, his grand child might have been like this.

With that much, both Albert and Carol, liked him.

And the intermingling with the Ambrose House of the Duke, four years ago—when Dukeridd had collapsed of sickness, it had completely stopped. He had gone to visit him many times, but to open a party when Dukeridd was in his sick bed, Elizabeth was not that out of her common sense.

And while that happened, the war with the Empire got more fierce, Wilhelm also could not return to the royal capital, and he continued to fight on the front lines. “Dukeridd had passed away”, when he heard that too, it was inside his tent on the battlefield.

After that, Wilhelm had not visited the Ambrose House of the Duke.

He had gone to visit Dukeridd’s grave, but there was no reason for Wilhelm to visit the Ambrose House of the Duke. Even though Dukeridd was his best friend, Wilhelm is only a stranger for the Ambrose House of the Duke. That is why, his feet went away, and he had not met with the people of the Ambrose House of the Duke for a long time.

When Albert entered the order of knights, he was very surprised.

Although he was the heir son, for him to go out on his way to enter the order of knights, he even thought of what he was thinking. Originally, a rookie that had just entered the order, Wilhelm who was the captain had no need to talk to that, but because he has acquaintance with Albert when he was young, he called him and talked.

—Why, did you enter the order of knights. Even if it is the heir-son of the Ambrose House of the Duke, I will not have a distinction with other men in the order of knights. You might lose your life on the battlefield.

—I know that very well.

Albert, with eyes that had a very strong will within them, answered that.

To Wilhelm, he could not understand that. If he is the heir-son of the Ambrose

House of the Duke, it should be enough for him to receive the education for someone who would receive the noble rank in the future. But, Albert said that during his 18 to 20, his freedom is promised.

That is why, he would spend his time on the order of knights, and make that his own strength, he said.

— I am the one who would inherit the Ambrose House of the Duke, but even so, I do not want to think of myself as a special person. “I want to protect this country”, I am one human that have that will. That is why, in the order of knights, the vanguard of this country, I thought that I should at least learn there.

Albert, strongly said that.

That is why, Wilhelm, even though he had felt the feeling that as if his own grandchild had raised up very well, he held the training without distinction. When the time that a war happens, Albert also needs to be sent to the battlefield. And when that time, for him to at least have the strength to come home alive.

But— right now, what bothers Wilhelm’s head, is the grandchildren that he had once thought as his own, the other half.

Carol Ambrose.

「Mumumu.....」

Last night, Wilhelm, together with the leaders of the order of knights, he also participated in the banquet hosted by His Majesty the King.

And there, after a long time, he saw Carol’s appearance.

And even though it is a banquet, for nobles, that banquet is the place where they show their existence. If it was possible, he wanted to talk to her, but because of him approaching her, it is not good for it to be felt that the Ambrose House of the Duke and the order of knights had gotten close, there Wilhelm held back, and did not approach her.

What he was surprised to was— that Wilhelm was also in the presence, when Rayford His Highness, discarded his engagement with Carol one-sidedly.

Carol is a very lovely, bright girl.

In the future, Rayford who would become the King and carry this country. And to be on that Rayford's side, she is a rare talent who can be a Queen. And for the royalty and the Ambrose House of the Duke having ties, the Kingdom would become more solid. That is why, His Majesty the King, recommended Rayford and Carol's engagement.

At that time, as he has thought, he had felt the loneliness of his grandchild going to be a bride.

That is why, to Rayford His Highness's one-sided talk, he was so mad. Carol is bright. For sure, she would not do such a thing.

And, when he had visited the palace, he had often heard that Carol is receiving the education from the Queen herself. Carol who was doing her best to become a Queen that much, there was no way for her to do such a petty harassment.

But Wilhelm, could not have an opinion between His Majesty the King and Duke Ambrose— that is right, he tried to just watch carefully.

But when His Highness and His Majesty had an argument, there would be no one who could stop it, so he went to stop them himself.

To stop the argument of royalties, most nobles would not be able to do it. If there was someone who could, it would be only about Duke Ambrose, but Gilliam did not stop them. Then, using the stature not as a noble, but the honorary position from the royal house, he decided and went in between His Majesty the King and Rayford His Highness, what he did was the start in the first place.

— Wilhelm Aibringer-sama. Carol, please take her as your bride.

In an instant, he even thought that either his ears or his head had gotten crazy.

Carol is, 16 years old. And Wilhelm is, 62 years old.

And the difference between their ages, is 46. For Wilhelm, their age difference was already a different thing from the marriages with age differences that he had heard before.

On what purpose, he doubted— but he could not believe it, Carol's eyes, no matter how he thought of it, he could only see them as serious.

That is why, Wilhelm was worrying about it seriously.

Carol, if Gilliam told her to do so, if she reluctantly asked him for a marriage, it would have been easy for him to refuse. Joking with this old man, he could easily say that.

But, is it really only for political reasons, or is she really yearning for him.

If it was only that, even Wilhelm could tell if he looks on her eyes.

「But, right.....」

Repeatedly saying this, but Wilhelm is already 62 years old.

He is still fit, and he does not plan to die that easily. But just like when Dukeridd had died without reaching 60, people cannot tell when they are going to die.

And even if Wilhelm was able to live up to his 80's, Carol would be still at 34.

It was an age too early for her to be a widow.

It is not like Wilhelm has no money, rather, because he prefers a simple life, there was even too much of them. After he dies, for Carol to at least not get trouble living, he has enough savings.

But, this and that are different stories.

For Carol, if it was possible, she should be tied to a man of her age, and live together with him. This is something that even if it is not Wilhelm, they could think of it.

「.....umu, after all——」

“Un”, he nodded.

He is very happy with Carol's feelings. But, Wilhelm is too old, and Carol was too young.

And the future of that young girl, there was no way for an old man like him should not steal it.

That is why, Wilhelm, he decided.

「——I'll refuse」

[Chapter 10](#) – [Knight Captain's Young Wife](#) – Chapter 12