

Web Novel: The Hero and the Swamp Girl

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The Hero and the Swamp Girl

(勇者と沼女)

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Summary:

A story about a swamp rumored to be the home of a monster, a girl, and a hero.

I read this story a while back and I loved it so I decided I might as well translate it. It's relatively short and the characters are all hilarious so it was very enjoyable.

Minor Note: Yuusha=Hero

They mean the same thing but I tend to interchange when I feel that one word sounds better. Typically, I will use Yuusha for dialogue and Hero for narration.

Swamp 1

There is a swamp located in the center of the forest where, even in the afternoon, people can hear the cries of an owl; even during the day, no sunlight is able to penetrate the dark murky atmosphere surrounding the forest. Feared by the townspeople as the “swamp where monsters come from”, this swamp is a place people rarely approach.

Well, duh.

An eerie swamp like that just gives off a strange atmosphere. Besides, before even entering the swamp, the forest surrounding it is incredibly lush and dense. Regardless of how the weather is, light never enters. In fact, it's like the entire forest is rejecting the sun's light. Located behind an extravagant town, the vast forest is feared by the townspeople because it seems like it is concealing a piece of darkness within it.

But, I know.

In this forest that is located behind the familiar town I was born and grew up in. The swamp that people fear and never approach is actually...

The perfect fishing location.

★ ☆ ★

“I got it! My third one!”

Holding my handmade fishing rod in one hand and the recently-caught fish in the other hand, I made a [guts pose](#).

Actually, in this swamp, you can catch good fish. The fishes are colorful with some being light blue, pink, and even fluorescent yellow. Although the fishes' color are really flashy, for fishes living in a swamp, they don't have a muddy odor and they taste indescribably delicious. You can't quit after eating a bite! You can't stop! Like [Calbee!](#) (You're a little off there.)

In addition to that, when I bring them to the town market, the fishes sell very well. Although they have a colorful appearance, they taste addictive, letting me sell them at a high price. Not just a simple hobby, this [fishing] is a hobby with practical benefits that serves as my means for living.

Fishing is fun! Selling it [the fishes] is profitable!

It's like killing two birds with one stone. What a fulfilling hobby and work!

I acknowledge that fishing is a grim hobby for an 18 year-old girl. But, from what I hear from my female friends in town, the popular hobbies for them are lacemaking and embroidery. For someone like me who's not good with small detailed tasks like that, those hobbies are impossible. Rather than lacemaking, it fits me more to knit a mat. Due to my nature and lack of friends that share the same interests, I always go fishing alone.

Well, it's actually a secret from my friends too that I come to this swamp. All of my friends believe that I fish from the river that flows southwest from town.

For some reason, this swamp has always been feared by the townspeople. Well, considering the location, I guess it can't be helped.

But, from a young age, I have always come to play here. Secretly, with the purpose of solo exploration, I came here often. That's why, when they say "it's scary" or "monsters will appear", it doesn't really register in my head. In fact, I've never seen a monster either.

All there is here is an eerie swamp. Since I've hung out at this swamp from a young age, even its dark murky atmosphere feels comforting and relaxing to me. This dark and bleak atmosphere goes without saying that it is a comforting atmosphere.

With the earthworms I dug up early this morning, I enthusiastically shook my fishing rod.

★ ☆ ★

Today was a big catch. Uheehee.

Satisfied with my fishing, I headed home with the fishes I caught. While on my way, I noticed that the town was filled with more people and was more vibrant than usual.

What is with this crowd?

Since there were more people than usual, avoiding them while walking was a huge pain. While wondering over the strangeness of this crowd, I bumped into a group of high-spirited town girls.

"Hurry, hurry! They're almost here!"

"Just one look is fine, I have to see! Yuusha-sama!"

It seems that a hero and his party are coming.

To explain it simply, there are several people in the world called heroes. Not just anyone can become a hero. If the Royal Palace doesn't acknowledge you to be a hero, you can't call yourself a hero.

I wonder if, at the Royal Palace, there is a Hero Exam?

Since I don't have any interest, I don't really know. Anyway, the approved heroes then go form a party and work hard to fight against monsters for the sake of world peace, I guess. And, among these heroes, there is a rank system.

For example,

S Rank Excellent Hero

A Rank Fairly-Well Hero
B Rank Average Hero
C Rank Newbie Hero
D Rank Self-Proclaimed Hero

...is how I privately label the ranks if you'll excuse me. Anyway, there's a rank system. I don't really know the rank details but D-Rank heroes exist the most.

...more like, are they even heroes!?

Also, just being authorized to be a hero is a great thing, in my opinion, but there are heroes that go even higher and are labelled as SS-Rank. Wow.

Glancing sideways at the people rushing towards the town entrance, I rode against the wave of humans and headed towards my house.

Just one look?

No way, no way. I don't have any such feelings. Rather than that, I have to hurry up and judge these fishes I caught!

Freshness is the most important thing for these caught-fishes.

With those feelings, I urgently headed home.

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Swamp 2

Let today also be a happy fishing spree~♪

While holding my fishing rod in one hand and hurrying over to the swamp, I happily hummed my own self-composed melody.

Yesterday, the entire town was in a festive “Welcome Hero” mood. Because of that, the town itself was much more lively than usual and the fishes I caught sold very well. It was exactly “Yuusha-sama”-sama. According to the rumors, the Hero and his party are still going to stay in town a little longer.

Anyway, let’s go fishing today too and then sell a bunch! Right now is the ideal profit time!

With my fishing rod in hand, I enthusiastically headed deeper into the forest.

Then, humming as I walked deeper into the forest, my surroundings suddenly flashed and the entire forest was covered in light. At the same time, a large explosion resounded throughout the forest. As a result of the sound, I fell backwards onto my butt in surprise.

What!? What happened?

The birds that had been resting on the trees all flew off at once, creating a strange atmosphere. Based off of these signs, there was definitely a big explosion somewhere.

But, where?

Honestly, I’m scared. But, I have to make sure...!

Somehow managing to get up with trembling legs, I headed towards where I had heard the explosion come from, towards the direction of where the swamp was.

★☆

Due to not realizing that I had been speed-walking, I started heavy breathing.

Although my heart was racing, I had to make sure before I went home.

Passing through the trees, I arrived at my destination. As soon as I arrived, I felt a sense of discomfort.

There stood the beautiful and handsome party companions.

Wh-why? Why are people here?

While my eyes were widening as I questioned myself, the beautiful and handsome party companions seemed to notice my presence. Putting my question aside, the number one most handsome guy in the party started heading towards me.

“What’s wrong? Are you lost? This swampland is dangerous so it’s better if you don’t approach this place.”

No no no, rather, aren’t you guys more dangerous?

This is the swamp found in the deeper parts of the forest where monsters are said to reside, you know?

A place where people rarely come, the perfect fishing pla...no no, a dangerous place, you know?

While I stared at the handsome person approaching and talking to me, I realized.

Behind the person approaching me, the usual swamp was...my fishing location was...my relaxation place, the swamp, was...

Gone.

Well yeah, there were debris and a giant hole with smoke coming out from various places that showed where the explosion had blown away the swamp.

Dumbfounded, I stared at the place where the swamp had been. The identity of the sense of discomfort I had previously felt was this!

“T-th...the...the swa...the swamp is...”

With a shaking finger, I pointed at the giant hole where the swamp once was, desperately trying to form words. The handsome guy nodded with a meek expression and said:

“The swamp here is a dangerous place where monsters gather so we received a request from the town mayor. We annihilated the swamp.”

“Ho.....”

Unable to suddenly respond, I was hit with a final blow.

“But, there’s nothing to worry about anymore. We’ve completely annihilated the swamp.”

As if he was trying to reassure me, the handsome guy spoke with gentle words and gave a sparkling smile. Seeing that smile, I:

“How are you going to make up for this——!? My fishing spot——! My relaxation and hobby place is——! My source of income——!”

Just like that, along with my bubbling feelings and the grasping momentum, I condemned him.

★☆☆

“In other words, you’re saying that you often came to this swamp?”

While nodding and crying, I spoke about the situation with one of the party members, a magician-like man wearing a black robe.

“Yes! I never once met a monster so the mayor must have misunderstood something!”

Perhaps overpowered by my energy, he didn’t respond back and silently observed me.

“But, even if that’s what you say...”

While scratching his face, the magician-like guy said:

“In fact, we were given this request based off of an actual witness testimony...”

Bypassing the kind magician-like onii-san who was starting to give an explanation, the handsome guy from earlier stepped forward. With his golden hair and green eyes, his movements were somewhat elegant and, gently, as if to reason with me, he started talking.

"We were asked by the mayor. In this swamp resides a terrifying swamp girl or so."

"Swamp girl?"

"Yes, a swamp girl."

".....I've never seen her."

Ever since I was born, I have never once seen her in this familiar and accustomed swamp.

"According to the mayor's account, she likes the rain and appears when it is raining. A few days before, from the edge of the swamp, a wandering traveller saw the red swamp girl mad-dancing."

"Huh? Red...girl...?"

"Yes. A week ago, he witnessed her, red from head-to-toe, intently mad-dancing as if to sacrifice her soul to the demons."

filler

...a week ago.

I flashed back to a certain moment.

Yes, that was one week ago, on a small rainy drizzly day. I couldn't stand being cooped up inside the house so I went to the swamp to fish. And then, I ended up with a bigger catch than I had expected so, out of excitement and glee, I celebrated alone.

While wearing my...red...long-cherished raincoat...

"The sight of her greatly diverting her upper body towards the back while mad-dancing was the very picture of a horrendous monster, he said..."

Maybe, they are referring to my "Big Catch Dance"...

Whenever there is a big haul of fishes, I go wild dancing my "Big Catch Dance", a name I arbitrarily decided on for whenever I tie my fishing rod between two trees and frantically limbo dance.

I wonder if they're talking about me when I was wearing the red raincoat and intently limbo-dancing...

Regarding that swamp girl...

"In addition to that, the townspeople normally find the swamp creepy and avoid it so we took the opportunity to eliminate it."

Hey now, you just casually said "we eliminated it" but what am I going to do now, after you so abruptly stole it away from me?

In utter shock, I sat glued to the ground as the troubled party members surrounded me. As I sat on the ground, crying hard, the handsome golden-haired guy from earlier knelt down and looked at me with a troubled expression.

And then:

"I'm sorry. I didn't think it would cause so much distress to you. From the townspeople's point-of-view, it might have been a creepy swamp but, to you, it must have been an important place. For me to have annihilated that place."

As I thought, the one who annihilated it was you...!

You're the main one at fault!

“I, Rufus Gran, apologize and will try the utmost to make amends. I swear by my title as a Hero.”

Hero? What’s that? More so, Rufus Gran?

Feeling like I have heard that name before somewhere, I pondered frantically in my head over it.

Rufus Gran...

Gran...?

Gran...!?

As the puzzle in my mind finally solved itself, I felt the urge to cry out loud.

Gran is the name of a neighboring country. In the country of Gran, the third prince, I believe, was a Hero... Not to mention, even among heroes, he was an SS-Rank with preeminent skills...

I thought back to the town gossip.

Even in a dark forest, his gold hair shone as if blessed by light. His eyes seemed to express the fresh greenness of trees with a tint of blue. Tall and built, he had a well-proportioned body with no excess meat or fat. Despite being a prince, for the sake of humanity’s peace, he became a Hero; a very compassionate and benevolent person.

In town, his “Hero Bromide” sales are #1 !

Every year, in “The Hero I Want to be Embraced By” ranking, he is #1!

But, to the me right now:

It. Doesn’t. Matter!!

filler

“Stupid——! Secure and assure my future lifestyle from now on——! How are you going to make up for all this!? Stupid——! You good-for-nothing! Your mother’s navel is pro-tru-ding——!” (***T-Note**)

With a severe look, I glared at the person in front of me and shouted.

While thinking that it was a very childish line too.

Translator’s Note: So, the heroine actually said a common elementary Japanese schoolchildren’s insult, I think. † ~~might be wrong but it’s definitely not a thing to say in polite company.~~ Saying someone’s mother’s navel (belly button) is protruding out means they have a belly button that points outward and is about as insulting as a “Your Mama” joke, I believe. So, I probably should’ve translated it as “Your mama is so ____ for having a good-for-nothing kid like you”, I guess?

Anyway, the main gist of that line is that she’s insulting him and his mom.

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Swamp 3

“.....the worst.”

The next morning, that was the first thing I said when I woke up on my own bed.

What is “the worst”, you ask?

The answer is obviously the fact that I was robbed of my daily enjoyment, my fishing location. If possible, I was hoping it would just be a dream but, now that I’m awake, I realized that it’s definitely not a dream. Even if the town is in a “Yay Hero” mood, personally, I’m in a “Damn you, Hero” mood.

Entering my kitchen, I filled a cup with water and drank it, sating my parched throat while taking a breath.

—I understand.

—Truthfully, I’m just taking out my anger on him.

That Hero Party, by chance, probably stopped by and was welcomed into this town and, after hearing the mayor and the townspeople’s troubles, offered to destroy the swamp out of the kindness of their heart or something like that. After all, it was treated as a creepy swamp from the very beginning. That’s why this is my completely misguided anger.

“Like I care that you go fishing in this kind of swamp!”

“If you have any complaints, go tell them to the mayor!”

Originally, it wouldn’t have been weird for the Hero to throw such lines at me but, instead, he did the mature thing and simply took my verbal abuse. Not just that, he also apologized to me from the depths of his heart. Based off of only that, Hero Rufus was, as expected, just what the rumors said he was: a gentleman.

But, for the me with a small heart, if possible, I really don’t want to meet him ever again.

And, just like that, I flew out of my house. My destination was the usual place. But, unlike always, I wasn’t carrying my fishing rod this time.

★☆

“...as I thought, it was no good...”

Unable to hide my disappointment, I got depressed. I was at the place where the swamp...used to be, in the inner parts of the forest. Currently, it’s a large hole.

I had held on to my optimistic hope that perhaps, after sleeping for one night, the swamp might revive. Hence, I came to check up on it but the world wasn’t that nice. The hole was wide open like there was never a swamp present there to begin with. While my heart was also feeling a sense of loss like a hole had opened up on it, I felt the sudden presence of a person sneak up from behind me. Upon turning around, I saw that it was Hero Rufus from

yesterday.

Wh-why?

While I was freaking out, the Hero approached me and made a relieved face.

“Thank goodness, we meet again.”

“Huh...? Haah...?”

Opposite the Hero that was getting closer step-by-step, I retreated back away from him.

“Afterwards, you ran away so...”

Hahahaha.

Now that I think about it, yesterday, I ran away as soon as I finished one-sidedly verbally abusing him. Not to mention, the last line I said was “Your mother’s navel is protruding”...what a childish exit line.

“I should’ve immediately chased after you but...due to the impact...”

Then, before me, the Hero knelt down on one leg and looked up at me from below. His fresh green eyes were sparkling. I got the feeling that his eyes were sparkling with the joy of living, the completely opposite of this dark forest.

“You said it yesterday, didn’t you? ‘Secure and assure my future lifestyle from now on—!’ After that, I seriously thought over about it.”

Please forget that! That was my completely misguided anger. It’s not anything a SS-rank hero like yourself should seriously think over about! Forget it immediately and hurry on over to the next town please!

“I’ll take responsibility and assure your future lifestyle. I promise you a life with no inconveniences. That’s why...”

I stood there, bewildered, as he took my right hand. At the same time as he grasped onto my hand, he:

“From now on, please scold...no, I mean, torture my incompetent self!”

Wha!?

...What the heck—!?

Even if you say that with such sparkly eyes and feverish tone, it’s still scary! I can’t comprehend—!

“...Gross!”

Creeped out, I couldn’t help but blurt out my true feelings. Due to the suddenness, I didn’t have the time to be more tactful. Oh no, by the time I realized it, it was already too late.

...hence, I’m not complimenting you! No matter how you look at it, that wasn’t a compliment just now! That’s why, can you stop blushing and happily averting your gaze from me while smiling and fidgeting?

“Also...how did you know?”

“Kn-know what?”

“The fact that my mother, Queen Gran, has a protruding belly button.”

“.....”

No, well, it's actually a cliché line said by kids in fights that has been used from a long long time ago. So, I didn't know at all that it was actually true.

Somehow, I really don't know what to do with this hero that keeps on looking up at me with that revering gaze.

“...By the way, I also have a protruding belly button.”

“Like I care!”

“... I felt destined to be with you when you saw through my everything at first sight...”

Completely opposite from my troubled self, the Hero was calm while directing his burning gaze at me. His gaze was so hot that I almost started to worry if he had a fever and that the said fever had reached his brain, making flowers bloom in there. While thinking that, the Hero dropped a kiss onto my captured right hand.

“My princess...” he quietly murmured.

GYAAA! Who's this princess!?! (***T-Note**)

Without thinking, I stomped on the Hero's sparkling face.

Ah.

Oh no.

Due to my sudden impulse, I stomped on his face but, although this hero looks like this, he does have enough power to annihilate a large swamp in an instant. If the Hero was serious enough, he could probably, in an instant, turn someone like me into dust, rubble, and ash.

Feeling a certain danger to my person, I slowly~ moved my foot off him.

On his face, my footprint remained. With watery eyes and a smile, for some reason, the Hero seemed happy.

Rather than being SS-rank, isn't this hero actually M-rank?

No! Such a rank doesn't exist!

But, it's right before my eyes right now. What do I do with this?

Translator's Note: The heroine uses Kansai-ben here, more specifically, Osaka-ben. I don't know if anyone has heard Kansai-ben before but it's super adorable! Anyway, before I get off-track, the Japanese have this habit of using Kansai-ben to show a character's surprise or shock for humor. So, she's essentially doing a super exaggerated reaction. Kind of like a prim and proper gentleman/lady speaking in gangsta speak, I guess? (~~Sorry, that was the only comparison I could think up of off the top of my head.~~) I couldn't bring Osaka-ben into English so I translated it into normal English.

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Swamp 4

I couldn't help but retreat in terror.

"Well...it's that...in other words..."

A rough hand forcefully patted my shoulder.

When did they come!? Black Magician! Don't scare me all of a sudden!

"He's...Up until now, he's had a sheltered upbringing. He's always been praised and thanked by people but, because of his superficial talent, no one's ever really one-sidedly scolded him. Instead, all the girls that approached him were all the same type. Being lionized and praised extravagantly is normal to him. In the middle of all that, being one-sidedly scolded by a girl for the first time probably felt fresh to him. As a result, he awakened, I suppose~"

Looking at the Magician who had an alluring smile on like he was amused, I wanted to ask him what exactly was so amusing.

"Wha... What did he awaken to...?"

Although I asked, I was scared to hear the answer.

"Hmm? For example, the enjoyment of being denounced or the pleasure of receiving verbal abuse, I guess..."

Who needs that——! That kind of Super-M skill. I think it's necessary for heroes to have a lot of skills but is it just me that feels that there's absolutely no need to acquire that kind of skill?

I want to punch myself for doing something like waking up the sleeping lion. I want to go back to that day. "There are certain skills and people that are better off left asleep." is what I realized but, by then, it was too late.

"S-so, what should I do?"

"Give up."

"Huh?"

Was I hearing things?

"That happy face of his. It's the first time I've seen him so happy, even for me who has been with him for so long.... To be more precise, he's been happy since yesterday. I've never seen it until now. Isn't this perhaps...his 'first love'?"

"Th-then, how about letting him experience firsthand the saying, 'First loves don't come true'?"

The Magician laughed.

"That's impossible. Up until now, he's killed every single monster he's targeted. Even the [Gigantes](#) that resides in the Northern Monster Den and the dragon that resides in the Southern Fire Mountains were killed by him."

Stop it! Don't group me together with monsters like a dragon or Gigantes. Although I was mistaken for a swamp girl, I'm just a normal weak human female—!

“Also, hasn’t it been said before...?”

Laughing down at me, the Magician ran his hand through his hair.

“‘Love is a monster’, or so.”

“.....”

U—S—E—L—E—S—S——!

This guy is useless——!

Personally, I was hoping that since they are in the same party, he would stop the hero but I don’t need such cheesy and old lines like “I’ve just decided...”!

I turned around.

The Hero, with his eyes sparkling at me, stared at me with an expectant gaze. For a moment, I thought I saw two dog ears pop up among his golden hair but it was probably just my imagination. Without thinking, I was struck with the impulse to tie a rope around his neck, hook said rope to a tree, and run away; but I held it back. I retreated back, step-by-step, one step at a time.

I thought about it for a while but there’s nothing left for me to say.

It’s already good-bye.

Good-bye, swamp.

Good-bye, fishing place.

Good-bye, my hobby.

Good-bye, hero-that’s-actually-a-pervert.

“.....good-bye.”

Staying any longer was useless so I ran away with full speed. Seeing the Hero run after me to stop me, without thinking, I:

“Don’t follow me! Pervert!”

I threw out some verbal abuse but all it did was make the Hero blush and happy.

“You’re going to call me with such a wonderful name, I see.”

silent wind blows

Oh nah. Over, it’s over. This hero’s over.

Afterwards.

The Hero Party departed...well, it was supposed to have departed but, before anyone realized, the party often stopped by this town. Isn’t that weird? “For the sake of world peace, do your job!” is what I cursed...no, I mean lectured but he only blushed and continued to use this town as his travel checkpoint.

And, for some reason, this town became known as the “Hero’s Hideout”, getting more tourists. The swamp site became known as the “Lover’s Swamp” and more couples started to visit it. At some point, a jinx went around that if you kneel down before a girl and took an oath of love at the swamp site, you’ll be happily married. As a result, the swamp became a tourist spot and the quiet town grew louder and busier. My new job is being the tour guide. I’m busy working everyday.

Later on, I found out it was Hero Rufus himself that spread that suspicious jinx. After finding out that he was the one that was telling everyone that “My princess and I bonded with each other there”, I throughly bashed him as a punishment.

Even as I was beating him up:

“Someday, let’s build a house near the swamp and live there.”

Towards the Rufus that made that statement with his head up in the clouds:

“I refuse.”

Was the 1-hit KO-ing ex-swamp girl.

filler

fin

Gigantes: Either the author made a typo here or she named a monster after an arcade game. Officially, it’s “Gigandes” which is a horizontal-scrolling shooter arcade game. Gigantes, on the other hand, is the name used in Greek mythology for the giant race.

***silent wind blows*:** The author used a sound effect like *dong* but I feel that the silent wind works better. For those that don’t know, a silent wind in Japanese humor indicates the cold silence that follows a bad joke. Because the joke is so bad, no one laughs and it’s so quiet that people can hear the wind blowing.

Thanks for reading and, if you have a [小説家になろう](#) account, please go to the actual web novel’s page and give the author some review points!

If you don’t know what I mean, it is usually at the bottom of the last chapter and looks like this:

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評価や感想は作者の原動力となります。
読了後の評価にご協力をお願いします。 ⇒[評価システムについて](#)

文法・文章評価

1pt 2pt 3pt 4pt 5pt

物語(ストーリー)評価

1pt 2pt 3pt 4pt 5pt

※評価するにはログインしてください。