

Pseudo Resident's Illegal Stay in Another World

Chapter 61: Beware of the Deer (3)

☪ Beware of the Deer (3) ☪

They had irregular branch-like antlers.

Plop— Plop— Plop—

Seeing these animals rushing toward me with their antlers pointed in my direction gave me goosebumps. If I got hit by any of these antlers, I just might get some glorious holes all over my body.

“Damn it, come one by one, you fuckers!!”

It was a critical situation.

Although I was holding a sword, my brain was full of hesitation about whether this thin thing would work against these deer's muscular muscles and their huge and sharp antlers.

“Long live the Sun!”

『Insufficient task points.』

“This fucking hell— Damn it!!”

Crash— Crash—

In the end, the deer horde struck my body using their crazy momentum, and the impact from the crash— a crash so strong that I was loudly breaking all the branches in my way, made me dizzy.

I thought it was going to be the end for me...that I would die after having a hole drilled into my body, but fortunately, my crocodile leather jacket was much thicker and tougher than I first thought.

Despite the antlers not penetrating my body, it was still hurting as if they actually did and I couldn't help but let out a few screams of pain.

“It hurts so much! Y-you, antler motherfuckers!”

Crash— Crash—

Fortunately for me, the deer got their antlers tangled with each other after rushing towards me and struggled to move for a while.

This situation reminded me of an old fairy tale where a boasting deer tangled his antlers with a tree branch and ended up being stuck. I, however, couldn't find it in myself to laugh at such a situation when it was causing me to be trapped too.

"Luna, save me!"

I hollered while trapped inside the prison of antlers. I was crouching on the floor, too afraid of the idea that I was about to be crushed to death by these deer's front paws.

At that time, Luna, who was watching the situation from the tree, took something out of her raincoat and threw it toward the ground.

"Hassan! Cover your nose!"

It was a bamboo-textured wooden water bottle.

The bottle spun in the air and soon dropped near me, where the deer were huddled together. The liquid inside was sprinkled all over the head of these fucking animals.

"What the hell is this smell?!"

I thought I had become resistant to mild smells thanks to the environment I grew up in. But this liquid smelled so terrible that I wasn't even able to think straight while my nose felt numb.

I couldn't stand the pungent and spicy smell of this abominable liquid, my nose feeling like it was burning.

Tears overflowed, and my nose became runny, it reminded me of CBR training.

"It's so pungent!"

"Nose! I told you to cover your nose! Anyway, it's Habanero pepper oil that the deer hate! Hang in there and everything will be fine!"

I didn't know what that Habanero pepper oil or whatever was but it smelled so pungent that tears were leaking out of my eyes like a broken dam.

Therefore, these fucking deer also couldn't withstand this pungent wild scent and started to plunge their heads into the ground.

Seeing these motherfuckers suffer more than I did, I suddenly felt a little energized.

“Fuck! Serves you right, you motherfuckers! I have already said I’d kill the first one coming at me, didn’t I?!”

I thought I shouldn’t miss this chance. I tried to swing my sword at the necks of these fucking deer, who fell on the ground and floundered about. That was the moment when—

“H-Hassan, don’t! Don’t kill it!”

My hand stopped in mid-air at Luna’s voice.

“Why? What do you mean I shouldn’t kill it?”

“T-The deer in this forest are sacrificial offerings to the goddess Diana...! I don’t know what punishment you’ll get if you kill them carelessly!”

Due to my nose and mouth still tingling from the abhorrent smell, I was not in the right mind to understand what a sacrificial offering meant or what it even was in the first place.

However, one thing that I was sure of was that these deer belonged to someone and should not be killed without their permission.

Damn, these motherfuckers struck me hard enough to send me flying, but I wasn’t even able to kill them? Even the rules in Yu-Gi-Oh were slightly more lenient than the laws of this damned world.

“Shit, so I just don’t have to kill them, right? Come here, motherfuckers!”

So I put my sword back into the sheath and clenched my fists. In the next moment, I swung my fist as hard as possible to hit the head of the first fucking deer who stampeded my body with its antler.

Whack—!

Kurrrr— Purrr— Sob—

The one that I hit with my fists floundered miserably and let out a pitiful sound.

Motherfucker, you had struck me so hard before with those pointy antlers, and now you’re acting weak? Of course, I wasn’t soft-hearted enough to be fooled by this cowardly trick. I was the cold-blooded Samaritan, after all.

Therefore I used both of my fists to hit the head of the deer floundering on the ground.

Plop— Plop— Plop—

I heard the sound of hooves kicking on the ground from somewhere, and in the next moment, my body started levitating in the air.

“Ackkkk!”

Just when the landscape in front of my eyes changed instantly, the grip of gravity soon caught me again, and I plunged to the ground like a meteor.

Thus my waist and back hit the ground so hard that I could only make a painful groan without even being able to scream out loud.

“A—ugh—”

I thought these fucking deer were all incapacitated by that habe-whatever chili oil. I held back the feeling of pain and opened my eyes to see what was happening.

My eyes were drawn to a deer whose pale amber-colored fur shone with dazzling brilliance.

Its antlers were also soaring high in the air, and its magnificent appearance made it evident that this motherfucker was the boss of these deer.

Then I heard Luna’s voice coming from the tree.

“H-Hassan! That’s the one! That is the deer who ran away with my money bag!”

“Huh? Damn it, so that’s the punk, huh? All right, I will make sure to catch him!”

So I endured the pain that was wracking all over my body and got up from the floor. The deer was looking down at me with a very arrogant and aloof gaze.

Somehow I felt disregarded and mocked by that haughty gaze, making me inwardly boil with rage. I couldn’t believe that a mere animal dared to look down on me.

“Meteor Swarm!”

I pretended to grovel on the ground for some time as I secretly clenched my fists to grab some stones, pebbles, and sand from the forest ground. I, then threw the rubble at that fucking deer, catching him off guard.

This move couldn’t be called cowardly as using your surrounding environment and the tools at your disposal to achieve your goals was the result of the accumulation of centuries of human wisdom.

Purrrrk— Purrrk—

At the same time, when that fucking thief of a deer was flinching due to my surprise attack...

Step— Step—

Not losing this chance, I kicked the ground and jumped high in the air. Then, I grabbed its nape, held it in between my arms, and began strangling it with all my might. I planned to suffocate this beast until it lost consciousness and then bring it to the guards!

Tightened—

I mustered all the strength in my body to strangle this motherfucker.

However, as a dastardly deer who acted like the leader in the wild and extorted money and valuables from people, its strength wasn't on an ordinary level at all. It started jumping around wildly while I was still hanging and holding onto its neck.

Purrrrk— Purrrrk—!

Bang— Bang—!

This fucking deer smashed my body against trees and rocks in an attempt to make me lose my hold around its neck and drop from its body. Damn it, how could a mere deer have such a level of wisdom?

I felt like I was going to let go of my hand at any moment because the pain started throbbing violently in my waist, back, shoulders and arms, but I was never going to give up. Instead, I even tightened my arms around its body to cement my hold.

“Keuuuhhh, Keuuuu!”

I winced in pain due to clenching my teeth hard for a long time. Forget about getting into the mythical gold rank, if I lose to this mere animal, I might never be able to escape from the bronze rank's harsh circumstances.

“Go dieeee!!”

S-, st-, s-, stop...!

“What the hell!”

I was surprised by the deer suddenly talking to me. When I lost my grip due to the shock, the deer came out of my restraint and staggered for a few steps. But it soon turned around and started to run away.

Although I was dumbfounded for a moment, I immediately rode its back, thinking that I couldn't let it run away at all costs.

Purrrrk—

The fucking deer eventually fell on the ground due to my heavy weight when I held on to its torso. That was how the deer and I showed off our on-field skills and struggled with our arms and legs tangled together.

Perhaps because this fucking deer was kicking all over my body with its four legs, I was in great pain to the point that even tears started leaking out of my eyes.

“Damn it! You have four legs, you fucking coward! Let's fight fair and square with two legs only!”

Just as I tried to grab one of its legs to impede its movements.

Ding—

[Stats] Name: Actaeon

Level: ?? → 16

Conditions: Diana's Curse》 Immature Shed-Antlers》 Tough Hooves

I creased my forehead when seeing the words that floated into my mind.

“Actaeon?”

Halt—

The deer suddenly stopped moving at once. In the next moment, it got up from the ground, trembling on the spot, and began walking away with a hobbling gait.

“Hey you, this motherfucker, where are you trying to run away? Fight me!”

Hearing my loud yell, that deer looked back at me and then hobbled again into the grass.

What the heck was this? Did it want me to follow it?

I was in a dilemma as I looked at the tree where Luna was still hanging and the surrounding forest a few more times. However, I couldn't let the deer run away like this, so I had no choice but to follow it.

“Luna! Wait there for a second!”

“H-Hassan!”

The deer kept hobbling deep into the forest. However, there was no sign of it running away, and occasionally it would stop and check on me to see if I was following it. It seemed like the deer was leading me somewhere.

Of course, since this animal was so clever that it could extort money and valuable things from people, I chose not to let my guard down as it might lure me into some kind of trap.

It was a deer with extremely high-level intelligence. It was definitely not your average run-of-the-mill deer.

After walking for a long time, the deer stopped in front of some kind of rocky cave. It squeezed its body into the cave, and once inside, it made a few loud noises...

“Are you asking me to follow you inside?”

Purrrrk—

Never in my life did I ever think I'd be able to talk to a deer. This world is such a fucking crazy place...

I thought... I wouldn't be attacked by its fellow deer, who was waiting for me inside, as soon as I entered this cave, right?

Fortunately, the rocky cave was so cramped and narrow that there was no room for any other of its freaking accomplices to hide.

That aside, what the heck was this place?

As my eyes got used to the dim light source, I saw all sorts of the clutter piled up on the floor and in the corner.

There were several types of things, from broken bowls to old armor, rusty weapons, and even pieces of cloth of unknown origin.

It literally looked like how it would be if wild animals collected and gathered human objects.

“This motherfucker, so you are a repeat offender, huh... These things are certainly not gathered after doing it once or twice only!!”

Purrrrk— Purrrrk—

Then that deer started rubbing its own antlers on the cave wall while snorting.

I wondered whether it was that animal's peculiar mental illness relapsing at this moment or it was just scratching the wall because its antlers were itchy. But soon, I could see some words written on the cave wall.

I'm. Actaeon. Kairos'. human. disciple.

What the heck? Who wrote these letters?

Sensing my doubt, the deer continued pointing at the words with its antlers. So, I couldn't help but ask...

"Human? You're a human?"

Purrrrk—

That deer slightly moved its hooves. No matter how I looked at it, it was clearly a deer, but it claimed to be human. Was it perhaps an identity disorder?

No, maybe there was an extensive range of definitions of human beings in this world. If we only look at the outer appearance, we even consider those bastards that behave like beasts as also humans.

It looked like a deer, but if it had a high level of intelligence and was competent, wouldn't it be more like a human than your average human would? I didn't know what the fuck I was thinking about, but I was way too out of my mind at this moment to care.

"Do you mean you understand me? If you understand, hit your hoof against the wall."

Bruk—

Damn, God, that was amazing. How could an animal understand people? Although I have seen all kinds of bizarre events, I have never experienced something like this before.

Therefore, I imagined putting this motherfucker on a leash and selling him on the market. How much would this guy sell for? Could I get at least one gold coin from selling it?

Purrrrk— Purrrrk—

Then, as if that deer wanted to convey something to me. It soon began writing something on the cave ground with its hoof. It was very crooked and hard to read, but I could somehow read it.

“I have been cursed... This der appearance... Der?”

That deer quickly added another letter with its front hoof.

“Oh, the deer appearance. Are you saying that you became a deer because you were cursed?”

Nod— Nod—

“Damn, this world is really too strange.”

The deer wrote some words on the floor again.

“If I help you lift the curse, you’ll give something in return? There is something among what a pure virgin possesses that can help you lift the curse?”

Nod— Nod—

It seemed that it was really not your typical deer. It was hard to believe that a deer was able to write and hold a conversation with me.

Did he really become an animal after getting cursed? This kind of bizarre thing also existed in this world? A curse was really something scary, after all.

Anyway, I could see why this deer took Luna or Renee’s stuff and ran away last time. So, to lift the curse, he needed a pure maiden’s belonging. But Luna was no longer a virgin...

The deer was writing several words on the ground with its hoof while I was immersed in such thoughts.

The. Only person. Who. Can. See. Through. My. Thoughts. Was. Only. My colleague, Lapu. If. You. Can. Help me. Lift the curse. I swear. By the River Styx. That I will. Give you something in return.

Chapter 62: Hassan— Masseur of The Wild (1)

☞ **Hassan — Masseur of The Wild (1)** ☞ ‘Could also mean Illegal. Both kind of work here, ‘Wild’ to refer to the fact that he’s a Samaritan or ‘Illegal’ for the illegal massages he’s giving. After deliberation, we went with the ‘Wild’ meaning.

I organized the story I heard from the deer in my head.

This person was severely punished for some reason, and the punishment was a curse that turned him into a deer. Somehow, it seemed that he needed to collect some maidens' belongings to break the curse.

And then, he gave me an offer that...If I helped him to lift the curse, he would give me something in return.

The maidens' belongings, attacking and defending, hardship, fraud...

"You want me to join your swindler squad?"

Nod— Nod—

Holy shit, no matter what, if I got involved in such a fraudulent activity, my life would practically end before I knew it. Not only must I kiss the dream of becoming a Gold-tier hero goodbye, but I might also become every woman's number one enemy.

Still, I had a hunch I could solve this situation if it was really a curse that caused this. I've already solved many curses before, including my slave imprint and Luna's assortment of curses.

The problem was that...the one I needed to help was a fucking animal.

Wait, when I brought Nemea's white cat back, didn't the giant cat spit out the heartworm that it was suffering from after I had attacked the red spots on its body? That probably meant that my methods would also work on this animal.

"How about this, I won't join your swindler squad, but I'll try to lift your curse."

Then, I grabbed the deer's front paw again.

[Stats] Name: Actaeon

Level: ?? → 16

Conditions: Diana's Curse》 Immature Shed-Antlers》 Tough Hooves

There were some words describing antlers shedding and hooves, but that weren't the things that mattered for now. The most problematic of them all was probably the condition that caused this abnormal state, Diana's Curse.

Where did I hear about Diana's name again? Seeing as how she used an awful curse to turn someone into a deer, she mustn't be that good of a person.

Slide—

When I turned my sight to the deer's body, I saw red spots spread all over the dazzling pale amber-colored fur. Most of them were concentrated in the animal's body— I wasn't sure whether to call it the spinal bones or the back.

If it were my father, he would be able to recite the name of all acupuncture points of this fucking beast. Such a feat didn't sound all that appealing to me so I didn't study much about animals.

But at this point, I could only bitterly regret that I didn't. Damn, how would I have known at that time that I'd be massaging a deer's back?

"Sit still."

I went behind the deer's back and touched the line of its spine. Its structure and form differed from humans, but trusting my ability and simply applying pressure on the red spots always proved to work so far.

Press—

Purrrrk!

The deer was struggling while looking like it was in a great amount of pain. My brain was whirling for a moment while thinking about what the hell I was doing, but I tried to force my mind into focusing on the task at hand.

However, the red spots disappeared quickly after being pressed, so I minimized the amount of time I was pressing each spot and just quickly put pressure on it like pressing a button.

"Then let's get this over with quickly."

Whoo—

After a short deep breath.

Tatatatatata—

I swiftly pressed the deer's body with my thumb like a master of martial arts.

Pr— Prrrt— Prrrt—!

I hit the deer's body like a drum, and it made a strange noise every time I hit one of the red spots.

But anyhow, I was in the zone and was completely focused on pressing every dot on the animal's body!

Ding—

『Diana's Curse has been healed.』 『Task points +10』 『Current task points: 77』

Indeed, my task points increased simultaneously as the notification saying that the curse had been lifted showed up in my mind. So, I looked at the fucking deer, wondering what was going to happen now.

Clatter— Clatter—

Then the body of Actaeon, the deer, started to twist around, followed by a horrible and vivid sound of popping joints.

Clatter— Clatter— Crushed—

The front legs were twisted in an impossible direction. The head couldn't spin 180 degrees, so it shook back and forth wildly as if he was having a seizure. It was like a scene from a horror movie, so I didn't want to keep staring at him anymore.

What the fuck did I just touch? Did I press the wrong place without realizing it?

While I was very concerned about what I had done...

The deer's outer appearance was gradually expanding as if it were swelling into the air, and soon its skin started flapping as if it was being peeled off.

A fair-skinned male soon appeared from under the loose skin.

"M-My body has returned. I've become a real human being again!"

Actaeon raised himself from his sitting position and exclaimed loudly. Having become a human being again, he actually turned into quite the handsome guy with amber-colored hair reminiscent of the deer's fur.

But he was completely fucking unclothed right now, so I felt like shit when I was looking at him. Frankly, I don't want to describe the naked man's appearance.

Actaeon patted his arms, legs, and body with his palms with an astonished expression donned on his face, as if he couldn't believe his transformation, and then held my shoulder tightly.

"Samaritan! You saved my life! Oh, my god, I can't believe this! You have lifted Diana's Curse! I-I thought my life was over! These days, I've been losing more and more of my ability to think as a human!"

Then he crashed into my body and even hugged me tightly.

Men were allowed to touch other men up to the shoulders only, so this clearly had crossed the line and I felt incredibly terrible about this situation. But he was so strong that I couldn't stop him from hugging me.

In particular, this bastard's deer-like antlers, growing on his head, kept getting on my nerves. I thought he hadn't become entirely human yet.

But I didn't say anything about that since he didn't seem bothered by it.

"L-Let go of me!"

"Wow, you have an amazing skill! How were you even able to lift that terrible curse?! None of Kairos' disciples had the ability to do so! You are indeed my hero!"

No matter what, that man looked utterly delighted.

He looked like someone who had just gained a new life. The doubts and hostility that had been brimming in his eyes previously had completely disappeared, so I felt relieved.

"Damn, how the fuck did you become a deer?"

"It was because I committed a taboo. But I can't tell you any more about it. Anyway, I'm very grateful to you. Are you an adventurer from the Mars Guild? What's your name?"

Grip—

His grip on my shoulder was so tight and firm that I thought my shoulder was about to be pulled out.

Not only that, this completely stripped man's strength was so strong that wherever he pressed, it felt like he was about to pull out that part entirely. This man was indeed not an ordinary person.

"I-I'm Hassan of Samaria."

"I see. Hassan of Samaria. I am Actaeon, a disciple of Kairos and a member of the Argus Expedition. I am a Gold-tier adventurer of the Minerva Guild."

Gold-tier?

The word "Gold-tier" made my eyes gleam immediately. I didn't expect to see a Gold-rank adventurer right before me like this.

But, damn, the sight of this flamboyant idiot being happy all stripped down and everything made me a little uncomfortable. I should've just let him be a deer. A deer who could speak the human language would have sold for a lot.

“Anyway, I won't forget this favor. This is all I can give you right now.”

This man showed me the junk piled up in his cave.

However, those were really just useless junk, so miscellaneous stores and antique shops wouldn't even accept most of the stuff from this pile.

“I don't really want those things. Just give me back the money you took from Luna yesterday.”

“Luna? That pink-haired Kore? Uh, well, that money has probably already been used up by my partner, Lapu. It required quite a lot of money to find a way to lift the curse, you see...”

“Shit, then you better just follow me to the guards obediently and surrender yourself.”

* * * * *

“Oh, my god, you are Actaeon, aren't you? I heard that you have gone missing. There were a lot of people who thought you were dead! But why are you all stripped like this? What's with the horns on your head?”

The guards were so surprised to see me showing up while dragging a naked Actaeon with me that they started shouting in disbelief.

Actaeon was a Gold-rank adventurer who was famous to the extent that there was no one in Sodomora who didn't know about him, and he was pretty talented too.

That missing person suddenly appeared and was caught by me, so for one reason or another, I was able to understand the reactions of the people who were surprised.

“It's a bit long to explain. Anyways, I'm sorry. Lapu and I will pay for our sins. Please, don't ask for further details.”

“Uhm, Ackkk”

Lapu, the swindler, responded with a swollen face. That punk was beaten so severely by Renee that the idiom – bruised and battered – wasn't enough to describe his current situation.

“I unintentionally got a share of your reward, Samaritan.”

The reward for capturing the deer swindler squad was 50 silvers. But, twenty-five silvers went to Renee. It was such an unfortunate situation, but Renee was the one who had caught Lapu, the swindler. So, the administrative procedures dictated that she'd get half the share of the bounty.

Still, the money I received was a tremendous sum. Because of this, my pocket, which now held about 47 silvers, had become so thick that it felt heavy, even with my enhanced strength.

Of course, if the pocket felt even heavier, obviously with money, then I would have felt much much better.

Anyway, there was no use in staying here any longer as I had finished all the work the guards assigned to me. So I was about to leave when Actaeon called me again from behind.

"Hassan of Samaria, I owe you a favor that I will never forget until the day I die. Please, take this."

I wondered just what this punk had given me now. But it just turned out to be deerskin with abundant and lustrous fur. This deerskin was larger than any other ordinary deerskin I had witnessed. It was drooping and long, almost as long as a carpet.

Actaeon added a few words to his previous speech as I took the gift with an indifferent expression.

"If Lord Kairos was alive, I would have written you a letter of recommendation. It's so unfortunate, but I believe that I'll see you again."

After that, Luna and I exited the guard's station with the deerskin in hand. Of course, the place we were walking toward was the cabin situated on the land that Luna bought for three golds.

When we opened the lock and walked into the place, there was no furniture or wallpaper to be seen, so what registered in my eyes was the scene of a very desolate and gloomy space.

I spread a thin layer of straw on the cold floor and laid down the deerskin, I had just received, on top of it. Therefore this unsophisticated space finally got a touch of warmth added to it.

"It's warm! It's very soft! With this, I don't need to put anything else on the floor!"

While sprawling out on top of it, Luna opened her mouth wide in absolute delight. She must have liked it quite a lot because she was laughing so loud that all of her pristine white teeth were visible for me to witness.

Of course, I also felt satisfied that there was something to put on the floor. The floor must be warm and soft, that way this gloomy place would finally feel like a place for humans to live in.

“You should take off your shoes before getting on top of it.”

“Is that so?”

Thus, Luna untied the string of her tightly wrapped sandals and put them in a corner of the cabin.

Crunch— Crunch—

“It feels so nice!”

When I looked at how she stepped on the deerskin carpet with her cute bare feet, my schlong started to grow hard on its own. Luna’s bare skin was too stimulating a sight for me right now, so it was an unavoidable occurrence.

However, I looked around to calm myself down. Besides the huge deer carpet on the floor, the rest of this place was still in a disastrous condition.

“This place will be more acceptable once the ceiling and walls are repaired. I’ll help you this time around.”

“R-Really? You will help me out? I’m so sorry but...”

Luna couldn’t speak up looking as though she felt really bad for making me work...

Suddenly, I remembered something. Then, I took the money bag out of my pocket and grabbed 13 silver coins from within. Taking the coins out, I promptly put them in Luna’s hand.

“The amount of money you lost is 5 silvers, and 30% of the reward is 8 silvers, so these 13 silvers are now yours.”

“13 silvers? Y-you’re giving me this much..?”

“It will cost a lot of money to fix this place. Try not to get scammed again at least. Please ask me to go with you when you need to buy things for yourself.”

I wasn’t sure just what kind of scam she would become a victim of the next time around, so I thought I would be more relieved if I were by her side.

With that out of the way, we spent some idle time together, lying on the comfortable and fluffy deerskin while sharing the beef jerky that was presented to us by the guards.

When it was almost time for us to sleep, Luna suddenly spoke up while looking a bit hesitant.

“Hassan, um... I have a favor to ask of you...”

“Favor?”

As surprising as it may seem, Luna had a great sense of independence. Although she had relied on me a lot throughout our time together, she also had a certain obsession with doing things on her own. That’s why it was very difficult for her to ask for my help.

Therefore, I was positively surprised when Luna asked me for a favor despite her usual reluctance.

“What is it?”

“Uh, it’s— well, my legs are aching a bit. So, I was wondering if you could massage...”

“You want me to massage your legs, right?”

“...”

Luna was blushing hard from shame, so she didn’t answer any further. It might have already consumed all of her mental capacity to endure the embarrassment of asking for a massage.

“All right, lie down on the carpet here.”

Sweep—

Luna turned her body, her back now facing the ceiling, and gently laid down on the carpet. The back of her knees and the bare soles of her feet were so fair and white that I thought their luster was enough to almost blind my eyes.

I never thought that I’d have a chance to touch that soft body again.

It was only a massage, not a medical practice, nor a lewd act. So, neither the vow of chastity nor the Asclepius act had any say in this situation.

I knew how to go about with this massage, But, I was feeling so nervous that my palms became wet with sweat. I rubbed the sweat off on the waist of my pants and said.

“Then I’ll start massaging your legs.”

So my hand found its way to the bottom of Luna’s tiny feet.

Flinch—

Due to the unfamiliar feeling, Luna's feet trembled for a moment, but she quickly got used to my touch and her legs slowly relaxed.

After I wrapped the tiny soles of Luna's feet in between my hands, I used both of my thumbs to push up the entire soles of her feet to stimulate them.

"Ugh... I-it hurts a little...."

"The soles of your feet are a little swollen, that's why."

Luna must have been tired after walking through the market and forest all day today. Therefore, I had to loosen the muscles on her legs so they wouldn't be swollen when she woke up tomorrow.

"Ack... Uh... It hurt at first. But, it feels better now, though, it still feels a little painful. Ah..."

"Right? That's how it should feel like."

Luna's warm soles were so soft and smooth. It would be good if I could just keep touching them like this forever.

Sniff— Sniff—

"D-Don't smell it...!"

"No, I'm just doing a health check. Your feet are very healthy."

Although the health check was obviously a big fat lie, there were actually precedences of some famous cult followers doing check-ups by tasting bodily fluids like sweat or smelling the body odor.

Anyway, to remind myself that this was a massage, I didn't forget to press the concave part of the soles of her feet and pull her toes out.

Press— Press—

When you are applying acupressure like this especially, you should persistently stimulate the middle part of the soles of the feet that I pressed last time. That part was called the Bubbling Well acupoint. For women, this part was the acupoint that was responsible for their functional aspects.

"Ugh..."

In short, it was a very stimulating place for women.

“Hhh... ack.... H-Hassan, I feel strange...!!”

Luna seemed to be enjoying my massage, so she made a sweet noise that sounded like it was melting in the dark. Soon Luna’s body started twitching as if she was going to have a spasm.

“S-Stop! Don’t...! S-stop, I-I have some business to do!!”

She then sneaked out of my grasp and then hurriedly left her seat. Was she in such an urgent need to go to the toilet?

I slightly blamed myself while wondering if I had made a mistake after getting a bit carried away by the mood.

A few minutes later, after returning to the cabin with her blushing cheeks, Luna spoke.

“Hassan, let me do it for you this time.”

“What? Massage me?”

52 Footnotes:

- 1Could also mean Illegal. Both kind of work here, ‘Wild’ to refer to the fact that he’s a Samaritan or ‘Illegal’ for the illegal massages he’s giving. After deliberation, we went with the ‘Wild’ meaning.

Chapter 63: Hassan— Masseur of The Wild (2)

☞ Hassan— Masseur of The Wild (2) ☜

“Are you going to give me a massage?”

“Yes. Lie down here, Hassan.”

While I’ve been massaging people for a while now, it has been really long since I’ve received one myself. Isn’t it the first time since coming to this world?

Because of that, I couldn’t hide my surprise at all.

“Come on, you also had a hard time while fighting the deer.”

I was practically forced to lie down on the deer skin at the urging of her shrill voice. I could feel the soft skin of a small palm resting on my back.

Press— Press—

Though, I was only feeling rather ticklish every time she was pressing on my body.

“How is it?”

How was it? I wasn't feeling much of anything, to be honest. Luna didn't seem to know the basics of massaging or even the concept of massaging itself. Moreover, her presses were rather weak, lacking any significant amount of force.

“Why don't you try pressing a little harder?”

“I'm already giving it my all. Isn't it because your clothes are getting in the way?”

Now that I think about it, the jacket I am wearing is rather thick. No wonder her touch was feeling rather weak. I was already very sturdy but with that extra thick layer of clothes added to the mix, Luna had no chance of applying any significant amount of pressure on my body.

Rustle— Rustle—

I stood up for a moment and took off my jacket. Now that this thick leather jacket was gone, even the feeble Luna should be able to massage me more easily.

“...Why are you taking off all your clothes all of a sudden?”

“It's gonna be more effective if you directly press on my bare skin.”

“Y-Your bare skin...? I've never touched a man's body before...”

I could hardly believe the fact that I was getting a massage from a woman who never touched the body of a man before. The realization made me feel a little strange.

“Well, then try to do your best.”

“Hmm, I'll try. Don't raise your hopes though...”

Luna then sighed, as if she was trying to pull herself together. She was making massaging me look like a pretty big deal. Soon, she reached out to my back with a confident expression on her face, though her trembling hands told me a different story.

Perhaps because she had just been outside, her palms were unexpectedly cool. Of course, that was for the best as it felt very good.

“Wow, your back is so wide, You have a lot of scars and wounds too. There are even some fresh bruises.”

My body trembled as her soft hands touched my back.

“Ah, dammit, you know that I’m bruised there, right? So, don’t press on that area.”

My whole body was covered in bruises after getting trampled under the deer’s hooves and hit by their antlers. While it would eventually get better after a few nights of sleep, right now, it was hurting like hell.

“Huuuh, uhh, s-so should I do this?”

Luna sat on my butt and began earnestly massaging my back with both of her hands. She seemed to be mimicking what I did to her earlier.

I wasn’t really feeling that great, to be honest. As I thought earlier, she’s too weak for this. This is going to strain her muscles eventually.

“Why don’t you stand up and step on my back?”

“Y-You want me to step on you?”

“Step on my back with your feet. That way you can apply more pressure. Press it well.”

“Won’t it be too heavy for you?”

Luna hesitated and was unsure about what to do. And just as I began thinking there was no helping it, she carefully stepped on my back with those small and cute soles of her feet and began pressing it hard with all her weight.

I could vividly feel the warmth and softness of her soles and protruding toes, but I still wasn’t feeling that great yet.

“Is it good like this, H-Hassan?”

“No, you need to put in a little more force. Come on, keep stepping on my body while putting in the whole weight of your body without holding anything back.”

“A little more?”

Press—

Luna then firmly stamped on my back. It felt a little bit better now that she was using her full body weight.

Crack—

“D-Did I break something?”

“No, it’s okay. That aside, you’re pretty good at this, Luna. I’m feeling kinda great right now. Good.”

“...Really?”

Perhaps because my praise motivated her, Luna pressed on my back with even more strength on her feet.

I could smell her menthe fragrance intensify as she stepped on me. Moreover, blood was rushing more and more to my lower body each time her soft feet touched my back. I couldn’t think straight at all.

How would her gentle and soft presses feel somewhere else? Should I turn around? Just as I was entertaining such nasty thoughts.

“Whoo, I’m tired. I don’t want to do this anymore. I didn’t think it was much, but it’s really hard.”

Luna’s sweaty body collapsed into a sitting posture on the carpet. Looking at her, it felt like she had just come out after doing a really physically straining job.

That’s how massages are in general. They don’t look much and don’t seem to necessitate a lot of effort, but, in actuality, they drain your body of all its energy.

Another way to put it is to say... It’s as if your energy was being drained by someone else.

Because I had a lot of experience in this line of work, I could now control my pace to some degree but it must have been very difficult for a beginner like Luna.

The main reason was that I had a rather fit, thick, and sturdy body, while Luna’s hands and feet were thin and weak. She definitely needed more exercise.

“I’m going to sleep now. Good night.”

Luna covered herself with the raincoat and fell asleep right after saying that. I’ve noticed for a while now, but it didn’t seem to take more than a minute for her to sleep after lying down.

If this wasn’t considered a talent, then what could? I looked at Luna’s sleeping face for a while then drifted to sleep myself.

We woke up the next day and wandered around the market in the south of the city after getting a quick breakfast. We had to buy nails, hammers, and some wooden boards for renovating the cabin.

“We need glue too, Hassan!”

I bought glue too at her reminder. While Luna just decided to buy it like that, she had already used up 10 of the 13 silvers she had received from me just yesterday.

It was really hard to make money, and the fact that we nearly spent it all in one day was enough to nearly drive me insane.

We returned to the cabin with a lot of luggage and promptly began fixing all the holes we could see using the nails and planks we had bought.

Tak— Tak— Tak— Tak—

Speaking of the repairs, we didn't actually do much, what we did looked very primitive like patchwork, but that was the only thing the skill-less Luna and me could do.

Despite that, we were somehow able to cover all the holes that we could find in the cabin after half a day of hard work.

“Now that we have covered these holes, the wind shouldn't leak inside anymore and our nights should be warmer as well. And thanks to the glue, not even rainwater will drizzle in. Cozy, isn't it?”

Luna looked outside the hut and commented with a satisfied tone.

Frankly speaking, I didn't like it, but in a situation where we were lacking in both budget and time, this was the best our efforts could make up for.

I could, however, still feel a sense of satisfaction at the assessment that the previously dilapidated shack was now in a state where it could at least serve the basic functions of a proper home.

“Oh, I need to feed Kongkong!”

Luna suddenly ran somewhere after seemingly coming to a realization.

She approached the small jar in a corner of the cabin, opened the lid, and inserted her hand inside.

Soon after that, Luna's hand came out with a rainbow-colored spider held in it.

Kong—! Kong—!

Damn, it's the spider from last time. How can she hold it with her bare hands? And what's her name again?

"Hey, how in the hell are you holding it with your hands?"

"Werewolf spiders are smart. They recognize whoever feeds them. Because of that, many people in my hometown used to raise them at home or in warehouses. They can also catch wandering mice on their own."

"Wouldn't it be better to just raise a cat in that case?"

"It's cute in a different way compared to a cat, so there's no problem."

Luna held the spider's front legs and oriented the scary-looking spider towards me.

Arrrghh— Kongkong—!

"I-I don't think this bastard likes me or does she?"

Its horrible appearance made my face twitch. How the fuck am I supposed to touch something like that? Its fangs were the size of literal thumbnails.

Well, since it could calmly be held in Luna's hand I could at least give it a try once, I guess.

And just when I reached out to it.

"Kong! Kong!"

"Ah, damn it! You scared the shit out of me!"

At the time, because of Luna's mischievous shout, I almost jumped a meter high into the air. It almost looked like I had pressed the spacebar as hard as I could, resulting in me making such a high jump!

"Puah, puahahahaha!"

The mischievous pink-haired girl started laughing so much that it looked like she was on the verge of choking...

"Fuck, why did you suddenly do that? It's not funny at all, dammit!"

"Phew, wait, you look so scared. So spiders are your weakness? Interesting. I think the deer was much scarier though."

Luna then put a piece of beef jerky inside the spider's mouth and put it back in the jar.

I couldn't relax for a while because of all the sounds the spider was making from inside the jar. Only after it calmed down did I feel relieved.

"Ha, so now that we have roughly repaired the cabin... What are we going to do next?"

"We need to get some furniture. It would be nice to have a chair or two, maybe even a cupboard. Hmm..."

Luna looked at the empty space around the cabin and thoughtfully hummed. In any case, decorating a house is much more expensive than one might ever expect.

Food, clothing, and shelter are three necessities of life. It takes a lot of effort to satisfy these three basic needs. One really has no time to be lazy.

"You've worked hard already, Hassan, so feel free to do whatever you want! I'll take care of the rest. I also need to carve some totems."

"Really?"

Looks like Luna needed some time for herself. I decided to head out to the guild building and see if there was anything I could do to earn some more money.

While I might have been pushing myself too hard these days, seeing my pockets getting heavier never failed to energize me for further work.

I have about 34 silvers now. Didn't Renee say yesterday that I needed 30 silvers for breastplate?

Getting a nice set of strong and cool-looking breastplates sounded like a great idea if I ever have a little extra to spare for an upgrade.

Spending money on buying armor for my wrists and shins already proved to be worth it, so, it was essential not to be too stingy when it came to my own equipment.

Not only did armor make one feel safe and confident it also rendered some bold maneuvers to be possible.

Of course, it would also make one more efficient in carrying out commissions or doing tasks killing monsters. More efficiency also meant more money and guild contributions...

"Ah, Mr. Hassan. You're coming here rather often these days."

"Miss Daphne. I was wondering if you had anything for me today?"

“You’re working very hard. Usually, people rest at least three or four days after finishing a quest though...”

Daphne’s words reminded me of the other adventurers. Lower-tier adventurers in the Iron and Bronze rank that I met were similar to day laborers.

Work if you have something to do, otherwise rest.

Of course, the fact that most adventurer jobs were dangerous and could quite easily lead to injuries— injuries which themselves would also lead to huge gaps between each quest had to also be taken into account.

In addition, many people spend all their hard-earned money on drinking and gambling, so only a few of them managed to develop a diligent work ethic.

“Hmm, I don’t have anything in particular for you right now. That aside, I heard that you met Actaeon yesterday. There’s an uproar, right now. You may be contacted by the Minerva Guild soon, Mr. Hassan.”

The mention of the Minerva Guild reminded me that there actually was another adventurer guild in this town.

According to what I heard, contrary to the Mars Guild where everything was handled wildly and roughly, the Minerva Guild had strict discipline and rules, like a military organization.

I also heard that people belonging to the Minerva Guild had a great sense of belonging. They were also rather prideful and good-looking. It sounded like a place full of Hermiones.¹ Harry Potter reference obviously. It was quite frankly the last place I’d want to get myself involved.

“Ah, Miss Hippolyte said that she reserved some time for you. She asked you to meet her in the training grounds.”

“Time for me? Should I go to the training ground right now?”

“Nope, tonight.”

“Tonight?”

That was quite an unexpected incident.

“Ah, I’ve been waiting for you, Samaritan.”

The owner of the inn welcomed us as we stopped there for dinner.

I wondered what he meant by that until I finally remembered that I had agreed to set some time aside to treat his wife's aching back.

Perhaps because I was busy, I completely forgot about this matter altogether.

"Do you have time after finishing your meal? One hour will be enough."

I looked towards Luna at the innkeeper's words. She simply shrugged her shoulders.

"I don't think I'm going to sleep much tonight since, as I said earlier, I still have some Moai totems to make. You can sleep in the inn today, Hassan. Now that we fixed all the holes in the cabin, it shouldn't be too cold to sleep there anymore."

And so Luna and I ate dinner at our own leisure.

After seeing Luna off and going back to the inn, the innkeeper closed in and whispered to my ears, seemingly being done with his preparations.

"You must keep this a secret from everyone else. It won't be good if people know that I let someone else touch my wife..."

"No need to worry about that."

I also had no issues with keeping our dealings a secret. It was better for me to quickly get this over with and quietly bury this matter rather than attracting unnecessary attention and noise.

And just like that, I followed the innkeeper into the basement of the inn. I could see barrels and bowls stocked along the way. While it was dark and stank of mold, it was still within the realm of being bearable.

"She's waiting in that room over there. She can't even get up these days so she only lies face down on the bed all day. She can't even climb the stairs so I prepared a special room for her in the basement."

The innkeeper stood in front of a room in the basement and knocked on it.

"It's me, honey. I brought the man I told you about. The one who rubbed my shoulders here and there. Can we come in?"

His tone changed a lot as he was speaking to his wife. So, despite having a thick beard and looking like a bandit, he was actually quite the devoted husband, huh?

I heard a soft voice reply back from the inside as I was immersed in my thoughts.

...

“Ah, she said we can go in. Let’s enter together then.”

Click— Creak—

The rough wooden door opened wide. Inside, I could see a rather cozy room, with several candles shining brightly all over. There was a bed with a blanket, a platform, and even a soft carpet on the floor.

Because it was an underground room, I expected it to be something more along the lines of a gloomy semi-basement. But what I was witnessing in front of me right now, was a carefully crafted room that seemed to be made for newlyweds.

But instead of the room, what flabbergasted me the most was the person lying on the bed.

“I-Is that your wife?”

“Yeah, isn’t she pretty?”

Could I really call her pretty? Because she was the wife of the innkeeper, I was expecting a simple plump aunt to appear before me.

However, the appearance of the innkeeper’s wife was so shocking to me that I was considering whether I should be calling the guards or not.

The blue-haired woman lying on the bed was similarly-built to Luna but her assets and proportions were completely different from the petite girl that Luna was.

The woman lying on the bed was completely flat as if she had just begun going through puberty. The quantity of baby fat on her face was telling me that she was still underage. Was she maybe in her teenage years?

“Damn it, innkeeper, no matter how lawless this world is, keeping an underage child in a basement as your wife is pushing it too far!”

“Ah? What are you talking about? My wife is going to be over thirty this year.”

“Don’t lie to me! There’s no way someone can age thrice as slowly as normal. This is evidently a kid. What’s your secret? No, forget about it, I’m just gonna call the guards!”

“No, no, listen to me. Looking young is one of the characteristics of the Nymphs. Echo, my wife, is a nymph!”

“Nymph?”

- 1Harry Potter reference obviously.

Chapter 64: Hassan – Masseur of The Wild (3)

☞ Hassan – Masseur of The Wild (3) ☞

Nymph? My ears pricked up at the mention of nymphs.

“Nymph?”

“Yes, a nymph! Nymphs usually mature slowly, so they look twice as young as other species! Take a closer look, she’s different from humans or dwarves.”

The innkeeper was shouting, seemingly trying to make me understand that he was truly innocent. I listened to the innkeeper and then took another look at the little girl lying on the bed.

Her long blue hair was fluttering like the turbulent sea, and her exposed sharp ears were actually a little bit different from those of humans.

I felt goosebumps run through my whole body at the sight of her ears. Those pointy ears were trauma-inducing, as they reminded me of a person I never wished to meet again.

Naturally, they weren’t exactly the same. Elfriede’s ears were longer and pointier than hers. Now that I think about it, weren’t Daphne’s ears short and pointy too?

“She really isn’t human?”

“Yes. Well, I understand why you would have this misunderstanding. Since Ceres’ curse 30 years ago, most of the nymphs have been exterminated, their numbers dwindling, making an encounter with them a rather rare event. Because of that, not many know about the nymphs in this day and age.”

I could vaguely remember hearing about a fairy-like race that looked like elves existing in this world. They were probably nymphs. So, this was my first time seeing one of them for real.

“ ... ”

The innkeeper’s wife blushed and covered her head with the blanket as though she felt extremely embarrassed when I peered in. I think her name was Echo or something like that?

“Can’t your wife speak?”

“Like all nymphs, she’s naturally shy. They’re very different from the elves of foreign lands.”

While Elves and Nymphs had similar names, in reality, they looked completely different.

Elfriede’s body in my memories was tall and slender. I could only say that her body was very developed for a woman.

But, this woman, Echo, looked like a little girl no matter the angle I viewed her from. Her face was like that of a fairy— cute and pretty, moreover, she didn’t feel like an adult at all.

To use a comparison from back in my world, it was like elves were the exotic bullfrogs whereas nymphs were like the native tiny green frogs.

Thinking of nymphs as the native species that were helpless and couldn’t survive against the foreign species made me feel a little sorry for them.

“Please take good care of her, Mr. Samaritan. I can’t leave the inn for too long so I’ll leave now. I’ll come to check in from time to time, so tell me if you need anything.”

The innkeeper then walked away, leaving quite an awkward atmosphere in the basement I shared with this strange nymph.

“ ... ”

Moreover, befitting her alleged shy persona, Echo wasn’t saying anything at all, making me quite a bit embarrassed as well.

Well, I can’t just waste time like this. I was supposed to meet Hippolyte in the training grounds later tonight.

I could easily imagine what kind of misfortune would befall someone after refusing a call from a Silver-grade adventurer or even being late for it.

“Hmmm, uh, can I address you as Miss Echo? I heard your back was feeling a bit painful these days, right?”

“ ... ”

I sparked every ounce of motivation in my body and tried to initiate the conversation. The blue-eyed nymph, who was covering her knees and chest with her hands, trembled in response to my words.

Damn, of course, this would be nerve-wracking for her.

“Well, I don’t know if you heard from your husband or not, but I’m good at giving massages. I might even be able to heal your injured back. I, however, need to hold your hand first, so may I?”

“ ... ”

The nymph didn’t say anything and just blinked her eyes with her head just slightly peeking out of the blanket that was covering her whole body.

She didn’t affirm it, nor did she deny it. I’ll just interpret it as her giving consent then.

With such thoughts in mind, I slowly approached the bed, trying to look as harmless as possible. Closing in, I sat at the end of the quilt and faced her.

“I’ll start then, first things first, can you give me your wrist...?”

A thin wrist stuck out from under the blanket at my careful request. Her wrist was thin enough that I could wrap it with one of my hands and still have a lot of leeway left.

Letters floated into my mind with the usual Ding- noise as I touched her slender wrist.

[Stats] Name: Echo

Level: 4

Conditions: Curse of Slow Growth》 Chest Clumps》 Weak Lumbar Discs

It seems that she couldn’t move her back because she had ‘Weak Discs’. And what’s this ‘Curse of Slow Growth’ that she had? Was there such a curse in this world?

“Well, can you lay down straight here?”

“ ... ”

And yet another time, I had been left unanswered. Though this time, I did somehow receive some semblance of an answer at the sight of her body moving as though cooperating with my movements. She then slowly lay down on her stomach.

I then laid her slender body flat and checked if the length of her two legs was equal or not. Next, I checked the condition of her pelvis and shoulders, seeing if they were twisted or not.

The balance of her body wasn’t actually as bad as I had expected it to be. If it’s just this, traditional Korean medicine should be enough to cure her.

The biggest issue was her lumbar discs.

Healing a disc with surgery was nothing short of a miracle. And I had no clue how to achieve that with just a massage.

“Well, I’ll start by pressing around your waist soon. You’re going to need to take off your clothes, is that alright with you?”

“That... J-Just a little...”

Wow, she finally opened her mouth. Her voice was so quiet and soft that I had to fully concentrate to just pick up what she was saying. But I felt a lot better now that I got her direct permission instead of just settling on guesses and implications.

Swish—

Anyway, time to start the massage. I moved my hand toward the nymph’s waist.

Now that I think about it, the fact that she was wearing a one-piece dress meant that she had no choice but to roll up her skirt until her waist or pull down her top for me to massage there, right?

“I-I’m sorry, but I need you to roll off your skirt and pull down your top for me to massage your waist.”

Shiver—

The Nymph’s body trembled once again after hearing my words.

“I’ll have to start from the buttocks otherwise.”

“Ah...”

As if she had only realized what I meant now, the woman slowly began taking off her clothes.

Swish— Swoosh—

Just as I started seeing a little more of her body’s curves, she hastily took the blanket, hugged her chest, and covered her front. Then she laid down in front of me again with her back facing me.

The first thing I saw after observing her back were the red spots all over her thin back and waist, it was very similar to what I had seen with Luna.

What’s this spot again? Her renal arteries?

Renal arteries were located in the waist and were linked to one's kidneys. Massaging that spot is said to reduce the chronic pains around the waist region and rejuvenate the functions of one's kidneys.

When a person's back was in terrible condition, there was a great chance that the organs of their stomach were also in a precarious state and vice versa. So massaging around the area of the waist and the back was never a bad idea.

Even if it wasn't the crux of the problem, relieving the erector muscles near the area, which were probably often stiff or tense from her weak lumbar discs, will definitely help with fixing her condition.

"Whoo~"

I let out a short sigh and then reached out for the nymph's waist. I couldn't help but become nervous, despite how familiar this procedure was to me.

It was because applying the wrong massage to the lumbar discs would be really painful for the patient.

Moreover, unless you were an expert, interfering with it might just leave the patient in a worse state. Could I really trust my hands and that weird blessing of mine to heal her like this?

Fuck it, what's the big deal anyways?

"I'll gently start pressing then."

Pressss—

"Ugh..."

The small nymph groaned painfully and gripped the blanket tightly as though she was feeling excruciating pain.

Echo's waist was surprisingly lacking in muscles. The entirety of her waist was soft and smooth.

Those few muscles, however, were clearly very stiff and fatigued. She must have been feeling even more pain than normal, she was lacking the necessary power to lift her back.

"Ah.... Heuuu... Haa..."

Echo, the nymph, continued exhaling intermittent hot breaths while trembling erratically.

Of course, I had no time to dwell on such thoughts, I had to gather all my focus on my thumbs that were pressing on her waist.

Press— Preees— Pressss—

I had to find a balance in my pressing strength, as pressing too strongly would damage her nerves and muscles, while pressing too weakly would end up not doing much for her. Sweat began flowing from my forehead as I realized how hard this was to achieve.

“U-Ugh...!”

Kwaaaak—

I had been pressing on the woman’s waist for a while already.

Tear—

Suddenly, Echo tore off the bedsheets she had been holding onto with a tight grip, this was a testament to the extreme pain she must’ve been feeling at this moment. I began thinking that I just might’ve massaged the wrong spot and worry began to overtake my psyche when...

Ding—

『 **Echo’s Weak Lumbar Discs have been cured.**』

『 **Task Points +10**』

『 **Current Task Points: 87**』

I could finally let out a sigh of relief at the appearance of those familiar letters. That aside, damn it, I didn’t think I’d actually manage to do it.

Unlike things like curses and whatever, that felt unreal, I didn’t think I had it in me to cure such a realistic disease like this. My confidence in my abilities rose significantly with this monumental achievement.

Damn, wouldn’t I have been making loads of money had I still been in Korea with such an amazing ability?

Just as I was immersed in thoughts that contained a mix of pride and regret.

“Ha... Heuuu. M-Mr. Doctor...”

I was suddenly brought back to my senses by the call of the nymph, seemingly having trouble breathing properly. Was there any issue?

“What’s the matter? Anything wrong? And I’m not a doctor, by the way.”

“My... My chest feels very stuffy... What’s happening to me...?”

Her chest was stuffy? Just what kind of illness was that? And just as I began wondering what the cause for this was...

Grab—

I couldn’t believe what was happening in front of my eyes. Echo, the nymph, suddenly grabbed my hand and placed it on her chest.

Squish—

Her breasts were very soft and just small enough to fit in my palm. I then felt something slightly hard protruding above them directly in my palms and I was so surprised that I nearly let out a scream.

“Haa...”

“W-What’s this?”

This woman just made me touch her breast.

Damn, just what the hell is happening? Dazed by what suddenly transpired, I finally remembered that the renal blood vessels I massaged just now also had the effect of promoting the production of female hormones, along with an increase in sexual drive.

That was the only explanation I could find for why such a shy woman would do something like this.

“Haaaah...”

“Well, that’s... That’s a little...”

Preeesss—

I tried multiple times to remove my hand from her soft breasts, but Echo wouldn’t let go, tightly clenching it with her small palms.

Of course, It’s not like I hated this wonderful sensation and wanted to let go, but as a masseur, grabbing the chest of a child-like young woman was nothing short of suicidal. I would probably be sentenced to death at this rate.

But as if my hand had been glued to her chest, the soft sensation I was feeling right now, made me unable to move even an inch away.

Squish— Squish—

“Haa... Heuu...”

But after pressing a few times, I noticed that it wasn't feeling smooth at all. As if something was clumped together inside. It was as though small air pockets were embedded inside her soft and fragile skin.

Is this the chest lump from earlier?

Squish— Squish— Squish—

“Aaah, hang...”

I then shamelessly continued to rub the chest of someone else's wife in the newlywed room that he especially erected for her in his basement.

Weirdly, the more I rubbed her soft and small chest, the lumps I had felt earlier started to become smaller and smaller.

Squish— Squish—

After a session of intense rubbing and kneading with my hands, I was finally able to completely get rid of those nasty clumps.

“Heuu, ah, aaaah...!”

Echo, who lifted her body into a bridge posture, began shaking in that state and seemed like she didn't know what to do.

Ding—

『Echo's Curse of Slow Growth and Chest Clumps have been treated』

『Task Points +20』

『Current Task Points: 107』

My task points went over the 100 points mark after treating both her conditions. I did a great job. Wait a minute, did I?

“M-Mr. Doctor...”

Could I really call it doing a good job, when Echo, the nymph, was calling out to me in such a sticky and lustful voice while laying limp on the blanket like that?

“You... You have blessed hands... Did you receive a blessing?”

“That, I... I’m sorry it turned out this way.”

“...”

Echo then fell into silence once more after I replied to her query. Without saying a word, she slowly pulled up her one-piece dress again and hid her body under the blanket.

“... Then I’ll be going. Don’t lift heavy things from now on and don’t forget to exercise and develop your back muscles.”

The awkward silence being a little too heavy for me to bear, I got up from my seat and headed out to the entrance of the first floor of the inn.

“Are you done? So, how is it? Is she going to be okay?”

The innkeeper suddenly accosted me, but because of the guilt I was feeling after what I did with his wife, I couldn’t muster the courage to look him in the eyes.

“Probably... She shouldn’t be facing any more complications from now on.”

“What a relief! Hmm, why are you sweating so much?”

“Well, massages take a lot of effort...”

“Well, it wouldn’t be a secret technique if it wasn’t hard to perform. That being said, here’s the money I promised you.”

The innkeeper gave me a package with 5 silvers in it. It was equivalent to 500 coppers, or 100 bowls of rice, so more or less one month’s worth of food.

Touching a married woman’s breasts and then getting paid for it. I felt like I was some kind of distinguished guest for some reason.

“Next time, can you take a look at my bo—”

I left the innkeeper who seemed to be talking about something I didn’t care much about and went outside of the inn. Feeling the cold wind brushing against my hot face helped my emotions to subside a little.

“Wow...”

I thought again about what happened there and the wonderful sensation of kneading Echo’s pillowy soft breasts. Everything still felt like a vivid dream, even now.

Nymphs, while they looked skinny on the outside, they were actually quite soft and smooth to the touch.

How do women go on about their daily lives with such things attached to their bodies? I'd probably be too busy to do anything other than touch myself if I were to be a woman. Wait, did that mean that women rubbed their own chests every day or something?

"You're a little late. I've been waiting for a while already. Well, it wasn't really that long."

It was already late at night when I arrived at the training grounds and everyone else was already away. I could see a lightly-dressed Hippolyte waiting for me on a bench.

She was wearing a tank top and a short bottom that resembled your average gym pants, or hotpants to be specific. Her casual and skimpy attire beautifully showcased the wonderful and sexy curves she wielded.

Her smooth and shiny tan-colored skin, along with her slim abs and thighs, looked a little weird to me under the moonlight. Perhaps because she usually wore armor, the impression her casual clothes gave was very different from the norm.

She had no makeup on but her natural face was so well-groomed that such a tiny detail didn't matter at all.

Facing such a beautiful woman under the dim illumination of the gentle moonlight made me a little fidgety.

"The reason you wanted to meet me at such a time is..."

"Hassan, I heard that you apparently have an interesting talent related to your hands."