

Pseudo Resident's Illegal Stay in Another World

Chapter 71: Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (1)

☞ Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (1) ☜

Clank— Clank—

I have had this thought for a while already, but the horse-drawn carriages in this world were too horrible to be classified as comfortable rides.

While it was referred to as a horse-drawn carriage, in reality, it was more like a wagon since it only had a luggage compartment.

A more accurate reason for this problem would have been that the road or street, in the first place, was bumpy and unorganized to the extreme.

Clank—

It felt really painful when my butt bumped into the hard wooden floor of the carriage every time the wheels went over a protruding stone while loudly creaking.

It seems like this world's aristocrats, and high-ranking adventurers bought their own private carriages and rode them around.

One day, I'd like to buy a carriage with good cushioning and ride it around too.

However, for the time being, I had no choice but to find a comfortable posture by tossing and turning in various ways to get used to this unpleasant ride.

If I moved for about half a day like this, I would arrive at the lumber yard. It was located in the west of Sodomora city.

“So how many lives have you killed till now, Pointy Ears?”

Everyone was arranging their equipment without uttering anything. Renee, the bronze-tier female warrior, who was diligently wiping the oil off her sword, opened her mouth to speak first.

The bald elf, who was muttering a prayer by himself, promptly replied to her question.

“This monk shan't kill anyone. The nature of the unknown world isn't about stealing or taking away, but coexisting with each other.”

“Elves really do spout some nonsensical stuff, don’t they? It doesn’t make sense to believe that a big tree is a god, in the first place. A God must be strong and cool. For example our Lord Mars.”

“There are many different forms of faith.”

“Alright, let’s say that you really don’t kill any living beings. . Then do you not even eat meat?”

“I don’t eat meat. Eating is done for the sake of filling one’s stomach, after all.”

Khalidur, the bald elf, was a little eccentric as it seemed. In this world where there was no other delicious food than grilled meat, what would you eat if you didn’t even eat that?

Were there some differences even between the elves? In Elfriede’s case, she wouldn’t even bother at all if there was no meat on the menu.

Immersed in the story, Luna opened her mouth after a long time and spoke.

“If you don’t eat meat, then do you only eat grass?”

“That’s right. We mostly only eat vegetables and fruits. That’s enough for us, Alfheim elves. How sad it is...tormenting another life just to fill your stomach?”

Was he something like this world’s version of vegans? Not very surprising, as not eating meat was one of the fundamental doctrines that would come up when discussing religious matters.

Basically, it had the same context as forbidding the act of killing. But I couldn’t believe that there was a religion that would forbid killing in this barbaric world. It was a little bit unexpected.

In Mars, the guild where I belonged to, “kill a lot and fight a lot” was our sole motto. How could there be a nonviolent religion? There was a huge difference between him and Elfriede, who was also an elf.

At that time, Luna spoke up once more.

“But grass and trees can also feel pain. Yet, you are allowed to eat them?”

Clank— Clank—

After Luna threw that question, silence momentarily filled the carriage. Laughter immediately broke from the bald Khalidur’s lips as he revealed his white teeth through his brown beard.

“Haha, this sister from this land said something incredibly funny. It’s the first time I’ve heard that grass and trees can feel pain.”

After saying that, he burst into laughter once again as if he had just heard a hilarious story. At the same time, Renee was also showing an expression that made it seem like Luna was blabbering nonsense.

I used to go through the internet to read the news, and I remembered seeing an article talking about this story. I couldn’t remember the exact words of the article clearly, but it more or less said that a particular experiment had shown that plants also feel fear and pain.

In a way, Luna’s opinion held a pioneering insight that was about hundreds to a thousand years ahead of her time.

“I-It’s true. Even grass and trees can feel pain...!” “

“Quiet! Let’s stop talking about what we eat. When we are at the lumber yard, you better not cause any disturbances because a warrior of Mars will slash down anything in their path.”

After saying that, Renee slid her sword back into the sheath. The carriage was again filled with an awkward air of silence, with only the rattling sound of the carriage that could be heard every now and then.

I asked Luna, who was looking at the clouds in the sky.

“What should I do at the lumber yard?”

Luna had more experience as an adventurer than I did. Therefore, although she looked like she knew nothing, she had knowledge in some areas that I did not.

“At the lumber yard? There are all kinds of jobs we can do there. We can cut down the trees, pull weeds, and can also drive away demons and beasts that appear nearby. Honestly, I’m also not really sure about what to do. This is my first time going there in person because it is a job that only a bronze-tier adventurer can do.”

Could I safely say that we would all be doing the miscellaneous work in a place with many trees? For more accurate information related to what the job might entail, I would have to reach the place and see for myself.

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The lumber yard was precisely like what I had imagined it to be. A long line of large trees dominated the forest, and stumps littered the ground. Depending on one’s mindset

this could ever be seen as a friendly scene of lumberjacks doing their work or as a terrifying place filled with people who were holding frightening weapons.

However, if there was something that went beyond my imagination, then it would be the size of the trees.

Damn it, the trees here were at least about some tens of meters tall. The thickness of the trunk was also so great that it even far exceeded the size of Luna's cabin.

In fact, there was a gap between the trees. That gap seemed to be a resting place and office for the lumberjacks. I couldn't believe this. How could a house be built inside the tree itself? Therefore, the scene made me frown.

However, when I went inside, I felt like I was inside a house that had come out of a fairy tale with all the adorable furniture, the candlestick on the wall, and the tablecloth.

The problem was that everything in this place was too small, so someone with a big figure like me had to bend down to fit inside. Of course, the reason for the small size was because of a certain person.

"Oh, you're here. I sent a request to the guild and eagerly awaited for the adventurers to come!"

Joseph, the owner of the lumber yard, was a man who was uncommonly much shorter than even Luna. He came from a race of dwarfs that were usually chunky and very muscular, so they looked like pebbles.

Although I had already encountered this race several times before, a person of this race was always intriguing to me, no matter how often I saw them. How could a race like theirs exist?

Then Joseph shouted angrily out of nowhere, causing his coolly braided red beard to flutter.

"Some motherfuckers are destroying my lumber yard! Please do something about it!"

Our party was utterly dumbfounded at Joseph's sudden outburst, filled with vigor, What on earth was making this man so angry?

Then Renee, the party leader, calmly opened her mouth and spoke.

"Calm down. What's the actual problem here?"

"There's a very serious problem here! Those demon-like bastards are gnawing on my livelihood! Those bastards are Pluto's henchmen, I tell you. The true motherfuckers from hell!"

A moment of silence fell on the lumber yard at the word of Pluto's henchmen. Everyone narrowed their brows with a serious look, and so did I. I folded my arms and took a serious stance, mirroring the others.

"Are there any Pluto's ruins near this place? If it's something like malignant beasts or spirits coming out from that place, I'm afraid that it is not something we can solve."

In contrast to her confident statement, Renee's facial expression didn't really match her voice.

However, her words were very reasonable, and most of the work related to Pluto's ruins was a heavy task that needed the exclusive participation of silver-tier adventurers to solve.

In other words, it had nothing to do with someone who had just become a bronze-tier adventurer like Luna and me.

"There are no such things as ruins here. It's just a tree. But it is a terrible tree!"

Joseph, the lumber yard owner, said that in a way as if he was trying to scare the shit out of us. Fuck, I came here thinking that I would just need to cut down a few trees and pull out some weeds. However, the situation turned out to be more serious than I had ever imagined it to be.

Luna threw a question at Joseph while I was feeling a little nervous from the sudden seriousness of the situation.

"What do you mean, how could a tree be terrible? Did the tree get sick or something?"

"You can say it's something similar to that. However, please listen carefully—"

Crack— Clack— Clack—

When Joseph tried to explain something, a loud sound came from outside the tree house as if something was breaking and falling in the distance.

"T-These motherfuckers! How dare you have the galls to show up here!"

Joseph, the lumberjack, ran outside, brimming with deep and ravenous anger. He was clutching the axe that was previously placed on the wall.

At the sudden appearance of an unknown commotion, I, Luna, and all the party members had no choice but to follow him outside.

T-reeee— Tree—

Triiii—

Following Joseph, as I went outside, the things that I saw first were trees moving around the lumber yard. The trees were as big as me, and they were moving on their own, dragging their roots on the ground!

Fuck, did it make sense for trees to be alive and moving like this? I didn't believe that I was hallucinating. This seemed to be real.

"I'll turn you all into a table, you punks!"

Joseph swiftly landed an axe the size of his body on the moving trees.

Crash— Crash—

Treeee—!

Then, from the tree, amber-colored sap began dripping out as though the tree was spouting blood. The tree then fell to the ground, making a loud noise.

"What are you guys doing? Hurry up! Cut it down! Don't let these motherfuckers take root on this land! These guys will suck up all the nutrients from the soil!"

Unsheath— Unsheath—

At the urgent voice of Joseph — the lumberjack — Renee and I immediately pulled out our swords. However, while I was still seriously considering whether I could cut down these trees with this damn sword, Renee charged in with her sword held high.

"Araright!"

Then, her sword pierced into the thick pillar of the strangely wriggling tree.

Thrust—

Eeeee—!

The moving tree screamed as the blade made a slashing sound while deeply piercing the tree's body. Damn it, I couldn't believe that a tree could scream like that, and although it felt strange to describe a tree screaming, it was something that truly happened in front of me.

"W-Why isn't my blade coming out? What should I do?"

However, Renee, who had driven the blade inside the tree, became flustered when her blade pierced deeper than she thought and wasn't budging from its place. So, she started grunting while trying to pull the blade out of the tree trunk with all her might.

Treughh !

Just then, the distressed tree, spouting sap from its wound, moved its branch and smacked Renee's cheek with all its might.

"Ukh—!"

Screaming in anguish, Renee then fell far away, due to the force of the blow she received. Then the way she was wriggling, twitching, and trembling on the ground seemed quite pathetic.

Eeee—

Reeee—

Crack— Crack— Clack—

However, the problem right now wasn't the fallen Renee. Perhaps because of the sudden attack, the trees became angry and began to surround us all at once.

Crackle— Crackle—

Facing the living forest's siege, I felt like my whole body had become drained of all its colors.

Moreover, those motherfuckers only spewed fluid from the area Renee slashed with her sword, but they did not seem to have sustained any serious injuries.

"Hey, Luna, can we really do nothing about them?"

"Stompers can be easily knocked down when we set them on fire. Their sap burns easily!"

Stompers? Did she mean it was what those tree monsters were called? Was setting this forest on fire really a good idea? Yes, indeed, there was nothing that could beat trees better than fire.

In fact, there was no exaggeration to say that most of the problems in this world could be solved by setting them on fire.

“No fire is allowed! Do you want to see all the trees in the lumber yard also get burnt? If I could solve this situation by doing something simple as that, I would have already had them decimated long ago!”

However, Joseph, the lumberjack, firmly forbade us to use fire to solve this situation. It must be because he would rather die than have the trees in his lumber yard — which was his livelihood — get caught up in a fire.

Holy shit, what the hell was I supposed to do now?

Just like that, Luna and I could only shiver in fear as the trees narrowed the distance. Why didn't the bald elf, who had been watching this situation for a long time, come forward yet?

“Following the teachings of the great tree of the world, the monks of Alfheim always treat nature as their friends. Stompers are also a part of nature. I'll come forward and try to solve this—”

Slide—

The roots and branches of the stompers suddenly wrapped around the bald elf's ankle before he even could finish talking.

The bald elf's body floated in the air like a rabbit caught in a trap. Twigs and roots began to infiltrate his clothes and wrap around his body!

“Please let me go, my friends!”

“L-Let me go! What the hell is this? Huh, where are they coming from? Argh!”

Other than that baldy, Renee was also lying on the floor in the same state. Small roots were penetrating through the joints of her armor.

I was worried that Luna and I might also fall victim to the stompers' terrible tentacle attacks if we stayed like this. Therefore I swung my double swords wanting to at least do something to solve this situation rather than stay still and die without even putting out a fight.

Whoosh— Bam— Bam—!

My double swords soon pierced the huge wooden pillars of the stompers, and, as expected, they didn't budge at all. Damn it! It was too much, wanting to cut a tree was still too much, it seems!

Gasp—

Still, when I mustered out all my strength, I somehow succeeded in pulling out my swords. And then, the stompers started spouting sap-like blood and faltered back.

If I did it well, is it possible to deal with them one at a time? With that thought in mind, I swung my sword again.

Tung!

Unlike before, when I swung my swords strongly, they would quickly bounce off without being stuck in the wooden pillar.

I wondered what was going on, but then I found out that the sap stuck to the swords was spreading along the edge and coating the blades, ruining the sharpness of the blade.

Sticky— Sticky—

Damn it, it was impossible to cut these trees down. What was I supposed to do now?

“There, big guy! Use this!”

At that time, something flew in front of me, followed by a swooshing sound, hitting the tree trunk. Due to the shock, the stomper, which was attempting to attack me, fell to the ground.

I wondered what it was. Looking at it, it turned out to be a giant axe. In fact, it was more appropriate to call it a huge lump of iron or a Battle Axe rather than an axe to cut down trees.

“Fucking hell!”

However, I didn’t have much choice in this situation I got myself tangled up in, so I grabbed the thick handle, pulled the axe out of the wooden body of the tree, and hit the stomper’s body with all my might.

Pull— Crash—!

Then, along with a deafening noise, that stomper’s thick body split vertically in two...

Chapter 72: Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (2)

☞ Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (2) ☜

Crack—

Witnessing how the stomper's body had been severed into two equal pieces like that left me stunned. Did I just cut this damn monster in a single slash?

Even though my strength had already increased by two points, I didn't think it would be significant enough to pull off such a feat.

Treeugh...!

"H-Hassaaaaan—!"

Turning my head to the scream that came from behind, I saw that one of the trees had caught Luna's ankle, and she was now hanging upside down with her pink hair trembling violently in the air.

What actually happened was that two Stompers were now holding each of Luna's arms and legs and pulling them apart as if they were trying to split her into two.

"Y-You motherfuckers!"

At this rate, Luna might get split into Lu and Na, like in the fabled judgment of Solomon.

In an instant, anger reached the top of my head, so I swung the axe sideways and tore apart that disgusting wooden demon's body at once.

Crash— Crash—

Even though I was the one who was doing this, it still felt incredible and shocking to see how those thick pillars were smashed into pieces as if they were only sorghum straws. Damn it, I have become so fucking strong!

I, in fact, had my very own axe-wielding techniques.

Wielding an axe was a skill I had mastered long ago. It was because since I was a child, I grew up following my extremist father to cut weeds, I was also in charge of mowing the land when I served in the military, and then I also had to split the firewood for Elfriede's bath when I was a slave under her.

Whoopsh—!

Crash—

Every time I swung the giant axe in the air, twigs and chips were scattered in all directions. Then, I eventually got Luna released from the grasp of those stompers. She then collapsed to the ground and rolled around.

"Hey, are you okay?"

"I-I thought they were going to rip me apart! But, you're so amazing, Hassan! You could cut the stompers down in one go! How did you do that?"

"I'm not so sure either!"

Nonetheless, after saving Luna, what was left was to save Renee and that bald elf, Khalidur.

A loud cracking sound followed the giant axe when I swung it at the stomper that was restraining the bald elf. I managed to split the tree vertically right along its wood grain in just a single swing.

"T-Thank you for saving me!"

In the meantime, the bald fellow, who had become skinny enough to look like a scrawny ascetic monk, tidied up his clothes and clenched his fists.

"Take the wrath of Alfheim, you tree-shaped demons!"

Whoosh— BAM—!

Then the bald elf threw his fist at the wooden pillar. However, the punch did not affect the wooden pillar at all. With that, Khalidur was, once again, held captive by those strange roots and branches.

"S-Save me! I have no energy left because these trees have absorbed my body of all its mana."

Fucking bastard, it was absolutely pointless to save him!

So I turned my back on the bald elf and decided to save Renee instead. Renee had already been attacked by all kinds of roots and had become a miserable wreck at this point.

"Ack, ugh, n-not there—!" yelled Renee out loud.

...I thought we could wait a little longer and see what she would do in this sort of situation.

"Hassan, what are you doing?! You should hurry up and save her!"

I was jolted back to reality when Luna's voice came from behind me. So I drew a deep breath before swinging the axe.

Reeeee—

Treeetttt—

All the tree monsters, including the stomper that was wrapping around Renee, stopped moving and began to creep back somewhere else.

I became alert due to the sudden change in the situation.

Sweep—

Joseph, the lumberjack, who appeared with another axe, stood next to me and explained the sudden turn of events to me.

“It’s those punks’ queen’s calling. Those damn stompers dedicate all the nutrients they’ve absorbed from the ground to their queen. Whoo, anyway, you managed to block them once. They will probably calm down for about a half day.”

“Let’s go back to the office. I’ll give you the details about the request when we reach there,” muttered Joseph, who turned around and went back into the tree house.

Luna and I picked up Renee and the bald elf lying sprawled on the ground. Then we followed Joseph inside the house.

* * * * *

“Drink it up. It’s a sequoia sap. Although it has a lower sugar content than honey, it has a refreshing aftertaste. So it’s better to moisten your throat. It is also effective for recovering the energy you have lost to the Stompers.”

The lumberjack brought wooden glasses out of somewhere. It was enough for all of us to get a glass each. The amber-colored liquid overflowing inside the glass smelled sweet, almost like sugar water.

Slurp—

It tasted really clean and sweet when I tried it.

If I must make a comparison, should I say that it felt like maple syrup mixed in water? It tasted a little different from the sap taste I had in mind, but it was somehow worth drinking.

As I said before, sweet taste was quite a luxury in this world.

“It’s delicious.”

Luna also licked around her lips to express the delicious taste of the drink, and then she took a small scroll and a quill pen from a hanging pouch around her waist. She scrawled "Sequoia sap" on the scroll with her crooked handwriting.

"What are you writing?"

"I think it'll be good as an elixir ingredient."

Ah, she had her own way of studying. She was far more studious than I gave her credit for.

Joseph opened his mouth to speak again when he recovered his energy after drinking some sap from the wooden glass and eating some tasteless biscuits.

"As you've just experienced in person, these stompers have caused great damage to this lumber yard. The trees that are intact are suffering because those moving rootling bastards steal all the nutrients from my lumber yard without permission!"

Upon hearing the dwarf's explanation, Renee, still with dull sunken eyes, asked a question.

"I heard that stompers are gentle creatures. Why did these punks start attacking people and absorbing their nutrients? I almost died!"

"Originally, stompers from this lumber yard have lived along with us, the lumberjacks, for decades. They would give us wood while we gave their useless lives meaning by ending their lives and procuring their wood."

Fuck, how did they think that was mutual cooperation? Didn't they just exploit these stompers' lives and wood?

I didn't know what these damn stompers looked like originally when they were gentle, but it would not be strange for them to become aggressive, after decades of exploitation like that.

After that, Joseph continued to speak.

"But one day, they changed. Let alone sucking up all the earth's nutrients like the evil spirits who were hungry for nutriment; they also tried to absorb more energy by attacking people and animals. That's all because of their queen."

Joseph was trembling in anger while clenching his thick fist. Luna asked him a question right then.

"Queen? It's the first time I've heard that stompers have a queen. I know bees and ants have it but do stompers have a queen too?"

“Of course, there is no queen among stompers. Queen is just a name we, the lumberjacks, have given her. However, deep inside this woodland, there’s a terrible sorceress who’s driving these stompers into a rampage. Please catch that bitch.”

When I heard that there was a sorceress, I immediately imagined those peculiar bastards in black robes back in the Acheron swamp. Fuck, if they show up again, could we solve this problem on our own without someone like Hippolyte?

“Talking about sorceresses, wouldn’t this queen be part of Pluto’s Cultists?”

Renee swiftly pulled her sword out of the sheath. Her eyes were fixed on the blade, which reflected the gleam in her eyes, for a long time. Her gaze was complicated as if she was thinking of many problematic things.

“It was impossible to cut down stompers with a sword. Yet, you also don’t allow us to set it on fire. There is nothing we can do here.”

“Oh, about that problem, we have specially custom-made axes. They are axes that are made only for cutting down trees.”

Then Joseph pointed his finger to the corner of the room.

Various axes were neatly stored on the stands there. Among them was the Battle Axe, which I had swung around previously.

Sweep—

Renee got up and grabbed a small hand axe from the storage box. Then she frowned while looking at it for a long time.

“There is a real incantation on it. It must be expensive.”

“It can’t cut anything else other than trees, but that’s why it’s a great weapon to use against a tree monster.”

“Hmm, this axe is used just to cut down the trees—”

Renee soon slid the sharp axe blade into her palm.

Contrary to the expectation that blood would spill out, the axe blade only left a little mark on Renee’s hand, and not even a small wound could be seen.

“It seems like this axe really can only cut down trees.”

“Isn’t that how incantations work? They put restrictions on a thing, and the thing will only work around the restriction. Those axes are the most excellent blade in the world to cut down trees, but other than that, they are no different from blunt sticks.”

Now I could understand why the battle axe could split those stompers like that. It was partly because my strength had increased, paired with the fact that the axe worked perfectly for that action.

While I was trying to accept the reasoning behind what I had done alone, the bald elf spoke up.

“Are you saying that due to that incantation, this brother from the wilderness was able to cut down the stompers in a single blow?”

“No, the incantation doesn’t work like that. My battle axe didn’t have an incantation. Man, that was the most exhilarating axing I’ve seen in recent years. You’ve cut down some trees in your time, haven’t you? You’re a natural lumberjack.”

Rene snorted as if surprised by Joseph’s logic once again.

“There is nothing in the wilderness of Samaria, right? There is no tree over there. So, is there anything he could cut down over there? This skill is probably from the experience of cutting down a lot of human bodies.”

“That makes sense. Anyway, I’m glad that I can trust this skillful Samaritan brother over here. No matter what happens, please beat the queen to death.”

* * * * *

We began to move after getting tipped off by Joseph about where the hideout location of the Queen of the Stompers, the sorceress, was.

This woodland was large enough to cover half of the forest, so could we even reach the hideout by walking through the trees for more than half a day?

If no other problem arises on the road, we probably won’t need to camp out tonight. Not that it was something we had to worry about since I had prepared and brought everything we needed for camping.

“Holy shh! It’s Hyacinth flower!”

Luna then dashed somewhere and got some dirt on her hands. When I saw what she was doing, it turned out that she was carefully digging out the roots of some white-colored wildflowers.

“What are you doing?”

"I'm collecting medicinal herbs. Wow, there are a lot of mushrooms in the tree. They all cannot be found around Sodomora! I think it is possible to get 10 coopers per root!"

This woodland felt like a treasure trove for Luna.

Khalidur, the bald monk, muttered a few words while looking at Luna, who was busy digging mushrooms and wildflowers spread over the forest.

"It seems that you were just recently promoted to the bronze tier. When this monk still wore the iron necklace, this monk also made money by digging for grass and medicinal herbs. This is making this monk want to immerse into those memories again for the first time in a long while."

Then he also began to put the mushrooms into his pocket.

The look in his eyes immediately changed after hearing the word 10 coopers per root. It turned out this religious man was also full of greed.

Whether it was the iron-tier or bronze-tier adventurers, they all seemed to make money by digging for medicinal herbs as a side job. This fact had always stayed the same, regardless of time.

"Hmph, medicinal herbs. I'm fine with all these, but don't hold me back too much."

Looking down on the worth of medicinal herbs and mushrooms, Renee was just watching us with her arms crossed as if she was looking at something pathetic. Just then, the bushes shook.

"Damn it! There is a rabbit! It can be our dinner menu!"

Renee screamed and disappeared deep into the grass thicket, abandoning her cool and calm attitude. What the hell? I didn't expect this damn party to disperse like this.

I wondered if it was okay to do this. However, I couldn't ask since no one was in the mood to talk. So I just kept digging mushrooms and stuffing them into my pockets. Because of this, I could smell the scent of mushrooms coming off all over my body.

Since it was 10 coopers per root, I already earned about two silvers with this many mushrooms in my pocket.

I lifted my head and looked around, wondering what the other party members were doing when my pockets were so full.

Soon I could see Luna digging under the tree's roots with her hands like a dog.

Dig— Swipe— Dig— Swipe— Dig— Swipe—

“Hey, what are you doing?”

“I think there’s something here.”

“What’s there?”

“Look at the tree roots here, they’re slightly shaded in color. It’s also moist around here. When you dig in a place like this, sometimes you’ll get precious ingredients.” “

Luna’s appearance reminded me of my father, who would always do shading things like this on private property. He always used to tell me, there are many bees in the sunny mountain and snakes in the deep gloomy mountains.

“Alas, there is nothing here.”

Not long after that, Luna stood up while dusting her hands off as if she had lost interest.

“What were you trying to find?”

“Wildling. They’re worth about 30 silvers per head. They’re also used as potion ingredients, so it’s lucrative to even find just one.”

I didn’t know what this wildling was, but my eyes almost popped out of my eye sockets when I heard that this thing was 30 silver per head. I couldn’t believe that there was a beast worth 30 silvers each in this world. Was that something like the fabled white snake that fed on wild ginseng or something?

“They’re something that lived inside the forest. I think it’s around here—.”

Luna peaked at the tree’s base with a sharp gaze as if she was a detective chasing after a criminal.

“Is it supposed to be here?”

Swipe— Swipeeee— Swipe— Swipe—!

Luna and I dug around the tree’s base for some time afterward, but eventually, we couldn’t find the fabled beast worth 30 silvers.

As we walked through the forest doing this and that, the sun had already set, and darkness plunged into the woodland. Due to the dense trees, no moonlight could come through the forest. Therefore, the evening must have come earlier than general.

“Hassan, this must be an abandoned shelter! We can set up a tent here!”

While we were doing some work for the camp tonight on an empty lot of stumps among the trees, Renee finally showed up again while holding a rabbit.

“Boil some water!”

Thus, for dinner, we had a rabbit stew.

The herbs and mushrooms that had just been dug up were boiled in sap water.

Bubbling— Bubbling—

I put many things inside the pot and boiled them along with rabbit meat. The smell the stew was giving off was quite appetizing.

I distributed it to each bowl and only remembered afterward that there was a vegan among us. But it was already too late.

“Sorry, I completely forgot about you and only now remembered. Didn’t you say you don’t eat animals? Do you want me to take out the meat from the soup?”

“Put it underneath properly. It’s already dead. It is no longer an animal. So it doesn’t matter if I eat it or not.”

Damn it, you fucking fake.

Well, indeed, how could someone live without eating meat for a lifetime? It was a nonsensical story, to begin with.

We thus cooked such a simple stew dish and ate it.

It was super delicious, almost like ginseng chicken soup with a slightly spicy taste, because we sprinkled a little bit of habanero pepper oil that we used to chase away the deer last time.

“Brother from the Barbarian Lands, your cooking skills are better than I thought. Samaritans often said that the men from their homeland do housework too. It seems to be true.”

This baldy bastard talked to me after clearing all of his dishes. I had sensed it from the first time I met him, but he was a really creepy, and scary guy because he could show up behind someone’s back without anyone knowing.

“W-What, is there a problem?”

“I’m just asking because I’m curious. Have you ever met another elf beside me?”

“Another Elf—?”

Elfriede’s face flashed across my mind at that moment.

“It’s because you act like you know elves’ preference well. Didn’t you take this out when you put a lot of ingredients into the stew?”

This baldy pushed something towards me. I wondered what it was and ended up taking it out from the pot after noticing that it was ragrant glass.

I didn’t know the name of that herb, but because it smelled like shampoo, Elfriede, who has a picky appetite, didn’t really like that kind of spice. So I avoided cooking using it.

I took it out because Khalidur was also an elf. So, I subconsciously thought this baldy would have the same preferences as her, but I didn’t realize that he observing me.

“Why do you ask that?”

“This monk came from Alfheim to this Gaia continent in search of a fugitive. They had committed such a terrible sin. If you ever meet this elf later, please let this monk know.”

“What does this elf look like?”

“Oh, they can be easily distinguished from a distance. This elf is cursed from birth and deprived of their color. They have an overall pristine white body and only their eyes are of a shiny red hue.”

It looked like this fugitive elf was an albino. But anyone could tell that the one Khalidur was chasing after was Elfriede. I didn’t realize Elfriede was a criminal on the run from her hometown.

Well, she didn’t talk much about her hometown anyways, and at first thought, I had already expected there would be a reason for her to work as an adventurer in this distant place.

“But you must be careful because they are so beautiful that they can easily mislead people. Roses protect their beautiful petals with thorns, right? This sinner is someone like that, someone who cultivates their beauty in order to hide their thorns.”

“May I ask what crime they did?”

Khalidur, the bald fake monk, stopped talking as if he was pondering my question for a moment. His light brown eyes were wearing quite fierce glint, now that I have seen them.

“They set the World Tree on fire.”

Chapter 73: Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (3)

☞ Lumberjacks in the Lumber Yard (3) ☜

The World Tree.

To qualify as the world tree, a tree must have high enough branches, enough to even touch the skies.

I'd also heard a few times about the World Tree in Alfheim, the homeland of the elves.

The tree's branches really soared high into the sky, and the roots extended deep into the ground, going so far as to reach the underworld.

In the old days of Korea, the biggest and oldest tree in the village was usually called the Dangsan tree and would be worshiped as the village guardian.

So I was, to a certain degree, able to understand the desire to worship a giant tree.

Of course, in this braggart world where cats could turn into lions, the prestige of the tree must have been somewhat exaggerated.

However, it must be a giant and magnificent tree since it's called by the name of World Tree and is also worshipped by the race of elves. I wanted to witness with my own eyes just how majestic this tree was.

However, even the Dangsan tree had a certain superstition attached to it. It was said that something unlucky would happen if you picked its leaves or broke its branches recklessly.

Fuck, I couldn't believe this. She even dared to set fire to the great deity known as the World Tree? Elfriede was far crazier than I ever imagined her to be.

"I'm not really sure, but I heard rumors about a white-haired elf having been seen in another city, Kalkata."

I ended the conversation with the intent to hide my relationship with Elfriede as much as possible.

Why? Because it would probably lead to a situation where this bald elf would get interested in me and start asking many bothersome questions.

“Kalkata, I’ve heard of this city. It’s the city where the labyrinth of the underworld was first discovered, right? The city is famous for its entrance to hell... Indeed, there’s a chance that they are really roaming around there.”

The bald elf, Khalidur, murmured to himself as if he had been enlightened and came to a conclusion on his own.

I thought that was the end of this awkward conversation, but why was Khalidur still watching me while I was trying to finish organizing the dishes?

“What else do you want from me?”

“This is just this monk’s personal curiosity. Do you mind if I touch that necklace of yours?”

Sometimes I could feel Khalidur staring at me with a piercing gaze. So I had already guessed that he was interested in my necklace, Pluto’s Eye.

In fact, the medal-sized, pointy-sea-urchin-shaped necklace attracted people’s attention in many ways.

Should I say that the synergy was doubled because my physique and appearance stood out like a sore thumb and I was also wearing this strange necklace on top of that?

Still, since this was an epic relic that could be sold at a fairly high price, I wondered if it was okay to let others touch it like that.

Epic relics usually were worth dozens of gold coins, so even if I combined everything I had, they wouldn’t be as expensive as this necklace. Maybe, even my own life was cheaper than this necklace. Damn it, what if he ran away with it after getting his hands on this.

After seeing the obvious doubt in my eyes, this baldy said a few more words to me.

“You don’t have to take it off your neck to let me touch it. I’ll just put my hands on that pointy thing that looks like a star. This monk isn’t bragging, but I have a natural talent for feeling the existence of spells.”

If I didn’t have to completely let go of the necklace to let him touch it, then I think there was nothing much to worry about.

So I roughly finished organizing the dishes, straightened my back, got up, and let this baldy touch the necklace by putting it on his hand.

But why was this bald monk, Khalidur, suddenly trembling violently after obtaining the necklace?

“Uoohhhh.”

A groan broke out from his mouth under his shaggy beard as if he had just been electrocuted. What happened? Why the heck was this baldy trembling like this?

“Uoohhhh!”

He soon screamed and even threw away the necklace from his hand. I felt a little offended because my stuff was treated like dirt.

“Why are you suddenly having a seizure? Is there any problem?”

“Huh, it seems that the object itself refuses to let this monk touch it. It is as if this thing was specially made for someone.”

“Hmm—”

I wasn't sure what he was trying to say, but was it safe to think of the necklace as an item that specifically belonged to me?

I had considered selling it in exchange for gold coins if it didn't work out later. But if this necklace could only be worn by me, then I wasn't sure if anyone would be willing to buy it, even then, it would be at quite the low price.

“I've heard that people from the wilderness have excellent mental power. It's actually more than I imagined. Indeed, we can really call them natural warriors.”

Anyways, that's how my conversation with this ridiculous and crazy monk ended. Since it was already late at night and my stomach was full, it was better for me to sleep and preserve my stamina.

Unfortunately, all we had was the single small tent I brought with me.

“Paper! Holy shh! I won!”

We played rock-paper-scissors, and only the winner, Luna, could sleep inside the tent.

The rest of us had no choice but to sleep with blankets near the campfire. Fortunately, the woodland was warmer than expected, so we had no problem staying outdoors.

* * * * *

The next morning.

I woke up thanks to Luna, whose pink hair was gently shaking above my head, tickling it. I thought I had died and met an angel for a moment.

“Morning, Hassan.”

“Damn, I feel like I just closed my eyes and it’s morning already.”

I spent the whole night feeling uneasy at the possibility of getting attacked again by those tree monsters and I ended up barely sleeping, making my body feel quite heavy as a result.

Splash—

I then splashed some water from the leather bucket to get rid of my sleepiness. It worked quite well, finally making me feel completely awake.

The party leader, Renee, spoke up as she packed her camping equipment into her bag and ate a simple meal consisting of dried meat and small biscuits.

“I’m going to complete this task and go home today. From what Joseph said, it seems like this sorceress isn’t anything more than a bronze tier. We probably will manage to defeat her if we make a surprise even if it’s only us. ”

I thought she was trying to take care of it too roughly, but that was just how most things were done in this world.

Still, if it was coming from someone who had become a leader and tried leading people, it was probably a well-thought-out plan.

“Did you sleep well, Hassan?”

Luna yawned with her tiny mouth wide open. And maybe because she hadn’t realized it yet because of her sleepiness, her head hair was quite disheveled.

“No, I didn’t sleep well.”

“I slept well! Sleeping in the tent felt super good!”

“Uh, well, yeah.”

What a joke. Is she making fun of us?? But I don’t think Luna was such a snide or had malicious intentions when she spoke like that. She was simply telling me that she slept very well.

“Let’s go then. We’re almost there.”

The party members started to march again, following Renee’s instructions.

Everyone was holding an exclusive lumberjack's axe given by Joseph. I had taken a rest, so I was in a better condition than the previous day, and this distance wasn't much of an issue to me.

Crackle— Crackle—

"Good to see you, you bastards! How dare you humiliate me yesterday!"

As we approached the hideout where the sorceress was located, those wooden monsters, stompers, began to appear sporadically.

As soon as she saw them, Renee charged forward without deeming it necessary to weigh the situation or discuss the strategy. How could a tanker attack like that as soon as they saw their enemies? Damn it! She's definitely the worst tanker I've ever seen.

Whoosh— Crash—!

Unlike yesterday's struggle, Renee could easily cut down the stompers with an iron axe in her hand this time around.

"This axe is a little heavy but definitely worth using."

In the end, was it because the axe was strengthened by incantation? It seemed to cost 20 silvers per shaft.

"Hassan, look at this! I'm cutting down the stompers!"

Luna also cut down the wooden monsters using the axe in her hand.

It was impossible to split them neatly into two, but she quickly knocked down a monster by swinging her arms several times over, akin to a proper woodcutter.

"I guess I'm actually powerful! My voodoo skills level definitely leveled up!"

I wondered what the connection between wielding an axe and the level of her voodoo skill was. It seemed like Luna's voodoo skills have a comprehensive and broad meaning in many ways in her dictionary.

I guess she didn't let herself be confined by her concept. She was the daughter of a goddess after all and she probably had a lot of potential.

Reeeee—

"Be quiet!"

Luna completely crushed the wriggling wooden monster, which then fell to the ground. She also did not forget to collect the sap by pushing an empty leather can to the monster's body that was spilling sap as if spouting blood from its wounds.

"Why are you collecting these punks' sap? Can you consume that, too?"

"You cannot consume their sap. But when it becomes solidified, you can use it as a glue replacement. Now I can remake my amulet mask!"

Speaking of the amulet mask... I remember that when I met Luna for the very first time she was wearing a giant wooden mask over her face. Her mask was unfortunately smashed to pieces when we fought with the bullies.

Since then, she hadn't mentioned it anymore, so it slipped out of my mind. But she still seemed to be upset about losing that mask.

"Hey!, Fuck! Stop idling around and hurry up! Kill these stompers! Have you come here to play around or what?!"

After hearing Renee's angry voice, I immediately took out the battle axe embedded on my back.

This was a cast iron axe that I especially borrowed from Joseph. It was just a heavy, sturdy axe with no incantation applied.

The tip was quite heavy, and when paired with the blade, it caused it to have a completely different center of gravity, giving me more strength when gripping the handle.

Crush— Crush—

At that moment, a stomper moved its rigid body and came toward Luna, who was collecting the sap.

Luna did not have time to respond to its sudden arrival, so I swung the axe in my hand as hard as possible and smashed it into the tree trunk.

I fully swung the axe in a lateral direction with all my strength.

Crash!

Then, the stomper's body was smashed as if it was a thin wooden board, and its fragments flew in all direction.

"Damn it, I'm so fucking strong!"

Thanks to Luna, my ability exploded due to those bonus points, and my strength reached a whopping 5 points. I was twice as powerful as the average person now...

I think my dexterity blessing as well as my experience with handling an axe were also factors along with my extraordinary strength that made these stomper-bastards to be unable to withstand my blows and get completely crushed in an instant.

"I'll kill you all, you tree bastards!"

After gaining momentum, my body repeatedly swung the giant axe from left to right and right to left. Every time I did that, the crashing sound from these stompers was loud and crisp, and it felt absolutely incredible.

"Woo..."

After swinging the heavy weapon non-stop and cutting down more than ten demons like that, the after-effect rebound came to me. I felt like I was running out of stamina and breath, while my head felt like it was spinning.

Still, I could sigh in relief without worrying because I had roughly handled all the trees that gathered around me.

"It's really a violent way to wield an axe. The performance is very violent, but I think you are doing well with heavy metal. At this point, why don't you handle a blunt instrument, for example, something more like a club, instead of a sword?"

Khalidur, the bald elf, had praised me for constantly knocking down the stompers. It might have been just empty talk, but for a person who was weak about getting praised, I felt somewhat flattered.

Was there really a weapon that suited me better than a sword?

Anyway, the number of stompers we had knocked down like that already reached about 20. The stompers that had been on the offensive before also started to retreat somewhere like last time.

"I'm not going to let them go!"

Renee increased her pace and ran after those monsters alone. Our party members were also running hard after her.

Not long after that, the stompers could be found hiding in a cave inside a rock cliff. At first glance, we could sense that it was a very suspicious cave.

As if someone was advertising it as a hideout of a wicked being, this situation started making us more and more suspicious.

“Let’s go in.”

Renee, the party leader, confidently led the way as if she had nothing to fear. As she managed to cut down the trees with the magic axe, I thought she had gained a lot of confidence in herself.

However, I was a little nervous as I had already confronted a sorceress before with Hippolyte.

“It’s very dark. The atmosphere is also creepy, so it feels like we’re walking on Niflheim. I want to finish this task quickly and leave.”

Khalidur muttered a few words as he walked through the fairly wide cave. As he said, the farther away we were from the entrance, the farther away we were from the light, and our sights could only meet the ever-stretching darkness that encompassed this cave.

“Should I light up the torch?”

When Renee tried to take the torch out of the thin package on her back, Luna opposed the idea and blocked her.

“Oh, no. You can’t do that. The sap from the stompers is all over the place, and it’s hardened. If you light up a fire, it will catch fire from all directions, and you won’t be able to breathe any longer.”

As Luna said, when I looked around, there was a lot of hard resin stuck all over the place. So, we couldn’t light a torch in the dark. Then there was only one way.

Without letting go of my axe, I squeezed my other hand to invoke my blessing. Then my palm began to emit a strange light source like a bright lantern.

“What? How did you do that?”

As the surroundings quickly brightened, Renee stuck out her tongue in amazement.

Of course, it was surprising to me as well. I still wasn’t used to the way my hands shone like this.

Slide—

Suddenly, that bald elf held my hand. It surprised me, and I almost screamed for real.

[Stats] Name: Khalidur

Level: ??

Condition: Decreased Sexual Desire» Extinct Hair Root » Lack of Protein» The Seal of the World Tree» Cold-Blooded»

I shook his hand off in surprise while yelling at him.

“This fucker! Why are you suddenly holding my hand?”

Was he into me or something? I’m meeting more and more people like him in this world lately. I can’t believe he is coming out like this all of a sudden. Damn you, bald bastard.

“Don’t hold my hand without permission like that!”

“Oh, I’m sorry. I just wanted to make sure that you weren’t angry. In some cases, some of the high priests of Alfheim use their fists to express hostility like this; I thought it was the same for you, but it seems I was mistaken.”

Did he have to touch my hand to find out about that? Elves are really are a difficult bunch. Their way of thinking is simply to different to get used to..

I was highly annoyed due to this event. However, we could proceed through the dark as black cave thanks to my shining hand.

“Hassan, look over there. There are some traces on the ground.”

“You’re right. Is it that way?”

Broken branches and leaves seemed to be seen everywhere, and soon the sight of dead animals and human bodies that had already dried up without moisture welcomed us.

As we went further inside the cave, something that could be called a huge cavity or open space appeared.

The ceiling was high, and the walls quite wide, so my chest felt relieved now that I could breathe easily again. On the other hand, the tension rose to its peak because it felt like the final stage of our adventure.

“Be careful. We don’t know what will come out.”

Following Renee’s warning, the party members clenched the weapons in their hands. Soon, we heard a mysterious voice ringing through the wide cave.

“I wondered who dared to destroy my precious trees. It turned out to be Mars’ dogs.”

Then a woman dressed in black clothing swiftly appeared in front of us.

Her cloth was made of extremely thin materials, like the clothes worn by dancers. To make a better comparison, it looked exactly like what Luna usually wore.

However, rather than looking erotic like Luna, I could only strongly question whether it was okay for her to dress like that.

The reason was that her appearance looked too immature for her to be wearing such revealing clothes.

Yet, the pointed ears protruding from her scarlet short bobbed hair vaguely explained her situation and choice of clothing.

She was a nymph. Having met Echo, the innkeeper's wife, I now knew a little about Nymphs.

"I am the priest of Pluto, Paranoy. You guys—"

As the nymph sorceress tried to explain something—

Kick— Kick—

Something passed by me in a flash. It mercilessly reached her tiny nape and smacked her on the head.

"Kyaaak!"

Paranoy, the nymph sorceress, fell to the ground with a desperate scream leaking out of her throat.

Fuck, what just happened?

The rest of our party members couldn't do anything but blink at the bald elf, Khalidur, who dusted off his palms after making that move.

"With this, we should be done with the request, right?"

Chapter 74: The Descendant of Pluto (1)

☞ The Descendant of Pluto (1) ☞

"She won't be able to wake up for at least half a day, but it's still better to put her on restraint, just in case."

Still in shock over the words of Khalidur, we hurriedly moved the body sprawling on the ground.

Then, each of us took a thick rope and wooden stick out of our luggage, tied the Nymph's thin body around with them, and hung her on the tree.

She looked quite pitiful as she was looking similar to the spitting image of a victim being dragged away by a cannibal tribe, but this woman was actually a terrible sorceress. So, we couldn't let our guard down.

"W-We should also gag her mouth just in case she might cast a spell."

Luna even picked up a small stick and stuck it inside the sorceress's mouth, which was already forming bubbles.

Ding—

Some letters appeared in my mind when I checked the knot around her wrist to ensure that it was securely tied.

[Stats] Name: ParanoY Lv. 21

Condition: Unconscious » Curse of Slow Growth » Loneliness » Sugar Addiction

According to the information that appeared, ParanoY's level was 21.

In other words, it was about twice as high as mine.

Hippolyte had said that someone's level was not the absolute measurement of their abilities, but I was pretty sure I would, at the very least, have some difficulty in taking her down in a fight with this much discrepancy in levels.

"We've lost too much mana to the stompers. But you're still pretty good at beating people. I heard that elf martial arts are similar to magic. It seems like that's true."

Renee said a few words as she sheathed her sword back in the scabbard. Hearing that compliment, Khalidur only patted his beard with a solemn expression on his face.

"It's just one of the insignificant talents of this monk. There's nothing to flaunt or boast about."

Khalidur spoke quite modestly.

However, darting out like an arrow and accurately hitting someone's nape looked like quite a sophisticated skill even to someone like me, an outsider when it came to martial arts. I almost thought this baldy was John Wick.

When I peeked at his information, there was a question mark beside his level status.

Perhaps, Khalidur was actually an extremely strong adventurer?

In other words, I couldn't ignore my growing suspicions that this old man was deliberately playing around with us newbies by pretending to be a beginner.

Then again, he said he came from Alfheim to catch Elfriede. Elfriede was a powerful witch, in her own right, so it was fitting that the pursuer sent to capture her was likewise as strong as her if not stronger.

Thus, the request to catch the sorceress was quickly ended by the Khalidur's polearm technique.

Reeeee—

The stompers we encountered on the way back were just shaking like motionless trees, but they did not attack or hinder us.

I wondered if it was because their control tower, Parano— the sorceress, had been caught by us or if there was another reason behind it. But I could only wonder about it because no one could ever tell me the answer.

After walking for about a quarter of a day, we returned to the office, and Joseph, the office director, welcomed us while drinking sap tea leisurely.

"You managed to capture her! The Queen of the Stompers! You don't know how much suffering we have endured while considering revising the labor law because of this terrible nymph bitch enticing the trees to go on strike!"

"We'll report this punk to the Mars Guild and imprison her."

"All right, all right. This beaten-out nymph is honestly none of my business. Muahaha, fucking stompers, everything has come to an end. Now it's time to work overtime without pay all week, you motherfuckers."

The way he rubbed his palms in anticipation of what would happen in the future was no different from the way typical villains would do. Luna opened her mouth to speak to him.

"Do the stompers work?"

“Of course, they are excellent employees. They pull weeds day and night for no pay. As a reward, we take their useless lives and turn them into planks, beautiful houses, and furniture. That’s how we coexist.”

The concept of coexistence that Joseph, the lumberjack, had seemed very different and twisted from the norm. Should I say that I felt like I knew why the stompers in this lumber yard were so angry?

Honestly, though, it was none of my business.

“As expected, any problem will be quickly solved if you ask the adventurer guild! You guys did a great job! You will get paid by the guild! I’ll get all of you some extra wood, so take it if you need it.”

“Wood!”

Luna literally squealed in excitement at the mention of the word ‘Wood’. Well, we came to this lumber yard to earn money and buy wood cheaply in the first place, so her excitement was justified.

So we returned to Sodomora after receiving the limited amount of wood that the carriage we rode could carry.

* * *

From collecting the mushrooms to getting wood, my luggage became heavier than before I came to work for the quest. But my heart was so much at ease that I felt like I was floating unfettered above the clouds...

The commission reward this time was 40 silvers. If we divided it into quarters, each person would get about 10 silvers. Then the money I now had summed up to about 44 silvers, if I sold more mushrooms and several more things that I collected on this quest, it seemed like I would get nearly 50 silvers.

Wow. I had 50 silvers now? It was very exciting to have such a huge amount of money.

With that money, even if I couldn’t get a whole-body full-plate armor, I still could buy a breastplate with a wide range of iron plating, at least, right?

In this world, with no laws regulated about the possession of long swords, everyone had one hanging around their waist. The probability of being stabbed in the chest itself was quite significant. So, having armor that could reduce that probability was very important.

Above all that, there was a widespread perception among the masses that the adventurers who wore armor were highly skilled individuals, so they would definitely earn more money.

Getting achievements and collecting guild contributions would help me get promoted to the gold tier.

So, my progress was going very well. I felt satisfied with this situation for now.

“What should I make with these planks? A bed? A chair? A desk? No, no. Of course, I should make an amulet mask first.”

Luna was also delighted to see the wood she had obtained from our recent quest. Although we surprisingly still had a lot do, this could still be considered a success, right?

Anyway, as I was thinking about what I had obtained from the quest and the things I needed to get soon, I could already see the high walls of Sodomora.

“You cannot enter the gate after the sun has set. Show me your pass first.”

However, perhaps because the horse was unable to speed up due to the heavy luggage, the return schedule was delayed more than expected, and the gate on the west side of Sodomora was already tightly shut off.

“You must be kidding me.”

Renee got out of the wagon and began to argue with the guards.

“We should still have two hours until the gates close down? Why is it so early today?”

“Order of the Earl. The security was strengthened a couple of days ago when cultists from Pluto’s cult raided the gate. Didn’t you read the official letter yesterday?”

“Motherfucker, I was away from the city since the day before yesterday, how could I know about the official letter that came down yesterday then, huh?”

“Oh, come to think of it, that’s also true. But there’s nothing we, guards, can do, we just do what we’re told.”

The guard expressed the hardships and sorrows a civil servant like him must face. Even if we complained to him, the tightly closed rampart gate was unlikely to open today.

“This situation is almost going me crazy. Should we camp in front of the castle gate then? I really want to wash up.”

Renee poked her tongue inside her mouth while looking like she had a plan and was full of energy to cause some havoc. At that time, however, Khalidur, who had been muttering to himself for a while – I didn’t know whether he was casting a spell or muttering a prayer by himself – suddenly rose to his feet.

What was he going to do in this situation? Was this fucker going to hit the guard's nape as he did to that nymph?

However, after the performance he showed us back in the cave, I couldn't help but look forward to what he would do. Yet, Khalidur had a very normal conversation with the guard.

"We are carrying a cult priest inside our carriage. I think taking her inside as soon as possible would be the safest and wisest choice."

Then, he even secretly slipped a round-shining silver coin to a guy who seemed to be the head of the guards.

"A cult priest?"

The eyes of those guards under their helmets became wide-opened at the mention of the "Cult Priest."

Soon, they even checked the things inside our wagon, and these people began running around busily while murmuring among themselves.

We stared at them with a slight expectation on our faces that this situation could be resolved as we wanted. Soon, our wish came true. After someone shouted, 'Open!', the tightly closed rampart door was pulled up along the pulley.

Thanks to Khalidur's proper judgment and timely intervention, we could avoid camping outside the castle today.

"It was a pleasant meeting. This monk is thinking of leaving for Kalkata city now."

Khalidur planned to part ways with us without even mentioning the after-party to celebrate our success in the quest. I thought that he was trying to chase after Elfriede, who was probably in Kalkata right now.

So I asked him.

"What would you do after finding the fugitive elf?"

"That's something I won't know until then. But since she has committed a great crime, we probably will give her an equivalent punishment. With that—"

Khalidur only bowed his head toward us at the end of his sentence and disappeared in the distance at a rapid pace.

If we only looked at his gait alone, he looked like he was simply taking a relaxed stroll. Yet, his speed was so fast that it seemed like he was running. So, in no time, he had already disappeared among the crowd.

“He was such an amazing bald man. I think he also has very high skills. Why is he still at the bronze tier?”

I was unable to answer Luna’s question. Renee chimed in a few words while I was thinking of how to answer that question.

“Probably, he doesn’t feel the need to go up any further in the ranks. His name is Khalidur, right? I wonder who will win if he fights with Hippolyte.”

If Renee, who usually trained under the great warriorress, Hippolyte, even said the same thing as I had been thinking of in my mind, it seemed that Khalidur, who could overpower the sorceress, was indeed stronger than your average adventurer.

“Then I’ll take this sorceress to the guild. It’s too bothersome to have an after-party and I don’t want to get in the way and ruin your fun. So, enjoy.”

The party leader, Renee, took on the troublesome task of delivering the sorceress to the guild, so Luna and I had some free time for ourselves in the evening.

I wanted to sell the mushrooms and medicinal herbs in my hold, but it was already pretty late, so I thought all the stores would be closed by now.

So, I decided that I should first move all the luggage in the carriage to Luna’s cabin.

I gave the horseman an additional 50 coppers and asked him to pull up the carriage in front of the cabin so that we could move all the planks inside.

After putting in all the logs inside, the cabin that was initially already cramped now really had no room to step on. Was there even any space to put furniture in the first place?

I wasn’t sure what kind of blueprint Luna had drawn up in her mind. But honestly, this place would be packed after we put just one desk and one bed inside. So, I wondered how we could even put pots and a furnace in such a place.

“Luna, this place is indeed too small, isn’t it?”

“Hmm—”

Luna didn’t say anything in response. Perhaps she was troubled by my question. Soon, she opened her tiny lips as if she had gotten an idea and asked me back.

“Shall we make a second floor then?”

“A second floor? Can we do that without any permission first? Isn’t there any law that prohibits this or something like that?”

“Is there a law like that where you lived before, Hassan? There’s nothing like that here though. This is my land, so I can do whatever I want with it.”

Since there was nothing in the law against building a second story in the cabin, there was nothing better than a duplex to utilize space. We also had a lot of wood, so it seemed like we had enough materials to make the second floor.

“By the way, Luna, do you know even how to build a two-story building?”

“I absolutely know nothing about that! How about you, Hassan? Do you know something about it?”

“I don’t know either.”

“Uh, really? Then what should we do—”

After discussing what to do for the whole night, we decided to hire a dwarf called Benjamin through the guild the next day. He was a bronze-tier adventurer and an experienced carpenter.

“So, you want to make a second floor? I think you also already have all the materials. It probably will only take a day to finish. But it’s going to be quite expensive. I’ll commission 10 silvers to do this task.”

Damn, he wanted 10 silvers for the payment? Yet, while I was wondering why his labor costs were so high, Luna had already taken action.

“Here, 10 silvers!”

Luna handed over all the 10 silvers she received from the Lumber Yard quest to Benjamin, the carpenter.

I was often confused when it came to Luna. Sometimes she would do something like this... generously spending all her money as soon as she got hold of some, then there were times when she even went as far as to write her name on a copper coin to keep it safe. I was seriously unable to decide just who the real Luna was...

No, it seemed that it was my fault to judge Luna by my poor standards in the first place.

I had lived with my little sister for about 20 years, and every time I saw her, I always felt like she was a completely different person. So, of course, there would be many things that I didn’t know and understand about Luna, who I had just met recently.

“All right, now that I have gotten the 10 silvers in advance... I could definitely put some of your strength to use, Samaritan. Do you mind helping me? We’ll be done sooner that way.”

“I’ll help you, too!”

Therefore we helped Benjamin, the carpenter, expand the cabin to the second floor for the whole day.

* * * *

“I will also repair the first floor as a bonus service. If you pay an additional fee later, I’ll apply the surface with plaster too.”

Building supports, building walls, and building new roofs.

We had done a lot of construction today, but maybe because of Benjamin’s excellent skills, the cabin’s second floor was built in less than a day.

Damn it, there was a reason he asked for 10 silvers from us. Indeed you wouldn’t starve anywhere if you had such skills under your belt.

“Wow, this is really the second floor. I always wanted to live in a two-story house! Now we can put a bed and a drawer on the second floor!”

After checking the finished second floor, Luna was overjoyed and her mouth was wide open. When I brought the cleanly washed deer skin and laid it on the floor, the second floor felt quite cozy. So I was pretty satisfied with everything.

Having only the cabin’s first floor in this slum environment actually made me slightly uneasy.

Although the first floor had been heavily repaired, only a single wall separated the interior of the cabin and the street. Not only that, but the lock was also not of great quality, so anyone could break in anytime if they so wished.

However, if we set the bedroom on the second floor, even if an intruder broke inside, we would still have time to prepare ourselves because there was a gap before they went from the first floor and reached the second floor.

“There’s a window here, too! Wow, the view feels different when I look down from here. Now I have become the owner of a two-story house!”

Luna was looking outside while stretching her waist out of the window and peeking at the elevated view.

While standing behind her, from my point of view, I could see her protruding buttocks sticking out through the thin cloth of her skimpy attire. That sight was enough to make blood rush into my lower body. I thought that my sexual desire had gotten a bit too strong these days.

I was finding it increasingly harder to hold myself back after discovering how warm and soft Luna's body was. On top of that, Luna's reaction was always so cute.

But if I snuck behind her and touched her, even Luna would probably get angry, right?

Knock— Knock—

At that moment, someone knocked on the first floor's door. The sudden knocking was rather surprising, and I quickly came back to my senses.

"What's that? It seems like someone is here."

"W-Who is it?"

Luna must have been shocked as well after hearing the sudden knock.

"Didn't someone just knock on the door?"

I shut my mouth at Luna's question and tried to sense the presence of any individual that might be downstairs. However, no signs or sounds were heard after the knocking on the wooden door.

Was that the wind we heard or what? While we were thinking about that—

Knock— Knock— Knock—

There was a knock on the cabin's first-floor door again.

To be exact, there were three knocking sounds that were done in a rhythmical pattern. I even got some goosebumps when I heard the regular intervals of the sound.

It was already late in the evening, so it was natural to be nervous if someone knocked on the door when we were already getting ready to sleep.

"Someone must be there. Are you expecting anyone tonight?"

I thought Luna might have told someone else about her workshop when I wasn't aware of it. Perhaps it was one of Luna's acquaintances? But did Luna have an acquaintance in the first place?

"Visitor? I can't think of anyone in particular. What's happening here?"

But Luna shook her head and negated my words. It turned out that Luna didn't have any friends either.

Then all I could think of was maybe Benjamin, the carpenter, might have left some of his tools and had returned to fetch them.

"What should we do, Hassan? Shall we open the door to see who's here?"

"I'll go down to check it."

"Then let's go down together!"

Thus, we went down to the first floor and stood in front of the door. Did this visitor feel our presence?

Knock— Knock— Knock—

Someone was knocking on the door again.

"Ahem, hmm, who's is it this late at night?"

I yelled at whoever was outside of the cabin in the most threatening voice I'd ever used.

It was a kind of voice that if a part-timer spoke this way in his part-time job, someone would file a complaint against him immediately.

Of course, it was just a surface trick, like a cat threatening its enemy by puffing its fur, but my voice gave a sense of distance to express, "Get lost if you're going to say useless things."

Then suddenly, I wondered if I was too scared, or if I was showing an excessive amount of anxiety for no particular reason.

"T-That was kinda scary, Hassan.."

I became more anxious because Luna somehow also started shaking while hiding behind me. I was now ready to draw my sword any time, so I asked again through the door.

"Who is it? I'm asking you one last time or else."

Schizo.

At that time, an unexpected answer came from behind the door. Schizo? Who the hell was Schizo?

However, what should be said was that the voice was quite heavy as if it had been altered. It made me frown.

It's me, Schizo. Comrade, is this the meeting place? You said it's located in the slum, in a shabby wooden house around the corner, right? It's such an excellent hiding place.

I turned to look at Luna's face in response to the question that came from outside. Luna then shook her head as if she had never heard the voice before.

"You must have misunderstood something. This is not an appointment place for anything, so please go away now. I'm not your comrade."

No way, I can feel the profound magical power of Tartarus from here. It is dark and ominous, like a primordial hell pit, akin to nighttime darkness.

Squeeze—

Luna held my sleeve tightly. I shouted loudly in a really angry voice because I thought Luna might get all freaky again.

"Hell, this is really not the place! If you don't scam from this place quickly, I'll show you the taste of my blade! This is just a family home, for fuck's sake!"

That's strange.

At the end of that remark, the man, who identified himself as Schizo, hid his traces far away with the sound of his heavy footsteps slowly receding into the distance.

A few minutes after, when we could no longer hear the sound of the heavy footsteps of the shady individual, I carefully unlocked the lock and opened the house door.

However, as usual, I could only see the back alleys, garbage rolling around, and the scene of rats running all over the place under the moonlight, but no human shape in sight.

What the hell? There were all kinds of fucking strange people in this world, huh?

Was it because the house was in the west slums? When we made a lot of money later, moving to a shopping complex in the south would be a good idea.

"No one's here. I guess he probably only misunderstood this place as somewhere else."

After searching around the house, I finally spoke to Luna with relief.

Luna, whose emerald-colored eyes were shaking in fear till now, also sighed in relief after hearing that.

“Whoa, I got scared for some reason. I would have been in trouble alone without you, Hassan.”

“It’s because this place is a slum, so the security is not good. We need to pay more attention to the locks and security. Or...”

I wanted to ask her something along the lines of, “Or should I live here with you?” but I couldn’t speak those words out loud. What if Luna refused? Because of this thought, I didn’t finish my sentence.

A man would dream about living with a cute girl at least once in their life. We could open our eyes together in the morning and close them together at night.

And, of course, when we were together in the same place, we could do many raunchy things too. I wanted to have sex with Luna again. Luna was really warm and soft when she was in my arms.

“Well, then, Hassan, you can sleep here today. It’s also already so late—”

Chapter 75: The Descendant of Pluto (2)

☪ The Descendant of Pluto (2) ☪

“Well, then, Hassan, you can sleep here today. It’s already so late too—”

“Really? Can I do that?”

As I was lost in my thoughts, Luna’s sudden words made me feel like I was over the moon. She just said I could sleep here tonight, didn’t she?

Honestly, I was also looking for an excuse to stay here with Luna. And since the end result was in my favor like this, I even felt grateful to the man from earlier, though I didn’t remember his name. Wasn’t it Schizo or something like that?

Anyway, I just lay down to sleep on the deerskin side by side with Luna on the second floor of the cabin. The new floor was made from wood and had a refreshing grassy smell to it.

Sniff— Sniff—

I didn’t know if it was just me, but I still felt a strange smell coming up from the deer skin. It was probably because Luna peed here last night. Of course, that only happened because of me since I didn’t let her go to the toilet on time.

“By the way, have you washed this carpet cleanly?”

“O-Of course. I washed it three times already.”

“But why does it feel like there’s still some smell left?”

As I sniffed, Luna also sniffed at the carpet draped over the floor.

Sniff— Sniff—

“...It’s probably only in your head.”

“I don’t think it’s just in my head though.”

“...I’ll put a curse on you if you keep smelling it like that.”

“Curse?!”

“My voodoo skills have leveled up, and my curse will work well. I guarantee it.”

I couldn’t believe that Luna could now cast curses.

Indeed, voodoo skills were a collection of superstitions, so there might be a form of witchcraft that incorporates barbaric medical practices, curses, and exorcisms too.

And because of how incompatible with Luna all of that sounded, I couldn’t really believe it.

“How do you even do that curse thingy, in the first place?”

“I know of some simple curses like making cursed dolls and driving nails into them, or chanting spells to ward off evil spirits on moonless nights.”

“Wow, that’s interesting. Can you show me?”

“I-I don’t really recommend it... I also can’t guarantee the outcome if I don’t have my amulet mask...”

Luna spoke out in a quivering tone. Whether she was embarrassed or lacked confidence, I wasn’t really sure. And with that my slightly growing expectations died down a little.

“Huh, are you lying to me?”

“I-It’s true! Alright, I’ll show you, Hassan. Just don’t regret it.”

Luna suddenly stood up from her seat. Then, she brought a pointy needle and a piece of cloth that was usually used to patch up clothes from somewhere.

Would she poke the needle into her pinky finger to make it bleed, then write my name on the cloth with her blood or something?

“This is the curse skill!”

“What is it?”

“If I write someone’s name in red, the person with that name will get cursed!”

What? I couldn’t believe that something like that existed in this world.

But just in case, I stood up from my seat, nervous about what may happen to me. Yet, nothing happened.

“Huh, nothing happened though...”

“...I-It’s because I didn’t wear my amulet mask. Alright, good night, Hassan.”

Embarrassed after her sorcery had failed, Luna spoke curtly, turned her back to me, and lay down on the carpet.

I was looking forward to experiencing her soft and smooth body again.

But maybe because I was utterly exhausted after building the second story of the house today, I fell into a deep sleep as soon as I laid my head on my side of the carpet.

* * *

“Wake up. It’s morning.”

I hurriedly woke up because something thin and soft was tickling my face.

I dreamed that a rabbit as big as me climbed on my stomach and pressed down on it, so I didn’t feel like I had slept for the whole night. What the hell?! What kind of dream was that? Was it a result of the curse?

“Wake up, Hassan.”

When I opened my eyes, Luna looked while her hair was gently tickling my face...

“When did I fall asleep? It’s already morning.”

“You fell asleep as soon as you put your head on the pillow. I guess you were really tired. I almost thought you were dead, Hassan.”

“I’ve done a lot of physical labor these days. I probably accumulated some fatigue.”

My strength had leveled up, but on the other hand, I felt that my stamina was not keeping up.

At this time, I thought that if my father had been here, he would have given me a supplement – then I would be able to resolve this problem instantly. Damn it, I never knew the day when I’d miss those tasteless, suspicious juices would come like this.

Anyway, I felt like I needed to gain more stamina.

Should I invest a little in stamina other than strength when I get to raise my stats again? Maybe rather than putting everything in one basket, it would be better to raise each stat equally.

Luna then spoke.

“Your stamina is low? That reminds me that I have made something for you, Hassan!”

Luna quickly ran down to the first floor and eventually returned to give me something that looked like a small bottle.

“Here, take it!”

It was an earthenware about the size of a bottle of soy milk that could fit in one hand. The bottle’s mouth was covered with a thin leather like a handkerchief and sealed with a knot. It looked very suspicious.

“What’s this?”

I was still not fully awake when I accepted it in a groggy state. Then, some mysterious words appeared before my eyes right when I touched the bottle.

『You have received Little Night’s token of affection, a low-level stamina elixir.』

『You can increase your stamina for a limited period after ingesting it.』

In addition to totems, she could now create mysterious potions.

Ah actually, wasn’t Luna’s specialty making elixirs and not carving totems in the first place? I completely forgot about it. Moreover, I heard that she bought this cabin to use it as a workshop for elixir brewing and crafting.

“Hurry up, drink it! I worked very hard to brew this for you, Hassan! Tell me what it tastes like and what you think. If you like it, I plan to sell it as a product!”

Luna looked up at me with anticipation, so I hesitantly peeled off the leather cover.

Sour— Sour—

When I opened it, I could immediately smell a scent that you would only encounter when smelling a yogurt that had been fermented for one year. In an instant, all my sleepiness vanished away.

“D-Do you really want me to drink this? The smell is no joke. It’s making me feel terrible.”

“You’re only feeling bad because you don’t know what’s in this potion. You will feel much better if you listen carefully as I list the ingredients.”

“Really? What did you put in here?”

Luna mumbled briefly to my question, then rolled her eyes around and thought back to the ingredients.

“I added a bit of sequoia sap to add some taste to the mashed wasp larvae, goblin teeth, and troll blood. Also, my special secret additive... Anyway, what do you think?”

Did she seriously ask me how I was feeling about this?

“The potion looks a lot better after you got to know about it in detail, right?”

“No, of course not. Now, I feel even worse because now that I know.”

“The ingredients used to make a bottle cost about one silver. I worked really hard on this elixir too... I even borrowed a firepot from the bakery next door...”

Luna looked very dispirited after receiving my criticism. For a moment, I imagined Luna’s struggle to make this elixir.

“Whoo, I understand. I’ll try it.”

...I really didn’t want to drink anything like this again. I didn’t expect that, after my father, now even Luna would start handing me weird concoctions...

Breathe In—

I blocked my nose and poured the liquid into my mouth. Then, my whole body trembled because of the indescribable sour taste of the potion.

The terrible taste woke me up as if a glass window had been broken inside my head, and the drowsiness that had remained till now was completely gone. Damn, is this an energy drink or something?

『Your stamina has been temporarily increased by 3.』

『23: 59: 59』

The taste was so sour and bitter that I didn't even want to describe it, but the effect was quite uncommon. A stamina increase of 3 points for 24 hours?

“What do you think? What do you think? Are you feeling like your body is regaining some of its strength?”

“I think I'm gaining some strength, yeah. Can't you just make it taste good? If you do so, I think it will sell really well.”

If even I could feel disgusted when consuming this potion, other people probably wouldn't be able to even put it in their mouths. Wouldn't it be better to pay attention to the taste a little, if she planned to sell it as a product,?

“Who consumes elixirs for their taste? They consume it to take care of their health! Anyway, I'm glad you liked it! I'll make you another one next time!”

“Uh, yes... Anyway, thank you for making it for me. Still, my body really feels energized.”

After becoming wide awake because of the taste of the potion, Luna and I roughly packed our clothes and swords and left the cabin.

When we were about to leave the cabin, Luna made a short ‘Uh—’ sound as if she had seen something strange.

When I turned my head to see what it was, there was an ‘X’ shaped mark on the wooden door of the cabin. It looked as if it had been carved with a knife.

“Hasan, was this originally here?”

“I don't think so.”

As far as I remember, this was the first time I had seen something like this engraved on the door. If Luna didn't know, and I also didn't remember about it, then this probably was made last night?

Luna started trembling before I knew it...

“This mark is kind of creepy.”

“Then, we can just erase it.”

I remembered that there was sandpaper left in the cabin from yesterday’s use, so I rubbed off the strange mark with it.

“Hassan, look here. There are some more here, too.”

As I walked down the street, I looked in the direction Luna pointed her finger toward and saw X-shaped markings like the sign on the front of Luna’s house on each house’s front door.

What was this? Did they do a household survey or something? I couldn’t come up with a plausible answer for this no matter how much I thought about it.

Soon after that, we arrived at the Mars Guild’s guild building in the city’s center with an uncanny feeling creeping into our minds.

“Holy shit, what is this?”

“H-Hassan, what’s going on here...?”

Luna was greatly shocked when she saw that the guild building was almost half destroyed.

Of course, it was the same for me. I was also greatly astonished by this horrific scene.

This place was also used as a temple to Mars, the God of War. They even boasted it as the most magnificent and outstanding building in the world. However, right now it seemed like this place had gotten bombed last night as the marble columns and the roofs of the once magnificent building were now in shambles.

“Did a dragon appear yesterday...? How could such a sturdy building be so thoroughly destroyed?”

Luna was trembling. Hearing her mention the word ‘Dragon’, I immediately thought of a monster with ginormous wings and scalding hot fire coming out of its mouth. The idea that such a terrifying being existed in this world was honestly very scary.

“Oh, you’re here. The guild looks terrible right now.”

Then a woman appeared from behind the piles of remains of the guild building and approached us. It was Daphne, the guild receptionist with green hair and short ears.

“What the hell is going on here?”

“A bunch of Pluto cultists attacked us. Miss Hippolyte and along with the other silver-tier adventurers somehow managed to repulse their attack. Regardless of whatever cult they are, how dare they attack a temple inside the city? Looks like they really are not afraid of divine retribution.”

Even from the point of view of Daphne, the resident of this bizarre world, this incident had definitely crossed some lines.

But from where should I get requests, now that the guild is like this? Looks like I won't be making money for a while.

Daphne then talked to me while I was worrying about my future income.

“Oh, there's another thing, Mr. Hassan. Mr. Baltma was looking for you in the guild's basement. You should head there soon.”

Baltma's name evoked the face of a middle-aged man with a bald head and an eye patch on one eye. Wasn't he quite the high-ranked person in the Mars Guild?

Despite the chaotic attack that destroyed half of this building, the prison under the guild seemed to be unaffected to some extent.

But I didn't expect that I would need to go to this guild's underground prison once again.

Honestly, I didn't want to step into this prison anymore. All it reminded me of was Daphne's sudden outburst and how I ended up getting slapped and jailed here.

“Hassan, let's go!”

I started to move as Luna was rushing me from behind. Then, I found the entrance to the basement among the debris.

When I went down there, the moldy underground prison remained relatively intact compared to the top of the guild building.

“Oh, you're here, Samaritan. You even came with the cute pinkhead. Your skills have also grown a lot all of a sudden. Did you chance upon some secret method?”

“Well, that's... I'm also not sure about that.”

“Well, I'll hear more about that later. There's something more urgent we have to deal with at the moment.”

Baltma intently stared at something in front of the prison cage with his arms crossed. Next to him, Hippolyte, with wounds all over her body that were still bleeding here and there, also crossed her arms.

The state of her fine bronze armor, ripped and torn all over the place like a sheet of paper, seemed to tell us how serious last night's battle was.

"What is it that you want to see me for?"

Instead of Baltma, Hippolyte opened her tightly-closed lips to answer me.

"We didn't ask to see you. It's this person who called you over."

Slide—

I wondered who was behind the prison bar that Hippolyte pointed to.

Blindfolded, gagged, handcuffed, and shackled, the person inside had her whole body restrained, like a mummy.

Shackles held each of her arms in place and hung them wide apart on the stone wall.

Another pair of shackles held each of her legs and tied them to the ground. Her legs were spread wide and formed an M-shape. Somehow, it seemed a little erotic to me.

She was probably the Pluto cult member we caught at the lumber yard last time.

What was her name again? Parano or something? It was also my first time seeing a nymph join a cult, so I didn't forget the name and remembered it quite well.

With her short scarlet hair and pointed ears, she also had a distinctive appearance that couldn't be easily forgotten.

"Why is she looking for me? What happened here?"

"We also want to know why. Anyway, go and try to talk with her."

Then, Hippolyte and Baltma quietly exited this basement prison and left me alone with this strange cultist nymph.

"H-Hassan—"

"Follow me too, airhead. That cultist only wants to be alone with the Samaritan. I also happen to have some business with you, Knox Dotty."

Chapter 76: The Descendant of Pluto (3)

All of a sudden, only this strangely tied-up Nymph and I were left inside the basement prison.

Perhaps, after realizing that everyone other than the two of us had left the room, Parano, the cultist Nymph, started pulling on her handcuffs and started struggling to get out.

“Ugh, uh-!”

Was she now asking me to remove the gag from her mouth?

She appeared to be no different from an adolescent girl, so seeing her inhumanely restrained like this seemed quite pitiful to me. However, I reminded myself that I shouldn't be fooled by this sight as she was actually a psycho-cultist.

I wondered what the hell this psycho girl wanted from me for her to call me in this place. So, I removed the gag from her mouth to try and figure that out.

“Puhaa...”

Then Parano gasped loudly as if she breathed out the air that was stuck in her throat for a while.

“Uwah, those stupid people. I almost suffocated to death because to them. Those Mars' dogs don't know how precious a Nymph is! You have to handle a nymph with utmost care.”

Parano continued to breathe in and out like that for a long while. After her breathing became steadier to some extent, I opened my mouth to ask.

“You asked to see me. What do you want from me?”

“How come you are still asking me why? Of course, I called you here to free me from this place. Hurry up, remove these shackles. I can't scratch my back because of them! There seems to be an ant stuck behind there! Hurry up already!”

She asked me to release her so naturally that I almost thought about letting her go for a second. Damn it, no matter how immoral I was, I wasn't crazy enough to release this cultist.

“Why on earth should I release you?”

“What, how long will you pretend even though there's no one around us anymore? You're our comrade, aren't you? Didn't you go undercover to infiltrate the city?”

“I'm not.”

I thought she had mistaken me for someone else. Moreover, it was the first time I heard that a comrade of theirs was hiding among us.

Now I felt anxious about the inevitability that I might be falsely accused because someone misunderstood that I had a connection with these guys. Moreover, this would just end up in me getting locked up in this underground prison and getting slapped once again.

“You must have mistaken me for someone else, but let me be clear here, I have nothing to do with you guys.”

“Alright, just keep lying like that, even though I can clearly tell that you’re full of Pluto’s magical power. I had already noticed your powers when I first met you in the cave.”

Paranoy was moving around while sniffing me.

“I could sense such powerful mana emanating from you. Now, I may not be able to see you, but it feels like Lord Pluto himself is standing in front of me.”

Just when I was thinking, “What the hell do you mean by you can feel Pluto’s mana emanating from me?” I remembered that the necklace I was wearing around my neck was actually taken from someone who might be a comrade of these guys.

The Eyes of Pluto...

Perhaps this girl’ misunderstood me because of this necklace? I realized that I could use this situation to teach these cultists a hard lesson.

『Hassan, Sodomora’s hero, wiped out all the cultists!』 『Received the gold-tier adventurer necklace!』

Attained Luna’s mother— Knox’s recognition and got married to Luna!

Wa—! Wa—!

How should I propose? Would she like it if I secretly put candles in our room and did a special romantic event? I could also prepare a handwritten letter for her too.

Wouldn’t Luna just go crazy out of excitement if I prepared a special event using the know-how of a modern person? However, she shouldn’t be so moved that she cries throughout the event, right?

“Hehe.”

Amidst my delightful imagination of the wonderful future ahead, Paranoy cut me off by speaking out loud.

“Why are you laughing strangely like that? Anyways, release these restraints quickly! Those stupid people can’t escape after failing to raid Mars’ temple.”

“No, I can’t let you go. If I do that, I’ll get in trouble.”

“Alright, it’s not the time yet, is it? Then, do me a favor, will you? Scratch my back for me. I feel so itchy like an ant is crawling on my back!”

Scratch her back? I don’t think I can release her, but that much should be fine, I guess. Not being able to scratch her back even if it was itchy when being tied like this, made sense.

Moreover, feeling itchy while your hands and feet were tied was a very painful experience.

Elfriede often tied me to a chair and tickled me all over my body with feathers as a punishment. She was truly unrivaled when it came to viciousness. I’m starting to get pissed off just thinking about it.

I hope that bald monk will catch Elfriede and teach her a real lesson.

Anyway, I grabbed Parano’s shoulder and made her show her back to me since this cultist nymph complained that her back was feeling itchy. However, I was greatly shocked to see what was stuck to her back.

“W-What the fuck is this?”

There... a spider with eight legs and hair all over its body. It had the size of a palm. Fuck, of course, she would feel itchy if this kind of animal was stuck on her skin!

“Why, what’s wrong? Is there a problem?”

“There’s a fucking spider attached to you!”

“S-Spider!? T-Take, take it off! Take it off!”

Parano, whose entire body was restrained, began moving around violently as soon as the word “Spider” left my mouth.

Because of this, the black spider attached to her back now jumped from its spot and landed on my shoulder. I screamed so loud that it was as though bubbles were really going to form in my mouth out of shock.

“Holy F-!”

Eventually, after I slapped it away with my palm, the spider yelped twice and hid inside a small hole in the basement prison.

Damn it, I still can't get used to spiders that make creepy sounds like that. Luna would be delighted if she saw it though. Luna liked spiders, toads, and stuff like that.

“Spider, spideeeeeeeeer!!”

However, Paranoy, the cultist nymph, was still struggling hard and trying to fight back without knowing that the spider that had stuck to her body had fallen from there already.

“There's a spider stuck to me!!!”

Her arms were handcuffed, chained, and hung on the wall. She was probably unable to grasp the current situation because her eyes were also blindfolded.

Serves you right, you wicked cultist bitch!

I thought it might be an opportunity to resolve my grudge against this cultist, so I slowly moved from my spot and put my hand on her thin ankle.

Slide—

Paranoy shivered as soon as my fingers touched her body.

“T-There's a spider on my ankle! Take it off! Hurry!”

Spider? Did she think my hand felt like a spider? Indeed, when I put my nails down and moved them around slowly like this, it might feel like a spider was standing there for someone like Paranoy, who couldn't see anything at the moment.

I slowly moved my fingers from her ankle to her thin calf and thigh to mimic the walk of the spider.

Slide— Slide—

It was quite exhilarating to see her slowly getting anxious and scared to the extent that she didn't even know what to do.

“H-Hurry up! Take it away from me! Come on! I-I'm scared of spiders—!”

Ssk— Ssk—

Ignoring Paranoy's pleading voice, my hands still moved back and forth between her thigh and calf and gently pressed her soft flesh with the tip of my fingernails.

“Hiiik! Hiik!”

Seeing her trembling like she was going to shriek every time my nails touched her was a pretty funny sight.

“H-Hurry up, take it off me—!”

However, seeing her about to burst into tears also seemed quite pitiful to me, so I took my hand off her thigh and walked away from her.

“Here, I already took it off. There is no spider here now.”

“Y-You’re not lying, right? Damn it, I was almost scared to death—!”

“There’s no spider on you anymore, don’t worry. I already took it off.

“Comrade—! You’re such a nice guy! I will not forget this favor, once I escape from here, !”

Was she a fucking idiot? It was just me pretending to be a spider.

I was a little scared because she was part of a terrible cult, but Paranoxy seemed to be lacking in the brains department. At this point, I even felt bad for her.

It seemed kind of crazy to me that even in this world where most people were lacking in the brains department, cults still existed.

You wouldn’t fall victim to a cult if you were a smart person, to begin with. Wow, how could I come to this wonderful conclusion? I’m smart, indeed.

“So, other than asking to release you, is there anything else you want to say to me?”

“Yes, I have one more favor to ask of you. Comrade, I’m only asking you because I trust you. This is a really important request.”

It was a really important request?

That made me swallow my saliva, thinking that I might be able to make a high achievement with the information that she would be providing me from now on.

“—What is it?”

“I-I’m in a hurry. Uh, please help me out... Those Mars’ bastards have locked and tied me up so I can’t do my business. I really cannot hold it in anymore—”

Wow, it was a completely unexpected request. If she was tied up like this, it's natural that she would need to go to the bathroom sooner or later.

"I-I was able to endure it till now, but I cannot hold it in anymore because of the spider... I think it's going to come out soon—!"

I also became very nervous after hearing the urgency in her voice,

If I witnessed a nymph urinate like this, I thought it might remain an unforgettable trauma that would be imprinted on my mind for the rest of my life.

So I looked around and found a small wooden barrel rolling around on the basement floor that was probably used as a trash can.

I held it with my hands, emptied the contents within, and put it between the nymph's wide-opened legs.

"Y-You can pee here!"

"Ugh, you need to take off my underwear first—!"

What? Did she just ask me to take off her underwear?

For a moment, I suspected that this cultist was acting like a fool and was actually trying to mislead me and manipulate me as she wanted.

"Uwaaahhh!"

However, seeing that she was twisting her whole body as if she was in a real emergency and even twitching every now and then, it seemed to not be the case.

"T-Then I have no choice but to touch you. Don't complain later!"

"Alright! Hurry up!"

Then, I grabbed the soft, black cloth and pulled it down between her thighs and calves.

However, I thought it would be difficult to urinate if the wooden barrel sat on the floor, so I had to lift it between her legs and hold it in the air.

"H-Hurry up, relieve yourself."

"Euhhh..."

Then, with a sigh that seemed to come out from deep inside her—

Gushhhh—

The clear, muffled sound of streams rang through the underground prison. The sound was very loud, like a water bank bursting out.

“Uwaaahhh...”

Fuck, what the hell was I doing right now? I got a sudden reality check. The world had shed blood, been destroyed, and was in chaos due to the cultists’ attack, and I couldn’t believe that now I was helping a nymph pee.

“—Euh, you have saved me, Comrade. You’ve done me such a weird favor. I will never forget this favor, even after hell arrives here. I’m really sorry for making you do something weird. But now... Can you dress me up again? My lower body feels cold.”

“O-Okay.”

Sssk— Slide—

Paranoy then talked to me as if nothing, in particular, had happened when I put her underwear back up.

“Then, will you continue to pretend to be an adventurer, Comrade?”

“Shouldn’t I?”

“Alright, then if we talk any longer, you could be misunderstood by those Mars’ bastards. You can go up now. Just lie to those stupid dogs that you have tortured me to find out information.’

“Information?”

“Yes, it would be good to leak false information at this time. I have already planted a mole, so now is a good time to use them after so long. As expected, I’m smart. Let’s see, what kind of false information can we spread? Yeah, let’s tell them that the marked houses will be the target of the attack.”

“The target of the attack?”

The word “mark” made various thoughts flash in my head. The first thing that came to mind was the X-shaped mark I witnessed as we left Luna’s cabin this morning.

“You mean the X-shaped mark, right? The one on the front doors.”

“As expected, you know about it as well. In fact, the unmarked houses will be the target of an attack three days later. What do you think? At that point, the fear of chaos and death will spread further, right?”

They were trying to start a terrorist attack, huh... Cultists, indeed, would always act like a cultist.

“There will be total chaos by then.”

“I know, right? Haha, I’m smart, indeed. At this point, my priesthood may go beyond bronze to silver tier.”

Paranoy’s words gave me a lot of information that I needed to store in my mind. First of all, pluto cultists were trying to launch indiscriminate terrorist attacks inside the city.

And the target would be mainly houses without the X-shaped marks.

Didn’t I also find out that the Pluto cult’s organization system also consists of classes such as bronze, silver, and so on, just like the adventurers guild?

However, when talking about cults and levels that were named after minerals, what came to mind right away was not the adventurer’s guild but the multi-level marketing.

In addition to all the information she gave me about the cult’s structure, she even went on a tangent about how nymphs don’t grow hair. A very vital piece of information indeed.

“Comrade, I’ll be calling you again. So, the next time you come, sneak in some sugar for me. I-I can’t calm down unless I eat something sweet. Also, it’s so dark and desolate here—”

“I got it.”

That ended the weird conversation I had with this odd cultist. As I climbed up the basement prison, Baltma awaited my arrival with his one remaining eye shining brightly.

“I heard that nymph screaming back there. It seemed like you used some violence there. Did you torture her?”

“T-That’s...”

Did he misunderstand that her scream about the spider actually resulted from torture instead?

“Is it not allowed?”

“It’s not that it’s not allowed. No matter how much I hit and yelled at her, she didn’t even budge. I wonder what kind of torture you did that made her scream so loud throughout the basement like that.”

“I just used my hands to do several things—”

“Well, it seemed like you used some terrible torture method from Samaria’s wilderness. With the addition of your dexterity blessing, the taciturn cultist must have been unable to endure the suffering without screaming, right?”

Baltma seemed to have misunderstood the screams and my lack of explanations for something else, brewing a story of his own in his mind.

What kind of expression would he make if I said that I just tickled the nymph’s thighs and even helped her urinate in the basement?

Damn it, no matter how I thought about it, it seemed like it would be better if I kept this a secret.

I felt Luna might look at me with a chilling cold gaze once she heard this story.

“On top of that, there’s something else I’ve found out from her. I heard that there will be an attack from the Pluto cultists inside the city in three days.”

“Attack? You said there will be an attack?”

Baltma’s expression became extremely serious at the word “Attack”.

“Tell me more about that.”

So I briefly explained what I heard from Paranoy. Like about the houses with and without markings.

“All unmarked houses will get attacked— So if we put a mark on every house, we can disrupt these cultists’ operations. Samaritan, this is a great piece of information! Not any of our vicious torturers could even discover such an important fact!”

What the fuck did he mean by a vicious torturer. Was it a compliment? Since I first met him, I had felt that this man had been lacking a lot when it came to complimenting others.

“Where is Luna anyway?”

“Oh, that pink-haired lady is in the training ground with Hippolyte.”

Luna was on the training ground with Hippolyte?

I suddenly began feeling uneasy after hearing that. Even I, who was strong, had a hard time dealing with Hippolyte. Furthermore, would the fragile Luna survive the power of the female warrior?

That aside, this damn Hippolyte! Why did she take Luna to the training ground like that? Was she a grinding-obsessed gamer? That girl is addicted to training!

So I rushed to the training ground site. Then, among the murmuring crowd, I saw who overlapped her body with Hippolyte's.

"Gasp—!"

Luna was breathing heavily. Then, she hugged Hippolyte's body tightly, put strength to her legs, and bent her waist back to make Hippolyte's face crash on the ground below with an overhead throw.

"Ugh!"

Hippolyte let out a desperate scream after being hit by Luna.

Just what in hell was going on here?

Chapter 77: The Descendant of Pluto (4)

☪ The Descendant of Pluto (4) ☪

"Ugh!"

A scream full of agony leaked out of Hippolyte's lips as her face planted squarely on the ground.

It was hard to believe that the one screaming like this was actually Hippolyte. Although this was something that was uncharacteristic of Hippolyte, it had truly happened in reality and I had no way to explain how.

Furthermore, the fact that Luna had performed a suplex on Hippolyte was more than unbelievable to me. I almost thought that I was seeing things, for a second, but it had truly happened.

It seemed that I wasn't the only one who couldn't believe in this situation. The passers-by and adventurers who surrounded me also thought the same.

"Oh, my God, how could this happen?"

“Even though it’s a bare-handed match, how could Hippolyte not even be able to use her hands and get beaten so badly?”

After getting everyone’s attention, Luna flexibly broke away from the suplex move’s bridge state, released Hippolyte, and then raised her hands high in front of the gathered crowd and exclaimed out loud.

“Holy Shh—! I managed to beat a silver-tier adventurer—!”

It felt like witnessing the scene of a young and energetic newcomer managing to defeat an old defending champion in a championship title match. This scene was enough to make my heart swell with excitement.

It turned out that Luna had leveled up quite a bit. Wait, that shouldn’t be the case. Even if she had leveled up, how could this situation possibly happen?

“Ugh— t-this doesn’t make—”

At that moment, Hippolyte rose from the ground while bleeding from the orifices of her face— like her nose and mouth. She, too, seemed to be greatly shocked and was unable to accept that Luna had defeated her.

Tremble—Tremble—

Seeing her usually confident brown eyes trembling violently with uneasiness and anxiety made her look quite pitiful.

“P-Please, let’s have a rematch—!”

“No, thanks!”

“U-Ugh—!”

Hippolyte bit her lower lips as if she was at a loss as to what to do with Luna’s firm refusal.

Soon, however, she shouted at the buzzing crowd that had flocked them from all sides, seemingly wintending to silencethem.

“Y-You done watching already!? Hurry up and go back to your business!”

Although the Pink Chikorita had defeated her for an unknown reason, Hippolyte herself was still a strong warrior. So, it was not strange that her shout was so powerful and threatening that it was able to intimidate the gathered crowd.

Sensing the wrath in her shout, the crowd quickly dispersed like rats running away after getting hit by a stone.

I almost peed in my pants like the nymph that I had helped out in the basement prison. I'm glad that my bladder is rather strong. Was it because of Luna's elixir?

"G-Go!"

"Yes, I also have something else to do."

Just like that, only Luna, Hippolyte, and I remained in that spot.

"Knoxdotty, i-if you don't want to have a barehanded rematch, then how about we do an arm wrestling match instead?"

I could see that Hippolyte was your typical sore loser who couldn't just accept losing in a game. Though I would have done the same if I lost to Luna like that too. So, I was able to understand her reaction to a certain extent.

"Arm wrestling—?"

Luna reacted slightly as if her interest was picked up by the word "arm wrestling". But then she opened her mouth wide enough to reveal her pointy snaggletooth and then shouted out loud once again.

"No, thanks!"

"Ugh— i-if you win again this time, I'll give you my belt!"

"Your belt?"

"Yes, this is not an ordinary belt. As much as—"

"I don't need it! Wow! I beat Hippolyte! I'm going to brag about it!"

"—Damn it!"

Luna was clearly dominating Hippolyte, both in the confrontation and post-conflict conversation between them.

Holy shit, wasn't Luna used to be at the bottom of the food chain? Did Luna have a hidden type? Or was there some type of affinities I wasn't aware of? ¹Pokemon reference. Some types are stronger/weaker on others. Here Hassan is wondering if Luna had a hidden type that was actually super effective on Hippolyte's type. This is basically just random nonsense lol.

I never thought that things such as type affinities would matter in front of Hippolyte who could fling a stone with her fingers like it was a bullet.

“I beat Hippolyte! Holy shh—!”

Luna started yelling around as if she was really excited about Hippolyte asking her for a rematch like that. If I had beaten Hippolyte myself, I couldn't really blame her as I would have done the same if I beat Hippolyte.

If I had to make a comparison of the current situation, it was like a BSG from the low tiers won the first blood solo kill against Faker, the pro player, in his heyday in a line match. What the fuck did she do?²League of legends terminology. Along with some players.

“Ugh... then, what should I do for you to have a rematch with me? O-Okay, I'll even lick your feet!”

Now, Hippolyte even kneeled in front of Luna and bowed her head just to make her have a rematch. It was a relief that there was no one around, otherwise, what she was doing now would have subjected her to teasing and ridicule for the rest of her life. Yet, looking at her, I could see that she was determined to face such a fate.

Indeed, unlike the Minerva Guild, which valued the honor and glory of a battle, what really mattered to Hippolyte, who served Mars, the God of War, was merely victory and defeat, not the method or honor behind the battle.

Being a loser would be more hurting to her pride than anything else.

“W-Why do you want to lick my feet? I hate it even more.”

“T-Then what—!”

Hippolyte lowered her head and lifted her body as if she was really about to lick Luna's feet. Luna pondered for a while as if feeling lost and confused due to Hippolyte's actions.

“Well, then, if I win again this time, please promote the elixir I will sell in the future.”

“Y-You said elixir? Uhm, if it's an elixir—”

Hippolyte hesitated for a moment. She had been thinking for a while, but soon she nodded after coming to an understanding within herself.

“Okay, if that will allows me to pay back the disgrace of previous defeat then I am willing!”

In the first place, Hippolyte was ready to lick Luna's soles if she could pay back the disgrace of losing the previous match. Though, I wondered if getting revenge on someone still held any meaning if your honor and dignity had been trampled to the lowest ground already.

"Alright, then, let's do a single round of arm wrestling."

"All right. Samaritan, please help us out. Be the judge of this match."

Thus, a match to decide who would become the slave and the king took place above the flat platform of the guild ceiling wall that had fallen apart due to the terrorist attack.

My back started to sweat just by looking at both women's dead serious expressions as they held each other's right hands.

"Well, then, the person whose hand touches the surface first will lose. So let's—"

They tightened their grab on each other's hands. Hippolyte's solid upper arm was hardened enough for her muscles to become visible.

"Fight!"

The women's power struggle began with the signal from my lips. To be honest, I thought it would be just a one-sided beatdown.

Tightened—

Yet, what happened in front of my eyes was something that was hard to believe, even if I was directly witnessing such a scene. Hippolyte and Luna were struggling to overpower each other's arms!

"Uwaaaah!"

No, on the contrary, Luna's side seemed a little more dominant in this confrontation! Luna was actually pushing Hippolyte with her strength!

What the fuck is going on here?

Had Luna become much much stronger than before?

No, I don't think that's possible. Even if Luna was leveling up rapidly these days, it was still not enough to beat Hippolyte.

Luna's level was 11 and— according to her own words— Hippolyte's level was over 40.

If we were looking at the situation now, it was more likely that Hippolyte had become considerably weakened rather than Luna becoming incredibly strong. What was the reason? It was not night yet. So, there was no moonlight to weaken her.

“I—I will win—!”

With a shout of determination to win this bout, Luna began pushing Hippolyte’s hand toward the flat surface.

“Ugh, hooah!”

With the fierce momentum generated by Luna, the back of Hippolyte’s hand was gradually leaning toward the surface. Shocked and taken aback, Hippolyte clicked her tongue and yelped in fury and frustration due to the sudden turn of events.

And then, a surprising change occurred.

Sssk— Tightened—

Hippolyte’s other hand casually shot up from under the platform and broke into the game which helped her to start pushing back Luna’s attack! How could she use both hands like that? Damn it, wasn’t this cheating?

“Miss Hippolyte, I know you take victory and defeat very seriously but isn’t this a bit too much?”

“T-The only rule is to make the back of your opponent’s hand touch the surface! All that matters is to win!”

“T-Then I’ll do it, too!”

Luna also pressed Hippolyte’s wrist to the surface with her other hand.

“Hooah!”

“Wow! I beat Hippolyte again!”

The game was a perfect defeat for Hippolyte, despite her already using a dirty trick to try and snatch the win from Luna.

Luna hopped around like an excited rabbit, intoxicated by the joy of her victory.

“I won!”

Of course, I was glad too. Even worms had the skill to wriggle out when they were stepped on. Yet, Luna was a vicious scorpion. Not only could she wriggle out, but also had the skill to strike back!

“Wow, Luna, you won! How did you do that?”

“I don’t know, too!”

“Uh... that—”

Unlike Luna and I, who held each other’s shoulders and rejoiced, Hippolyte, who had even used a dirty method, began to tremble as if she just could not accept that she had experienced another defeat.

Her reddish skin became even redder to the extent that it seemed like her head started fuming, perhaps because of embarrassment or anger.

“Since I’ve won against a Silver-tier, does it mean that now I’m a Silver-tier too? Just like this?!”

“Hic— Hic—”

“I’ve heard that some people, after getting too angry can’t control their anger and end up crying instead. Hippolyte seemed to be that kind of person, as she was now sniffing with tears in her eyes.

Somehow, seeing Hippolyte crying like that started to give me the chills, and my smile quickly disappeared.

“I’m so happy! Now Hippolyte will also promote my elixir around!”

However, Luna could not hide her joy, not caring at all about how her opponent was shedding tears.

This was how cold it was in the world of competition. However, looking at the female warrior’s burning red face, which looked like it was about to burst, I poked Luna’s side to get her attention.

“Hey, Luna, s-stop it.”

I got an ominous feeling that something irreversible may happen if Luna kept teasing her or celebrating her joy like this. Of course, Luna, clueless as she was, was busy jumping up and down and kept teasing Hippolyte without a care for her feelings.

“Are you crying? I even made Hippolyte cry! Whoohoo!”

Hippolyte clenched her fist and trembled violently as if she was finally unable to bear Luna's teasings and bizarre behavior anymore.

Goosebumps spread on the nape of my neck as I had an ominous feeling that things were about to turn for the worse.

As I anxiously watched the situation unfold, Hippolyte spoke in a restrained tone, seemingly trying to take control of her violent emotions.

"I'll use magic! I-I'll make it so that it never happened!"

Magic? Did Hippolyte know how to use magic? However, Hippolyte, who shouted in a mysterious tone, clenched her fists and shouted once more.

"Memory erasure magic!"

Swish—!

Then she swung her fist with all of her might.

Luna lowered her head, letting out a short, surprised scream as Hippolyte's iron-like fists fell on her. Luna let out a 'Hyuk-' at the sudden attack and agilely dodged.

The problem was that Hippolyte's fist, following along the wind-up, accurately landed on my stomach since I was standing right behind Luna.

"Cough—"

This fist that hit out of nowhere hurt a lot and even prevented me from breathing, and with that, I just fell forward and lost consciousness.

* * * * *

When I opened my eyes again, the first thing I saw was the unfamiliar ceiling above, followed by walls, a bed, and the blanket covering me.

I thought that this would be the afterlife, but the bandages and medicines wrapped around my body seemed to be indicating that my life had been prolonged somehow.

I really thought I was going to die there.

Did she say that it was memory erasure magic? More like terrible beatdown magic.

....

Damn it.

But where am I? A treatment center? No, rather than a treatment center, this place looked more like a warehouse, I guess.

Armor and weapons were lying all over the place. It was cramped, just like Luna's cabin. In addition, there was a lot of exercise equipment, such as barbells or dumbbells with heavy weights.

Looking particularly closely, this looked like the supply room of a gym, or a training center. Just where the hell was I?

"Is there anyone here?"

Left with no other choice, I shouted at the surrounding area to find out where I was. However, there were no signs of movement around me.

When I stood up, I realized that my body was completely naked and only wrapped in bandages.

Who took off my clothes? What about my gear and money bag?

Fuck, did I just lose the money bag that was more valuable than my life? There were about 50 silvers in it!

It felt like the blood in my body suddenly turned cold, and a terrible sensation wracked through my body. So, I forcefully moved my body, which wasn't even able to move around well due to my injuries, and began rummaging through the room's drawers.

Push— Thud—

But I couldn't find my belongings anywhere in this room. All I could see were women's black underwear which probably belonged to someone.

Was this something like a bra?

It was big enough to cover my face.

Sniff— Sniff—

When I smelled it— just in case— I smelled something strange, along with the smell of clean, washed textiles. That smell made my lower body hot and hard.

The scent was also spread throughout this warehouse-like room. I felt like I couldn't calm down because of that.

What was this? Where and when did I smell something like this?

While I tried to remember just where I had smelled this scent before, and was finally coming close to remembering it, someone entered the room following the sound of the door being opened.

“Have you come to your senses?”

“M-Miss Hippolyte.”

“I was worried because I thought you would never open your eyes anymore—”

Hippolyte quickly creased her brows. What her sharp eyes were looking at was none other than my lower body.

My magnificent towering schlong was peeking out through my lower region’s bandages.

As if that appearance felt burdensome for her, Hippolyte murmured in a low tone, just enough that I was able to barely hear it, while diverting her gaze to the side.

“—The first thing you did after coming back to your senses was to go through my underwear? You must be quite healthy after all.”

“Y-Yeah, h-haha.”

Footnotes:

- 1Pokemon reference. Some types are stronger/weaker on others. Here Hassan is wondering if Luna had a hidden type that was actually super effective on Hippolyte’s type. This is basically just random nonsense lol.
- 2League of legends terminology. Along with some players.

Chapter 78: The Descendant of Pluto (5)

The Descendant of Pluto (5)

“You’ll have to lie down for another day to regain your strength according to the healer. You’re stronger than I thought, Samaritan. You’ve improved your stamina, haven’t you?”

According to Hippolyte, her memory erasure spell left me unconscious for a day or so.

Did I end up only fainting for a day because I drank Luna’s potion beforehand? I wasn’t sure.

“W-What happened to Luna?”

“She was sent on a quest because of the cultist attack. She’s engraving an ‘X’ mark on every house. She’ll probably come to pick you up tomorrow.”

Pick up. It was kind of strange to refer to people as if they were objects but I guess that’s just how things are in this barbaric world.

Moreover, it probably didn’t mean much coming from Hippolyte as she spoke in a stiff and military-esque tone.

“Then take a rest. I have to warm up for tomorrow’s work. I’ll sleep a little later.”

“I’m sorry for sleeping on your bed.”

“Don’t be sorry. I don’t mind it either way. It’s partly my fault, to begin with.”

Hippolyte then started doing push-ups and other bodyweight exercises in a corner of the room while I was lying on the bed.

As she was wearing short black-colored workout-like clothes, the movements of her elastic muscles along with the curve of her sweaty waist were fatal for one’s sight.

What stood out in particular, were her voluptuous and alluring breasts that were protruding through the sweat-drenched crop top that was clinging to her voluptuous body.

That aside, a kind of strange and hot scent was filling my surroundings.

“Huuuh, twenty, twenty oneee…”

It was then that I lost my composure after realizing that what was making my lower body stand up so magnificently was something that Hippolyte was releasing— something akin to pheromones. How could she seduce a man like this?

No, Hippolyte probably wasn’t aware of such matters. She was the farthest from any sexual matters, she probably didn’t even masturbate once in her life.

“F-Fifty-one… Whoo.”

That made her look so defenseless, and ironically, made me even more excited about what was happening in front of my eyes.

She was a healthy and beautiful woman, no man could possibly resist her charms.

The blanket covering my lower body was very thin, thus the chances of my erection getting spotted were very likely. That was why, I started singing the national anthem in my mind to calm my raging lower body.

“My forearm isn’t improving much lately. Your body is pretty well trained Samaritan. Do you know any special training techniques for it?”

Hippolyte, who had been checking herself out in the mirror for a while suddenly talked to me. Damn, I’m glad she finally stopped with her exercises.

“You’re asking me how to exercise?”

“Yeah.”

Shen then approached me and carefully stared at my bandage-wrapped body.

A certain part of my body was currently making me feel very embarrassed but I was afraid it would anger her if I tried to hide it so I acted nonchalant about it.

“It never got as thick as yours no matter how much I trained.”

“I think it’s just the inherent difference between men and women. Aren’t your muscles many times stronger than mine despite being thinner?”

“But I still lost to Knoxdoty. I was completely defeated by that soft kid who seemed to have never trained in her life. What about that?”

Why is she asking about this out of the blue?

What should I say here? I was desperately thinking of something to say that wouldn’t result in my defenseless solar plexus getting hammered by her fist again.

“I-It was probably an accident. Miss Hippolyte fought hard with the cultists the day before and you might have been tired... Yes, you weren’t in perfect condition. That’s it.”

“So you’re saying that I’m an idiot who can’t even exert her full strength unless I am in perfect condition?!”

Why was she getting so angry? Damn, was this the so-called unblockable move? Damned if I say anything, and damned if I don’t.

I’m completely screwed right now. Will it be a week until I wake up this time?

Wait, am I even going to wake up this time around? Just as such terrifying thoughts filled my head, Hippolyte softly spoke out.

“You’re actually right. I’m a complete idiot. A moron that can only exert her strength during the day. Very few people know about this fact.”

“I-Is that so?”

“I’m powerless under the moonlight. I had a similar feeling when I was fighting against Knox Dotty. It was as if there were shackles all over my body.”

“M-Maybe it’s because her name is Luna. She has moon in her name...”

“You’re talking nonsense now, Samaritan. That aside... That aside, why is your lower body standing up like that?”

Hippolyte looked at my lower body and narrowed her brows as if she found my current state to be absurd.

My lower body which had calmed down a little rose up again after Hippolyte approached me with her sweaty body.

Any healthy man would have the same reaction if a woman who had been vigorously working up a sweat suddenly approached him like that.

“That’s how a man’s body is, always getting feisty for no reason at all. It’s not something I intended to happen, yes, definitely...”

“...I see.”

That was how my awkward conversation with Hippolyte ended.

Because I had a passive skill that made me very weak against strong women like Elfrede, the Flame Wizard, and Nemea, the Alchemist Witch, it was also very awkward for me to be alone in a room with Hippolyte who could be seen as your typical strong woman.

I’ll quickly get out of here tomorrow and enjoy my freedom to the fullest.

Probably because of not being fully recovered yet, I lost consciousness and fell asleep while thinking about that.

Unwrap— Unwrap—

The reason I regained my senses was that I could feel something moving and sometimes rubbing against me which was slightly tickling me.

I couldn’t see anything because of the darkness, but I could tell that someone was changing the bandages that were wrapped around my body.

The way she was carefully and attentively taking care of my bandages was surprisingly kind of her.

I didn't know if I should wake up right now and say thank you to her or just pretend to still be asleep. Due to my hesitation, I ended up missing the right timing to wake up.

Let's just go back to sleep. And right as I thought so.

Swoosh— Swoooosh—

After removing all my bandages, I could feel Hippolyte's touch on my skin, and perhaps because she had applied ointment to them, they felt smooth, cold, and somewhat subtle.

Wet—Wet—

She went from my chest to my abs and my sides. She was firmly rubbing my body with her hands. It felt good, like a refreshing and cool 'Mulpas' being applied to my body. ¹Mulpas is a muscle-pain reliever, it's liquid a paste/liquid.

What medicine was she using on me? I want one. Though it was probably expensive since it was used by a famous adventurer like her.

Press— Preeess—

She would sometimes also press on my body with a moderate amount of force as if she was trying to massage me. It helped relieve my fatigue quite a lot.

Just like I thought the last time, Hippolyte was really good at giving massages. I'll just enjoy this massage while pretending to be unaware of her actions and then go to sleep for real. I stayed silent while thinking like that.

Was pretending to be asleep going to cause problems? Hippolyte's hands, which had been applying medicine to my body, were gradually moving down from my chest toward my thighs and pelvis.

The blanket covering my lower body fell down and I tightly closed my eyes in response.

Damn it, no matter how kind you are, you're not gonna apply medicine there too, right?

I couldn't calm down, and my heart was pounding at a fast pace. It felt as if I was going to die any second.

"I-I have to apply it there too..."

Hippolyte's barely audible mutter, in this dark space, sounded especially clear to me.

"...Pardon me."

Since she thought I was asleep, Hippolyte went on and started applying the ointment to my thighs, knees, and calves without asking for my permission.

Swoosh— Wet—

Of course, her movements themselves were very formal and awkward, so it wasn't anything exciting or naughty in a sense.

But the fact that I was lying in an unfamiliar woman's bed while being nursed by her was making me harder and harder with each passing second.

Bulge— Bulge—

I was doing my best to calm myself down, but more and more blood was continuously rushing toward my lower body with no way for me to stop it. It was slowly pushing up my roughly worn underwear forming a magnificent tent.

Hippolyte, who was stroking my thighs audibly flinched after noticing my state. She must be feeling embarrassed. I'm feeling just as embarrassed, damn it.

"Samaritan... Are you still awake?"

Hippolyte then lightly whispered, calling out to me. Was she trying to check whether I was asleep or awake?

I had now two choices in front of me. Pretend to be asleep, or pretend to have just woken up.

But what could I say after waking up to such a huge erection?

It's perfectly normal for healthy men to get erections during their sleep, was what I wanted to say, in fact. And just as I was quickly trying to come up with words to explain this to a woman like her.

"Was it just my imagination...? It grows on its own, even during sleep it seems."

But Hippolyte came to a conclusion by herself before I even had a chance to decide on what to do, and because of that, I just continued to pretend to be asleep.

"Do men seriously carry such things around with them? No wonder the balance of their lower body is messed up. Might as well cut it off..."

Damn, what the hell was she spouting in front of a sleeping man's dick? I was utterly terrified at the prospect of Hippolyte cutting off my erect schlong.

Because of that, my schlong, which was previously unbeknownst of the fear of silver-tier adventurers and was thus swelling and soaring arrogantly lost a little of its strength and slightly sunk down.

Tap— Tap—

I suddenly felt something awkwardly touching my underwear and nearly jumped up and arched my waist in surprise due to that.

I initially thought she accidentally touched me while applying the medicine around my pelvic region.

Peek—

However, when I slightly opened my eyes, I was able to see Hippolyte sitting in the dark while seriously looking down at my erect dick with a keen gaze.

Hippolyte raised her finger as if about to press a button, then repeatedly kept poking my hard cock.

It was neither a massage, nor did it have anything to do with applying medicine. But it couldn't really be considered a weird sexual experience either.

It was more similar to the notion of a curious child touching something they didn't know about.

I was rather distraught at the realization that I unexpectedly became a living dummy for sexual education.

"It's harder than I thought..."

Hippolyte seemed to be so nervous that she didn't even notice that her thoughts were leaking out of her mouth. .

Tap— Tap— Tap—

Hippolyte who was slowly poking my schlong with her index finger suddenly cleared her throat and then hummed as if she had suddenly realized something.

"Hmmm, hmmm. Samaritan, answer me if you're still awake."

Did she notice that I was just pretending to be asleep? Maybe she was giving me a chance to come out clean right now.

"Hmmm, you're just like a log, that's quite the silly face you're making there."

Hippolyte then pulled down the underwear that was wrapped around my lower body.

What? Did she just take off the pants of someone sleeping just like that? I could feel my hot burning rod come in contact with the cold air, making the back of my head tingle.

The fact that I was now naked in front of a woman, made me feel a strange kind of erotic excitement, making my cock even harder than it was initially.

Bulge— Bulge—

“A-A vein... It looks so hideous...”

She then looked at my exposed schlong that had nothing left to cover its magnificence and began evaluating it with her keen eyes. She then started to rub my inner thighs with her ointment-coated hands.

“...I-I’m just applying medicine here.”

I don’t know who she was talking to like that, nor who were these excuses supposed to be for. I just know that she continued stroking my groin and thighs with her hands.

However, the way she was lightly brushing the shaft of my dick and glans with the back of her hand made me feel quite suspicious about the nature of her acts.

She was definitely touching it deliberately.

She was actually very interested in what she was touching but took an “I don’t actually want to do this, I have no choice-” type of approach because she was burdened by ethics, morality, and rules pertaining to her current actions.

I did a lot of massages so I knew what she was going through right now.

And, damn, that aside, Hippolyte is actually interested in my lower body.

Does she like me?

No, no, that’s the kind of mistake I used to make in middle and high school just because a woman was talking to me or smiling at me for a moment.

After accumulating multiple defeats throughout my life, I knew very well that very few girls would actually come to like me.

I was, until recently, still a slave at the bottom of the food chain, while Hippolyte is a woman who made it far enough up the social ladder to be called the hero of a city.

Objectively speaking, there was just nothing about me that would make her fall for me. It's quite opposite actually...

Anyway, I was kind of going crazy at the moment because I couldn't figure out why Hippolyte was doing this to me.

The only thing that I could come up with, that made some form of sense, was that Hippolyte, who was mostly surrounded by women paired with her vow of purity, didn't know much about men and this was just her being curious since she seemingly found a harmless and fun toy to play around with.

I also heard that women who exercise a lot secreted a relatively higher level of male hormones which increased their libido compared to ordinary women.

"I-I have to apply medicine here too..."

Perhaps that suppressed sexual drive and curiosity finally burst out while I was asleep. What should I do now?

A part of me wanted to continue pretending to be asleep and enjoy this experience, while another equal part wanted to stop Hippolyte from going out of control.

The other thing that immediately came to my mind was Luna's face. The Luna who poured her all into making me an elixir even though she didn't have much money.

No matter what happens here, whether it ended up being something big or small, I thought I'd feel guilty while facing Luna in the future either way.

I didn't yet know how Luna really felt about me, but I seriously wanted to reach the gold-tier and marry her in the future.

So what should I do now?

Would Hippolyte freak out and stop this if I pretended to adjust my position while still acting to be asleep? Just when I was planning to do just that...

Swipe—

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately in this case, I could feel Hippolyte's warm fingers, which were previously applying medicine, suddenly distance themselves from my body.

I thought she might have noticed that I was actually awake, but it didn't feel like that. It was as if she suddenly lost interest in me.

That's what I thought, at least.

“Haaauh...”

Until I heard Hippolyte letting out a sticky moan from one of the corners of the dark room.

“Uung...”

It sounded as though she had closed her mouth, trying her best to muffle her sultry voice, but I could still hear her gentle cat-like moans in the dark room anyway.

Footnotes:

- 1Mulpas is a muscle-pain reliever, it's liquid a paste/liquid.

Chapter 79: The Descendant of Pluto (6) ①⑧

🐾 The Descendant of Pluto (6) 🐾

Silver-tier adventurers were considered to be some of the most successful people in this world of barbarism.

If I had to make an analogy, using my limited knowledge, they could be said to be big earners, like prosecutors or youtubers. Of course, not every adventurer was the same but that's how it generally was for the people of that level.

I could at least attest to the fact that Elfriede's group was making quite a lot from their adventures. They earned themselves a big bag of silver coins every time they went through one of Pluto's treasure troves. And I'm pretty sure they even occasionally got a few gold coins during exploration.

That aside, with their profits being so high, it was natural that the quality of their living conditions – like food, clothing, and housing – would rise alongside it too.

Delicious food.

Nice clothes.

A spacious and comfortable house.

Hippolyte's house, however, had only a single room and didn't feel the least bit extravagant.

It was basically just a warehouse where she lived and stored her belongings or essentially her sleeping quarters.

As I had been scanning her room for my coin bag, I started thinking that rather than being frugal, Hippolyte just didn't seem to see any need in getting a large house for herself.

What I'm trying to say is that... Hippolyte's house was quite small, and with the training equipment, bed, mirror, and armor stand thrown into the mix, it felt even more cramped than it already was.

And because of that, I had no choice but to be aware of whatever Hippolyte was doing in the room.

"...Hauu, huahh."

How long has it been already? It felt like decades, to be honest.

Was it really that weird for my perception of time to get warped when I was lying on a bed while listening to a woman's moans and sticky saliva sounds?

"Huuu..."

I could hear her moans along with a wet and moist sound spread throughout the room.

I opened my eyes, wondering what the origin of that sound was. Slowly, very slowly, I raised my head and glanced toward my feet, toward the location of that weird sound.

After taking some time to get accustomed to the darkness, I could finally distinguish a black silhouette sitting with its back against the wall, and with its legs spread wide open, touching and stroking its huge and humongous breasts with its frantic hands.

Splat—

"Aah..."

The way the figure was squeezing its own breasts with its sticky, colorless medicine-coated fingers was an extremely lewd sight.

All miscellaneous thoughts that had been filling my head disappeared at that moment and my mind went blank. Accompanying that blankness was blood rushing to my head and my schlong, making the throbbing organ as hard as it could possibly become.

And thus despite all I could see being a faint silhouette through the dim moonlight seeping through the window.

Rather, the lack of vision only led to my imagination filling the gaps, making this scene even more so exciting.

Swoop—

I could see Hippolyte's index and thumb fingers press against the silhouette of her ample and full chest, pinching its pointy, perky ends like a button.

"Huuuh..."

Perhaps due to the intense stimulation she was feeling or her complete absorption in the moment, Hippolyte suddenly lost her balance and collapsed on the ground.

"Haaa..."

Then, as if the heater was turned on, the air in the enclosed room began getting hotter and hotter with each second.

The scent of a woman's sweat that reached my nose and stimulated my senses was almost driving me insane.

"...Ang..."

Despite the fact that she was clearly suppressing her moans, and I had to really concentrate to hear them, they were still clearly resounding in my ears.

This all felt like a dream.

The adventurer everyone was looking up to was currently masturbating while fondling her own chest right next to me.

Despite all the disorienting happenings, I was only able to keep my composure because of the abuse I received from my father when I was young, along with the self-control I had acquired after living with Elfriede for two years.

It was nothing short of being akin to a superpower that transcended human limits.

Rise—

Still, it's been going on for a dozen minutes already, I had to at least do something about my raging boner somehow. Should I pretend to go to the bathroom and take care of it there or just wait until I calm down and do nothing?

I heard that too much blood clotting in the corpus cavernosum could cause necrosis in the surrounding tissue and blood vessels. .

Anyway, even the absurdly strong and durable Hippolyte,

"N-Not enough..."

I snapped out of my thoughts and closed my eyes hurriedly in surprise at the voice that suddenly reached my ears. Hippolyte, who had been lying on the floor while panting depravedly and twisting her legs around suddenly stood up on her feet.

Splat— Splat—

I could hear the sounds of Hippolyte's sweaty bare feet stepping on the smooth ground until I felt her presence close as she was now standing next to me.

What? What is she going to do?

Even then, I still couldn't muster the courage to open my eyes.

Swoop—

Soon after, I felt the cheap bed tilt to one side as the weight of another individual was added onto the bed.

Hippolyte positioned her legs at both sides of my left shin and sat on top of it with her butt placed down.

The feel of her firm, yet pillowy soft buttocks on my lower body nearly made me squeal.

Swoop— Swoop—

But the surprise I was feeling at the moment couldn't even hope to compare to what happened next. Hippolyte quite literally started rubbing her crotch on my sleeping body.

She was rubbing her cushiony ass on my arms, stomach, and chest, like a cat that was marking its territory.

"It's not bumpy enough..."

Hippolyte was tossing and turning on top of me as if she was still dissatisfied about something. After a few minutes more of fidgeting over my body, she again sat back on my left shin.

And while still sitting in that position, on top of my shin, she began rocking her waist back and forth, rubbing her soaked genitals on my shinbone and instep.

Whenever my big toe lightly poked at her soft and supple lower body, she reacted with uncontrollable trembles and quiet gasps, as if the sensation was too much to bear.

She was probably looking for a body part that was prominent enough to stimulate her body adequately when she was scampering around rubbing her lower half on it.

Swoop— Swooop—

My shin got hotter and hotter as she kept rubbing her soaked and seething hot genital on top of it with desperate movements.

Since Hippolyte's ultra-mini hot pants were made of a strange and clingy material, I could clearly feel the shape of her round buttocks and the stimulating heat they were emanating. It honestly felt like that she was wearing nothing at all at the moment.

“Haang..”

S-Swoop—

Her soft skin was continuously coming in contact with my calves, insteps, and outstretched toes.

Sizzle—

In particular, my protruding shinbone was experiencing a delicate and exquisite sensation within the small crevice that aesthetically splits a woman's body into two. The sensation was so plump and soft that I could practically visualize the heavenly scene in my mind.

“Huuh, haaa...”

Swish— Swoosh— Splat—

Despite my mind being filled with complex thoughts, Hippolyte continued to rub her lower body against mine, placing her hands on my thighs in a way that made it look like she was riding a horse.

Swooooosh— Swoooooosh—

She was sometimes moving as slowly as a crawling snail.

Swoosh— Swoosh— Swoosh—

And at other times, violently, like she was riding a horse. In fact, so violent were her movements that I barely had any time to adapt to this absurd situation.

Thanks to that, my calves were now throbbing, twitching, and pulsating ceaselessly, not too different from an aroused organ. To think she's really using me as a masturbation toy. Did she lose her mind or something?

Did she not think of the possibility of me waking up due to her actions? I can't think of what would happen if I pretended to just awaken right now.

“...Ang...haah, aha, haaah...”

Splat— Splat—

Hippolyte began moaning more and more with each moment.

Maybe because of sweat or something else entirely, her cotton pants had become damp and now felt very smooth.

The more she was moving her back while exhaling hot breaths, the more an obscene and strange smell was continuously reaching my nose.

And yet, I couldn't move my hands at all, let alone even pretend to wake up.

Hippolyte might just instantly kill me in shame if I woke up right now. It's not a figure of speech, she'd really kill me.

“Huuuh, haaau, haa, n-not enough... Not enough, but...”

This was true torture for me. If there was such a thing as a soft and warm hell, then this would be it.

“Huuuaa...”

Soon, Hippolyte abruptly clung to my thighs, perhaps because she was about to collapse due to her intense workout.

Soft—

Thanks to that, I could feel the sensation of her cushion-like breasts directly on my thighs. It was needless to describe just how stimulating that feeling was to me.

All senses in my thighs were now heightened, I could more or less three-dimensionally picture their weight, temperature, softness, and shape in my head.

They were quite heavy and large, yet soft and plush. Just like how I imagined they would be when I first saw them with my eyes.

Amidst that indescribable softness of her heavy mountains, a nipple was firmly standing up. What color and shape was it?

What was, however, even more stimulating to me was that because of the way she was sitting on my body, her face was positioned inevitably close to my crotch.

“Haaa...”

I could clearly feel her hot breath on my firmly erect dick through my underwear as if that piece of clothe wasn't even there in the first place.

I heard that the fighting spirit of a strong adventurer would make one feel defenseless. Was it something like that?

“Huuuuu, haaaa...”

Hippolyte breathed in as if trying to completely fill her lungs with the aroma in the air. My hot and hard cock felt slightly cool for a moment because of that.

“Sniff, hang...”

Hippolyte took one big breath right above my dick and continued rubbing her lower body back and forth against the instep of my foot.

Splat— Splat—

My shin, ankle, instep, and toes were now damp and slimy as if a large slug had crawled over them, leaving a trail of mucus behind.

“Aaah, ang, haang, haaa...”

Hippolyte's groans were gradually getting louder and harder to suppress. Had she given up on trying not to wake me up completely by now?

Was she so much in the heat that she couldn't think straight at all?

“Huuuaa, ang, haaa... Ang...”

I didn't expect such groans to come out of an overly-stern woman like her.

Did anyone else know about this side of hers? I shook my head at this unexpected behavior from the warriorress lady.

“Just, just a little bit more...”

Splat— Splat— Swoop— Rub— Splat—

Hippolyte's waist movements became incredibly fast.

And with that, the shabby bed began creaking out loud, and my body violently rocked around with her own.

Still pretending to be asleep at this moment felt too far-fetched to me. Was Hippolyte doing this on purpose? Did she realize I was already awake? I slightly opened my eyes with that thought.

“Hauuuaaa...”

She was squirming while rubbing her face against the huge bulge under my underwear. She was looking like she was at a loss as to what to do in this situation.

The sight of her firm and curved back, and her raised hips under the moonlight was so mesmerizing that I could feel my blood rush to my head.

In a way, the current Hippolyte was no different than a raving beast.

A raving beast in heat, that is. A female in heat— so excited and horny that she didn’t even know what she was doing anymore.

There are multiple possible explanations for her current state. Maybe it was the excitement from her previous battle, or maybe the fact that she skipped her usual training recently, which left her with too much energy that she needed to somehow deplete... Damn it, I actually don’t know what’s happening anymore.

“J-Just a little more...”

Rub— Splat— Rub— Rub—

After rubbing her waist on my shin back and forth, it was now making very obscene and sticky sounds.

Hippolyte too was getting more and more excited with each moment while emitting sounds that would only come from a female beast in heat writhing under the body of a male beast at the peak of their mating.

The problem was that with her hands, tightly gripping my calves while straddling me like no tomorrow, they had now become very numb, perhaps because of the lack of blood flow in the region.

And as if that wasn’t bad enough, I had also been lying down for a while without moving the slightest bit.

Soon, a tingling sensation akin to being pricked by needles engulfed my calves, and I eventually ended up lifting my toes slightly to relieve that unbearable sensation.

Rub— Swoosh—

Then, I vividly felt my toes slightly digging into something beyond the thin cotton clothing of her hips. I could feel something strangely warm and moist being poked at the tip of my toes.

At the same time, Hippolyte's rocking body suddenly began trembling while letting out a strained scream.

"Ang..."

Flinch— Flinch— Flinch—

Her shoulders and back began to intermittently shudder as if she was suffering from a seizure.

"... Uuuh, ugh, haaa..."

Press—

I nearly screamed in pain at the sudden increase of her already iron grip on my thighs.

It would have really become awkward if I didn't forcefully hold my breath to block my voice in this instant. Climbed atop my body, Hippolyte now just convulsed and trembled for a while without doing any other movements.

"Huuuuuh... Huuaaaa..."

Hippolyte's quivering body then became limp. Thanks to that, I could now feel her soft chest and solid abs directly on my thighs, with nothing blocking that heavenly sensation.

But, maybe because she was now feeling exhausted, her weight was fully pressed on top of me, and the weight felt quite substantial.

Did she run out of energy after all that trembling and spasming? If I remember correctly, she seemed to be suffering from a debuff on moonlit nights so her stamina should be on the level of an ordinary person right now.

She probably used up all her energy as I expected.

...

Just as it was starting to get hard to bear Hippolyte's weight, she suddenly sprang up and slowly reached out to my cock?

What? Was she still in the mood for it? Is this just the start? Just as I started getting confused by such depraved thoughts...

“Whoa... No, I'm calm now. Hmm, looks like my period is getting closer...”

She said such words as if trying to comfort herself. She then scurried off to a corner, opened the door, and ran off somewhere.

Left alone in the room, I began breathing heavily like a man that was deprived of oxygen after holding his breath for a long time. My heart was pounding so fiercely against my chest that I just couldn't calm down.

I didn't know if this was natural.

But the room was full of Hippolyte's smell. The smell of the boiling blood of a woman in complete heat.

Chapter 80: The Descendant of Pluto (7) ⑩

☞The Descendant of Pluto (7)☞

After leaving during the night, Hippolyte didn't return, even as the sun rose above the horizon during dawn. She definitely went somewhere, but I had no way to know where.

Most importantly, I wasn't able to lie down and sleep at all because of what happened last night.

I would vividly remember the thick texture that I had felt on my shin and the wetness that slathered my big toe each time it dug into her crevice whenever I closed my eyes in an attempt to sleep.

Alright. Should I try sleeping with one leg out of the covers then?

I was barely able to sleep only after rubbing one out on someone else's bed. I used one of the bandages wrapped around me to wipe my semen off and then threw it into the trash.

And with that incident behind me, I somehow woke up the next morning.

Hippolyte showed no signs of coming back, so I got up and began searching for my things. Where were they though?

As I was moving through the room to look for my stuff, I saw a scroll with something written on it hanging on the wall.

You'll find your belongings in the bottom right compartment of the corner drawer. There's also some medicine for your injury. Put it on later.

Was that a note Hippolyte left behind for me before going out yesterday?

Her penmanship is as good as her swordsmanship, it seems. Her words were crisp and without errors as if they were printed straight out of a computer.

It was in a whole other league compared to Luna's crooked and cute handwriting.

I then went to the mentioned corner drawer and opened the bottom right compartment as instructed. There, I could see my clothes and other items neatly stacked inside.

Rattle—

After a quick count, the money inside the bag totaled 47 silvers and 25 coppers. I felt relieved as this was exactly how much I remembered having.

Done with the checking, I packed my swords, clothes, necklace and then went outside.

What immediately registered in my eyes was how my surroundings were different from the landscape of the west slums of Sodomora that I was used to.

The road was well-paved with evenly laid bricks, probably so that wagons could pass without any bumps. Street lamps were also placed to illuminate the still-dark alleys.

It looked so much like a real electric pole that I couldn't help but stare intently at it for some time. Inside the lamps. I could see some bugs flapping around while emitting light.

Of course, the fact that something like this existed on the streets was amazing in itself.

The attires of the people walking on the streets were also impeccably neat, like that of aristocrats or successful adventurers.

Unlike the slum gangsters who usually just stare blankly at the ground or glare at the passersby, these individuals had plump faces and carefree expressions.

Wherever I currently was, it felt like a place I didn't belong in.

People actually even started gossiping after noticing me.

"Hey, isn't that a Samaritan? What's he doing here on East Street?"

"Isn't he a cultist? I heard Samaritans are the descendants of Pluto. That's why they have dark hair and eyes."

"It must be a slave escapee from some noble house."

"Shh, be quiet. He can hear us."

From the way they were whispering to each other, I didn't seem to be very welcome on this street.

I thought I had settled well in Sodomora, but it seems that I was only welcomed in the vicinity of the guild building and the slum area where I had set up my residence.

Of course, I've been receiving this kind of stares for nearly two years now, and I wasn't bothered much by them anymore.

"Hassan!"

When I turned my head toward whoever was calling me, I saw a cute girl running toward me. As expected, she was quite the eye-catching spectacle in this old-fashioned-looking place.

Her pink hair would obviously stand out no matter where she went, but now I was starting to find it endearing.

"Luna! What the hell happened!? I was in Hippolyte's house when I woke up!"

"You're finally awake!"

Luna suddenly hugged me and began sniffing me.

"Ugh."

But she soon began frowning and furrowing her brows and then, all of a sudden, she grabbed my arm and sunk her teeth into it.

"Uuuuuuh!"

"Ouch! W-What!? Why did you bite me?!"

It was nothing like an affectionate bite or a cute nibble, it was the real deal. I felt like she was going to rip my flesh off, and it was so painful that my eyes started tearing up.

Aaaaaaaaaaagh—

Luna, who had been biting my arm for a long time, finally slowly let go of my arm after noticing that I was in real pain.

Splat—

I could see a string of saliva stretching between her mouth and my arm. But what caught my attention the most was the bite mark left on my arm after she had sunk her teeth into it.

I was so surprised and hurt by this sudden action of hers that I didn't even find the time to be angry.

"Oi, why did you bite me out of the blue, like that?"

"Marking my territory."

"What the..."

I was going to ask what that was all about until I realized that my body was probably reeking of Hippolyte's smell and I suddenly shivered on the spot.

I thought I had washed well enough in the simple shower booth at Hippolyte's place.

Wait, am I just reading too much into this? Maybe Luna's hometown had the tradition to bite people as hard as you could to welcome them. Damn it, I don't even know at this point.

"Did it hurt, Hassan? Did it hurt?"

"...Ah, of course, it hurts."

"Good then."

I thought she was going to apologize, but she was smiling with a satisfied expression and even snorted like she was upset about something.

Damn, this is bad. She is definitely onto something. But nothing really happened. No, something definitely happened, but it wasn't something that crossed the line, right?

However, looking it at from another angle, would I be able to keep my calm if Luna did something similar with another man?

That's impossible, goddamn it. I'd be so angry that I'd smash and destroy everything around me without even realizing it.

Having come to the realization that no matter what happened, I had still made a terrible mistake, I opened my mouth in embarrassment and shame.

"I-I'm sorry..."

I would usually find it easy to prostrate in front of others and apologize.

But it was strangely difficult today when I was facing Luna. My voice was very low, almost akin to a whisper.

I thought that my sense of pride had been trampled flat during the past two years, and even reduced to atoms at this point, but I guess I still had some of it left in me.

“I’m sorry!”

“It’s good that you apologized. But be careful from now on. Because as a daughter of Ideope, a shaman, I have unique instincts and will be able to figure out if you do something bad like that.”

“Y-Yesh...”

Luna had become quite scary this morning. She had a higher level than me and easily subdued Hippolyte with a suplex. Of course, she’d look scary in my eyes...

Today, I saw another side of Luna, who usually only smiled and seemed somehow to be mentally challenged, which sent chills down my spine. She was indeed the daughter of the Goddess Knox.

* * * * *

I then began working on putting X marks on the houses of the wealthy east district.

“What are you doing in front of someone else’s house? Why are you carving that there? I’m going to call the guards!”

We would occasionally meet people who didn’t understand what we were doing, but we managed to explain the reason behind our actions and move on.

It was late afternoon and the sun was setting down when we returned to Luna’s cabin after going around most of the eastern district.

“Whoo, It’s finally over!! We can take a long break now. I heard the guild building was in too bad of a shape, so we won’t be able to receive any requests for a month or two.”

Luna’s words were quite worrying.

“How can we survive without work? This is a huge problem.”

“Shouldn’t we stay at home anyways since the cultists are about to attack? In the meantime, I’ll make a lot of elixirs to sell.”

Was it something like self-quarantine season? Well, it would be a good idea to stick by Luna and raise my task points by massaging people.

As said earlier, it will be a while since our next guild request, so all I can do is collect task points so that I can convert them into stats later.

“Whoo...anyways, my legs are hurting a lot and the soles of my feet are sore as well.”

Luna grumbled while sitting down on the carpet of the second floor.

Of course, her feet would hurt after spending the whole day going around the city like that. Even I was a bit tired.

“I think I got blisters on my feet too. The soles of my feet would have been peeled by now if it wasn't for the shoes you bought me, Hassan.”

I was immediately scared when the word ‘blisters’ was uttered by the teary-eyed Luna. Blisters on Luna's soft and smooth soles?

Unacceptable!

“Lemme take a look.”

“H-Hmm? I-It's not that bad... Stop... I-I didn't wash them yet...”

Luna's face turned pink as if terribly ashamed by my words.

However, the sight of her feet slowly stretching forward, revealing more and more of her soles was so enchanting that I couldn't look away from them.

“Don't smell...”

“Don't worry...”

I held Luna's ankle that a full day of walking's worth of sweat on it.

Then probably because she was wearing flat sandals, only the part that had direct contact with the floor was red, making her soles look very weird.

“There doesn't seem to be any blisters.”

“Really? What a relief. My feet won't look as pretty if I have blisters.”

Now that I think about it, didn't the women of this world value their feet and their appearances a lot? I suddenly began to wonder why and asked Luna about it.

“Luna, do you take care of your soles too?”

“Hmm? Of course! I even take very diligent care of them. I make sure to bathe them in healing mineral water once per day, apply medicinal ointment on them at least once per week, and put on moisturizer—”

“Aha.”

Luna began muttering various terms that I didn’t understand.

I actually never saw Luna putting on makeup or taking care of her body so I didn’t know about this side of her. It seems she was taking good care of her body in ways I wasn’t aware of.

Luna’s feet were actually very pretty— slightly curved, thin, and tiny.

I wasn’t aware of it before meeting Luna, but I really liked her pretty feet. Just touching them was making my lower body heat up like a volcano.

It was so damn hard to force myself not to take a whiff of her lovely feet.

So, I gently pressed my thumbs against Luna’s small soles while holding them in my hands.

Press—

I applied a moderate amount of force on them, making sure not to press too hard. Luna trembled and couldn’t help but let a little “Aang...” sound escape from her mouth.

“H-Hassan?”

“You walked a lot today. I’ll give you a massage to relax your feet and avoid you getting plantar fasciitis or something like that.”

“P-Plantar...? Hah, huuaa...!”

Press— Preess—

What I was specifically pressing was the arched part between her heel and inner foot, known as the Baihui acupoint.

Pressing on this part of the body was notoriously said to relieve foot swelling after long periods of walking.

All I had to do was press there while doing round motions with my hands. Luna was shaking and groaning with each of my moves like she was about to convulse.

“I-It hurts.

“It’ll feel better soon.”

“Can’t you let me wash them first? T-This is s-so embarrassing...”

Luna loudly expressed how much she was ashamed of the fact that she didn't wash her feet. Feeling a little playful by her words, I directly took a sniff at her cute feet.

"Wha-Wha what are you doing...? Don't!"

Luna was struggling hard, but it was impossible for her to escape my clutches.

I continued to press on the soles of Luna's cute feet with my thumbs, all the while bringing them closer so that I could smell them.

Luna's body suddenly arched like a bow as I playfully stuck out my tongue to lick the large area.

"Hauuung...!"

What I learned from this short interaction was that... these lovely feet of hers were a very sensitive erogenous zone to her.

She seemed to be as sensitive there as she was in her secretive parts. Was it because it was a body part she felt a lot of shame about?

In that case...

What would she do if I rubbed my cock there?

Undress—

The atmosphere in the room was so hot that I untied the knot on my waist without a single shred of hesitation.

My hot rod was already near its limit from the moment I sniffed Luna's soles. It was now exposed, making me feel a little cooler.

"Hassan, w-what are you trying to do?"

Luna, who had yet to regain her composure because of my teasing, asked in utter embarrassment after seeing me take off my pants and reveal my cock.

I then carefully tucked Luna on the deerskin rug, and then folded her feet around my schlong, like two buns wrapping a sausage.

I could now feel Luna's soft soles on my hot rod.

The thought of putting my throbbing cock, in a part of her body that she cherished so much and took such good care of, that she had also shown to no one but me, was very exciting and nearly made me instantly ejaculate all over her cute feet.

“H-Hot, Hassan— Why did you put my feet on that thing...?”

Did Luna not know about footjobs? Well, she didn't seem to be the kind to be knowledgeable about lewd stuff. I honestly quite liked that part of her.

Swoop— Swoosh—

I began rubbing my hot and eager rod against the soft soles of the confused Luna. A sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, that was much different than anything I felt while I usually masturbated using my own hand, was filling my body with each stroke.

Not only that, a strange sense of humiliation, because I was being stepped on by a woman along with the strong desire to conquer her and know everything about her, made this experience ever so slightly more satisfying.

“Uuh, h-hot, Hassan...”

It seems Luna's sensitive feet were strongly affected by the heat of my schlong.

Of course, since I was rubbing it on her bare feet, there were bound to be some places I would feel friction along my hot rod, which was kind of embarrassing for me.

Because of that, I was wondering if there was a better way to do this. Should I just spit on them? It was only then that I suddenly remembered what happened last night.

Cling—

I began rummaging through my inner pockets until I found a small glass bottle the size of my thumb that was firmly closed with a cork and was full of liquid.

It was the spare medicine bottle that Hippolyte gave me. I then applied the sticky and smooth medicine all over my cock and Luna's soles.

I carefully made sure to reach every part of her feet— her soles, heels, the arched part, and even the space between her toes.

Splat— Splat—

“I-It tickles, hehe—”

Luna was constantly squirming as if she was really being tickled. What I wanted to hear wasn't her laughter, but her lusty moans, however.

I then put my schlong back in between the soles of her feet after applying the ointment in every nook and cranny on them.

Rub—

My schlong, after rubbing it on her elixir-soaked thin, and wet soles, made a very obscene sound.

“Ang...! Uuh, w-what?”