

M E M O R I Z E

111. The Dark Past

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Three days after the expedition. Two days to explore the ruins of the institute. And three days to go back to Mule. We were able to complete the return at Eidle Bay. The arrival time was just over the afternoon. And similarly, the other players who were done with the exploration around here were gentle taking a look at us. Maybe, they were out of luck with their expedition, and were wondering if ours was any different.

However, this time the faces of others members of the party was gloomy except for one. We have received a lot from this expedition, and it felt like we came back after being thorough with the expedition. Soon, Yoo-Jung who still looked pale, opened her mouth with an exciting face.

“Uh..... finally, we are back. I want to sleep, eat warm food, wash myself and sleep very soundly.”

“Heay! I too.....”

Said An Sol with a bright smile, and An Hyun who listened to their conversation had a stern look. It seemed like his shoulders were stiff and so was his neck of all the excitement that he had got in the expedition. I decided to joke a little.

“An Hyun. What are you going to do since you have come back?”

An Hyun moved to the side a little and then responded with a gentle look.

“Isn’t it definite, I will start training. I think it is a bad idea to eat and play, and I’ll act well since we have come back from the exploration.”

“Quite a desirable attitude. You sure are a rare class.”

“HuHu. Isn’t it normal to do that?”

As An Hyun opened his mouth and gave out the expected answer. On the other side, Yoo-Jung and An Sol were staring at him with surprised look. Before long, Yoo-Jung who couldn’t tolerate it, started to spit out the harsh words.

“I will Play. You practice well. I will eat like pig.”

Despite the strong revolt from Yoo-Jung, An Hyun’s face didn’t change.

“Hmm.. It smells like some ordinary player is here. This smell is like an ugly version of jealousy. I think it would be nice for me to move between hyung and Vivian.”

As soon as An Hyun responded with a calm tone. I could see fire in the eyes of Yoo-Jung.

“Fuck you. You bastard.”

“From where is this crazy animal shouting from jealousy? By the way, hyung, the day looks so clear today. HaHaHa.”

“Ok Ok. You both have to stop.”

At my words, An Hyun nodded his head in a relaxed manner, while Yoo-Jung just chewed on her lip and turned her face away. I thought of slightly touching her a bit and nudged her hands. Shin Sang Yong and Vivian laughed at them.

I turned my attention towards Jung Ha Yeon for a moment. She has been in a daze from the moment that we have left from the lab of the ruins. The members of the party didn't speak to her, and she rarely opened her mouth. Yoo-Jung who used to be so close with Jung ha Yeon, was now pretending like she didn't even exist.

Honestly, this couldn't be considered as a good mood. Whatever it was, we were supposed to be in the clan together. At least for the time being we needed to be like a family, the atmosphere should've been like the day we left from Mule to the exploration. Moreover, since I was planning to apply for the establishment of a clan after the exploration was complete, she will also become the member of the clan.

Anyway, I just want to have a good rest for a day and then I'll think about talking. There are a lot of things that I had to do after the expedition, but I was going to postpone them and do them before I go to the next exploration. But if everybody invested their time, and then they could solve the task one after the other, then we will have smooth walk in the long way that we need to go.

I twisted my body because of the fatigue as we passed through the North Gate. After listening to the guard on the side of the gate, I decided that the next destination of mine is the Inn.

In this small town of Mule, the lodge that I always seek was the same < The Modest lady >. The facilities were not that good, and the players too, it wasn't much crowded (lets exclude the players who were there for Go Yeon-Ju.) but the food did taste good. Of course, these reasons weren't much. The real reason why I went to the Inn was to kill time with Go Yeon-Ju and to recruit. So, the time to meet her was approaching.

In the worst case, I will have to deal with her alone. I hope such a thing doesn't arise, and I started to climb the stairs of the Inn that I had arrived.

I was able to see the back of Go Yeon-Ju, who was cleaning the table as soon as I opened the front door.

“Gulp.”

This was the gulp of An Hyun. She took the table cloth and turned towards the door effortlessly, as she realized that she had company. Soon after she saw my face, she greeted me in a nice manner.

“Oh my. It been a while.”

“It had been long.”

When I walked into the door of The Modest Lady, I could only see a few of the players as they were in my way. So, I can probably get rid of the bums that were lying around here. I was still in the planning stage, but there were player who were slowly leaving the cities from the North.

Go Yeon-Ju was still wearing a high exposure clothes. A V-neck top that reveals more than half of her chest, a bottom that showed the smooth thigh on the knee, as if she was missing the bottom. She gathered both the hands to her face that which was like a gesture that she was glad to see us after a long time.

“Will you have a meal..... Or a bath? Or anything else.....”

Go Yeon-Ju spoke as if she was singing, and a little of my tiredness was gone.

“I will wash after my meals. I will leave the room after two weeks, and give me three rooms. I always start with the meals.”

“Sheeh.”

She made a sound with her tongue, and decided to do what we asked. We were seated at a nearby table, after receiving gazes from the others in the room. Soon after, the chair that we sat on made a creaking sound, and I sighed.

“Wow... however, Su-Hyun.”

“What.”

“Why did you ask 3 rooms? Two is enough.”

“One is for some other work. There is something specific that needs to be done.”

At my words Vivian, just looked at me. One of the suites was going to be used by me. we have a lot of work that needs to be done in the future, and we need a space where the more work could be done.

I could use one of the medicine that we explored. And if my thoughts were right, I could at least raise my stamina to 1 point.

I just shook my head once again to get rid of the thoughts. Today, the only thing I had to do was rest and concentrate on the recovery of the body. It looked like I hadn't abandoned my habit of extending my body to the limit like the 1st time.

Most of the kids put their heads on the table. It seemed like the fatigue of the exploration accumulated into their bodies. And as we entered the city, I haven't spoke anything specific to them either.

It took some time, I could see that Go Yeon-Ju was coming with the food.

"Oppa. I'll have one drink."

"..... drink just a little."

I thought it was okay to drink just a little, so I accepted the request of Yoo-Jung. As soon as she heard the words from me, Yoo-jung got up, and the members of the party asked the drinks that they would like to drink. Everyone seemed to have a strong desire to fill up their stomachs and climb up into their beds.

After the meal, the female players chose to take a bath, while the male players chose to go straight to the room. And seeing their requests, I chose to pay Go Yeon-Ju first.

After I was done washing me body, I left the 3rd room and entered the room with Shin Sang Yong and An Hyun. An Hyun was practicing, and then was kicking the bed at the same time. I set my bed quietly and lay down comfortably on the bed next to his.

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"Huh."

Just a little more, I told myself that it was going to be just a little more, and raised my body. when I looked out the widow, it was still dark outside. I lay back and tried to get back to sleep, but in less than a minute I got out of the bed.

Throughout the years, this habits of mine were kind of scary for me. Even though I try to correct them, but my body acts unconsciously. I've been asleep for an hour or two, but now my body was moving. This was a problem, and I consider that these problems of mine needed to be fixed.

I lie on the bed for three or four hours. This is a lot of sleep considering that usually much less than this. It seemed like I would be in a serious problem if I went on doing this.

Stats were not that great deal. But when it was time to rest, it was important to rest. Despite knowing that, I eventually grabbed the sword that was next to me. I needed to move my body and I need to control my mind to cure this problems of mine.

As I turned my gaze, I saw An Hyun next to my bed, who had kicked his bed sheet and was revealing his belly. I shook my head, covered his body and then put the bed spread on him, and got up once again. I thought that there was no one like my parents, and it caused me to feel bitter.

I held the knob of the door and turned it to open. The sound of the door that I opened was very loud today. After closing the door behind me, I immediately walked to the special room without anybody to accompany me.

There was nobody except my companions on this floor. The reason for this is that there was use for the players to choose this Inn, and on the other hand there weren't enough players at current in the city of Mule.

I was holding on to the sword and was swinging it, and I opened the door of the special room. And.....

“Oh.”

“You've come here too?”

“.... What are you doing in here, alone?”

When I asked with a expression that showed my surprise, Jung Ha Yeon tilted her head.

In the room of suite, which was intended for the purpose of the business, was where Jung Ha Yeon was sitting. On top of the table, I saw a bowl of appetizers of roasted veggies and a bottle of liquor. When I just stared at her, Jung Ha Yeon shrugged her shoulders and opened her mouth.

“Why are you looking at me like that? Am I not supposed to be here?”

“... that is not the problem. Well, there is no work that needs to be done.”

“Huhh. Don't get so subtle with me, come in and sit down. I just wanted to drink alone, so I did this.”

She didn't seem the Jung Ha Yeon that I used to see daily, only her physical appearance matched. I pulled the chairs across to her, and sat on it. After she saw me sit down, she took the drink that she was holding.

"I was kicked out."

"....."

".... It was a joke. They aren't such type of kids. So don't make that kind of expression."

The voice of Jung Ha Yeon was mixed with the snacks that she was munching on. I was shocked when she said that she was kicked out of the room, but she smiled and corrected her words. As soon as she was done playing, the next words came.

"But there was a little bit of awkwardness in the room. And I have nothing to say about it."

Hmm. That was sure to have happened. There was bound to be an uncomfortable atmosphere. Which meant that there was a need to talk with Yoo-Jung pretty soon. But that wasn't such an important thing now.

When I came in, Jung Ha Yeon said "you come here too.", which meant that she was expecting me to come to this room. The time that I've been with her was very little, but I could notice her behavior clearly. Even then, what I just thought could turn out to be a false hunch too.

When my lips were stuck together, Jung Ha Yeon filled an empty glass with alcohol and pushed it to my side. I received the glass of drink. And asked her with clear life before taking a sip of the drink.

"What would you have done if I didn't come in today?"

"What. I thought of that as a definite possibility. If you wouldn't have come, then I would've stayed alone. Whatever the outcome, it wasn't so bad. This is how the Hall Plane wizards think."

Her voice was in a seductive manner, not the usual pure voice. When I just held onto the glass, Jung Ha Yeon was glancing at me, seeing if I would drink it. I analyzed the composition of the liquid in my glass with the 3rd eye, and then drank it.

"It is strong. It isn't a light alcohol...."

She was speaking and I cut her off with a loud voice.

"Just for reference, I don't like people molding the words."

“..... I think I've become a little sentimental because I was a little drunk. Please understand that I'm a little drunk.”

She smiled in the most beautiful manner at my words. However, my eyes which were looking at Jung Ha Yeon were the same as before. I knew it instinctively. She herself said that she was drunk, but that was a clear cut lie. That face of hers, wasn't a drunk one. On the other hand, she was acting for some reason.

It wasn't me who spoke first.

“.... Kim Su-Hyun.”

“Please say what it is.”

“Are you free tonight?”

I turned as soon as Jung Ha Yeon called me. She was looking at me with dull eyes. A dark night. A room with two people. just a single table that was separating me and her. Her breath was rugged and her sweet sigh that followed the words.

She just stared at me for a lot of time and then opened her beautiful lips.

“If you are free..... will you listen to my story tonight?”

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She was not a weak person. But now she was showing weakness in front of me. I also had a lot of things that I wanted speak to her. But right now, listening to her seemed like a better idea. And I didn't want to talk in such a situation, and it was a bit too early to talk, yet she was ready to talk.

And as I nodded my head as a sign of acceptance for her to talk, she smiled at me.

“There is one thing that I want to ask before going into my story. How do you see me, like normally?”

I wasn't able to understand the intent of hers for asking this question. But it wasn't something I was going to get concerned about. As I have revealed some of the facts in my life through the < Revision of Truth >, she was also trying to reveal herself to me. Suddenly, I recalled that she had spoken about the < Golden Lion Clan > in the Institute of Ruins.

“I think that you are a smart and nice wizard.”

“And?”

“I like that you always maintain your calmness and deal with things logically. I know that you have your rules, but you are flexible with them.”

“Yes. And?”

“.... Your voice is clear.”

“Huh. Is that so? ”

I closed my mouth and then just looked at her. It looked like Jung Ha Yeon was laughing at the things that I said. However, when I looked closely she seemed to be immersed in what I said. I didn’t open my mouth to talk anymore.

“..... everyone has two faces, one that everyone sees, on the outside. And then there is a face in the inside that only one person knows.”

“There are people who have the same inside and outside face.”

“No. I believe that there is not such thing. They could be a little familiar. But there is no way that they could be same in all ways. But for the first time, after I met you, you broke that belief of mine.”

“.....”

I was just silent. Of course, I did sympathize with her. There was a time when I thought like her too. I was a little sad when she was talking about his. What had happened to her and what did the others do?

“I have no more doubts. I know very well about the accuracy of the < Revision of Truth >, and there wasn’t any lie in your words, only sincerity. A person whose inner side is the same to the world. It is wonderful to have such a person in this world.”

I was feeling stingy for a moment, but I recovered quickly. I wasn’t feeling sorry, nor any intention of feeling like that. my heart was so true towards my brother and Han So-Young, and I was confident and I was able to bear the shame too.

Once again Jung Ha Yeon filled her glass with alcohol, and just dabbed her tongue with the alcohol.

“I have told you before itself. I’m sure that there will be at least a few differences between the inner and outer character. That is what I feel about the people in the Hall Plane. Do you know why I took such a drastic decision?”

“I don’t.”

“I was in the Golden Lion clan one year back.”

This was what I was ready for, no more going round the topic, straight to the point. Yes. This was Jung Ha Yeon. Finally, she moved in the direction that I wanted her to, so I focused on what she was going to say. she closed her eyes, as if summarizing what she wanted to say. and as usual she spoke in a very clear voice after opening her eyes.

“You aren’t surprised. What so ever, it did seem like you have already knew this. anyway, when the kids said that you refused the offer of the Golden Lion.... I felt that it was unique.”

“It would’ve been a crazy thing to be in a clan without any future.”

“Clan without future..... How can one say that without knowing the past and present of the clan? However, I can understand your choice of opinion.”

She stopped speaking for a moment and made a faint look. She was recalling the memories. It didn’t take her much time to resume her story.

“The Golden Lion clan can be considered as a traditional clan. When Barbara was attacked 8 years back, by Clan Road, they managed to get past it, and its been 12 years.

It is a great thing as, there are no players in the Hall Plane who have managed to get past 10 years, the clan had its own union. Okay. Well, I wasn’t sure what the clan was like then..... But they have changed. Changed since they went behind the conceot of holding the strength and taking over Barabara. Of course, I wasn’t there in those days, but I thought that I deserved to know about them.”

“.....”

“I came to the Hall Plane along with my sister two years ago. It was a time when the Golden Lion clan was flourishing extensively. At that time, I was in college, and I didn’t even know English when I came to the Hall Plane. I was afraid. I realized that I couldn’t return to home and then I saw the monsters, that I only ever saw in the movies, and those monsters threatened my life after I fell into the Rite of Passage. At that time, I met a player who fell into the Rite of Passage just like I did.”

I wanted to say something because I could feel sorrow from the words of Jung Ha Yeon. But she shook her head and blocked my words. I just sighed and waited for her to speak with my mouth half closed.

“The player was really great. His face was handsome, nice height, well maintained body seemed like chi was flowing in his body. it was like the fantasy of a female college student who met the man of her dreams. It wasn’t just that, he was also like a leader, he made sure that we got out of there. And I couldn’t help falling in love. The abilities that

he possessed were great, not only that he wasn't lacking in anything. Specifically the bow was well suited. If he would ride a white horse, then he could be called as a prince."

And then we came to the 2nd year together. He handled the bow very well. As I remember there was no player who was worthy of being his opponent. Only one or two players from the Golden Lion Clan could be considered as archers, and they were well known. Honestly when the word **was used, I could never think of anyone but Sun Yu-un.**

"So we escaped the Rite of Passage together and entered the player academy together. And from there he started to show his strength. I wasn't an easy task to be the top of the archery in the player academy. I believed that if I was strong I'd be with him, so I practiced and practiced. I didn't want to be a burden for him. and the long awaited graduation time came. He was enamored by the new players and was approached by the Golden Lion clan. And, my dreams also came true."

"Dreams huh?"

"I was going to stay with him. On the day of graduation, he came to me while everyone's eyes were on us, he held my hand and said. I want to be with you. He wanted to be together even in the future. He must have asked the Golden Lion clan to take in another person. My grades weren't so bad, but at that time, I wasn't in a stage where I could enter a clan. Nonetheless, the scout for the Golden Clan nodded his head. Yeah. I was a beginner at that time, it was good that I got into the clan, but I did that because I was going behind him, and that was the beginning of everything..... ha."

She stopped and sighed quickly. And during that time I took the sip of the drink that was in my glass. And, finally the whole bottle of alcohol was emptied. She drank all the alcohol in a single sip. She wiped her lips, rubbed her throat and then a little sob.

"At that time, I wasn't in contact with my sister or the players from the Rite of Passage. the other players haven't spoken to me much, since I first entered the Academy. I could understand their reason to not talk. No, not understand, I was rather glad that they didn't. I worked so hard, that I wasn't an easy player who could be approached. And if they didn't have what it takes, I never took them in. Of course, my sister took her share of time to come to me, but Ji Yeon took care of me. I went into the Golden Lion clan feeling like I was a princess. It was so nice that he treated me like a special person in his life, and I was thrilled."

I tried to remind myself of the charisma that she had when I first met her. Maybe, this was why she had a good grasp on her emotions because of what happened? If a player had charisma... No. maybe she didn't have a rational appearance like now. I buried my thoughts in the back of my head. Her words were started after a pause.

“..... my story is getting too long. I’ll finish it as soon as I can. You could think that I am crazy, but I wasn’t happy to live in that clan. All of the new players, who came in purely based on their talents were jealous of me. At that time, he defended me with both his body and words... I could even hear a few players whine from the back. I could hear the players whining from all over the place. And I didn’t have a single player to be on my side.”

“No player took your side?”

At my words, the woman slightly bit her lips. I could hear the sound of her mumbling, but I couldn’t make it out clearly. She kept on chewing her lip, and then she sighed. She lowered her head and opened her mouth.

“One of those nights. I lay down to take rest, with both my troubled mind and weary body, but the players who used the same room didn’t come in. I thought that it was weird, but I told myself not to bother with it anymore. After a little time, I heard the door opening. I had already lay down and closed my eyes, I thought that it was the player who was using the same room as me. At that moment, the player who came in, climbed into my bed and put his heavy weight on top of me.”

“Don’t say....”

“I was shocked in that situation and tried to push him off, but the guy who came in tore my clothes of like a wild animal. I was going insane. I wasn’t a person like that, but I was vigilant and resistive that day, and somehow I was successful. It was really a shocking success that my skills actually helped me. The killer who took the blow went back with a loud noise. And when I turned my head, I saw the players face was bleeding all over. He was an old scout player who brought us to the clan from the academy. He was angry the moment our eyes got into contact.”

“Angry huh?”

“Yes. I would have been angry too, but I was more stunned at what happened. This was what he said at that moment. ‘What. Didn’t you talk with him?’”

The moment I heard her words, I frowned. To be precise, I could roughly guess the situation both its prior and after. She smiled at my reaction. But the smile had more of loneliness in it.

“Yeah. What you have imagined is the right thing. That day Golden Lion clan turned upside down. From that moment on, I didn’t even raise a single finger at any acts. I always did what the clan asked me to, and stayed silent about them. And I couldn’t be blamed or criticized because I was an exception case, the way I came into the clan was different. As time passed, the work load was too much and the head were quiet. Me quitting wasn’t a great thing, but I sure was happy that I did it. So I decided to get this

issue cleared up. And a player who was with from the Rite of Passage till the clan, called for me."

If this was how it was 2 years back, how is the clan at the present time. The clan did fail my big expectations, but the feeling that took after weren't so easy. Now, after 2 years, she was talking, I'll be able to see how much of her inner self is decayed after holding those feelings in.

"I thought that it was my only chance, I just wanted to be comforted. And when I went to him with a sad face, he looked at me with a cold expression and said."

"..... what could he possibly say."

"You bitch. I thought you were smart, but turns out you were just an idiot."

"Yeah. I think you should stop now. You can stop the talk. I know what happened, I can guess the situation."

I was definite of what happened. I thought that this was enough, and asked Jung Ha Yeon to stop talking about it. But despite that, she shook her head. Her shiny hair swayed from one side to the other as she shook her head. When I saw that she was determined to tell the story, I just lowered my hands.

"At that time, I fought really hard for myself, it was the first time that I fought so hard with him. In the past he would comfort me with a slow concerned voice, but that day he blamed me with a cold voice. 'Because of you, the scout won't even look at me. Do you understand how strong that guy, how well contacted he is in here? It is stupid to hold onto courtesy in the Hall Plane. You have to do what you can to live. Why don't you understand that simple thing'..... he was trying to persuade me for a while. He just left me there, while I was crying. 'The scout will come again, you just stay still and try to hold yourself."

"Miss Jung Ha Yeon."

"It is done. Just a little more, a little more left to say. I don't remember how I got back to the room after the incident. I spent three days and nights crying, just crying. Yet I still didn't grasp what was happening in there. It wasn't because of what he said, it was what I saw. I just wanted to believe in that guy, my heart wanted to trust him till the end. After a while, my concerned heart readily accepted the words of the guy. There were a few female players who were living in the same place as me, the Hall Plane isn't a modern society. I imagined it like this. This was all for me, if I will get taken in again, maybe he will accept me like before. I got myself together and began to rationalize, but that was just my delusion."

"It was stupid."

My words made her way to her.

“Yeah. I admit that. Now I think that what I did was a stupid. I’m not proud of what I did, but I never really accepted a man to my heart till then. And there was a fantasy I had, for doing it the first time. It was something I wanted to do with the person that I loved. So I went, dressed up very beautifully, and went out of the room. I thought that if I could have my first time with him, I can take a little comfort in the pain when I do it with someone else in the future. So I suppressed my emotions, and went to the quarters where he was. I put my hand on the door know. But...”

Jung Ha Yeon recalled the memories of that time and bit her lip, it was painful for her. Her hands were shaking and eyes were too. It seemed like tears were going to come out any second. She took a deep breath once or twice, and cleared her voice and spoke again.

“When I was in front of the door, I heard a weak sound inside the room. Yeah. It was the sound of a man and woman groaning. I put my hand on the know and, thy were shaking, my hands. I opened the door with a uneasy feeling. And inside the room.... Just as I expected, he and a female player, they were on each others bodies. I opened the door at that moment.”

At that moment, I realized that Jung Ha Yeon was overwhelmed with anger, burning anger, so I just waited for her next words to come.

“He was lying down, with the woman on top of him.”

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“Don’t tell me it was your sister....”

“No.”

Jung Ha Yeon dismissed my doubt with a single word. This was all like a drama, but it would be a little too much if that female players turned out to be Jung Ji Yeon. Fortunately, Jung Ha Yeon denied my doubt with a firm answer.

“Of course, she was still a kid, so she wouldn’t do it, she was a very precious person to me. Anyway.... That female player was a wizard class player who came in a few months earlier than us. I have no intention of revealing her name. That female player, had a talent that was so great that she was given special education and training at that time. I was confused with what I saw, but then that woman saw me and smiled. And opened my mouth directing my words to the man between us.”

Was it.... Yu Bin? Sung Yu Bin. I tilted my head. She was following Park Hyun-woo. However, there were a few things that didn't tally with the character of Park Hyun-woo. I thought a lot of what she said, and decided to focus on what she has to say.

"I still remember every bit of conversation that I had with them at that time. I still hear them. The woman started the conversation with him. 'Isn't she the girl who follows you? Huh?' 'Oh, It is her' 'Why is she suddenly? Hold on.... She looks different.' 'What different. I don't see anything special in her.' 'I think she like you.' 'Ah. Well honestly, she is pretty beautiful, but she isn't my taste, I like passionate woman like you.'"

Indeed, Jung Ha Yeon was bringing out the day that she wanted to forget. It was almost an year since that day has passed, and she remembers what happened very clearly. I made a grim face after hearing their conversation, and she just smiled with a sad face. And, her continued.

"At the last words from the man, the woman laughed and laughed. 'Yeah. But she is so pitiful', 'It is alright. It was waste... I brought her for the purpose of bribing.', 'Bribe? Huh?', ' There was a rumor that the Golden Lion Clan scout was a killer player. It was said that he was smart and liked pretty little girl, I thought that my presenting her to him, he might take a good care of me..... But she just ruined it. God that bitch. It hurts. Honestly, I'm sorry. As I think about it, I was expecting way too much from her. Anyway, sooner or later I'll devote myself to the scout. Lazy.....ah.'"

I heard the conversation, and I felt like the female player Jung Ha Yeon wasn't thrilled to be in that situation. When I saw her, she seemed to be in a depth of sorrow, and it didn't seem like she was lying about it. But I couldn't truly understand how she was feeling, nor did I know how tearful it would be for a woman. What I found more frightening was that Jung ha Yeon didn't shed a single tear in the whole conversation. And as I listened to her I couldn't help but sigh.

"Yeah. For him, I was nothing but a tool to get success. Even when I fell into this hell of a Hall Plane, I thought that it would be fine if I just stuck with him. but they were all my illusions. He only thought about himself, and was using me all along."

"Then how did you..."

"I went to the personnel manager on the way. I woke him from his deep sleep. I told him that I was going to quit right away. What's more surprising is that he listened to all that I had to say and without a single words he just allowed me leave. How's that. Funny right?"

Yes. I was anxious, there was no reason for her to be cast out. One of the rule of the clan is that, no member of the clan can walk out by their own freewill. Once all the words of hers were done, she took a deep breath and leaned back onto the chair. And I took out the cigar out of habit. I burned it and put it in my mouth, and the small sparks came in the end.

For a while neither did Jung Ha Yeon, nor did I say anything. There was an awkward silence between us. Soon time passed. And when I looked at Jung Ha Yeon, she opened her mouth with a hollow voice.

“Thank you. Though I wasn’t much interesting, you’ve heard my whole story.”

“It was nothing. I understand how you feel.”

“I hate those words from your mouth. How could you possibly understand?”

“At present it is the best clans and it has the best individual payers too, but the position of the women is still disadvantageous. This is something that had been going on for a long time and this was being endured. And being disposed by the clan would make an individual feel unfair. The man you met in the last was probably your last hope. I understand, I sympathize with your position.”

She laughed sadly at me, and opened her mouth.

“Okay then. Well, it is finally time to get to the point.”

I shook my head and looked at the woman who spoke till now. She looked around the room and rolled her eyes.

“The night is getting very late. You have already said a lot today. So, let us stop it for today....”

“The night is long, and we still have a lot of time...”

“The rest over matter is for the next time...”

“No. I want to get this done today itself.”

Jung Ha Yeon stared at me with eyes that looked like they were on fire. Suddenly, she held onto my hand tightly, and her body rose from her chair and onto the table. Her hands that were holding mine were cold. After I realized that she wasn’t going to let go of this, I spoke with her in a soft tone.

“What else is there to say?”

“There was a story which said to pay the price for having a debt.”

I just looked at her, without saying anything. I understood her situation. But there was a difference in this and that. I tried to tell her that she was succumbing to her emotions and that she was wrong to do this, and her eyes said something else.

I regained my posture. From now on it was the beginning of the second part of what happened in the Institute of Ruins. But this time the positions were swapped, and I was the one that was going to lead it.

“So, what will you pay for the debt?”

She listened to the calm voice of mine. At my question, Jung Ha Yeon shrugged her shoulders and spoke gently.

“I’m sorry that I dragged your thoughts by using the < Revision of Truth >. But since that day, I have had a habit of not trusting a human, especially a man. So, I just wanted to clarify.”

“I can understand that it happened without your consciousness. But it doesn’t justify how you have acted a while back. I would like you to differentiate between people of those classes and us.”

“I know. But, I’m not so sure. What does player Kim Su-Hyun want me to do?”

“This is surely a problem for you to worry about. And it is not a matter for me to decide.”

I didn’t try to hold back any of my words. I could sympathize with her position, but I could look at this anymore. Some people may say they are too strict. But this is Hall Plane. As long as she knew what my life was, I had no cause to kill her. And it was a fact that she also knew.

She opened her mouth with a tired voice as she heard my determined voice.

“We came back from the Ruins and I caused a lot of trouble for everyone. But.... The bottom line is that I have nothing to give you and make you feel better.”

“..... tell me more.”

“Are you pretending to not know? Or do you really not understand what I said? What are the things that I could give you?”

“.....”

“Player information? Gold? Ability points? Free service? Do you want me to write a slave contract? I don’t know what you want. No, I really have nothing else that I could give you.”

I just made a sound at her words. I just knocked on the table habitually. The thing is.... I like her. I finally understood why I felt good around her. She never crosses the line. In other words, it would be a nice thing to hold this opportunity.

Of course, she crossed the line once, in the Institute of Ruins. However, her action of crossing the line had a purpose, and there were things that she needed to confirm. And it was time to end this all out.

“Some of the things that you just said are a bit overrated.”

“Huh. Overrated huh? My player information isn’t worth to you. and the gold too had no purpose. And the ability. It is fine. These are just my words but I’m good when it comes to ability. Maybe not as much as you. The service is also the same, not better than you. Slave contract. It has restrictions to be established between the payers. I’ll get straight to the point. Even if I participate to be a member of your party, it is not a sufficient price to pay for what I did. For your capabilities, I’m not sufficient, I’m just not enough for you.”

“Why are you depreciating your own values and demoralizing yourself?”

“That is the truth, it really is. And...”

Jung Ha Yeon who was speaking very quickly suddenly halted and took a breath. And I looked at her, and the air around us was awkward again. Once she regained her breath she opened her mouth to speak.

“..... I need you.”

She finally opened her lips and spoke with a sad voice revealing what she had been hiding all along.

“That can’t be considered as the appropriate price to pay. I just needed your trust and faith.”

“You are turning me into a baseless woman. I’m not able to forget that time yet. When you said that you were going to keep your precious ones, and I was surprised when the < Revision of Truth > said that what you spoke were true. I want to enter the circle of people that you care about. So I’ll change my question. I know that the kids have been with you since the beginning, how can I put my trust into you right now?”

“Trust and faith can not be made in such a short time. I sense a little of urgency in this and I know that you feel this too. So, what is it that you really wanted to say?”

I said that, but I was almost guessing why she suddenly acted like this. Simply put it, she was still suffering from the trauma of that day. And what happened shook her trauma, and now she was confused. She was afraid, but her heart wanted to take a chance by trusting once again. And there thoughts were making her impatient.

“For you, player Jung Ha Yeon doesn’t have much worth. If that is correct, then there is only one thing that I can give you now.”

“Player Jung Ha Yeon.”

She replied in a low voice at me calling out her name.

“Not as a player but as a woman. This is the last thing that I have which I can provide you.”

After listening to her words, I just stared into her eyes. She was also looking at me and her pupils weren’t shaking. There was silence for a while, and I got up from my seat immediately.

“Well, I am a man before a player, and I do like woman. And it is basic according to me. But.”

I was a little out of words as I was tired.

“And without any reason, you’re not a man who just touches any other woman.”

“I didn’t say that.....”

I didn’t speak with that intention. And she still couldn’t give me the answer that I was waiting for. And even before her words were over, I turned my head. And added one word.

“I’m disappointed. I’ve to get back.”

And in that moment.

“I...!”

As I tried to move towards the door, her low cry caught my attention.

“.... Are you thinking of me as a woman who does it with every man?”

I saw her crying and then just turned away after sighing.

“You’re words are certainly off the point. I know that you’re not such a woman, but be honest, you just embarrassed me.”

At my concluding words, she looked at me with a conflicting expression. But the confliction wasn’t for long. And within a short time, I could see her mouth open slowly.

“Yoo-Jung said that I don’t know anything about you, but I feel like I know you pretty well. I’ve been listening to your story of you helping the kids to practice all the time. You are so much like him. The leader in the Rite of Passage, leading a group of people. forst place in Player Academy. And received an offer from the Golden Lion Clan. But from

the moment you rejected their offer and started to move with the kids, your path was different from him, you were different from him.”

“Then, you think of me as a substitute for him.”

When I said that, Jung Ha Yeon shook her head.

“No! But... I’m just tired of being deceived, and being cheated in the Hall Plane. And I couldn’t fool anyone. I could do it, but I didn’t want to do such a despicable thing. So I decided then, I will not be deceived nor will I deceive.”

I solved one question, this was why she kept inclining to not trust. I turned back and stood beside her. She put her forehead on my chest only placing a little weight on me.

“However.... Player Kim Su-Hyun is different. You are something different from the regular players of the Hall Plane. Maybe I’m at my limit. After using the < Revision of Truth >, I thought that I have to stay beside you. That this player is the last chance of normalcy that I can find in the Hall Plane. You do want my trust and faith.”

“..... that is correct.”

Jung Ha Yeon who put her forehead on my chest, lifted her head slightly and looked up at me. I also lowered my gaze and met her eyes. I slowly moved my right hand and gently moved her hair. She closed her eyes the moment my hand touched her face. However, her lips didn’t stop moving.

“Honestly, there are still a few questions left. You have such mighty force, you won’t be able to delay your death. No, that won’t happen. But I won’t ask you the questions. I’ll just bury them in my heart.”

“I can answer that part very well.”

“I have talked to the kids before, and I can form some rough guesses. And there are a few things that have seen with my own eyes. I’m tired of being cheated and I’m afraid of getting hurt. But I’m a woman too. I felt like I was losing myself after I lost my sister whom I trusted the most.”

“You’re expecting something from me, and you can arrest yourself from doing it anymore.”

At my question, she nodded her head. Confirming her action, I pulled her face back to my embrace and she buried her face into my chest. And at that moment a smile formed on my face.

It was a pity, but she made another mistake. I honestly never expected that Jung Ha Yeon would come out like this. This was the first time that I heard her in such a way.

However, this wasn't a bad thing. There was no need of possible ambiguous belief or trust in the present scenario. If it wasn't Jung Ha Yeon in this situation, I would have surely advanced on this relationship.

There was nothing that was pulling back on my conscience. I witnessed the death of my colleagues and I chose to come back, and I left them all behind. And I was able to do anything without hesitation for them. I felt something hard in my chest, I took a breath and opened my mouth.

"This seems like a way how a wizard would think."

"..... Something like that. I can give you my faith, and be with stable thoughts. I just a place to relax and someone to lean on. Everything that I said today is so that I can put my trust in you. So..."

She moved onto my body and lifted herself up. Stretching both her arms out, she put them around my neck, and opened her mouth.

"Tonight. I hope Mr Su-Hyun will answer my trust."

114 Dark Past (4)

Please continue reading on

(Please read the latter.)

In the Hall Plane, a woman's body can be a means of survival. Or can be seen as a weapon at can aim at assassination through sleeping with them. So this wasn't such a rare thing in this place. Sex is rather a mode to either murder or a possible cause for the death of someone.

Of course, it is one of the way, but not the last resort. Crime or immoral activities are a problem. In the Northern continent the military is still strict, and it can not be compared to that of the Western continent where murder, robbery and rape happen quite often. However, having sex with another wasn't so uncommon in the Hall Plane. Players who haven't forgotten the essence of the modern society are used to such a trend in the Hall Plane as years moved on.

Jung Ha Yeon was betrayed and abandoned. No, I wonder is it was a little offensive to say that she was abandoned. It looked like the man didn't have any idea of what she was feeling from the beginning. She just pushed all that the pain into a corner of her mind. Since then, she had been going around with that trauma, for almost a whole year.

She simply couldn't get her self to place any trust in men after that. and having such a trauma in the Hall Plane can cause tremendous stress. I don't know what all she had to go through after that, but I could certainly guess that she was anxious and distressed.

And the pain was growing, and she was finally at her limit to hold her pain. In the meantime, I wasn't sure as to how she endured the fact that her younger sister died, it looked like after losing her, the feelings of the loss filled her mind and the trauma was suppressed for the time being.

And she was very familiar with the situation that she had been in. I knew it from experience that it was dangerous to go this way and her mind would succumb.

However, she soon came across a good country player. Her first love and I were similar in the beginning, and after a while I was different from him. I was what she had hoped for, what she had wanted from her love. She revived those memories and her feelings after listening to what the kids had told her about me. Maybe she made up her mind after the < Revision of Truth >.

She wants to get rid of her traumatic experience through me. And wanted a place to lean on. In some ways, it was my fault that she was like this. The player who killed her younger sister was me.

But even then, I didn't have a sorry heart. Now she was convinced that if she was needed to change if she would have to do well in the future. I thought this to myself, and sighed. I wasn't normal to begin with. I spent 10 years in the Hall Plane with broken emotions. It is a wonder how I got the top place after being in this hell for 10 years.

I didn't say anything to Jung Ha Yeon and just led her to the bed. And I placed her on the bed. She just looked at me, like she entrusted her body to me. I was attracted to her gaze, and I immediately moved to the woman who was lying on the bed.

As long as I knew her feelings, I needed to accept her request. And I wasn't such a great man who would refuse the girl that he wanted. I don't know what consequences I'll have to face for doing this, but now she seemed like the best choice I had.

To let her release the tension I opened my mouth.

"It is a little strange that you and I are on the same bed."

"In the future there will be more strange things, I'm just a little nervous."

Just a word. She definitely was Jung Ha Yeon. I just scratched my head and she leaned her head on my chest.

Soon I felt her cold touch gently holding my head. I put her face close to my heart. She was wearing only a robe, even then, I felt a sense of sharpness and my eyes went wide. However, what I felt inside was just a piece of cloth. It was then that I realized that she was just wearing a thick robe and only her panty.

I held her in my arms for a while and spoke to her.

“In case you ever want to quit, just say the word. I’ll stop right away.”

“There won’t be such a thing. Please don’t hesitate, just and keep on going.”

I just laughed not clearly understanding what she meant to say. She moved a little and then once again her eyes met with mine. She looked at my face and opened her lips.

“I have a favor to ask.”

“Go on.”

“When you call me in the future, will you just call my name excluding the family name?”

I nodded my head.

“Okay. Miss Ha Yeon.”

“Please remove the formality. Just my name.”

“..... Ha Yeon.”

“That is nice. Then...”

At me calling her that, she seemed to be a little relieved. I slowly moved my hands above her robe. As soon as I got the permission from Ha Yeon, I pulled out the robe’s knot. Loose knot, I pulled the string by one of the end. Then, I saw that the front of her robe got loosened.

I focused my attention on what was once covered with her robe.

First of all, I could see the breast, which were well rounded. When I looked down, I saw her slender waist, and a beautiful hipline, and thin legs. Beauty. Her body was blooming, it was like she was noble deity.

I raised m gaze once again. Her breast under the robe tempted me, those images of her body came to my eyes again. I lifted my hand and touched her face. She did the same, she also reached out to my face. I watched her hair shine beautifully over the pillow, and I left the robe wide open with my remaining hand.

The darkness seemed to set around us. The only light that came into the room was the moonlight from the window. Jung Ha Yeon was a little embarrassed that she was naked in this light. At that innocent appearance of her, I spoke in a calm voice.

“Ha Yeon. If it’s is hard for you, I’ll stop.”

“It isn’t. It is just that..... I’m a little nervous....”

She seemed to be quite shy because this was her first time. She kept closing her legs and clutching her chest with her hands and was trying to avoid my gaze.

I laughed at this, she wanted this and she was waiting for it. This was her first time. I wasn't going to prompt her. Nor was I going to force myself on her out of impatience. I waited for her to get used to this situation. I may be a little lame, but I wanted to make this memorable to her rather than a nightmare as this was her first time.

Her relationship with me is simple. She will always take part in my activities and I protect her. Ha Yeon wasn't able to find something like this until she met me. Of course, I did have an idea on how to use her for my purposes. But when she decided to lean onto me and give herself to me, I had the confidence that I was stronger than anyone else.

I just calmly waited for her. I noticed that her arms that were holding onto her chest began to loosen, and so did her legs. She opened her lips as she watched me looking down at her.

"Just looking....."

"What?"

"Just looking is okay. I'll show my body to you often."

I tilted my head as what she said didn't matter to me, and I moved my hand again. I released the half loosened robe of hers. I saw the deep abs on her body. And her breasts completely unfolded. I placed my hands to side and pulled down her panty a little bit.

Slik skik slik!

"Ah...!"

Her chest rose as I was pulling down her panty, the exact bouncy-ness of her breasts could be understood by this. Two beautiful pale white hills. I just glanced at her chest. Shinning in the moonlight, and I couldn't hold myself to be calm anymore.

"Please.... Don't look at me like that...."

"It's pretty. You're very beautiful."

As soon as I heard the words which contained a little mockery in them, I immediately shook my head and replied. But it was true, they weren't just words to please her. She went red at my praises and turned her head to the side.

I felt that maybe she was not such a beauty, but her chest was much bigger and fuller than they could be seen from the outside. They are neither too big nor too small. It had a good size and tenderness to it.

“How old are you?”

As I kept looking at her, Ha Yeon spoke to me. Was this period of silence a little uncomfortable for her? I gulped down and replied to her.

“24 years old.”

“Ah. You’re two years younger than me.”

I knew that. She is 26 years old. This was time when the charms of any woman usually get more and more ripe. I moved my hands in a very careful manner to her chest. And as she looked at me like that, she laughed a little.

“..... Huh. You like breasts this much, huh?”

“Huh, Huh?”

“It looks like that. you’ve been watching my breasts from the while. It is not something usual. They are a little tender now.”

I laughed on the inside at her reaction. She knew it. I was doing this stuff on purpose. She had looked after her sibling, and she gave her knee in the form a pillow in the institute and embraced me, she seemed to have a maternal love.

I was taking care of her as much as I could. It was because of me that she was more relaxed than before. With a breath, she herself took my hand and placed it on my chest.

Soon after my hand felt her chest, I grabbed it. I could feel her body shaking at the touch of my hand, the warmth that my hand provided.

“.....!”

She didn’t make any sound. If it was bad she would’ve screamed or in another case she would have moaned. Maybe she was holding it in to see what kind of a person I was. I saw this as her acceptance and place my left hand on her left breast.

The softness of them seemed to dissolve in the hands right then, no matter how hard I held they were soft. As I moved my hands, I enjoyed the softness of the breast. And then her breast protruded as moved my finger on top of them twice. Finally, she twisted herself with a moan. However, she calmed herself down. Her reaction meant that she was in need so I sped up my hands movement.

After touching and fondling with her breasts I moved my hands away, and her white skin was now pale. This time I looked down her chest. It was then that I knew that we weren't talking to each other anymore. We were focused on the action of the others.

She was only having a little bit panties cover her. I moved her head back, and watched her whole body. Narrow shoulders, beautiful breasts. And a shy body. I was just admiring her beauty, one after the other.

I moved my hand gently on her naked body. I stroked her waist, which was very thin, and my hand stopped near the belly. My hands kept moving and moved to the shyly revealed pelvis of hers. Everywhere my hand went, she reacted and wiggled, she had lost her calm and rational self, now I was looking at a fresh response and fresh attitude of hers, I just smiled at this.

I held her face, I approached it. Her graceful face had a small hint of sadness on it. When I looked at her for the first it was like she was craving something, I closed in on the distance looking at her cherry like lips that were closed.

Ha Yeon opened her eyes to see what I was going to do. I was little surprised as she seemed to be embarrassed, but she regained her calmness once again. from the beginning I wanted to kiss her lips, I wanted to kiss her so bad that I would be the only man that she would care about.

Shuh! Shuh!

Huh. The distance between us was so close that I could hear her breathing. Ha Yeon who steadily looked into my eyes, looked downwards as I was approaching her. Seeing this I stopped for a while and opened my mouth.

“Lips..... may I ?”

“..... I also wanted to try it. You can go on.”

This was going to be her first kiss. Anyway, she had given me her permission. I cautiously put my lips on hers, which were full of curioseness. Except for the moment when our lips made contact, that was a bit awkward.

The lips were so sweet, soft and warm. I was just wanted to be in this state for the time being.

Chapter 115: Desire for Ha Yeon

It was the right time. I had been desiring for her breast for a long time. I sucked her breasts slowly and pushed the peaks down. I pulled her head backwards, then her white nipple turned into reddish colour. Soon the straight bump was covered with my saliva, reflecting shining light.

Please continue reading on

I looked down. The woman and I had been naked for a long time. We were stark-naked. I caught her legs and her thighs got loose. At that time, between her beautiful hips, her pussy was exposed.

Her pussy was so elegant and pure rather than a lustful and pornographic one. Her pubic hair was trimmed evenly and vulva closed. Between the gaps, the hair with body fluid could be seen.

“Su Hyun...”.

The moment I heard Ha Yeon’s desiring voice, I shook my head and came to her and sat there. We had enough foreplay. Now it was the right time. She wanted me and I wanted her.

I separated her legs, then I stood between her thighs, against the bed. Her closed labia opened a little, and my penis started to move in.

It was not my first time to have sex. Instead, I had the experience of like the first time to some extent. The love, the prostitution with cost and the rape by force. Usually the tramps often did the last one. I easily found the entrance according to my experience.

“Please be gentle.”

“It will be a little painful. You will feel more painful if you do with strength. You’d better do it with less strength.”

My penis bumped against my lower abdomen. Ha Yeon looked at me with a worried face. I comforted her with a husky voice. I held her thin waist with my hands. At the same time, I put more strength at the entrance of her.

“Huh-uh.”

“My penis went into her inside. I enjoyed the smooth feeling inside her, but I didn’t go deeper by force. I waited her to adjust. Ha Yeon tightened her two thighs, took a deep breath and then relaxed.

I kept looking at her during that time. It seemed that she felt my gaze and then looked up and nodded to me gently.

My heart jolted suddenly. I was very surprised at it. I, I, it was not a war, but I felt excited at the body.

“Why...?”

The moment that Ha Yeon opened her mouth, the palpitation died down.

I leaned my head and pushed my waist forward, I tried to go deeper.

“Uh, uh.”

As I went deeper, she twisted her waist subconsciously. Her vagina was very narrow. But my penis penetrated her and divided her inside. I went inside her calmly. I felt her hot and smooth inside sucked my baby-maker. At that moment...

“Uh....”

“Huh....”

As I divided her inside, I relaxed. And my penis stopped moving, too. A thin and soft membrane didn't allow me to move anymore. I swallowed my saliva. Oh, it was her hymen. I called her name.

“Ha Yeon.”

My waist pressed her thighs. Ha Yeon bit her lips with a sad face. After a rest, she took a breath again.

“Su... Hyun.”

She called my name as an answer. She looked at me with a desperate face. Finally, she barely opened her lips and said in a shivering voice,

“May I, I...”

“...”

“May I become one of your precious women, too?”

I was in a daze as I heard her sorrowful question. I looked at her and answered in a husky voice.

“I am not the kind of good guy that you think. At least I think I am not a good guy,”

Ha Yeon listened to me with watery eyes. I held her hands which stopped gripping the sheet and said, “I cannot bear to drive the people who like me, stand by me and depend on me away, since I am not that harsh. Of course, it has nothing to do with the people that I hate. I am always busy taking care of the people accompanying me. Is that so bad?”

“No, it's OK. It doesn't matter.”

Ha Yeon shook her head. I raised my voice as she reacted.

"If you keep your mind like this, I will cherish you forever. If you become the one that I take seriously, I will do anything for you."

I still couldn't take her as my precious woman, and now she was just the one that needed to be protected. At that moment, I came to myself, and my heart could be heard. As I thought of my palpitation just now, I became sentimental. I took a breath and calmed down.

But it seemed that Ha Yeon was satisfied with my answer and her voice choked with excitement.

"Thank you... And come now."

"It will be painful."

"I can stand the pain whatever it is."

Hearing Ha Yeon's touching words, I put my hands on her back. And her body raised slowly. No, she raised herself by supporting herself on tiptoe. She held my head with arms gently.

"Just only one time... It will feel better."

I fully understood her. She was shivering.

We sat face-to-face and her waist fell down a little. I was careful and very careful. To some extent, my penis started to break through the soft mucous membrane. The moment I pressed, I felt the mucous membrane's elasticity and her hips began to come down. And at the same time, my waist suddenly raised.

Ha Yeon twisted her body and held my head and back tightly. I could see she bit her lip with effort so that it was going to bleed. I hugged her slim body as my penis went deeper by her weight. As I moved up and down, my penis reached the end.

Finally, we became one. She endured the pain beyond my imagination with teary eyes. The moment I moved my waist, her breasts waggled.

"Uh... Uh..uh..uh...."

She tried to relax but as she felt the pain, she put more strength again and again. And as her inner part tightly surrounded my penis, I felt extremely comfortable. It was warm and soft.

As I enjoyed the moment, I began to move my waist. Even though I felt a little tight since this was her first sex experience, I could feel that she was trying her best to receive me. As I raised my waist and lowered my head, my erect shiny penis could be seen. I moved my waist again, then her inner part shrank tightly and I felt a kind of keenest pleasure.

“Huh...uh...uh....”

It seemed that it was difficult for her to take a breath and she made some nasal groans. Every time I raised my waist, her black hair waved.

Her lips opened and I kissed her. As we both opened our mouths, I felt her warm and sweat breath. Then I put my tongue into her mouth.

She reacted with her tongue. We switched our saliva and enjoyed the feeling. She reacted intensely and twisted her tongue as if she had already forgotten her pain in the lower part.

We sucked each other's tongue and the pornographic voice could be heard in the room. After a while, I took out my tongue, but our shiny saliva still connected.

Finally, as I saw the line of saliva broke, I raised my waist and moved intensely...

Chapter 116: Interesting Information

Through the dim window, the shining sunshine appeared. I opened my eyes slowly and raised my head, seeing Ha Yeon sleeping soundly. She was hugging me with two arms as if she was a baby, so it was hard for me to get out.

Please continue reading on

I stretched my hands and stroked her head. It seemed that she felt my touch, then she turned, twisted her body and hugged me into her arms. Her face rubbed against mine and upon the soft feeling, I took a soft breath. We were naked, embraced and exchanged the warm feeling all the night; then I fell asleep again.

I got out from her breasts with effort and saw her lying on the bed. After the sex, she was exhausted and just fell asleep without cleaning herself up. There was some blood from her inner part on the bed. There were also some white solids. Even though I ejaculated inside her, semen and the blood came out together.

As I saw the trace of the ejaculation, I had a wry smile. It maybe OK not to think about it. But I was not sure if I should just ignore it. I tried my best to clean the bed up without touching her. After she got up, she could clean herself up. I covered her with a quilt and came out of the room with my sword.

On the way to the first floor, I lowered my head as I felt the strange feeling. I felt very tired yesterday, but today it was strange that I felt very relaxed.

That was not all. I was full of energy and my body was full of spiritual power. I could endure for a long time and I also knew my strength. (Even in this place, the original energy value of 72% was definitely not low.) Maybe I could look forward to a higher resilience, but it was hard to understand.

“Is it because my desire wasn’t satisfied recently?”

As I thought of the scene with Ha Yeon, I shook my head.

As I went down to the first floor, I saw Go Yeonju, who was holding the empty dishes and seemed very busy. I didn’t see any user, so it was strange that she was busy. But it was none of my business.

Clank, clank.

There was a noise from the upstairs. Someone was going downstairs. Go Yeonju turned her head and greeted me. She was about to say hello to me.

“You got up late today...oh, come on. What’s wrong with you?”

“What?”

I didn’t reply to her sudden question. She squinted her eyes and her voice was soft.

“You are busy even though there is no user.”

Her eyes were like a ghost’s. But I denied what she said.

“It is a misunderstanding.”

“Is it yes or no?”

“Maybe.”

After shrugging with a sullen face, I took the chair to the table. As I sat down, I saw the beautiful eyes of Go Yeonju. I said to her in a calm voice,

“A course.”

“...Do you really want this?”

“After a while, the kids will come down, then I will add 6 portions.”

“Ha.”

She bit her lip as she heard my words and she rotated the dishes intensely. Finally, she received the dishes with the hands and seemed interested in rotating the dishes. Even though she was still gentle, she said in a higher voice than before,

“Huh, as you are my patron, I would like to tell you it.”

“I am not sure whether I am a patron or not, but what do you want to tell me?”

“Fine. The time has passed and you have lost your chance. I am not happy now.”

“...”

Never mind. I took out two cigarettes with a disgruntled face. She tried to stop me, I threw one to her and tried to make her keep silent. Just rotating the dishes, she showed off another skill. She caught the cigarette with her mouth. I thought she fully deserved the title – Shadow Queen, so I also praised her skill.

With a gentle finger snap, my and her cigarettes sent out weak flame and disappeared at once. Even though it was just a moment, I saw her eyes twinkled.

“Thank you. But it is difficult to soothe the upset mind with only one cigarette.”

“Yeah.”

Go Yeonju knitted her brow, while a weary smile appeared on her face.

“The information is very important.... I shouldn’t tell this to others....”

She said that and stopped for a moment. Nothing she said fazed me and I sucked on the cigarette. Then she continued,

“But I like the patrons like you. If you say ‘please tell me, sister’ in a cute voice, I will consider about it.”

“...huh.”

I thought, “If we don’t stop talking, I will not eat the food.” Then I exhaled the smoke with my nose. After I licked my lips, I said in an indifferent voice. Maybe at that time, I even didn’t look up.

“Halo.”

“...Sorry?”

The moment I said "Halo", Go Yeonju was very embarrassed and got panic. She asked again, so I took a breath and said it again.

"The Sun Clan. Tramp destruction."

After hearing what I said, she missed the dishes in her hands. At last, with the noisy sound and broken pieces of the dishes, she smiled gently.

Chapter

117. Interesting ======
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Please continue reading on

Come to think of it, I wasn't thinking of Yujeong. If it had been like the past, I would have just let it go, saying that it would be OK to do it alone, but recently, I realized that my consideration has been, more or less, centered on Anhyun. Ansol is an exception since he was a priest, but Anhyun seemed to agree more with me when compared to Yujeong.

Even now, that thinking hasn't changed. Anhyun's potential was greater to begin with, and he showed that difference more clearly when he succeeded the Lear Class, this time around. Also, I was aware of the fact that Yujeong wasn't always in peace with herself since she was considering Anhyun to be a rival.

At the same time, Yujeong wasn't someone, with the level of capability, who could be easily discarded as a user, either. She certainly had the potential to grow into a high level user. Since I have personally picked her out and brought with me, her becoming a renowned user depended on how I teach and groom her growth.

Essentially, it was only the difference in the potentials.

It was better that I do not teach Anhyun for a while. Putting aside the difference between the sword and the spear, reading that book and getting used to them was undeniably an essential part of the process. I would simply work as an advisor, rather than awkwardly attempt to teach which can have a negative impact on the efficiency of a cavalry spearman.

After organizing my thoughts by tapping on the table, I turned to speak to Yujeong who was pouting.

"Yujeong... It's better that I teach you."

Anhyun and Ansol's eyes opened wide. In response to those short words, Yujeong also stopped pouting. I thought that image of her was rather a bit cute.

“O, Oppa will teach me? Aren’t you busy?”

“I am, but.... I have been somewhat neglectful for a while. If I shuffle my schedule somehow, I think I will be able to teach you. Although it may be difficult for entire days, I will oversee your progress as much as possible. In some respect, a sword could be considered an extension of a dagger. Considering many things, it will be better that I teach you.”

“I... I mean... Still, it is so sudden.....”

I smiled, looking at Yujeong who was, unlike her, hesitant and wiggling her fingers.

“Why. You don’t want that?”

“No, No! Of course! I’d like that!”

She shook her head exaggeratedly and put on a big smile. Although Anhyun was murmuring, “How could you do that,” and Ansol, who was looking on with half envy and half sullen look, were nearby, I looked away, in lieu of a verbal response.

Later. I was able to deliver the goals of this maintenance interval by spending about 30 minutes.

In summary, first of all, the main focus would be for Sangyong Shin to be under the guidance of Vivian. Like the kids, unless it was something of an importance, I’ve decided to not call for him. He was a 2nd year user. Hence, expecting acute growth, like in kids, was remote. Yet, while there was a slight chance of similar growth potential, it was best to do as much as possible.

And Hayeon was left as a freelancer. Freelancer meant, as the word suggested, that independence would be guaranteed. Of course, since I’ve suggested Ansol to be under Hayeon’s guidance, it was difficult to interpret that as having a complete freedom. However, understanding the meaning behind my thoughts, Hayeon accepted my order without any objection.

Giving her the freelancer status was a symbol that only a few people in the know understood. If we have established a clan and solidified some form of organization, giving one a freelancer status implied the level of trust that was given to her. Besides, as she has always been prudent with her actions, there wasn’t much need to monitor her activities, either.

However, being in a small city did pose some issues. Among them that stood out was a place for the kids to train. That issue would be easily addressed by going outside of the city, but there was not a plan to hunt monsters this week. The sensory training that took place, so far, was able to be conducted in doors, but the upcoming training mostly

required active physical movements. No matter how good the VIP room was, it would be absurd to conduct such training in a motel room.

However, there was not a good solution. It was a frontier town, and having marched through the steel mountain range, even the development was slow. (Even the city's representative clan was fully preoccupied with marching through the steel mountain range to begin with.) Having chosen the small city of Mule, it was something that needed to be endured. Yet, there weren't any regrets. Looking at the benefits and successes that were accomplished so far, that was an acceptable problem.

With that as the last item, I was able to complete most of what I wanted to explain. The preparations for the next adventure or establishment of a clan were tasks that I, alone, needed to take care of. Hence, there was no need to detail them. Of course, there were some parts that needed to be addressed.

I said to the two sorcerers who were quietly listening to me.

"I have something to talk to you two about in private later this evening. After the day's end... Um. Please come to the last VIP room on the left, on the 3rd floor, after dinner. It is a matter of great importance."

The two might have already guessed it when the clan's story was brought up. Hayeon and Sangyoung Shin were serene as they fixed their heads. And I added one more statement.

"As a reference... I plan to use the VIP room, which I had just mentioned, as my private office. If you have a need to see me, please come to that room. Vivian?"

"Huh?"

Vivian was diligently listening to me without goofing off. That was how it was supposed to be, but I couldn't help, but think of it as being praiseworthy.

"It would be better to reserve a separate room for yourself, too."

"I'd like that... but why?"

"I need an alchemist's assistance. Can you put together a workshop in the VIP room? I don't mean for you to work incredibly hard. Just showing an effort would be sufficient."

Bringing up the word 'workshop' immediately caused Vivian to squint her eyes. She spun her eyes around and tilted her head with curiosity as she spoke.

"Hmm... if it does not need to be elaborate, it might be possible. I'd like to hear the details?"

“This may not be the right time. I’ll let you know when I have more time. At any rate, I’ll talk to the inn keeper separately, so go up and check out the room. You may need some things in order to set up a workshop...”

“There are plenty. Anyway, it does not seem all that bad for me. Can I go up and see it now?”

“Certainly. Even disposable items are OK, too. I will support you fully, so don’t worry about the expenses. Take a good look at the room.

As I nodded my head, Vivian got up cheerfully. At the same time, as I sensed Sangyong Shin, looking at me desperately, I reluctantly nodded my head one more time. Exhilarated, the two went up the stairs at once.

“.....”

Chapter 118 Interesting (2)

Please continue reading on

Hayeon said it was all right, but I escorted her to the door. I had woken up together and shared a meal with women I spent a night with when I had lived in the contemporary era and thought it was impolite to go alone. While I had done such a thing because I had been innocent then, I could do only things like this for Hayeon now.

I saw her in her room and went to the VIP room I would use for work. However, the door opened before I touched the doorknob.

“Leader.”

I saw an excited Sangyong Shin with his glasses on, and he looked surprised on seeing me.

“Did you see everything?”

“No, not yet. I have something to bring under my teacher’s name.”

“Is that so...”

“Then, please go in.”

Sangyong Shin lowered his head and passed me by like he had urgent business. I wondered what had gone inside and saw Vivian turn her head, noticing me as I went in.

“Suhyun Kim?”

“Yes.”

“Did you talk things over?”

“Yes...What do you think of the room? Can you use it as a workshop? Please factor in that the room has to be returned to its original state when we go.”

“Umm...”

Vivian now looked at me like she was analyzing my mood and then took out something from inside her clothes to wear it on her face. I was astonished.

“You...what is that?”

“I thought you knew. Sangyong Shin said that this item was called glasses.”

While I wanted to say it barely resembled the glasses I knew, I remained silent on seeing her proud expression.

“Right...How did you come by them?”

“You remember my job, right? I can make items like this easily. How is it?”

While some items from the contemporary ear could be made here, Vivian’s glasses were not up to par. She realized what I was thinking and pouted.

“Why, it’s not bad.”

“I said nothing. Why did you make such a thing just for fun?”

“It’s not harmful. Alchemists are a curious lot by nature.”

“It doesn’t suit you.”

“Who cares what you say!”

Vivian took off her glasses with a frown and then let out a long sigh. Was she rebelling against me?

“...Anyway, go on. Why do you want me to create a workshop?”

I heard Vivian talk to me in a weak voice. As I had more important things than glasses, I took them out two times from my pocket.

“This is...”

Vivian had a good eye, and she looked greedily at the items I held in front of her.

“One is the demon’s heart I took out from Belphegor, and the other is the orb that used to hold your body together. Where is Sangyong Shin?”

“I told him to bring something. Are you saying...”

Vivian changed her attitude on me, asking for Sangyong Shin, and she gaped at me when I nodded yes. She closed her eyes to think, and I waited for her.

Magicians and alchemists tended to be like that. I liked talking to them because they speedily understood what I said. I saw Vivian was mumbling and listened in to her words.

“...There is a possibility. However, the heart is too strong...If Suhyun Kim can purify it, it’s a different matter. My orb is indeed lacking, but it did go through mana flows over time. If there are no crashes, the difference between the two items does not matter. However, the efficiency...so that’s where Sangyong Shin comes in. These two problems may be solved through that Magic Square of Harmony...”

Vivian’s brow furrowed, and she now opened her eyes to speak to me.

“You want me to work them through Sangyong Shin’s Magic Square of Harmony, right?”

“Yes.”

“It’s difficult...”

“I won’t blame you if you fail, so let’s try.”

Vivian looked like I had hurt her pride, and she shook her head.

“Suhyun Kim. I think we should wait on the workshop.”

“Why?”

I was inwardly surprised as I had not expected her to refuse. She sighed as she began her explanation.

“I’m not saying I won’t do it. This place is too inferior for the work you want to do. Even if we push it, the item quality will not be good. While I’m not saying things right, I’m saying I don’t want to rush it despite acknowledging that it may work even here.”

“Are you saying the ingredients are too rare?”

Vivian nodded seriously.

“Yes. While alchemists always try the impossible, such items you’re holding should be used in a proper workshop, where the possibility of success will dramatically increase. That is my opinion as an alchemist.”

Vivian’s words were logical, and I really could not find a reason to refuse her.

“It would be worth the wait.”

“You thought well.”

Vivian’s smile was pretty, and I saw that her old personality was gradually disappearing. While it was not bad, I did miss it. I sighed and put the items in, thinking I may have rushed things. I then stared at Vivian and spoke in a suspicious voice.

“However, it’s not like you.”

Vivian smirked at my words, which made me surprisingly irritated. She sighed and teased me.

“My name is Vivian la Clasidus. I did have pride in that name once up on time. I’m getting back my logic after becoming human again, so don’t think that I will be childish like before. My past antics embarrass me, and I hope you treat me like a twenty-four-year-old, which is my age.”

While she was calm, I did not like her tone or attitude. I approached her and raised my hand, but she only smiled despite my threatening pose.

“Don’t treat me like a child. I was a competent alchemist, you know...”

I let a clear flame show in my hand, and while Vivian seemed calm, I saw her eyes were afraid.

“You think I will bat an eye? Come to think of it...”

I clicked my fingers together as she spoke on.

“What?”

As I had no intention of harming her, the flame on her hair would not burn her as it was under control. However, Vivian would not know such things.

“Ahh!!! You really did it!!!”

Vivian ran around the room and jumped up and down. She whined at me as I raised my hand again.

“You really are, Vivian. I thought you were a different person.”

I murmured and turned off the flame on her hair, and Vivian clenched her teeth on seeing her unburnt black hair.

“Why did you do this to me?!”

“I thought you were a doppelganger or a monster in disguise...”

“Is that an excuse?! What did I do wrong, you bastard?!”

I took out the contract I always held dear, and Vivian could not control her expression on seeing it. I stifled a laugh as I spoke.

“What did you say? That I was a bastard?”

Vivian’s face turned white, and tears filled her eyes.

“I must have been crazy...”

She burst into sobs at that point, and I quickly went to console her.

Chapter 119 Peaceful Days (1)

Please continue reading on

While I did console Vivian, she burst into tears. While I was at fault, she did not let me go for almost an hour.

“What did I do wrong...? I really tried to do well. Did I tell you to take care of me like a child? Just treat me with kindness...!”

I had to work hard to calm her down, and Sangyong Shin had inadvertently seen me hugging a crying Vivian. He had lowered his head in a bow and closed the door.

“You don’t hate me?”

“Of course. I depend on you, Vivian.”

While I said soothing words, I thought that I did like seeing her crying and teasing her. However, I could not say such words. I wiped her tears and went out of the motel. I sighed again. How did I change so much? Was I affected by the time I spent with children? I thought my tastes were becoming too extreme.

Anyway, I quickly went to the plaza to visit a jewel store. I started for a shopping district but would only visit one shop. As the things I needed to do in Mule were expensive, I needed to make some funds.

While I had time, I liked to do things in advance. The problem was that I found another thing to do after making some free time.

Frontier cities guaranteed user residence, and it was rare that a frontier city was empty like this. That meant the Golden Lion Clan's Steel Mountain March plan was that much popular, and Barbara would be bustling with people now.

It would be a jackpot if the plan succeeded. If I managed to secure a safe route between southern cities and Atlanta, the profit would be amazing. However, as I had participated at Steel Mountain Expedition before, I had no regrets about not going there. The expedition party would lose a quarter of its men in two days, and by charging on, only a few survivors would come crawling back.

The clans that calmly assessed the situation would arise from that time, as they would have stockpiled their resources. Things would have changed much after I came from the Cave of Screams, and that was why I had left that cave for the last.

I saw some users looking for caravans as I was thinking such things and entered the street filled with stores on either side. A newbie user would lose his way, and I managed to find the jewel shop I had been looking for.

"Will the old man be there?"

I wanted a smoke but remembered that the old man did not like the smell of tobacco. I turned my head to the signboard to read the black letters.

<The Old Man's Jewel Shop>. The naming sense was bad every time I thought of it. I saw an old man user observing a jewel. I secretly used my Third Eye out of curiosity

<Player Status>

Name: Mansung Lee (6 years)

Class: Rare: Jewel Certified Public Appraiser

Nation: Barbara

Clan: —

True name / Nationality: One Who Wants Seclusion / Republic of Korea

Sex: Male (67)

7. Height / Weight: 173.7cm / 51.2kg

Tendency: Neutral / Moderation

[Power 18][Durability 26][Agility 34][Stamina 28][Magic 86][Luck 78]

<Achievement (0)>

<Unique Ability (1/1)>

Value Seeker: Rank B+

<Special Ability (1/1)>

Jewel Craftmanship: A+

<Potential Ability (3/3)>

Traditional Magic: Rank B Zero

Fast Casting: Rank D+

Item Assessment: Rank C+

His class was rare, but stats were questionable. However, his true name told me his intentions. He had no greed at his age and was preparing to wrap up his life in this small city. However, his ability would have given him a few choices.

His unique ability suited his current job, and I remembered that he had not been a bad person. Mansung Lee did not look up but spoke only when I remained standing.

“Are you a customer?”

“Yes.”

“Then why don’t you speak to me?”

“I was afraid of bothering you.”

He lowered his jewel to turn to stare at me. Then, he motioned me to come closer.

“Well, it has been a long time...anyway, sit here.”

“Thank you.”

While I was powerful, I had no intention of flaunting it. I needed to act like a 0-year user, and it was not a bad idea to maintain a good relationship with the man in front of me.

“So, are you here to buy or sell?”

The old man had not liked rambling customers.

“I am here to sell 8 rubies.”

“Show them to me.”

Mansung Lee had a bad reputation among users. He had an irritable personality and did not negotiate jewel prices. He rejected those who wanted to sell higher than the actual price and those who wanted to buy cheap. While some would attack him, Mansung Lee was a capable magician.

However, he suited me. Mansung Lee did not lose time talking and was fast and accurate in his jewel assessments. People like me came here, and Mansung Lee did show that he valued regular customers a bit.

I gave him the pouch that held the jewels, and he took out the eight rubies I had found in the lab to quickly evaluate them. It took him five minutes to place the rubies in a row and speak to me.

“From the left. 108, 112, 102 117, 136, 122, 147, 101. A total of 945 Gold. That’s the accurate price, and I do not take negotiations. If you don’t like the price, you can get out...”

“I will sell them at that price.”

The old man looked at me strangely at my answer. While he did seem like he glanced at the jewels, I knew his assessment was accurate and his skill one of the best.

Mansung Lee spoke in a husky voice after staring at me for a while.

“You’re not going to negotiate?”

“Someone introduced me to you. I heard you are an expert and trust your judgment.”

“You and the person who introduced you to me are strange people to say such nice things.”

While he spoke bluntly, I could see him smile. He cleared his throat on seeing me laugh.

“I do not know where you got such large jewels in good quality. The magic in them is high, and magicians will like the concentration.”

“I do not know much about jewels, but I believe it’s a practical price.”

The old man looked at me like I was a weirdo when I did not oppose his assessment. Newbie users tended to negotiate hard when they got lucky with jewels as it was difficult to earn money initially. However, I saw Mansung Lee in a new light because it was extremely rare to see him talk this much to a first-time customer.

Mansung Lee dropped a money pouch in front of me at my polite answer.

“This is a 1000 gold pouch. I will give you some bonus.”
“You do not need to...”

The old man scoffed at me, refusing the pouch, and just pushed the money at me.

“It is just this once. It’s rare to see this quality, and there are few customers due to that expedition and others. Just take it...and.”

“Thank you.”

I took the pouch and smiled at the extra money. It was nice since I would spend a fortune to establish a clan. While I had plans to use GP to make extra money, it was money after all. Mansung Lee spoke again.

“...Come often. Don’t go next door. I will be a better choice.”

“Of course.”

“Get out if there’s nothing else.”

Was he actually embarrassed? I smiled and went out. It was time to go to the temple. I needed to report my process for it to be approved as an achievement. Also, Seraph would have called once by now.