**Chapter 113: Graduation Ceremony (9)**

Am I hearing this wrong?

Sex.

Or, in other words, copulation.

It was not a word that should have come out of Ellie's newly grown-up mouth⋯or rather, it was the kind of thing that could come out of her mouth.

“You had sex with my foster mom, didn't you?”

Unlike the first question, the tremor in her voice was much less pronounced in the second, as if my reaction had convinced her.

“I saw it. That night. I happened to be going to the bathroom⋯”

Ellie had witnessed a scene of simulated sexual activity.

Regret washed over me. I shouldn't have let my guard down that night. I should have at least kept a better eye on the door.

But it was too late to regret it now.

Ellie had already witnessed me and Diana mating, and here she was, standing in front of me, asking me if it was true.

I couldn't lie in front of her.

“Yes.”

“⋯⋯!”

Ellie swallowed hard when I nodded, asking if I had sex with her mom.

In fact, something similar had happened before.

The incident where Eli saw Diana's [Curse of Decadence from the Black Moon] sexual suppression and misunderstood that we were in that kind of relationship.

I had to struggle in the Labyrinth to explain it to her, but somehow, over the course of a few months, I ended up having a relationship with Diana.

In the end, my explanation that I wasn't in a relationship with Diana was in vain, as I admitted to having sex with her.

I'm sure Ellie thought it was a lie and felt betrayed by me but there was one thing that had changed.

“So, tell me one thing. Oppa.”

The Ellie of today didn't run away like he did then.

Instead, she looked me in the eye and told me the truth.

“Do you think I should ⋯ continue to think of you as my oppa, or ⋯ think of you as my dad?”

She's asking me for my choice.

Do I continue to live my life as a guest at the inn, without a deeper relationship with Diana?

Or do I take our relationship further and become a full-fledged family.

I bowed my head and pondered Ellie's question.

‘Family?’

Up until now, my family had only been my sister.

Nam So-eun, my one and only sister, my only family.

At the same time, the family I don't see now.

In a family of only two people, new people have entered the mix.

I imagined for a moment. A future with my family.

Laughing, talking, fighting every once in a while, crying over a minor misunderstanding, and then eventually reconciling and laughing happier⋯

That's a very good picture.

“⋯I'm sorry. I don't know. Ellie.”

What finally came out was an indecisive answer.

Family.

I don't know the exact value and meaning of the word yet.

It's not like I'm in a position to seriously think about the future of my family, and I need to take more time to reflect and think about it.

Therefore, I couldn't answer Ellie's question quickly.

“⋯⋯”

Ellie was silent for a moment, then spoke again.

“⋯⋯Yes. I can just think whatever I want, right?”

“⋯Huh?”

Hmm.

Ellie snorted, in full snark mode.

“You said 'yes,' so I guess I'll just go with it, whether you're going to be a dad or an oppa.”

Dad, with its strange paternalism and protective instincts, and oppa, with its friendly, heart-tickling quality.

Ellie declared that she would use both titles for me.

It was a way of acknowledging my relationship with Diana, but also of looking at the other possibilities for our relationship.

“⋯Is that okay?”

“Because I like my adoptive mom, and I like my oppa.”

“⋯⋯”

“You said you don't know, and we just have to like each other, don't we?”

⋯Right?

Ellie is right.

The rule of law, ethics, morals, and facts don't really matter.

Everything in the world is just a matter of liking each other.

To take extreme examples: incest, daughter-for-daughter mating, polygamy, 3Ps, mother-daughter rice bowls, sister rice bowls, gangbangs, etc.

You can do anything as long as you're in the right frame of mind.

I feel like I've been enlightened.

I never thought I'd find enlightenment from Ellie.

I only remembered her drunkenness and immature behavior, but she was much more mature than I thought.

“By the way, you're so mean. Was that explanation you gave in the labyrinth a lie?”

“No, I wasn't really lying back then, it just happened to be⋯”

“⋯heh⋯”

Ellie listened to me, her long elven ears pricked up.

She seemed to agree with me, as relationships between people can improve over something as simple as alcohol.

She told me about her shopping spree with Diana.

“Actually. I had a similar conversation with my foster mom last week.”

“Really?”

You asked Diana if she had sex with me? Seriously?

I knew Ellie wasn't normal, but I didn't think she was this bad.

“My foster mom shrugged it off, just blushed.”

Diana's personality wouldn't have allowed her to say in front of Ellie, “Yes, I did it with Balkan.”

“Well, it wasn't really sex.”

“What? What do you mean?”

Ellie asked, scratching her head.

“Well, technically, sex is when you put a cock in a pussy and bounce it around.”

“⋯Uh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.”

Ellie blushed at my bluntness. But it was necessary for ease of explanation.

And for that, I had to reveal one of Diana's most precious secrets.

‘If not to anyone else, then to her foster daughter, Ellie.’

I leaned my face close to Ellie's ear, just in case anyone could hear.

“Hmph!”

Ellie's shoulders jerked in surprise.

I whispered softly into the elf's increasingly reddened ear.

“Ms. Diana can't have sex because her pussy is blocked by a curse.”

“Ew.”

Ellie looked dumbfounded at hearing one of Diana's secrets.

She wondered if she had heard correctly.

“That's probably why she couldn't say it clearly.”

“⋯Okay, wait, does that make sense?”

“Yep. You won't believe it, but it's true.”

“Well, what the hell did I see⋯”

I gave Ellie one answer to her confused face.

“Because there are ways to have sex without penetration.”

What you saw was not penetrative sex.

Ellie's eyes narrowed in confusion.

Her red eyes instinctively darted to my crotch, and when they made eye contact with mine, she flinched and averted her gaze.

“Hmph, hmph.”

The corners of Ellie's mouth curled up in an odd groan.

“Foster mom, she had such a curse⋯ she was practically a virgin⋯ hehe.”

Was it just my mood that made me think her expression was that of a female who saw an opportunity, rather than sympathy and pity for her adoptive mother?

“Well. What happens when you want to have a baby later on?”

“A baby?”

“Yes. A girl or a boy. You know, you might want to have a baby someday.”

“Well. That's⋯ hmm⋯”

I didn't answer easily at the sudden question.

It was hard enough for me to keep up with Diana right now.

Thinking about such a childlike question was like drinking a jar, not a bowl, of kimchi soup.

“⋯If you need anything. I-I could help you.”

I stared at her, dumbfounded by her words.

What the hell did I just hear?

“Ellie? What did you just say?”

“Oh, I just said that if you need a child⋯ I can help⋯”

Ellie's hand moved cautiously.

Fingers slid down the dress Diana had given her, and soon pressed against her lower belly, her womb.

“I don't have a curse that denies me the meaning of being a female, so, uh, I can, uh, have children.”

“⋯⋯”

“One, two, or as many⋯ as you want.”

I felt myself getting lightheaded as I realized that I was being hugely outnumbered by Ellie's words.

Even I, a man in my prime, was no match for Ellie, who was just coming of age and had a creative sexual appetite.

I gripped her shoulders tightly with both hands and said.

“Ellie, you shouldn't say things like that so easily, it might be misunderstood by the listener, and you should value your body more-”

“Shh, I didn't say it was easy!”

Ellie's voice carried out onto the terrace.

For a moment, my attention was drawn to her, but it was quickly dispersed.

Ellie was standing right in front of me, blocking everyone's view.

It was only then that I could see her face again.

His face flushed red. The sweet green apple flavor of the wine lingering on the corners of my mouth.

Somehow, she swallowed the wine in one gulp, as if she were finally sober.

“Ellie. You're very drunk-”

Ellie's palm, pressed against her womb, covered my lips.

Her face flushed red, she paused to catch her breath, then spoke slowly.

“⋯I didn't say it easily. ⋯I said it in front of you.”

“⋯⋯”

Hearing these words, I couldn't think of anything else.

Ellie looks at me.

“I like you, oppa.”

Ellie's hand covering my lips dropped and red glowing eyes stared at me, to my lips, to be exact.

“⋯If you don't like it, stay away.”

With my eyes half-closed, Ellie's magpie lips gradually moved closer.

And then beyond.

“⋯Uhhhhh!”

My eyes locked with Diana's, who was watching me and Ellie with a look of excitement on her face.