**Chapter 154: Do (1)**

The conversation with Nate Elin ended late at night.

I told her I'd visit the temple tomorrow and carefully opened the inn door.

“Balkan, is that you?”

Diana's voice came immediately.

She was sitting at a corner table and waved at me.

Ellie was napping with her chin propped up beside Diana.

"It's way past closing time, why aren't you asleep yet?"

"Hmm, I was worried because you didn't come back for so long..."

Ah, a woman who stays up waiting for her man.

How could she be so sweet?

I naturally approached Diana and hugged her.

"Whew..."

Crushed by my thick, solid body, Diana buried her face in my chest and let out a sweet sigh.

"Mmm...?"

Ellie, who had been dozing off, woke up with a start.

"Oh, you two again!"

Seeing me and Diana hugging, Ellie joined us from behind.

After our night together, the mother and daughter had grown closer, and their breasts pressed against me from both sides, testing my patience.

We hugged tightly for a while before reluctantly separating.

Our eyes then turned to the person we had neglected.

"Taa-taaa..."

The dark elf, Nuer, was crawling on the floor, sucking her thumb.

"Is this...an elf?"

"She's one of Idelbert’s subordinates. Why is she like this...?"

Ellie muttered something that sounded almost profane, and Diana looked confused.

I briefly explained the situation to them.

My encounter with the succubi, the battle, and the puppeteer.

I couldn't trust anyone else but them.

"The succubi again..."

Ellie frowned, remembering her experience with them. Diana reacted sensitively to the mention of the puppeteer.

'So the puppeteer is a woman.'

I learned a piece of insignificant information.

"Do you know about the puppeteer?"

"Balkan, you shouldn't get involved with such a woman. It'll only cause you trouble. Besides, the succubi are more of a problem."

Diana changed the subject, avoiding my question about the puppeteer.

"Isn't it because of the curse? If we remove the nightmare curse, the succubi might leave you alone."

Ellie mumbled, stroking her lower abdomen with a slightly regretful tone.

Even though she enjoyed the mark of servitude, she seemed to care more about my safety.

I gently stroked Ellie's head. Diana looked hesitant.

"I don't think so. The succubi have already discovered your superior yang energy. If we remove the curse, they might resort to even more extreme measures to make you an incubus. It would be better to take advantage of the current situation where they are friendly towards you."

"That's true..."

I thought deeper about it. Just removing the curse wouldn't necessarily make the succubi lose interest in me.

The succubi, or rather, the worshiper of lust, had been unusually interested in me.

Perhaps I could use this situation to my advantage.

'They didn't say when they would come back...'

The marks on my wound, where the magic had been inscribed, had already faded naturally. They were very thorough.

"Yawnn..."

Ellie yawned. She tried to hide her tiredness, but it was obvious to both of us.

"Thank you both for waiting. Shall we go to sleep?"

"Of course. You've worked hard. Go and rest."

I decided that worrying about them wouldn't solve anything.

Resting and refreshing my mind would be more helpful.

"Taauu..."

"Oh, Nuer. What should we do with her?"

"Since it's late, we should let her stay at the inn for now, but..."

Ellie looked at Nuer, who was trying to pull at my pants.

"Even though she's mentally a child, she's still physically an adult elf. I think she should have a separate room."

"Yes, I agree."

We decided to give Nuer a separate room.

I carried Nuer to the bed again.

"Taau. Taauu!"

"Hush now, Nuer. It's time to sleep."

"Taau!!!"

Ellie gave her a pacifier.

*Suck, suck.*

Nuer closed her eyes and fell asleep immediately.

I gave Ellie a thumbs up and went to my room.

I took out a wooden box from my pocket.

It was the reward Nuer had given me.

*Whoosh!*

As soon as I opened the box, a bright blue light filled the room.

It was a magic potion created on the 21st floor, filled with the magic of frost.

I took out the round potion.

'I guess I'll just drink it.'

I hadn't even considered selling it for money.

My encounter with the puppeteer had made me realize just how powerless I was.

I needed to become stronger, much stronger than I am now, to protect those within my reach and to find my missing sister.

I gulped and swallowed the potion.

"Did anything change?"

There was no immediate change. Even when I checked my status, it was the same.

It seemed my body needed time to digest the power of the potion.

There was nothing else to do so I lay down on the bed immediately.

I closed my eyes as the sun began to rise outside.

I was cold.

My whole body was goosebumps and chills, and my neck was stiff.

When I opened my eyes, I was walking on snow.

"What?"

Before I could question where I was, I felt a strange presence behind me.

No, it wasn't just a presence.

"Grrr..."

It was the roar of a beast, a sound no human could make.

On the snowy field, a lion-like creature with white fur and mane stood on four legs, glaring at me.

"What are you looking at, you bastard?"

"Roar!"

As soon as I muttered, the white lion roared and charged at me, ready to bite.

I had no weapon, but I was confident I could fight the white lion.

Weapons were just tools.

As long as my body was intact, I could tear apart any beast or monster.

*Crack!*

I grabbed the beast's wide-open mouth with both hands, ready to bite me.

"Grrr?!"

It tried to close its jaws, but I wouldn't let it.

Instead, I tightened my grip on its jaws and pulled them apart.

*Crack, crack!*

The beast's fangs pierced my palms.

Blood dripped onto the pristine white snow, but I didn't care.

I continued to pull its jaws apart with all my might.

*Crack, crack, crack!*

The muscles in the beast's jaw, which was stretched to its limit, tore.

The white lion roared louder, but it was no longer the brave and confident roar it had been.

It was the roar of a coward, filled with fear and desperation, struggling to survive.

Soon, my hands were free from the beast's torn jaw.

*Swoosh!*

The white lion's blood, gushing from its torn jaw, drenched my head and stained the white snow red.

I blinked, and I was back in bed.

My palms were sweaty, and my bed and pillow were stiff, as if they had been frozen in the cold winter night.

The freezing sensation had spread only as far as my bed, as the wooden walls of the room were still dry.

'So this is the power of the frost magic.'

It was very good news.

This ability would be extremely helpful in the higher floors where each floor had its own season.

Just as I was about to check my status, I heard a desperate cry from the next room.

"Waah! Waah waah!"

It was Nuer's voice.

"What's going on?!"

I rushed into Nuer's room and saw Ellie and Diana looking down at Nuer.

"Ah, ah..."

Diana covered her face and sighed, while Ellie, who was more composed, noticed me.

"Ellie, what's going on?"

"She...she peed."

"Waah! Waah waah!"

Nuer cried in a mature voice as she removed the pacifier from her mouth.

She's really coming around, I thought.

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"Who's the woman behind you...? Wait, is that Nuer? Wasn't she once under Sir Idelbert, the former paladin...?"

"It is Nuer, but...she's just a baby now. Mentally, she's very far gone."

"Oooh...slurp, suck...ummyam..."

"Hmm...well, ahem. Understood."

Nate Elin, who was staring at Nuer on my back—wearing a diaper and sucking on a pacifier—with a strange expression, finally nodded.

Then she tilted her head toward the temple's carriage she had arrived in.

"Get in."

We headed to the temple to meet Serif and, at the same time, to remove the arousal spell still on Nuer.