**Chapter 164: Let me see your back (2)**

-Phuong!

The Labyrinth vibrated with the sound of a balloon popping.

Red blood spread everywhere along with flesh, and the sticky scent of blood reminded me that this was the Labyrinth.

The blonde bun-haired knight in dress armor who made the sound, Rubia Steel, pulled a giant shield as tall as me off the wall of the Labyrinth.

Clink –

With a sticky sound, the hobgoblin, crushed as if caught in a hydraulic press, fell to the floor.

“Ke, kekeke⋯”

The goblins, terrified at the sight of the piece of meat that was once their own kind, slowly began to back away.

Even the hobgoblins who always approached with a kekekekekekeke looked fearful.

-Kuung!

Rubia Steel spread her arms wide toward the hobgoblins with a face full of fear, leaving her bloody shield stuck in the ground.

“Okay! More! More are coming!”

“Ke, keruk!!”

“Keke keruk!”

The monsters started to run away in a hurry, perhaps because they felt fear.

“Eh… why, why are you running away…?”

Rubia Steel lowered her hand with a look of despair.

I also put the axe I had pulled out after seeing that.

“You’re crazy. Who crushes a hobgoblin with a body slam?”

Jubeel, who was picking up the hobgoblin that was crushed between the wall and the shield, quietly exclaimed in admiration.

I also agreed with that opinion inwardly.

Rubia Steel ran at full speed as soon as I told her the location of the goblins.

The hobgoblin that was approaching in the lead was crushed between Rubia Steel and the wall.

The goblins that were following had run away just a moment ago.

As a tanker, she showed off her monstrous physical specs.

“Please don’t rush in like that from now on. It’s dangerous for a tanker who’s supposed to protect the party to go ahead like that.”

It was a bit dangerous.

The reason I recruited her was to increase the stability of the party, but such impulsive actions could actually cause danger.

I wouldn’t have known when she was just a teammate, but now that I’m the leader of the party, I have to point out things, because the lives of the party members depend on my judgment.

“Huh, hmm. I understand. Since I usually go down to the labyrinth with the maid, I got a little excited.”

“Just the two of us in the labyrinth?”

“That’s right! In fact, I’ve rarely been in a party with other people. So it’s a little unfamiliar⋯”

I looked at Rubia Steel involuntarily at her unexpected statement.

The information I asked her during the interview was whether she had a blessing or curse, and the highest floor she could reach.

–Blessing of the Shield Knight and two blessings of the body enhancement series! There was a curse⋯ but it was erased! The highest floor she can reach is the 17th floor!

I didn’t ask about her background in detail, but she called herself a noble.

Judging from the fact that she didn’t form another party until the 17th floor and went with a maid, she seemed to be the daughter of a fairly influential family.

Well, that’s that.

“It’s okay. We just need to adjust a little bit.”

Since this is the first time she’s working with a new party, there’s bound to be some friction.

When you join an unfamiliar party, the roles and habits you played in your previous place are bound to pop out.

For example⋯

“It’s like your ex-girlfriend’s work. Don’t worry. We’ll train you to your fullest to suit your tastes. Kekeke.”

“Well. Is that the only way you can express it, Jubeel?”

“You thought the same thing, didn’t you? You lecherous bastard.”

“⋯No, well. That’s true, but⋯”

I scratched my helmet at Jubeel’s words.

The labyrinth becomes more complicated and vicious as you go down the floors.

If I don’t fix it now and go down, the gap will only get bigger.

“C-Chief Instructor, huh?!”

I looked at Rubia Steel, who was hiding her body wrapped in dress armor with a bewildered expression.

I need to make the blonde bun-haired knight, who acts as she pleases, realize that she’s a member of the party.

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Three days have passed.

We’ve currently reached the 4th floor.

The progress was slower than usual, but we didn’t get injured or get lost.

I planned to go down from the relatively safe upper floors while keeping up as much coordination as possible.

And today, that effort finally paid off.

Rubia no longer rushes at monsters as soon as she sees them.

“Stop.”

“Tsk⋯”

At my words, Rubia put the brakes on her body and looked at the sword held by the hobgoblin.

“Wait a little longer.”

“⋯⋯”

The green monsters that found their prey rushed in and were about to swing their knives.

“Now!”

-Kaang!

Rubia blocked the knives with her great shield and pushed the hobgoblin away.

As a tanker, she did her duty and dutifully protected the party members from the monster’s attacks.

-Crash!

-Squeak!

I, holding an axe, and Jubeel, who drew her sword, decapitated the monster that bounced off the shield.

The harpy magician Lammel responded to trap-like gimmicks and variables.

The cat-woman priestess Hitolis appropriately heals and buffs to maintain healthy activity levels.

“This is great.”

“I’m sorry to Joy Hog, but isn’t it more comfortable than before?”

I could finally move as a party.

It was a bit hard to get used to the fact that the person standing in front of me was a long, thin woman instead of a dwarf, but honestly, it was better than before.

If Joy Hog felt like a warrior and tank who held on with intuition and combat sense, Rubia felt like a huge wall was just standing in front of me.

The solidity was different.

“Is this what party play is⋯? It’s a different feeling from when I’m with the maid⋯! It’s thrilling!”

Rubia herself seemed to think it wasn’t bad either, so I thought it might be killing two birds with one stone.

“B-but. Mr. Balkan?”

“Yes?”

“Do you really have to tell me to stop and wait? This is too⋯”

Doesn’t it look like a pet⋯?

Rubia, who was speaking with a slightly complicated expression, replied nonchalantly.

“But there is no other communication method as fast and efficient as this.”

“That’s true…Oh, I understand. Enduring embarrassment is also a way to train your mind and body! In order to have a perfect body, you must also control your mind!”

Rubia shouted loudly, “Ohhoho!”, perhaps to shake off her embarrassment.

If it had been in the middle of the floor, it would have been a crazy act to attract the aggro of the monster, but fortunately, it was close to the end of the floor now.

All that was left was to cross the descent portal to the 5th floor, so the party crossed the portal right away.

“I’ll tear the fountain movement scroll.”

Boohoo–

The scroll torn from Hitolis’ hand created a rippling portal.

We arrived at the fountain at the end of the 5th floor once again.

I suggested a break to the party members.

“Let’s rest a bit and do some maintenance before moving again.”

“Good!!”

“Bbaa-tu-tu!”

It was finally time to put this dark elf down.

Nuer that had been carried on my back for three days laughed loudly.

“You’ve worked hard, Balkan.”

“This kid… Oh, no. Why does Nuer only want to ride on Balkan’s back? If someone else tries to carry her, she screams ‘Ppae-ae-ak’…”

“It’s obvious. Even if her mind is broken, her body knows. That she became a female who can only depend on males.”

“Tutta-tata-ta!!”

As Lammel, Hitolis, and Jubeel said, Nuer had been carried on my back for the past three days.

In the end, I had no choice but to continue marching while carrying this obscene dark elf that must have weighed at least 60kg.

It was fortunate that she didn’t draw the monster’s aggro by crying or screaming, but she still had a hard time.

“Our Nuer. When you come to your senses, are you going to lose some weight?”

“Ppuuuu!”

-Slap slap.

Feeling a little resentful, I patted Nuer’s breasts and butt, which accounted for a significant portion of her body fat percentage, and Nuer puffed out her cheeks.

Ignoring Nuer, I carefully took off her pants and placed my hand under her mound.

“Ppu, slap slap⋯”

I checked the diaper with my palm by pressing it with the skin near my perineum.

“Yeah. It’s not wet. Good job, good job.”

Diapers were consumables, but they took up a lot of space in my backpack.

Even though I had a subspace backpack, I couldn’t invest a lot of capital and capacity in items that only Nuer used.

I don’t know if it’s because she’s an elf with a slow metabolism or because of her simple constitution, but since she didn’t poop once in three days, I can say that it was a good decision.

“Bbaengtta-ta! Bbaenghii–”

As I patted Nuer’s head while praising her for not pooping or peeing, Nuer burst into laughter.

“Is it really ethical to restore her memories and make her normal?”

“I should gag her before throwing her in the fountain. She might bite her tongue and kill herself.”

Hitolis, who never stops discussing humanity while resting, and Lammel, who makes a plan to prevent suicide with a serious face.

“I heard that she was a person who had a certain amount of energy, but, uh, how did she end up like that…You really can’t let your guard down in this city …”

“But honestly, isn’t it lucky for a female? If there’s a male who marks and manages her, honestly, that kind of life isn’t bad either…”

Rubia, who was shocked at seeing Nuer, and just listening to Jubeel’s voice, put her in the fountain on the 5th floor.

“Tuttau?”

“⋯There’s no change at all.”

It seems Freya was right.

Even after soaking her in the healing water of the fountain for 30 minutes, there was no sign of her recovery.

I had to soak her on the 10th floor to find out, but I had a feeling that I would have to head to the fountain on the 15th floor.

“Nuer. Should we stop splashing around now and go?”

“Tauuu!”

The moment I took out a round cloth from my subspace backpack and tried to wipe the wet Nuer’s body.

Tingle –

Someone was caught in the wide range of my perception.

It was a strange presence.

It seemed extremely weak, but also strong…a mysterious feeling.

It wasn’t the presence of a monster, but my eyes naturally turned towards it.

“Ah, ah, ah⋯”

A voice that was as hungry as a starving child, with a cracking sound.

Her unmanaged, matted hair dragged on the ground, and her skinny body was so thin that it felt like only skin was attached to her bones.

If you left a girl in her late teens alone for a few years without feeding her anything, she would look like that.

The strange thing was that the helpless-looking girl had ‘walked’ all the way here.

The multiples of 5 are the ones most explorers skip through using the fountain scroll.

Unless there is a specific request, it is really rare for a girl to walk inside the floor like that.

Before I knew it, my hand was on the extra-large axe, Bunny, behind my back.

The party members also noticed my strangely stiff atmosphere and gathered together to take precautions.

However, no one drew their weapons first.

If they had aimed their weapons first, there was a possibility that it would have developed into a fight.

The girl looked weak to the eye, but the aura she gave off was unusual.

There was no need to take unnecessary risks. Safety is the best.

It would have been nice if we had just been a little wary of each other like the explorers we often meet.

“Ah⋯”

After walking aimlessly, staring blankly into space, the girl stopped in front of the descent portal and turned her eyes to us.

“⋯⋯⋯You.”

No, more precisely.

“You’ve got something nice on your back.”

Towards me and Bunny.

“Can I look at that axe for a second?”