# Conflict (Interlude)

“Haa…”

Entering the bathroom, Evan sighed, his mind in turmoil. How did things end up like this?

“S-Sleeping in the same room…”

The very idea of spending the night in the same room as the woman he loved was too much of a stimulation for Evan.

Especially since Aria was the worst kind of culprit. ‘Knowing that I like her…’

It was quite a while ago, but Evan had even declared to Aria that he would confess after defeating the Demon King.

Of course, even if Aria had no experience in that area, she would have noticed that he liked her a long time ago.

But whether she noticed or not, she was asking to sleep in the same room in this situation, so Evan couldn't help but be confused.

Especially after seeing the traces of that gruesome corpse just a while ago, and hearing that story.

‘Aria must have a reason, though…’

No matter how important the situation, it was still sleeping with the person he loved.

And in a place where there was only one bed.

No matter how much of a Hero he was, his heart couldn't help but waver. ‘I shouldn’t waver in this situation…’

Evan sighed and regained his composure.

He would have been happy if this was a peaceful situation without any incidents, but this was a place where a person had died in a gruesome state.

This was a real situation.

Not being able to control his desires like this… Really?

“…?”

Are you just going to suppress that feeling? At this best opportunity?

A voice from within his heart. Why was that?

Normally, Evan would have sensed something was wrong, but for some reason, he didn't suspect the voice.

Instead, he felt an unknown urge to hear more.

‘But… I’m the Hero… I shouldn’t have such thoughts…’

No. The Hero is also a person, isn't he? He can have such feelings for the person he loves.

‘…’

Evan nodded at the voice's words without realizing it. Come to think of it, that was true.

How long was he supposed to endure? Until he defeated the Demon King?

He didn't even know when he would have to face the Demon King, and he wasn't even sure if he could win against him in the first place.

But telling him to endure until he defeated the Demon King was practically the same as telling him not to have such thoughts at all.

That's right. They're just bad people who are only thinking of using you, the Hero.

“That’s…”

Evan shook his head. No, that wasn't true.

Aria wasn't that kind of person. This voice, something’s wrong…

Ah, of course, you have to exclude the girl you like. She's such a kind girl. Right?

“… Yeah, that’s right…” Aria was kind.

Too kind.

She was such a good person that she would sacrifice her own body to save the life of a complete stranger, without even caring about her own suffering.

He had been helped by her countless times. Wouldn't it be stranger not to like her?

He couldn't help but like her.

That's right, that's right. She's a kind girl. Even if you go astray for a moment… she'll definitely forgive you.

“Forgive… me…?”

Of course. You're the Hero, and she's the Saintess, right? You have a deeper connection than anyone else… she'll forgive you for that much.

“Is that so…?”

She would forgive him.

Yes, no matter what he did… No… what did he mean by… What…?

“Doing bad things… is not allowed…”

Is it a bad thing to share affection with the person you love? Then is having children a sin?

“That’s…”

Evan couldn't answer easily.

He grabbed his head with both hands and shook it back and forth. Something was wrong.

Something was strange. Something… something…

A seductive voice reached Evan's ears as he tried to regain his senses.

Hoo, it said. A pleasant sensation spread from his ear.

Don't hold back. That girl… will accept your desires too… The last word.

At that word, the light disappeared from Evan's eyes. “Ah…”

The strange one was me. Evan got up from his spot.

“[Purification magic is really convenient…]”

There was no need to bother going to wash up; you could just use purification magic and your body would be clean right away.

Of course, it was nice to soak in warm water and enjoy the pleasant sensation, but when I was lazy, there was no better method.

Evan wasn't here either. I was lying on the bed, wiggling my arms and legs like a child, giggling, when I suddenly felt Evan coming out of the bathroom.

‘Is he already out?’

How long had it been since he went in to wash up that he was already out?

I was a little doubtful, but I decided that everyone had different washing times, so I would just accept it.

I wanted to lie on the bed a little longer and feel the soft sensation, but it was a pity…

‘Wait.’

Something was wrong.

Evan's footsteps seemed to be staggering. At that moment,

With a click, the door opened and Evan appeared.

He was definitely the usual Evan, but something was off. He had a dazed expression.

“Aria…”

Evan's Thought-form reached me. ‘I want to make Aria mine…’ ‘Aria would understand, right…?’ ‘I’ve endured a lot…’

‘Aria… will accept my desires…’

‘How long do I have to wait until I defeat the Demon King…?’ ‘I don’t want to wait…’

‘I want to be connected with Aria.’ Countless Thought-forms.

Most of them were lust for me. A sticky desire to pounce on me. ‘Wait…’

The moment Evan tried to pounce on me.

I immediately realized that Evan had been affected by the Succubus Queen.

I was about to take out the Relic from my bosom, but Evan must have thought I was trying to escape, because he reached me in an instant with incredible speed, grabbed both of my wrists, and pinned me down.

“[Ugh…]”

With both wrists grabbed and pinned to the bed, I couldn't take out the Relic and was captured.

“Haa… haa…”

I could see that Evan was excited.

I didn't know if he had lost his mind or not, but just feeling the sticky desire for me, I knew that he had been properly affected by the Succubus Queen.

“Aria… Ariaaa…!!” Tear!

As if he were a beast trying to devour my body, Evan buried his face in my neck.

Evan's breath flowed from my neck, sending shivers down my spine. ‘W-Wait a minute…’

Why is he so strong…!! Crackle!

In the end, my clothes couldn't withstand it and were torn.

I was wearing thin clothes just before going to bed, so Evan tore them easily with just a little force, and my upper body was exposed in an instant.

Since it was a dress, if the upper body was torn, it would be completely naked if I pulled it down.

“[E-Evan…!]”

This guy must have really lost his mind. However, I didn't feel particularly repulsed.

If I could see it directly, I might have felt scared, but to me, it just looked like a 3D model doing something or other.

The problem was that the target was me. “Ah, aah…”

Evan's eyes trembled for a moment when he saw my exposed upper body. It's not for me to say, but I don't have much to see since my chest is small. Regardless, that was irrelevant to Evan, who had already lost his mind. ‘Sorry, but…’

I don't want to be attacked like this in a place where the Succubus Queen is watching.

“[P-Please… come to your senses… Evan…! Don’t give in…!!]”

I desperately called out to Evan, hoping he would come to his senses, but it seemed that my voice didn't reach him because he was already properly Charmed.

‘I just need to free my restrained arms…!’ Succubus Queen, you have a really bad taste…

If I used Holy Power here, the Succubus Queen would sense something was wrong and run away.

So I had to create an opening for Evan without using Purification. ‘Judging from his reaction just now, he’s not completely without reason…’ Then…

I swallowed hard.

The time had come to show off my acting skills at least at the level of a Best Actor award.

I tried to move the arm that was holding my wrist tightly, in the most pitiful posture possible.

“[Evan… please… come to your senses… sob…]”

As I continued to pretend to cry with sincere Thought-form, trying to shake him off, the strength in his hand began to weaken little by little.

This was it.

This would work.

“This is… Aria… you’re… bad…”

“[This kind of thing… this kind of thing is not allowed, Evan…]” I tried to persuade Evan with sobbing Thought-form.

Just a moment, a very short moment would be enough. Please…!

"I, I am…" It worked…!

Taking advantage of the moment when his strength was completely gone, I quickly shook off his hand and immediately took out the Relic and used the

Relic of Purification on Evan. Flash!

“Ugh…!!”

Light poured out from the Relic of Purification, and Evan, who had been Charmed, slowly returned to normal.

And,

‘Now’s the time…!’

I let the Holy Power flowing from the Relic of Purification flow onto the floor at a speed that the Succubus Queen couldn't react to, activating the Holy Magic Circle.

It seemed that she didn't know because the priests these days hardly used it.

T-This is…!

A chilling voice that even I could hear. Ah, I caught you, you bitch.

Welcome… to my 『Unique Barrier』.

You’re dead, you fucking bitch.

# 1 - Succubus Queen

"..."

If I called it a Unique Barrier... that might be a bit much, so let's just call it a top-tier Barrier.

In any case, the fact that I'm dragging her into a subspace of vast Holy Power remains unchanged.

'Holy Power, you guzzle it down like crazy.'

Since it's a Saintess technique that creates a unique subspace with Holy Power in the first place, it's only natural that it consumes a lot of Holy Power.

It's basically using Saintess Domain Deployment in the form of a Barrier. "[Evan... are you okay?]"

Ah.

Come to think of it, my clothes don't return to normal, do they?

I grabbed the torn clothes with one hand, barely covering the important parts, and called out to Evan.

Evan barely regained his senses, but... 'Ah, damn it.'

Didn't think of this. "Aria... what, what am I..."

Evan was trembling with both hands, seemingly shocked by the fact that he had tried to assault me, and was consumed by guilt.

'Oh, Evan...'

Come on... a man can be a little charmed by a Succubus's Charm and try to pounce.

Even though my clothes are all torn, it ended in an attempt anyway, so why is he reacting so excessively?

Anyway, he becomes a scaredy-cat when it comes to things related to me. I guess I have no choice.

I approached Evan.

In times like these, shock therapy is the best. Thwack!

Without hesitation, I raised my hand and slapped Evan's cheek.

Since it was me, who is no different from an ordinary person, hitting him, Evan's head only turned slightly, and the hit area didn't even turn red.

However, the shock was still there, so Evan, who had been blaming himself, stopped dead in his tracks.

"[Get a grip, Evan!]"

I strongly sent out a Thought-form. This is really good.

I can send out Thought-forms as I please, so I can send them out loudly even if I don't shout.

To Evan, it seems like I'm angry.

"A, Aria..."

"[Let's talk about this later. Right now, more than that...]"

Before I could finish speaking, a chilling voice was heard from afar.

H, how did this happen... Where, where am I...! I immediately recognized who the voice belonged to. Evan did too.

"That voice... the voice that spoke to me just now...!" "[Evan?]"

"It was you... it was you...!"

Evan gritted his teeth and ran towards the direction of the voice. And there...

"Damn it... this was a trap...?! I was going to enjoy a good show for once...!! Ugh, damn it...!!"

Bat-like wings attached to an ambiguous location that could be either the butt or the waist.

Horns that protrude in a beautiful shape that seems to suck you in just by looking at them.

A face that feels beautiful even though it's a 3D model. 'It's the Succubus Queen.'

There was the Succubus Queen, wailing as if she was so upset about losing to me in intelligence.

Is she that upset...?

"Hmph, well... since things have turned out this way, there's no helping it."

Just when I thought she was despairing alone, she suddenly calmed down and turned to look at us.

"I lost, Saintess. To think you knew I was coming in advance." Oh yeah, well...

In fact, her plan was perfect.

She could cause conflict between the Matimos Tribe and the people of the North, making Valencia pay attention to that side, and also lure me, who has a close relationship with the North.

If I hadn't known anything... I would have been assaulted by Evan, who suddenly turned strange, without knowing why.

Who would have thought that the fact that he suddenly went crazy and tried to assault me was actually related to the Succubus Queen?

Moreover, she even set up this trap in advance to catch the Succubus Queen.

Since it was a task that consumed quite a bit of my Holy Power, it was impossible for the Succubus Queen to escape from this place on her own.

Then shall I completely cut off the last possibility? "[If you have this, you can resist mental attacks.]"

I said that and handed the Relic of Purification to Evan.

Even if I get caught, it won't cause much damage to Evan, so there's no problem.

Just because the Succubus Queen manipulates me doesn't mean she can use Saintess techniques at will.

In other words, it's a checkmate situation. But why is that?

"Heh..."

The Succubus Queen was smiling. "Pfft, Pwahahaha!"

And then she burst into laughter.

"Don't tell me... you thought I would lose?"

The Succubus Queen asked, resting her chin on her hand. Yeah.

I completely think you're going to lose. How are you going to win?

Even if you fight Evan one-on-one in a physical fight, it's questionable whether you'll win, and I'm here too.

By handing over the Relic of Purification, no more mental attacks will work on Evan.

Even if you catch me, I'm just an ordinary woman with nowhere to use it. Ah, an "immortal" ordinary woman, that is.

I sneered at the Succubus Queen in my mind. So what are you going to do?

What can you do...

Suddenly.

'Eh.'

Oh.

My body isn't moving...? 'Oh.'

W, wait a minute.

The strength I was giving to my arm suddenly released, and the pajamas I was barely holding onto fell down.

'Oh, shit...?'

I became completely naked. "...!!"

Evan's eyes widened, and he quickly turned his head away.

"Oh my, is it because the opponent is a Saintess? It's more difficult than I thought."

The Succubus Queen said with exhausted Thought-form. "What did you do...?"

"Hmm? Can't you tell? A Hero should be able to tell." Ah.

No way, right?

Hey, hey.

Hey, damn it, wait a minute. Stop it!!!

'No, you crazy...'

"Generally, lewd things, you know? It's not just the man who pounces..." "Evan...♡"

"Sometimes the woman takes the lead, you know?"

My mouth is moving on its own.

I don't even know what I'm saying.

The only thing I can tell is that I'm using the common language of the continent.

I can't hear, so there's no way my mouth is saying things that are being heard through Thought-form.

I hurriedly tried to use Purification magic, but the opponent is the Succubus Queen, who is of a higher rank than me.

Confining her in a Barrier was possible by surpassing the rank with the Saintess magic circle, but Purification magic wasn't.

'Ugh, grrr...'

I, I can't do anything...!!

"A, Aria...!"

Ah, no, my body is moving on its own! "Well, how is it? Isn't it a spectacular view?" The Succubus Queen laughed, "Uhehe." That, that damn bitch, really...!!

I was directly experiencing myself taking a pose to Charm Evan while completely naked, so I felt like my intestines were twisting.

Please... don't look...

"..."

Evan was just silently averting his gaze.

Perhaps he also realized that I was using that bitch's mental attack, to be exact, the technique of only taking control of the body, but there was no other way.

Anyway, it's a body with nothing to see, so if he had looked, I would have hit him for staring.

It's impossible now, though. "Hmph, how boring."

The Succubus Queen, who said it was boring as if she wanted me to pounce right away, moved my body.

She ran straight at Evan.

Evan was briefly surprised, but then his eyes widened. "Ehehe... I love you...♡"

I smiled like a girl and clung to Evan's arm.

'Aaaargh, damn it!!' My image!

My imageeeeee!!!

"W, what do you think you're going to do by doing this..."

"What else, this."

The Succubus Queen, who had somehow approached Evan, smiled wickedly and swung a sword filled with Demonic energy.

Slash!

Evan, who picked up my body and barely dodged, gasped, "Kuh."

"I wonder how long you can fight while carrying that child? Uhehe..." At the Succubus Queen's words, Evan, and I as well...

Realized why the Succubus Queen had taken control of my body.

"Still, a Saintess is a Saintess, I guess? It's a little, no, a lot difficult to move at will and attack at the same time... but still, this is enough to fight."

The Succubus Queen licked her lips.

It won't last long, but she laughed, "Hehe," saying that she just needs to decide the outcome before that.

That's right.

'Wow, I really couldn't have imagined it...!!'

The Succubus Queen was using me as a sacrifice to hinder Evan.

She has to hold on so that it's difficult to move, and at the same time, she has to dodge so that she doesn't get attacked.

Even in the midst of that, I'm not being dragged around, but I'm even sticking close to Evan.

The person you like is naked, and keeps acting cute.

While the person you like is being controlled and acting cute while naked, you have to protect the person who is acting cute while simultaneously

facing an opponent of a similar level. Truly...

It truly is a Succubus-like way of fighting...!! 'But why does it have to be me!!'

Clang! Clang! "Kuh... damn it...!!"

Evan is breathing roughly.

It seemed difficult for him to protect me from being attacked while enduring my interference and facing the Succubus Queen.

Besides, the Holy Sword is originally meant to be held with both hands, so it must be even more difficult to fight with one hand.

'Relic... please use the Relic...!!'

He seemed to be hesitant to return the Relic he had hung around his neck, thinking that he would be subjected to mental attacks if he handed the Relic over to me.

That's right, but... That's right, but...!! "Aah♡"

Because I was clinging to Evan's arm while naked, I accidentally brushed

between his thighs as I moved around, and the Succubus Queen, not missing that, moved my mouth to let out a moan.

That, that damn crazy bitch, really!! 'Aah...'

Please save me, Evan. I was wrong.

It's the first time since coming to this world that I want to give up on everything.

I'm embarrassed.

I'm so embarrassed I'm going crazy. 'Sniff... Hwaaa...'

I cried inwardly.

I want to go home...

# 2 - Succubus Queen

Evan, trying to compose his complicated feelings, looked at Aria, who was clinging to his arm.

At first, Evan had been consumed by self-loathing, thinking he had tried to assault Aria.

What was he thinking when he committed such an act? His mind was a mess.

But when he learned that the Succubus Queen was the cause of it all, he felt relieved and deeply admired Aria.

It wasn't about the Succubus Queen being the culprit or how she had figured it out.

Even regarding the Trial, she knew things that not even the Dean or the being who introduced himself as the Guardian Dragon of Light knew.

Aria knew that the relevant information itself didn't exist, so suspecting her to this extent was absurd.

It was just that Evan… was genuinely relieved deep down.

He could attribute his attempt to assault Aria not to his own dirty desires, but to the Succubus Queen's mental attack, which was so powerful that even the Hero couldn't resist it.

Moreover, he had a chance to capture one of his arch-enemies, the Succubus Queen, and the opportunity was practically free, so he thought it was a complete victory for them.

If only the Succubus Queen hadn't been controlling Aria's body. "How can this be…!!"

"How is it possible, you ask? Of course, it's normally impossible." It would be impossible for Aria in her normal state.

But now was different.

"This Barrier… it's surpassed the level of Barrier that Saintess can handle." Evan's eyes widened at that.

To deploy a Barrier, or a technique or magic, beyond one's own level required not only preparation but also tremendous power.

It was only natural, as it was creating a miracle that would otherwise be impossible.

Then…!

"You're not as dumb as you look…!"

The Succubus Queen shouted, wielding a greatsword filled with Demonic energy.

Evan pulled Aria into his arms, trying to protect her from being hit, but the diagonally swung greatsword grazed his arm.

"Ugh…!"

Evan groaned from the pain caused by the Demonic energy flowing in. It wasn't easy to dodge with Aria clinging to him.

Of course, if he fought without considering Aria's safety, he could fight advantageously, though not easily, but unfortunately, that was impossible for Evan.

"Haa… I hate clingy men… If you keep running away, I'll have no choice." The Succubus Queen lamented, licking the blood off the blade.

"Ew, disgusting." "…"

It was the Hero's blood, so that was only natural.

When he stared at her with an absurd expression, she seemed embarrassed and swung her sword…

Clang! "Ugh…"

Evan's clothes were slightly torn because he couldn't completely block the sharp wind pressure.

"What, what are you looking at! I can taste it if I'm curious!"

…

Was this woman actually stupid?

He briefly thought so, but Evan quickly shook his head. "Evan… Ehehehe…♡"

For Evan, his priority right now was to figure out what to do with Aria, who

was clinging to his arm and acting cute. 'But wait a minute.'

Come to think of it, isn't that woman acting cute right now? Didn't she say she was controlling her?

Evan looked at the Succubus Queen with a lecherous expression. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Somehow… thinking that you're doing this aegyo makes me feel sick." "How rude! Seriously!"

The Succubus Queen lost her temper and stomped her foot on the floor, shouting.

Evan was a fortress of iron.

Of course, the Succubus Queen was an incredibly beautiful woman. A beauty that anyone would fall head over heels for.

But Evan already had a woman in his heart. Definitely, completely.

A woman he loved so passionately that nothing could shake him. '… Still…'

Even though it wasn't the real Aria, he couldn't help but smile just seeing Aria like this.

Besides, how could he not be swayed when Aria, who usually didn't say anything, was acting cute with her real voice, not just a Thought-form?

In fact, he wanted to keep watching. Aria's appearance was so seductive.

Even though she was being controlled, it was a sight he could never see in the usual Aria.

Although he could barely see her body because she was clinging to him, he might be able to see it if he turned his head a little…

"Heok…!"

Terrifying.

This was the Succubus's way of fighting…

Although she was saying it half-jokingly, it was a vicious tactic that Evan couldn't help but shudder at.

Since Evan was using a Relic of purification imbued with Holy Power, body control itself wouldn't work anyway.

It would be the best option for the Succubus Queen to put Aria in this situation and force him to choose.

'Such a cruel…!' Evan gritted his teeth.

It was actually working on Evan.

He had worked hard to become stronger until this day, at this moment, only wishing for Aria to be unharmed and happy.

But the Succubus Queen was forcing him to deny that belief head-on. To keep Aria from getting hurt, Evan himself would have to be injured. But if he ignored Aria, Aria would get hurt.

Even though she would recover, he didn't want to cause her any pain. "What should I do…!"

In a situation where he couldn't do anything, Estel shouted at Evan, who was gritting his teeth.

Hey, you idiot!!

A voice that sounded very angry.

Evan looked down at his Holy Sword with a bewildered expression.

You didn't forget, did you? How I used the Relic! “…!!”

Evan's eyes widened. That's right.

He remembered that there was a way to use the Relic separately from just holding it.

Remembering that fact, Evan immediately brought the Relic to the Holy Sword.

However,

'There's no reaction…?!'

There was no reaction coming back from the Relic. Ugh, what?! I can't take control of the Relic!

At that, Evan turned his head. Aria.

There was a true owner of the Relic.

Could it be…

'Ah, because of Aria…?!'

Because Aria was clinging to him, he couldn't fuse the Holy Sword and the Relic…?!

"What are you doing?"

The Succubus Queen leisurely threw blades of wind around. Not only that.

She was a being with strong power to be in the position of executive.

Even while laughing and mocking, she showed tremendous martial prowess and pressured him, causing Evan's expression to harden.

At this rate, he would really lose. 'I have to get Aria off me.' And…

Evan turned his head again.

He noticed that the remaining Relics that had fallen to the floor when she had thrown off the clothes she had been holding onto while being body- controlled had all fallen to the floor.

'With that, even Aria…!'

With the Holy Power there, he could return Aria to normal even just a little. Judging that, Evan tried to rush to get the Relics.

It was at that moment.

Aria, who had been clinging to Evan, suddenly froze. "[E, van… ]"

A small and faint but definitely audible Thought-form. Aria's Thought-form.

"Aria! Are you okay?!"

"[I'm… okay… so hurry… ]" Aria's urgent Thought-form.

Hearing those words, Evan gritted his teeth. He couldn't do that.

He had worked hard to become stronger to avoid seeing Aria suffer. He couldn't ignore that to catch the Succubus Queen.

That was… like losing the meaning of all the strength he had gained so far. He didn't want to give up his beliefs.

Thinking so, Evan judged that the only way to resolve this situation right now was with the Relic.

That's why he tried to approach the Relic, but Aria, who had broken free from his arms, grabbed Evan.

"Ugh, Aria…!"

Even while falling to the floor and being dragged along, she was preventing him from approaching the Relic.

"Oh my… I can't watch this anymore."

The Succubus Queen clicked her tongue and raised her arm.

Just as a magic of unknown origin was about to be activated, the Relic floated into the air.

"If I touch it, the Saintess I'm barely holding onto will be released… I should just throw it far away."

Feeling a sense of urgency at the Succubus Queen's attempt to throw it away as if dusting it off, Evan ignored Aria and jumped up.

"No…!"

Evan, who had managed to grab the Relic that was about to fly far away by jumping up with superhuman physical abilities,

"…"

Aria's body, which could not withstand the superhuman movement, could not withstand the force and floated into the air.

At that, the Succubus Queen burst into laughter. "Puhahaha! Really, humans are…!"

And then muttered softly. "So stupid."

The Succubus Queen said that and swung her sword. Aria and Evan were in the air.

There was no way to avoid it. However,

Swoosh.

The Succubus Queen's eyes widened.

And then shouted with a horrified expression. "What…? What is this ridiculous…!"

The blade made of Demonic energy, which should have cut both of them, did not reach Evan.

"Huh…?"

What was dismembered was Aria's body.

As the small Barrier that had been deployed in the meantime was lightly broken, the weakened blade, whose direction had been twisted, grazed Evan's cheek.

"Aria?"

Evan's empty cry echoed.

# 3 - Succubus Queen

“…”

Evan stared blankly at Aria, who had been cut to pieces.

“She used a Barrier while under my control…?! That’s impossible…!!” The Succubus Queen couldn’t believe what was happening.

Her plan had been completely ruined. She had clearly acted wisely.

She had been suspicious when they stopped in this village for a day, but after hearing that they had come here to find the Trial of Courage, she changed her mind, thinking it was a definite opportunity. And indeed, the moment she tried to seize control of their minds, the hidden Holy Barrier activated.

Of course, one might think of her as a foolish Succubus who fell into a trap, but this trap would have no reason to exist unless someone knew from the start that the Succubus Queen was involved.

From the outside, it would only look like a conflict between humans and the Matimos Tribe.

That’s why she never suspected that her existence was being questioned.

But she was the best schemer among the Demon King Army executives, unmatched even within the Demon King Army.

The Succubus Queen, instantly devising her next plan, instinctively took control of the Saintess's body.

She had already used a lot of power to set the trap, so it was very easy to take control.

Just now, while slowly taking control of the Hero's mind, she had learned everything about what he thought of the Saintess.

Naturally, she realized that the Hero considered the Saintess a precious being, more than just a comrade, or even a lover.

That's why she took control of the Saintess's body instead of trying to control Evan's body, which was practically an adventure in itself.

She judged that if she appealed to him with her feminine charms and interfered with him, she would definitely have a chance to defeat him in one blow.

That was what she intended to make happen from the start.

The Saintess's body was like that of a young girl, an unripe fruit, but Evan cherished Aria, the Saintess herself, beyond such physical charms, which made it possible.

She couldn't understand it at all, but she placed her hopes on it anyway. And it actually worked.

The Hero was too worried about the Saintess getting hurt to react properly, and he was busy blocking her attacks, even though he should have been overwhelmed by her skill. He deliberately made sure the Saintess was hit by her attacks, and the Hero was quickly torn to shreds.

Being quick-witted, she had long noticed that the Hero was trying to use the Relic to wipe her out, and she casually threw the Relic away, inducing him to jump.

And…

‘Humans are so stupid.’

As soon as he floated into the air, she moved her body to release the Hero from her grasp, aligning with the angle that led straight down.

Looking up at the naked girl falling helplessly, and the Hero who stopped in mid-air just before falling… the Succubus Queen laughed at him for sacrificing his own life for someone he cherished more than himself.

What could be more precious than one's own life? Really… Heroes are all so stupid.

The Succubus Queen thought so and gathered power in her greatsword, unleashing a sword strike.

An angle that was impossible to avoid.

The Hero's skill was insufficient to gather power and block the sword strike that flew faster than the blink of an eye.

And to make it even harder to react, the Saintess even covered the sword strike with her body, so reviving the dead Hero would be impossible forever.

Even if he recovered, the Succubus Queen would have a Saintess doll that she could control as she pleased.

Perfect.

It was a perfect plan.

The Succubus Queen was certain. This battle was her victory.

Even though she had fallen into a trap, she had no doubt that she would win.

“Eh…?”

The moment she saw the Saintess protecting her Hero by deflecting her sword strike with a Barrier, that belief shattered into pieces.

She thought it was absolutely impossible to block.

She never expected that she would use Holy Power to slightly twist the angle of the attack and save the Hero.

How could she use a Barrier even after she had taken control of her body? Thud.

Aria's severed body fell to the floor.

Evan, who had landed on the ground, approached Aria with trembling steps. “Aria…”

He was distracted by the Saintess. “Die!”

The Succubus Queen thought this was her chance and unleashed another sword strike.

However, Clang! “What…?!”

The Succubus Queen was horrified to see her sword strike being deflected weakly.

There shouldn't have been such a difference in power. Rumble.

Holy Power surged.

The earth was roaring.

“W-What is this… This is insane…!!”

The Succubus Queen hurriedly spread her wings and tried to fly away.

Once she was in the air, the Hero would have no other way to attack her, so she thought she could overcome this situation by making a new plan and moving again.

The Succubus Queen quickly left the ground and flew into the sky. ‘Yes…!’

If this was the case, she wouldn’t be attacked… Swoosh!

Wha…? “Ah…?”

She felt a slight pain in her wing.

Soon, the pain gradually increased, and she felt a burning sensation. “Aaaaaah!”

It was burning.

Her wings were burning with holy light. ‘S-Solanis…?!’

Solanis’s Holy Power of the Sun.

That powerful sunlight was burning her wings.

The Succubus Queen looked at Evan with trembling eyes.

One point.

He poured Holy Power into a single point and fired it like a beam. “You can’t escape.”

Evan said in a voice that was so chillingly devoid of emotion. Then, he gathered Holy Power again and fired it.

There was no time to react.

Once the aiming was complete, the attack was carried out at the speed of light.

The Succubus Queen, whose other wing was pierced in an instant, could no longer stay in the sky.

“Aaaaaah!”

Evan raised Estel towards the Succubus Queen, who was falling down. “[Divine Punishment]”

Evan declared and swung Estel down. Soon,

Boom!!

A huge pillar of light pouring down from the sky crushed the Succubus Queen.

The Succubus Queen screamed, feeling the pain of her whole body melting in the barrage of the sun.

“Ugh… Ah…?”

The Succubus Queen, whose entire body had been literally burned by Holy Power, trembled on the floor, limp.

Sizzle.

Her arm was cut off. “Ah, Aaaah…”

It was an unbelievable firepower.

How… How could he have such unbelievable power… “How much pain did Aria have to endure?”

Sizzle. “Kua…”

Her leg was also cut off.

Before she could get used to the pain, Evan attacked again. “How much sadness did she feel?”

“…”

The Succubus Queen, whose limbs had all been cut off, no longer groaned. She was dying.

“… Well, I don’t need to tell you this kind of story.” Evan indifferently raised Estel.

Then, he slashed the Succubus Queen as it was. “…”

Swoosh.

The Succubus Queen, split in half, disappeared as if melting away.

Soon, nothing remained in that place except for the scorched earth due to the effects of Divine Punishment.

.

.

.

Hmm…

I, who had fallen to the floor and been cut into five pieces, enjoyed the situation while feeling pleasure from the severed parts and munching on popcorn.

Seeing him enraged by my fallen appearance was something joyful and enjoyable to watch.

Why am I so happy?

…

Maybe it's because of the pain.

‘Why isn’t there any pain felt from the severed body parts?’ Is it because the nerves aren’t connected?

This is unnecessarily realistic.

With such a light heart, I was watching Evan overwhelm the Succubus Queen.

Our Evan is so cool.

He even saw my naked body and me acting cute, so isn't his wish fulfilled?

What a pervert.

‘What’s so good about my body that he reacts like that…’

He wouldn’t be a piece of trash who lusts after a body like this, would he… He’s a strange guy…

Anyway, it seems that Evan was quite angry that I had become like this, and he properly vented his anger on the Succubus Queen.

However…

‘… It’s strange.’

She’s not the type to die so easily.

In the game, there was no existence as annoying and strong as that woman, so I was properly wary of her.

Of course, I had prepared everything to deal with her.

That’s why no matter how much I think about it, the suspicion doesn’t disappear.

‘It feels like it ended too easily…’

It feels like we defeated her too easily. That’s what I’m thinking.

‘Could it be…’ No way.

I want to believe it’s not. Yes, it’s not.

It has to be.

Otherwise…

‘… I think we’re in big trouble.’ Something really bad might happen.

# 4 - Succubus Queen

The Succubus Queen didn't fall.

It was a truth I really didn't want to believe, but I was certain of it. No, I had no choice but to be certain.

Knowing how vicious of a boss she was, I knew very well that she wasn't the type to fall so easily.

I just didn't want to believe it. "What should we do?"

Evan, who approached me, muttered with a helpless expression. He's probably talking with Estel.

Unfortunately, I couldn't gather my body and revive on my own right now.

If I took my time, I would revive and move normally, but right now, I was being eroded by the Succubus Queen's powerful Demonic energy, making it impossible to properly utilize my Holy Power.

Still, it was fortunate that I could at least look around and hear Thought- forms, even if only faintly.

More importantly, it was crucial to inform them of the situation now. "[Ev… Evan… ]"

"Ah, Aria…!" Ah.

I wanted to send a proper Thought-form.

Perhaps because of the Demonic energy rampaging inside my body, the Thought-form kept getting cut off.

In the meantime, Evan was looking down at me with a greatly worried expression, probably because I couldn't send a proper Thought-form and it was being sent in fragments.

'Ugh… it's nice, but…' I'm fine.

I'm really fine.

In fact, an ordinary person would probably go crazy from the pain, but for me, this level of pain only brought pleasure…

Seeing him worry so much for me and trying to help in any way he could made me want to laugh.

What should I do?

Evan is too cute.

I almost felt disappointed that I couldn't feel the Demonic energy rampaging even in the severed parts.

That's because, among all the pain I've ever felt, there was no sensation as blissful as Demonic energy entering a body full of Holy Power and wreaking havoc.

It was just that it was difficult to send Thought-forms because of it.

I couldn't freely use my Holy Power… 'Oops…'

Come to think of it, now wasn't the time to enjoy this pleasant sensation.

I was satisfied enough with Evan's anger and the way he messed up the Succubus Queen when I was cut apart just now, so I should solve the problem first.

"[Listen… Evan… Succubus… Queen… alive… ]" "Aria? Aria!"

"[… Ugh… Ah… ]" Oh.

It's not sending.

Did I run out of Holy Power to even send Thought-forms?

I couldn't move my body, and I was even closing my eyes because I couldn't see.

I rolled my eyes while keeping them closed, thinking about the current situation.

'Wasn't I… naked?'

At first, I only felt embarrassed.

But thinking about it, there probably wasn't a more desperate situation for Evan than this.

The person he likes is naked, cut into pieces, and rolling around on the floor like trash, and there's no way to help.

'Um.'

I'm sorry I'm powerless, Evan…

But you know it's not my fault, right?

No matter what, letting go of my hands in mid-air and being cut apart like that wasn't my fault, but the Succubus Queen controlling my body manipulated it to let go at the exact timing, intending to slice me apart at the same time.

So it's really not my fault… 'Uh oh…'

The range of the surrounding space that I could see gradually began to shrink.

Holy Power itself remained, but most of it was being used to suppress the Demonic energy rampaging in my body, so the Holy Power I could use was as good as gone.

In the end, only Evan was barely visible. 'Ah… I am Aria. I'm disabled…'

Deaf and blind.

These were the things I had given up to gain such tremendous talent for Holy Power.

I thought it didn't matter back then because it was a game. Surprisingly, I was grateful for these demerits.

If it weren't for these demerits, I would have felt everything so vividly, from how I acted to what I said to Evan, and died of embarrassment.

Isn't there a saying that it's better not to know? Anyway, I'm going to kill her next time we meet. I don't know if I can kill her, though.

As I chuckled inwardly and sharpened the blade of revenge, I was still worried about what to do if the Succubus Queen was alive.

Suddenly, Evan's appearance changed. 'Huh.'

There's only one factor that could change his appearance. A Relic?

The only Relic that would be useful in this situation would be the Water Relic, which is in charge of the Holy Power of healing.

Evan, who approached me, raised his hand and placed it on my body. Then,

'Oh, oh oh…'

The warm energy of Holy Power entered and began to drive out the Demonic energy.

No.

No way.

The pleasant feeling is disappearing… Gyaaaah, don't do this…

'Ah, no, this is the obvious thing to do…!'

How complicated is the situation right now, and isn't this the obvious thing to do?

But why?

Why do I feel so bad?

Evan carefully picked up each of my severed body parts and put them back together.

The concentrated healing Holy Power contained in the Water Relic was already circulating throughout my body, driving out the Demonic energy and healing my body, so when the severed body parts were attached, they were restored in an instant.

As the Holy Power driving out the Demonic energy had nothing left to do, the range of vision naturally returned, and I was able to convey Thought- forms properly again.

"…" Hmm…

This is right, but… "Aria…!"

Evan, seeing that I had returned to normal, hugged me tightly. Forgetting that I was naked, Evan kept muttering that he was relieved. 'Does he… not see me as a woman?'

Or maybe, because of the situation, he's more relieved that I'm back to normal than that I'm naked.

I remembered flirting with Evan while naked, showing him even my important parts, just a moment ago.

Anyway… I never intended to get married in the first place, and now I have a body that can't be married off at all.

Does it even matter? 'No… it does…'

If I didn't see Evan as a man.

If I didn't see him as someone I'm attracted to, I wouldn't be embarrassed to be seen like that.

I was so embarrassed at the time that I even declared surrender, which I had never done before.

Fortunately, I was being controlled by the Succubus at the time, so my true feelings weren't revealed.

Anyway, the fact that I was genuinely embarrassed and even cried about showing that side of myself to Evan, of all people…

'Maybe… I also…'

I might have feelings for Evan. I like Evan…

I… Hmm… 'Ugh…'

My head started to hurt.

I wanted to get up and deal with the Succubus Queen-related matters first. But why?

If I showed that I was awake now, I wouldn't be able to bear the embarrassment and would really cry.

All sorts of emotions are bubbling up right now, and in this state, being hugged by Evan, who saw everything about me just a moment ago… clinging to the person who likes me?

Don't be ridiculous.

I'm too embarrassed to do it. No, I can't!

'I should pretend to be asleep…'

So I decided to pretend to be unconscious.

Anyway, unless I get up and move on my own, Evan has no way of knowing whether I'm awake or unconscious.

So…

Evan. You should at least put some clothes on her. "Oh, uh…"

Is that Estel?

Poor child… I'm sorry I couldn't protect you this time either…

"…"

Evan reluctantly followed Estel's words and took off his coat to put it on me.

Is that really Estel?

It was refreshing to see the Holy Sword speak like that for the first time.

I heard that when she accepted Solanis's Relic, she became very aggressive and proactive…

Given the nature of the Water Relic, which handles the Holy Power of healing, it's only natural that she would have such a benevolent and motherly personality.

"…"

Evan?

"U, uh… I'll put it on her…"

Evan put clothes on me with a somewhat regretful look. "…"

Knowing why he was regretful, I couldn't just let it go… I somehow hid my embarrassed feelings and continued to pretend to be unconscious.

That was dangerous.

I almost got angry about where he was looking.

Yes, getting angry about that isn't like Aria, the Saintess, right… That's how it is…

'I really can't stand it…'

I can feel that Evan really likes me… Something… felt strange.

Really…

# 5 - Succubus Queen

I couldn't maintain the Barrier like that, so as soon as the situation was resolved, I immediately released it.

Even so, I didn't let my guard down.

Although there wasn't really anything to be wary of. 'No matter how I think about it, it's strange...'

The Succubus Queen was definitely not someone who would die this easily. She was the one who tormented me so much in the game.

One of the places I died the most was against the Succubus Queen, so there's no way I would be careless.

How much did I suffer at her hands in the first place? There's no way I'd be so foolish as to let my guard down.

"[... Prepare yourself, Evan.]"

Because it was such a large Barrier, it took some time to dispel it.

While the Barrier was being dispelled, I told Evan that it would be best to be on guard and swallowed hard.

It wouldn't be an easy fight.

I knew that better than anyone.

Moreover, if it went according to the story in the game, I would know how the future would unfold, making it easier to deal with the Succubus Queen, but now it was a completely new future.

Until now, it had flowed somewhat similarly, so I could use it as a reference, but now it was flowing into an entirely unknown world line, so if things went wrong, it would be the end.

I swallowed hard.

Thankfully, I hadn't used any of the Holy Power in the Relic.

With this much Holy Power, there wouldn't be any major problems in dealing with the Succubus Queen.

I had already figured out her principles of action through the time I had sunk into this game.

I inwardly resolved to win this fight no matter what and dispelled the Barrier completely without hesitation.

And then,

"... Did we return...?"

We were out of the Barrier and lying on the bed in the original inn room. That's right, back to the moment when Evan was about to pounce on me. "Aria...! This is!"

I was almost naked, and his posture was reminiscent of such a situation, so Evan, flustered, quickly backed away and apologized.

But that wasn't important right now.

"[There's no time to hesitate! We have to move quickly!]" Time was of the essence.

We had to stop the Succubus Queen from escaping as quickly as possible. I didn't care about my attire right now.

Honestly, I was hoping that this assumption was wrong, that she had just been defeated as is...!

'Right... There's no way she would have come in her true form in the first place...!!'

Succubus Queen.

That woman was extremely cautious.

Just looking at how she had been subtly plotting behind the scenes without revealing herself until now, she was someone who didn't allow for direct confrontation.

She was so overly cautious that she would knock on even a well-built stone bridge at least three times before crossing it, to the point where I suspected she might have paranoia.

Her outwardly revealed personality was a kind of act.

No, it could be seen as the nature of the Succubus species.

But that's why she was such an oddball, reigning as the Succubus Queen.

Anyway, for such a person to openly enter a place that was obviously full of traps, no matter how you looked at it, was absurd.

'But seeing the amount of power she showed, she must have exhausted a lot of power to summon that clone...'

Moreover, Evan had even hit her in his transformed state as the Relic of Purification.

She would definitely be continuously leaking traces of Demonic energy in the flames of the sun that kept burning away all evil.

As expected, the moment I followed the traces of Demonic energy and went outside, I realized that something was starting to go wrong.

"Woman... Womaaaan..."

"Krrr, I can't take it anymore..."

The condition of the men walking around the streets didn't look very good.

The humans who hadn't been coming out of their homes due to the discord with the Matimos Tribe were now out and about in the village.

Even...

'Crap, crazy...' Mental Confusion.

It seemed that the Succubus Queen had manipulated the minds of all the villagers with her ability.

And that was... "It's a woman...!"

Targeting humans who weren't under a spell... Or maybe not, but anyway.

The moment I saw something bulging between their legs, I immediately averted my gaze.

I could even see something wet seeping out through the thick cloth, they were so excited.

'That crazy, vicious woman...!!'

I couldn't bear to look at it, so I tried to get away immediately, but... "Woman...?!"

'Oh no...!!'

Everyone's eyes turned to me.

Although I may not have much appeal as a woman, I am still a biological female, and a very beautiful one at that, and right now I was only wearing a coat, so I was in a precarious state where things were barely covered.

It was enough to attract attention. "[Ugh...!!]"

They seemed to be ordinary citizens...

It was hard to believe that she would have used such a high-level Mental Confusion on such citizens, so if I used Purification magic here, I could definitely return them to their original state.

But...

'I have to conserve my Holy Power right now...!'

If I used Holy Power here, my already insufficient Holy Power could be completely depleted.

If that happened, I wouldn't even be able to move, let alone face the Succubus Queen, so for now, I had no choice but to turn my back on them with tears in my eyes.

More than anything...

'I've been exposed to the Succubus Queen's Yin energy...' The Demonic energy of an Incubus causes sexual arousal.

The moment I used Holy Power to purify them, I would experience a rebound, and I might end up getting aroused instead of them.

I didn't want that to happen. "Aria!"

Ah, Evan.

Even if I came out first, Evan should have been much faster than me, so I wondered why he was so late. The moment I focused my Holy Power,

I ended up seeing something I shouldn't have seen. "Men~!!!"

"Kyaaaak!!"

All the women in the village were chasing after Evan in a semi-nude state. 'Oh... Sheet...'

It was less for me because I saw everyone as 3D models, but there were even middle-aged women and grandmothers among them.

I'm really sorry to the villagers, but at this point, it was safe to say that the Succubus Queen had consumed quite a bit of power.

'It will take time for her to escape...'

Just because it was a clone didn't mean it was completely unaffected.

That's why we were chasing after her thanks to the traces of Demonic energy.

'Not much left...!'

I quickly followed the traces.

The traces led to the highest building and went up to the rooftop.

It seemed that she couldn't immediately return to the Demon realm with her current power, so she was trying to return while consuming as little Demonic energy as possible, but no way.

As expected, that clone wasn't a weak one. 'She was wary of me...!'

It was a clone with almost 70 percent of her power.

If we could find the real one, killing her would be a piece of cake. Finding her was also a piece of cake.

The only problem was that we really didn't have much time left. 'Then all that's left is to deal with these people...!'

If she had just set it up so that they would attack based on the difference between men and women, those under Mental Confusion would be biting and sucking each other, so she most likely used Mental Confusion to target only those with a sound mind.

In that case, even if I made them clash with the male forces that were currently targeting me, it wouldn't release the aggro.

Is there only one thing left? "[Evan!!]"

I reached out to Evan.

Evan reflexively grabbed my hand, and I gathered the Holy Power contained in the Relic and applied the maximum level of physical ability enhancement buffs.

And...

"[Please hug me...!]"

I hugged Evan as he was. "...?!"

Evan was flustered by my sudden embrace, but there was no time.

I immediately shot Holy Power at the building with my finger and hit it.

"[Jump over there!]" I'll control it.

You just jump! "O-okay...!"

Evan was flustered by my words, but he nodded and jumped. "Waaaaah...!"

Whether the physical enhancements I had given him were worth it or not, his leg strength was incredible.

The wind was so strong that I couldn't help but scream. But...

'I can see the view well...!'

I don't look around with my eyes.

I laid down a Barrier on the ground at the exact angle and timing. At that moment,

"[Evan!!]"

Evan, having confirmed that I had deployed the Barrier, stepped on it and jumped into the air once more.

This was none other than aerial stepping.

Evan had finally come to dominate even the sky... "Ugh..."

When I secured the view below with Holy Power, I could see the Succubus Queen, who had already opened the gate to the Demon realm, trying to enter.

Where do you think you're going, you bitch. "[Evan.]"

There was no need for a long explanation.

I handed him the Relic of Purification and said it, and Evan smiled. "『Divine Punishment』."

At that moment,

Kwaaaaaang!

A huge pillar of light encompassing the entire rooftop struck the building directly.

Burning all the evil things inside.

# 6 - Succubus Queen

‘How in the world…!’

On the rooftop of the building,

Opening a dimensional gate back to the Demon realm, the Succubus Queen gritted her teeth.

At first, when she discovered a gap in the Hero's heart that she could penetrate, she thought this would be an easy task.

When her Demonic energy successfully infiltrated and the half-corrupted Hero tried to assault the Saintess, she was even excited at the thought of enjoying their demise as a delightful snack.

The Hero and Saintess, both with beautiful appearances that satisfied her aesthetic sense, and the Hero, who genuinely cherished and loved the Saintess, being forced to rape her due to her Demonic energy and then slay her with the Holy Sword.

The despair of betrayal and the fear that the Hero she trusted was trying to kill her… The Succubus Queen smiled sinisterly, imagining the Saintess's face as her tastes would be satisfied.

Then, she clutched her pounding heart and watched the situation unfold.

Of course, she knew the Saintess wouldn't die, but she thought that alone would inflict a mental death upon the Saintess.

For religious fanatics who were half-crazed, the shock and betrayal towards someone they trusted would be a sharper thorn than constant pain.

However,

‘How is that even possible…?!’

Her Demonic energy, which had properly slipped into the gap, wasn't purified.

If it had been purified, they would have recognized it as a trap or, at the very least, deemed it dangerous and retreated from the spot.

But they didn't.

Only… with their feelings for each other.

Especially the Hero, with only the desire to protect the woman he loved, not only filled the gap but even drove out her power.

If it had ended there, she would have been disappointed and returned. She certainly would have…!

Why…!!

‘Was that a trap?!’

As if it were a prepared trap, a Holy magic circle activated and trapped her in a Barrier.

Moreover, it was a powerful Holy Power Barrier that even she couldn't escape, as if they already knew she was the opponent.

Exceeding the limits of the Barrier the Saintess could deploy, they had even prepared in advance by drawing the Holy magic circle!

If she had sent her main body instead of a clone, thinking it might be a good idea, she probably would have died on the spot.

Her excessive caution, which had always saved her life, had saved her this time as well.

"Ugh…"

However, she had consumed a lot of Demonic energy to create the clone, and since it was a clone created by taking more than half of her power, the feedback when it was destroyed was beyond imagination.

If she had given it a little more power, she would have fainted on the spot from the pain of the Holy Power.

"I have to… escape…!" Already caught in a trap,

If she didn't return to the Demon realm immediately, she might die here in vain.

Judging so, the Succubus Queen hurried to open the dimensional gate. It was that moment.

"Ah…"

The sun burned red.

Soon, a chilling sensation ran through the Succubus Queen's entire body. An intuition that if she stayed here, she might literally be annihilated.

Trusting the intuition that had always saved her life, the Succubus Queen hurriedly got up and tried to escape.

However, Kwaaaaaa! "Kyaaaaak!"

The speed of the pillar of light was beyond imagination.

No matter how skilled the executives of the Demon King Army were, it was impossible to move faster than light.

The Succubus Queen momentarily lost consciousness from the sensation of her entire body being scorched.

And when she regained consciousness, Thud!

"Hoo…"

A man with red light burning all over his body, and a blonde-haired girl held in his arms.

The Hero and the Saintess had reached her. "Is that a Demon King Army executive?" To the Hero, Evan's question, Aria replied.

"[Succubi are inherently weak in combat. Their most terrifying aspect is that they can infiltrate the minds of any being, unless there is a significant difference in power or they possess Holy Power like us.]"

That was right.

The combat power of Succubi was among the lowest of demons.

What made them terrifying was their unique mental magic, unmatched by anyone else.

Among them, the Succubus Queen had an extremely high level of skill, and although her combat power was far below other executives, she was at the level of an executive and could cast mental magic on anyone.

In other words, the world was practically hers.

"[We have to deal with her quickly… If she crosses over to the dimensional gate, there's no turning back!]"

At Aria's cry, Evan nodded and raised the Holy Sword.

He intended to finish her off immediately.

But…

"Heh, heh heh…"

The Succubus Queen chuckled.

She didn't want to take this out, the Succubus Queen muttered, then glared at the Saintess with wide eyes.

She had no eyes.

But… Aria had Thought-form spreading around her.

Moreover, Aria had almost exhausted her Holy Power, so this was her only chance.

Following the Thought-form,

The Succubus Queen's body gradually began to fade. “…!”

Thinking she was escaping, Evan hurriedly swung the Holy Sword, but the Succubus Queen disappeared even faster.

The moment the Holy Sword was about to touch her, the Succubus Queen's figure vanished.

"What…!"

Evan looked around in confusion, but "Heh, heh heh…"

A strange laughter was heard from an odd place.

It was clearly Aria's voice, but… Evan sensed something was wrong.

Aria would never laugh like that. “… Aria?”

Evan looked down at Aria and asked. And,

“…!”

Aria opened her eyes, which were dyed red, and looked up at Evan. "You let your guard down, Hero."

Thwack! "Kuhak…!"

A blade of Demonic energy that suddenly appeared pierced the upper right side of Evan's chest.

"Tch…!"

She aimed for the head…!

Muttering so, Aria stepped away from Evan and created some distance. "Kugh… Haa… Ugh…"

Evan groaned and touched the stabbed area.

Weak Demonic energy continuously tormented him. "Damn it… Demonic energy isn't coming out properly…!"

Because it was the Saintess's body, Demonic energy wouldn't come out. The Succubus Queen wore a frustrated expression.

"Well, whatever, the Saintess is taking all the pain from being polar opposites, so there's no problem, right?"

After being annoyed for a moment, the Succubus Queen chuckled and said.

Evan suppressed a groan from the pain of the invading Demonic energy and looked at Aria.

The faint golden eyes he had occasionally seen were now dyed red and clearly looking at Evan.

And in her hand was a pale pink blade. "You bastard…!!"

Evan glared, realizing the situation.

But the Succubus Queen was confident. "What, is there a problem?"

"I will definitely kill you…!!"

As Evan raised the Holy Sword and spoke, the Succubus Queen, who had taken over Aria's body, scoffed.

"Ha, can you even do it? Heh heh…"

The Succubus Queen said so and approached Evan with a giggle. Then, she showed Evan her fair neck.

"Come on, try to cut me?"

As if daring him to cut her, she showed her neck to Evan and shook it back and forth.

He couldn't cut her.

Evan gripped the hilt tightly.

"Puhahaha! You're so stupid. Really stupid!"

The Succubus Queen burst into laughter, realizing that he couldn't cut her. It was practically like gaining an invincible shield!

"Right~ Cutting me is the same as cutting the woman you love so much! And she'll feel all the pain, right? Huh? Cut me~ Huh?"

There was nowhere to escape anyway.

It would still take time for the Demonic energy she had stored to create a dimensional gate.

The Succubus Queen decided that she needed to buy time for now.

If her Holy Power recovered, she would abandon this body and escape before then, but by then, she would have already dragged the Saintess to the Demon realm and neutralized her, so there was no problem.

It was a perfect plan.

He probably didn't know this.

Thinking so, the Succubus Queen decided to act boldly to buy more time. "Should I show you the precious parts of the woman you love so much?

Wouldn't that give you the courage to cut me, thinking, 'The Saintess I knew wouldn't act like this'?"

Evan bit his lip at her words, fluttering her coat that barely covered her body while giggling.

"Well… if you can't cut me…" She would have to die.

The Succubus Queen sneered and swung her sword. It was then.

Swish. "Huh?"

The arm holding the sword disappeared. A clean cut.

Evan's eyes widened.

It wasn't him who did it.

Evan turned his head with trembling eyes. “… Step aside, Hero. I'll do it.”

There stood Duke Valencia, wearing a pained expression. Holding his beloved sword in one hand.

# Succubus Queen (Interlude)

“D, Duke Valencia…!”

Evan’s eyes widened as he called out his name. Clatter!

“Haa… haa…”

“W, we almost didn’t make it…”

Stella and Uriel, who had arrived late, were gasping for breath.

Stella, in particular, looked pale, as if she had used a great deal of Demonic energy.

“A, are you okay, Stella?”

“I, I’m fine… It’s just that trying to move so many people so far away was a bit much… Haa…”

Wasn’t that the opposite of fine?

Uriel briefly thought so, but since Stella said she was okay, there was nothing he could do.

“S, Stella… Uriel…?”

“Evan? You’re alive, that’s a relief…”

“Evan! Listen! The villagers suddenly became strange…! Huh? Why is Aria over there…?!”

Uriel’s eyes widened. Drip, drip.

Aria, her arm severed, staggered backward, staring blankly at her severed arm.

“…Uriel. That’s not Aria.”

“Huh? What do you mean it’s not Aria…”

“Succubus Queen… A Demon King Army executive has hijacked Aria’s body.”

“…!”

At that, Uriel looked at Aria with a shocked expression. “Ah… hmm…”

Aria, or rather, the Succubus Queen, whose arm holding the sword had been severed, looked down at her severed arm with an indifferent expression before turning her head to find the arm that had flown away.

The cleanly severed arm, not crushed, lay carelessly on the ground, scattering blood.

Soon, looking at the arm with blood pooling around it, the Succubus Queen lamented.

It was because they had already become particles and disappeared.

The Succubus Queen then smirked and turned her head towards the Duke who had cut off her arm.

“You, you’re a Sword Saint, aren’t you? Didn’t you hear what I said earlier? I don’t feel pain…”

Swish. “Eh…?” What.

The Succubus Queen’s words were cut short. “…Saintess, please forgive me.”

Valencia muttered with a face full of guilt.

Before him, bright red blood spurted out, soaking the floor.

Aria’s body lay scattered on the floor, her arms and legs all severed. “Ugh…!”

The Succubus Queen, who had fallen to the floor, suddenly groaned.

Even if she didn’t feel pain, the shock didn’t disappear, so after recovering from the impact of falling to the floor, the Succubus Queen asked them with an absurd expression.

“You, you guys… are you crazy…?” Valencia didn’t answer her question.

Even if he cut her, all the pain would be borne by Aria, and she wouldn’t feel much pain herself.

That was definitely what she was thinking. She thought there was no way he could cut her. That was only natural.

The body she occupied now was the Saintess’s body.

The body of the Saintess whom they so revered, idolized, and respected.

And yet…

‘They cut me… without a second thought…!’

Moreover, she wasn’t the one feeling the pain. Aria was feeling it all.

“You… wouldn’t know. How much hardship the Saintess has endured in this Demon Realm.”

Valencia muttered, looking down at the Succubus Queen, whose limbs were all severed, with cold eyes.

He knew very well. Valencia knew all too well.

The painful decision of the Empire to send each person, each with their own family and loved ones, to their deaths.

But if they didn’t send them, it would be impossible to stop the countless Magical Creatures constantly pouring in from the north, so they had sacrificed the lives of the Empire’s citizens to protect the northern front.

The resentment of the Empire’s citizens echoed in the Demon Realm. “The Saintess stepped forward to save the Empire’s citizens.”

To save someone, one must inevitably sacrifice oneself. That was the Saintess.

The moment he learned the truth about being the Saintess, Valencia petitioned for her to return.

The pain was too great for her to bear.

The pain of the Empire’s citizens in the Demon Realm… those who had been dragged there simply to protect their families and loved ones… that resentment… was too much for just one girl to handle.

And it wasn’t something that one girl could handle alone.

And yet.

“The Saintess… never backed down from any hardship or adversity.” Aria continued to heal.

Even on the front lines, in situations where Magical Creatures could attack at any moment and threaten her life, Aria constantly worked to save people.

Even though she was a Saintess with a kind of authority, almost like an incarnation of the Rumania Goddess, her limits were clear.

It was impossible to save all the Empire’s citizens who had died. But even so, none of the Empire’s citizens disparaged her.

No one insulted her.

Because she had endured a great pain that even the Empire’s citizens who went to the front lines to protect their families, and further, to protect the Empire… and even further, to protect the world, could not fathom.

“The Saintess… is the kind of person who would ask us to cut her down rather than hesitate in this situation.”

“No way… there’s no way such a… such a human being could exist in this world…!”

Even wasting time was impossible. They were serious.

“S, stop! If you try to touch me any more, I’ll destroy the Saintess’s mind…!”

“…!”

The Succubus Queen, who had nothing left to lose, shouted.

At that, Evan’s eyes widened. “Mind… you said…?” “Hero…!”

“…Duke Valencia.”

Evan called out to Valencia.

The moment Valencia saw the determination in Evan’s eyes, he closed his mouth.

Then he stepped back. “…Do it.”

“Yes.”

Answering that, Evan gritted his teeth.

Then he raised the Holy Sword and began to approach the Succubus Queen.

“H, Hero… you… what did you hear me say! If you come any closer, I’ll destroy her mind…!”

Even though she was speaking as if threatening him, why was it? The Succubus Queen felt that she wasn’t in control.

It wasn’t that she didn’t have the power to destroy it.

Now that she had completely taken over the body, breaking into her mind and destroying it was a piece of cake.

Most humans would have their minds destroyed on their own if she just inflicted pain that they couldn’t handle.

Whether it was physical or mental pain… there had never been anyone who was unharmed after being hit by the Succubus Queen’s mental attack.

“Try it.”

“Wh, what?” “I said try it.”

Evan raised the Holy Sword.

The Holy Sword, burning red with Solanis’s Holy Power, and the boy with red hair hidden by the sun, was looking down at her with a ferocious expression.

‘A, are these guys really crazy…?!’ Was this even possible?

She had said she would destroy her mind, but instead of having any effect, it had only provoked them even more.

‘In that case…!’

She would just destroy her mind.

At least if the Saintess couldn’t do her job, it would be helpful to the Demon King.

Judging that, the Succubus Queen gathered Demonic energy to destroy her mind.

It was at that moment. Thwack!

“Keuh, cough…”

The Holy Sword had pierced Aria’s heart, precisely.

Black blood, tainted with Demonic energy, flowed out, soaking the coat that Evan had given her.

Aria, no… the Succubus Queen, looked up at Evan with a look of near death.

“Wh… why… Sai…nte cough…” Thud.

The Holy Sword was pushed in even deeper, and she slowly opened her mouth as if in pain.

“Ah… ahh…”

Tears flowed from Evan’s eyes.

Between the red hair that burned brightly, the golden eyes that were revealed… the feeling of despair emanating from the Hero was deeply felt.

“Why… why do I… have to do this…” “Kuh, ah… wai…t…”

The massive amount of God of Purification’s Holy Power flowing in from the Holy Sword was driving the Succubus Queen crazy.

The pain of purifying a body full of Demonic energy.

Unlike the pain that is generally connected to the nerves, the pain of Holy Power and Demonic energy was a force directly applied to the soul, so no matter how much of a shield Aria was, it was impossible for the Succubus Queen to escape the clutches of pain.

“Die… die…! Dieeee!!”

Evan shouted in a voice full of despair and exploded Holy Power towards the Holy Sword he was holding.

Holy Power poured out from the heart pierced by the Holy Sword and spread throughout her body.

‘Crazy… bastards…’ It was a mistake.

Taking over the Saintess’s body was a complete mistake. ‘I don’t want to… I don’t wanna dieee…’

She didn’t want to die. She didn’t want to die.

But more than dying, she hated the fact that they were living so nonchalantly.

‘I’ll… I’ll break their relationship…!!’

The moment she took over the body, the Succubus Queen knew. Aria was clearly a virgin.

It didn’t make sense that they were virgins while thinking of each other so much.

But the fact that it was true… ‘Hehehe…’

The Succubus Queen smiled.

She had thought of a way to break their relationship.

If she turned the Saintess into a perverted woman, it would surely crack their deeply held beliefs.

Thinking that, the Succubus Queen pulled up Demonic energy as a last resort, just before dying.

In order to cast a curse that the current Saintess could never undo. “Keu… aheueu… keureuk… hic…”

She couldn’t speak, but the Succubus Queen sneered at Evan. As if telling him to do his best.

“……”

With that, the Succubus Queen completely disappeared.

Leaving behind Aria, who had closed her eyes while pierced by the Holy Sword.

# 1 - Curse...?

‘Ooh…’

Watching everything from the inside, I was once again impressed by the Succubus Queen.

And… I realized I had done something stupid because I was too overwhelmed.

‘It’s pointless for her to enter me.’

Of course, the Succubus Queen's mental magic, especially her spiritual possession, which involves her directly possessing someone, is a terrifying magic that instantly kills opponents of lower status.

It's called spiritual possession, but it's actually about pushing out the original soul and taking its place.

Normally, I would be pushed out and effectively dead, but… Unfortunately, I am the Saintess.

A soul chosen by the Goddess, whose status has risen to demigod.

Even if my power itself is weaker than the Succubus Queen's, I can never be pushed back.

But that's why the Succubus Queen could dump everything on me and do whatever she wanted…

‘Haa… that felt good…’

Fortunately, I enjoyed the soul's pain caused by the clash of Holy Power and Demonic energy.

Not only that, but I was leisurely enjoying the appetizer that came from the body being attacked.

When the Holy Sword pierced my heart at the end, and the overwhelming Holy Power burned away all the Demonic energy, I felt like I was ascending to heaven.

But… ‘Wow…’

What am I looking at right now?

Evan, with an expression full of anger and despair, was crying while stabbing my heart with the Holy Sword, and the others couldn't bear to look at me and turned their heads away.

My limbs were cut off… and my clothes too… ‘No, at least the clothes…’

To be seen in this state even in front of Valencia… but then again, he's seen me in all sorts of states, so maybe it doesn't matter.

Anyway, the problem now is that the situation is a complete mess.

No matter how much I think about how to fix this, I can't find an answer…

Anyway… I've been deprived of my body by the Succubus Queen for too long, and I've been quite corrupted by the Succubus Queen's powerful Demonic energy, so I'll probably just sleep when I get back.

Originally, I should pray to recover Holy Power the fastest, but… ‘I don’t want to pray.’

That's for devout nuns, not me.

Anyway, even if I don't, my faith can't be low since I became the Saintess, and I know that the Goddess exists and what kind of being she is.

I believe the Goddess will take care of it.

More importantly, there's a more important problem than that right now. ‘C, could someone please put some clothes on me…’

I'm so embarrassed.

.

.

.

“…”

Inside a room filled with antique decorations.

Evan looked down at Aria, who was lying on the bed, with a pitiful expression.

Evan…

Next to her was her Relic.

Hoping that the Holy Power residing in the Relic would help Aria, Evan sat in a chair, rubbed his face as if washing it, and sighed.

Click, creak

“… Didn’t sleep again today.”

The owner of the voice heard as the door suddenly opened was Valencia. He looked at Evan with a worried expression and said.

“If you keep staying up all night like that, the Saintess will not like it.” “More than that… have you found out what condition Aria is in?” Valencia's mouth closed at that.

It meant that he hadn't found out yet. “Damn it…”

Evan cursed in a gloomy voice. Aria was cursed.

A curse whose identity could not be determined.

“But it's not like there was no gain at all. It might be hard for you to hear, but… the curse on the Saintess right now is a type of curse that the Saintess cannot undo.”

Valencia said that and approached Aria. “Saintess… I’m sorry.”

Valencia said that and slightly lifted Aria's pajamas. What was revealed was,

“I’ve learned something about this.” Valencia said, pointing to a symbol. “What is it?”

Evan turned his head to look at Valencia and asked. An unidentified symbol drawn on her lower abdomen.

It looked ominous at first glance, so Evan couldn't help but feel uncomfortable.

“This is… said to be a symbol of the Succubus. It seems to be called the Yin Gate…”

“Yin Gate…?”

The Succubus Queen's symbol was drawn on the Saintess's lower abdomen?

“And it seems to affect the lower abdomen… or more precisely, the place where the uterus exists.”

“…”

Evan didn't have much knowledge about sex, but he wasn't ignorant of what the uterus was.

It was an organ that only existed in women and symbolized women. So that's why.

“How could the Succubus's symbol be on the Saintess…”

“According to the speculation of the mages… the magic that a mage uses by burning their own life force is said to have tremendous power. It is highly likely that she cast a powerful curse, betting her life on it just before she died. They said that it would be impossible to undo at the Saintess's current level.”

“That can’t be…”

A curse magic used by betting one's life on the line just before death.

So, of course, its power would be at a level that would make one speechless.

Even if Aria, whose level was lower than the Succubus Queen's, was extremely compatible, the probability of undoing it was close to 0.

“And… since she’s a Succubus, they said it’s probably a curse related to sex.”

“… What kind of curse is it?” “I don’t know that far…”

Evan lowered his head at Valencia's words.

Anyway, it was fortunate that it wasn't a painful curse, but it was a curse that felt more unpleasant than that.

‘A sexual… curse…’

What curse could be more unpleasant and despairing for a woman than that?

He only felt more and more sorry that he couldn't protect her properly. “Umm…”

“Are you waking up? I’ll be going now. If I’m the first thing you see when you wake up… I don’t think you’d like it very much.”

Valencia said that as he saw Aria trying to get up.

There's no way, Evan wanted to say, but for some reason, the words didn't come out.

Was it because he wanted to be alone with Aria? He didn't know.

“[Evan…?]”

Aria called Evan carefully, as if she had woken up.

He slightly relieved his worried expression and greeted Aria, who had woken up.

“Are you okay, Aria?”

Evan reached out and carefully took Aria's hand as he asked. It was then.

“Hic……… hic…!”

Aria made a strange noise as soon as her hand was held, and then suddenly started hiccuping.

“Are you okay? Why are you suddenly hiccuping…” “[No…] hic! [I’m surprised…]”

What could be so surprising?

Could it be that she was surprised that he held her hand? Feeling sorry for no reason, Evan said he would let go, but, “[N, no, wait…]”

Aria grabbed the hand he was trying to let go of. “A, Aria?”

“[C, can we… stay like this a little longer?]” “I’m okay with it…”

Was Aria really okay?

Evan fiddled with Aria's warm and pleasant hand, but on the other hand, he kept worrying about whether she was really okay.

Besides…

‘The hand that pierced her heart…’

Evan felt like he was going to cry.

Although it was to defeat the Succubus Queen, he pierced Aria's heart.

Even so… ‘Aria…’

Aria was not blaming him, but sharing her warmth with him. He didn't feel any resentment at all.

‘Let’s apologize.’

Let's apologize for sure when this situation is over. Evan vowed inwardly.

Meanwhile…

‘What, what is this…?’

Aria had a flustered expression.

She was fine until she woke up, but as soon as she touched Evan's hand, she felt a strange sensation in her lower abdomen.

Not only that.

Just touching her hand made her heart pound, and she kept feeling good sensations in the area she touched.

‘Should I stay like this a little longer…?’ Aria was originally weak to pleasure.

Considering that she was a crazy bitch who liked to feel pleasure through pain and jumped into pain, it was possible to endure pleasure even more

than that, so Aria enjoyed the pleasure of touching Evan without revealing it.

‘What is it…’

She didn't know what it was, but she could guess.

The Succubus Queen must have left something strange on me just before she died.

‘No… what are you…’

To make me feel such unfamiliar and pleasant sensations until just before you die.

There's no other angel like this. ‘You’re the best…’

There was no one as terrible as that bitch in the game, but now that it's reality, she only does good things for me, how can she be so kind?

Aria thought that she could be called a Succubus Queen who gives generously.

‘From now on, I will become one with the Succubus Queen… Any insults towards the Succubus Queen will be considered insults towards me…’

This is sex.

Really…

# 2 - Curse...?

‘A curse, perhaps…’

If the Succubus Queen cast something on me before dying, it could only be a succubus's curse.

Of course, considering it was the Succubus Queen herself, I couldn't simply assume it was a curse related to sexual matters.

I couldn't deny the possibility that she might have cast a curse to mentally break me.

But…

‘Even so, I can't explain this feeling I get when I hold Evan's hand, no matter how much I think about it…’

I've only held Evan's hand so far, but it's hard to believe she just amplified my senses as a curse.

Then I have to assume that she cast a curse that would be fatal to me, at least as the "Saintess"…

"Aria…?!"

Evan seemed quite flustered when I didn't let go of his hand.

Come to think of it, I've never shown this side of myself to Evan before.

Evan's reaction was subtly amusing, but I couldn't help but think he was amazing.

‘He's seen me fall apart so tragically in front of his eyes more than once, enough to cause PTSD in a normal person, but he still likes me…’

If I were Evan, I might not be able to like me anymore.

Every time he saw my face, he would be reminded of those moments, so how could he look at me with loving eyes?

No, maybe it's my fault that Evan became such a monster. "Ugh…"

Just touching Evan's hand makes me feel strange sensations down below. ‘This is the first time I've felt like this since I became this body…’

A throbbing… how should I put it, a feeling of boiling lust.

Just holding Evan's hand, I felt a completely new sensation that I had never experienced before, which piqued my interest.

And that wasn't all.

‘Did… did he always smell this good…?’

The scent I get from Evan, or rather, it's right to call it a fragrance. Fragrance…?

Did Evan have a scent like that?

I don't think he wears any perfume, but for some reason, the smell from Evan felt good to me.

No, this is…

‘I, I shouldn't smell it…’

I turned my head slightly away from Evan. Then the smell lessened a little.

It felt like my head was going strange just from smelling it.

It's a little different from the dizziness caused by pleasure that feels like pain… how should I put it… primal pleasure…?

A kind of pleasure that I seem to know well, but is so unfamiliar that I've never felt it in my life.

This is…

‘Is this… a woman's pleasure…?’

For me, who has only enjoyed pleasure from pain, regardless of whether it was a man or a woman, this kind of pleasure was unfamiliar but also inevitably intriguing.

I was wondering what it would feel like… something like that.

But…

‘That doesn't mean I'm going to do that kind of thing with Evan…’ I imagined doing that kind of thing with Evan.

I've seen Evan's proper appearance, though not clearly, so it was easy to imagine based on those memories.

I've also seen my own appearance in the mirror.

Until recently, those memories felt like a dream and were hard to recall, but thanks to Stella and Argent's care, I was able to see them properly.

The moment I imagined based on that appearance, "Ugh…"

An unknown electrifying sensation flowed from below to my whole body. I couldn't help but groan at the feeling of my lower abdomen throbbing.

‘N, no…’

…

No way.

‘T, that bitch…?!’

What kind of curse did she cast on me?

At first, I thought it was just an amplification of pleasure, but this is all nonsense, isn't it?!

‘D, do I like Evan…?’

This is because of the curse. It has to be.

"[P, please leave…!!]"

"H, huh?!"

"[I'm sorry, Evan… please leave…!]" Please go.

I let go of Evan's hand and pushed him away.

Just a moment ago, I was saying that I wanted to hold his hand a little longer, but now I was suddenly telling him to go away, so he seemed dumbfounded.

But Evan wasn't one to ignore my words.

With a somewhat aggrieved expression, Evan said that I must tell him if I was in pain, and then left the room.

As soon as Evan left, I gasped for breath and repeatedly washed my face with my dry hands to cover my flushed face.

‘Ah… this isn't easy, really…’

I never thought that she would leave behind such a crazy curse.

It seems like it will be difficult to look Evan in the eye for a while.

"Are you okay, Aria… I think it happened because I arrived too late…" "Really… I've said it many times, it's not Stella's fault."

"…"

Stella lowered her head with a pitiful expression. Since that day, Stella had been blaming herself. There was nothing she could do at the time.

When she opened her eyes to the enormous surge of Holy Power, the situation had already erupted.

When Aria's magic circle was deployed, she didn't know what was going on, but she knew that they were fighting.

However, for some reason, Valencia was not there, and as soon as they came outside in a situation where only the two of them were left, many villagers started chasing them.

They couldn't harm them, and they couldn't just stand there, so the two of them somehow kept running away and stalling for time.

She lamented that she wouldn't have come outside if she had known things would turn out like this.

Then they happened to meet Valencia, and after hearing Valencia's words that powerful but scattered Demonic energy was felt in a building, they sent Valencia there first.

Since designating coordinates was not an easy task, they sent Valencia first, who could arrive quickly even if she Teleported to the wrong place around there, and then Teleported again with stabilized coordinates.

And by that time, the situation was completely over. "I… I still seem useless…"

Uriel, who still hadn't grown much, was dumbfounded by Stella's words, who was almost about to break through the wall of the Archmage, but

Uriel, who didn't really care about that kind of thing, just let it go.

Right now, more than that… "Evan?"

She was more interested in Evan, who was standing in front of Aria's hospital room with a dazed expression.

"What's wrong?"

"Ah, well… Aria kicked me out…" "Huh?!"

Uriel's eyes widened.

What on earth did he do inside that made the kind Aria kick Evan out?

Uriel couldn't understand, but…

"Is it because of that curse after all."

Stella, who knew about the situation, could only worry about whether Aria was okay.

"...If it's because of that curse, I think I was too hasty… I'll go outside for some fresh air for a while."

Hearing those words, Evan said that with a guilty expression and turned his head.

"Stella, please take care of Aria."

Leaving only those words behind, Evan moved his steps outside. "Um… should we go in for now?"

"Y, yes…"

Stella and Uriel looked at each other, nodded, and opened the door and went inside.

As soon as they entered, Aria, who had raised her upper body and was spacing out in the same way, seemed startled and turned to look at the two of them.

"[Ah… is that Stella and Uriel…?]" "Y, yeah. Are you okay…?"

"[…]"

Aria didn't answer for a while. Is she not okay after all? "[Um… Stella?]"

Just as Stella's expression was about to turn bad at that thought, Aria carefully called out to Stella.

"Why?"

"[Could you come here for a moment and hold out your hand to me?]" "…?"

What kind of request is this all of a sudden?

Stella had such a question, but anyway, it was a request that Aria had made to her… and it wasn't that difficult, so she nodded and approached Aria and held out her hand.

As soon as she approached and held out her hand, Aria held her hand and remained still for a while.

"…Are you okay?"

Why is she suddenly asking me to hold out my hand?

She asked with such thoughts in her heart, but somehow Aria seemed troubled.

"[…I might not be okay… No, should I say this is okay…]" Aria looked shocked.

Is she really okay…?

Or is she still struggling because of that curse?

They didn't know what kind of curse it was, so their heads were about to ache.

And…

‘I, I don't know if I should call this fortunate, really…’ Aria too…

She could only feel a deep sense of self-loathing at what had happened to her body.