**Chapter 239: Portal Magic (1)**

I could hear the voices of two women talking in the room.

However, I couldn't hear the content of their conversation.

As someone who was asked to stay outside for a while, it was truly regrettable.

After about 20 minutes passed, the two women came out, and Celsia and Diana wore sly smiles.

"Please...take care of me from now on, Ms. Diana."

"Likewise, Princess."

\*Grip\*

The two women shook hands as if they had reached some kind of agreement.

How hard did they squeeze? After the brief handshake, both of their palms had turned white.

"Shall we go, Balkan?"

"Aren't we already at the royal palace?"

"I have something to give you...please follow me for a moment."

Following Celsia's request, I glanced at Diana. It was the right thing to do in this situation.

Fortunately, Diana waved her hand, telling us to go ahead.

Passing the third floor where I was previously blocked by the maid, we headed toward the fifth floor.

Walking side by side with Celsia, I carefully asked.

"May I ask what you talked about?"

"...About how I, who received great help from you, ended up doing something bad instead?"

It seemed she had revealed everything about last night's events.

She continued with an awkward smile.

"Though this might sound inconsiderate to Diana...I don't regret my choice from last night. Even if I were to go back to that day, I would spend the same day again. What about you?"

If I were to go back to last night, would I not have responded to Celsia's kiss?

[Currently in 'Sage' state.]

Although the succubus's curse has diminished now, last night I hadn't reached the state of 'severe sexual frustration.'

Even in the midst of sexual desire, I could make rational judgments, and as our emotions mixed, we kissed each other.

"I feel the same as Celsia."

That's why I can say this.

Even if I went back to the past, I would make the same choice.

Smiling at that answer, Celsia suddenly turned her head and carefully extended her hand.

It wasn't something like a handshake.

It was more like lovers attempting their first skinship on their first date, filled with nervousness.

Perhaps because we had mixed bodies first, the process felt strangely unfamiliar.

Celsia's embarrassed feelings spread to me as well.

Overcoming the awkwardness, I silently grabbed Celsia's hand.

Just hands clumsily placed together, Celsia moved her hand while her ears turned bright red.

Our interlocked fingers more clearly accepted her warmth.

The surroundings were quiet. Only our breathing and footsteps showed any presence.

There was no one to see or hear this.

We walked slowly, feeling each other's warmth, as if wishing not to reach our destination.

But since we couldn't walk like that forever, we soon reached our destination.

"...Is this your room?"

"Hmm... More like a room cum office cum hideout... Will you wait a moment?"

It seemed she had combined work and seclusion here during her hikikomori life.

When Celsia asked for understanding and opened the door, I caught a glimpse of the interior.

The dark room wasn't dirty, but it was excessively dry and desolate.

I didn't know such a place existed in this magnificent royal palace.

A gloominess more depressing than the labyrinth permeated every corner of Celsia's room.

It must have been unbearable to live alone in such a place.

Eventually, Celsia came out of the room holding two small folding hand mirrors.

"They're communication relics. When you look in the mirror and th-think of the person you want to see...you can contact each other no matter how far apart you are."

"Are you giving me this because you want to keep in contact with me?"

"...Yes..."

At this intuitive question, Celsia blushed and lowered her head.

It was funny how she was embarrassed about this despite having boldly taken my lips earlier.

Smiling, I opened the received hand mirror and thought of Celsia.

Soon, Celsia's hand mirror vibrated.

With her head still lowered, Celsia hurriedly opened her hand mirror, her face red.

Seeing that, I smiled, and perhaps seeing that smile in her mirror, Celsia quickly closed her hand mirror.

"I'll contact you every day."

"Ev-ev-every day?! Th-that might be a bit...difficult...? No, I don't mean I don't want to, just...! I-I need a little mental preparation...!"

Even though she had returned to a sturdy body, just as the succubus body remained like a brand on her soul, that timid and hopeless otaku-like personality remained, and Celsia continued speaking hurriedly.

That desperate appearance was strangely funny, and I laughed inwardly for a while.

"Then how about once every two days?"

"Um, okay... that would be... good..."

Having reached a dramatic compromise, we looked at each other for a moment.

Celsia's green eyes were filled with me.

Those eyes were full of regret.

"...Now, you're leaving, right?"

"I have to."

I'm leaving the royal palace today.

Originally, I had planned to stay only a few days to attend her birthday party, but I ended up staying longer because I fainted.

I had to leave soon to enter the labyrinth again.

"...We'll see each other again, right?"

To Celsia, who looked slightly depressed as if realizing this fact, I waved the hand mirror she had given me and said,

"Of course."

At those words, a smile bloomed on Celsia's face again.

\*\*\*

Diana buried her expressionless face in my chest.

Right after I returned to my guest room after finishing my conversation with Celsia, she hugged me tightly, so tightly that I could barely breathe.

"Ugh..."

Now my strength isn't extremely different from Diana's anymore.

My level is approaching 40 now. It was proof that I had reached at least half her level.

I could break free if I struggled, but I didn't bother.

Instead, I patted Diana's back.

"...Marking territory."

"What?"

"...I'm marking my territory. Since Balkan keeps being seduced by other women and bringing them back, I'm leaving my scent so they can't touch you anymore."

-Thump. Thump.

Diana lightly hit my solar plexus with her forehead.

It didn't hurt since there was no strength behind it, more like a tantrum.

However, I could clearly feel the emotion Diana was experiencing.

‘Disappointment.’

"...I guess Ellie and I aren't enough...?"

It hadn't even been a month since I revealed my relationships with Denshi and Idelbert.

And in this situation, I took another woman.

"I'm sorry..."

Even if I tried to make excuses, I couldn't speak.

Whatever I said, even if this was a world where male-female relationships were messed up, it wouldn't change the fact that I was trash.

"If you're sorry, can you give me a kiss?"

"...What?"

In that situation where my heart was aching with guilt, her voice that seemed to have been waiting for just those words naturally made me flustered.

"Kiss me...so I can feel that I'm your woman."

Thinking about Diana's usual self, I could tell how much courage it took for her to say these words now.

"More passionately...than what you did with Denshi, Idelbert, or the Princess..."

And now I wasn't in a position to refuse her, had no intention to refuse, and felt strongly drawn to Diana who asked for a kiss while swallowing her loneliness.

Our lips overlapped in an instant.

It was a vulgar mating kiss mixing tongues and exchanging saliva.

Even in the midst of this, Diana kept her tongue still and entrusted her body to me as if asking me to prove my affection for her and to show her how much she was loved.

I couldn't help but respond.

I proved my affection for Diana by recalling the memories we had slowly built up together when we shared our first kiss, both inexperienced.

\*kiss\* \*suck\*...

I sucked on Diana's tongue as if performing fellatio.

The way her red, warm tongue trembled as if numb aroused a strange sadistic desire.

\*grip\*

I firmly grabbed Diana's buttocks and devoured her as if to swallow her whole while dragging her to the bed.

\*plop\*

Diana, laid down on the soft bed, looked at me with satisfied half-closed eyes.

\*slide\*

Diana's arms naturally wrapping around my neck created an illusion as if a snake was coiling around it.

At that moment, as I looked down at Diana who had become lustful from loneliness below the bed.

"Mr. Balkan!"

\*slam\*!

Along with a high-pitched voice, someone burst open the door.

"Kyaaah!"

Turning my head toward the source of the sharp scream, I saw Rubia with her roll-shaped hair puffed up large and her face red.

"Rubia?"

"Wa-wawawa..."

Her eyes spun round and round after suddenly invading the room.

I suppose anyone would react like that seeing their colleague about to mate with another female, but I was just as surprised.

I thought she had left long ago, was she still in the royal palace?

\*sigh\*

As I let out a small sigh, Diana kissed me with a slight chuckle.

"There will be more chances later. For now, why don't we ask what brings her here?"

"...Yes."

Following Diana's words, I approached Rubia, who was trembling in shock, and asked.

"What's the matter?"

Rubia, who had been staring at my chest for a while, suddenly seemed to come to her senses and spoke urgently.

"E-Ellie...!"

My and Diana's expressions hardened at the words that came from her mouth.

Of course, because it was such an unbelievable thing to hear.

"...You're saying Ellie opened a portal?"