# Chapter 30: One Who Knows When to Leave

"Urgh..."

"Sion! Are you conscious?"

"Uh... Yuria. Where is this..."

"It's the first floor. We're almost all the way up."

The upper levels of the labyrinth, an empty room on the first floor of the botanical garden.

The group was resting there.

Since I, who had the map-making ability and acted as a guide, was unconscious, it seemed the group had wandered their way up.

"There were no clothes, so we just covered the important parts for now."

"Thank you, Hachi."

Only my lower body was covered with a blanket.

When I turned into a mouse, all my clothes came off.

So apparently when the transformation wore off, I was in a naked state.

"Hey, Yuria."

"Hmm? What?"

"Stop staring and turn your head away."

"But I'm covering my eyes."

"You're peeking through the gaps between your fingers."

"Tch."

Yuria turned her head away.

No, she was pretending to cover her eyes with her hands but was clearly peeking through the gaps between her fingers.

'Am I being too sensitive?'

Actually, situations where you end up naked like this happen more often than you'd think in the labyrinth, with clothes getting torn or melted away.

So there's no need to be embarrassed about every little instance of showing nudity.

But how should I put it.

I felt a bit embarrassed about showing my naked body to Yuria.

If I had no feelings for the other person, it wouldn't matter if I showed my naked body.

But Yuria isn't like that.

So I felt a bit shy about showing my bare body.

"But why is Yata-ssi turning away?"

"Huh? Ah, well. Um. I'm... also a woman, so..?"

"What?"

Wait a minute.

Yata-ssi, you were a woman?

But your hair is definitely short and...

"Long hair is cumbersome..."

I thought your speech and behavior were completely like a man's?

"Well, it's easier to act like a man..."

"I'm sorry about this. For not realizing right away."

"Ah, no. I get told I look like a man a lot. I'm deliberately acting in a way that makes my gender ambiguous. Hahaha."

Yata-ssi laughed awkwardly.

No wonder her body looked a bit delicate, she was a woman.

Well, it's not easy to maintain femininity while fighting in the labyrinth where even men struggle to survive.

Especially for women who seem weak-natured, there are more guys who try to hit on them.

Come to think of it, there seem to be more short-haired female adventurers than I thought.

There are also those who wrap their chests with bandages, saying breasts get in the way.

"I'm fully dressed now."

"Tch. You could have shown a little more."

"Yuria. If I were just a bit stronger, I would have flicked your forehead."

"What! I can be curious too."

"Haah."

I sighed and shook my head.

That girl is now just openly coming on to me.

"Well then, shall we head out now?"

"Let's do that. We've rested enough too."

"Yes. There should be a transfer stone nearby."

"Woo woo. We can finally get out. I'm excited!"

Horaru looked very excited at the mention of being able to get out of the labyrinth.

I deliberately turned my head away to avoid looking at "her".

Right.

Horaru was female.

How did I come to know this, you ask?

I wish I didn't know either.

'Damn it.. This is driving me crazy.'

She's cute.

Horaru is so cute I feel like I'm going crazy.

Blood keeps rushing to my lower body.

I feel like I'm going to lose my mind from wanting to ejaculate.

'That furry bitch, I just want to... Argh, get a grip. Are you insane, Sion.. She's a bear.. Grrrr..'

My mind is going back and forth.

I want to rush over to Horaru right now and bury my face in that soft, fluffy fur and rub against it frantically.

Slap!

"Sion, what's wrong?"

"Ah, nothing. Just trying to get a grip. Come on, let's hurry up."

I slapped my cheek to regain my composure. No, I tried to regain it.

"Woo woo. Sion. If you're tired, just say so. I'll carry you on my back."

"Hup..!"

I covered my mouth.

She's so kind-hearted...

'That, that.. furry bitch.. keeps tempting me!'

Aaargh.

This is driving me crazy.

I feel like I'm going to lose it.

My brain has gone weird.

A side effect of becoming a fur lover.

A furry love potion..

Raffnel, you crazy elf bitch!

What the hell did you make!

Why does that bear keep looking so appealing?

Stop wiggling your butt.

I feel like I'm going to lose my mind.

"Urgh."

"Sion..!"

"Oh oh. You seem to have overdone it. Hey, Horaru. Can you carry him on your back?"

"Mm hmm. Leave it to me."

"No, no. No!!!"

"Don't refuse and just get on. I'm fine with it."

"No, I'm not fine with it! Argh...!"

I desperately refused...

I resisted with all my might...

But in the end, I ended up riding on Horaru's back.

'C-crazy. Fur.. It's fur..'

The beastly scent emanating from Horaru.

That musky fur smell that roughly assaulted my nostrils and flowed in aggressively.

It's vulgar but... I got aroused.

'Shit.'

An immense sense of shame towards myself and self-loathing to the point of wanting to die.

And beyond that self-destructive desire, a horizon of ecstasy.

The feeling of burying my nose in the belly of Boksil, the pure white dog I raised at grandmother's house as a child, and smelling it.

Dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, goats, sheep, et cetera.

Furry creatures.

The best.

"Aargh!!!"

"What? What's wrong?"

"Ah, nothing. Nothing.. I think I had a really bad nightmare."

After about an hour, I was able to return to a normal state.

During that time, all sorts of stray thoughts, misguided desires, and wrong preferences that had polluted and disturbed my mind, spirit, and soul returned to their original places.

"Horaru. I'm okay now. I can walk on my own."

"Mm hmm. Okay. Tell me if you get tired."

"Yes, thank you."

To think there were actually two more women in our party besides Yuria, who I thought was the only female.

I learned a surprising fact!

There's no further comment on this.

Yes, that's how it should be.

'Woman'... no.

Horaru, who had appeared as a 'female', started to look like a bear again.

Whether she or it, Horaru was still a kind bear.

"Hey, there's the transfer stone!"

As I was shaking my head to get rid of strange thoughts, Yuria pointed in one direction.

The transfer stone can be seen in the distance.

"Haah. Damn labyrinth."

"We can finally get out."

Louis sighed heavily, saying he was dead tired.

Hachi smiled faintly, seemingly satisfied with the fact that we could get out alive.

"Everyone.. You've all worked so hard. I'll definitely buy you drinks."

"G-good work everyone.. Sniff.."

"Woo woo!"

Rohan laughed heartily, saying he would definitely treat us to drinks.

Yata's eyes were slightly red, as if overcome with emotion.

Horaru just looked excited.

Like a true druid, she seemed to want to get out of the stuffy labyrinth and into the forest as soon as possible.

"Well then, let's get out."

This marks the end of the corpse retrieval team's journey.

We perfectly accomplished our given mission.

We were able to complete the labyrinth excursion with everyone surviving without any deaths.

To complete the mission and have everyone return safely from the underground city, whose difficulty had rapidly increased after the Great Shift.

It's an incredible achievement.

Although there was a crisis where we almost got wiped out in the middle.

Looking at just the results, our journey was a great success.

"Whew."

"We're alive!"

"Haah. The air feels different."

"The sun. The dazzling sun is shining on us."

As soon as we came out of the labyrinth, my companions and I went to an open space near the labyrinth entrance and sat down to catch our breath.

Coming out of the labyrinth, it feels like our stuffy chests have been cleared.

Looking up at the tall sky and taking deep breaths for a while, my mind became at ease.

"Urgh..!"

"Mana adaptation?"

"Yes.."

Soon mana adaptation occurred.

My muscles trembled slightly.

'That makes it level 7.'

It's the seventh mana adaptation.

My body should have become harder and stronger.

'Ah, it's gone out.'

When the mana adaptation ended, I felt something that had been residing inside me leave.

It must be the soul of the great warrior Shaka going out.

How long had he been wandering alone in that deep labyrinth?

His body must have long since rotted away and disappeared in the labyrinth.

It's more amazing that his mind didn't break.

Perhaps if he hadn't met me, he would have continued to wander in the darkness until his soul wore away and disappeared.

He might never have had the chance to attain enlightenment.

Thinking about it that way, meeting me must have been a great fortune for him.

I was also able to survive thanks to meeting him right before I was about to die, so we must have been of great help to each other.

'May you go to a good place.'

I briefly prayed for Shaka's peaceful rest.

I'm not sure if he'll be able to go to heaven, but I hoped he wouldn't have to wander the nine hells at least.

"Hmm..?"

After praying for Shaka's rest, this time my head started to throb and hurt.

Could it be, have I gained a new ability again?

It hasn't been long since I gained the Spirit Eye Awakening.

To think I'd gain a new ability so soon.

[Shaka's Remnant]

No, wait.

This was more like a trace left behind by him as he attained enlightenment, rather than an ability.

Not perfectly, but Shaka's combat techniques and experiences remained within me.

'It won't lead to a dramatic improvement in skill, but even this much is amazing.'

It felt like I had laid the foundation to become a warrior.

Maybe I could say I've gained talent as a fighter?

It's not simply that a new skill has appeared, but that I've gained talent.

It might be easier to understand if you think of it as a passive skill appearing.

'Could it be..'

If I keep bringing out souls wandering in the labyrinth, can I keep gaining talents like this?

If I can figure out how to use the Spirit Eye freely, becoming the strongest porter in the labyrinth city might not be just a dream.

'Of course, if it's an ability that only activates when I'm at the crossroads of life and death like this time... that would be disappointing.'

Things in this world don't work out so easily.

The reason I was able to contact Shaka this time was because I was really pushed to the brink of death.

The Spirit Eye probably only opens when you reach the threshold of death.

It's not like I've only been in and out of the labyrinth for a day or two, you can roughly estimate it if you look at it casually.

There's no way I could get free meals so easily.

It's obvious that I'll have to roll and roll and roll like a dog before I can barely grasp one soul.

Ugh, it's disgusting.

I'd rather not have the Spirit Eye open.

Anyway, since I've gained talent, I should probably visit a martial arts hall during my break from labyrinth excursions.

It's about time to improve my fighting skills.

I've finally become able to enter the underground city, but I can't handle every situation with just a spatial pocket forever.

"Let's all go to the guild first. We'll finish the exploration report, hand over the monster corpses. Ah, I'll treat you to lunch."

"Rohan, you. Buying drinks and meals. Aren't you going to go bankrupt at this rate?"

"Hahaha. I have some money saved up. And I'm also thinking about retiring as an adventurer after this labyrinth excursion."

"What? Retirement...?"

"No. Retirement? What do you mean by that?"

"After reviving Catherine this time. I'm thinking about moving to some quiet countryside, Louis."

My companions and I were taken aback by Rohan's sudden retirement announcement.

Rohan is quite skilled.

Although he couldn't do much this time because he was ambushed by the Orc Slugger.

But if he kept exploring the labyrinth, he would have eventually been able to get a gold badge.

His skills, experience, and talent seemed too precious to waste.

"Hey, Rohan. It seems like you could definitely get a gold badge if you go just a little further. Are you giving up?"

"A gold badge. Yes. Maybe if I keep entering the labyrinth, I might be able to get one someday. But I'm too tired."

Despite Louis's attempts to dissuade him, Rohan just shook his head.

His eyes looked full of fatigue.

Probably one of the corpses we brought back this time is his fiancée Catherine.

It seemed he was planning to leave the labyrinth city after paying the resurrection cost for his fiancée.

Unlike Hachi, who participated in the corpse retrieval team out of a sense of responsibility as a guide, Rohan's main purpose for this expedition was probably to rescue his fiancée.

This must have been the reason he went down so persistently.

And now that the heavy duty of rescuing his fiancée was over, Rohan was trying to leave the labyrinth.

"Don't take it so seriously, everyone. Isn't that how adventurers are supposed to be? If you've made a big score, you should know when to fold. If you're too greedy, you'll get burned. And I've made a big score this time. I rescued Catherine. It's finally time for me to fold."

At his words, the companions all nodded.

For the adventurer Rohan, the biggest score was none other than rescuing his fiancée.

Money and fame.

They're probably not as important as his beloved fiancée.

Right. That's correct.

As he said, now that he's made a big score, it's time to fold.

We shouldn't be too greedy.

Those who harbor excessive desires end up being devoured by the labyrinth in the end.

Maybe Rohan is the wisest person among us.

An adventurer who knows when to fold is truly a wise person.

I too will someday come to a point where I fold like Rohan.

By then, I'll probably have become the biggest slave collector in the labyrinth city?

Of course, to become that, I'll have to keep entering the labyrinth until I make a big score.

"Sion."

"Yes?"

"That Rohan guy. He seems like a cool person."

"That's right. He is a cool person."

"I'll become a cool person like that too."

"Huh? Sure. Go ahead. But why are you suddenly telling me your resolution?"

"And if anything happens, I'll definitely protect you."

"No, wait. Don't interrupt me.."

Yuria suddenly grabbed my hand.

"Yeah, yeah. This is enough."

"Hey, what do you mean 'enough'! What are you arbitrarily concluding? What's with this fiancée act!"

"Hehe. Don't be shy, Sion. Didn't you say we should have a serious talk when we get out of the labyrinth? Wasn't this the kind of talk you wanted to have? Like... engagement. Or dating.."

"No, the serious talk I was going to have wasn't about getting engaged to you."

Yuria covered my mouth with her hand.

"Shh. You incorrigible porter. Let's have this serious talk later. For now, let's go to the guild."

"Th-this..! Hey!"

I feel like I'm being swept along by Yuria.

This isn't good. My slave harem plan...

Without any chance to resist, I was dragged to the guild, caught in Yuria's hand.

# Chapter 31: What is an Adventurer?

"These are the corpses of the High Orc Slugger and Warlock."

"Indeed, their fur color is clearly different from existing High Orcs. They're larger too."

The director of the guild's monster dissection facility frowned as he examined the corpses of the High Orc Warlock and Slugger.

"Have these monsters appeared from the labyrinth before?"

"It's the first time I've seen them since I became director. There's only information recorded in the Monster Dissection Compendium. This is my first time seeing the real thing."

The director said it was a type of monster he was seeing for the first time too.

However, information about these creatures was written in an ancient book titled [Monster Dissection Compendium] which records most monsters in the world.

The Monster Dissection Compendium, as far as I know, is a book written long ago by some nobleman who hunted monsters, cooked and ate them, and recorded their appearances and general information.

It's a book that doesn't have much use outside the labyrinth city now that monsters have almost disappeared from the natural ecosystem.

Still, I should find time to read it sometime.

So I can respond quickly even if unfamiliar monsters appear like in this labyrinth excursion.

"According to what's written in the Dissection Compendium. There might be a High Orc Lord too."

"Right. We didn't encounter one, but Louis-ssi said the High Orcs seemed to be moving more systematically than usual."

"Hmm. Did you report that separately?"

"My companions should be doing that."

"It will be reported to the Guild Master. By the way, the magic tower will covet these corpses. Especially the Warlock would have high research value. It's a corpse that's hard to obtain in nature."

"Then should we take it to the magic tower?"

"That's right. Rather than me handling these two, it would be great to throw them to the nerds at the magic tower. We should be able to receive ample compensation too."

We should take these two to the magic tower.

There's a magic tower within the labyrinth city too.

"Then please take care of the rest."

"Alright. Let's see. There are quite a lot of Hati corpses. They should fetch a good price. The dissection should be finished by tomorrow afternoon. You'll get the money from Edwin around the day after tomorrow."

"Yes."

I left all the monster corpses and came out of the dissection facility.

After finishing the dissection, they'll examine the condition of any special parts or hides, then pay an appropriate price.

While I was leaving the monster corpses at the dissection facility, my companions had finished reporting on the abnormal situation in the underground city.

I saw Edwin the counter girl writing up the report and going up to the Guild Master's office on the second floor.

"With this, we've finished everything."

"Just need to receive the compensation."

"Haah. I'm tired."

My companions were gathered at the restaurant-cum-bar on the first floor of the guild.

"Sit here."

"Okay."

Yuria naturally offered the seat next to her.

As I sat down next to her, Yuria handed me a biscuit.

"I've already ordered food, so eat this for now."

"Thanks. Haah. I'm tired."

I sighed deeply while rubbing my face.

I'm reaching my physical limit.

I should eat, lightly attend Rohan's retirement ceremony, then go to the lodging and sleep.

The Young Lady said to let her know as soon as we return from the labyrinth, but I really can't make it to her lodging.

I'm tired.

My whole body hurts.

My muscles feel like they're going to burst.

"First. We should talk about the compensation for this labyrinth excursion."

I didn't want to say anything because I was tired, but we should clearly settle this before moving on.

I can't proceed with compensation matters on my own.

We need to divide the money clearly to avoid trouble later.

If we divide the compensation roughly, we might get stabbed later.

"First, I've left everything at the dissection facility except for the Warlock and Slugger corpses. They said the sale proceeds will come out around the day after tomorrow."

"Didn't they accept the Warlock and Slugger?"

"The director said he wasn't sure how to handle them, so we should take them to the magic tower. He said we could probably get a high price if we sell them to the magic tower since they're new monsters."

"I see, that's right. Then the price for the Warlock..."

"Sion should take all of it."

"Woo woo. That's right."

"Since Sion took it down alone."

My companions cleanly gave up their rights to the Warlock.

Honestly, I was worried they might be greedy for money, but fortunately not.

It's right that I take it since I killed it alone.

"Then I'll go to leave these two corpses at the magic tower tomorrow."

"Good. And you can take all the compensation I was supposed to receive, Sion."

"Is that really okay? You could probably receive quite a lot thanks to the Hati corpses."

"No, it's fine. From that unusual potion you drank. In many ways, this expedition would have ended in failure without you. I'm satisfied with having retrieved Catherine."

"I understand. Thank you, Rohan."

Rohan decided to transfer all his share to me.

It would be impolite to refuse when he's offering.

"Ahem. I'll be taking my full share."

"Yes, Louis-ssi. I won't take it, so don't be wary."

"No! When did I say I was being wary!"

"Hahaha. Your expression looks exactly like you're being wary."

"Hachi! Even you!"

The companions all looked at each other's faces and laughed.

Everyone's faces bloom with smiles as we talk about compensation.

"I'll take the retrieved adventurers to the church as soon as they wake up tomorrow morning."

"Let's go together tomorrow."

"I'll go too."

"Then shall we meet at the guild tomorrow?"

"Let's do that."

We decided to go to the church together with Rohan and Hachi tomorrow.

Rohan would be going because of Catherine, and Hachi seemed to want to see the faces of the people he had briefly gone on the labyrinth excursion with.

"Here's your food."

"Oh! Finally!"

"Whew. Warm food."

"There's meat too?"

"I decided to be generous. I ordered honey wine too. Let's all have a drink."

Soon as the alcohol came out, Rohan smiled and raised his glass.

"To the safe return of the corpse retrieval team! Cheers!"

We clinked our glasses together and shared the joy of survival.

This is it. It's an unwritten rule to have a team dinner after a labyrinth excursion.

Of course, if we fought in the labyrinth or someone died, we'd disband right away without this.

But none of us died, we didn't fight, and we even succeeded in our mission.

We should celebrate this.

It would be strange not to celebrate.

This is why I'm staying until the end even though I feel like I'm going to die from exhaustion.

There's a superstition in the labyrinth city that your luck turns bad if you miss out on occasions that should be celebrated.

We did our best to celebrate our safe return and drank alcohol.

I tried to drink moderately and leave, but I got swept up in the atmosphere.

One glass, two glasses, three glasses.

The intoxication rises.

If I drink any more than this, I felt like I'd lose consciousness and faint.

Collapsing drunk in the labyrinth city is like asking to be kidnapped.

I needed to know when to drink moderately and leave.

"I think. I should stop drinking here."

"Already?"

"Yes. If I drink any more, I think I'll faint."

"Hahaha. Alright, you worked hard. See you tomorrow."

"Take care, Sion. You were the best porter I've ever met."

"Let's go to the labyrinth together next time too!"

"Get home safely.."

"Woo woo. Thanks for the honey."

I left the bar receiving everyone's farewells.

As I walked for a while like that, Yuria followed me.

"Hey, Sion."

"Yuria? Why did you come out? Weren't you going to drink more?"

"I'm done. I think I'll get drunk too. And..."

"Yes?"

"What's the point of drinking without you there."

"Hey. No. Come on."

Maybe it was because of the alcohol, or maybe she was embarrassed.

Yuria's face was flushed red.

"Then.. Let's walk together for a bit."

"Okay!"

Yuria smiled brightly and stuck right next to me.

The height difference wasn't that big.

The people of the labyrinth city are similar to Westerners by Earth standards, so everyone's average height is tall.

I'm about 175 cm, which is relatively short in this world.

Rohan, Hachi, and even Yata were taller than me.

Not to mention Horaru, who's a bear beastkin.

"Whew."

"The night air is cold. Right?"

"Yeah. It's a bit cool."

"Want me to tell you a way to warm up quickly?"

"What is it?"

"Like this."

Yuria suddenly linked her arm with mine.

Her breasts touched my arm.

They were soft.

"Hey. What are you doing?"

"I linked arms. Why. What. Don't you like it?"

"No. That. Haah. Never mind."

I sighed.

Even if I try to keep my distance, Yuria approaches like this whenever there's a chance.

No matter how much I push her away, she just won't be pushed away.

It didn't seem polite to push her away any more, so I just walked silently.

The night air is cold.

The night in the labyrinth city was as bright as the day.

The sound of adventurers making a ruckus could be heard from all over.

People fighting drunk.

Drunkards singing songs.

Even people sucking on each other in alley corners.

All sorts of people were coloring the night streets.

As we walked watching their debaucherous and ill-mannered appearances, Yuria casually spoke up.

"Hey, Sion."

"Yes."

"Why do you keep trying to push me away like that?"

"...."

I didn't expect her to ask so directly.

Even in this aspect, she was very adventurer-like.

Those who advance fearlessly even knowing they might die.

Weirdos who crawl into the labyrinth risking their lives.

Drawing swords for a single coin.

Voluntarily taking difficult and hard paths.

Fools who dedicate their lives to love.

That's what adventurers are.

Yuria was an excellent adventurer.

So I chose my words carefully.

"There are a few reasons."

"What are they? I'll try to fix what I can fix."

"Well, you see. This isn't something you can fix just because you want to."

"What is it? You don't like my hair color? Should I dye it blonde? That Young Lady you rescued... is blonde, right?"

Yuria fiddled with her hair, lacking confidence.

I didn't like how she seemed to be comparing herself to Lady Rea.

Yuria is one of the coolest people I know among women.

I didn't like seeing her lowering herself by comparing herself to someone else.

"No. I like your hair color. And don't compare yourself to the Young Lady. You're plenty charming."

Yuria's eyes widened at my words.

And soon tears welled up in her eyes.

She asked, sniffling:

"Then what is it? What is it that you don't like so much? Tell me. You have to tell me so I can change."

"...."

To keep pushing away a woman who goes this far... that would make me a piece of trash.

I have no choice but to tell her now.

About why I keep pushing her away.

I stopped walking.

"Yuria."

"Yes."

"I...."

I kept hesitating.

Even right up until I was about to say it out loud.

"I, you see..."

"Yes, yes. I'm listening."

"I... like slaves."

"Yes... Huh?"

I confessed my preference.

Yuria tilted her head and asked what I was talking about.

"You see. I like slaves. Ones who will only look at me. That kind of... slave. Who won't cheat. Who won't look elsewhere. It has to be a slave with that kind of forced nature."

"So, so you rejected me because I'm not a slave?"

"Yeah."

"....Huh? Ha. Hahahahahaha!"

Yuria laughed out loud.

People passing by on the street looked at us.

I was a bit embarrassed, but I waited until Yuria's laughter stopped.

Soon, Yuria, who had been laughing for a while, wiped her tears with her finger and patted my shoulder.

"Hey! If you have that kind of preference, you should say so quickly! Geez. I thought you were gay. You surprised me!"

"Huh? Um, I like slaves.. You're not disgusted?"

"Why would I be disgusted by something like that? Are you stupid? It's a normal preference."

"Normal?"

"Yeah. So you liked slaves. You rascal. You should say things like that quickly. Come on, let's go."

"Huh? Where to?"

"My house."

"Your house??? No, why would I go to your house at this hour! Won't Moira-nim be there!"

"My mom's not there. I live alone."

"Alone? You live by yourself?"

"Yep yep. I've lived separately from mom since getting my silver badge. My mom nags too much."

"Uh... No, even so. Going to a woman's house who lives alone at this hour..."

"Ah, forget it. You worry-filled virgin. Are you impotent? When I say hurry up and follow me, just follow."

Yuria pulled me along, smiling from ear to ear as if she was in a really good mood.

I couldn't resist.

Her strength was tremendous.

"W-wait! I have no intention of dating adventurers!"

"A slave enthusiast and anti-adventurer? Aha~ That kind of preference?"

"What do you mean 'that kind of preference'!"

"So you like domestic women. I got it. I understand. Should I call you 'husband'?"

"You crazy woman! You're not listening to what I'm saying!"

If I get dragged along like this, I'll definitely get raped by her.

'This is driving me crazy...! Why is her grip strength so strong...!'

Yuria is a monster who could hold her own against the High Orc Slugger for a while.

A porter like me had no choice but to be dragged along.

"Sion! Let's become adults together today!"

"You crazy bitch! Don't shout things like that so loudly on the street!!"

"Ah! I want to mate! Today!!! I'm going to!!! Mate with Sion!!!"

"Shut up!! Fuck! You crazy woman! I said shut up!"

Yuria laughed heartily and mocked me.

The adventurers on the street who saw our disgraceful behavior all laughed and clapped.

Damn labyrinth city...

It really was a place full of crazy people.

# Chapter 32: Yuria

"Hey, Yuria."

"Hm? What, what!"

"Uh. Well. Um."

Yuria's room...

was quite messy.

"Is this a pigsty?"

"Hey! No! That's.. Everyone who lives alone is like this!"

"Is that so. Hmm."

Clothes strewn about haphazardly and dishes thrown around carelessly.

And unidentifiable dolls and stuffed monster heads were arranged with no sense of aesthetics whatsoever.

Or rather, were they just abandoned and left as is?

Even a training wooden sword was just lying around in a corner, and dirty armor was left neglected without proper care.

"But that armor looks much smaller in size. Is it really yours?"

"Yeah. Well, you see. Um. It's my sentimental armor?"

"...Sentimental armor?"

"Yeah. Dad bought it for me before he passed away. It's my first armor."

"Ah, I see."

Yuria didn't have a father.

Come to think of it, I've never heard her mention her father even once.

So that's why Moira kept flirting with me and telling me to become her son-in-law.

Honestly, I was unsure whether she had a husband or not.

I didn't know because she never properly told me.

Of course, from the atmosphere, I thought she didn't have one, but still.

Anyway, judging from Yuria's nuance, I think her father probably passed away when she was quite young.

"Hehe. Well then.. Shall we clean up a bit?"

"Let's do that. I'll help."

"Thanks!"

Together with Yuria, we put the scattered clothes into a laundry basket, and first put all the trash into my spatial pocket. We can throw it away later.

'Plain panties. This is.. a piece of jerky?'

How should I put it. It feels more like a typical degenerate adventurer's room rather than a woman's room.

Adventurers generally tend to lack life skills.

Maybe because their brains are mainly developed for survival in the labyrinth, there are quite a lot of people whose daily lives are a mess.

You can tell just by looking at how brothels, gambling dens, and bars make up more than half of the labyrinth city's commercial districts.

A decent adventurer is an extremely rare creature.

How many adventurers are there who are diligent enough to do laundry and housework after returning from a labyrinth excursion?

No one wants to waste their day off on trivial chores after nearly dying.

And if they were that diligent, they wouldn't be adventurers in the first place.

As much as they've rolled around in the labyrinth, everyone wants to play and eat without working on the surface.

"Phew. Cleaning done!"

"Whew. Yuria."

"Yes?"

"Do some cleaning once in a while."

"Hey! I'm sorry! For telling you to come to a house that isn't cleaned! But I didn't know I'd bring you here so quickly either!"

Yuria shouted angrily with a red face.

No, I help clean the house and she gets angry?

Well, it was understandable that she'd be embarrassed, so I decided to let it go.

"And this is the first time I've brought someone to my house."

"Really?"

"Yeah. I've never even invited my mom. You're my first guest."

So I'm the first guest.

No wonder the place was such a mess.

It seems no one has been managing her house.

This is why slaves are necessary.

If you have slaves, they take care of the housework for you.

But is there no water in this house?

I'm starting to get a bit thirsty.

"Yuria, do you have anything to drink? Like water?"

"Just a moment. Let's see. Hmm. Want to drink this?"

"What is this. It's alcohol."

Of course, there are no refrigerators in this world.

Although nobles might have similar items, it's not a civilization developed enough for refrigerators to be distributed to ordinary people's homes.

So most people keep drinks in separate storage containers.

Yuria's drink storage container was full of alcohol.

"Do you just drink alcohol when you come home after labyrinth excursions?"

"Well. Umm... There's nothing else to do. You know."

"You'll get cirrhosis like that."

"Cirrhosis? How can calluses grow on my liver? Don't be ridiculous."

"It's true. If you drink a lot, your liver swells up and eventually hardens."

"No way, really!? Are you seriously serious?"

"I'm telling you. Haven't you heard of liver cirrhosis?"

"No, I'm hearing this for the first time. What's that?"

"If you drink excessively, your liver can't detoxify and gradually gets sick, eventually hardening."

"The liver detoxifies alcohol?"

"Yeah. The liver detoxifies drugs and harmful substances in the body."

"Isn't that knowledge only doctors would know? Sion, were you a healer?"

"Just. It's knowledge from the East."

This world is developed in strange areas, but basically has a civilization level similar to the medieval era.

Medical knowledge hasn't developed that much, and it was an era closer to folk remedies than professional medicine.

Therefore, only healers had this kind of knowledge.

"It's not cool to die from illness. And you need to live long... so I can see you for a long time."

"What..! Sion, does that mean you want to see me for a long time? Growing old together... how romantic."

Yuria grinned and quietly scooted her butt next to me.

She leaned on me slightly, putting some weight.

Yuria's body scent flows into my nose.

She always smelled good due to her ability.

I'm nervous.

Because we're about to do it soon.

Of course I'm nervous since it's my first time.

Will I be able to do well?

I hope I don't disappoint Yuria?

It's not a size that would be embarrassing anywhere, but.

Honestly, I was a bit nervous since it's not exactly a huge black man-level dick.

"Hey, Sion."

"Yes."

"You said earlier that you like slaves, right?"

"Yeah..?"

"Then from now on, when it's just the two of us, should I call you Master?"

"What?"

Master?

"Master. Hehe. How is it?"

"Uh. Um, that. Uh."

"Hahahaha! What's this! You're completely broken? Are you that happy to be called Master? Hm? Master. Hehe. Master!"

"Hey. Stop it. It's embarrassing."

"Oh oh. Sion is embarrassed. Aww. You rascal! Come here!"

"Eek!"

Yuria pounced on top of me.

Like a lioness attacking her prey.

Yuria straddled me and grinned while chewing on her lower lip.

"I caught you, Master."

"Hey.. Yuria. I said it's embarrassing.."

"Hehe. Is Master embarrassed? Then should we do something not embarrassing and kiss? Hm?"

"....."

As I couldn't answer, Yuria licked her lips with her tongue.

"You're cute, Master. You look delicious."

Yuria's face approaches.

Soon it came very close, right in front of my face.

"Yuria."

"Yes, Master."

"Are you really okay with me?"

Is it really okay with me?

Yuria is a skilled adventurer.

And she was about to get a gold badge soon.

That means men would be lining up for her.

Not only guys stronger than me or rich men with lots of money, but maybe most of the unmarried men in the labyrinth city might be eyeing her.

She's a highly skilled adventurer, very pretty, and even has the Guild Master as her backing.

She's one of the most popular...

How should I put it, like the top beauty in the city?

Like a labyrinth city idol.

Such a woman is clinging to me saying she likes me.

I couldn't understand why she liked me.

"If I'm okay with you? Of course. There's no adventurer as intelligent, meticulous, and well-prepared as you. Even with a spatial pocket, no one prepares for labyrinth excursions as thoroughly as you do. You're obsessive. That's what attracts me."

Yuria's eyes became slightly serious.

"You see. I like people who are good at things I can't do. And Sion. In that sense, you're my ideal type. You're always assuming the worst and. It's cool how you never give up no matter what happens. I told you before. Strength isn't everything when it comes to being strong."

"You did say that."

"You're strong. In the end, everyone was saved by you even in the underground city. Sion, have confidence. You're being courted by the top beauty in the labyrinth city right now."

"...."

A woman who boosts a man's self-esteem.

I'd probably regret it for life if I let go of a woman like this.

I've made up my mind.

Yeah, although I haven't engraved a slave mark.

A girlfriend who likes me this much and volunteers to be my slave.

I think it's not bad.

"Why are you making such a moved expression? Come here!"

Yuria immediately kissed my cheek.

"First, kisses on both cheeks!"

"Uh, uwah! Wait a minute!"

A relentless shower of kisses.

She held me tight so I couldn't escape and pelted my face with kisses.

Yuria kissed not only my cheeks and lips, but also my eyes, forehead, and nose.

"Chu! Chuuu! How is it, my kiss attack? Good, right? Right? I'm pretty so. You must be happy, Master?"

"....It's not bad."

"Hehe. Then I'll give you more!"

More kisses follow.

Yuria licks my neck and sucks on it hard.

Although the kisses were playful in many ways, they were filled with great affection.

Yuria, who had been kissing me as if kissing a doll, doing all the kisses she couldn't do until now, soon even bit and licked my face.

"Hey hey, I'll be covered in saliva at this rate. Are you a puppy or what!"

"Hehe. But, you know, dogs usually lick their owner's face and stuff. You said you like slaves. I just cleaned Master's face."

"If, if you're going to do it.. my lips too..."

"Pfft! What's this. Master wanted to kiss? Our Master. You're shy."

"What are you saying.."

"You're being shy again. Put your lips right here. Master's lips are all mine now."

"Somehow it feels like the relationship between slave and master has reversed.."

Yuria licked her tongue and sucked on my lips.

Judging by her expression as she slightly smiled with her eyes, she's really playing with me.

"How is it? The kissing service from your slave? Good, right? You don't even think about buying slaves anymore, right? One slave like me is enough, right?"

"Uh.. Yeah.."

"Your answer isn't satisfactory! Are you going to buy slaves? Yuria will kiss Master and. When we're alone, I'll do all sorts of fun things for you? Answer."

"W-well.. For now.. Let's put buying slaves on hold."

"Hehe. Good. You thought well, Master. Then as a reward, I'll lick your tongue too."

"What!?"

"Oh, you shy thing. Why are you overreacting again. Look. We just rubbed lips, so now we should rub tongues too. Right? Hm? Let's move things along a bit. Okay?"

"Is that.. right?"

"Uwah! Come on! Heck. Heck. Master, hurry. Let Yuria suck on Master's tongue. Hurry!"

"Urgh..."

Yuria licked my lips and urged me on.

This is unavoidable, right?

I... want to rub tongues with Yuria too.

"Okay! Chu."

As I slightly stuck out my tongue, Yuria seemed excited and took a deep breath as she sucked on my tongue.

Yuria and I completely pressed against each other.

Her breasts were compressed and pushed against me.

I think I can feel Yuria's heartbeat.

Even her breathing became rougher and rougher.

Yuria's saliva and my saliva mixed together.

Yuria sucked on my tongue as if she wouldn't let even a single drop escape.

"Oh, right. You said you were thirsty. Hehe. Master. Is Yuria's saliva okay?"

"Uh... Yeah. Give it to me quickly.."

"Urgh... I really like you. I love you so much, Master."

"....Me too."

Yuria whispers love and shares her saliva.

I was thirsty... so I thought this worked out well.

# Chapter 33: Yuria(2)

"Chup. Chuuup." (Sound of licking/sucking)

"Yu, Yuria. Ughh... Stop. Stop sucking! Hey!"

"Hehe. Chuuuup."

"Ahhhhnn!"

Yuria, who was on top of me, was licking my chest all over. As she relentlessly flicked her tongue and intensely sucked on my nipples, I felt a strange, peculiar sensation.

Wait, isn't this the reverse of how it should be? I... I should be the one licking Yuria's chest.

Something's wrong.

"Master. You have a dissatisfied look on your face...? Did you not like me licking you?"

"No, it's not that. I, Yuria."

"Yes? What is it, Master?"

Yuria looked down at me, smiling brightly as if she would grant any request. She licked her lips and traced circles on my chest with her index finger.

"Um, I also…"

"Hmm? What do you want to say, Master?"

"I also… I also want to lick."

"What? Ah~ Master also wanted to lick? This?"

Yuria emphasized her breasts wrapped in bandages.

Inside those bandages are Yuria's breasts.

She must have wrapped them in bandages so they wouldn't interfere with movement.

Despite being wrapped in bandages, Yuria's breasts were large.

I wonder what cup size they are.

They seem about as big as Moira's.

"Master, your eyes look lecherous. Pervert."

"Hey! You were the one sucking on my chest!!"

"Puhaha! Master's excited face is funny. Are you feeling wronged? Did you want to suck my breasts that badly? You should have said so earlier. I thought you liked being on the receiving end."

"That's not it..! I also.. I also want your body.."

"My body?"

"Come on. Stop asking when you already know, really."

"How. Master really seems to be a pure virgin. Hahahaha! Your reactions are funny."

"Urgh. Yeah. I'm a virgin.. So what."

"Fuhuhu. A virgin..."

When I said I was a virgin, Yuria's eye-smile deepened even more.

It was a very satisfied-looking smile.

What's this. Was she pleased that I'm a virgin?

Come to think of it, when I mentioned there was a hole-in-the-wall shop next to the brothel, she asked if I went to such places.

She seemed to have quite a shocked expression at that time.

When I said there's no way I'd go to a brothel, only then did her expression relax back to normal.

No, of course, I wouldn't go. A brothel in the Middle Ages? I'd catch an STD.

"Hehehe. Well, that's good. I like virgins. It's okay, Master. I'm a virgin too. So this is the first time for both of us, right?"

"That's right. It's our first time."

First time.

It was the first time for both me and Yuria.

Yuria is a self-proclaimed virgin.

An option that costs an additional 20 gold to purchase.

No, wait. Even though she calls me Master, Yuria isn't a real slave, so I shouldn't calculate it with slave logic.

The virginity of the Labyrinth City's most popular person and soon-to-be Gold Badge adventurer.

It's priceless. The value is immeasurable.

And that first experience of such a popular person in the Labyrinth City was given to me.

"What's this~ Master's lips are twitching upwards. You're really enjoying this, aren't you? Do you like it that much?"

Unable to hide my laughter, Yuria pinched my cheeks with an expression that showed she was having a blast.

She also seemed to know how valuable and important virginity was considered.

That's probably why she immediately started teasing me when I couldn't hide my joy.

"But isn't this kind of romantic? We like each other. And it's the first time for both of us. This is practically like a romance novel."

Yuria is right.

Somehow, she and I right now have a strange feeling, like a pure love between childhood friends.

"By the way, Yuria, you. Do you read books?"

"What!? No, what are you talking about! I read novels, you know! This! Take that!"

"Gah!!"

Yuria pinched and twisted both sides of my chest, which was beneath her.

Being caught off guard with a nipple twist, I felt like I was going to lose my mind.

"Hey, hey! Are you crazy!?"

"No, you were treating me like I can't even read! You're being punished."

"Ugh. Since when can slaves punish their masters..."

"I can! It's okay, right, Master? Huh? Yuria is special. Should we say that Yuria can punish her master?"

"S-Should we?"

"Hahaha! What do you mean, 'Should we?' Puha. That's funny."

After laughing heartily, Yuria unwrapped the bandages that were covering her chest as if she was satisfied.

One turn, two turns. The bandages gradually unwound.

Soon, she pulled out her breasts that had been hidden inside the bandages.

"Eusha. How is it?"

Yuria asked for my impression.

They're beautiful. Very big, and they look incredibly soft.

The pink areolas are cute, too.

More than anything, perhaps because they had been wrapped in bandages for a long time, the heat was incredible.

A hot heat wafted towards my face.

The scent condensed in her cleavage.

"Wait, wait! What's with the flaring nostrils!"

"Ah. Sorry."

"Master, were you curious about what my breasts smell like? Because of my ability, only a good scent comes out."

Yuria gathered her breasts together and thrust them towards me.

Yuria's breasts were shaking in a tantalizing position, almost touching my face.

Every time her breasts shook, a breeze blew towards my face, as if fanned by a hand.

A fragrance.

Not a sweaty smell or anything like that, but literally, a pleasant fragrance wafted out.

"Hehe. Here. It's Master's."

Yuria pushed her breasts further in and pressed my face firmly.

'Crazy!'

Large, soft lumps of flesh wrapped around my face.

My face was buried between her breasts.

Every time I inhaled, her scent stimulated my sense of smell, and the hot heat gradually melted me.

I stuck out my tongue and licked Yuria's nipple, which I had so desperately wanted to suck.

'Huh.?'

As I was sucking on her breast and reveling in her scent, Yuria slowly slipped her hand inside my underwear.

Squeeze.

"Uwa..! W-Wait!"

"Hmm? What?"

"Control your strength!"

"Ah! S-Sorry! It hurt, right?"

Yuria is stronger than me.

If she squeezes too hard and it bursts, it's all over.

"L-Like this?"

"Uh-huh. Like that. That's right. Good."

"Hee. It's difficult. It hurts if I squeeze too hard."

"It's because there are no bones, and it's an area made purely of muscle."

"Wow."

As I sat on the edge of the bed and explained, Yuria, kneeling, fondled my penis.

Yuria fiddled with it this way and that, as if it were something fascinating.

"Master, but this. Penis."

"Yeah."

"Can I lick it? You'd feel good, right?"

"Uh... I guess?"

"Hee."

Lick.

Yuria lightly licked the tip of the glans with her tongue.

'Whoa.'

A shock, like being hit on the head.

Chuu. Chuuu.

Yuria gently licked the glans with her tongue and then began to suck it into her mouth.

Her tongue movement was a little awkward, and she occasionally used her teeth, but how should I put it? Even those parts felt good.

The thought that she was completely inexperienced and becoming experienced through me felt somehow good. It felt like I was coloring her with my own colors.

"Chuuup. Heeeeey. Hey, Sion. You have a lot of expressions."

"Huh? What?"

"No. Pfft. Usually, you're frowning or always looking like you're thinking about something. But today, I saw a lot of interesting expressions, so it's nice. Sion, you had a variety of expressions."

Yuria looked truly happy. How should I put it, perhaps she was happy that we had a secret just between the two of us.

I was happy too.

"Come back up on the bed now."

"Okay!"

The warm-up is over. I'm very tired today, so I feel like I might collapse if we drag this out any longer. I wanted to caress her more and whisper sweet nothings, but it seemed better to get down to business before I passed out.

If I pass out now, it'll kill the mood. It's better to do it while the atmosphere is heated.

"Like this?"

"Yeah, can you spread your legs a little more?"

"L-Like this?"

"No, a little more. So I can get in."

"I'm embarrassed!"

"Hey! You sucked and licked me. Are you embarrassed to be on the receiving end?"

"Yeah! It's different when I'm doing it and when I'm receiving it. Th-This is, how should I put it, ugh, embarrassing."

Yuria covered her face. Even though she said she was embarrassed, she eventually spread her legs slightly, which is so typical of her.

I went between her slightly spread legs. Then, I gently pulled down and took off the panties Yuria was wearing.

'Wow.'

So the hair down there was red too.

"Hey, hey! Sion, no. Master! Don't touch the hair..! It's not groomed..."

"Ah, sorry. I did it without thinking."

It was the same color as her hair, so I ended up stroking it. Anyway, Yuria, so you're the type who doesn't groom down there.

Her armpits were clean. The area below was a bit more overgrown than I expected.

"N-Next time. Next time we do it. I'll trim it a bit. D-Don't think I'm dirty, okay?"

"What's dirty about it? I just looked because the color is pretty."

"I'll still tidy it up. I just didn't expect we'd do it today."

"Can you trim it by yourself?"

"Huh? Uh. W-Well, I haven't done it before. But I think I can manage by looking in a mirror and doing it like this and that, right?"

"Um, Yuria."

"Yeah?"

"I'll shave it for you."

"What!? Master will shave it?"

"Yeah. I'm good at shaving."

"Ah, no. Th... Uh. Um. Ugh."

I want to shave off Yuria pubic hair.

If possible, I want to be the one to do it.

"I-It might be nice. Hee. When I imagine it, it's kind of... arousing."

"What is?"

"Ah, no. You know. Since Master is managing his slave's pussy."

Indeed... That's true. Managing a slave's pussy.

It was a statement that somehow stimulated the slave-fetishist mindset within me.

"From now on, I'll manage it, according to my orders."

"Pfft... Yeah. I will. I'll be satisfied with whatever shape Master shaves it into."

"Good."

A well-behaved child should be rewarded.

I brought my mouth to Yuria's vagina.

"W-Wait a minute! Are you going to lick it?"

"Yes. Be still. It's an order."

"Gasp..! An order... Y-Yes. I'll be still, Master."

At the word "order," Yuria immediately gave up all resistance.

Seriously, she's more compliant than a slave with a slave crest engraved on them?

This shows how engrossed she is in playing the slave role with me right now.

The usual Yuria wouldn't listen so obediently like this.

"Ah, hngh..."

Lick.

I flicked the clitoris with the tip of my tongue and then licked it as if it were a candy. Due to the intense stimulation, Yuria wrapped her legs around my head.

"Ugh...!"

This, unintentionally, I ended up burying my head completely.

Since it's come to this, I might as well loosen her up completely.

As far as I know, a virgin's pussy is quite tight.

It'll be better for both me and Yuria if I suck it sufficiently to loosen it up before inserting.

Slurp. Chuuup.

I licked her pussy upwards with my tongue, gradually adding stimulation.

I puckered my lips and intensely sucked on the clitoris, or lightly swept my tongue inside the vagina.

"Ack..! Hieee..!! What the. Why are you so good..!?"

"Chuuup... Pfft. Image training."

"What do you mean..!? Hieeeeng...!"

Trembling, Yuria came once.

A lot of liquid came out.

"Hueh... M-Master. What the. You're so good. It's crazy."

"Huuu. How is it?"

"I... might get addicted. It's on a whole different level... than when I rub it with my fingers. Huaa... Master."

"Yeah?"

"Um, can you lick it again tomorrow?"

It seems she was embarrassed, but she mustered up the courage to ask if she could be licked again.

"Yuria."

"Yeah... Is it not okay...?"

"Of course it's okay. It's definitely possible."

"Heueuu. Really!? Master! I like you..!!! No. I love you!"

Yuria embraced me.

What's with her being so surprised by something like this?

I mean, come on.

She offered her virginity to me.

She offered her devotion to me.

She even pretends to be a slave and obeys my orders absolutely.

She's more than qualified to have her pussy licked.

More than anything, her reactions are interesting.

It feels like, for the first time, I've gained the upper hand over Yuria, who has always been teasing me.

I can't resist this.

"Wow..! What the. Master's penis got even bigger!"

"It's because Yuria is so arousing."

"Hee. That might make me very happy."

Feeling good, Yuria started kissing my body again.

"Master. Shall we, um, insert it now?"

"Yeah. I can't hold back any longer, Yuria."

"Come to me, Master. Won't you make a mess of Yuria... use me as you please?"

“Ugh..!”

This guy caught exactly where I was getting really excited.

It’s so tempting to pretend to be embarrassed and slyly smile.

I think her pussy is sufficiently loosened up.

It should be okay to insert it now.

Squish.

The tip of the glans slightly entered Yuria's vagina.

"It's in! Uwa. Something feels strange."

Yuria's eyes widened in surprise.

I heard that she had masturbated by rubbing her clitoris with her fingers, but she had never inserted any foreign objects like dildos into her vagina.

In short, the most private part of Yuria, which no one had ever entered until she became an adult.

I'm about to stir it up.

Thrust.

"Ugh..."

Soon, along with Yuria's moan, I felt a thin membrane break.

A little blood seeped out.

It wasn't a large amount, just a streak.

Yes, I'm completely inside her.

I felt something soft touching the tip of the glans. Is it the cervix?

It feels like it's filling her vagina completely.

Even though I loosened her up sufficiently, it was quite tight because she was a virgin.

I feel pressure as if Yuria's vaginal walls are pushing my penis out.

It's incredibly tight.

This is dangerous.

I think I'll cum after only a few thrusts.

"Huup.. Uuung... Hhehe.."

Yuria tossed and turned, not knowing what to do.

"Master, it's... really big."

"Thanks for the compliment."

"Is this a compliment?"

"Of course. Bigger is better than smaller, right?"

"Hee. That's true. Heheh. Master's penis is huge... I'm completely filled."

As soon as I heard the words "completely filled" from Yuria's mouth, the thread of my reason slightly snapped.

Before I knew it, I was tightly hugging Yuria and thrusting my penis in without thinking.

Yuria was a woman with a lot of liquid, and her vagina was incredibly warm, even hot.

The hot flesh walls wrapped around me so tightly that I felt like my penis would melt, and the urge to ejaculate quickly rose.

Squish, squish, squish.

The noise of wet flesh rubbing against each other.

"Huuu... Ha. Haa. Hauuu...!"

Yuria's moans, as she closed her eyes and enjoyed the taste of my penis, filled the room.

I tried to hold back as much as possible, but every time I moved my hips back and forth, the urge to ejaculate grew stronger.

It's hard to hold back any longer.

"I-I think... I'm gonna cum..."

"No! Don't pull out!"

"What?"

"Don't pull out..! Inside... Inside, a lot..."

"Hey! Wait!"

Yuria wrapped her legs around my waist.

She held me tightly so I couldn't pull out and wouldn't let go.

I can't hold back any longer.

I've reached my limit.

I just want to thrust all the way in and cum.

"Ahh, I don't care anymore! I'm cumming!"

"Uung..!"

I've held back as much as I could.

If a child is conceived between Yuria and me because of this inside cumming...

Yuria will become a full-time housewife, and I'll become the head of the household and work hard to support them.

I'll give up on my dream of returning to my hometown, Earth.

I'll put down roots and live in this world.

Yeah, it might be better.

A beautiful, voluntary slave wife who greets me in a naked apron.

Ah. Yuria, was she bad at cooking?

Whatever. I can cook for her too.

Thinking about it, it seems like it'll be quite happy.

Poooooot-

Dreaming of a future with Yuria.

I ejaculated a lot into her womb.

# Chapter 34: Opportunities Come

"Sion."

"Yes?"

"Give me some water. Hehehe."

I took out a water pouch from my spatial pocket and handed it to Yuria.

"This is thirstier work than I expected."

"Indeed. We sweated a lot."

Yuria and I lay on the same bed, looking up at the same ceiling.

It was like a dream.

I also learned why men lose all self-control when they fall for a woman.

"Sion."

"Yes?"

"I'm curious about something."

"What is it?"

"How far are you aiming to go?"

"In the labyrinth?"

"Yes. I'm curious about what floor you want to reach."

Yuria rolled over to face me.

A girl in my arms asking about my dreams.

What answer should I give her?

Should I say my dream is to reach the deepest part of the labyrinth, like a dreaming boy?

Or should I say I want to realistically stop around the underground city?

"Well, I haven't really thought about it specifically."

I decided to tell the truth.

The floor I want to reach.

I haven't set a target floor yet.

Until now, I've just been going down as far as I could.

Moreover, my original goal of buying a slave has been half-achieved thanks to Yuria.

I originally wanted to buy a slave to have a wife who wouldn't cheat on me.

I've also earned more money than ordinary low-rank adventurers could.

To be honest, if I followed Yuria and joined the guild, becoming a certified instructor and just guiding beginners around the upper levels, I could make a decent living.

Yes, I've slightly lost my goal now.

Because I've gained stable survival rights in the labyrinth city.

I'm at another crossroads.

Whether to move forward.

Or to settle for this.

That's why Yuria asked about my future direction.

She must have been curious if I'll stop here or go further.

"What about you, Yuria?"

I decided to ask her instead.

Where is your goal?

How far down do you want to go?

I've already half-achieved my goal.

So what's important now is not my goal, but hers.

"For me, well. Mm. As an adventurer, Yuria wants to reach the end of the labyrinth. But as your girlfriend and wife, Yuria... well."

Yuria pondered for a moment.

I quietly waited for her to organize her thoughts.

Decisions about one's path should always be careful.

It's about her future. It should be respected as an individual choice rather than being interfered with by others.

"Actually. Should I stop too? You told me two conditions at first, remember? First, a slave who would love only you. Second, someone domestic, not an adventurer. You said you needed someone like that."

"..."

I couldn't respond to Yuria's answer.

Somehow, her words about stopping weighed heavily on my heart.

I felt like I might be blocking her path forward.

Is it right for someone like me to block the way of someone who could potentially become a platinum badge holder?

If it weren't for me, could she have flown much higher?

I might have become her cage, taking away her freedom.

Thinking that way made my chest feel a bit tight.

I wanted a slave wife who would unconditionally obey my orders.

But I didn't want Yuria to become a slave without her own will.

Because I like her, I don't want her going into the dangerous labyrinth anymore.

But conversely, I don't want a Yuria who has lost her wings.

My head becomes complicated with these conflicting emotions.

"Yuria."

"Yes?"

"I want to know your true feelings."

"My thoughts? I just told you my thoughts."

"No, I mean. Well. Um. Do you really not mind giving up being an adventurer?"

"..."

Yuria opened her mouth, then closed it again.

Giving up being an adventurer.

It means giving up on progressing further.

I don't mind.

I'm an utterly worldly and pessimistic person with the sensibilities of a 21st century modern human.

My life is the most important thing to me, and if I have money, I could throw away everything, labyrinth or whatever.

But she's different from me.

Her childhood was painted by the labyrinth city.

Her adolescence also progressed within the labyrinth.

Her entire life has been steeped in the labyrinth.

Perhaps Yuria is even more deeply entwined with the labyrinth than I think.

Moreover, she's brimming with talent.

At such a young age, she's already on the verge of getting a gold badge.

Probably after one or two more mana adaptations, and if she gains even one more ability.

She would become a guild-certified gold badge adventurer.

There are quite a few silver badges. It's proof of being a veteran.

But gold badges, which could be called proof of being a big fish, are even rarer.

'Finally, Yuria's mother, Moira is...'

A platinum badge holder.

Undisputedly the strongest woman in the labyrinth city.

A monster possessing 5 magic eyes and 2 magic swords.

Moira is someone who reached the 7th floor alone and came back up.

Even though she playfully flirts with me.

And even though she's stuck in the guild looking at paperwork.

It doesn't change the fact that she was a legend who dominated an era.

Can Yuria, who grew up under such a person, really give up on the labyrinth?

She has a mother who could be called a hero.

Moreover, judging by that worn-out armor, it seems her father, who has already passed away, also wanted her to become an adventurer.

Maybe someday in the distant future.

Yuria might regret today's decision.

After regretting.

She might even resent me.

Before that happens.

I thought it would be good if she could also clearly achieve her own goals.

"Sion."

"Yes. I'm listening."

"Is it okay... if I tell the truth?"

"Yes. Tell me the truth."

"Well... I..."

Yuria seemed to keep hesitating, as if afraid I might reject her.

"Whatever decision you make. Our current relationship won't suddenly change. So tell me."

"...Okay. Thank you."

Yuria now seemed to have found certainty.

"I want to go down to the 7th floor and see it. I'm curious about... the ideal world on the 7th floor that mom saw."

"The ideal world on the 7th floor?"

"Yes. The place called the fairy nest. Or incubator."

The 7th floor of the labyrinth.

The 7th floor is probably the deepest level humanity has reached so far.

I see, Yuria wants to go to the floor her mother reached.

"The 7th floor. I've heard it's beautiful."

"Yes. She said it was incredibly, incredibly beautiful."

"Alright, the 7th floor. Let's go see it."

"Really?"

"Yes. The 7th floor. Of course, I don't mean let's go right away. But we should be able to reach it before we die, right?"

"Hahahaha. That's right. We should be able to reach it at least once before we die of old age. Yes. Let's go see it together next time."

I didn't tell Yuria to give up being an adventurer.

Let's just agree to go down to the 7th floor together someday and come back up.

Someday.

In the upper floor of a high-class inn in the labyrinth city.

Lea Lionel, daughter of the Lionel family, asked the witch Rien who was lounging in the room.

"Hey, Rien. Hasn't the porter come up yet?"

"Hmm? Ah... just a moment..."

Rien's ability 'Search and Track'.

Lea had been using this to track Sion's location for several days.

She wanted to meet him as soon as he came up from the labyrinth.

For some reason she couldn't understand, his face kept flashing in her mind.

"Ehhh...? The porter... seems to have come up to the surface...?"

"What? Really? When! He was underground earlier!"

"Umm.... It might have been... a while ago..."

Quite some time had passed since Rien last activated Search and Track.

During that time, Sion had already come up to the surface, finished reporting, and even finished a celebratory dinner.

"Why didn't he come to see me right away? I wonder why."

Lea's worries deepened at Rien's answer.

She wondered if she was the only one who had been longing to see him so much.

She also felt like she had somehow lost to him.

"He probably went to rest because he was tired, young lady."

"Is that so..?"

Lea nodded as if that made sense, at the words of the female knight Rica who had been meditating with her eyes closed.

Rica felt pleased seeing Lea, who had been talking about the porter constantly for days.

'Did you want to enter the labyrinth that badly? Oh, young lady.'

She was completely off the mark.

Lea wasn't just waiting for the porter because of the labyrinth...

Rica, who had built a wall against romance, couldn't understand such delicate emotions.

Despite being a woman herself, Rica was a bit dense.

"I guess you're right. He's been going in and out of the labyrinth for days. He must be tired. Right, right."

"Yes. He must have fallen asleep like he fainted, young lady."

"Yes, yes. That's right. That must be it, right? Nothing's wrong, right? Should we go check? His lodgings might be uncomfortable. Wouldn't he like it if we got him accommodations on our side? I saw last time that the porter prefers cost-effective lodgings."

"Huh...? You want to go check at this hour...?"

"Well, I'm curious. He's also my lifesaver."

"That's... true, but.."

"Let's go see."

"Okay..."

Rien put away the book she had been reading and got up.

"I'll go with you too, young lady."

"Okay. Let's all go together and just take a quick look at his face."

And so the porter comfort team was formed.

The three of them, excluding the priestess Erica who was doing volunteer work at the temple, set out to find the porter.

"Is it here...?"

"This is in a completely different direction from the porter's lodgings?"

"Huh? Then where is this...?"

"I don't know either!"

"It seems to be a residential area, young lady."

"You're right. Why did we come to a residential area? The porter lives in lodgings."

"Umm... That building over there... I feel energy coming from there..."

Rien pointed to a building, feeling uneasy inside.

A two-story detached house.

It looked quite expensive.

It wasn't a mansion where nobles would live, but it was the kind of house that a fairly successful gold badge or higher adventurer might live in.

'Surely not... the porter...'

Unlike Rica, Rien had noticed the young lady's feelings to some extent.

She was definitely 120% interested in the porter.

But at this evening hour, he's in someone's house, not lodgings?

'There must be... something going on..'

Rien strongly felt that they shouldn't go any further.

"Lea, let's go back for now.. This doesn't seem right.."

"Huh? What doesn't?"

"No.. It seems like there might be some circumstances.. Maybe we should wait until he comes to see us first..."

"Indeed, it would be a bit inappropriate to suddenly visit a stranger's house at this hour saying we've come to see the porter."

"Well, you're right. It would be against etiquette. I guess I got a bit too excited."

Lea nodded obediently.

Outside the labyrinth city, her noble status might work, but this is inside the labyrinth city.

Acting on impulse could lead to unmanageable consequences.

"Still, it seems he returned safely. That's good."

"Yes.. That's good..."

"Come to think of it. The porter definitely entered the labyrinth with the guild master's daughter, right?"

"Huh..!? Oh... yeah...?"

"Those two. They're not anything to each other, right?"

"From what I've heard, the porter seemed to have no interest at all."

"Just the porter? What about the guild master's daughter?"

"It seems she was clinging to the porter quite a lot."

"..."

"L-Lea! Let's go back for now.. There's nothing we can do right now.."

"Yes. You're right. That's true. Everything you said is right."

Lea clenched her fists.

While the porter was in the labyrinth, she had done some investigation about him and the women around him.

So she knew well.

About the woman called Yuria.

"They said she'd soon become a gold badge holder. Alright."

She had no intention of giving up.

She had already made a contract with the porter to enter the labyrinth together.

'Anyway, he and I are labyrinth partners. The opportunity will surely come.'

The young lady half-opened her eyes.

She had no intention of letting anyone monopolize the porter.

# Chapter 35: Suspicious Magic Tower

"You've brought six people. Are any of them close acquaintances or people you know?"

"I just transported them. I don't know these people well. I have no obligation to pay for them."

"I've entered the labyrinth with them as former party members, but I have no obligation to pay for them."

"This woman here is my fiancée. I brought the rest out of duty. I have prepared the revival cost for this woman."

"I understand. I hope there will be no further interference regarding the other five people, except for this woman. Do you agree?"

"Yes, I agree."

"I agree."

"I agree."

"Good."

At the words of the priest overseeing the revival ritual, the three of us swore.

Now these five people will have to repay the money on their own.

They'll have to either contact relatives to get 100 gold,

or become mercenaries for the church and work until they repay the debt.

As a last resort, they could also become certified slaves.

"Then, I will proceed with the ritual. It will take about 2 hours, so if you want to wait, please wait on the first floor."

"Alright."

"Please take care of them."

We greeted the priest and came up.

"So this is completely over. Thank you, Sion."

"No. I just worked for what I received."

"I see. Please convey my thanks to that young lady as well."

"Yes."

Rohan says he'll thank the young lady too, since we moved with her money.

"By the way, do you really plan to leave the labyrinth city after reviving Catherine?"

"Hmm. We won't leave right away. There are aftereffects of revival, they say. We'll probably recuperate here for a while and then leave the labyrinth city around next spring."

"I see."

"Let's have a drink sometime when you're free."

"Yes. Sounds good."

Rohan looks unburdened.

He said he'd leave the labyrinth city around next spring.

'I hope he can leave without any problems.'

If he doesn't enter the labyrinth, there shouldn't be any issues, right?

Most misfortunes and accidents happen inside the labyrinth.

"Well then, I'll head to the magic tower. I need to hand over the corpses."

"Alright. Take care."

"See you next time."

After greeting Rohan and Hachi, I came out of the temple.

The morning sunlight feels so nice.

Yuria went separately to report the details of what happened in the labyrinth to Moira.

I just need to go to the magic tower, hand over Warlock and Slugger's corpses, and receive the money.

Unlike the dismantling shop, the magic tower's purpose is research, so I should be able to receive payment right after handing over the corpses.

"Ah, that's right."

I should also visit the young lady.

I'm supposed to guide her party now.

She might be waiting for me.

Come to think of it, I should also talk about my relationship with Yuria.

It's better to be clear about these things.

So she doesn't develop any interest in a taken man.

I should prepare in advance.

Right?

She's a noble young lady after all.

It would be a big problem if she developed feelings for a commoner porter who has a fiancée.

Though that probably won't happen in the first place.

Geez, what am I worrying about? This is also self-consciousness.

"Ah, I should go to the hole-in-the-wall shop too."

I thought I should ask about the activation of the spirit eye and about Shaka the great warrior.

There were almost no people who knew about Shaka at the guild or taverns.

He might be someone who died long ago.

I wanted to get information about him.

I thought it would be good to know something about him to better use the ability he left me.

'I also need to register at the martial arts hall. I'm busy.'

The ability Shaka left behind, 'Shaka's Remnant', is an ability that enhances warrior talent.

I can't let such an amazing ability go to waste. Of course, I should increase my combat power from now on.

Judging by the state of the underground city after the great change, even porters would have to fight.

It's no longer possible to compete just by carrying luggage.

To do my part, I need to fight hard and move hard.

'And to go down to the 7th floor. I can't just keep being protected.'

The 7th floor underground, Yuria's target level.

To go down to the 7th floor beyond the underground city, I need to become at least a gold badge adventurer.

I, who don't even have a silver badge yet, need to work my ass off to get a gold badge.

And I need to go through more mana adaptations.

My current level is 7. This isn't enough to even enter the 7th floor.

'I'll need to become equal to the monsters of the Morning Sunlight party to barely set foot on the 7th floor.'

Lightning Stein and Black Flame Torius are skilled enough to tear apart 4th floor boss monsters alone and roam the underground city.

If I don't step into the realm beyond human, I won't be able to move forward.

'If I want to focus on the labyrinth, I should probably buy a slave too.'

Having a slave would make daily life more relaxed.

It would be nice to have someone who could cook, do laundry, clean the house, and run all sorts of errands for me.

'Yuria didn't actively discourage buying a slave either.'

If I explain it well later, she might allow having a slave.

After all, Yuria is also an adventurer who lives as she pleases.

No, it doesn't make sense to not even have drinking water in a house where people live.

I think this is a problem. Whether it's a sex slave or a work slave, a slave is essential.

"I've arrived."

While thinking about future plans as I walked, I arrived at the northern district of the labyrinth city where the magic tower is located.

This is the area where the entrance to the underground tomb is, and also where the representative slum of the labyrinth city is located.

I heard that many of the poor people living here are either addicted to drugs or recruited for clinical trials by the magic tower.

It seemed like it would only lead to an abyss if I dug deeper, so I decided to ignore it.

I have business at the magic tower, so I should just quickly visit the tower and return.

"Huh? Who are you?"

Since the magic tower is an area where non-magicians can't enter freely, I waited at the entrance, and a boy wearing large glasses came out.

"I hunted new magic beasts in the underground city. I'm here to sell their corpses."

"New magic beasts? Could it be magic beasts that appeared after the great change?"

"Yes. They're high orc variants."

"Ooh..! But where are the corpses?"

"They're in my spatial pocket."

"Ooh! A spatial pocket! Come, come in quickly!"

The magician boy with large glasses was very pleased to hear about the new magic beast corpses and guided me to the underground research area of the magic tower.

'What is this smell?'

The underground research area was filled with the smell of unknown substances.

And mixed in was the smell of blood.

I couldn't tell what kind of research was being conducted.

But it wasn't a particularly pleasant place.

-Kieeeee!!!!

"Ugh! Wh-what is that?"

"Ah, it's nothing. They're probably extracting testicles from wild goblins. It's nothing. We are not conducting any illegal human experiments. Please refrain from any strange suspicions, conjectures, or spreading weird rumors."

The boy spouts excuses as if someone had programmed his brain.

What is this? How much suspicion must they have received to be able to spit out such a long sentence without even breathing, without a single mistake?

"Hm? Male. Who's that? A new test subj-"

"Ah, no! Test subject? Oh my, Lord, you misspoke. Test subject, as if. We absolutely do not conduct any illegal experiments on people!"

The boy magician has a fit, making excuses at the words of an old magician passing by.

He waved his hands, sweating profusely, insisting that absolutely no human experiments were taking place here.

What the hell.

No, what are they doing here?

It's so suspicious.

It's so suspicious that if I step in any further, I might become suspicious too.

It's dangerous.

The magic tower is dangerous.

I don't want to get deeply involved or entangled...

"Oh my. This must be a guest. I misspoke. I didn't mean to say 'test subject'. I meant to say 'experiment volunteer'. Hahaha.."

The old magician immediately corrected his words.

He hummed a tune for no reason and quickly walked away from us.

"Hahaha. That person has always been a bit loose with his words. You know how it is. Magicians looking down on ordinary people. That's all it is. It's nothing strange. Come on, let's go."

"Uh.. yes. But how far are we going?"

"Hm? Ah. We'll soon arrive at the workshop. You said you have a spatial pocket, right?"

"Um... yes. But why are you suddenly asking about that again..."

"Ah, I'm just curious. It's my first time seeing one. A spatial pocket owner. I wonder... how much can it hold? Where exactly do the items go...? Can you take out items through walls? Hmm. I'm also curious about the effective range and capacity... How big of an item can it hold? Why does time freeze occur? It seems to be more than just a simple space magic..."

"Excuse me, Mr. Magician?"

"Oh my! I'm sorry. Satisfying curiosity is our job. I, I often get lost in thought. Come on, let's continue."

"Yes..."

This guy is dangerous too.

His eyes just now were strange.

Is this right?

Am I walking into a tiger's den right now?

Why do I feel like I'm pushing my head into an alligator's mouth?

Should I run away now?

But...

'I've already come down to the 3rd basement floor.. Suddenly running away might be more suspicious.'

Even if the magicians of the magic tower are nerdy shut-ins who've given up on external activities, they're still magicians.

If I run away and they misunderstand me as a thief and throw a fireball at me, I'll become a roasted porter on the spot.

It feels awkward to run away on my own.

But it's too scary to keep following.

"Don't be nervous. Come on. We'll arrive soon. Let's go."

"..."

His smile wasn't very reassuring, but I had no choice.

For now, I continued to follow the boy deeper into the research area.

"Lady Mabel. We have a guest!"

A woman with blue hair and blue eyes lying on a sofa in the research lab.

She's a beautiful woman with a very cold impression.

But Mabel.

I've heard that name somewhere.

"Hmm? Male? Who's next to you?"

"A guest, a guest. He's brought the corpse of a new high orc subspecies that appeared after the great change."

Soon Mabel got up from the sofa and sat up with difficulty.

Judging by her messy hair... she hasn't washed for days.

"The corpse?"

"He brought it in a spatial pocket."

"A spatial pocket, huh."

Could she possibly know me?

Maybe she does.

She's probably...

"I'm Mabel. Nice to meet you, Sion."

"Likewise, nice to meet you, Tower Master."

We knew each other's identities.

As soon as she heard I was a spatial pocket owner, she recalled the name Sion.

And I realized she was the tower master when I noticed she seemed to know me.

The tower master who stays cooped up in the magic tower and doesn't come out.

Right, Moira had mentioned it before.

That she had explored the labyrinth with her a very long time ago.

"Have some tea for a moment."

The tower master offered tea.

There's no way I could refuse.

Guild Master Moira and Tower Master Mabel are practically at the top of the labyrinth city.

They may not have visible noble titles, but they are the actual power holders.

They have stronger voices than the nobles who take care of internal affairs in the labyrinth city.

"Male. Go back to your work."

"Yes, Lady Mabel! Then I hope you have a good time!"

When the dismissal order came, the boy magician quickly ran out.

A space with just the two of us left.

Mabel stared at me for a while and then opened her mouth.

"Do you have a woman?"

"Pffft..!"

I ended up spitting out the tea I was drinking.

# Chapter 36: I'll Hear It Directly

I was momentarily flustered by the Tower Master's question about whether I had a woman.

Or maybe it was because the tea the Tower Master served was too unpleasant.

'Bitter, sour, and salty.'

It was a strange tea.

What kind of taste is this?

"Hey. Are you okay?"

"Cough. Cough. Yes. I'm fine."

I took out a handkerchief from my inventory and wiped my mouth.

The Tower Master looked at me with great interest.

She brought up the previous topic again.

"So, do you have a woman?"

I wonder why she's asking if I have a woman.

It's hard to know what her purpose is, but it seems better to tell the truth.

"Yes. I do."

"Someone's already taken you. I hope it's not that rotten Moira?"

"What? No. Well, married women are a bit..."

"Married women are a bit? You don't like married women?"

"Yes. And there's a big age difference..."

"Age difference? Hmm. How old are you?"

"I'm twenty-four."

"Twenty-four? What... So you're an adult. Hmm. It's hard to gauge the age of people from the East. Hmm. Twenty-four. Is age important?"

"What? Well, I'm in my twenties, so someone in their forties is a bit..."

In this world where people marry and have children at a relatively young age, a twenty-year age difference is almost like parent and child.

Of course, I know there are people who like that sort of thing.

I'm aware that there are those with a mommy fetish or who are fixated on maternal love.

I guess I should say I prefer younger rather than older.

I like spring chickens more than old hens.

When I expressed these thoughts, the Tower Master looked at me with an expression of shock.

This person looks very cold and chic, but her expressions are more varied than I expected.

"Huh. That's a very narrow-minded view. First of all, adventurers don't age much. Mana adaptation slows down aging. Essentially, their physical age is no different from twenty, you could say? The mind is mature, but the body is soft and tender... That's the state. It's like wine. The more it ages, the more valuable it becomes. Understand?"

"Uh. Um. Yes."

"Tch. Your reaction is lukewarm. Damn pedophiles."

"No! I'm not a pedophile!"

I was called a pedophile for liking people in their twenties. That's crazy.

I feel like I'm going insane. Why are all the women in this neighborhood like this?

They're all missing a screw somewhere.

Is it because of mana adaptation? Does that break humans?

"Enough. Let's see the variant corpses you brought."

"Yes..."

I feel a bit deflated, but I'm glad we can quickly move on to the main point.

I should just hand over the corpses and get the money. If I get caught up in the Tower Master's pace, I feel like I'll keep getting teased.

"Hmm. Warlock and Slugger. Just as described in the Magic Beast Dissection Appreciation. This one's Warlock, and this one must be Slugger?"

"That's right."

"Did you happen to find a High Orc Lord?"

"No. I didn't see one, but an adventurer with me said that the High Orcs were moving more systematically than usual."

"Then there must definitely be a Lord. Any information about variants being discovered in other sectors?"

"I haven't heard anything, but I expect there probably are."

"We should assume the difficulty has increased exponentially."

The Tower Master took out a notebook and started writing something.

"Hmm. Has anyone gone down to the 6th floor?"

"As far as I know, no one has. I heard even gold badge adventurers only went as far as the underground city."

"So no one knows what it's like below the underground city. What about platinum badge holders?"

"I haven't heard anything about them at all."

"Hmm. Well, most platinum badge holders are labyrinth synchronizers... Alright, I understand for now. The underground city is high risk. Below that, lack of information. Hmm."

Certainly, even the underground city has become difficult for silver badge holders to move around in.

Naturally, it must be even more difficult below that.

Maybe the environment has completely changed.

"First, regarding the purchase of the corpses. They're not rotten. You brought the whole bodies. They're fresh. Yes, this much compensation should be fine? Check it."

Mabel took out a leather pouch from between her breasts and handed it to me.

It's still warm.

"For Slugger, about 7 gold should be fine. For Warlock, about 12 gold. I added 1 more gold to make it 20 gold. How's that?"

Both corpses are not rotten.

The price was set high because these are the first variant corpses brought in.

I never thought I could earn 20 gold from selling two corpses.

It's amazing. I earned almost enough to buy a slave just by selling two magic beasts.

Moreover, I can keep all the money for Warlock, so I could say I earned 12 gold.

I've earned enough money to buy a slave and have some left over.

If the young lady gives me a separate reward, I might even be able to recruit up to two slaves.

"Wait, before we finish talking. There's one thing I'd like to request."

"A request? What is it?"

"If you happen to go down to the underground city again. Check if there are more creatures that can communicate."

"Creatures that can communicate, you mean."

"Yes. If my hypothesis is correct, there might be more 'beings capable of human communication' like the High Orc Warlock. Because the labyrinth seems to be learning from adventurers."

The Tower Master has formed the same hypothesis as me.

The hypothesis that the labyrinth is learning from adventurers.

Judging by the increasing difficulty and the movements of magic beasts that seem to hunt adventurers in reverse.

The labyrinth was clearly wary of outside intruders.

Could the great change be a kind of labyrinth update?

Absorbing data about adventurers and gradually growing.

"Ah, and about your spatial pocket."

"Yes?"

"I'd like to do a few experiments. Can you spare some time?"

"Now?"

"Tomorrow is fine if you're busy. If you participate in the experiments, I'll give you a magic tower access pass and compensation."

I'm not sure what kind of experiments she means, but the offer of a magic tower access pass and compensation was tempting.

The magic tower restricts indiscriminate entry of outsiders, so getting an access pass means being recognized by the tower.

And the magic tower has the best magic tool makers in the labyrinth city.

It might be an opportunity to build relationships with them and obtain good magic tools.

"Alright."

"Good. Then... Hmm. Wednesday. Come find me whenever you have time on Wednesday."

"What time on Wednesday should I come?"

"Come whenever you want. I'm a bit less busy on Wednesdays. I'll probably be sleeping all day. Wake me up when you come."

"Uh.. Okay."

"Ask Male for the magic tower access pass. He'll give it to you. Well then, take care."

"I'll come on Wednesday."

I bowed my head to the Tower Master and left the room.

"You're out!"

"Ah, Mr. Male."

"Here's your access pass."

"How did you prepare it so quickly?"

Mr. Male handed me the access pass as soon as I left the room.

Could this person have been eavesdropping on my conversation with the Tower Master?

"I just know how things work. It's a Level 1 access pass. You can go up to the top floor of the magic tower. You can also freely enter and exit the research area."

It was the highest grade of access pass that could be given to outsiders.

And it's the only pass that allows entry into the research area.

Giving such a high-grade access pass means that I too can approach the secrets of the magic tower.

It meant I needed to keep my mouth shut.

"Sion."

"Yes?"

"From the moment you receive this access pass. It means you're with us at the magic tower. A smart person like you would understand, right?"

"..I guess so."

"If you happen to carelessly reveal what you see and hear in here to the outside. It would be a bit troublesome for us."

"Yes..."

"The Tower Master is a bit clumsy in these matters. So, I'm thoroughly managing information leaks. Sion. You understand, right?"

The shadows flicker.

In an instant, the corridor is dyed in darkness.

Eyes are gleaming within the shadows.

'This is crazy. What kind of magic is this... Is it an ability?'

The boy magician's magic was vicious.

It's a kind of show of force and warning.

A warning not to carelessly defame the magic tower or reveal internal information.

"It's not a serious threat or intimidation. Just a mutual caution."

Male smiled and erased the shadows.

The atmosphere brightens again.

It was just a warning, as he said.

There's no deeper meaning than that.

Since I've received a Level 1 access pass to the magic tower, I naturally have to accept this much.

I received it knowing this would happen.

"Let's get along well from now on."

"Yes. Let's do that."

I shook hands with Male.

A boy magician wearing large, nerdy-looking glasses.

He's smiling harmlessly, but in terms of skill, he might be equivalent to a gold badge adventurer.

At this point, I'm doubting whether he's really as young as he looks.

As Tower Master Mabel said, those who undergo mana adaptation frequently when young age more slowly.

Maybe the young-looking boy magician was once a successful adventurer in his prime.

There are many hidden strong ones in the labyrinth city.

Like a platinum badge holder running a weapon shop after retirement.

Or the unidentified and mysterious hole-in-the-wall shop owner.

"Phew."

Coming out of the magic tower, it feels a bit easier to breathe.

The air in the research area was too heavy, stuffy, and stale.

Maybe because it's underground, it felt poorly ventilated.

"Hm..? Porter?"

"Ms. Rien. It's been a while."

"Yes.. It's been a while. You've returned safely from the labyrinth.."

I was just thinking of going to see the young lady, when I ran into Rien who was approaching the magic tower.

"Are you going to the magic tower?"

"Yes.. It looks like I'll be living in the labyrinth city from now on.. I'm going to register as a magician in advance.. You?"

"I had something to drop off, so I came briefly. Is the young lady doing well?"

"Well..."

Rien, who was being awkward, told me about what happened yesterday.

"So, you came all the way to that house?"

"Yes.. Lea kept saying we should go.. I was worried, so we went, but it wasn't a lodging.."

"Huh. Did you hear any sounds from inside?"

"Sounds..?"

"It's nothing. I should go see the young lady."

"Yes.. She was really wanting to see you. Ah, right. And now, probably.. Lea is alone... Rica went to exercise. Erica is doing volunteer work at the temple.. I, I probably won't be back until evening either.."

Rien is hesitating for some reason.

What is it? Why can't she make eye contact?

"Is there something you want to tell me?"

"Hm..? Ah, no.. It's... That house the porter went to yesterday... It's the house where the guild master's daughter lives.. right?"

"You knew?"

"Well.. I found out that's what they say..."

The fact that Yuria and I were in the same house late in the evening implies just that.

Rien looked at me cautiously and continued speaking.

"The young lady.. she... a lot.. li.."

"Rien."

"Yes..?"

"Let's stop there. The young lady's feelings. I'll hear them directly from the young lady."

"Ah.. I'm sorry.. It's.. just.. yes."

"Then I'll be going. Take care of your business."

"Yes.. Sorry.."

Rien said she was sorry and went into the magic tower.

I don't understand what she's sorry about.

"Sigh."

The fact that Rien knows means that Lady Lea probably knows too.

I was going to tell her anyway. They just found out first.

"Would you please wait a moment."

"Yes."

I arrived at the high-class inn where the young lady is staying.

As always, the counter man said he would call the young lady and asked me to wait in the reception room.

As usual, I was helping myself to the free sugar cubes and cookies in the reception room when the young lady soon came in.

"Hello, porter."

"Uh.. Hello?"

For some reason, the young lady's eyes were swollen.

As if she had been crying until just now.

# Chapter 37: That's Fake Love

"..."

"Um, young lady?"

I called out, but the young lady was still turned away, facing the wall as if sulking.

What could have upset her so much to make her show such clear signs of distress?

Could it be because of Yuria?

No, but the young lady and I should just have an employer-employee relationship, right?

We did get a bit entangled while filming a survival show in the labyrinth, but if you ask if there was room for it to develop into anything more than that. Well. I think I clearly drew the line.

Of course, this might just be my own thinking too.

Just like how I deliberately ignored the fact that Yuria liked me.

"Young lady."

"...What."

"No, what do you mean 'what'. You told me to come report that I survived. I came to greet you."

"Mm.."

"Listen, young lady. Lady Lea."

"Mmm..?"

"If you have any complaints, please tell me. If you keep sulking like this, we won't be able to enter the labyrinth together."

Finally, the young lady met my eyes.

Her gaze was full of resentment.

What could she be so resentful about?

I can't fully understand her feelings.

I don't know if her feelings for me are affection or possessiveness.

I shouldn't jump to conclusions about anything until we have an honest conversation.

"Porter..."

"Yes."

"You... really... got a girlfriend?"

"Yes. A friend named Yuria."

"I know. The guild master's daughter, right? A renowned beauty even in the labyrinth city. Talented too. Skilled enough to soon get a gold badge. I know all that."

"That's right. It's her."

I calmly acknowledged it.

She seemed to already know.

But apparently unsatisfied with my answer, the young lady started questioning me.

"Why?"

"Pardon?"

"What's your reason for dating her?"

"Young lady, what do you mean by that?"

"You said it yourself. That you didn't like anyone who wasn't a slave. That you had no intention of dating an adventurer. So why are you dating that woman, who's not only an adventurer but a famous one? You said you'd marry a slave. You didn't even give me a chance. Why?"

"..."

I broke out in a cold sweat.

Because the young lady was looking at me resentfully.

"In the end, you just wanted power, didn't you? After realizing that nobles from outside the labyrinth city have no power in this city. You seduced that woman to make connections with someone powerful within the city, right? Or is that woman willing to be your slave? No way. There's no way such a proud woman would do that. Porter. I'm disappointed. If I... if I had been more capable... I could have been the one chosen..."

"Uh.. well. That's."

How should I respond to this?

No, Yuria...

She did say she'd become my slave.

It seems there's been some misunderstanding here.

Right now, the young lady is thinking:

She believes I chose Yuria, who is more capable, when she herself might have had a chance to be chosen.

She seemed upset, with feelings of inferiority and various other emotions mixed in.

Moreover, hearing her say she was disappointed in me, it seemed she thought I had taken Yuria for the sake of gaining power.

But that's not it.

The young lady didn't lose me to Yuria, nor did she miss her chance after liking me first.

Yuria was simply, literally, pure love.

She had been making advances on me for months.

When we were alone, she even promised she'd gladly become my slave.

She even said she'd consider allowing me to purchase a real slave to some extent.

Yuria is the person I ended up with due to these various complex factors building up.

But explaining this to the young lady is extremely difficult.

I mean, come on.

I can't just say, 'Yuria agreed to be my slave when we're alone.'

It's not like Yuria and I agreed on this beforehand.

To spontaneously reveal this fact to the young lady, I need to consider Yuria's position too.

"First of all, young lady. I think there's some misunderstanding here."

"Misunderstanding? What misunderstanding."

"First, I'm not really interested in power. To begin with, I'm already on friendly terms with the guild master, so there's no need to go through the trouble of seducing his daughter."

"...Is that so?"

"Yes. And I'm not sure how much you've looked into, but Yuria... has been connected to me for months."

"I knew that.."

"You knew?"

"..Yes."

"Then this will go faster. I originally only intended to date slaves, but. Well, circumstances being what they are.. That's how it ended up. You understand, right? I found there are no absolutes in life."

"Right. There are no absolutes. Right?"

"Huh? Yes. That's right."

"Yes. There are no absolutes. That means there's no absolute rule that you won't date me either. Since there are no absolutes."

"What?"

"You said there are no absolutes. There's no law saying someone has to monopolize you alone."

The young lady's eyes gleamed with desire.

No, what is this. Why on earth is she acting like this towards me?

She's not even a minor noble.

A story of a true pureblood noble lady falling for a mere porter.

Where did the plausibility of this go?

This isn't right.

The young lady seems to be misunderstanding something about her own feelings right now.

No, it must be a misunderstanding.

I think this needs to be corrected quickly.

"W-wait a moment. Young lady. You're, how should I put it. Right. You're mistaking the swaying bridge effect for attraction to me."

Yes, this must be a misunderstanding.

The young lady said she grew up so preciously that she hadn't even properly held a man's hand, let alone dated.

So she's developed an strangely strong attraction to me, the first man she's been close to.

The young lady is still a frog in a well, so she seems to have developed too deep an affection for me.

The world is vast. Once she meets someone better or more handsome than me, she'll probably soon realize this is fake love.

"The swaying bridge effect?"

"Yes. Developing attraction to someone you were with in a moment of crisis. Something like that. In my opinion, your current feelings are closer to comradeship than love."

"Comradeship. Hmm."

"Right. Comradeship. You know, that thing where comrades who went through the same battlefield together develop a deep friendship."

"This feeling. Is just simple friendship?"

"Yes. It's friendship. Comradeship. It's not love."

It can't be love.

Because she's not a slave?

Because she's an adventurer?

No, those aren't the reasons.

I've already put aside those two reasons to some extent since deciding to date Yuria.

The real problem is something else.

'Her family background and doting father.. and probably her brother who's almost certainly a siscon.'

I fear the men in that family.

99.9% chance they'll try to kill me.

They might secretly send assassins to the labyrinth city to murder me inside the labyrinth.

Of course, I know that's an extreme scenario, but nobles tend to be extreme.

'It's scary.'

To be honest, of course I'd be happy that such a pretty person likes me.

Setting everything else aside, the young lady is beautiful.

She has the will to grow and she's rich too.

But those things aren't more precious or important than my life.

"A misunderstanding. This is my misunderstanding?"

"That's right. There are many other handsome and cool people in the labyrinth city besides me. If you interact with various people, you'll eventually find true love, young lady."

"True love, huh. Hmm. Is that so?"

"Yes! That's how it is."

"What if it's not?"

"Huh?"

"What if it's not a misunderstanding? What if it's not just friendship or comradeship? What if there's no man who makes my heart race more than you?"

"Th-that's..."

The young lady smiled.

It's the first smile she's shown since we started talking today.

A smile like a chess player who's seen the end of the game.

Why does that smile, so sure of victory, make me so uneasy?

I felt like I'd fallen into a trap.

"Hey, porter."

"Yes, young lady."

"Shall we make a bet?"

"A bet?"

"Yes. A bet. You're trying to keep pushing me away for some reason, aren't you?"

"..."

"Whether it's because of that Yuria woman or whatever, I don't care. I'll go along with it. But, if I keep liking you, then you lose. If my feelings cool off, then you win. How about it?"

It wasn't a bet about trying to win love.

She was literally saying she wanted to find out if her current feelings were real or not.

"If, as you say, these feelings are a misunderstanding. If it's fake love. Then I'll cleanly let go of my obsession with you. But."

Gulp.

"If I keep liking you from now on. If I become certain these feelings are real. Then you'll have to accept me too."

"B-but I'm already spoken for..."

"Practice polygamy."

"What?"

"A truly charming man should be able to have about three wives, I think."

What an open-minded way of thinking.

This young lady's thinking is quite detached from typical noble thinking.

Just looking at how positively she accepts the Elixir of Resurrection, which is considered social death, shows how open-minded a noble she is.

I didn't expect it to be to this extent.

Or is it because she's a noble that she can think this way?

"Even if I practice polygamy. The status difference between you and me is too big..."

"Get a platinum badge."

"What? A platinum badge?"

"Yes. If you get a platinum badge, who could say anything to you? It means you're a national-level powerhouse. You're sharp, so you must have noticed why empires and kingdoms don't invade this small labyrinth city."

The biggest reason world powers leave the labyrinth city alone.

The existence of platinum badge holders.

A platinum badge is no different from calling someone a one-man army.

Even just a gold badge is considered to have stepped into the realm of superhumans.

A platinum badge, which is above gold, is literally a monster.

You could call them living war deterrents.

It would be easy to bring a large army and sweep through the labyrinth city.

But preventing assassination attempts by rampaging platinum badge holders is another matter.

"Even a gold badge would be fine. It's proof you can be recognized outside the labyrinth city regardless of whether you're noble or not."

The young lady says to at least get a gold badge if a platinum badge is impossible.

"No, that's not an easy thing to- Ow!"

"Hey, look at me properly."

As I kept trying to refuse, the young lady grabbed my face.

We get close enough that our breaths mingle. Her eyes draw nearer.

The young lady's lips brush past mine.

"Are you going to let me go? Wouldn't you regret it? I'll persuade Yuria myself. You just focus on improving your skills."

"..."

"Buy slaves too. I won't touch them. But. If my feelings don't change in the next 6 months. You have to accept me unconditionally."

"May I ask... why 6 months specifically?"

"It probably took that Yuria woman 6 months to win you over. So I'm confirming my feelings in the same amount of time. How about it? Will you accept quietly? If you keep refusing. It won't be fun."

Is this noble pressure?

I glimpsed the noble stubbornness and obsession of obtaining whatever they want by any means necessary.

"If you don't accept the bet..."

"I'll threaten you. I'll spread rumors so everyone in the world knows I like you. I'll make sure it reaches my father's and brother's ears too."

"Wh-what madness!"

I was threatened by the young lady.

A threat to self-destruct if I don't accept the bet.

"I'm sure you'll find someone else."

"We'll have to see about that. Hehehe."

I couldn't refuse the bet.

Within the next 6 months, I have to get rid of the young lady's attraction to me.

# Chapter 38: That Kind of Side Effect

"This is driving me crazy."

I walked down the street, lost in thought.

The young lady who sent me away today, saying to come back another time, as if playing hard to get.

I've completely fallen into her pace.

'6 months.'

Within that time, I had to achieve one of two goals.

Either make the young lady fall in love with someone else.

Or achieve gold badge or higher within 6 months.

Of the two, the relatively easier one is making the young lady fall in love with someone else.

The method isn't that difficult either.

I just need to act in subhuman ways or do things that would make her lose interest in me to lower her affection for me.

But.

"I don't want to."

Yes. This is the biggest problem.

I didn't want to act that way in front of the young lady.

As long as she doesn't leave the labyrinth city, we'll keep being entangled in the future.

To be more precise, I guess I don't have the courage to be hated by the young lady.

I'll continue to enter the labyrinth as the young lady's guide in the future.

It would be more helpful for labyrinth expeditions to be relied on rather than hated.

In the end, if I don't have the courage to be hated, I have no choice but to become stronger.

There are only two options, but I don't want to do one, and the other I might not be able to do even if I want to.

The worst binary choice.

A gruesome dilemma.

'How can I get a gold badge within 6 months?'

I haven't even gotten a silver badge yet.

Becoming an adventurer recognized by the Lionel family by getting a gold badge within 6 months?

Of course, it's not that there's no way.

'I could register at the martial arts hall and keep training. And grind like crazy in the labyrinth.'

I'd have to dedicate my life to it.

I've inherited the talent of Shaka, who was probably platinum badge level in his lifetime.

If I can utilize this talent well, I think there's a good chance I could grow close to gold badge level within 6 months.

"Haah. Huaaaaaah."

I kept sighing.

I feel so frustrated and like I'm cornered on all sides.

It feels like I've fallen into a trap.

The young lady's love is too heavy.

"Kuaaaaah."

When I screamed in front of the red-light district, people looked at me strangely.

People slowly avoided me as if wondering if I had caught some venereal disease.

"Sigh. What's the use of worrying."

I'll just have to go with the flow, I guess.

What else can I do?

I don't even know how Yuria will react in the first place.

If I'm going to keep entering the labyrinth, I think I'll need to buy a slave for life assistance.

First, let's go to the hole-in-the-wall shop.

I have things to ask Raphnel, and things to tell her too.

"Hello."

"Hm? Sion. You came back sooner than I expected this time. Did your labyrinth trip end well?"

"Yes. I almost died, but I came back with all my limbs intact."

"Good thing your limbs are intact. It would be troublesome if a regular customer of our shop died somewhere."

Raphnel grins.

"But for someone who came back alive and well, your expression doesn't look good? Did something happen?"

"Ah, well. How should I put it. It's woman trouble."

"Woman trouble? Did you find someone you like?"

"Well, that's. I'm not sure how much I should tell you. It's a bit complicated."

"Complicated? You have complicated woman trouble?"

"No, what's with that reaction?"

Raphnel asks back as if doubting I could even have a woman.

I'm a man too, so of course I could have a woman.

No, what's with that contemptuous reaction?

Does Raphnel have a man, asking like that?

I'm suddenly getting annoyed?

"No, well. You said woman, so. I was just curious. Pfft."

"You rotten old hag!"

"What!? Hey! How dare you call an unmarried young lady an old hag!"

"Huh? Wait, Raphnel. You're not married?"

She's not married?

She must be over a thousand years old?

Does that mean she's been single for over a thousand years?

I know virgins are supposed to be good, but a thousand-year-old virgin seems a bit strange.

It gives off a strong feeling of being a landmine.

"..."

"No, someone of Raphnel's age should have seen great-great-grandchildren by now-"

Thwack!

"Gack!?"

In an instant, Raphnel approached faster than the eye could see, flicked my forehead, and returned.

I really couldn't even react.

Seeing Raphnel already back in her original spot gave me goosebumps.

"Wh-what was that just now? How did you..."

"Hmph. Old hag, you say. How annoying."

"Huh?"

"Never mind. There's no point in getting angry at a child. Anyway, woman trouble, you say. Is it a love triangle or something?"

"I'm not sure if this counts as a love triangle. If I don't get a gold badge within 6 months, the woman's family might kill me."

"Did you mess with a noble or something?"

"It's not so much that I messed with a noble, but more like a noble messed with me."

"You got bitten. Sigh. Tsk tsk. Good luck. Nobles have always been a bit peculiar, now and then."

When I said I got bitten by a noble, Raphnel shook her head looking at me pitifully.

"But something's been bothering me since earlier. Did you eat something strange in the labyrinth?"

"Huh? Something strange?"

"Something's possessed your eyes."

"Ah. I was actually going to talk about that. My spirit eye awakened this time."

"Oho. Is that so? Interesting. What did you see with your spirit eye? I'm curious. Very curious."

"Well..."

I summarized and explained to Raphnel the process of my spirit eye awakening, what I saw after it awakened, and what happened afterwards.

Raphnel's expression grew more serious as I spoke.

"Hmm. Shaka, you say."

"Do you know about Shaka?"

"I know. Of course I do. He's quite a figure from the distant past. It was back when there was only one entrance to the upper levels."

"When there was only one entrance to the upper levels?"

"Yes. I can't even estimate how many years ago it was. Shaka was one of the explorers at that time. A nostalgic name. Poor thing, wandering the labyrinth for so long even after death."

Currently, there are 4 entrances to the upper levels.

The underground tomb, the sewer, the breeding ground, and the botanical garden.

If it was when there was only one entrance to the upper levels, it must have been long before the number increased like this.

Considering the great change as a kind of labyrinth update, I wonder how many years ago Shaka lived.

"Anyway, it's quite interesting that his remnant remains. And as your hypothesis suggests. If you can bring out souls wandering the labyrinth and obtain their remnants, you might really become an all-purpose adventurer."

"Right?"

"However."

Raphnel paused and looked into my eyes.

As if trying to read something else inside them.

"You should be careful. There will be those who covet your eyes."

"Covet... my eyes?"

"That's right. Now that they've awakened. There are probably some who have noticed... Above all, your spirit eye doesn't just end with seeing things, does it?"

Certainly, Raphnel is right.

My spirit eye didn't just end with seeing something.

It allowed me to communicate with what I could see, let me contain that something in my body.

Furthermore, it helped that something 'escape from the labyrinth'.

"Ah."

Now I realized.

My spirit eye didn't just end with letting me see spirits.

It was a kind of escape route and means for souls trapped in the labyrinth to get out.

"Now you understand?"

"Yes. This... this is dangerous."

"That's right. Those who seek 'reverse migration' will surely covet your eyes."

"Reverse migration?"

"Yes, reverse migration. There are occasionally such creatures. Weirdos who want to go outside."

We descend as we explore the labyrinth.

However, some things belonging to the labyrinth try to come out through reverse migration.

Independent movement between layers is practically impossible.

But if they borrow a human body, the impossible becomes possible.

"There have been cases where labyrinth monsters escaped to the surface in various ways."

Raphnel told me about things she had seen in the labyrinth city over time.

"Possessing, or parasitizing. Or even disguising themselves as items. Those that came up to the surface like that invariably brought terrible results."

"That's a disaster in itself."

"Indeed. Most things seeking reverse migration brought calamity. Of course, they also brought corresponding blessings."

Blessings?

From what I heard, most things seeking reverse migration crawled up from below the underground city, from the deep levels.

And when they came to the surface, they killed many people before being subjugated.

I wonder what kind of blessings they left behind.

Raphnel didn't tell me.

It must be a secret.

"Anyway, there are things that seek reverse migration in various ways. Your eyes are like a ticket for escape from their perspective."

It was quite a scary story.

Things trying to get out of the labyrinth might target me.

"Be careful."

"Yes. Thank you for the advice."

If it weren't for Raphnel's advice, I wouldn't have realized.

My spirit eye had power beyond just seeing.

'Reverse migration.'

For some reason, it gave me chills.

It feels like the malice of the labyrinth has taken one step closer to me.

To get a gold badge within 6 months, I'll have to keep entering the underground city consistently.

I have a lot of anxiety and worries in many ways. I really need to get stronger.

"Ah, by the way, about that potion that turns you into a rat."

"Hm? Ah! Yes. How was it? A masterpiece, right? Isn't it amazing? How did it feel to turn into a rat? How did it taste?"

"The taste was fine. Turning into a rat was good, but the side effect was a bit..."

"Side effect.. Right, there was a side effect. Yes, what kind of side effect was it?"

"No, becoming furry is a bit much, isn't it?"

The potion that turns you into a rat.

It certainly played a great role in this labyrinth trip.

But due to the side effect, I momentarily felt lust for Horaru.

Of course, now that the effect has worn off, I've returned to normal sexual preferences.

"I see. So there was such a side effect."

"Becoming furry every time I drink the potion seems a bit much."

"It's effective, but I can't eliminate the side effects. Hmm. What should we do."

"How about lowering the price a bit?"

"Eek? Lower the price? Th-that's a bit..."

"If you don't lower the price, really no one will buy it."

"...That's troublesome. I prepared it ambitiously. I've already made 10 bottles."

"I might consider buying it for 5 gold."

"You crazy thief!"

Was it too much to slash the price of a 20 gold item to 5 gold?

"Ah, don't get mad. Okay. How about we settle on 7 gold?"

"No, no... 7 gold?"

"Yes. You don't have any customers anyway. And you open your mouth when I come visit after being alone all day. You enjoyed talking to me, right? Hearing about what's going on in the world."

"..7 gold is a bit of a loss..."

"Oh come on. Do you have any other customer who raises your shop sales like I do?"

"...7 gold. Hmm."

Raphnel pondered for a while, then nodded.

"Alright. Let's do that. 7 gold. Yes."

"Yes!"

"But. I'd like you to experiment with the performance of this item."

"Huh? This is..."

"It's a Ring of Etherealization."

"What!? Wait, is it okay to just give something like this away?"

Ring of Etherealization.

An absurdly broken item that temporarily turns the wearer into a semi-transparent ethereal state.

"Well, you see. It seems to definitely etherealize, but I don't know what the side effect is."

"Uh.. that's a bit..."

She doesn't know what the side effect is.

Should I take this or not?

Etherealization is certainly good.

It could be considered a truly overpowered item.

But the drawback of not knowing the side effect was too big.

"It's not like, fatal or anything, right?"

"Oh, come on. Kid, when have I ever made something with such side effects? This time too, it'll probably be 'that kind of side effect' like always."

That kind of side effect?

Let's see.

The side effect of the stamina tonic was forced erection.

The side effect of the rat transformation potion was becoming furry.

"The side effect of etherealization is..."

"Well. What kind of side effect could it be."

I wonder what kind of side effect it could be.

I decided to try using the ring.

# Chapter 39: The Great Etherealization Commotion in the Red-Light District

"I'll try it on and let you know."

"Do that. And since it's an item with unknown side effects. I hope you don't use it in the labyrinth before figuring out what the side effect is."

"Of course. There's no way I'd use an unverified item in the labyrinth."

While the rat transformation potion had information about changing preferences, this Ring of Etherealization had absolutely no information about its side effects, so I decided to try it outside the labyrinth first.

'Where should I try it?'

Raphnel said that since the duration of the Ring of Etherealization varies depending on the mana possessed, my current limit would probably be about 1 to 2 minutes.

If my body is inside a wall or floor when the etherealization effect ends...

'Instant death.'

Etherealization nullifies physical attacks and allows passing through walls and floors.

It's the best item for escaping or avoiding traps.

But unless your body is harder than steel, even a small mistake can easily lead to fatal injuries.

So when using it, you always need to time when the effect will end.

If you miscalculate even by 1 second, you could get stuck in a wall or floor and die instantly.

'It's important to figure out the side effects, but to use this properly, I'll need practice in the end.'

To use it in actual situations, I needed to get a bodily sense of when the etherealization effect would end.

So I absolutely had to experiment outside the labyrinth first.

"Should I try it here?"

I came to a suitable open space.

It's an open area that vagrant children in the red-light district use as a playground.

It's adequately spacious. And there are no structures.

Isn't this the most suitable place to test the ring's performance?

If I try experimenting in a room or building and stupidly get stuck in a wall or structure, I'll die.

An open area or empty space seemed perfect for experimenting with etherealization.

Fortunately, maybe because it's lunchtime, no one was around.

The timing is just right to experiment with etherealization.

'Now that I've got my hands on such a rare item. I can't resist.'

An item like the Ring of Etherealization is truly a rare treasure that you can't get even if you want to.

Raphnel is a strange person for casually making such an amazing thing and tossing it to me to try out.

"Let's see. Do I activate it like this?"

She told me to experiment with the ring's performance once and let her know the results later.

If the performance is good, I'll definitely have to slash the price and buy it as cheaply as possible.

This is how you use the hole-in-the-wall shop.

If I buy at full price, I'll go bankrupt.

In the first place, what's wrong with ripping off a rich old elf a little.

She's going to live for a long time anyway.

No matter how much I struggle, I'll probably die before living even 100 years.

I believe someone who will live for thousands of years won't get mad over just a few gold coins.

"Well then."

I infused mana into the ring and activated etherealization.

For a moment, I felt like my body was floating, and then all the clothes I was wearing came off.

-Wh-what's this!

Don't tell me, as my body became ethereal, all the clothes I was wearing passed through my body?

This is crazy!

The etherealization only made my body ethereal.

The clothes I was wearing were outside the effect's target.

Isn't this a side effect from the start?

No, having all your clothes come off is quite troublesome.

-Ugh. Why is my voice like this too.

Even my voice became strange.

It became extremely thin and seemed to tremble severely.

It's like speaking with a vibrating massager against your vocal cords after inhaling a lot of helium gas.

My voice became like an annoying little kid.

-Ugh..

Moreover, in this state, I couldn't touch anything.

In exchange for nullifying physical attacks, I couldn't exert any physical influence either.

I can't put anything into my inventory, and even if I take something out, it's impossible to grab it.

My body is floating, and with all my clothes off, I can only move around.

'This seems full of flaws. No, wait. I can't pick up objects, but I can take them out... Ah!'

If I put my hand into an enemy's head and take out an object while etherealized....

This is an instant kill move!

If I put my hand in an enemy's head and take out a dagger from my inventory.. Wouldn't their brain turn to mush?

'But the drawbacks are too big.'

It's not completely invisible, but semi-transparent, so enemies can perceive me.

Moreover, I'm strangely slow, so it seems difficult to approach quickly. Even the wind easily blows my body backward.

'It's good I experimented in an open space. To think even strong winds are a weakness. Not affected by physical attacks but affected by wind. Hmm. This part is a bit problematic too.'

For now, it seems I need to get used to the etherealized state to use it properly.

Maybe movement speed will increase a bit once I get used to it?

'If only the clothes didn't come off, it might be usable.'

The fact that I have to move around naked was a bit concerning.

It means I have to show my naked body to everyone around.

Moreover, I have to repeat the act of taking off and putting on clothes every time I activate etherealization.

It seems to lack convenience.

'If used well, it could be an instant kill move, but. For now, it seems the drawbacks need to be compensated for.'

Anyway, it's about time for the effect to end.

I should quickly put on my clothes and go back to Raphnel's shop to tell her it needs some more work.

"Huh? What's that?"

"Ah! Ahhh!!! Gh-ghost!"

"What! It really is a ghost!"

"Kyaaaaa!"

-Uwaaa...!!!

This is crazy.

The owners of the open space came back before the ring's effect ended.

'Damn vagrant kids!'

The kids started throwing rocks at me and causing a commotion.

I tried to explain that I'm not a ghost, but no one listens to me.

No, rather than not listening, it seems they can't understand well because my voice in the ethereal state trembles too severely.

Moreover, the kids were terrified.

They were in a panic and didn't try to talk with me.

"Disappear!"

"Don't take our playground!"

"Kill it! Kill the ghost!"

"Brother! I'm scared!"

"Those under 7 years old, get back! It's a monster! A monster crawled out of the underground tomb!"

Ah, those kids are seeing me as a monster.

Well, they are children of the labyrinth city after all.

It's understandable they'd think an evil spirit escaped from the underground tomb.

Yes, that wasn't the terrified reaction of modern people seeing a ghost, but fear felt towards a monster that crawled out of the labyrinth.

It was different from pure terror.

It was ingrained fear towards monsters.

"What's going on?"

"Huh? That's...!"

As the vagrant children of the red-light district started shouting that I was a ghost and began fighting, soon the women of the red-light district who were sleeping during the day in preparation for night work started peeking at the open space.

"Oh my, my, my! A b-big ghost!?"

"Kyaaa...! It's big.."

"Hmm. Looks like a young man ghost."

"Sisters, I'll call the guards for now."

The adults pulled the children back and called for guards.

I need to run away.

But I can't run away.

'The etherealization effect will end soon.'

The area is completely blocked off by the gathered people.

To escape, I'd need to pass through a wall or fence.

But what if the etherealization wears off then?

I'd be stuck in the wall and die instantly.

"What is that!"

"It really is a ghost!"

Shit.

The guards have come.

-It's not a ghost!!! It's because of the etherealization effect! Ack!

The etherealization wore off while I was explaining.

"Wait, it was a person!?"

"Who are you! What were you trying to do in the red-light district!"

"That's not it! This is because of the side effect of this accessory! Ack!"

"Catch him! Illegal use of supernatural abilities and public indecency! And causing unrest in the labyrinth city! Arrest him!"

I was caught by the guards.

In an instant, I was pinned to the ground and handcuffs were put on both arms.

I could have resisted if I wanted to, but the moment I picked a fight with the guards here, it would become a challenge to the public authority of the labyrinth city.

It would only make the situation worse. A problem that could end with a fine might escalate to actual prison time.

Above all, I didn't want to have a life-or-death battle with a gold badge adventurer, so I decided to just let myself be arrested quietly.

Clang!

"Ugh.. shit."

I was thrown into an iron cell.

The stone floor is disgustingly cold.

"W-wait! I want to call a guarantor!"

"You want to call a guarantor? You criminal!"

"No, really. Look at this!"

When I took out an item from my spatial pocket and showed it, the guard's eyes widened.

"I'm a spatial pocket owner. I was at the forefront of the labyrinth conquest team after the great change. You've heard the rumors, right?"

"I've heard, but.."

"There's a misunderstanding here. I absolutely wasn't naked in the children's playground trying to do anything bad. I want to call a guarantor. Here, take this first."

I handed 2 gold coins to the guard.

When unfair things happen, you can't leave out bribes.

This is a medieval labyrinth city with no laws against improper solicitation.

Bribes can be considered the most important factor in escaping unfair situations.

"Hmm. You want to call the guild master as your guarantor? A spatial pocket owner, and 2 gold coins. For now, stay locked up there. I'll relay the message to the guild."

"Thank you."

With this, I bought some time.

The guards of the labyrinth city have a strangely honest aspect.

Once they receive a bribe, they provide as much convenience as possible.

They can't ignore me after I offered 2 gold coins.

Anyway, the stone floor is too cold.

I took out spare clothes from my inventory, put them on, and leaned against the wall.

To think I'd end up in a cell just for experimenting with the etherealization ring.

Moreover, this side effect is pretty shitty.

'Damn it.'

The side effect of the etherealization ring.

It's...

-Hey, can you hear us?

-Hehe. Looks like he can hear and see us?

-Hey. Kid. Can you see us? You can, right? You can see us, right? Hm?

-Look at this~ It's a pussy! Hehehehehe!

-Oh my, what composure this little boy has.

-This brat is really trying hard to pretend he can't see us, huh?

-How cute. Little Eastern boy. Look at the pussy. Come on. Hurry.

-A guy with just a big dick has a lot of pride, huh?

-Kehehehehehe. Look at how red his ears are. So cute.

What are these crazy evil spirits?

As soon as the etherealization wore off, these prostitute ghosts started appearing.

Three evil spirits.

One had bandages wrapped around her eyes, another had her hair hanging down to cover her eyes, and the last one had pitch-black eyeballs.

I couldn't tell if they were wearing clothes or not.

They keep circling around me as if trying to seduce me, talking to me since earlier.

Could this be an effect of using etherealization in the red-light district?

It seems like crazy prostitute ghosts have latched onto me.

'I absolutely can't respond or show that I've noticed them.'

This was Raphnel's warning.

A warning not to give attention to low-level spirits.

She said it becomes troublesome if low-level spirits latch on.

It was strange from the start that things I couldn't see before suddenly became visible.

Could it be a result of the etherealization ring's side effect combined with my spirit eye?

But of all things, to think lustful spirits would latch on.

If I make a wrong move, I might die from having my energy sucked dry while being passed around by these three.

-Tch. Sis. This kid is no fun. He's not answering.

-Could it be someone told him about us?

-Did that bitch Raphnel tip him off? That rotten woman.

What?

They know Raphnel?

They might not just be low-level spirits.

What the hell is this? I don't understand. It's scary.

-Hey, kid. If you're going to ignore us, it's better to ignore us completely.

-Kehehehehehe. Cute little Eastern boy. You're so scared!

-Hey, just answer once. Hm? I'll show you my pussy. Hm?

-Sis. That won't work. This guy is determined to ignore us.

-Kehe. I wonder how long he can keep ignoring us?

-Yeah. Keep ignoring us. We'll torment you 7 times worse later when you slip up.

-Little Eastern boy. Look forward to tonight?

-Kehehehehehe!!!

Soon the three evil spirits disappeared.

Has the effect of the side effect ended?

"Shit.. I think I messed with the wrong thing."

I'm anxious.

What would happen if I answered their calls?

They were all ghosts with big breasts, but still, I'm scared.

There are too many hidden elements in this labyrinth city, so I'm terrified I might die if I make one wrong move.

"Hey, porter. As you said, the guild master herself has come."

"Ah..!"

As I was worrying about the three evil spirits that had just disappeared, the guild master herself came as my guarantor.

All the guards were extremely intimidated.

The Adventurers' Guild in the labyrinth city has a meaning beyond just a simple association.

Especially Moira, the guild master, is a big shot among big shots that even the nobles in the labyrinth city don't mess with carelessly.

"Guild Master..! I-I'm sorry. Because of me..."

"Sigh. Listen, Sion. What on earth were you doing? Why were you doing a nude show in the children's playground?"

"W-well..."

Yuria was also standing behind Moira.

Yuria looking at me with a grin, as if teasing me.

"Come out of the cell first. We'll talk later."

Moira probably won't let this incident slide.

She's likely to assign me some kind of request.

It's all fine.

It's all fine, but I'm so embarrassed I want to die.