# 344 - Don't You Want to Be a Graduate Student?

The morning sun pierced his eyes.

Despite falling asleep late, he felt refreshed.

It had been so long since he woke up feeling this fulfilled.

Pleasantly awake, Balkan brushed the hair off Diana's forehead as she slept, using his arm as a pillow.

"Ugh…"

Before his hand could even touch her hair, Diana flinched.

"Oh, were you awake?"

"Mmm… was I caught?"

"I didn't know since your eyes were closed… Can I touch your face?"

"You were going to touch it without permission just now."

"That's why I'm asking for permission now."

"Hmph."

Diana smiled faintly and took Balkan's hand, placing it on her cheek.

As Balkan enjoyed the feeling of Diana's soft, plump cheeks and neck, he realized something was missing from Diana's finger.

'Ah. The ring.'

Balkan belatedly realized that he had forgotten to give her the ring.

'Giving it last night… would have been a bit much.'

A proposal while patting her soft pussy with his hard cock on the bed.

It would be memorable for a lifetime, but it felt a little off.

Handing over ovulation stimulants and asking her to have a baby was a different feeling from slipping a ring on her finger.

No, maybe they were the same thing in a way.

'…Well, there will be a good opportunity. No, I have to make one.'

Postponing the ring gift for later, he gazed intently at Diana's body with languid eyes.

Her neck and chest were covered in dark red kiss marks.

The areas around her nipples and areolae had traces of being gently bitten.

Looking further down, he saw her thighs, marked with the traces of being ravaged all night, and her red, swollen, and even plumper pussy mound.

Facing the traces of a sweet night etched all over the body of a slutty female, he felt a surge of motivation from the morning.

A motivation to live even harder from now on.

Because she was no longer alone.

"Looking at me like that as soon as you wake up is a little embarrassing…"

Diana smiled awkwardly, but her expression revealed an undeniable joy.

A male who intensely desires her from the morning was nothing short of a self-esteem dispenser for a female.

Each time she pressed it, the feeling of being loved would fill her heart's cup to the brim.

"Should I not look then?"

"Ah, no! You know that's not what I meant…!"

"I'm not sure."

"Ugh, ugh…"

Balkan chuckled softly and hugged the embarrassed Diana tightly.

Diana also smiled gently and embraced him.

On his back were the scratch marks Diana had left throughout the night.

Caressing the traces of conquest they had left on each other, they headed to the shower together.

To wash away the sweat and arousal fluid that soaked their bodies.

"Ugh…"

"Ah, I'm sorry…"

"It's okay. There's no need to apologize."

Diana, who was wiping his back with a towel, touched a scratch from her nails.

The vivid pain was rather satisfying.

It was proof that he had spent a hot and sweet night with Diana last night.

He could easily heal it with his now quite skilled healing miracle, but he left it as it was, filled with satisfaction.

"Ugh… it's still, flowing out…"

Semen mixed with hot water leaked from Diana's pussy mound and flowed between her thighs.

Seeing Diana not scraping away the flowing semen but rather trying to stop it as if it were precious, he instinctively felt a strange impulse and a sense of satisfaction as a male at the same time.

Soaked in happiness, we carefully washed each other's bodies and came out of the shower to face…

“…Uh, eh?”

It was Ellie, with a dazed expression, looking as if she had just woken up.

"Foster mother and Mister… no, Oppa…? Uh?"

Ellie was confused as she looked at her foster mother and benefactor.

Ellie knew best that the two of them were in a deep relationship, as she had spent her first night with them in the same bed. But.

'…It's gotten, more intense…?'

She could feel that the very faint wall that had been separating the two of them while she was drunk and asleep had now completely crumbled.

Looking at the two people whose bodies were covered in the marks of lovemaking, Ellie realized that the moans she had heard in her sleep were not a figment of her imagination.

And that her foster mother had fulfilled her unfulfilled wish as soon as the Curse of rejection of inadequate penis intrusion was lifted.

“…Co, congratulations?”

So many thoughts crossed her mind. But the first words that came out of her mouth were a blessing for her foster mother finding a new partner.

Even though that partner was the one who had taken her virginity and spent a night with her foster mother and her.

"Oh, uh… thank you…?"

"……"

Diana nodded, wondering if it was right to receive congratulations from the child she had raised like a daughter for having her virginity taken, and Balkan laughed inwardly at the subtle silence.

He didn't know if this was a situation to laugh at…

He just felt like laughing.

'This is… family?'

Not the only family he shared blood with.

A strange feeling of being connected to people with different blood.

The feeling was so strange and joyful that Balkan clenched his fist and vowed.

To protect his family.

Both the family he was connected to by blood and the family he was not.

And in order to solve that major premise.

"Ellie."

"Yes, yes? Dad… Ah, no! Oppa!"

"Are you ready to go to the Labyrinth?"

“…Oppa, your tone has become very gentle…”

"Are you ready?"

"Yes!"

They had to head back to the Labyrinth.

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The main objective of this Labyrinth trip, the request received from the royal family, was simple.

To protect Ellie.

As a royal magician, Ellie was tasked with escorting the injured to the healing fountain in the Labyrinth to alleviate the burden on the temple in preparation for the omen cycle that would arrive in a month.

Using Portal magic, a rare magic that only Oman's demon worshippers and Ellie could wield, at least for now.

She would take people to the fountain on the 10th floor to heal them and then return using Portal magic.

Of course, with the number of injured reaching hundreds, it would be a major operation that would take at least ten days.

And the key to that operation was, of course, Ellie, who wielded Portal magic.

"Are you going to be okay? You're going to suffer Mana exhaustion dozens of times."

Although they had succeeded in streamlining Portal magic through various recent studies, Ellie still couldn't wield Portal magic perfectly.

Even for Ellie, the youngest royal magician, it was a daunting task to use magic that made her tired after only two or three uses in succession.

Ellie answered confidently to the worried voice.

"I have Mana recovery Potions and artifacts supported by the royal family, so the burden is a little less. And Oppa, it's not 'Are you going to be okay?'"

"Huh?"

"It's something I have to do, so I'm doing it."

Ellie said confidently, her red eyes shining, and puffed out her chest and tensed her shoulders.

As if she was shouting that now was the time to praise her.

“…What a wonderful kid.”

"Hehet…"

As he ruffled Ellie's hair, who was wearing a wide-brimmed magician's hat and a Mana recovery-promoting artifact robe made of Arachne silk, she smiled brightly.

Balkan stroked Ellie's hair and thought.

'Ellie isn't exactly a righteous child.'

She was a girl who was full of jealousy and inferiority.

Those gloomy aspects had disappeared a lot as her relationship with her foster mother, Diana, had developed, but the wounds from the days when she was compared to her at the academy had not completely healed.

Ellie might be trying too hard now because she was excited to be a royal magician and to be in charge of a job that could save even injured people.

No, judging from Ellie so far, that was 10000% the case.

'…I hope she doesn't overdo it.'

Balkan smiled bitterly and patted Ellie on the back.

Every time he saw Ellie, who had taken his virginity and was walking a tightrope as the daughter and lover of his benefactor, he felt more worried and concerned.

'Portal magic…'

According to what he saw in the Puppeteer's memories, it was a magic with tremendous potential that could even go against time, as well as other worlds.

Of course, it was because the king during the Great War was uniquely skilled in Portal magic, but after repeated research, there was a possibility that Ellie would also gain similar power.

'So Oman's worshippers are also targeting Ellie.'

According to Lilith, a worshipper of the demon of lust, that Duke beastman, the only other person besides Ellie who could use Portal magic, was targeting Ellie, who would become his assistant and nourishment.

The royal family also seemed to be aware of the situation in a similar way, so they entrusted us, who had a track record of defeating not only demon worshippers but also demons, with the escort.

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'The reason for revealing the Portal magic, which should be kept secret, is also bait to lure Oman's demon worshippers.'

If they caught them, it would be a profit, and even if they caught them and missed them, they could grasp the movements of the demon worshippers who might do anything, so it was a profit in its own way.

Restoring the temple's capacity and winning the hearts of the citizens by healing the injured.

Acquiring research data through the large-scale operation of Portal magic.

Luring Oman's demon worshippers.

'Since we're helping with three things, we'll be able to get quite a reward from the royal family.'

The reward for completing this request had not yet been determined, but considering the scale, he couldn't help but look forward to it.

"I hope it goes well…"

"Me too. There are so many people that accidents can't be completely avoided."

"Eungae… If there's anyone who causes trouble, I can tie them up tightly with binding magic and take them away."

Turning his head to the voice he heard from the side, he saw Rubia, Jubel, Nuer, and the other party members talking.

Since they were going back and forth between the Labyrinth and the ground through Portal magic, and the maximum entry floor was the 10th floor, there was no need to pack as much supplies as usual.

All they had were preserved food, maps, Potions, and the usual armor in case of an emergency.

"Master. We're almost there."

Densi, who was testing the Puppeteer's Magical threads at her fingertips, pointed to an empty lot in the distance.

Since they were using Portal magic, the injured transport operation started not at the entrance where the Labyrinth entrance Portal opened, but at a large empty lot to check the crowd.

The number of injured people gathered there was at least 50.

It was today's quota, and it was a number that required three or four uses of Portal magic to move.

"Lo, look over there!"

"Ebony armor, and a super-sized axe that's over 2m…! It's Balkan's party!!"

"If you see a slutty slave with a leash, a nuisance cow beastman, a roll-bun-haired knight, and even a dark elf kindergartener in tow, it's definitely them!"

As soon as they saw the people who would take them to the Labyrinth, they hurriedly raised their voices.

"My leg, my leg that was completely severed after falling into a trap on the 3rd floor…! Can it be healed if I go to the fountain?! I thought I wouldn't be able to live a normal life, let alone go to the Labyrinth anymore…!"

"I lost my right eye because of the Outlaw Zone who were rampaging during this riot! I want to see the world again, again with this eye…!"

"I didn't even get proper treatment at the temple because there were so many injured people, can I really get better again?! Please answer me!"

An explorer who lost his right leg in the Labyrinth.

A prostitute who lost his right eye after being caught up in a riot in the Outlaw Zone.

A woman who smelled of pus and rot and spoke in a voice trapped in despair, probably because she had been stabbed and had not received proper treatment.

Balkan looked at them and recalled the Puppeteer's memories.

The Hero who didn't ignore the weak even in a crisis where he almost died.

His younger sister, who had now become Mother Earth and told him to come to The Depths of the Labyrinth.

He couldn't be like her.

There was no change in that thought.

Even now, he still didn't think he could risk his life for strangers he had never met, like his younger sister.

But if it was now.

In a situation like now, where he had all the help, power, and conditions he needed…

"Follow me."

Maybe he could carry on her will a little.

"I'll make sure you don't die."

The red-haired elf magician opened a Portal to the 10th floor immediately after the man who would become her lover and father finished speaking.

# 345 - 81. Don't You Want to Be a Graduate Student? (2)

Labyrinth 10th Floor.

One-third of the way through the Labyrinth, which extends to the 34th floor, and a gateway to the middle levels.

What did I feel when I came to the 10th floor in the past?

'...I don't remember much.'

Except for the body realignment unique to floors divisible by 5, I skipped the 10th floor itself using a fountain teleport scroll, so I didn't have any special impressions.

But that's how Labyrinths are.

Just entering makes you feel suffocated and unpleasant.

Anxiety that seems to suppress a person's psychology.

Just as a person realizes they are nothing more than dust when looking at the universe, humans become infinitely small in the face of the grand Labyrinth.

Unless you're an irregular powerhouse like Idelbert, even the most skilled explorer can't wander around the Labyrinth as if it were their own backyard.

In that situation.

"Hngh..."

"Ugh, ah..."

Ordinary people had fallen into the 10th floor area, which even top-tier lower-level explorers found troublesome.

They moaned blankly with fear-stricken faces.

"I'm, I'm going to die. I'm going to die, I'm going to die...! I, I want to go back...!"

"Let me go back! I don't want to, I don't want to...!"

As is often the case with those who are terrified, they also fell into a panic and started blurting out whatever came to mind.

"This is, the air of the 10th floor..."

"It's much more fucked up than the 3rd floor..."

There were some who were originally explorers, but most of them played around below the 5th floor.

The 10th floor was unknown territory to them as well.

Kugugung!!

Balkan, seeing them, slammed his oversized axe into the ground.

The ground of the Labyrinth caved in and shattered as it was, due to the Demon of Gluttony being harbored within the sharply honed axe blade.

The noise and immense power that resonated from the point of impact were enough to gather the gazes of those who were terrified in one place.

"Don't freak out."

His calm yet deep baritone voice silenced those who were being consumed by the fear of the Labyrinth.

"There's no need for any of you to be afraid."

The voice was sincere and, at the same time, kind.

In a situation where everyone is terrified, the voice of a courageous person becomes a signpost for moving forward.

People looked at the signpost that would lead them.

"Our party will do the fighting, and we will definitely return you to the surface unharmed."

Gulp.

Some of the explorers swallowed hard at the declaration of protection from the sturdy male in black armor.

They saw the crater in the Labyrinth floor.

No matter how much they, who mainly operated in the upper levels of the Labyrinth, struck the ground, they couldn't create such a hideous crater with a single axe swing.

He made them understand the difference between them and himself with a single axe swing, and forced them to follow him.

"So, just follow quietly."

"Ye, yes..."

"I understand..."

As soon as he finished speaking, the citizens nodded their heads vigorously with weakened voices.

Jubel raised the corners of his mouth, watching the party leader, who had forcefully seized the atmosphere for the convenience of controlling the citizens.

"That's why we're so crazy about him."

Nuer, Rubia, Ellie, and Densi, who were blankly nodding their heads, looked at him before tearing up fountain teleport scrolls.

Wuuung—

Immediately, a portal to the fountain appeared, and the Balkan party escorted the people through the portal.

A tedious and simple task continued.

Ellie's Portal magic couldn't transport about 50 people at once, so they were divided into three groups and transported to the Labyrinth.

The first group of people transported to the Labyrinth were then transported to the fountain via fountain teleport scrolls.

And the injured were soaked in the healing waters that filled the fountain.

"My, my leg...! My leg is growing back...!"

"I can see again too... To be able to see the world again with these two eyes...!"

The only sanctuary in the unpleasant and frightening Labyrinth healed most injuries, except for congenital disabilities.

"This is the miracle of the Labyrinth, the healing fountain...! Ah! If only we could get this outside too...!"

"We're lucky to be able to use it like this now! Originally, only skilled explorers could even approach the fountain! Long live the royal family! May the Arlonia Kingdom last forever!"

"You idiot. Did the Queen move us to the Labyrinth? It's all thanks to these people."

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"I heard the Queen hired them!"

"...Is that so? Long live the Balkan party! Long live the Queen!"

The people, who had recovered from injuries they thought they would never heal and were filled with joy, were transported back to the surface using Ellie's Portal magic.

Since the citizens tore up the fountain teleport scrolls or opened portals before encountering any Monsters, there were no casualties unless they stepped on traps while running around in excitement and panic.

Nevertheless, the number of people was so large that one round trip took at least two hours.

"Look! The injured who went first!"

"Oh my god... They really healed?"

To the citizens of the worn-out Labyrinth City, the sight of severed limbs and eyelids growing back neatly was nothing short of a miracle.

About 50 injured people were filled with joy and relief.

They had seen hope that they too could be healed like them.

After a short rest.

Ellie opened Portal magic again, and the party members led the new injured to the Labyrinth.

"Protecting the academy students last time is helpful. It feels familiar."

"Eungae. I also have similar request experience, so it's much easier than that time. Well, it's mostly because we rarely encounter Monsters thanks to Portal magic..."

Due to Ramel's departure and Hitoris's overwork, the existing Joy Hogg party was half scattered, but Balkan and Jubel, the only remnants, had experience escorting academy students, so they could easily guide people.

The dark elf magician Nuer also had similar request experience.

"If I stretch Magical threads like this in all directions... hmm, it might be easier to detect signs..."

Densi operated the Puppeteer's Magical threads from the rear, combining them with her strength, hearing, to create a kind of Monster radar.

Her Magical threads would act like a kind of burglar alarm, alerting the group the fastest when a Monster or stranger approached.

"Ohohohot! Ellie's escort! Leave it to me! I, Rubia, will protect Ellie from head to toe! Ohohohot!"

Rubia, the roll-bun-haired noble lady tank, had no experience with escort requests, but she stuck right next to Ellie and took on her professional escort.

The main focus of this request was Ellie's escort.

If anything attacked Ellie, the reliable tank Rubia would buy time until the party members arrived.

"Ah, yes..."

Ellie, who was next to Rubia, felt like her energy was being drained, but judging from the smile on her face, she seemed to feel more satisfaction than fatigue.

Adrenaline was rushing as her Portal magic made people smile, and she heard countless citizens' thanks and party members' compliments.

"How much energy do you have left?"

Balkan approached Ellie and asked about the amount of Mana she had left.

Even if the situation was positive, the leader leading the party always had to prepare for any eventuality.

Entering the Labyrinth and returning to the surface.

Since she had to use Portal magic twice for one round trip, Ellie had to use Portal magic four more times today alone.

"I'm still okay!"

Ellie said confidently, wiping away cold sweat.

Portal magic required considerable Mana and preparation, so it was physically and magically exhausting.

It was also the leader's job to manage Ellie's condition.

"Tell me if it's hard..."

Balkan stopped talking.

She wasn't the type of kid to speak up if you told her to.

There was no way a kid who was crazy about getting compliments would stop doing something that would allow her to keep getting compliments.

"If it's hard, I'll pat you on the back, so take a break while you do it."

"...Huh?"

"I'll give you a 'You did a great job' sticker."

"......"

Gulp.

The moment she heard those words, Ellie's Adam's apple moved, and her elf ears twitched.

"...On the head? Or that... butt?"

"Wherever you want."

"...Euh-euhm! If I open the return portal this time, I might be a little tired..."

Seeing Ellie, who was blushing and looking around, made him feel less worried.

"......"

[……]

He escorted the injured again, feeling Ellie and the party members watching the scene, and Bunny, who had been less talkative lately.

5th day of transporting the injured.

Our party, which had already transported and healed over 200 injured people at the fountain, didn't feel as tired as we thought we would.

It was only natural.

This request was different from the usual trips to the Labyrinth.

Since we went back and forth to the Labyrinth with Portal magic, we didn't have to sleep in the Labyrinth.

We stayed in a warm tent with hot water installed by the royal family and the Explorer's Guild.

We also ate properly in the tent, so there were no problems.

We just had to be wary of Monsters and protect the people and Ellie while transporting the injured.

"This is the best easy request ever? It's like going camping in the Labyrinth."

As Jubel said, it was an easy request for us.

All the necessities of life, which were as big a threat as Monsters in the Labyrinth, were taken care of, so the perceived difficulty was lowered.

But that was only true for us.

"Heugh, heuk..."

Balkan carried Ellie, who was sweating profusely and too exhausted to walk, and patted her butt.

Soft flesh was caught in his relaxed fingertips.

Ellie's soft, plump, and chewy butt.

Cheop-sseok, cheop-sseok—

"Eueueut...!"

A gentle handprint of praise was stamped on Ellie's soft butt, which seemed to be clinging to his hand, begging him not to leave.

"You worked hard today too, Ellie."

"Heu, eueut... It's nothing..."

Ellie, whose Mana was almost depleted after using Portal magic over thirty times in the past few days, smiled bashfully.

If it weren't for the Potions and Mana recovery artifacts supported by the royal family.

At the same time, if Ellie's Portal magic experience hadn't exploded after using Portal magic dozens of times in a short period, Ellie's Mana would have been completely depleted by now.

"Today is the last of the injured, and the remaining injured are in better condition than before, so let's try our best one more time and rest in the tent today and tomorrow. I'll grill you some meat too."

"I'm definitely in favor... Half-elves eat meat well when they're tired too..."

He could feel Ellie, who was nestled on his broad back, chuckling.

Thanks to pushing hard in the early stages when she had energy, the future schedule for transporting the injured would be much easier, with only one group being moved per day.

But in order to do that, we had to open Portal magic one more time.

"Master. All of the injured this time have finished healing at the fountain."

Balkan nodded at Densi's report and turned to look at Ellie.

Ellie, who had her eyes closed tightly, raised her staff and manipulated Mana.

Soon, the moment her Mana rippled.

Clang!

The space in front shattered like a mirror, and then began to ripple as if the dimension was distorted.

Soon, the bizarre rippling began to swirl in a vortex with a certain pattern.

"Alright, everyone, let's go in!"

As soon as the portal, which looked like it would suck you in just by looking at it, was created, Jubel, thinking that he had finished today's request, danced his butt off and walked towards the portal.

The party members, who chuckled at the sight, were about to move their feet.

"...Huh...?"

Balkan heard Ellie's voice mixed with embarrassment.

"Everyone stop!!!"

Thud!

The party members, who had stopped walking at the party leader's shout, began to guard their surroundings, wondering what was going on.

"Ellie. What's wrong?"

"...I didn't open it."

Swish.

Ellie's Mana, which had been gathered on the staff to cast Portal magic, scattered.

A portal had clearly opened, but Ellie's Mana had not yet created Portal magic.

"That portal... I didn't open it with my Portal magic!"

This phenomenon meant one thing.

"I tried to time it right, but you're really quick to notice."

A third person other than Ellie had opened the portal.

Swish—

At the same time as the portal rippled.

Thud!!!

A peacock beastman who popped out from inside thrust sharply raised peacock feathers at Jubel's neck, who had stopped just before crossing the portal.

"Don't move. Genius magician and..."

The peacock beastman, who had taken Jubel hostage and smiled at Ellie, turned his eyes to the man in black armor.

"Demon hunter."

Balkan glared at the Demon of Pride's worshiper, who had called him a demon hunter and smiled, and drew his axe.

He had killed the Demon of Wrath's worshiper, made the Demon of Gluttony's worshiper Bel a mere slave, and made the Demon of Lust's worshiper Lilith his exclusive familiar.

He had subjugated the Demon of Greed Puppeteer and exploited his power, and killed the Demon of Gluttony and used him as a beloved pet.

The fact that the Demon of Pride's worshiper Ignorion had called him a demon hunter was proof that he had obtained some information about the inner workings.

"Ignorion, worshiper of the Demon of Pride."

"Oh my. You remembered?"

"That's not what you want to say."

Thud thud.

Balkan said with a dissatisfied look, poking the ground with his axe.

"Get to the point quickly. If you want to take a hostage and threaten me, just say what you have to say."

"Hey, uh... Balkan...?"

Jubel groaned in embarrassment at Balkan's appearance.

Could it be...

Was he so calm because it was him, not another party member or Ellie, who had been taken hostage?

"......"

On the other hand, the Demon of Pride's worshiper Ignorion regretted his choice of the past, looking at the arrogant man.

'...He's grown much faster than expected.'

It was only a few months ago that the man in front of him had faced the Demon of Wrath's worshiper Goth.

In that short time, that man had grown to the point where he could hold his head up straight even in front of a demon worshiper.

His mental strength was also so strong that he didn't even blink an eye even when one of his party members, who seemed to be the center of attention, was taken hostage.

'...If that's the case, the story changes.'

The Demon of Pride's worshiper Ignorion was not the type to be called arrogant, unlike the demon he worshiped.

He knew that there were people in the world who were stronger and more talented than him, and he sought possibilities from there.

Originally, he had intended to devour Ellie Ordia to gain enlightenment... but she saw it.

How quickly that genius magician's Portal magic had grown over the past few days.

"I want to make that red-haired half-elf magician my assistant."

That's why Ignorion said this.

"I want to restore the lost history of Portal magic with that girl."