# Chapter 40: There Are No People

"In exchange for this incident, there's a request I'd like you to take on."

"A request?"

"Yes. And I believe this request will be a clue to solving the problems the labyrinth city is currently facing."

"Problems facing the labyrinth city..."

"There are roughly three."

Moira informed me about the three problems currently facing the labyrinth city.

First, the massive loss of mid-level adventurers.

Too many mid-level adventurers died through the great change.

The resulting labor shortage and the void of silver badge holders who can explore the underground city is serious.

"Assuming the main source of income for the labyrinth city is in the underground city, if this void of silver badge rank continues, the labyrinth city will slowly wither and die."

"Certainly... all the expensive things come from the underground city."

If there are no silver badge holders to roam the underground city, not only will the economy be destroyed, but prices will rise and those who coexisted with adventurers will end up on the streets.

Even though there are gold and platinum badge holders, gold badges are far fewer in number compared to silver, and most platinum badges have either retired or become assimilated with the labyrinth and don't come out.

In the end, the most important thing for the labyrinth city is the number of silver badges, which form the economic foundation as the middle class.

Due to the void of silver badge rank adventurers, the labyrinth city would clearly lose its self-sustaining power and become subordinate to or colonized by other countries.

"If this continues, the freedom of adventurers will completely disappear. We don't know how outside forces will intervene."

"That's not good."

While gold and platinum badge level powerhouses would continue to be treated well, everyone below them would find it difficult to enjoy the same freedom as before.

The second issue is also serious.

The second problem is that the influx of new adventurers is being cut off.

Coupled with the previous mass loss of adventurers, the number of novice adventurers entering the labyrinth city has drastically reduced.

The number of people trying to become adventurers has decreased to the point where it's immediately noticeable.

It's as if everyone has become scared of the labyrinth, and the influx of adventurers has dropped extremely low.

"This is as serious a problem as the loss of mid-level adventurers. If there are no new adventurers coming in, it means there's no human resource to grow into the lost silver badge rank."

For the labyrinth city, which needs to quickly receive an influx and raise them to silver badge level that can be used in the underground city, this was an extremely serious matter.

And finally, the third.

Increased labyrinth difficulty.

Due to the great change, mutant monsters have appeared, and even in the upper levels, the number of monsters has rapidly increased, making survival difficult.

Moreover, completely new areas have been added to the underground city, further increasing the danger level.

This is the most serious.

"The first two problems could be solved somehow by bringing in manpower, but if we can't lower the fundamental problem of the labyrinth's difficulty. The labyrinth city will eventually fall ill and die."

Who would want to enter a labyrinth where you almost certainly come out dead if you go in alive?

This was the most fundamental problem.

Just lowering the labyrinth's difficulty would be enough to make people willing to enter.

"And this is information that hasn't been made public yet. The most serious problem with the difficulty increase due to the great change is that heretics have taken root in the underground city."

"So the theory about heretics appearing was true?"

"A party belonging to a conquest team that came up recently encountered heretics. It seems they've completely settled in the underground city."

"Not monsters.. but new enemies."

"The ones we completely exterminated long ago are now pretending to be monsters while wearing human disguises. This can be seen as a very serious problem."

Moira's eyes grew infinitely cold.

She seemed to be suppressing her anger towards the heretics.

"Has the location where the heretics appear been identified?"

"We're roughly identifying it. The place where they're estimated to be hiding is below the layer division of the underground city. They say the bastards are hiding in the new layer divisions that haven't been fully revealed yet."

It's already a headache that mutant monsters are using the continental common language.

Now, beings that were originally human have appeared as monsters.

The difficulty of the underground city has essentially risen to a level similar to the deep levels of the labyrinth.

"Above all, they were originally human. They've returned as indigenous species of the underground city after being devoured by the labyrinth. But they still use the abilities they had when they were human, they say."

"Since they have human intelligence. It'll be easier to deceive and eat people. They can probably use black magic and curses too..."

"I think they might even be capable of layer movement."

Layer movement.

This is a kind of authority granted only to humans who enter the labyrinth.

Layer movement through transfer stones is only possible for humans.

That's why monsters try to reverse migrate by possessing or parasitizing human bodies.

But the heretics devoured by the labyrinth were a bit different.

They've become able to freely roam the labyrinth by their own will.

They can not only come up but also go down.

Using the underground city as a base, they'll try to spread out.

Above all, they could come up carrying monsters from the deep levels.

"This is crazy. This information is confidential, right?"

"Of course it's confidential. It shouldn't be revealed to the public yet. Until we solve the immediate problems of the labyrinth city. There's nothing good about revealing the existence of the heretics. They seem to be half-hiding too. Haah..."

If we spread the news that heretics have appeared without having a solution prepared, it would only increase the chaos in the labyrinth city.

The influx would decrease further. Adventurers willing to go down to the underground city would disappear.

'Why are these problems occurring in the era I transferred to?'

If I had transferred 10 years ago, I wouldn't have been caught up in such shitty problems.

But if I had transferred 10 years ago, I wouldn't have met Yuria or the young lady.

"Anyway, to solve these problems of the labyrinth city, I want to entrust you with a request."

Lower the difficulty of the labyrinth.

Increase new adventurers.

A request to solve the problems scattered throughout the labyrinth city.

"The content of the request is simple. Go down to the underground city."

Moira finally opened her mouth about the request.

As repayment for getting me out of the cell, Moira wants me to go down to the underground city.

"No, wait a moment. I'm very grateful for getting me out of the cell. But isn't going down to the underground city a bit too much?"

I immediately raised an objection.

Of course, I'm grateful and thankful for getting me out of the cell.

Above all, I'm very grateful that she came running immediately when I called.

But I think it's a bit too much to ask me to enter the underground city in return.

It hasn't even been a week since I returned from the underground city, and now I'm being asked to go in again.

"Of course, I'm not asking you to go in right away. We're planning to start a subjugation operation in the underground city in a month. I want you to go down as part of the supply team and corpse retrieval team at that time."

So they're holding a subjugation operation after all.

The prediction I made with Rohan in the labyrinth has come true.

Send down the conquest team as the vanguard to assess the state of the labyrinth.

And then hold a subjugation operation to start large-scale monster hunting.

'An unlimited monster hunting period and unconditional purchase period.'

It means the guild, merchant alliance, and religious orders will join forces to unconditionally purchase monster corpses hunted by adventurers without considering market prices.

Therefore, starting a subjugation operation means they'll buy unconditionally.

Currently, entry to the underground city is restricted except for the conquest team.

Adventurers below gold badge are blocked from entering the underground city.

But when the subjugation operation starts, everyone who wanted to enter the labyrinth will crawl in.

Since the merchant alliance and religious orders, famous for being rich, have stepped up.

No matter how dangerous it is, adventurers who stake their lives for money will crawl in even knowing they might die.

Because they'll be given that much compensation.

If it's an amount worth risking their lives for, adventurers will go in.

They're probably trying to revitalize the temporarily stagnant economy of the labyrinth city like this.

Furthermore, they're likely trying to sweep through the labyrinth once through subjugation and lower the difficulty.

Right now, the number of monsters has abnormally increased.

There was a need to sweep through once.

"Moreover, in this subjugation operation, we've decided to purchase mutant monster parts at high prices and give rewards simultaneously."

"So I'll be in charge of overall supplies while also retrieving corpses."

"That's right. During the subjugation operation, you'll contract exclusively with the guild. And work temporarily as a guild-affiliated porter. I'm not trying to put a leash on you. I'm just asking you to do this during the subjugation period. How about it?"

"What about the compensation?"

This isn't something to be settled just for getting me out of the cell once.

Being the middle bridge between the labyrinth city and underground city and becoming the center of transportation.

I need to secure the compensation properly.

As an adventurer, you need to earn a lot when you can.

"Compensation. Alright. You can marry me."

What nonsense is this?

"Agh! I said I don't like married women!"

This auntie is telling me to marry her again.

Is she crazy? In the first place, your daughter sitting next to you is my girlfriend.

"If you marry me now, Yuria is free."

"M-Mom! What are you saying!"

"What!?"

What?

Yuria is free?

Wait a minute.

Yuria is already free though?

Right. As expected, Moira still doesn't know about our relationship.

I thought Yuria would have told her, but apparently not.

What should I say about this?

If I say your daughter has already become my slave... I'll get my head cut off.

"Uh, Guild Master. If you keep. Um? Flirting like this, it's troublesome for me."

"Listen, Sion. It's been over 10 years since I lost my husband. After living alone for such a long time, aren't I practically a virgin? I want to be happy now too. I want to meet a young man."

"No! What on earth are you saying! Yuria! Your mom is weird!"

"Mom. No matter what, you're not a virgin. Let's not pretend to be a virgin, for conscience's sake."

"Bullshit. You two are making a fuss. Do you know how many men in this city want me?"

Well, I'm sure there are many.

A beautiful widow as pretty as Yuria.

She's in her 40s but has the appearance of someone in their early to mid-20s regardless of age.

Her figure is amazing too.

Moreover, she's one of the strongest in the labyrinth city.

I know there are men drooling and begging to meet her just once all over the place.

"Sion. This is an opportunity. Take me, the guild master, and become the hidden real power and mastermind of the labyrinth city."

"Mom..!"

"You stay out of this! Yuria! You're an adult too. If you've become independent, let's go our separate ways now. How long are you going to block a new father?"

"Ah, that's not it. Sigh... Really..."

Yuria, who sighed deeply at the guild master's continued disgraceful behavior, stood up from her seat.

Thud.

Then she sat down next to me, almost clinging to me, and firmly grasped my hand.

"Mom. I'm really sorry, but he's already mine... He can't become a new father.."

"...Huh? Huh?"

Moira's expression distorted.

At the same time, the magic eye hidden under her eyepatch flashed.

I shut my mouth tight.

I couldn't even make a breath sound.

# Chapter 41: A Strange Triangle Relationship Between Daughter and Mother

"That guy is yours?"

"Yes."

"Huh? What do you mean 'yes'. What do you mean 'yes'!"

The mother looking at her daughter as if she couldn't understand at all.

Moira looked very resentful.

"No. I spent months raising his affection. And you just snatch up the best part? Are you a thief?"

"Calling your daughter a thief! I had raised his affection in my own way too! Mom, you don't know anything!"

"No, you always paired Sion with me whenever you saw him. Isn't that right? It is, right. If you were going to eat him up yourself, why did you pair him with me?"

"Th-that's... I was a bit embarrassed to express that I liked him directly. That's why I did that. Yeah yeah."

"What nonsense is that! You used me as a shield? I thought it meant you were allowing Sion to be your new father?"

"Huh? What are you saying. New father? I don't want a new father."

"You little brat. You were the one who allowed me and Sion first! That tiny little kid who said she didn't want a new father... I thought you finally wanted mom to be happy. But it wasn't that. Hah. You ungrateful girl."

"Ah mom. That's not it. Geez.. I just don't want a new father."

"What? You don't want a new father? Then what about me? What about me!"

Yuria was flustered by Moira's anger.

It seemed Yuria had blocked Moira's dating from childhood until adulthood.

In the end, this was a situation where she didn't bring in a new man for her daughter's sake, but now that her daughter has become independent and she's finally found a husband candidate, she's had him snatched away by her daughter.

No, it's even stranger now that I understand.

What kind of situation is this?

This strange triangle relationship between me, Yuria, and Moira was more complicated than the labyrinth.

No matter how much I racked my brains, I couldn't find any strategy.

At least with the labyrinth, you could find a strategy if you kept banging your head against it.

But I have no idea which way people's hearts will go.

"No. I absolutely can't allow you two. He's my husband candidate. Let go, Yuria. No matter how much you're my daughter, I can't listen to this nonsense about making your new father your boyfriend anymore. You need to yield too."

"B-but.. Sion and I have already done everything."

"Already what? What have you done? No, wait a minute. You two. How far have you gone?"

Moira asked how far we've gone.

For a moment, I couldn't give any answer.

Right now, Moira seems to be mistakenly thinking that Yuria and I have just held hands.

'We've already enjoyed slave play and everything.'

The moment I recalled Yuria's naked body, Moira looked at me.

"Don't tell me. You two. Have you even kissed?"

"Huh?"

"Oh come on, mom. Why are you saying such embarrassing things. Of course we've kissed."

"..."

Moira covered her face as if she had received a shock.

For some reason, Yuria was twisting her body in embarrassment.

This situation doesn't look good.

Moira looking like she's about to explode any moment, and Yuria grinning without grasping the situation.

What's even more serious is that Lady Lea will join this chaos soon.

'This is driving me crazy.'

My thoughts stopped at the continuous abnormal situations.

I didn't want to be this popular.

Above all, the people who like me are all far from normal.

It felt like I was walking on thin ice.

"Huff. Fine. Nothing will change by arguing. If it's come to this, there's no helping it."

"What do you mean there's no helping it? What?"

"The only way for you to keep your boyfriend and for me to get married."

Moira pointed at me with her finger as if she had made a decision.

"Let's share."

"Cough!!!"

Saliva went down my windpipe.

Share, she says. I'm not some object.

"Mom!"

"Yuria. You said you don't want a new father, right? You probably feel uncomfortable seeing me with an unknown man. Then we can do this. Use the familiar Sion as your lord and new father. How about it? Isn't it perfect?"

"No, wait a moment. So I'd be Yuria's boyfriend and.. the Guild Master's lover?"

"That's right. Think about it carefully, Sion. You've now become the luckiest man in the labyrinth city."

So this is what a platinum badge adventurer is like.

No, to come up with such an answer in this situation.

Should I say, as expected of an adventurer who's touched the 7th floor of the labyrinth and come back?

"Sion... what do you think?"

"Huh? W-well.."

I was at a loss for words at Yuria's question.

To be able to have both Yuria and Moira.

In fact, if you think about it, it's good for me since I can have both of them.

No, but can I tell Yuria this feeling as it is?

The mother and daughter with flame-like red hair are both looking at me at the same time.

Somehow, I've gained the choice to decide the direction of this strange triangle relationship.

"I'll follow Sion's decision."

"Choose, Sion."

They're both extremely beautiful.

Not to mention their figures.

Moreover, if I accept Moira's proposal now, I'll gain an opportunity to move forward on a new route.

'The mother-daughter route.'

I feel like I'm going crazy.

Realistically, a mother-daughter double is impossible in some aspects.

First, assuming the daughter is an adult, the mother has naturally aged.

Inevitably, the problem arises that one side has gone bad.

But what if she hasn't aged?

What if she still maintains that tight skin from her youth even now?

Furthermore, it's estimated that her only male experience is with her deceased husband.

This is certainly a pass.

"Wait a moment. First. Let's talk about this topic again later. I don't think we should decide so suddenly like this right now."

"Hmm. Is that so."

My heart is telling me to accept Moira, but it's only been 1 day since I started dating Yuria.

I thought it wasn't right to insert other people between me and Yuria already.

Isn't it premature to insert her mother when I haven't even properly dated Yuria yet?

Above all, once Lady Lea joins soon, it will become a chaotic mess.

"Alright. Since the person in question says so. Tch.."

"Hehe. You heard that? Mom, you're out!"

"You brat!"

As Moira and Yuria were about to fight again, I quickly shouted.

"Th-then I'll be going now!"

"Where to?"

"I'm going to rest for today. It's almost dinner time too."

"Is that so. Then have dinner at our house before you go today."

"Dinner?"

"Yes. Yuria, you come home and have dinner too after so long. Stop eating strange street food all the time."

"Dinner? Should I? Let's go together, Sion."

"Right. Let's go together and have dinner and such. It's about time to get off work too."

Even though I didn't answer that I'd go, somehow I ended up visiting the Guild Master's house.

"Oh, are you leaving work?"

"Yes. I'll go first. Good work."

"Yes! Thank you for your hard work!"

As we went down to the first floor, Edwin saw us off.

The Adventurers' Guild operates 24 hours.

Because you never know when adventurers will come out of the labyrinth.

I know the guild's counter girls operate in 3 shifts too.

For some reason, it seems like Edwin is always there whenever I come, but that must be my imagination.

'So the Guild Master lives in the south.'

As I walked following the Guild Master, we arrived at a wealthy neighborhood in the south.

It's a clean street without the characteristic messiness or roughness of the labyrinth city.

No homeless people in sight.

Almost no adventurers visible either.

Literally a neighborhood where the big shots of the labyrinth city would live.

Almost all the houses are mansion-level big.

It was a bit different from the neighborhood where Yuria lives.

If Yuria's neighborhood is where successful adventurers would live, this place feels like where the really rich people would live.

Probably many merchant guild leaders or high-ranking people from religious orders.

"It's here."

"Wow..!"

As expected, it was a quite large house.

With this scale, there should be maids too, right?

'No way, there really are!?'

Surprisingly, the Guild Master's mansion had maids.

Maids wearing maid uniforms.

This is the first time I've seen real authentic maid uniforms while living in the labyrinth city.

It's different from the maid cosplay prostitutes in the red-light district.

"Are you surprised by the maid?"

"Ah, yes. It's my first time seeing one."

"The house is too big for me to clean alone. Slaves are essential for busy adventurers."

The Guild Master's words are certainly correct.

Yuria's house was a mess too.

I guess slaves really are essential for adventurers.

"Welcome back, Lady Moira."

"Yes. This man is my guest. Dinner for three today."

"Yes. Understood. I'll escort you."

She's a well-trained maid, I see.

She looks quite old, and you can feel that level of experience.

Above all, the interesting point is that she's an Eastern person.

Black hair and black eyes.

She was of the same Asian race as me.

In this world's terms, she'd be someone who came from the East.

I wonder how she became a slave.

It might be that becoming a slave was the only way to make a living.

Or she might have become a slave because she didn't have money to pay the resurrection cost after dying in the labyrinth.

Well, one of the biggest criteria for becoming a slave is the presence of relatives.

Foreigners without relatives to pay the resurrection cost to the church mostly end up on the slave route.

So it's only natural that the slave ratio is high for barbarians or Eastern people who have no guarantor or connections.

Anyway, by this world's standards, she was from the same homeland as me.

Of course, I'm originally from Earth so we're not really from the same homeland, but racially it was enough to think of her as being from the same place.

"Sion."

"Yes?"

"Should we buy a slave too?"

"What? Really?"

"Yes. If Sion wants one, we should buy one. Do you want to buy a young woman?"

"Well. I guess a woman rather than a man?"

"Then shall we go look at the slave trader together tomorrow?"

"What? Really?"

"Yes. Let's go see together."

Yuria gently held my hand and whispered in my ear.

She was like a girlfriend saying she'd buy me a game console.

She knows I like slaves, so she must be catering to my preferences.

"Okay.."

"Hehe."

Buying a slave together with Yuria.

My heart is pounding.

I feel a sense of depravity I can't quite describe.

I'm already looking forward to tomorrow.

After entering Moira's house and waiting for a while, dinner was soon served.

Various dishes came up on the dining table.

Stir-fried vegetables, something similar to dongpo pork(?), and wonton-like dumplings in soup.

'What? This is totally Chinese food.'

Instead of Western-style food commonly eaten in the labyrinth city, it was Chinese food that you could eat at a Chinese restaurant on Earth.

I guess she specializes in Chinese cuisine since she's an Eastern person.

To think I'd eat such proper Chinese food in the labyrinth city.

It's the first Chinese food I've had in almost 6 months.

Of course, since all kinds of races gather in the labyrinth city, you could probably find Chinese restaurants if you looked hard enough.

But I didn't even have time to explore restaurants separately.

The past 6 months have been days of struggling for survival.

I didn't have time to go around finding good restaurants.

"Thank you for the meal. Oh! It's delicious."

"This friend is quite good at cooking. Especially, this goes well with it."

As I was eating the wonton soup, the Guild Master brought out some alcohol from somewhere.

"It's huangjiu from the East. It should be familiar to you as an Eastern person?"

"Ooh..!"

What the Guild Master brought out was a distilled liquor somewhere between soju and baijiu.

It's a liquor that goes perfectly with greasy and spicy Chinese food.

You can't drink sweet wine while eating dongpo pork, right?

Huangjiu is perfect. The Guild Master knows well.

"Here, have a drink."

"Ah, thank you."

I couldn't refuse the drink poured by the Guild Master.

Above all, the dinner was completely like drinking snacks, so I couldn't not drink.

I should just drink enough not to get drunk, right?

"Yuria, you drink too."

"Alcohol? Okay. I like it!"

And so, one drink, two drinks went down.

"Phew..."

This really heats you up.

It's stronger than I thought.

It wasn't to the point where my head was spinning.

But the effects of alcohol were starting to rise.

"Phewww. Gu-Guild Master.. I.. can't drink anymore.."

"Is that so? You're weak with alcohol."

"N-no I'm not.. Guild Master is.. hic.. the alcohol is strong..."

"I see."

Yuria also seems to be half-asleep, almost passed out.

This isn't good. I need to go home soon before I get more drunk.

"Hey, Sion."

"Yesss..?"

"You don't look so good. Just sleep here tonight. We have plenty of empty rooms."

"Whaaat? N-no, I can't..."

"Just sleep here, dummy. I won't do anything. Just drink comfortably and sleep."

"Uh.. hic. Is it really okay.."

What should I do. My vision is starting to spin.

This is the kind of alcohol that suddenly hits you hard.

I feel dizzy and tired.

I don't feel like I'm going to throw up though.

My body feels like it's floating and it seems a bit difficult to walk.

I'm sleepy. Ah, what should I do...

"Come on. Rin, prepare a room."

"Yes, Lady Moira."

Before I knew it, I was being carried in Moira's arms.

My eyes are starting to close.

I'm sleepy.

I'm tired.

I want to sleep.

"Has he fallen asleep?"

"It seems so, Lady Moira."

"Take care of Yuria."

"Yes. Understood, Lady Moira. Shall I not come up to the second floor?"

"Right. Don't come up until I call for you separately."

"Yes ma'am."

The maid Rin returned to the first floor.

Moira, who was looking down at the sleeping Sion, grinned.

"Stupid guy. I told you to be careful so many times."

Moira quietly lay down next to the sleeping Sion.

"How dare you kiss my daughter? I can't forgive that. This is karma."

Moira clumsily embraced Sion.

Excited by Sion's body, which was firmer than she expected, Moira couldn't hide her excitement.

"This tiny guy. You're more solid than I thought. Hm.."

Knowing that the other person was asleep.

Moira went wild.

Moira put her hand inside Sion's clothes and fiddled with his muscles.

"Hehehe.."

Moira hugged and fiddled with Sion's body for a long time.

The problem was that she couldn't progress any further than that.

"Hehe. Eastern person.. cute. Black hair.. cute.."

Moira.

Was more of a bumpkin than Yuria.

Moreover, she had a preference for Eastern people.

Even her maid was an Eastern person.

# Chapter 42: Mother-in-Law's Love

"Ugh.."

I suddenly woke up.

No, I don't even know when I fell asleep in the first place.

When I opened my eyes, I was on a bed.

"Where is this..."

It's a room I've never seen before.

Thanks to the moonlight coming through the curtains, I could barely make out the interior of the room.

It was a room without much furniture.

Just a wardrobe, a table, and one drawer.

The size of the room wasn't very big either.

This is probably one of the guest rooms in Moira's house.

Thinking carefully, I vaguely remember Moira telling me to sleep over.

'How much did I drink?'

The huangjiu was stronger than I thought, and my consciousness flew away from the middle.

Even the memories right before losing consciousness are blurry.

I think I had a conversation with Moira, but I can't remember the content well.

Usually, I don't drink to the point of getting this drunk.

Today, maybe because it was the house of someone I could trust, I drank beyond my limits.

I unintentionally made a mistake at my mother-in-law's house.

"Hm...? Yuria?"

As I tried to get up, something felt heavy, so I lowered my head slightly and saw red hair nestled in my arms.

It seems Yuria was sleeping while hugging me.

Moira probably put the drunk and passed out Yuria in the room.

Or Yuria might have come to the room I was sleeping in herself.

Either way, I felt good having Yuria lying next to me.

So this is how good it feels to have a girlfriend.

To think I'd end up sharing a room with Yuria in Moira's house.

As I stroked Yuria's body, which was sleeping without moving, I felt at ease.

My heart naturally races as I feel her warmth.

Should I just wake her up and do it?

"Hey, Yuria. Are you sleeping?"

I called out just in case, but there was no answer as expected.

She seemed to be in a deep sleep.

'She must be in a really deep sleep.'

Yuria drank to the point of almost passing out too.

I shouldn't wake her up unnecessarily and should just stay quiet.

By the way, having someone next to me is much more comforting than sleeping alone.

I think this is the first time I've slept so peacefully since falling into the labyrinth city.

Most of the lodgings I stayed at didn't have very good security.

There were often times when I had to chase away drunk guys who came to the wrong room trying to open the door.

It was especially hard in the early days of transference when I couldn't properly do adventurer activities yet.

The worn-out beds hurt my back, and it was very painful to listen to the snoring of the bald guy in the next room in lodgings with no soundproofing at all.

Moreover, the first lodging I stayed at after falling into this world was even more terrible because it had bedbugs.

There are innkeepers who neglect their inns just because they don't want to spend money, even though this world has magic tools for pest control and disinfectants that can effectively deal with pests like bedbugs, lice, fleas, and ticks.

I really think they should all be caught and have their heads smashed with a mace.

It still makes my teeth grind just thinking about it.

Those bastards discriminated and looked down on me for being an Eastern person.

I had a terrible experience because they didn't properly change the bed sheets.

It's still horrifying to recall that time when my whole body was burning red and itchy.

Those breeding grounds for disease.

'Let's not get excited unnecessarily on a good day...'

For a moment, I got heated up because of the innkeepers who neglect pests.

Let's cool down. I won't have to go to such rotten inns anymore.

I don't have to grovel for money anymore.

I'm not rich, but I've made enough money to choose my lodgings as I please.

The time when I worried about whether to eat or starve with a piece of bread has long passed.

Since getting the spatial pocket, situations where I'm strapped for cash have almost all disappeared.

Above all, I'm going to buy a slave with Yuria tomorrow.

I should stop recalling past misfortunes and go to sleep soon.

'Before sleeping...'

Since I've woken up anyway, I decided to caress Yuria a bit more.

Swish.

I put my hand inside her nightgown.

As expected, it feels better to touch bare skin than caressing over clothes.

I gently grasped and released her breast. Enjoying the softness.

It feels like all the fatigue in every joint of my fingers is being released.

'Should I just wake her up and do it?'

I wanted to wake Yuria up and bury my face in her breasts.

But moving too roughly in the middle of the night would make it too likely for Moira to catch us.

I don't want to get caught by a platinum badge adventurer's presence detection.

She probably wouldn't feel good about her daughter and future son-in-law doing that kind of thing in her house.

'Or not. Maybe she'd try to join in.'

Moira seemed hungry for men in various ways too, so I'm not sure how she'd react.

"Hm.."

As I was pondering about my relationship with Moira, Yuria suddenly twitched.

Could she be awake?

"Yuria. Are you really sleeping? Tell me if you're awake?"

I asked again, but Yuria lowered her head further and put her hand inside my underwear.

Was she embarrassed to show her face after waking up?

She didn't try to show her face to me.

Rather, she burrowed even deeper into my arms.

"W-wait, Yuria."

Yuria even grabbed my cock and stroked it up and down as if giving me a handjob.

Her hand movements were considerable, gently inducing ejaculation by rubbing the tip of the glans with her thumb.

Tap tap tap tap.

Yuria trying to extract semen as if milking a cow.

She even licked my chest over my clothes, urging ejaculation.

'Ugh...'

I feel like I'm about to cum soon. I can't hold it anymore.

I buried my face in Yuria's hair and ejaculated into her hand.

"Ugh.."

I ended up cumming a lot.

Soon Yuria naturally took her hand out of my underwear.

My semen was all over her fingers.

Yuria looking at the semen reflecting in the moonlight as she clenched and unclenched her hand.

I can't hold back anymore.

I don't care if Moira catches us.

I want to do it with Yuria right now.

"Yuria. Shall we do it?"

"..."

Even though I asked to do it, Yuria didn't answer.

"Hey, Yuria? Hm?"

"..."

"Why haven't you been answering since earlier?"

Come to think of it, why hasn't Yuria been answering my calls?

As I thought about the reason, I realized something was strange.

'Did Yuria have this kind of body odor?'

Yuria has an ability that erases body odor.

So she hardly has any body odor.

Even if I bury my nose in her genitals, there's just a nice fragrance.

I know because I've already smelled Yuria's armpits and genitals.

Yuria's body hardly had any body odor.

But for some reason, the woman in my arms now had a lewd smell.

The unique female scent that stimulates males.

Should I call it the smell of breasts?

It was a scent I hadn't smelled from Yuria.

'This woman. It's not Yuria. Then...'

There's only one conclusion.

A red-haired woman who's not Yuria.

This is Moira.

'Shit....'

What should I do?

Should I ask 'Moira, what are you doing here?'

Or should I say 'Moira, I think you've come to the wrong room'?

The moment she realizes I've noticed, I felt like I'd be devoured by her no matter what.

To be with my girlfriend's mother while my girlfriend is in another room. I feel guilty.

"Sion. Have you noticed?"

"..."

As I was frozen, not knowing what to do, Moira spoke to me instead.

"Hey."

I squeezed my eyes shut.

Pretending to be asleep.

"Hey. Open your eyes. Want me to hit you?"

"I just woke up, Moira."

I opened my eyes in surprise at the threat of being hit.

Then I met eyes with Moira, who was looking at me as if I were pathetic.

"Hey Sion."

"Yes. Speak."

"You're still erect."

"...It's a physiological phenomenon."

"Want me to milk out one more?"

"..."

Anguish.

Why is my body so honest?

My erection wouldn't stop at the thought of my mother-in-law giving me a handjob.

Mother-in-law is pretty.

Above all, she's not asking to date or marry.

She's just offering to milk out one more.

Isn't it okay to ask for this much?

"Yes. May I ask for it?"

"Sion."

"Yes."

"You shameless bastard. I said I'd milk out one more, and you really ask me to do it?"

"No, if you put it that way, Moira, you came into the room where I was sleeping without any prior agreement with Yuria.."

"What did you say?"

I had nothing to say when Moira glared at me.

This is my lack of patience, immediately asking her to milk me out when tempted by her offer to do so.

As I lost my words and was self-reflecting, Moira spoke to me again in a kind voice.

"Sion. From now on, come out when I tell you to come out."

"Uh, even if you suddenly tell me to come out. Where am I supposed to come out to?"

"To my house. Just you coming."

"Um, Moira. No, mother-in-law. What do you mean come to work at your house out of the blue?"

"Until Yuria accepts me, just come when I call for you. Understand? I'll give you a spare key. Come at least once a week."

Moira continued speaking while shaking my cock.

"Be Yuria's boyfriend and new father. Answer."

"Ugh..."

"Every time you come, your mother-in-law and wife will suck your cock too. You can fuck me as you please. How about it?"

"Ugh.. crazy.."

Her hand movements are getting faster and faster.

Moreover, Moira went down and put my cock to her mouth.

Lick.

My mother-in-law started sucking my cock.

I feel like I'm going crazy.

A blowjob from my girlfriend's mother.

"Slurp. Suck."

"Ah. W-wait a moment!"

Every time Moira's tongue wrapped around my glans, I felt like my soul was being sucked out.

She freely manipulates her soft tongue.

It drove me even crazier when she occasionally spit out my cock and sucked on my balls.

My cock became wet with Moira's saliva.

The smell of saliva and night flowers filled the room.

At some point, I was holding Moira's head and shaking my hips.

I kept cumming as I used her mouth like an onahole and sucked.

"Ugh.. gulp."

Moira swallowed the semen.

Not satisfied with just that, she carefully sucked and swallowed all the semen that leaked to the side and the residue left in the urethra.

"It would be a waste to spill it."

"Ah, y-yes, it would be a waste."

I barely answered her words, half sprawled on the bed.

Moira removed the hair stuck to her mouth, casually tossed it on the floor, and climbed on top of me who had collapsed.

"Shall we continue? I'll fuck you myself as long as you're erect."

"W-wait.. Moira.. my cock.. hurts too much."

"What..? You only came five times... Already?"

"No, isn't five times a lot?"

"...Is that so. It's been so long since I've seen a real cock. I'm not sure what's normal or average. Dildos stay erect all the time."

"Ah."

You can't use dildos as a standard for real cocks.

"That's disappointing. How disappointing. Hey, Sion."

"Yes."

"Will it come back after a day?"

"Uh. Probably?"

"I see. I'll be satisfied with this much for today."

Moira naturally came over to my side and lay down.

I was sucked off in a daze.

I came in a daze.

I even ended up in a relationship similar to being the secret guild master's secret friend.

I gave up trying to think about how to resolve this situation.

No answer comes out even if I worry about it.

I've already given my cock to Moira.

I've become a crazy isekai playboy.

Yeah, since I've become a playboy anyway.

Let's demand that Moira call me master too.

Looking at Moira's current state, it seems she likes me more than I like her.

So let's just go all out this time.

We're going to keep running into each other anyway.

I should do what needs to be done properly.

If she says no, well, there's nothing I can do about it.

"Um, Moira."

"Hm? What?"

"I.. don't date unless they're slaves."

"What are you saying suddenly. Hah. You want me to call you master or something?"

"Yes. And it means don't look at other men. Don't play with other guys."

"Hmm. There's no one else to mess around with anyway, and you're demanding this while handling two women?"

"It might not end with just two. If you don't like it, we can stop here. Just a one-night happening. I don't care either way."

Moira got angry at my words.

"This is completely your way. But, wait. Don't tell me, did you demand the same thing from Yuria?"

"Yes. Yuria accepted it."

"She calls you master?"

"When we're alone, she calls me master. What will you do, Moira?"

"Crazy.. I can't imagine it. That tomboy calling someone master. Hah. Hahh. You crazy bastard. Your skills are no joke. You've already trained my daughter that much? You crazy bastard. Crazy bastard."

Moira grumbled for a while as if she couldn't believe it.

"For now... Alright. Master bastard."

"Master bastard?"

"Yeah. Master bastard. I'll call you master bastard at least until you get a platinum badge. Don't get cocky when you're weaker than me. I have my pride too."

"Hahaha. Platinum badge.. I need to get at least a gold badge within 6 months anyway."

"You're going to get a gold badge within 6 months? Come on. If you rush out that hastily, you'll die eaten by the labyrinth."

"Well, we'll have to see about that."

"Hah. Is the master bastard so reckless because he's young? The blood hasn't even dried on your head."

"Has the blood dried on your head then, Moira?"

"Hey, you master bastard. If the blood had dried on my head, would I be calling a boy the same age as my daughter 'master' while clinging to his pants? I'm just as immature."

"What! We're the same then."

"Hehehe. That's right. We're the same. Actually, what does age matter? Neither of us has dried blood on our heads."

Moira hugged me like a body pillow, laughing playfully.

"Let's just sleep for now, master bastard. You have a date with Yuria tomorrow, right?"

"Yeah. Do you want to come along, Moira?"

"I'll pass. I shouldn't interfere with my daughter's love life. She's at the age to enjoy it. For me, it's enough if you just visit occasionally. I'll give you some pocket money tomorrow. Have fun with Yuria."

"Yes.. Um, thank you?"

"It's nothing. I'm giving it to you because you're like a son. Have fun."

Moira closed her eyes with a gentle smile.

I should go back to sleep too.

I'm supposed to go to the slave shop with Yuria tomorrow.

# Chapter 43: Non-mainstream Slaves

"What do you mean there are no slaves?"

"Sorry. The church has taken almost all of them."

I froze at the slave trader's words.

"Sion. Hey, dummy! Snap out of it!"

"Ugh! Th-this. No. Ahh."

After hearing there were no slaves at the third shop already, my mind went blank.

To think there are no slaves in the great labyrinth city.

The reason was, of course, due to the great change.

"This can't be...."

According to the slave trader, the number of slaves who died caught up in this great change was beyond imagination.

Originally, the porter profession was mostly filled with slaves.

The porter profession had such a high proportion of slaves that porters who weren't slaves, like me, were rare.

The weak porter slaves died for various reasons after getting caught up in this great change.

They might have been used as bait for escape.

Or they might have fallen down below and died from mana poisoning.

Anyway, the porter class has completely evaporated.

And right after the great change started, the slave market was cleaned out once.

We were a step too late.

Furthermore, it seems a considerable number of slaves that the church operated independently were also swept away.

The church has gathered up even the slaves they used to release to the slave market to expand the workforce.

The slave factory has closed its doors.

What's even more serious is that body retrieval isn't going well below the underground city, so I think the supply itself has decreased.

It's a total crisis.

"Even the corpse retrieval team was completely swept away by the great change. There seems to be no way. Either wait at least 4 more months. Or go to the non-human specialist slave trader in the black market. One of the two."

These were the slave trader's words.

He says there's no prospect of slaves being supplied for at least 4 more months.

Demand has skyrocketed but supply is ridiculously short.

Meanwhile, the church has stopped releasing slaves and started operating them internally, so the few slaves left were all sold at an average of 3 times the price.

He says this situation will continue until the labyrinth city stabilizes.

"Was it yesterday? It seems slave hunting also occurred in the northern slums. Of course, they were all caught."

"Slave hunting?"

"Yes. There were attempts to supply slaves to merchant guilds by kidnapping through illegal routes or resurrecting."

"What madness..."

He says slave hunting occurred to fill the manpower vacuum that evaporated in an instant.

Slave hunting.

The act of branding slum orphans or homeless people as slaves by disguising them as people who died in the labyrinth.

Furthermore, it's a word that includes all malicious crimes like killing adventurers encountered in the labyrinth, resurrecting them in an 'illegal way', and then handing them over to slave traders.

Needless to say, if you do such a thing in the labyrinth city, you won't die peacefully.

The goddess church steps in, declares you a heretic, and kills you miserably after all kinds of torture.

Moreover, there was nothing to gain from hunting and selling slaves in this way.

As long as the church held a tight grip on slave items, prices were always maintained consistently, so there was no need to handle slave items while taking the risk of slave hunting.

Slave hunting was high risk, low return in itself.

If you don't want to be torn apart by heresy inquisitors, you should be careful, but with the sudden increase in slave prices, it seems slave hunting, which had disappeared decades ago, has been revived.

"Even though it's said to be handled at the church and guild level...."

"It will certainly contribute to the economic recession of the labyrinth city. The atmosphere on the streets will become unsettling."

I saw a new possibility here.

Isn't this a disturbance caused by outside forces?

Did the cowards of the underworld do this on their own?

There's no way street corpse cleaners would blindly participate in slave hunting.

There must be something behind this.

Moreover, with such incidents occurring right away when not even a month has passed since the great change occurred, it seemed like someone wanted to ruin the labyrinth city.

I sense malice.

It feels like those with dirty minds are reaching out their evil hands.

"This doesn't look good. Right?"

"Yeah."

I talked with Yuria as we walked through the shopping district.

Yuria also said she felt some impure intentions, just like me.

"Hmm. Sion, could it be something done by the kingdom or empire?"

"Maybe. They're always eyeing the labyrinth city."

"Hmm. I'm not sure. Well, mom will take care of such difficult things."

"That's true. The guild master will handle it."

"Let's quickly go to the next shop."

Yuria pulled my hand.

She seemed to want to finish buying a slave quickly and play with me.

"But Yuria, do you know where the black market slave trader we're going to now is, and that's why you're taking the lead?"

"Oh. No. I don't know! I've never been to the black market. Guide me."

Yuria, who had no interest in slaves, wouldn't know the location of a shop specializing in slaves.

If I hadn't said to buy one, she probably wouldn't have bought a slave in her lifetime.

Moreover, she says she hasn't been to the black market.

As expected, Yuria. You've lived a wholesome life.

"Hey Sion. This street looks a bit dangerous?"

"It's probably because we're near the black market."

"Heh. You seem to know this street quite well? Did you frequent the black market?"

"Not often. Very occasionally. I've only been in a few times."

There's a black market in the western part of the labyrinth city.

It's a place that deals with things that are difficult to sell openly.

For example, tentacle dildos or pet slimes for masturbation.

Or low-risk mimics for compression fetishes.

They deal in drugs too, but I know it's about the level of marijuana by Earth standards.

It feels like drugs that damage the brain to the level of something like fentanyl are non-mainstream even here.

"Oh my, you weak thing going around such dangerous places? Is it okay to wander around red-light districts and black markets without hesitation?"

"No, Yuria. I'm not that weak. I'm at least stronger than those vagrants over there."

"Hey! Of course you should be stronger than vagrants! You pathetic Eastern guy! Take this!"

"Aaah! Hey! Yuria! It hurts! It hurts!!! Gack!!!"

Yuria strongly clasped her hands together.

"My fingers are breaking..!!!"

No, really, no lie, it feels like my fingers are going to break.

Her strength is so ridiculously high that it feels like my fingers will fold in half.

"I surrender! I surrender!"

When I declared surrender, Yuria grinned and let go of my hand.

My hand is tingling.

"Hehe. Pathetic Sion. Don't get cocky. From now on, tell me before going to dangerous places."

"Ugh. Damn it."

"What? Damn it? Want to taste some spiciness? Shall we have a round of wrestling? Want me to do the windmill throw for you after a long time!?"

Yuria immediately tries to lift me up.

I can't resist. If I stay still like this, I'll surely be subjected to Yuria's windmill throw.

I've been subjected to it a few times before.

I might throw up.

"Hey hey! You keep climbing up?"

"Hehe. What can Sion do if I bully you? Just quietly take it."

"Gack..!! You brat! Just wait until we're in bed!"

"What? Bed?!"

Yuria stops at the word 'bed'.

She gently put me down on the ground after lifting me up and dusted off my shoulders.

"A-ahem.. Bed.. Yeah. Bed is good. Yeah yeah."

"What's this. Why are you suddenly shy?"

"No, but. It's embarrassing. How can you suddenly talk about beds on the street! Eep..! Come here! You're the bad one!"

"Gack. Yu-Yuria..! I can't breathe!"

Perhaps feeling sorry for bullying me, Yuria hugged me tightly.

No, is she hugging me because she's embarrassed?

It's certainly nice to be in Yuria's arms, but this time I'm suffocating.

How should I put it.

Yuria is like a large dog.

She's certainly cute and nice.

But she's stronger than me, so it's a bit overwhelming.

Above all, to have this level of public display of affection near the black market.

Mentally ill people could have picked a fight with us, but.

"Eek.."

"Ahem..."

"Red hair.. scary.."

Everyone avoided us.

In the labyrinth city, it's better not to mess with red hair if possible.

Especially black market residents tend to be terrified when they see red hair.

What on earth did the guild master do when she was young?

She must have killed a lot to maintain public order in the labyrinth city.

"This is the last proper slave shop."

"The atmosphere is a bit different from the shops before."

"Maybe it's because it deals with somewhat non-mainstream slaves."

There are mainstream and non-mainstream slaves too.

Pretty female slaves sell well, while.

Armless male slaves don't sell well, that kind of feeling.

The fact that it's near the black market probably means it specializes in non-mainstream slaves.

I wonder what kind of slaves they deal with.

Creak.

"Cough... cough.. A customer?"

As we entered the shop, thick smoke greeted us.

I see the shop owner covered in a black blanket in front of the counter.

I couldn't see his face because of the blanket.

It seems he's been smoking a water pipe all day through a small hole.

"Ugh. At least ventilate a bit."

Yuria grumbled as she followed me into the shop.

"I'm sorry about that. It's a shop with no customers at all."

The shop owner opened the window with his short arm in response to Yuria's complaint.

He's extremely small, which I felt even when he was sitting.

'Is he a dwarf?'

With the large blanket he's covered in and his tiny physique combined, the slave trader looked just like a child.

Of course, there's no chance of mistaking his age because his voice was very hoarse, but that's how he looked on the outside.

"So, what brings you all the way here? To buy a slave? The young couple seems to have quite unique tastes."

He seems to be making some big misunderstanding.

We didn't come to satisfy some unique taste, we just ran out of slaves.

"It's not a unique taste, we just came all the way here because there are no slaves."

"Well, there is a shortage of goods these days."

The shop owner got up from the counter and gathered a bunch of keys.

"Follow me. I'll show you the ones left."

Yuria and I followed the shop owner into the basement of the shop.

We were going down to a gloomy place, but I wasn't particularly worried.

Yuria is an adventurer just before gold badge, and I'm not so soft that I'd be taken advantage of by a slave trader.

"It's dark."

"Yeah. Do they keep slaves in a place like this? It has an inhumane atmosphere."

Yuria casually threw words at the slave trader as if for him to hear.

Certainly, as Yuria said, it felt somewhat illegal.

Especially since it's a slave shop right next to the black market, it's more suspicious.

"Ah, miss. Most of the fellows in our shop are inherently inhuman. I put them here because they said they don't like sunlight. I spent a lot of money to prepare this basement according to the slaves' opinions, so don't force it. Do you know how much it costs to expand a basement to this extent? I'm getting angry just talking about it."

A bitter resentment could be felt in the slave trader's voice.

He seemed frustrated at being wrongly accused about the basement he invested a considerable amount of money to make.

I wonder what kind of slaves he deals with that there are ones who dislike sunlight.

I didn't know the details since I was coming to this shop on the recommendation of the slave trader I visited earlier.

I only saw the sign when I stopped by the black market, I didn't think about coming in.

"Here we are. Don't get too close to the iron bars. Body fluids might get on your clothes."

"Hmm."

The slave shop was a small one-story building.

But the basement was much larger than expected.

A huge underground space.

It was full of iron cages.

Also, dwarves covered in black blankets like the shop owner were managing the slaves.

Feeding them, washing them, and cleaning the cages.

It was managed much better than I imagined.

"This is what's left now. Take a look around. They're all friends brought through legal routes, so don't worry."

The people...? trapped in the iron cages

Some weren't even human.

It felt like I had come to a circus.

"Non-human race slaves, I see."

"Is that even an intelligent being..?"

"They've been cursed by the labyrinth."

"Hmm."

A slime in human form waved at us.

"Is it male or female?"

"Well. That depends on the owner's preference?"

"..."

"Oh."

The difference between the masturbation slimes sold in black market adult shops and that slime slave over there is that it was originally human but became a slime due to the labyrinth's curse.

There are many types of labyrinth curses, but the most common is the curse of transformation.

The curse of transformation was like a penalty that you unfortunately get while wandering the deep levels.

You could get the curse of transformation by stepping on a trap.

Or you might have been captured and modified by monsters in the deep levels.

"When you get the curse of transformation like this, you're usually given 2 choices."

Whether to run away bearing the curse.

Or to assimilate with the labyrinth and become a monster.

If you have money, you can get it removed.

But if you don't have money, you have to live with the cursed state as is.

Living in a non-human form is quite terrible.

You never know when you might be mistaken for a monster and shot dead, and you're often ostracized.

"So some people voluntarily become slaves. They don't bother you much if you're wearing a slave collar. It costs an astronomical amount of money to remove the curse of transformation. It's on a different level from the potion of revival."

Since slaves are ultimately private property, people in the labyrinth city generally don't mess with other people's slaves.

Treating a slave carelessly is equivalent to challenging the slave's owner.

'By the way, the people here have such a cruel fate.'

They became slaves to survive, but if they meet a bad master, they might die from abuse.

In many ways, their fate seemed very cruel.

If they got the curse of transformation, they must have seen the scenery beyond the underground city.

How sad must it be for them to have to fall to being slaves despite having such experiences?

"I don't know much about the curse of transformation, but does becoming a mutant mean losing all your strength?"

"It varies from person to person. Some actually get stronger due to the curse of transformation. Some lose their sanity. There are all sorts of cases. The friends here are the type with vaguely bad luck. They made it to the surface. But don't have the strength to live on their own. And didn't have money to remove the curse. That's the kind of friends they are."

"I see."

"But there's definitely demand since they're deep level explorers."

Even if they've become weak, you can't ignore their experience of exploring the deep levels.

Knowledge about the deep levels isn't something you can simply buy with money.

"Business seems better than I thought."

"That's right. Rich people with unique tastes buy them to satisfy their desires. Or gold badge and above adventurers often look for them as guides. But customers who are adventurers have stopped coming because of the great change. Well, there are also a few slaves who aren't cursed by the labyrinth, so take a look."

It seemed this place had its own circumstances too.

"Sion. Over there."

"Hm?"

While looking for a suitable household helper slave, Yuria found something.

# Chapter 44: The One with a Broken Spirit

"This is..."

Yuria and I looked at the slave in the iron cage.

Among the slaves cursed with transformation, she was a woman who looked relatively normal.

"All four limbs intact. She seems in better condition than I expected. Why is she here?"

Brown skin and jet black hair, unknown characters and tattoos visible through her clothes.

She wasn't from the East, but seemed to be a minority tribe member from the South.

She looked like a girl who might have lived in some jungle.

Compared to the other slaves we've seen in the basement so far, she has an extremely normal appearance.

She didn't have antennae growing, nor was her body covered in fur.

She just looked like a Latin girl from the South, so why was she in this black market slave shop that only gathers oddities?

Expressing my doubt, Yuria pointed to the girl's eyes.

"Sion, look closely."

"Hm? Ah."

"It seems she can't see."

"I see. She's blind."

Eyes that seemed to have lost their light.

The girl appeared unable to see in front of her.

'She has a disability.'

Of course, even with a disability, there's definitely demand as long as she's female.

There are even guys who like it more if she can't see.

But the real problem wasn't just blindness.

After observing a bit more, I could notice why she hadn't been sold.

"She's gone mad."

"Her mind seems to wander."

The girl's mental state looked very bad.

She was constantly muttering something to herself and trying to dig the floor whenever she got the chance.

"I have to go back.. Again.. I have to go down there again.. No.. Give up.. You're finished.. You're broken.. Give up..."

Rather than simply trying to dig the floor, it seemed like she was trying to engrave something on the floor with her fingers.

Despite the slave trader wrapping her index finger in bandages, worried the product might get damaged, she stubbornly tried to dig the floor and write characters.

Could she be a mad witch?

If so, she's extremely dangerous.

There's nothing more dangerous than a mad magician.

The unwritten rule that senile magicians must be killed didn't come from nowhere.

'Perhaps the mental illness itself is a kind of curse.'

It might be a curse of mental derangement rather than a curse of transformation.

I could find out if I asked the slave trader about this one.

"Hey. Is this one also cursed by the labyrinth?"

"Hm? Ah. It's not a curse, she's just a friend who's a bit mentally ill. She worked as a porter, died a few times, and went completely mad. Her mental state is really bad, you see. They say she wandered around and ended up here."

"..."

She really was just a mentally ill friend.

From what I heard, it seems she caused trouble several times in other aboveground slave shops and rolled down to this slave shop next to the black market.

A woman who flowed in from the South, engaged in adventurer activities, completely broke after experiencing several deaths.

Moreover, she didn't sell as bad stock and eventually flowed into this shop, so you could say she took the worst route.

"She won't sell. Almost no one wants to buy if there are mental problems. They might get their flesh torn off if bitten."

"What happens in these cases?"

"What can we do if they don't sell? They can only wait in the iron cage to be sold until they die. If it really doesn't work out, they'll end up in the mines. Or sent as experimental subjects to magic towers. The worst is being dragged to brothels. After quite a lot of modifications, that is."

I got goosebumps at the talk of modifications.

How would a mentally ill person be modified to be used in a brothel?

At the very least, they'd make it so she can't properly use her arms and legs.

Just imagining it made me nauseous.

"Sion, are you going to help her?"

"I don't know."

To be honest, she's a burden.

You can't help everyone just because they're pitiful.

Yuria knows this fact well too.

This world is too harsh to take full responsibility for a person based on compassion alone.

I'm not affluent enough to support a blind person who can't see just because I pity them.

I didn't have the mental or material leeway to live with a disabled person.

"There's nothing to buy, should we head back soon?"

"Let's do that. It's a shame. Let's buy a slave later."

"Hehe. Then until then, can't Sion come to our house and keep being a housekeeper?"

"Hey! Housekeeper sounds a bit off. Let's go with cohabitant for now."

"Okay! If Sion comes, our house will get a bit cleaner at least. Right?"

"Are you trying to completely dump all the housework on me? Are you testing me to slack off? Huh? Why aren't you answering?"

"Eh, no way. I'm not that much of a burden! I'll clean together too. Maybe. Hehehe."

"Maybe, you say. Oh... Yuria."

"Oh come on. Honey. Don't get mad. Hm? If you keep complaining, I'll do the windmill throw?"

"Ugh.."

As I looked at her pitifully, Yuria quickly linked arms and acted cutely.

It's absolutely not because I'm afraid of Yuria's windmill throw that I shut my mouth. I'm letting it slide because her aegyo is cute.

Anyway, buying a slave is off the table.

Well, the original purpose was to date Yuria.

I was planning to buy a household helper slave while going around slave shops on a date, but since there's no merchandise I particularly like, it's right to head back now.

But thanks to this, I learned that there's a place like this.

The slime human was quite impressive.

A slave whose offense and defense change depending on the owner.

It seemed like there would be quite a demand.

"Let's come look again if we get another chance."

"Yeah yeah. But it was fun. It felt like coming to see a circus."

"That's true. We got to see some interesting things."

I was satisfied after seeing so many strange slaves.

Should we go up, eat, and head to the guild?

The settlement money from the monster dismantling shop should be out today.

"Update... Clear condition... New monster..."

"Hm?"

It was just as I was about to completely move away from the girl in the iron cage, having given up on buying a slave.

Suddenly, words I shouldn't hear reached my ears.

'Update, clear condition, and new monster?'

In this world, the labyrinth's monsters are called 'mabeol', not 'monster'.

Moreover, the word 'update' itself is hardly used in this world.

It's a world where leveling up is called mana adaptation.

A world where skills are called abilities.

While 'clear' might be okay, 'update' and 'monster' were clearly quite alien words in this world.

"Wait a moment."

"Hm? What's wrong?"

"This one. There's something about her."

"Did you sense something unusual?"

"Yeah. There's something I need to check. Can you wait a bit?"

Yuria nodded at my request.

As if telling me to check as much as I want.

Perhaps because she had high trust in me, Yuria went along with my eccentricity without any issue.

I approached the girl in the iron cage again.

"Hey. Hey. Hey hey."

"Huh.. N-no.. No..."

At my call, the girl in the iron cage startled and backed away.

Despite having nowhere to run, she crawled on the floor to get as far away from me as possible, clinging to the far end of the cage while trembling.

"H-hey! Why are you suddenly acting like this!"

As I approached as if I was going to enter the cage, the dwarf slave trader ran towards us.

"No, I wasn't trying to bully her. I just have something I need to check. By the way, what's this friend's name?"

"Name? Oh. Ah! Right, I think it was Olivia."

"Olivia? I see."

The girl in the cage's name was Olivia.

I couldn't know if that was her real name or an alias she created to live in this world like the name Sion I use, but for now, I called her name to try to calm her down as much as possible.

"Hey, Olivia. I'm not trying to bully you. So don't be scared and listen to what I have to say, okay?"

"Ugh..."

"Olivia, do you perhaps know about Earth?"

At my question, Olivia's body, which had been trembling in fear, twitched and then froze.

"E-Earth... Earth.. N-no way.. It can't be. No matter how much I looked, I couldn't find it. Why did it appear only now.. It's too late. No.. This is an illusion.. The labyrinth is toying with me again. I'm already dead.. No..."

The conversation isn't getting through.

She strongly denied reality.

She was rejecting everything approaching her, dismissing my very existence as the labyrinth's machinations.

I understood at once why she couldn't be sold and rolled down to this place.

Olivia was defenseless against external stimuli.

No, she was too defensive.

She regarded everything approaching her as an enemy.

I need to calm her down.

Judging by her twitching reaction when I mentioned Earth, she's definitely from Earth.

It seemed I needed to talk more about Earth to ease her tension.

"Olivia. Olivia! Just calm down and keep listening to me. Do you perhaps know about America?"

"A... America...!"

"What about China and England? How about Australia? Do you know about the countries I just mentioned? Computer. Cell phone. Internet. WiFi. Do you understand? How about movies or mobile games?"

"..."

Olivia stared at me blankly.

Her two eyes would be white and unable to reflect anything.

But somehow, she was accurately recognizing where I was.

It seemed like she was looking at me, which was more than just perceiving direction by voice.

Even though her two eyes clearly couldn't reflect anything.

'Now I get it. What she was writing on the floor was English.'

What she was desperately drawing on the floor was the alphabet.

Characters I hadn't seen even once since falling into this world.

'This woman. Is she a transferee like me?'

Looking at the characters and tattoos engraved on her body, they were too crude to be from Earth.

It's highly likely they were tattoos engraved in this world, not on Earth.

If that's the case, she might be a reincarnator.

I'm not sure, but at least it's clear her place of origin is Earth.

And while I couldn't be certain what exactly she wanted to write, I could recognize a few of the words she was writing.

'Dungeon?'

Looking closely, it seems to be content about having to clear a dungeon.

Since she was forcibly digging into the ground with her fingers to engrave the characters, I couldn't make them out properly.

If I could give her a pen and paper, I could see more proper writing.

She might have crucial knowledge for conquering the labyrinth.

'I might be able to use this?'

As I was organizing my thoughts, Yuria, unable to contain her curiosity, asked what an Earthling was.

"Hey, Sion. What exactly is an Earthling? Is it some tribe name?"

"Hm? Oh. Something like that. She's probably from the same hometown as me."

"Ah. So that's why you can communicate. I was surprised because you were saying words I couldn't understand."

Yuria immediately understood when I said Olivia and I were from the same hometown.

She probably understood names like Earth or America as place names somewhere in the Eastern continent.

I think she might have taken content about modern things like computers or cell phones as something that exists in the East.

At times like this, I'm so glad Yuria is simple-minded.

Since she just vaguely understands and moves on, it reduces the need for difficult explanations.

"Um.. You. Really. Are you really an Earthling?"

While I was talking briefly with Yuria, Olivia in the iron cage asked in a trembling voice that sounded anxious.

I answered her question with confidence.

"Yes. I'm an Earthling like you."

"Ah.. Ahhh."

Tears poured from the girl's eyes.

Soon she approached me, reached out through the iron bars, and hugged me tightly.

I didn't particularly avoid the hug.

Because I didn't sense any bad intentions.

"Thank goodness.. I really wasn't alone.. Finally. I've finally met someone..."

I met someone from my hometown at the bottom of the labyrinth city.

An Earthling who might have precious knowledge about the labyrinth.

Moreover, a possessor who fell into this world before me.

And had her spirit completely broken after rolling and rolling, dying several times alone.

# Chapter 45: Negotiation is Important

"Since her mental state is so unstable, how about 20 gold?"

"What? Selling a virgin slave for 20 gold? Are you crazy?"

"Come on, it'd be nice if you could give us a discount. If it's cheap, we'll come again next time."

"No, you're trying to buy cheaply next time too! Don't try to pull a fast one! Even if this is the bottom of the barrel, there's still a set price range!"

"Here's 20 gold."

"Why are you talking like we've already agreed on 20 gold! Hey! What's wrong with your boyfriend? Don't just watch, try to stop him!"

"Hehe."

"Don't just laugh, say something! What's wrong with these people! 20 gold, my foot. Do you think this is a street market? Don't try to lowball me to 15 gold!"

"Come on, really. You're trying to get 35 gold for a mentally ill girl? Shopkeeper, you're being quite unfair."

"Argh!!!"

The slave trader grabbed his head, about to go mad.

But I couldn't help it.

I can't pay full price for someone who's mentally ill.

No matter if Olivia is a possessor and knows how to conquer the labyrinth, wrong is wrong.

And the slave trader doesn't know how valuable an asset Olivia could be.

If you don't know, you have to learn the hard way.

Since the slave trader sees Olivia as mentally ill rather than a 'labyrinth conquest guide', I should buy her at the price of buying a mentally ill person.

This is how the labyrinth city normally operates.

If you don't know, you get stabbed in the back, and it's natural for those who know more to take advantage of fools in the labyrinth city.

If you don't want to be taken advantage of, you need to stay alert.

"Sigh. Alright, since she's mentally unstable. Fine. Let's agree on 25 gold."

"Let's lower it to 22. Looking at her condition, it seems she hasn't been washed properly. Her nutritional state looks bad too. Let's make it 22, okay?"

"This is driving me crazy. You look like an Easterner. How long have you been in the labyrinth city?"

"It's been 6 months."

"You've adapted amazingly well for an Easterner. Well, I guess you've adapted well, that's why Lady Yuria is by your side. Haaaaah. Okay. 22 gold it is."

So he knows about Yuria.

Well, red-haired female swordsmen are famous in the labyrinth city.

"Good. It was a good deal."

"Yeah, yeah. Come again next time."

"Yes!"

Considering that virgin slaves are traded for an average of over 30 gold, this price can be seen as extremely cheap.

If Olivia had been mentally sound, I absolutely couldn't have bought her for 22 gold. In the first place, if she was mentally sound, Olivia with her labyrinth information wouldn't have come to a shop like this.

"Well, it's fortunate that the buyer seems to be from the same hometown. I felt a bit sorry for her, going mad while still so young."

The slave trader said while signing the certificate.

It seems he was internally sorry for Olivia too.

He probably cared about her even though he couldn't manage her properly because Olivia's self-defense mechanism was so severe.

"Here's the slave certificate. Be careful not to lose it."

"What happens if I lose it?"

"You lose the way to prove she's your slave."

"I see."

I immediately put the slave certificate into my inventory as soon as I received it.

It was a very important item that would cause big trouble if lost.

"Well then, Olivia, make sure to eat well and be healthy over there~"

The dwarf slave trader greeted us in a lighthearted voice, as if a rotten tooth had been pulled out, after finishing the certificate paperwork.

Olivia clung tightly to my side and didn't answer.

"Seems she rejects everyone but you."

"Seems so."

"Tch.. The right side is my spot."

Yuria slightly approached from the left.

She seems jealous but can't bring herself to tell Olivia to let go.

She probably can't tell her to let go because Olivia's condition is so bad.

Yuria has such a good personality.

If it was an ordinary woman, she would have immediately ordered her to let go, treating her like a slave.

"We bought her, but. Hmm. Can we use her as a household helper?"

Yuria asked casually as we left the slave shop.

She didn't oppose my decision, but it seems she had some internal doubts.

Since Olivia can't see and her mental state seems very unstable.

She's probably scared that if we entrust her with housework, she might ruin the whole household.

"I didn't buy her as a household helper."

"Hm? Really? Then did you buy her just because she's from your hometown?"

"No. That's not it either."

Olivia clings to my side silently.

I glanced at her and continued speaking.

"She knows secrets about the labyrinth that we don't know."

"What!? Labyrinth sec-"

"Shh!! Yuria. Someone might hear."

"Ah. Sorry. But is it true?"

"Probably. From talking a bit with her. It's clear she knows something."

"So you didn't just buy her out of pity."

"You know I'm not someone who would spend 22 gold out of pity."

"True. Sion has a bit of a miser? Penny-pincher? That kind of tendency."

"M-miser and penny-pincher...!?"

Am I that bad?

I've spent all the money I earned for labyrinth conquest, haven't I?

"Ah. I don't mean you don't spend money at all. How should I put it. You're good at finding cheap things? You consider cost-effectiveness a lot? You know what I mean? You have that typical Easterner feeling."

There's a perception in the labyrinth city that Easterners are greedy for money and stingy, so maybe that combined with my tendencies makes me look like a miser.

But miser and penny-pincher are going too far, I think it would be better to say I'm cost-conscious in modern terms.

Well, it can't be helped.

I am actually greedy for money.

In the early days after transfer, there were times I starved because I didn't have 5 copper.

If I didn't have the spatial pocket, wouldn't I have starved to death long ago?

'The spatial pocket is really the greatest blessing in my life.'

If I didn't have the spatial pocket, I might have had my spirit broken after rolling around like a dog like Olivia.

The spatial pocket is god and invincible.

"Anyway, we should take her and wash her up. Right?"

"Her condition is pretty bad."

"Shall we go home?"

"Let's do that. Sorry, Yuria. We couldn't enjoy our date properly."

"It's okay. The black market tour was fun. There were a lot of interesting things."

There were a lot of interesting things indeed.

I'm glad Yuria has such an easygoing personality.

For now, we came to Yuria's apartment.

We brought Olivia to wash her up and hear information about the labyrinth from her.

"Alright, get into the bathtub."

"..."

"Olivia. Come on."

"H-hot water... trying to boil me alive..."

Olivia shook her head in fear, looking at the steaming bathtub.

No, what on earth did she go through in the labyrinth?

What's the reason for imagining a boiling pot when looking at a bathtub?

"No, this is outside the labyrinth. No one's going to kill you."

"No.. I'm scared.."

Olivia didn't want to let go of me.

She seems to want to keep clinging to me out of joy at finding an Earthling.

This won't do.

Maybe because her mind is half-broken, Olivia isn't properly judging the current situation.

I didn't pay 22 gold to buy a child to take care of.

I paid 22 gold to buy a strategy guide that will actively provide information about the labyrinth.

It's problematic if this continues.

Sympathy or compassion is something that develops for people I've built some friendship with.

I'm not kind-hearted enough to unconditionally take care of a complete stranger I've just met.

"Yuria. Can you detach her from me? I don't think we can leave her like this."

"Okay! Got it. Come here! You brat!"

"Kyaaaa!!!"

Yuria roughly pulled Olivia off.

Olivia wailed like a baby bird that lost its mother.

"Olivia. If you want to be treated like a person, you need to act like one. If you keep acting crazy and regressing to childhood, we have no reason to support you. If you want to eat warm meals, move."

"Sniff.."

"Sion, she's crying?"

"No, Yuria. Don't comfort her. We're going to raise her tough."

"Ooh. Sion, you're a genius with daughters. Your mindset is like my mom's. My mom used to say something when I cried as a child too."

"That's because Olivia isn't our daughter. A slave and a real daughter are different."

"Is that so? Hehe. Daughter, huh. Hehe. I'll go get the brush and soap."

Yuria grinned and went to get the brush and soap when I said we're treating her coldly because she's not our daughter.

She seemed excited at the thought of marriage after talking about children.

"Now, Olivia. I'll undress you, so stay still. If you keep clinging to me, I'll send you back to the slave shop. You don't want to part with the Earthling you finally met, right?"

"Hic... Y-yes.. I don't want to part... Don't abandon me.. Sniff..."

"There, there, stop crying. We need to take off your clothes."

I soothed Olivia, who was crying with hiccups, and undressed her.

A skeletal body.

Compared to Yuria or Moira, it's a completely underdeveloped body.

Her chest and other areas were lacking, as if she hadn't developed properly.

Unless you're into this slender type.

I'm not into bony bodies where you can see all the ribs, so it's a bit much.

We'll have to feed her a lot to fatten her up.

From what I heard from the slave trader, she ended up like this because she wouldn't eat even when given food.

When she momentarily comes to her senses, she struggles saying she needs to enter the labyrinth.

And when she's half out of her mind, she regresses to childhood like this.

If she didn't have information about the labyrinth, I wouldn't have bought her.

I felt uneasy, wondering if I had brought home a burden.

I've already bought her, so it feels wrong to abandon her.

"Alright, Olivia. Get into the bathtub."

"Okay.."

Olivia awkwardly got into the bathtub.

Warm water up to her collarbones.

Olivia seemed to be gradually calming down.

"How is it? Warm, right? Not hot water, see?"

"Yes.. It's warm. It's warm.."

Olivia's expression softened a bit.

Soon Yuria came into the bathroom with the brush and soap.

"Wow, look at her body. She's all bones."

"Yeah. She might collapse from malnutrition."

"Should I go buy some food? There's only alcohol at home..."

"I have ingredients in my spatial pocket, so you don't need to go out."

"That's good. I was too lazy to go out."

Yuria was also shocked when she saw Olivia's body.

"By the way, how old are you, Olivia?"

"I'm... twenty? Twenty-one..? I'm not sure..."

"I see. Then call me Yuria unnie from now on. Okay?"

"Yes.. Unnie..."

Yuria continued the conversation while washing Olivia's hair.

I felt sorry seeing Yuria take charge of managing the slave I had unilaterally purchased.

"Sorry, Yuria."

"Hm? For what?"

"For making you take care of her."

"It's fine. She knows secrets about the labyrinth, right? I'm not being blindly kind either, so don't feel burdened."

"Thanks."

My burden of mind eased a bit when Yuria said this.

Still, we can't keep taking care of her like today indefinitely.

Olivia needs to earn her keep too.

"Olivia. Let's continue our conversation from earlier."

"Conversation..?"

"Yes. About the labyrinth. Secrets of the upper levels, or hidden mini-dungeons in the underground city. Things like that. About updates too."

"I-I'll tell you what I remember.."

Olivia cautiously started sharing the information she remembered.

It was about hidden places, hidden elements, or Easter eggs that ordinary adventurers wouldn't know about.

# Chapter 46: Worth More Than 22 Gold

We took out food from our inventory and had a light dinner while listening to Olivia tell us about the secrets of the upper levels.

"So, you're saying there's a World Tree branch hidden on the 3rd floor of the botanical garden?"

"Yes.."

"And one of the Hoarding Rabbit nests on the 3rd floor of the breeding grounds has a Slaughterer's weapon hidden in it?"

"Yes yes.. If you get that, you can unleash unrivaled power against beasts.."

"Hmm."

"This is completely...."

Yuria and I looked at Olivia as if we were perplexed.

And for good reason...

"All of that has already been looted long ago. The World Tree branch was retrieved by the magic tower. And I heard one of the platinum badge holders has the Slaughterer's sword. Right, Yuria?"

"Yeah yeah. Most of the things Olivia mentioned were all looted over 20 years ago. And almost all the items Olivia talked about are artifacts currently possessed by the platinum badge holders."

"Olivia, you're a step too late."

"Eh..?"

Olivia froze in the position of scooping up soup.

She stared blankly with her mouth open as if she couldn't believe it.

"Most of the information you have about the upper levels has already been looted by adventurers. Yuria is accurate because she's a native of the labyrinth city. You're already too late."

"If you had come to the labyrinth city 30 years earlier, you could have gotten half of the things you mentioned. What a shame."

"Eh. Ehhh....? S-somehow... No matter how much I looked, they weren't there.. Ah.. Ahhh..."

At our words, Olivia whimpered as if she had been hit in the solar plexus.

She seemed to panic as she realized that the secret and amazing knowledge she possessed was actually outdated knowledge that had been revealed over 20 years ago.

How should I put it. She's like someone who realized their winning lottery ticket was actually an expired one.

Olivia denied reality like someone who had completely lost all dreams and hopes.

"Adventurers aren't fools either. If you have good intuition, you're an adventurer."

"Adventurers risk their lives walking tightropes. If something seems strange, they'll poke at it first."

Adventurers are the type who will try anything that might make money, be it traps or whatever.

They even capture labyrinth monsters and sell them as adult products, so hidden elements in the upper levels would have been revealed long ago.

As a result, the secret spaces, Easter eggs, or hidden elements that Olivia revealed had already been looted by the previous generation of adventurers.

Moreover, since there was no word of them respawning after the great change, we have to consider it too late.

In short, you could say Olivia had an old generation version of the labyrinth strategy guide.

While we don't know about below the underground city, the upper levels that adventurers frequent would have already been cleaned out.

"Ah.. Ahhh.. Why.."

Olivia held her head as if it was ringing.

It felt like watching the downfall of a promising young talent who dreamed of turning their life around.

Maybe because she's someone whose mind wanders a bit, should I say she's overemotional?

Her falling into despair seemed strangely theatrical.

"Ah, no... This can't be... If I'm useless.. I'll be abandoned again.. No.."

"Hey, Olivia. First, calm down..."

"Waaah.. Please don't abandon me. Please.. I'm sorry... I'll rack my brains to see if I have any other knowledge... Don't abandon me..."

Olivia clung to me while crying.

I patted Olivia's back as she clung to me and whispered quietly to Yuria.

"Yuria. What should we do? It seems like 22 gold has gone to waste."

"Hmm. Should we make her do some chores? We need to at least break even on the 22 gold. But since she can't see, there's not much we can use her for."

"Right. What should we do?"

It seems that after reincarnating in this world, from the moment her past life memories surfaced, Olivia had been quietly dreaming of an isekai unrivaled life without telling others.

But reality was a sewer.

The artifacts she was trying to find had already been looted long ago, and she ended up dying in the labyrinth 4 times while trying to find artifacts.

Every time she died and came back to life, she entered the labyrinth again as a slave belonging to the temple, and since she kept dying every time she entered, it seems the church judged her useless and just dumped her on a slave trader.

If she had sold the information she had long ago, she could have lived more comfortably.

It seems things got complicated as she tried to make a name for herself with the information she had.

On top of that, she had no talent as an adventurer and even went blind.

It was an incredibly unfortunate life.

It's pitiful.

But that's the extent of my feelings.

If she's useless, we need to find a use for her.

How should we use her?

What jobs can blind people do?

I made sure to convey that we could abandon her at any time so Olivia wouldn't become lazy in comfort.

As Yuria and I were pondering how to utilize Olivia, she sensed the crisis and shouted.

"I-I can see!"

"Hm? What? You can see?"

"You said you couldn't see. Suddenly saying you can see. What do you mean? Did you deceive us?"

"Ah, no. That's not it. Um, when I say I can see, I don't mean with my eyes..."

"What?"

"Actually, this is..."

Realizing that if we abandoned her too, her life would be completely over, Olivia hurriedly explained how she became blind.

"A side effect of her ability?"

"Yes.. Some skills have penalties..."

"A penalty of going blind. What kind of ability is it?"

"Um... Sound wave detection.. I can know the location or information of objects through sound."

"Sound wave detection?"

It was an ability similar to a bat's.

I didn't know such an ability existed.

"But why did you pretend you couldn't see?"

"Th-that's not pretending I couldn't see... If I use this skill in wide spaces, my head hurts..."

It seems she can't use it normally.

Due to brain capacity limits, if she uses sound wave detection in wide spaces without ceilings, she gets dizzy and gets nosebleeds.

It seems her brain gets overloaded from too much information.

"So it's an overpowered ability limited to the labyrinth."

"Yes.. I can detect in all directions regardless of the presence of light.."

She says she can see in dark places like night vision, and can detect in all directions like presence detection.

Especially when used in the narrow labyrinth, she can immediately notice if an enemy is approaching.

This was an ability similar to the detection-type ability that Hachi had.

It would be challenging for everyday life, but it's perfect for labyrinth exploration.

Of course, Olivia seems to have died 4 times despite having such an ability simply because she lacks talent.

But this one.

If Yuria and I hadn't made gestures of abandoning her, would she have kept hiding her ability?

She's not someone to be taken lightly.

She's not the type you can just pat on the head because you feel sorry for her.

I saw a slight possibility that she might harbor other thoughts if not scolded periodically.

"A-and I haven't talked about the secrets of the underground city yet.."

"That's right. You only talked about the upper levels."

Her knowledge of the upper levels alone was considerable.

Moreover, it's all been proven true through Yuria.

Her knowledge of the underground city must be accurate too.

Especially since new exploration sectors have increased after the great change.

There's a very high possibility that the hidden elements of the new sectors haven't been properly revealed yet.

"First.. Since I don't know the current state of the labyrinth well... Please tell me how it changed after the great change.. I need to know the version..."

It seems the hidden elements differ depending on the version.

Since new elements would have been added with updates, checking the version is important.

"Hey, Sion. What does she mean by version?"

"Oh. She needs to know roughly which great change this is."

"Ah."

"First, through this great change, a flooded sector has appeared in the underground city."

"Flooded sector...? You mean the lake area, right...?"

"Yeah. I guess they'll call it that? And when you enter the underground city, you always start from the central sector."

"Ah.. Then this update is a large-scale reorganization of the underground city."

Olivia muttered to herself as if she had grasped the version, then soon shared the knowledge she newly recalled.

"S-sorry.. It takes some time to recall.. First, with this underground city update, about two neutral monsters... NPCs would have been added."

"Hm? Neutral monsters? Sion, what's an NPC?"

"Well. You can think of it as beings that don't attack first."

"Ah."

"Olivia. If you keep talking in game terms, it'll be hard for Yuria to understand. Speak in labyrinth city terms."

"Ah.. Yes.. So through this great change, two non-aggressive monsters have been added.. Arachne and Frogman.. Arachne will appear in the tower sector and Frogman in the lake sector.."

"Are they like merchants?"

"Th-they're merchants, but also gatekeepers of hidden sectors.."

"There are more hidden sectors?"

"Yes.. If you complete Arachne's request, she'll let you enter the spider cave.. If you grant Frogman's wish, you can enter the snake nest.."

This was completely new information.

Yuria's eyes sparkled.

According to Olivia's explanation, the spider cave is a lost and found center, and the snake nest is like an experience-giving cow barn.

"Sion, are you taking notes?"

"Yeah."

"Amazing. She's worth more than 22 gold."

Yuria patted Olivia's head as she revealed the secrets of the underground city.

Yuria's expression, which had been full of doubt about whether Olivia was really worth 22 gold, brightened.

"Anything else? Is there more?"

"Um... Give me a moment.. I need time to recall..."

Olivia muttered something for a while again as she recalled more information.

The loading time is quite long every time she recalls a piece of information.

"Ah. About two trap-type monsters would have been added too."

"Trap-type monsters?"

"Yes.. They're ones that deceive adventurers like mimics... Doppelgangers and Skinwalkers will be roaming the underground city."

Doppelgangers and Skinwalkers.

Unlike mimics that disguise themselves as boxes or containers, doppelgangers and skinwalkers are monsters that disguise themselves as adventurers.

"Doppelgangers are a type of slime that perfectly copy an adventurer's appearance.. Skinwalkers are insects that wear the flipped skin of dead adventurers."

One copies appearances, and the other wears corpses to act as adventurers.

They're both dangerous.

It would be difficult to respond if they approach pretending to be companions.

"What about heretics? Is there nothing related to heretics?"

"Well. Heretics would be spread out below the floor divisions. Probably, after this great change, the area below the floor divisions of the underground city would have become completely twisted like a maze."

"A maze?"

"Yes. At regular intervals... The shape of the maze changes. The heretics will keep increasing the number of monsters by gathering sacrifices in the maze of the underground city.. It can be seen as much more difficult to enter the 6th floor."

"That's crazy."

"And it seems three boss monsters... special monsters have been added below the floor divisions..."

"Three of them?"

"Yes.. Ones that spread the curse of petrification... Cockatrice, Basilisk, and.. Medusa."

The monsters that came out of Olivia's mouth.

All three are creatures with the curse of petrification, and if you encounter them wrongly, you'll turn into stone right away.

Heretics and three new boss monsters.

Plus trap-type monsters and mini-dungeons in the underground city.

"The difficulty is too high. Where's the balance patch?"

"W-well.. Originally, challenging difficulty is part of the game's appeal.. And the rewards are quite substantial.. The harder it is, the more you gain..."

"This is crazy."

Based on what we've heard so far, it seems the underground city has been completely reorganized through this great change.

Moreover, it seems there are still quite a few hidden elements that haven't been looted yet.

At this point, it's a matter of who claims them first.

We need to monopolize the hidden elements of the underground city before other adventurers get their hands on them.

However, there's a high possibility we won't be able to perform properly if we just enter the underground city in our current state.

It seems nearly half of the conquest team died too.

If I hadn't avoided the crisis with spirit vision, the corpse retrieval team I belonged to would have been wiped out by the High Orc Warlock and Slugger too.

Even if we enter now, we'll have to overcome the risk of death again.

It's too dangerous. With the number of monsters and skill level not even reaching silver badge, we can't enter the underground city again.

"It's going to get busy."

We need to tag along with the subjugation operation happening in a month.

While the adventurers are busy cleaning up monsters, I'll monopolize the hidden elements Olivia told us about.

Of course, we needed to improve our skills as much as possible until then.

"Olivia."

"Yes...?"

"Tell me how to level up."

Let's try our best.

It seems an opportunity has come to make a big score in the underground city.

# Chapter 47: Let's Take It Easy

"Don't be too hasty. Just because you're ahead doesn't mean you can obtain happiness."

"But.."

"So what if we lose a few strokes of luck? The strokes of luck in the upper levels have already been taken by the previous generation of adventurers. Have you ever felt regretful about the strokes of luck taken by them?"

"Well.. no. Since they already discovered them in the past."

"That's right. It's like that. Even if others eat the strokes of luck first. Will it cause direct harm to us?"

"Not particularly. I might be envious though."

"Right. It would just end with being a bit envious. If you ask whether it's worth risking your life for that. It's not, right? We shouldn't think we can always be resurrected. Right? We could die forever while trying to obtain a stroke of luck. Or become broken. Like Olivia."

"That's right."

Yuria's words are certainly correct.

Just look at Olivia.

Trying to monopolize the labyrinth's strokes of luck, she died and was resurrected 4 times, and ended up broken like this.

"And you know, Sion. Have you heard the saying that artifacts choose their own masters?"

"Moira told me that story before."

When I asked about the magic sword she had.

It was a story she had casually told, probably.

The rare items born from the labyrinth.

Choose their own masters.

"That's right. Mom said so. No matter how much you struggle to obtain them. In the end, they find the owner destined by fate."

Her words might be right.

Just because I struggle desperately wanting to have something doesn't mean I'll definitely get it.

"Above all, you already have something that doesn't need those kinds of strokes of luck to be envied by others. Look at me carefully. In whose hands is the greatest stroke of luck in the labyrinth city right now?"

At Yuria's question, my view widened slightly.

That's right.

The stroke of luck that men living in the labyrinth city might envy the most was sitting right in front of me.

"In my hands. Holding my hands."

"That's right. That's how it is. Sion, in the end, everything goes into the hands of the person who's supposed to have it according to the natural order. If you struggle to have something that's not yours. You'll end up being eaten by the labyrinth. Just like Olivia."

I nodded at Yuria's words.

Just because I got my hands on information others don't know doesn't mean I can monopolize all strokes of luck - that's just my wishful thinking.

Because the labyrinth is cruel and cold.

It's not kind enough to just let one person monopolize everything.

Above all, the moment you're caught up in personal desires.

You become the labyrinth's prey.

"It was greed. Thank you, Yuria."

"Yeah. Now you seem like the usual Sion. You're quite greedy for money, but. You're not someone who gets eaten by that greed. Let's take it easy. It's what you often said originally. Take it easy."

Yuria smiled brightly.

I'm so ashamed of myself for thinking about using Lady Lea and her companions, who haven't even been in the labyrinth city for a month, because I was caught up in the idea that I had to monopolize strokes of luck faster than others.

To think I was trying to take advantage of Lady Lea's affection for me.

That's clearly the wrong way. Yuria kindly pointed out that part.

Don't be swallowed by the labyrinth, blinded by the desire to monopolize.

Don't do things that abandon your humanity.

Yeah, let's not move forward too hastily.

It's not like someone is chasing after me, nor am I competing with anyone.

Strokes of luck are good if you can get them.

Even if you don't get them, it's not like my life will be thrown into the gutter right away.

And even without strokes of luck, I'll be able to get a gold badge within 6 months.

I thought I would get a gold badge within 6 months even before meeting Olivia.

My life shouldn't be swayed by Olivia's existence.

Since it's come to this, let's regain my initial mindset.

I was different from now before meeting Lady Lea and getting caught up in the great change.

I was a porter who was entering the labyrinth leisurely, not tied down to anything.

I wasn't a person moving for monopolizing strokes of luck and for more wealth and honor.

I guess I've been making too much money lately.

This porter has gotten quite money-crazy.

As Yuria said, let's regain that mindset from back then.

When you lose composure, your vision narrows and your thinking becomes biased.

I need to get a gold badge within 6 months to convince Lady Lea's family.

But pushing Lady Lea into danger for that is putting the cart before the horse.

"I should register at the martial arts hall tomorrow."

"Yeah yeah. Good thinking. I'll help you train too."

"Really?"

"Yeah. I was thinking of resting a bit until the subjugation operation starts too. And of course I should help when my boyfriend is seriously working out. But my method might be a bit rough."

"Rough?"

"I'll teach you exactly what I learned from mom. You can't cry in the middle, okay?"

"Wait. Yuria. I think it's better if I just train alone at the martial arts hall after all."

"Why are you scared! Come here!"

I was grabbed by Yuria's hand.

I ended up being lifted and hugged in her arms.

"I'll just help you train so you just answer that you understand. Master, answer."

"Hey. Calling me master only at times like this. That's cheating."

"So, are you going to answer or not?"

"Ah, okay. But, Yuria. I think I'm going to die from suffocation."

"You don't like being in my arms? Shall we do a round of windmill throw?"

"No, I think I like suffocating actually. Sorry."

Yuria grinned and then threw me onto the bed.

"Gack!!!"

"Hehe. I've been waiting for Olivia to fall asleep."

"W-wait a minute Yuria."

"Stay still, master. I've been following you around all day looking at slaves. And gave you counseling too. Now it's my turn to have some fun."

"Ugh..! You sound like an old man..!"

"Hehehe. Master, I'm not going to let you sleep tonight."

"Gack..! Is this a reversal of the master-slave relationship!"

My clothes are being stripped off by Yuria's hands.

My top is half torn off and even my belt is ripped off.

As I was getting slightly excited at the thought of being devoured by Yuria as she pleased if this continues.

Someone knocked on the front door.

-Knock knock knock.

"Hm? What is it. Who is it?"

"Heek..."

Yuria left me on the bed and approached the front door with her sword.

She looked very displeased at having her time with me interrupted.

She seemed ready to cut down immediately if it was a peddler or an uninvited guest.

"Who is it. At this hour."

Yuria's question filled with displeasure.

Soon an answer came from outside the door.

-Is this Yuria's house?

This voice...

'Lady Lea..!?'

Come to think of it, Lady Lea said she would meet Yuria separately.

It seems that was today.

# Chapter 48: Love is Difficult

Bang bang bang!

-Is Yuria here? It's Lea. Please open the door.

Bang bang bang!

Lady Lea knocking on the door as if she's about to break it down.

What should I do about this?

Is it okay to meet Lady Lea in a state where my clothes are almost completely stripped off (torn) in Yuria's house?

"Sion, just hide for now. Let me properly assess what kind of personality the Lionel daughter has. I need to see for myself if she's really suitable for you."

"Should I really hide?"

"Yeah. Hide."

Yuria told me to hide for now because Lady Lea might not open up if I'm in front of her.

'Where should I hide?'

There's nowhere suitable to hide except under the bed or inside the wardrobe.

'There's probably a lot of dust under the bed.'

Since Yuria doesn't clean the house well.

I didn't even want to imagine what state the area under the bed would be in.

Let's just hide in the wardrobe.

'This will do.'

I could check outside through the gaps in the wardrobe doors.

It seems perfect for observing the situation outside.

"Stop knocking and wait a bit. I'll open it now."

Yuria only opened the front door after confirming that I had hidden in the wardrobe.

'Lady Lea and Rica?'

The lady and the female knight.

So the two of them came.

It seems Lien and Erica didn't come.

Rica probably just came along as a bodyguard.

'Wow, it's intense...'

Yuria's aura was unusual.

She said she'd examine Lady Lea's tone, but it seemed like she was trying to overwhelm her with pressure from the start.

She must mean she'll watch how she reacts.

It felt like Yuria was conducting her own entrance test.

"Welcome. You're the young lady of the Lionel family, right?"

"Yes. Nice to meet you, Yuria. I'm Lea, an aspiring adventurer."

"Right. Can I speak informally?"

"Yes. Please speak comfortably."

"Good. So, what did you come all the way here to talk about with me? Even bringing a bodyguard."

"My, don't be so sharp. I didn't come to fight. I just came to talk about Sion."

Lady Lea didn't shrink at all under Yuria's pressure.

Rather, she laughed it off as if it was ridiculous.

'She's crazy. She just laughs this off?'

Even though Yuria was openly emitting killing intent as if telling her to get lost, there was no change in Lady Lea's complexion.

She looks composed.

A perfect poker face indeed.

The extreme facial control that can be called a basic skill of nobles is being demonstrated even in front of a monster like Yuria.

Rather, Rica standing behind Lady Lea was slightly trembling.

She looked completely overwhelmed by Yuria's aura.

She's called the lady's bodyguard knight, but that's just a nice way of putting it.

The current Rica was no different from an ordinary person in front of a gold badge level powerhouse.

"Hmm. Talk about Sion? Why should I talk about my boyfriend with a woman who doesn't know him well? Especially at this late hour."

"I apologize for coming at such a late hour. I came earlier but you weren't home, so I had no choice. But I think we need to talk about Sion. Because it seems you and I have come to like the same man."

"You've come to like the same man? Don't make me laugh. You must have known that Sion and I are already in that kind of relationship? Why are you trying to forcibly wedge yourself between us? What's your purpose?"

"Purpose? Of course, it's love. I'm passionately in love with Sion."

An unwavering voice.

It sounded like there wasn't a single lie in it.

If Lea's words are true.

It would mean she's passionate enough about me to challenge the huge wall that is Yuria.

However, Yuria didn't easily believe Lady Lea's words.

Rather, she pressured Lady Lea with a voice that seemed to say 'How dare you talk about love?'

"You say you feel that level of love for a man you haven't even met for a few days? You've come to love him enough to wedge yourself between lovers? Cut the crap. You have another purpose. Tell me the real reason you're trying to approach Sion."

Yuria's voice was filled with anger.

She growls at Lea like a guard dog protecting its owner.

Yuria told Lady Lea to speak the truth.

As if she wouldn't tolerate even a single lie.

As if she would immediately strike her down if she noticed anything strange.

Yuria demanded proof of love.

"Prove love? That's funny. Is there any reason I should prove my feelings for Sion to you? My emotions are solely for Sion. Why are you trying to confirm that? Do you know that's overstepping your bounds?"

Lea showed a slight sign of displeasure.

She didn't care at all about Yuria's anger.

Lady Lea didn't back down even with the aura of a gold badge adventurer right in front of her.

She's lofty.

Lady Lea never bowed her head even in the face of violence or overwhelming power.

She didn't discriminate against her opponent.

She didn't compromise either.

"Overstepping bounds? You're the one overstepping bounds right now. Whether your reason for coveting my man is really love. Or if you're trying to use your beauty to target his spatial pocket. I can't allow you to have Sion without confirming that."

"That's quite funny. You're not his mother-in-law. You're quite stubborn. Throwing an unanswerable question in a situation where there's no proper way to prove my feelings, and telling me to get lost if I can't answer. How petty. Do I look like I'm doing such a petty thing just for a spatial pocket?"

"Because the spatial pocket is worth that much."

"Of course it is to you. I thought Sion's ability was enviable at first too. But even without the spatial pocket, I would have tried to have Sion. The two days I spent with him in the labyrinth were the most shocking and impressive event in my life."

"It's just two days."

"Right. Just two days. But I changed in those two days. I learned the fear of the labyrinth. I realized the terror of death. And I vaguely understood what love is. Spatial pocket? Ha. I don't need that. Money can solve that. I'm not obsessed with such abilities."

Lady Lea, who had been pouring out words towards Yuria, soon took a breath.

She briefly stopped the words she had been pouring out with heightened emotions and regulated her breathing.

And at the moment when everyone's attention was focused.

She opened her mouth again.

"I want him. I won't unilaterally take him. Don't try to monopolize him either. If you won't share. I'll have no choice but to make my next move."

A firm will.

It was an expression of intent to fight to the end no matter what you say.

To this, Yuria retorted with a much weaker aura than before.

"There are many men in the world."

"But you chose Sion in the end, didn't you?"

"....That's a valid point."

Finally, Yuria was at a loss for words.

At Lea's answer, Yuria offered seats to the guests.

Finally, the confrontation at the entrance ended and a proper conversation began.

"It's a bit dirty, but sit down anyway. When you live as an adventurer, there's no time to clean properly."

"Well, I understand."

Lea returned to polite speech.

She sat opposite Yuria.

"And I only have alcohol to drink. There's no tea or juice. Would you like some wine?"

"Sure. I'll drink whatever you serve."

Soon Yuria hands wine to the lady and Rica.

"I'm fine, thank you."

"Is that so? Suit yourself."

Rica refused the wine.

As if fulfilling her duty as a bodyguard knight, she just stood behind the lady staring into space without moving.

'I can't see well.'

I couldn't see Yuria and Lady Lea because of the angle.

I could only see Rica standing uncomfortably.

'When should I come out? Do I have to stay trapped in the wardrobe?'

After some time passed, I started feeling slightly uncomfortable and stuffy.

This is a problem. I missed the timing to come out.

Should I wait a bit longer until their conversation ends?

"Sigh. Look. No matter how much you like Sion, it can't be. I liked him first. I flirted first. I drooled first."

"I like him too. I flirted for the first time in my life too. I haven't drooled yet... I lose in that aspect. Well, it's fine. I'll drool soon so it doesn't matter much."

"Don't drool on what's mine."

"Why is Sion yours? You're not even engaged in the first place. Please stop acting like you own him."

"Huh. We're going to get engaged soon."

"Seems we think alike? I'm planning to get engaged to Sion too."

"You. Don't you know your place?"

"What order is there in getting married?"

"No matter how much you jabber, it doesn't change the fact that I'm the first."

"Be the first. What does order matter? It's a fight where the one who's loved more wins."

"You little brat."

"Above all, I've already given Sion my first."

"What? First?? What do you mean you gave your first? What are you saying?"

"My first experience, you could say."

"First experience?"

"Yes. I still vividly remember that time. That magnificent thing he pulled out in front of me... That large and long thing between his thighs... Ah. That violent shape is still messing up my mind."

"What are you..."

"It was in the labyrinth. In a space with just the two of us, he took off his pants and..."

"Wait..! Hey!!! Sion. Sion! What is this about!"

Yuria called for me.

No, what the hell is she talking about?

First experience..!

I haven't touched Lady Lea yet.

This is unfair!

Lady Lea was the one who told me to take off my pants.

I didn't assault her.

There wasn't any other incident besides her grabbing my dick!

Feeling wronged, I finally came out of the wardrobe.

"No, first experience! Lady! What are you saying!"

"Oh my. Sion. You were hiding in quite an indecent state?"

"Ah, this is..."

"See? I made him like that. I stripped him completely. And he took my first experience too!"

"Huh? So what? Are you bragging about tearing off all his clothes? To think you'd try to forcefully take a man. Sion, a woman who tries to overpower you. Isn't that unattractive? I'm gentle."

"You bitch...!"

"You know, Sion. He took off his pants in front of me and pulled out his dick without me even asking. He took it off on his own without me forcefully tearing his clothes like that to try to eat him. The difference in charm is clear, right?"

"Wait, is that true...? Sion. It's not, right? Sion.. I put up an iron wall and. Kept my distance for months. But you showed your dick to a noble lady after just two days? No. No. My Sion.. There's no way. It was so damn hard to eat you. But you gave a free pass to another woman. No!!!"

"That's right! It's not true! Lady Lea! Why are you doing this! No, you were the one who told me to take it off back then!"

"You heard that, Yuria? He admits he took it off in front of me. If he immediately takes it off when told to in a life-or-death situation. That means Sion had feelings too. This might be something you don't know about, Yuria. But we made incredible progress in just two days."

"W-what is this.. My Sion.. I feel like I'm going to turn evil. Acting pure with me. Never approaching me first. What do I lack compared to that bitch."

"No, Yuria. That's not it. Lady! I only pulled out my dick, I didn't take anything off! I had no choice but to protect your mental state..."

"You showed your dick to a virgin to protect her mental state? Sion, what are you saying? Don't you feel how strange that sounds even as you say it?"

Even I thought it was an extremely strange logic.

But at that time, it felt like the right thing to do.

My intention to relieve the lady's stress by doing something naughty.. my kindness.. was distorted.

Ah. This is ruined.

I fell for the lady's scheme.

A malicious plan to drive a wedge between Yuria and me, get rid of Yuria, and then have me all to herself.

Yuria really looked dejected.

She seems angry thinking that I put up every wall possible with her but pulled out my dick in front of a lady I met just two days ago.

That's not it.

I didn't pull it out because I liked it, but because I had no choice but to let her touch it to protect the lady's mental state that was about to burst in a crisis situation.

How should I explain this from where?

As I was thinking about how to comfort Yuria, not knowing where to start.

The female knight Rica, who heard the lady's story, asked in a voice that seemed shocked.

"Hey, porter. Did you really pull out your dick in front of the lady?"

"Rica, you stay out of this! You weakling!"

"Urk....."

Rica sat down.

My words seemed to give her a severe mental shock on top of her already bruised ego from the gap with Yuria.

Words just came out because my head was complicated.

I'm sorry but it couldn't be helped.

I'm already busy enough dealing with Yuria and Lady Lea, if Rica joins in too my brain won't be able to handle it.

"L-let's all calm down for now. Let's not keep making the situation worse like this. Lady, please refrain from fabrication and incitement. Yuria, you trust me, right?"

"Yeah.. I trust you. There must have been circumstances. You didn't ejaculate, right?"

"I didn't cum!"

"Hohoho. Yuria, I was just teasing a bit, so don't feel too down. You tested me too, so let's call it even."

Is this what you'd call noble-like?

She definitely returns exactly what she receives.

As I was admiring Lady Lea's actions of thoroughly repaying both grace and grudges, she looked at me with half-closed eyes.

"And Sion, you were supposed to come see me today but didn't, so you'll forgive this much teasing, right?"

"Huh..? Ah."

That's right.

I was supposed to go see her today.

I forgot because of Olivia.

"You said you'd come so I kept waiting. But you never showed up until the end?"

"I-I'm sorry. I was busy with various things today."

"You were busy?"

"Well..."

Just as I was about to make excuses to the lady.

Creak...

The door to the guest room opened.

"Wh-who... are you...?"

Olivia came out looking scared.

She seemed to have woken up from the commotion.

"Who is that girl...?"

"Sh-she's a slave I brought today."

"A slave, I see. Right. So that's how it was. You forgot all about your promise with me because you were fooling around with a slave."

"No, that's not it."

"Hey, Sion."

"Y-yes? Yuria."

"Why are you making excuses to that woman instead of comforting me?"

"Well. This is. Ugh. Ughhh!"

It's a mess.

I tried my best to sort out this situation.

How can I neatly resolve this bizarre situation?

I don't know.

I really don't know.

A method. I need to find a method.

Something I can obtain here, right now.

'Alcohol.'

Yuria's apartment was full of alcohol.

And my inventory is full of snacks.

I've got the answer.

"For now. Let's all have a drink while we talk."

If we're slightly drunk, won't the sharp words towards each other soften a bit?

"Well, I came to talk too, so that's fine."

"Alcohol. Yeah, alcohol is good. Sion, do you have snacks? Should I go buy some?"

"No, I have some here. Yuria, just sit comfortably."

As I took out the snacks from my inventory, Yuria and Lady Lea sat facing each other at the table again.

"Hey, Rica."

"Am I... really that weak..."

"Rica, I'm sorry for saying harsh things earlier. Would you like to go exercise with me tomorrow? I'm planning to register at the martial arts hall. Let's go register together. Since Rica probably doesn't have money now. I'll pay your first month's fee for you. Let's get stronger together. Okay?"

"Martial arts hall..? Exercise? Get stronger? Ooh..."

"Yes. I want to get stronger. Isn't it the same for you, Rica?"

"I want. I want to get stronger too."

"Yes yes. Let's get stronger together."

"Good. Exercising is best when you have someone to do it with. Do you lift weights?"

Rica, who had been sitting down dejected, perked up again when we talked about exercise.

"I-is this... a wine glass..."

"Yeah. Olivia. You just sit still too."

"Ah.. Okay.."

I immediately stopped her as she tried to set up glasses even though she can't see.

She might break all the dishes at this rate.

'This is dizzying. Four women. I feel like I'm going to die from exhaustion.'

Yuria and Lea, then Rica and Olivia.

I set up the glasses and took out alcohol, ice, and snacks to set the table.

Somehow I ended up doing all of this.

"Alright. Let's drink for now."

I prepared high-proof alcohol.

Let's just feed them and put them all to sleep.

That seemed like the best thing to do.

# Chapter 49: The Porter Caught

Yuria's house is stocked with a truly diverse range of alcohol.

Crates of whiskey and wine stored away in the warehouse.

There was an enormous amount of ale too.

It could literally be called a house for drinkers.

"After finishing labyrinth trips, when trying to comfort loneliness.. you crave alcohol."

"You comfort loneliness with alcohol?"

"Yeah. It's lonely alone."

Labyrinth trips affect a person's mind in many ways.

Some retire due to severe PTSD, suffer from nightmares, or become hikikomori due to anxiety.

The labyrinth is a place where you never know when, where, or how you might die.

Furthermore, it's more anxiety-inducing because you can't even be certain of resurrection.

If your team is wiped out, or if the corpse is damaged beyond reason, you can't expect resurrection.

Moreover, even if they come back to life, adventurers who can't afford the resurrection costs are still bound to be gripped by the fear of death.

Resurrection is literally a last resort.

If you act recklessly in the labyrinth believing in the potion of revival, you'll bid farewell to life right there.

The fear of death and the pain of loss.

Yet, faced with the reality that they need to enter the labyrinth to make a living, many adventurers become addicted to various things.

The more anxious people are, the more easily they become addicted to or fall into something.

Alcohol is typically the main one.

I think alcohol is somewhat better than drugs or gambling.

With drugs, the purpose of entering the labyrinth to buy drugs for mental stability changes to entering the labyrinth to buy drugs.

It's the same with gambling. The main and supporting roles are reversed.

When the purpose of life changes to drugs or gambling, you end up dying in the labyrinth because you take reckless risks for money.

"Now I can cut down a bit, right?"

"Hehehe. Yeah."

Yuria grinned at me.

If she drank because she was lonely, now that I'm here, she doesn't need to rely on alcohol anymore.

Although we haven't fully decided to live together yet.

If we start living together soon, I plan to gradually change Yuria's house.

I want to start by clearing out all the alcohol that pops out whenever you open a drawer and fill it with wholesome ingredients and things that give a sense of daily life.

"Let's have a drink for now."

I poured ale into the glasses.

It's the most basic beer in this world.

It has a honey or fruit scent and seems to have less foam.

It's a bit different from lager. They say it's some difference in the fermentation method, but I don't know the details since I'm not a brewery employee.

Anyway, in this world, ale is easier to make and cheaper.

Cheap alcohol is popular among adventurers who are struggling with money.

Moreover, since the water quality in the labyrinth city isn't very good, those who have trouble finding clean water even drink ale instead of water.

Anyway, after pouring the most easily obtainable type of alcohol into everyone's glasses, I took a sip.

'It has an apple scent.'

As I was savoring the scent of the ale, Yuria casually threw a question at Lady Lea.

"By the way, young lady. Are you skilled enough to enter the labyrinth?"

"Suddenly?"

"No, with you going around with a bodyguard and all. It seems like you haven't fully shed your noble habits. I'm curious if you're seriously approaching labyrinth trips. The labyrinth isn't a playground for kids."

"Hahaha. I know very well that it's not a playground for kids. And if you're asking about my sincerity regarding labyrinth trips, I'm quite serious about it."

"Is that so?"

"Is there any reason for you to express such doubt? Or are you perhaps envious of the noble aura that permeates my body? Well, aura isn't something you can imitate just because you want to."

"Huh, ridiculous. Aura? Listen, young lady, that stuff is useless in the labyrinth."

The two started a subtle power struggle.

Here we go again. This won't do. I need to feed them strong alcohol.

I quickly poured strong liquor into Yuria and Lea's emptied glasses.

Since they showed no signs of getting drunk on ale, I poured a lot of high-proof distilled liquor.

"Um, can I have a glass too..."

"Ah, Rica. I'm sorry. Here you go."

"Thanks."

I forgot to fill Rica's glass, overwhelmed by Yuria and Lady Lea's power struggle.

Rica awkwardly holding her glass and asking for alcohol.

Somehow this person's impression has changed a lot from the beginning.

When I first saw her, she was an overbearing noble female knight.

After being pushed around here and there, dying and coming back to life, then having her pride crushed under Yuria's pressure...

She's just become a muscle-brained, timid female knight now.

How should I put it. It feels similar to my situation, trembling at Yuria and Lea's power struggle.

I felt an inexplicable sense of kinship and sympathy.

"Rica. Try this too."

"Ah. Thanks, porter. Mmm..? This is delicious..!"

"Right? I'll introduce you to a restaurant next time."

"Ooh. Really? Introducing a good restaurant. That's nice."

Rica seemed to like eating.

She stuffs her mouth full of alcohol and food and chews.

"Um, excuse me.. Do you have any soft drinks...? I don't really like alcohol.."

"Is that so? Just a moment."

Olivia clinging tightly to my side.

I poured her some apple juice.

I guess she doesn't like alcohol much.

Olivia sat quietly as if gauging Yuria and Lea's reactions.

I don't know what she's so anxious about, but she keeps coming closer to me.

"Ha, if I improve my skills too. What will be left for Yuria?"

"Well, you'll have the honor of taking Sion's virginity."

"That's ridiculous. You touched a man who already had someone. And you proudly talk about it."

"A man who already had someone? Now that you're drunk, you can't see anything! I drooled on him first!"

"Don't talk nonsense! I asked to be labyrinth partners first. And Sion agreed!"

"Are you sure the labyrinth partner contract came first in chronological order? As far as I know, I took Sion's virginity first?"

"Don't fabricate memories."

"Anyway, even as labyrinth partners, you couldn't take his virginity?"

"No, Yuria. Do you have some kind of fantasy about virginity? You keep going on about virginity? Is that all you have to brag about?"

"Huh. Then should I brag about this? Should I hide it?"

"Shall I brag a bit too? The Sion you chased after for 6 months. He opened his heart to me in just two days-"

"Aaaargh! Shut up! I said shut up! Shut up, you fucking bitch!"

"Whoa! Yuria. You just crossed a line. I'm not a fucking bitch! Do you want to go to jail for insulting nobility?"

"This bitch has gone crazy after drinking. Don't you know they can't arrest you for insulting nobility if you have a gold badge?"

"You don't have a gold badge yet."

"Ugh."

"Don't try to win with words. I've been in verbal fights among women for nearly 20 years."

"Huh... You've been in these kinds of verbal fights for 20 years? The noble society must be tough too."

"We don't lose to anyone when it comes to being tough. Haah.. Have another drink."

"Thanks. You too."

Yuria and Lea pouring drinks for each other back and forth.

I can't tell if they've become friends or if they're just craving alcohol.

But both of their voices have gradually lowered.

Seeing them start a conversation with serious expressions, is the power struggle over?

Eavesdropping a bit, it seems to be a conversation about the labyrinth or future plans.

I mainly talked with Rica, feeling it would be awkward to join their conversation.

2 hours pass like that.

"Sniff..."

"Hey. Don't cry. I was a bit harsh earlier."

"No. It's just. Because of the alcohol."

"Why are you crying? I'm sad too."

Lea who suddenly started crying and Yuria comforting her while sniffling too.

They fought, then laughed, and now they're crying.

"Um, those people.. seem drunk.."

As Olivia said, they both seem to have lost it from being drunk.

It's probably time to end this gathering.

"You're right. Rica. I think it's best to let the young lady sleep here tonight. What do you think?"

"I think we should. Sorry. It seems the young lady is particularly unable to control her emotions today."

If Rica says that, Lady Lea must have been under a lot of stress in various ways.

Still, I'm glad that Yuria and Lea's relationship seems to have gotten a bit closer thanks to the alcohol.

"Let's move them to the room for now."

"Let's do that."

We dragged the two to Yuria's bedroom and laid them on the bed.

The two who drank until they were completely unconscious.

They were lying on the bed, unable to even properly control their bodies.

"Good work."

"You too, porter. Shall we go out then?"

"Yes."

Just as I was about to leave Yuria and Lady Lea in the room.

Grab.

"Huh?"

Yuria grabbed my arm.

"W-wait. Yuria. Yuria?"

"Hmm..."

Yuria, drunk, blindly grabbed me.

She pulled me towards the bed.

"Whoa whoa! Ugh..!!"

I couldn't escape.

I was pulled in and ended up in Yuria's arms.

Tremendous strength and unbelievable pressure.

Like a person caught by a bear, I was caught by Yuria.

"R-Rica! Help me!!"

"Uh... Well. I'll sleep on the sofa. See you tomorrow, porter."

"Wait! Don't abandon me and go! Help!!!"

Rica quietly closed the door and left.

"Uwaah...!!"

As I was laid on the bed by Yuria, Lady Lea sucked on my cheek.

The lady sucking while not knowing it's me, sucking in her sleep.

My cheek feels like it's going to be raw.

My cheek is getting soaked with the lady's saliva.

"Hot.. It's too hot..."

Yuria, lying next to me, suddenly complained about being hot in her sleep and started taking off her clothes.

"Gasp!"

Yuria lying naked after throwing off even her underwear.

She hugs me like that.

Whoof.

The heat from Yuria's body was transmitted to me.

Due to the body odor removal ability, I smelled the perfume she sprayed more strongly than Yuria's body odor.

A sweet fragrance. A sweet smell wafted from between Yuria's breasts along with hot air.

I want to just hug Yuria like this.

"Mmm."

As I was having such indecent thoughts, Lady Lea fumbled and caressed my body, then put her hand into my underwear.

'Crazy..! Is she not sleeping!?'

Thinking it couldn't be, I turned to look and the lady was sleeping with drool.

It seems she put her hand in my underwear unconsciously.

'Oh..!'

Lady Lea's cold hand firmly grasped my hardened penis.

Like how babies reflexively grasp anything that comes into their hands, the lady firmly grabbed when something hard touched her hand.

'Ah, this is driving me crazy.'

I can't escape because I'm held by Yuria.

I feel like I'm going to lose my mind because of the lady fondling my penis while sleeping.

Drunk women on both sides are driving me crazy.

Suck.

'Crazy.'

Now even Yuria started sucking on my cheek.

Both cheeks are being sucked.

Do these women have a habit of sucking something when drunk?

They're both virgins but have strange drinking habits.

Virgin bitches.

I feel like I'm going to go crazy.

Earlier when Yuria and Lady Lea were having their power struggle, I felt like my energy was being sucked out.

Now my cheeks are literally being sucked.

'I can't escape.'

Resignation.

There's no way to overcome Yuria's strength.

Then what should I do?

'I have no choice but to enjoy it.'

Yeah, let's just quietly accept this situation.

There's no way to push away the two women even if I try to resist.

Like a slave serving his master's night duties according to orders.

I spent the night wide awake in Yuria and Lea's arms.