**Chapter 69: Catch Them (7)**

I immediately checked their faces.

‘She doesn't look like the montage.’

They were both women, but they weren't rabbit heads, and they weren't plain-faced women.

Their gear was pretty crappy, too, with nothing but a worn-out javelin and a staff that looked like it was about to fall to pieces.

I figured they were probably newbie explorers who had just descended to the second floor.

We almost fell into a transition trap as soon as we were dropped on the second floor.

The newbie explorers and the rest of the party looked at each other in disbelief.

‘It's not often that one intuitively senses the moment of moving to a different floor, and there's someone right in front of you when you get there.’

Well, that's one thing. We can't stay like this forever.

"Joy Hog. Let's look at the map, see where we are."

"Oh, sure, sure. Look at me."

Joy Hog pulled out a map and checked the location but her expression grew increasingly bizarre.

"⋯What's wrong? Is it broken?"

Instead of an answer, a panicked voice came out.

Slime Ain Aldente felt suspicious and approached Joy Hog.

"What's the matter with you?"

Immediately, Aldente's face contorted strangely.

For a moment, her eyes flicked back and forth between the map and the newbie explorers in front of her.

I realized from their reactions that something was wrong with the map.

"What's wrong? Is something wrong?"

"The ⋯ marker, right in front of us?"

On the map, the marker that indicates the outlaw's location is right in front of us.

But off the map, in the real world, it's just two poorly equipped rookie explorers with faces that look nothing like the outlaw's.

A strange silence descends.

In the eerie coolness and stillness of the situation, I quietly turned on the status window.

[Gurmimi LV.36]

[Stamina:(6+1) Strength:(15+4) Agility:(17+4) Wisdom:(9-4) Finesse:(10)]

[Blessings and Curses possessed by Gurmimi: 3]

[Reichem LV.22]

‘Holy shit.’

I don't know who Reichem is, but her presence with Gurmimi confirms her identity as an outlaw.

I immediately drew the twin axes from my belt and shouted.

"Outlaws!!! These are the bastards!!!"

The women in the rookie explorer's masks laughed bitterly.

"Oh shit. We've been spotted already. How's that helmeted asshole so fast?"

"We'll just have to outrun them."

Immediately, their façade began to crumble away like dead skin.

The crude equipment melted into thin air and disappeared, revealing a rabbit head along with a refined straight sword.

 The plain-faced woman behind her held a hobgoblin staff. Those tricksters, even their weapons were deceptive.

Gurmimi, the rabbit-headed woman, and Reichem, the plain-faced woman, both looked exactly like the faces in the montage.

"Damn! Was it an illusion spell?"

"Correct. Slime."

At Aldente's shout, Raychem grinned and touched the transition trap with her Hobgoblin Staff.

Beep, beep, beep-

With a tremendous noise, a 100 meter radius immediately turned an ominous purple color.

Ten seconds remained before the transition trap was triggered.

"Gather up!"

The party members began to huddle together, touching each other as they had prepared in advance.

Aldente and Jubeel in the rear guarded the priests and mages.

The priests and mages of Gellan's party, led by Hitolis and Lammel, began to prepare to respond.

Gurmimi hugged Reichem to her side in the meantime, her thighs bulging as she prepared to flee the realm of the transition trap.

"Run away."

Of course, I wasn't one to stand still. I moved quickly to block their retreat.

Joy Hog and Gellan took up the rear of the outlaws.

"Don't even think about it. I'm going to beat the shit out of you before-"

I didn't finish my sentence and swung my axe at Gurmimi's right thigh while Joy Hogg swung her one-handed hammer at Gurmimi's head.

However Gurmimi blocked my axe blow with the sole of her steel-toed shoe, then ducked her upper body slightly to avoid Joy Hog's hammer blow and counterattack.

"Crack!"

Joy Hog hastily raised her shield, but Gurmimi's dagger sliced past her ear.

She was fast. Blocking two attacks and counterattacking in such a short time.

Although I have far more stamina, he has a slight advantage in strength and agility.

 ⋯True, she also has wisdom and finesse, but it doesn't matter.

With this much of a difference, there's no way to stand against a group attack.

If we can draw her into a protracted battle and keep her trapped in the transition trap, we win.

Gurmimi must have realized this, because she immediately called out to Reichem.

"Talian!"

"I see."

Talian?

I thought her name was Reichem when I checked her status?

I questioned, but it wasn't important right now.

A pink glow began to emanate from the hobgoblin staff held by Reichem, the wizard who called herself Talian.

‘If that touches me, I’m doomed.’

Horrible memories of the Hobgoblin Village came back to me.

If I am hit by that light, I will be reduced to a sperm-wrapped vivisection.

I must grit my teeth and avoid it.

"This is the time."

At that moment, Gellan, who had stealthily approached Reichem, swung his sword.

Yes! That bastard! He's finally doing something!

-Kaang!

Gellan struck the hobgoblin staff with an exquisite motion and Reichem lost the staff in her hand.

Ping-!

The staff, which had already emitted pink light, fell to the ground.

Zhiyiyiyiying-

And in that moment, I felt a very familiar sensation.

The world was slowing down, like in slow motion, the extreme focus that had saved me in every crisis had returned.

A sperm-wrapped bionic dildo beam was flying straight at me and Gellan was laughing hysterically at my predicament.

Joy Hog looked horrified while the priests and wizards chanting miracles and magic in the background couldn’t interfere because of the suddenness of the situation.

Aldente was stretching her slime arm out towards me and trying to make body contact.

The outlaws, who have already started to run away.

The Labyrinth, which continued to emit the noise of a transition trap.

I perceived it all at once.

Feeling my brain burning, I began to make judgments.

Okay, then⋯

‘Which one should I start with, and how should I do it?’

Coincidentally, I had all the cards I needed.

[Miracle of Serif Adeline's Mental Barrier Protects You]

Just as the pink light reached me and started to twitch, creating a tattoo of corruption, a shield of pure light emerged.

 Tiyiying-

The hobgoblin staff's vicious abilities were deflected by Serif's miracle.

Coincidentally, in the direction of where Gellan was standing.

I could see his eyes widen as he saw the pink light coming toward him.

An expression on his face, as if he was saying, ‘This is not it, damn it,’ came into view as if in slow motion.

 ‘Well, well, well, I'm sorry.’

But you were smiling earlier, you fucking asshole. You were aiming for me, weren't you?

I folded my apologies again. He’s not worth the slightest bit of concern. He’ll just be an asshole for the rest of his life.

At the same time, I looked at the slime hand that began to wrap around my waist.

Aldente, despite being a member of Gellan's party, was a surprisingly good tank.

She's able to stretch her body to reach me from quite a distance. Thanks to this, I'll be able to travel with the party even if I fall to the 8th floor.

‘All that's left is those bastards.’

The outlaws have already fled into the distance.

With the pink light problem solved, I felt time return to normal.

In about four seconds, the transition trap will be triggered but they're about to escape from the transition trap area.

However, there's no one left to chase Gurmimi but me.

It's very hard to run and catch up with her, who is more agile than me.

"Then, I'll just have to do this."

I calmly gripped the axe with both hands.

I pointed the artifact axe, specially crafted for me by Zirnier, at a slight angle toward the outlaws' heads.

- I'll have to be careful with this one, it’ll drain your magic.

I'd gotten enough instruction from Zirnier the day I got the axe.

I calmly concentrate, feel the coolness of the axe, and extend my senses to my surroundings.

I began to gather the magic that had been tickling me ever since I entered the Labyrinth.

No one told me how to do it, but it came so naturally, as if by my own will.

I must be gifted.

I channeled the energy into the axe like I channeled water into a cup. It all happened in an instant.

I gripped the axe, which had begun to tremble, and spoke the initiation word to activate the magic forged into the artifact.

"Enlarge."

Kwaaaaaang!!!

Fuck. There was a reason she told me to use it in the Labyrinth.

The crude axe, which was only about 60 centimeters long, had grown to nearly 12 meters.

A Zernier artifact, indeed. A simple, tough, and devastatingly effective artifact.

My grip on the axe nearly snapped, but I managed to hold on to the handle.

It's not really a handle at this point, more like a pole.

The axe blade hit the ceiling of the Labyrinth with a loud thud, and with a tremendous vibration, it began to fall on the outlaws' heads.

"What the fuck-!"

Gurmimi, who was just about to go out of the transition trap area, hastily stopped. If she didn't stop, she'd be crushed.

Koooooong-!

A tremendous wind of dust blew in, and the huge, thick axe blade that fell from thin air became a wall in itself.

The axe blade had succeeded in blocking the outlaws' retreat.

In other words, they couldn't escape from the transition trap anymore.

“Even if we fall to the eighth floor, we should fall together. It's only fair, right?"

I said, smirking at their confused faces.

Gurmimi and Reichem, who had gotten a kick out of the comment, looked at me from the distance, their faces twisted.

"What the fuck. You fuckers."

You're the ones who got me in this mess in the first place.

I raised my right hand to make the sign language gesture for 'mountain'.

"That crazy-"

The moment the rabbit head with the veins protruding from its forehead was about to scream and spit out.

 -Beep, beep, beep.

The world turned purple.

You can run but I'll catch you and put you away.

That's how we fell to the eighth floor.