**Chapter 80: Drunken Jokes (2)**

Eli.

Diana’s foster daughter. Prodigy mage. A student about to graduate from the Academy.

Why is she here when she's supposed to be buried in reports and papers until graduation?

“Just get up. People are staring.”

I walked over to Eli, who was stumbling and frozen with embarrassment, and offered her a hand.

The stares of passersby on the sidewalk began to gather.

“Mom. She's weird. She's lying down with her skirt up.”

“Uh-huh. My daughter, you need to study hard if you don't want to be one of those girls who shows her panties to guys later? ⋯No, wait. Isn't that an academy uniform?”

“They say the more you learn, the better, and now she can do some really amazing perverted things.”

“No. Watch me. It's not enough that she boldly targeted a guy behind his back, she casually showed him her panties. That girl is a professional of the highest order.”

The red-haired elf's panty-trap pose in her academy uniform drew quite a bit of aggro.

People with conspiratorial expressions were showering Eli with outrageous comments.

“Oooh, thanks, mister⋯”

An embarrassed Eli grabbed my hand and stood up.

“⋯She’s calling him Uncle with that body?”

“I don't think she knows a real uncle yet because she’s a kid, but at that level he’s a daddy.”

Ignoring the people around me who were discussing the difference between an uncle and a daddy, just like the difference between an auntie and a MILF, I picked up the papers that had fallen around me and handed them to Eli.

“Oh, no, I'll pick them up⋯!”

“I already picked them up. What are you doing anyway, weren't you at the academy?”

“I'm done with my report and graduation assignments, I don't have classes anymore, and graduation is in two weeks, so I just moved out of the dorm.”

Eli explained.

Apparently, graduation was coming soon.

“So you're staying at Diana’s inn, then?”

“Ah, well, uh, that's...”

Eli stuttered, unable to answer easily.

Her ruby-red eyes darted around, avoiding my gaze.

‘Is something wrong?’

Just as I was thinking about it, Eli snapped her index fingers together and answered cautiously.

“Well, it's just that⋯ actually, it's that⋯ I'm not as brave as I was last time when I went to visit my foster mom⋯ or should I say, I'm a little embarrassed to go by myself⋯?”

After hesitating for a long time, Eli scratched the back of her head with a wry smile.

“Actually, it's been about three days since I left the academy, and I've been staying at cheap inns around here for meals and stuff, but I've run out of money now⋯ Hehe.”

I got the picture.

Eli had made a vague attempt at reconciliation with Diana the other day, but she still hadn't fully accepted her as her adoptive mother and felt overwhelmed.

She ran out of money and moved from one inn to another, and when she finally gathered the courage to go to Diana's inn, she met me.

'Three years of no communication was too much for a short conversation.’

Still, it wasn't all bad news.

It took some circling around, but in the end, Eli finally mustered up the courage to go to Diana.

It was a positive sign of family reconciliation.

“Then why did you jump on my back?”

I instinctively dodged, but I wanted to know why.

Eli blushed, rolled her eyes awkwardly, and then blurted out, “The Academy is so hard.”

I wondered how such a culture came to be among the elite.

‘No, it's because they're geniuses that such a ridiculous culture develops.’

As a blue-collar laborer, I couldn't easily cut the people leading the culture.

I just let it go and accepted Eli's words.

“I happen to be on my way to the inn, so why don't you join me?”

“Okay, okay!”

Eli chewed on her tongue as she replied impatiently. She immediately clapped her hand over his mouth.

She's a weird kid. Maybe it's because she's a magical genius.

So I walked with Eli through the streets of the Labyrinth City to Diana's inn.

“⋯The door is locked?”

The entrance door of the inn we arrived at was firmly locked.

It was nighttime so it should be open for the evening business.

I knock on the door, but there's no sound from inside.

“I see⋯ maybe she's out shopping?”

“No. Ms. Diana always leaves the door open when she goes out.”

“⋯Hehe. I see.”

“⋯⋯”

The last time Diana locked the inn's entrance door was when the head of the Royal Knights came to visit.

I wondered if someone important visited now.

As I approached to knock once more, I heard footsteps coming from inside the inn.

-Squeak.

The door opened, and a familiar gray milky dress came into view.

“Ahhh.”

My mouth dropped open in stunned admiration at the stimulating sight.

I was tall enough to see her sternum if I tilted my head slightly.

After widening the angle of view of the helmet, even the white collarbone was revealed more clearly.

A voluptuous breast that equally stimulates a man's maternal instinct and reproductive desire.

There can't be two people in the world with a body like this.

“How are you, Balkan?”

“I'm back, Ms. Diana.”

I gasped a little, and looked up to see her smiling softly, her eyes still closed.

It was only then that I realized I was out of the labyrinth and back on the surface.

So much had happened, but this time, I had made it out alive.

And that's when I locked eyes with Diana.

“Hey, I'm here too!”

Eli poked her head out from behind me urgently.

“Eh, Eli?”

Diana's eyes widened.

\*\*\*

Balkan resisted the urge to hug her in ignorance.

It had been a long time since he'd seen her, but today she seemed more erotic than usual.

Her body felt warm, even heated, and her clothes were wrinkled in places as if she'd put them on in a hurry.

Besides, now that he was home, she couldn't be satisfied without a hug but she felt strangely hesitant to approach Eli, whose eyes were wide open.

‘But you beat me to it.’

Balkan slapped Eli on the back.

Eli turned to look at him with a bemused expression.

“A trendy greeting.”

“Oh⋯!”

Eli's eyes widened at the short word.

Whether it was true or not, it was a greeting that Eli had heard was recently trending at the Academy.

The act of hugging someone tightly when you see them.

I can't swallow it back because I've already spit it out, and by not hugging her, I'm telling her I'm not happy to see her.

She's already tried to hug Balkan, who isn't even related to her.

It's a quandary.

Eli's eyes darted around as if in confusion.

Then, as if steeling herself, she squeezed her eyes shut.

“What's wrong? Is something wrong?”

Seeing Balkan and Eli whispering in close proximity, Diana rushed to intervene, and Eli lunged at her.

“What, Eli?!”

Diana was embarrassed to see Eli suddenly in her arms, but she didn't shy away from her daughter.

She had been distant from her ever since she entered the Academy.

'It's been a while since I've seen her like this⋯'

A faint smile tugged at the corners of Diana's mouth.

“⋯It's been a long time.”

Diana smiled softly, grateful that Eli had accepted her.

Then she gently patted Eli on the back.

“⋯Neeee.”

Eli nodded in Diana’s arms, her voice slightly shaky, her emotions overflowing with memories of the Academy and the past.

After hugging each other for a while, they pulled away, looking strangely embarrassed.

Balkan felt a pang of regret at the sight.

Eli had hugged Diana so hard that her tits had been crushed against Eli's tits.

What man wouldn't sigh at the sight of a mother and daughter's tits being squeezed and rubbed together?

“Eli's turn is over, and now it's⋯

“Ms. Diana.”

I walked over to Diana with my arms wide open.

“Dah, why are you all suddenly trying to hug⋯?”

Diana looked puzzled as Eli and then Balkan hugged.

“I heard it's fashionable at the Academy these days to hug someone tightly when you meet them.”

Balkan explained Eli's assertion moderately.

“That, that⋯kids are fast these days⋯”

Diana blushed, quite shocked by the advanced academy education.

Diana's gaze gradually shifted to Balkan.

He was still spreading his arms wide.

They cautiously approached each other, neither knowing who would make the first move.

Balkan's hand slipped between Diana's armpits and carefully wrapped around her back.

Mmmmmmmmmm.

A heartfelt hug, arms locked around each other and hugged tightly.

“Hooh, hooh⋯”

As they stood upright and embraced, Balkan's pectoralis major was right in front of Diana's face.

Diana squeezed her eyes shut tighter to keep her sanity.

Then she became more aware of the sensation of her breasts rubbing against Balkan's abdominal line.

Her back relaxed slightly at the unexpected stimulation, and the curse responded immediately.

“Nghhhhhh!”

Diana stifled the searing pleasure rising from her lower abdomen.

'Balkan's here earlier than I thought⋯'

The Curse of Decadence had prevented her from fully quenching her ever-building libido.

To be precise, she had been working hard to relieve it until just now, when she heard Balkan's knock on the door and rushed out of the room.

Not anyone else's room, but Balkan's.

The curse that had been on the verge of dissolution and then repressed once again, tortured her womb more fiercely than before.

Diana felt like she was about to go insane, but she tried to keep her libido in check as best she could, forcing a soft, gentle smile on her face.

Mmmmmmmm.

Still, her body was honest. She felt his embrace, taking care not to crush Balkan.

“⋯Aren’t you two hugging too long?!”

Eli exclaimed in a panicked voice as she stared at her foster mom and Balkan's heartfelt embrace.

“⋯⋯”

“⋯⋯”

In the silence, they hugged, feeling each other's bodies, and only after hearing Eli's words did they come to their senses.

They hugged for so long and so hard that their bodies broke apart, making a lustful sound.

Balkan and Diana looked at each other for a moment.

“⋯Diana. Are you in business this evening?”

“⋯Yes⋯Uh, no.”

“Then it’s been a while since we’ve seen each other. Anyway, shall we have a drink together? Let’s reminisce about the past.”

“⋯Yes..”

Diana nodded at Balkan's words, her face somewhat dazed.

Then Balkan's gaze shifted to Eli.

“Ahem. Ahem. Eli, go up to my room. The adults have something to talk about.”

At Balkan's words, both Eli and Diana shuddered as if a seizure button had been pushed.

Eli's keyword was “adults” and Diana's was “Balkan's room.”

“I'm an adult now, right?!”

“Well, then! Eli is an adult now. How can a man and a woman share the same room? Oh, and Balkan. Please use a different room today. I, it’s not for any other reason… I was cleaning the room.”

While Balkan was still reeling from the more intense reaction than he had expected, Eli came over to the bar table and pulled out a bottle of the Dwarven brew, which was rumored to be strong.

“I, I can drink!”

She said and took a seat at the table.

Sinking into her stool, Eli glared at Balkan and Diana.

‘Something⋯ dangerous.’

Eli's instincts warned her.

The mood between Balkan and Diana was unnerving and it felt like something was about to happen.

And if there was alcohol involved?

Maybe, really maybe. One in a million. One in a hundred thousand.

'⋯I might get a little brother.’

That had to be stopped.

‘I'm going to be stuck between my foster mom and you, and I'm going to have to keep an eye on you!’

Faced with Eli's determined face, Diana sat down at the table, smiling broadly as if she were watching her daughter play a cute prank.

“You should come too!”

Balkan sighed as he watched Eli pat the chair next to her.

In an inn in the Labyrinth City, just as the sun was setting and the stars were beginning to shine brightly in the dark sky.

The drinking has begun.