

In Another World With My Smartphone

21

Patora Fuyuhara
illustration • Eiji Usatsuka



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**“I-I LOOK
A LITTLE
AWKWARD
IN THIS,
DON’T I?”**

In Another World With My Smartphone 21





**“COME
GET YOUR
FORTUNE
TOLD! ONLY
AT CLASS
2-C!”**

**“CANDY
APPLES!
GET YOUR
CANDY
APPLES
HERE!”**

**We passed through
the school gates,
only to be greeted
by many overlapping
voices. The festival
was buzzing with
excitement.**

Character Profiles



Elze Silhoueska
One of Touya's fiancées. The elder of the twin sisters saved by Touya some time ago. A ferocious melee fighter, she makes use of gauntlets in combat. Her personality is fairly to-the-point and blunt. She can make use of Null fortification magic, specifically the spell **[Boost]**. She loves spicy foods.



Yumina Urnea Belfast
One of Touya's fiancées. Princess of the Belfast Kingdom. She was twelve years old in her initial appearance, and her eyes are heterochromatic. The right is blue, while the left is green. She has mystic eyes that can discern the true character of an individual. She has three magical aptitudes: Earth, Wind, and Darkness. She's also extremely proficient with a bow and arrow. She fell in love with Touya at first sight.



Mochizuki Touya
A highschooler who was accidentally murdered by God. He's a no-hassle kind of guy who likes to go with the flow. He's not very good at reading the atmosphere, and typically makes rash decisions that bite him in the ass. His mana pool is limitless, he can flawlessly make use of every magical element, and he can cast any Null spell that he wants. He's currently the Grand Duke of Brunhild.



Sushie Urnea Ortlinde
One of Touya's fiancées. She was ten years old in her initial appearance. Her nickname is Sue. The niece of Belfast's king, and Yumina's cousin. Touya saved her from being attacked on the road. She has an innocently adventurous spirit.



Lucia Leah Regulus
One of Touya's fiancées. The Third Princess of the Regulus Empire, she's Yumina's age. She fell in love with Touya when he saved her during a coup. She likes to fight with twin blades, and she's on good terms with Yumina.



Kokonoe Yae
One of Touya's fiancées. A samurai girl from the far eastern land of Eashen, a country much like Japan. She tends to repeat herself and speak formally, she does. Yae is quite a glutton, eating more than most normal people would dare touch. She's a hard worker, but can sometimes slack off. Her family runs a dojo back in Eashen, and they take great pride in their craft. It's not obvious at first, but her boobs are pretty big.



Linze Silhoueska
One of Touya's fiancées. The younger of the twin sisters saved by Touya some time ago. She wields magic, specifically from the schools of Light, Water, and Fire. She finds talking to people difficult due to her own shy nature, but she is known to be surprisingly bold at times. Rumors say she might be the kind of girl who enjoys male on male romance... She loves sweet foods.



Paula
A stuffed toy bear animated by years upon years of the **[Program]** spell. She's the result of two-hundred years of programmed commands, making her seem like a fully aware living being. Paula... Paula's the worst!



Sakura
A mysterious girl Touya rescued in Eashen. She had lost her memories, but has now finally gotten them back. Her true identity is Farnese Forneus, daughter of the Xenoahs Overlord. Currently living a peaceful life in Brunhild, and she has joined the ranks of Touya's fiancées.



Leen
One of Touya's fiancées. Former Clan Matriarch of the Fairies, she now serves as Brunhild's Court Magician. She claims to be six-hundred-and-twelve years old, but looks tremendously young. She can wield every magical element except Darkness, meaning her magical proficiency is that of a genius. Leen is a bit of a light-hearted bully.



Hildegard Minas Lestia
One of Touya's fiancées. First Princess of the Knight Kingdom Lestia. Her swordplay talents earned her a reputation as a 'Knight Princess'. Touya saved her life when she was attacked by a group of Phrase, and she's loved him ever since. She's a good friend of Yae, and she stammers a bit when flustered.



Luli

The fourth of Touya's summoned Heavenly Beasts. She is the Azure Monarch, the ruler of dragons. She often clashes with Kohaku due to her condescending personality.



Kougyoku

The third of Touya's summoned Heavenly Beasts. She is the Flame Monarch, ruler of feathered things. Though her appearance is flashy and extravagant, she's actually quite cool and collected.



Sango and Kokuyou

The second of Touya's summoned Heavenly Beasts. They are the Black Monarch, two in one. The rulers of scaled beasts. They can freely manipulate water. Sango is a tortoise, and Kokuyou is a snake. Sango is a female, and Kokuyou is a male (but he's very much a female at heart).



Kohaku

The first of Touya's summoned Heavenly Beasts. She's the White Monarch, the ruler of beasts, the guardian of the west and a beautiful White Tiger. She can create devastating shockwaves, and also change size at will.



High Rosetta

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Workshop, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Rosetta for short. Her Airframe Serial Number is #27. For whatever reason, she's the most reliable of the bunch.



Francesca

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Hanging Garden, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Cesca for short. Her Airframe Serial Number is #23. She likes to tell very inappropriate jokes.



Mochizuki Moroha

The God of Swords. Claims to be Touya's older sister. She trains the and advises the knights of Brunhild. She's gallant and brave, but also a bit of an airhead at times.



Mochizuki Karen

The God of Love. Claims to be Touya's older sister. She stays in Brunhild because she says she needs to catch a servile god, but doesn't really do all that much in the way of hunting him. She's a total pain in the butt.



Pamela Noel

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Tower, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Noel for short and wears a jersey. Her Airframe Serial Number is #25. She sleeps all the time, and eats laying down. Her tremendous laziness means she doesn't do all that much.



Prelora

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Rampart, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Liora for short and wears a blazer. Her Airframe Serial Number is #20. She's the oldest of the Babylon Gynoids, and would attend to the... Personal night-time needs of Doctor Babylon herself. She has no experience with men.



Fredmonica

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Hangar, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Monica for short. Her Airframe Serial Number is #28. She's a funny little hard worker who has a bit of a casual streak. She's a good friend of Rosetta, and is the Gynoid with the most knowledge of the Frame Gears.



Bell Flora

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Alchemy Lab, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Flora for short and wears a nurse outfit. Her Airframe Serial Number is #21. A nurse with dangerously big boobs and even more dangerous medicines.



Doctor Regina Babylon

An ancient genius from a lost civilization, reborn into an artificial body that resembles a small girl. She is the "Babylon" that created the many artifacts and forgotten technologies scattered around the world today. Her Airframe serial number is #29. She remained in stasis for five-thousand years before finally being awakened.



Atlantica

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Research Lab, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Tica for short. Her Airframe serial number is #22. Of the Babylon Numbers, she is the one who best embodies Doctor Babylon's inappropriately perverse side.



Lileleparshe

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Storehouse, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Parshe for short and wears a shrine maiden outfit. Her Airframe Serial Number is #26. She's tremendously clumsy, even if she's just trying to help. The amount of stuff she ruins is troublingly high.



Irisfam

Terminal Gynoid in charge of the Library, one of the Babylon relics. She's called Fam for short and wears a school uniform. Her Airframe Serial Number is #24. She's a total book fanatic and hates being interrupted when she's reading.

The Story So Far!

Mochizuki Touya, wielding a smartphone customized by God himself, continues to live his life in a newly formed double-world! The war against the Wicked God, which threatened the existence of two innocent worlds, has finally come to an end. Touya has emerged victorious, but at what cost? Now he's saddled with divine duties! Awakened to godliness! Our hapless young lad is to be caretaker of the newly-created world. Fortunately, things seem to be at peace. But could this only be a surface observation? The seeds of discord are sown out of sight, and chaos could very well burst from the dark... How will Touya fare in his new station? Only time will tell.

The Worlds of In Another World With My Smartphone World Map

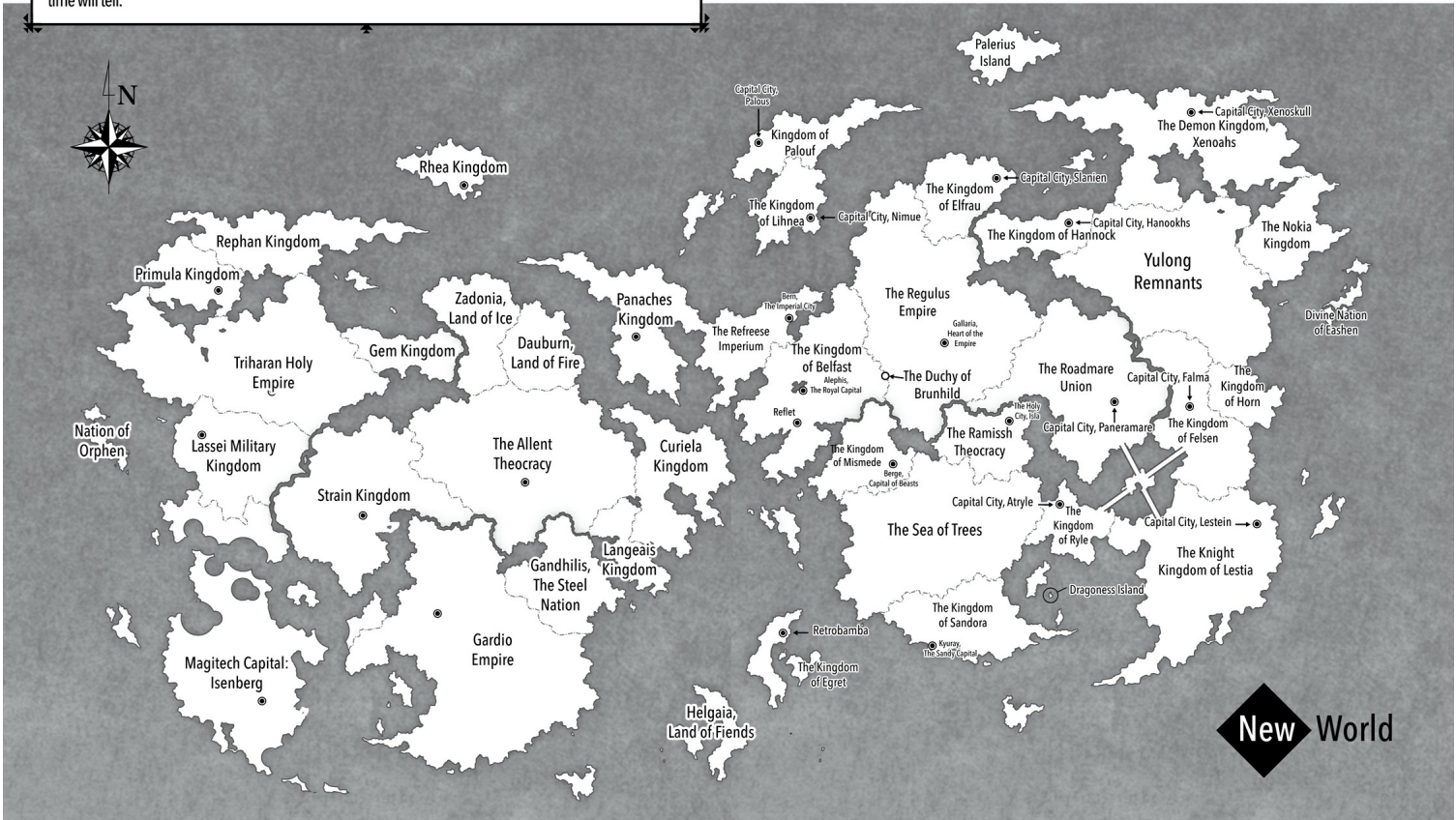


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Chapter I: Before the Wedding

“This should be it for the invites...”

“Very well, I shall send them through the Gate Mirrors at once. Those with local addresses will be distributed by the knights.”

“Thanks a bunch.”

Laim, the butler, bowed after taking a huge bundle of stamped wedding invitations from me. My shoulder hurt like hell. It was the first time in my life I’d used my official wax seal so much in one sitting. Wedding invitations were a lot more difficult than mass emails, that much was for sure.

The original plan was to get confirmation of attendants, then use **[Gate]** to bring them all to Brunhild on the day of the wedding. But fortunately, Granny Tokie decided to take that burden off my hands. She was definitely better than me when it came to Space-time alteration, so it was a major relief that she’d offered to help out.

I took out my smartphone and pulled up the to-do list.

“Now all that’s left is... the souvenirs...”

In this world, there wasn’t any tradition of giving wedding gifts, but some wedding parties prepared souvenirs to give away to the guests as they prepared to leave. That kind of practice existed back in Japan as well, but it wasn’t particularly common.

I wasn’t sure what to hand out as the wedding souvenir, though. I briefly considered collectible mugs or plates with our faces on them, but I didn’t know if that would be well-received.

“Hmm... Let’s see... Maybe I can get some ideas online...?”

I browsed online until I came across some gift catalogs. And I suddenly cooked up a bright idea as I gazed at it. If I showed the catalogs to our guests, I could just have them individually choose the kinds of souvenirs they wanted.

Still, most of our guests were nobility, so I wasn't entirely sure if they'd want to pick out ordinary things like tableware, bags, and stuff like that. That was why I decided to come up with my own catalog with interesting and exotic items. A massage chair seemed like a good idea, and unusual foodstuffs seemed smart as well...

Hmm... Maybe instant curry pouches? Eh... I'm not so sure that's the best idea. Maybe weapons or armor would be good. Oh, how about a magic-boosting accessory or something? I'm sure people would jump at the chance to get their hands on an artifact of some sort.

The possibilities were truly endless.

"Man, I could use a change of scenery..."

I put my phone back in my pocket and left the room. A little walk around the castle felt nice from time to time. I had a few duties to attend to, but nothing urgent. I was blessed to have plenty of capable subordinates who kept things running smoothly.

I walked through the halls, smiling at the maids who busied themselves sweeping. Eventually, I made my way out to the training grounds. Everyone appeared hard at work. They all quietly clashed against each other with wooden swords, honing their skills. I was pretty impressed by how well-built most of them had become.

"Hm?"

By the side of the training grounds, sitting on a bench, was a girl staring toward the sky. It was Elze. She was sitting idly, a water bottle and her gauntlets by her side. I wondered if she was taking a break or something. She hadn't noticed me, so I slowly crept up on her in an attempt to surprise her.

I positioned myself behind her before reaching forward and covering her eyes with my hands.

"Guess wh—? AUGH?!"

"Whuh?! T-Touya?!"

Elze struck me on reflex, making a loud cracking sound ring out. It felt like

she'd busted my nose!

"S-Sorry! I-I didn't mean to do that!"

"I-It's okay... That was my bad..."

I should've known better than to expect anything else from Elze. She wasn't the kind of girl who'd react to something so playful with anything less than a strike to the schnozz.

Holy crap, I'm bleeding... She made me bleed a ton! Elze is probably stronger than any bad guy I've faced so far at this point...

"Come forth, Light! Soothing Comfort: [Cure Heal]."

I had to use magic on my face to heal myself, which I honestly didn't ever think I'd have to do. I made a mental note to never surprise Elze ever again.

"A-Ah, good... The bleeding stopped. Sorry again..."

"Nah, don't worry about it. I shouldn't have tried to spook you. How come you were all spaced out, anyway?"

"Oh, well... It's just... I thought about how we're getting married, and then I kinda freaked out..."

Elze let out a sigh, laughing softly as I sat down next to her.

W-Wait, are these the pre-wedding blues I've heard so much about?! Sometimes a person can get nervous about their impending marriage, which turns into cold feet about the whole thing... In some cases, people even call it off! Wh-Wh-What should I do?! Does she want to cancel the wedding?!

"D-Do you have anxieties or something?"

"Anxieties? Yeah. A ton."

A ton?!

A cold sweat broke out along my brow.

"I'm just thinking about how I'm gonna be a grand duchess, y'know? I'll have a bunch of social responsibilities and stuff. Plus, if I have a kid, they'll be a prince or a princess... so I gotta make sure they're raised proper and all. Whenever I think about that, I get really anxious. I'm not sure if I'm up to that,

y'know?"

"You dummy."

"Owie!"

I lightly chopped Elze's head, which made her let out a little yelp.

"You're thinking too hard. You don't need to change when you're royalty. I'm the grand duke, yeah? But I'm still me. So you can still be you, Elze. You won't be raising any kids alone, either. You have me and the other girls by your side. It's all gonna be just fine, I can feel it. I promise you that. I want to make you happy, and I'm sure I will. We'll live as a happy family. Hell, all kinds of gods have already given us their blessing."

Elze pouted a little as she rubbed her head, but my words gradually made her smile.

"Hehehe... Is that right? I guess if you bring the gods into it, that's a bit more of a relief. A little unfair of you to use that, though... Nobody else can call on gods for help like you."

If it helped soothe Elze's anxiety even a little, I was willing to be as unfair as humanly possible. After all, I wanted to see Elze wearing a big smile on her face, no matter what came our way. That smile of hers was one of the reasons I could soldier on in a new world.

"Don't worry about this kind of thing on your own, okay? We'll be together for the rest of our lives, so start relying on me some more."

"You're right. Thanks for letting me vent. I know we're in this together, so I won't let my fears get the better of me."

Elze stood up from the bench and did a few warm-up stretches. Then, she turned around and gave me that big beaming smile I loved so much.

"Thank you, Touya."

"It's a husband's job to listen to his wife's problems. I just hope I helped."

"W-Wife?! G-Geez, Touya... We're not even married yet... Ehehe..."

Elze's face turned beet red, which prompted her to turn on her heel and head

back toward the training grounds. Maybe I got a little carried away, but she was a lot of fun to tease. So long as she wasn't mad, that was fine by me.

"Wait, crap... I should've asked her for wedding souvenir ideas."

"Hm? Touya-dono? Are you sunbathing, are you?"

As I sat back on the bench, Yae and Hilde suddenly approached me. Based on their wooden swords, I presumed they'd been training together. I was honestly glad about how well they got along.

Given that Elze had some anxieties, I decided to ask them if they were worried at all.

"Anxieties, huh...?"

"Umm... I wonder, I do..."

The two of them turned to each other, as if deep in thought. Frankly, I'd have been more than happy if they didn't have any immediate concerns.

They spent a few moments thinking. Then, Yae finally nodded in my direction.

"There is one thing bothering me, there is."

"Hm? What's that?"

"The food at the wedding ceremony... Is it true that I must refrain from eating large portions, is it?"

Well... that's definitely a Yae anxiety.

Hilde also spoke up, though much more quietly.

"I-I, um... If I get pregnant... I won't be able to train so severely, will I...? I-I don't want to gain weight..."

Wow. Someone's planning ahead. It's true that I don't want her to overdo it while she's pregnant, though...

I was pleased to hear that Yae and Hilde didn't have any deep-seated fears like Elze did, to be honest.

"Why did you think we'd have anxieties?"

"Well, I think it's normal to mull things over before you get married. It's a big

step in life, isn't it? So it's only natural it might put things in perspective."

"I think marriage is a big step, but it's also a partnership. There'll surely be problems that come our way, but the strength of our bond will allow us to overcome everything together."

"Y-Yeah, you're right..."

Hilde's words burned bright with determination. She was the kind of girl who really shined when it came to tough situations, so it wasn't too surprising that she wasn't getting hung up on the small stuff.

"I believe in us all, I do. I think that we can accomplish anything together, we can."

Yae felt exactly the same way. She believed in harmony and put it above all else. In her mind, we were probably already a big family, so the wedding was just a means of making things formal in the eyes of the law. That easygoing nature was one of the things I liked the most about her.

I wondered about how Linze was feeling, though. She was similar to Elze in quite a few ways, after all.

"Hm? Linze?"

"Linze-dono has been spending time with Tokie-dono, she has."

That made sense. If I recalled correctly, they'd been knitting together on the balcony lately.

I didn't want to hold up Yae and Hilde's training any longer, so I activated **[Teleport]** and landed on the balcony outside our main sitting room.

Linze was there, sitting on a chair, knitting and singing to herself. In fact, she was so focused on her knitting that she hadn't even realized I was there. She displayed some rather impressive concentration, really.

The image of her was so enthralling that I couldn't help but stare at her for a while. Working so dutifully brought out her natural beauty.

"Huh...? Touya? When did you get here?"

"Oh, sorry. You seemed really focused, so I didn't want to interrupt you."

Linze seemed to notice how captivated I'd become, so I gave her a vague enough answer. Then, I sat down at the table, looking over at Linze. She tilted her head in confusion.

"Is something wrong?"

"Well, it's not a big deal. I was just wondering..." I outright asked her if she had any anxieties about the wedding. It was wrong of me to say it wasn't a big deal, since I had no idea how she was feeling.

"Anxieties, hm? I'd say I have a few, but I think my excitement is outweighing it."

"You're excited?"

"I am. We'll finally become a proper family. Once we have our children, we'll make many memories with them, too... I'm really excited for that future."

It seemed like Linze was more hopeful than nervous.

"But where'd this come from all of a sudden...? Oh, I see... Was it my sister?"

"Huh? How'd you know...?"

"Well, it's Elze, you know? She's been busy, but I'm sure she's been thinking hard. That said, I bet once her anxieties are settled, she'll be firmly okay about all of this."

Linze really had a solid grasp on how her sister worked. It was quite amazing.

I glanced at the table in front of me, looking at the pile of stuff atop it.

"Ah, these? They're a hat and some leg warmers... among other things."

I picked up the hat on the table. It was made of soft yarn and, judging by the size, was perfect for a baby. There were rompers, socks, bibs, and other baby clothes as well.

"There's enough for nine."

"W-Wait... Isn't it a little soon to be making these?!"

"Better safe than sorry, no?"

C-C'mon, Linze... We haven't even done... y-you know... that yet... Plus, I'm

sure you won't all get pregnant at the same time!

It felt like Linze had already gotten past the wife stage and had made peace with being a mother. Given her current lack of children, I didn't know whether to be amazed or concerned about her extreme maternal instinct.

Still, she seemed happy, which was more than enough for me.

Oh, right. I can ask Linze about the souvenirs.

"Hmm... Things for our guests? Desserts, maybe?"

Desserts... That's a little plain, but it could work. People would probably enjoy being sent home with some cakes or something.

"Any other ideas?"

"Hmm... Sue's staying over tonight, right? Why don't you ask everyone during the sleepover?" Linze clasped her hands together as she spoke, presenting what seemed like a decent idea.

I had slowly gotten used to the idea of them sleeping in the same room as me, but I still often ended up sleeping on the couch when they came over. I had a feeling I'd keep doing it until they forced me to stay in the bed with them... That was a little bit spineless of me, but I'd been making steps in my own way. For example, I'd recently gotten to the point where I could give them all goodnight kisses.

Either way, getting everyone's input about the wedding souvenir catalog seemed like a solid plan. I just wondered how many options to provide. Wedding ceremonies were no picnic, honestly. I'd been extremely busy, and I hadn't had a single moment to relax.

"Why not include some basic magic artifacts? You could create music boxes or something."

"Oh, yeah. Nice idea."

Leen, clad in her black pajamas, gave a suggestion. Music players would probably be popular with the nobles. Though some nobles had their own personal orchestras, so maybe they wouldn't want it. Regardless, I set it down in my notes.

We were discussing the situation atop our giant bed. Kohaku, Sango and Kokuyou, Kougyoku, Luli, and Albus were there too. They were sitting on the floor, playing a board game I'd put together for them. Mr. Mittens wasn't there, however. He was hanging out with Sakura's mother.

"Wh—? Luli! I wanted to buy that property, you wretch!"

"First come, first served. It's not my fault that I landed on it. I think I'll buy a house for this spot, too..."

They were playing a board game where you traded properties, built houses on certain spots, and built hotels as well. It was quite a popular game. I decided to put it on the souvenir list after watching them have a good time.

Apparently, Sue was feeling a little bit homesick, giving her similar anxiety to Elze when she thought about her upcoming marriage. When the time came for her to live with me, she'd be separated from her parents, her little brother, and her faithful butler, Leim. I already told her she could go home through the portal in the castle any time she wanted, so that at least alleviated some of her concerns.

"We'll be starting a new family together, so at least I won't be lonely..." Sue said, trying to be brave even though I could tell she was going to miss everyone at the Ortlinde estate. I gave her a big hug, quietly vowing to make sure she always felt loved. Personally, I felt sorry for Duke Ortlinde, since he had to watch his daughter leave him.

"If it were me getting a wedding souvenir, I'd want a cooking set."

"Isn't that something more for a castle chef, though?"

Lu and Yumina chattered away with each other. It was true that most of the nobles we'd invited would hardly want to take cooking equipment back with them, but we weren't just inviting highborn people. There were plenty of commoners like Micah, Dolan, Barral, and Aer.

I had a feeling they'd get a lot of use out of some fancy home gear, so I decided to throw some more practical stuff on to the souvenir list as well.

"So, what kind of things are on that list?"

“Hm? Wanna see?”

I projected the current catalog into the air. A second later, Yae and Lu found themselves drawn to the holographic images of various fancy-looking meals.

“Ooh... I want to eat that meaty dish, I do...”

“I’d love to try making it!”

“We’ll get to try it when we go over to that world, just be patient.”

I’d received permission from God Almighty to take the girls to Earth on a sightseeing trip after the wedding.

We spent the rest of the night picking out various items for the wedding souvenir catalog... Frankly, it wasn’t the most sensual of activities to do with one’s brides-to-be. I probably could have been a little more aggressive, if I’d only had the guts...



I’d finally put together the catalog. I printed it off with **[Drawing]**, then bound it into a book thanks to the workshop. People could select what they wanted, mark it off on a postcard, and then forward it to Brunhild.

The list was separated into three sections named A, B, and C. Honestly, the only thing that divided the sections was the price, but I didn’t really worry too hard about that, since I was making most of the gifts myself anyway.

I didn’t want any reselling of the goods going on, so I also made sure to uniquely identify each item with a serial code. That said, I didn’t expect any of my guests to actually do that.

It was now a week away from the wedding, and we’d just about finished the preparations. I was hanging around Brunhild like normal, while my fiancées had returned to their respective homes before the wedding.

Elze and Linze had gone back to their aunt and uncle’s farm in Refreese. Yae went back to her father’s dojo in Oedo, and Yumina had returned to Belfast Castle. Sue had headed off to the Ortlinde Estate, while Lu and Hilde respectively returned to the royal courts of Regulus and Lestia. Sakura had moved over to Xenoahs with her mother, where they’d be staying with Spica.

That was the house she'd grown up in, after all... I had a feeling her father would batter the door down once he realized she was there, though.

Leen had gone back home to Mismede, though obviously she wasn't visiting her parents. Paula had accompanied her, of course.

I hoped that the girls enjoyed the last week of their single lives along with their families. Though honestly, it bothered me a bit. Once everyone left... the place felt all too quiet. Loneliness started creeping in around breakfast time.

Takeru and Moroha got up early to train, while Kousuke got up early to plow the fields. Karina went out in the early hours for her daily hunt, and neither Karen nor Suika had gotten out of bed. The gods in my immediate vicinity just did whatever they wanted, like always.

Sousuke was at the breakfast table... but he never spoke a word. He was playing Morning Mood by Edvard Grieg, but he didn't talk to me or anything. Frankly, I was just amazed by how well he could eat his breakfast while playing the violin. Out of all the gods, only Granny Tokie made sure to spend time with me every day. Most days she just sat outside on the balcony, knitting away at the fabric of reality. Though sometimes she got up to speak with the maids or take a walk into the castle town. She acted like everyone's grandmother at that point. It amazed me that she got along with everyone she met. I wondered if it was her divinity coming into play.

After I finished breakfast, I found myself getting a touch bored. I'd been given a break from my administrative duties. My vacation started one week before the wedding and ended right after the honeymoon, so I had nothing to do at all.

"Kohaku... I'm bored."

"Better bored than in trouble, no?"

She raised a fair point. I slumped down on the couch, lifted Kohaku up, and started petting her on the head. I kind of felt like an old man. The image of an old man sitting alongside his cat as the sunset flashed through my mind.

Frankly, it felt a little concerning. Surely I wasn't that old yet! I decided that the best course of action was to leave the castle and get some fresh air.

Holding Kohaku in my arms, I activated **[Teleport]**. The two of us immediately

found ourselves behind Brunhild's guild building. It was a very popular place that typically bustled with adventurers trying to prove their worth.

The adventurers hadn't quite noticed my sudden appearance, so I slipped on a hood and entered the building.

The place looked as lively as ever. Unlike Belfast and Regulus, there weren't many magical beasts in Brunhild's territory. And so, most of the adventurers visited to go dungeon diving on the islands Brunhild was connected to.

Unfortunately, just dungeon diving alone wasn't a great way of increasing one's rank. Completing quests and helping out the guild was the fastest way to climb upward. If you did enough, you could get up to the veteran blue rank in no time at all. Dungeon diving, on the other hand, wasn't really quest-related. It was just killing monsters and looking for loot. Since it wasn't a formal guild task, it didn't really help you rise up within their system.

The real incentive to go looting in the dungeons was the rare items and monsters you could find down there. If you brought back some good stuff, you could make some serious cash. Sure, you could take the 'collect X resources' quests from the guild, but then you'd be a bit limited in your search. You'd also suffer penalties if you failed the quest or didn't do it in time. That was why it was often considered better from a financial standpoint to just cut the guild out and sell the materials on the market yourself. And the guild itself had a counter for buying those materials, so they still won in the end.

Regardless, Brunhild's guild was more geared toward lower-ranked fortune-seekers than high-ranked quest-takers. It was a place for people who wanted an adventure without necessarily caring about their ranking.

Due to how busy it got, there were three separate reception desks in the building. I'd been here many times, so I headed to the desk I typically used.

"Welcome to the Brunhild branch of the adventurer's guild. How can I help—? Oh!"

Misha, the catwoman receptionist, formed a slightly awkward smile when she noticed Kohaku at my feet and realized who I was. It wasn't all that welcoming, for some reason.

“Sorry to bother you. Is Relisha in?”

“Oh, the guildmaster’s upstairs. Please wait a moment. I’ll check if she’s occupied.”

Misha suddenly stood up and shuffled up the stairs by the counter. I felt a bit bad. I should’ve just called ahead. After a short while, Misha came scampering back down.

“Thanks for waiting. Please go ahead.”

“Thanks... Sorry again for getting in your way.”

I bowed my head to Misha and continued up the stairs. After I got to the top, I made my way down the hallway on the second floor until I reached Relisha’s room.

“Good to see you, Your Highness.”

Relisha, the guildmaster, motioned for me to sit on the couch facing her. She was an elf, so she was a natural beauty... but something about her was seriously intimidating.

“Thanks for the invitation to your wedding, by the way. I’ll certainly be able to attend on behalf of the guild. Did you have any business here today, though?”

“Oh, well... Uhhh...”

I could only murmur a bit in response. It was hard for me to take up Relisha’s time, since I knew she always had a lot on her plate.

“Well, I was wondering about the academy. Have there been any issues?”

“Nope, all’s fine there. Most newbies take the two-week course, then pass their exams with no problems. The really promising newcomers get sorted into higher ranks come the end, so we’ve got a steady supply of people clearing the low and mid-level quests.”

“What about high-level quests? Who’s handling those?”

“Ende and Norn, along with Nia and her Red Cat friends. They’ve been handling strong dungeon monsters quite a lot lately.”

Huh... I had no idea they’d gotten so tough.

“Ende’s a silver-rank, so he’s getting by fine with the quests. Norn and Nia are red-rank as well.”

“Wait, what?! Ende’s at silver already?!”

“That’s right. He recently took care of a group of minotaurs that appeared near the dungeon entrance.”

I had no idea... I’d typically left dungeon affairs to the guild, so I hadn’t bothered checking up on individual rankings. Still, that was interesting. Given that Ende could fight Behemoths in his Dragoon, I had a feeling he’d rise to gold sooner or later.

Norn and Nia were at red-rank, too. That was probably good, to be honest. They’d be able to take care of issues that might have otherwise fallen to me.

I chatted with Relisha for a while longer before leaving the guild.

Hmm... Where to next?

I wandered around until I found myself at the school grounds.

Fiana and Sakura were back in Xenoahs, so I dropped in to see if they needed a hand anywhere.

When I got there, I saw something that I found a little hard to believe. The kids were playing in the yard, some on the slide and others in the jungle gym. But that wasn’t the issue. The sight I couldn’t quite process was the cheery, glasses-wearing girl and her purple Golem companion who were entertaining the kids.

“Oh, Tou! Long time no see.”

“Beep.”

“What, uh...? What are you guys doing here?”

It was Luna Trieste and her Golem, Viola. I’d already messed with her by using a curse, so she should’ve been free to live normally.

“Hm? I’m a teacher.”

“You’re a what?!”

Luna’s words made primal dread well up in me from the pits of my stomach.

Her? A teacher?!

“Hm, are you okay? Did you come to see the children?”

How'd this happen?

I was so shocked that I immediately sought out the two teachers who'd been put in charge while Fiana was away. They were a human woman named Miette and an elf man named Leisale. Fiana had hired them to keep an eye on the kids and help her in class.

According to them, Luna had wandered over one day and started to play with the kids. Apparently, the kids took such a shine to her that they wanted her to help out in the classrooms, so Fiana ended up hiring her as an assistant. And from there, she eventually became a teacher in her own right.

I had heard from Kousaka that the school was hiring staff, since it was state-run and all... but I didn't realize it was her of all people.

“But why are you working here?”

“Kids are sweet, aren't they? They're so pure with their feelings. An adult might say thank you, but if a child thanks you, then it's always from the bottom of their hearts. Whenever one of these kids thanks me, I get a lovely tingle of joy shooting through me... Ehehe... Ehehehehe... It feels... so good... I might have finally found my life's calling.”

Luna grinned madly, a look of pure ecstasy on her face. The curse I'd placed on her made her feel pleasure whenever she was appreciated, but apparently she'd learned to exploit that system for a hit of the good stuff whenever she felt like it...

“Are you sure she's a good fit for this job? Isn't she a bad influence?”

“Ahaha... She's a little quirky, but she seems to have a good work ethic. Plus, Viola helps a lot with heavy lifting,” Leisale, the elf, smiled softly as he spoke. Luna probably knew that if the gratitude wasn't genuine, she wouldn't get her hit of pleasure, so at the very least she was working hard.

“Ms. Lunaaaaaa... Let's play!”

“Hey, Viowa... Let's pway. Ms. Luna, c'mon...”

“Let’s make a sandcastle, yay!”

The kids started toddling over, surrounding Luna and Viola in seconds. They really seemed to like her... I guess they were oblivious to her perversions.

“Okay, kids! Let’s build the bestest sandcastle ever!”

“Yay! Thanks, Ms. Luna!”

“Thank you!”

“Mfh!” Luna turned away from the children, hiding her pleasure-stricken face. She looked disgusting, frankly... Well, at least she had the good sense not to show the kids.

“A-Ah... A-Anyway! Let’s get to the sandbox!”

“Yeah! You too, Viola!”

“Beep.”

The kids dragged Luna and Viola over to the sandbox... Luna was practically bow-legged as she walked. I wasn’t sure how to feel about the whole situation.

“We always teach the kids to say thanks. It’s an important life lesson.”

“...Yeah, I guess... Though I wonder if that’s a good thing in her case...”

I personally felt like thank you, sorry, and I love you were the three most difficult phrases to get right in terms of timing. If you put off saying any of those things, then you wouldn’t get far in life.

I had a feeling teaching the kids to be open with their gratitude was a good thing, but Luna deriving so much pleasure from it was also a little... weird.

Either way, so long as Luna stayed true to her need for pleasure, I was sure she’d do a fine job teaching the kids. I couldn’t believe she was the same frenzied mistress that was feared throughout the Reverse World. For better or worse, she was a reformed person now... probably.

Looks like they don’t need much help here. Better head somewhere else.

It was about time for lunch, so I decided to head to the Silver Moon. I hadn’t been there in a while. When I got there, the dining room was packed, which wasn’t a surprise. The food was as delicious as it was cheap.

“My liege, one of our knights is over there.”

“Hm?”

Kohaku made me glance over at a nearby table, and I saw Lanz eating there. It made sense, given his feelings for Micah. He wasn't wearing armor, so he was probably off-duty. The seat opposite him was empty, so I decided to take it.

“Mm? Ah... Y-Your High—”

“Shh! Don't mind me, I just came here for some food.”

Lanz almost gave my identity away, but I managed to stop him in time.

“Welcome! How might I take your ord— Ah?”

“Shh!”

Micah appeared, and I had to stop her from exclaiming as well. I was a little surprised by her sudden appearance. I'd have expected her to be back in the kitchen.

“I'm on waitress duty because Dad's helping me out. He's been staying here in preparation for the wedding, so I'm having him work in the kitchen to pay his keep.”

“You're charging your dad?”

“Of course! Business is business. Even if he's my dad, he's a customer first.”

...Damn. Sure, he gets a free stay, but is it really free if he has to work for it? I feel bad for the guy.

“It's not just Dad, either. There's a small group from Reflet working for their keep. Barral and Simon are among them.”

There's still a week until the wedding. Are their stores back in Reflet gonna be okay if they leave them unattended for that long?

“So, what do you want?”

“Oh, I'll just have today's special. Same for Kohaku.”

“Gotcha.”

Micah set down a jug of water before walking back to the kitchen. I gulped

down the water, keeping a close eye on Lanz as he watched Micah walking away.

“...Still haven’t told her how you feel, huh?”

“Wh-Wh-What?! Huh?!”

Lanz froze up, then started shoveling food into his mouth. It was pretty funny to see him get so flustered. Lestian men were pretty earnest and pure-hearted... Well, not that perverted former king, really. But most of them.

“It’s pretty easy to tell, man. Why not just confess already?”

“Well, Ms. Karen told me to go about it properly...”

That made sense, but he still needed to act. The issue was that he didn’t know her very well. It was one thing to just sit in the inn at lunch, but he needed to make an effort with her. Though I couldn’t really talk, since I wasn’t all that assertive myself.

“I’m sure her father, Dolan, knows about my feelings... Sometimes I can feel him glaring at me...”

Leave him alone, old man... Wait, hold on... In war, if you want to take out the general... it’s best to target the horse he’s riding.

“Lanz, do you play shogi?”

“Ah, yes. I often play it with the other knights in our quarters. It’s quite good for tactical training! Why do you ask?”

“We’re going to take out the horse.”

“...What?”

A grin formed on my face as my plan started coming together.

Lunch had passed, and the dining hall was now sparsely populated. Lanz and I remained at our table, playing shogi together.

After a couple of games, I realized that he was quite a talented player. In fact, he was clearly beyond my skill level. It got to the point where I had to start cheating.

《My liege... Move that piece...》

《Got it...》

Kohaku telepathically communicated instructions to me. She was looking at a shogi tips app on my phone, which I could glance at through our shared vision.

That app was actually how Lanz had gotten so good, apparently. He played against the AI a lot.

“Hmm...” Lanz, who didn’t know I was cheating, pondered his next move. The app was pretty high-level, so I knew it’d be enough to stump him.

I glanced over to the kitchen and noticed that Dolan was watching us. Like a moth to a flame, he gradually made his way to the side of the table and began to spectate.

All according to plan.

“That’s check!”

“...Damn, you got me...”

Lanz managed to win despite my cheating. He was pretty damn impressive, all things considered.

“Hmph... You got better all of a sudden, Your Highness...”

“Oh, uh... I was just testing you at first, that’s all. Going easy on you as a warm-up!”

Lanz almost caught me, but I managed to talk him out of the situation. Honestly, I wasn’t very good at shogi, but I was trying to lure a certain old man out, so that was fine.

“You’re pretty good, Lanz. Quite the up-and-comer for our knight order. Hey, Dolan. Wanna play him?”

“Huh? What?!”

Lanz looked to his side, noticed Dolan was there, and suddenly stiffened up in shock. He must have been so focused on the game that he’d failed to register his surroundings.

“Interestin’... Been a while since I’ve seen someone who can play like that. You good to spend some time playin’ me, lad?”

“Oh, uh... Y-Yes sir! It’s my day off!”

“Alrighty then. Let’s go a round or two.”

I gave up my seat to Dolan, and Kohaku came out from under the table with my phone in her mouth.

Micah was in the middle of wiping down some tables, so I walked over to her.

“...Dad’s indulging in his habits again, huh? I’d appreciate it if you didn’t tempt him like that, you know?”

“He’s just having a little fun. By the way, Micah... what do you think of Lanz?”

“Huh? He’s a pretty nice guy. Helpful and stuff. He’s lugged a few boxes for me before.”

Damn... She really has no idea, huh?

“Oh yeah... There was a rowdy adventurer in here the other day who had a little much to drink, but Lanz took care of him. That was pretty cool, to be honest...”

Ohoho? I wonder if there’s a hint of feeling in there after all...

“Lanz is a pretty good guy, you know? I’d say he’s real boyfriend material.”

“Ahaha... Don’t be silly. I’m sure he could do better than someone like me.”

“I think he’d disagree with that. In fact, I think he might like you...”

“Huh?”

Micah suddenly went completely stiff, but hopefully what I’d said made her realize the situation at hand.

She stood still for a few more moments, then suddenly turned beet red.

Wh-What kind of spell was that?! You’re red as a rose! What are you, a chameleon?! Hello?! Earth to Micah!

“Wh-Wh-What?! H-He couldn’t... Me?!”

“...Did you not notice at all? Haven’t you wondered why he’s always here for you?”

“Well... he did ask me to dinner and give me a bouquet of flowers once, but...

that was as friends, right?”

“Men typically don’t give bouquets to girls they just regard as friends.”

“R-Really?!”

...Wow. She’s a total idiot, huh? Did she really not pick up on his signals? This would’ve been one of the situations where Karen showing up might’ve actually helped. Damn... these guys are utterly ridiculous. Lanz should have just confessed to her directly, really. Oh well, whatever. I’m sure it’ll all work out fine for them now that she knows...

“Micah. Order for table three.”

“Huh?! O-Oh, okay! G-Got it!”

One of the waitresses called over to Micah, who immediately disappeared into the kitchen. Even her ears were red...

I guess every small thing Lanz had done for her suddenly hit her all at once. Love comes at you like a lightning bolt... It certainly did for me, at least.

“Let’s head home now, Kohaku.”

“Very well.”

We still had a while before the girls got home. I was slowly getting used to doing things without them around, but it still felt pretty lonely overall... Still, I knew I’d be with them forever once we were married, so enjoying the feeling of solitude for the last time felt good in that regard.

Smiling to myself, I left the inn and began wandering back home.



“M-Milord, thank you so much for inviting me to your wedding! It’s a blessing, truly! An honor!”

“Uhh... I-It’s fine. Please stand up...”

I was in the castle’s reception room, standing before a prostrating man. I awkwardly glanced toward the woman by his side.

“Please forgive him. He’s not very good at composing himself around nobility. I assure you he’s an upstanding man otherwise.”

“Right...”

The woman laughed softly at my response. The prostrating man was Joseph, and the woman was his wife, Lana. They were Elze and Linze’s uncle and aunt. They’d showed up because the immediate family members of the wedding party had been brought to Brunhild castle for the eve of the wedding.

It wasn’t just the aunt and uncle, either. Their children had arrived as well. In order of age, there was Emma (21), Aaron (16), Sheena (10), Allen (7), Kurara (6), Kirara (6), Allan (5), and Reno (3).

“Wowie! The room’s so big!”

“The rug’s all soft!”

“This chair’s all bouncy!”

“Settle down, children!” Emma, the eldest, was doing her best to keep the kids settled, but they were still rowdy as ever. I, for one, didn’t appreciate little Reno’s boogers being wiped on my coat.

“Aunt Lana... Will Joseph be okay? There’ll be nobles and royals at the wedding... It’s okay if he doesn’t come to the ceremony, we’ll understand.”

“Yeah, that’s right... We’re just happy he came here to the castle, you know? It’s okay.”

Elze and Linze expressed concern for their uncle. I was a little worried about him too. If he was this nervous around me, of all people, there was no telling how badly he’d freak out with the nobles from other lands.

However, Joseph turned to his nieces and spoke firmly.

“Don’t be ridiculous! I’d never be able to face my sister in the afterlife if I couldn’t walk her girls down the aisle! Even if I die, I’ll attend as a zombie! I mean it!”

I didn’t exactly want any zombies at my wedding, but I could appreciate his determination. He desperately wanted to be there for the girls on their big day.

“Can’t you help him, Touya?”

“I mean, I could, but...”

Technically, I could erase his trauma with **[Hypnosis]**, but I didn't feel comfortable messing with his mind like that. Still, on the off-chance it was okay, I explained the spell to Lana and asked for her opinion. I didn't want to freak Joseph out too hard, so I didn't bother asking him. After hearing me out, Lana consented, which made me decide to give it a try.

"Okay, let's try it..."

I stood in front of Joseph, focusing my magical energies. A thin, black mist began swirling around him.

"Tempt, o Dark! Implanted Falsehood: [Hypnosis]."

"Whuh?" Joseph let out a quiet sound before falling into a trance.

"You're okay, Joseph. You can handle talking to nobles. You might have a little bit of anxiety, but it's completely fine. You'll be able to hold up a courteous conversation with them. There's not a thing to worry about. You're completely fine."

"I'm... completely fine..."

I had to be careful with my phrasing, since I didn't want him to be disrespectfully casual with the nobles. Hopefully that was still enough.

"Is it over?"

"Yeah. I think he'll be fine now."

Elze clapped her hands, which made Joseph blink. Gradually, he returned to his senses.

"Uncle... Do you know who the man in front of you is?"

"Huh? Of course! He's Mochizuki Touya, the grand duke of Brunhild. Don't be ridiculous, Elze... I wanted to thank him for his invitation..."

He seemed to be a bit more comfortable, if not a little twitchy. Brainwashing him was clearly the moral thing to do.

"So you're fine now... What a relief..."

Joseph looked confused at Elze's words, but I had a feeling he'd get over it.

"Thanks, Touya. Now he can attend the wedding without any issues."

“Heh, no worries. I’m just glad it worked out well. Anyway, let’s get you all to your rooms. Elze and Linze’ll show you the way.”

Joseph and his family followed Elze and Linze. The kids seemed amazed by just about everything they saw as they walked through the halls.

Hmm... Kind of crazy that they have so many kids... You’re a braver man than I, Joseph... But I guess I’ll have a family like that someday too, huh?

I’d seen the future thanks to Babylon, and because of that, I knew I’d have nine children. That was more kids than Joseph and Lana.

“I wonder if I’ll be a good father...”

“Oh, Touya-dono. I was looking for you, I was.”

After Joseph’s family left, Yae arrived with her own family in tow. Her father, Jubei, was there along with her mother, Nanae. Her brother Jutaro and his fiancée Ayane were with them as well. They were staying in the castle, so Yae had decided to take them all on a trip around town. Due to that, I hadn’t expected them to be back so soon. For some reason, Jutaro seemed to be livelier than usual.

“He challenged Moroha again, he did. And me...”

“Yeah... Didn’t think I’d lose, either.”

That explained it... Yae must’ve beaten him in a duel, so he was in a good mood due to how good of a fight it was. It made sense, really. Yae had been training with Moroha almost every day. She was far beyond regular humans. Given that he’d taught his sister how to fight, it must have taken him by surprise.

“Have you fought Yae recently, Jubei?”

“No, watching Jutaro’s fight against her was enough. Maybe I’d have given it a try if I were twenty years younger, but I’m sure she’d wipe the floor with me now.”

Hmm... I wonder about that... Jutaro’s certainly come a long way too, to be fair.

“Touya-dono!”

“Uh... Y-Yes?!”

Jutaro suddenly prostrated himself in front of me. I had an immediate and visceral flashback to Joseph’s earlier display.

“If I might be so bold, I ask that you give me time to travel alone in your nation! There are many swordsmen here that I’m certain I could learn from!”

“Huh?!”

I was shocked by Jutaro’s sudden request. Apparently, he was unable to get Moroha’s swordplay out of his mind.

“Um, so... what, you want to join my knight order?”

“Not at all! I only raise my blade in service of Tokugawa Ieyahsu-sama! What I am asking for is special permission to train with your knights here for a time!”

He looked up at me with raw sincerity painted over his face. I wasn’t really sure what to think.

I had a feeling that Moroha would be completely fine with it, but he was technically a foreign dignitary under Tokugawa. I could tell his intentions were earnest, though. And so, I sighed softly before giving him a nod.

“Fine. I’ll allow it, but I want to ask Ieyahsu for permission first. Assuming he says yes, I’ll prepare quarters for you and Ayane to live in.”

“Th-Thank you so much!”

“Yes, thank you!”

Jutaro bowed even more deeply, and Ayane joined him by bowing her head. I really didn’t see the point in the bowing... They were going to be my siblings-in-law, so it was only natural I’d treat them well.

“Touya-dono, I truly appreciate this.”

Yae smiled gently. She clearly loved her elder brother a lot, so I was sure the decision had brought her a lot of peace of mind. But if Jutaro and Ayane moved here, I had a feeling Jubei and Nanae would get lonely... I didn’t exactly want to open up **[Gate]** portals for them all the time, so I’d probably have to install a portal mirror connected to their dojo or something.

I shrugged, then carried on with my affairs until nightfall.

In the evening, we all ate together, played games, and then returned to our respective rooms.

It was my last night as a bachelor, alone in my massive bed.

“Tomorrow’s the day... I really can’t believe I’m getting hitched. I’ll be a married man this time tomorrow... To nine people, at that.”

I certainly had a lot of brides... but I loved every one of them, that much was for sure. I wanted to make them happy.

I’d met a lot of people since I’d come to this world, but meeting those girls ended up being the most important encounters of my life. If dying meant meeting them, then I was glad I had died.

“Lots of stuff has happened since I came here, huh...?”

In a way, dying was the best thing to happen to my life. A little morbid, but that didn’t make it any less true.

Well, time to get under the covers and go to sleep. Big day ahead of me and all...

I closed my eyes to get some rest, but for some reason, I couldn’t sleep at all.

I checked my smartphone. It was ten at night. I had to be up at five in the morning to prepare for the ceremony, but I just couldn’t bring myself to sleep at all. I was probably nervous.

“Damn it...”

I hopped out of bed and glanced at the corner of the room. Kohaku and the other summoned beasts were nestled up comfortably, dozing away. Lucky them.

I wondered if I should just bite the bullet and cast **[Sleep Cloud]** on myself, but I knew if I did, I’d run the risk of casting it too hard... I definitely didn’t want to sleep through my wedding day. That would’ve been an absolute disaster.

At times like that, there was only one thing to do... browse the internet on my phone until I fell unconscious with a website open.

I planned on going to Earth for my honeymoon anyway, so checking up on Earth news seemed useful.

“Hm... I wonder if we should go to other countries instead of just staying in Japan...”

I couldn't open up **[Gate]** to places I hadn't been before... Technically. The magic actually worked based on mental images, so I just needed to look up a place online to reach it.

The internet was filled with all kinds of photos of exotic locations. The pyramids of Egypt, Waikiki Beach in Hawaii, Uluru in Australia... The possibilities were endless. Plus, I could use translation magic to make communication quick and easy.

...Wait. Can I? There's no magic in Earth's atmosphere, right? Oh, wait. I think I can use residual magic through my divinity... And if not, I can just teleport using my divinity, can't I?

Though, if that was the case, Leen and Linze would be able to use a little magic back on Earth. I didn't exactly want that to happen...

Earth was a world where magic didn't exist, so suddenly unleashing it on the planet would cause everything to go sideways for sure.

Despite my incessant browsing, I wasn't getting any sleepier. The anxiety grew way too intense.

“...I'll treat myself to a cup of tea.”

I headed to the balcony and took in the evening breeze. The full moon sat overhead, illuminating the night sky.

The usual hustle and bustle had died down due to how late it was, and only a few flickering lights from the castle town provided evidence of human life in the area.

Suddenly, I felt a presence.

“Having trouble sleeping?”

“...Well, I guess you could say that. I think it's the nerves.”

I didn't even have to turn around to know who it was. He was sitting at the balcony table, a small cup of tea in front of him.



I was a recipient of God Almighty's own divinity, so I could sense him whenever he came down to this world. Thus, his arrival hadn't shocked me. It was different when Karen just popped up, though. I could never see her coming.

"Here, my boy. This divine tea should help ease you into slumber."

"Oh, thanks."

I sat down across from him and took the tea. The stalk in the middle of the liquid was standing on end, which was a sign of good luck. The first time I'd met God Almighty, the stalk had stood on end as well.

"Tomorrow is the big day, my lad. I am quite nervous, I must admit. It will be the first time I have attended a ceremony quite like this one."

"Ahaha... It'll be nice to have you, though."

I was glad he could attend. Without him, I had a feeling Karen or Suika would go too far in their revelry.

"I know now, my boy. It was the right decision to send you to this world. The problems that had been bubbling here have just about been quelled. All it took was a little push from another world."

His words were comforting to hear, and more than encouraging.

"Touya, my boy... Have you come to like this world?"

"I have, yeah. This world and its inhabitants are all important to me."

"I see... That is rather pleasant to hear. As the god of worlds, I manage a great many realms. Some worlds are more difficult to handle than others, but that comes with the territory. Before I sent you here, this world was lacking in any definitive features. The other gods certainly had no interest in it, and as shameful as it is to admit, I had been neglecting it. It was rather boring."

Speak for yourself, man. This world's been anything but boring to me. The one I came from didn't have any of the magic or wild stuff like this place.

"Thanks to your hard work, this world is becoming noticeable again. The gods are flocking to it, even. That may cause you some difficulties in the future, so I

will apologize in advance for that...”

I was the custodian of the world, so I didn’t have a huge issue with gods visiting in human form... Well, as long as they stayed out of trouble, anyway.

“I shall have the newcomers greet you before the ceremony tomorrow. I assure you they will cause no trouble for you or your brides-to-be.”

“I appreciate that.”

I definitely didn’t want any divine pranksters ruining my big day.

“Now then, I think it is time for bed, wouldn’t you agree? You have a big day ahead of you, my lad.”

“Yeah, you’re right...”

The tea had certainly worked wonders. I could feel my eyelids starting to come down. I stifled a yawn before saying goodnight.

“Take care, my boy. See you in the morning.”

God Almighty smiled, then vanished into thin air. A wave of exhaustion suddenly washed over me, so I ran to my bedroom as fast as possible.

Once I’d scrambled into bed, the black void of sleep consumed me. With one long, final blink, my last night as a single man came to an end.



Several booms rang out as heavy guns fired their blanks skyward, signifying the beginning of a very important day. Almost immediately after that, the crowd looked to the clear blue above them.

Brunhild’s castle town bustled with far more people than usual. It was their grand duke’s wedding day, so people had come from near and far to attend the event. Even though it was still early in the day, merchants were opening their stalls and attending to their customers.

A parade had been planned, but the newcomers to Brunhild were far more interested in the enormous metal soldiers at the town’s large gates.

Those who had never been to Brunhild before were surely amazed by the massive Frame Gears. They stood in static poses, holding their weapons high.

Nobody was allowed to climb on them, and guards were posted to ensure there was no vandalism. Anyone who wanted a closer look at them had to buy capsule toy versions of the machines from Olba Strand's store.

The capsule dispensers were guarded too, of course. They had attracted children and adults alike, and suddenly created a whole crowd of people who wanted to take a stab at the lottery. In many ways, it was no different from similar things on Earth. Some people wanted to collect entire sets, as well as those who were content with just one. Regardless, they were proving to be quite the hot commodity.

Outsiders enjoyed the interesting and unique cultural products that Brunhild had to offer, while local residents enjoyed the heightened hustle and bustle.

Eventually, the town's clock tower rang out, signaling the start of midday. And in response, the lined-up Frame Gears crossed their spears, signifying that the time had come at last.

The wedding was about to begin.

Interlude: His Friend

Touya had died in an accident.

He was struck by lightning, apparently. It didn't make any damn sense...

He'd been my buddy since junior high, and he'd always been a little bit weird. It wasn't like he didn't know the kind of guy I was, but he came up to me in class one day without a care in the world.

Everyone else treated me like a pain in the ass, but he was different. Even though I was a delinquent... even though I'd been kicked out of class multiple times, he just sauntered on over one day and asked to borrow a hundred yen.

Honestly, I thought he was a real dumbass at first. But then we actually got to talking, and that was that. He even helped me one time when I got into a fight with some guys from another school.

I was surrounded by five guys, about to get my ass kicked... when Touya showed up on his scooter and got me out of there.

The guy didn't even have a license. Apparently, his grandpa taught him how to ride, and he'd conveniently borrowed the scooter to come get me. Luckily, he never got caught, but the guy was crazy enough to pull something like that.

After that, we started hanging out more, and I made more friends along the way. Thanks to him, my junior high life turned out okay.

Touya was kind and punctual with his friends, but he was ruthless to a fault with his enemies. Sometimes I had to calm him down a little, since he had a habit of getting really pissed. I was just glad I never got on his bad side, since he could be really scary.

Though, maybe he was right all along... He always said it was better to do things instead of never doing them and wondering what could have happened. Maybe I could've stood to be more like him.

But he died, even with that mindset. We went to different high schools, but

we planned to meet up again. Unfortunately, that never happened.

I attended his funeral and helped out at his wake. I figured I at least owed his parents that much. They'd always treated me well, after all.

A little while after the funeral, I started having strange dreams. This old guy... I think he might have been god or something, appeared out of nowhere to show me the weirdest things.

All the dreams revolved around Touya. In one dream, he was wearing a weird outfit and swinging a katana around. He was fighting monsters like the ones in my video games.

The dreams were a little weird, honestly... Still, it was nice seeing Touya alive and well... even if it was just in my imagination.

In another dream, he saved some girl who kind of had a classic samurai vibe to her. That one was funny, since it felt so absurd.

Then, there was another dream where he got engaged to a princess. But she was like... twelve or something? It was a little weird that I dreamed about my dead buddy being into little girls, honestly...

I kept on having dreams like that, over and over. It almost felt like they weren't just dreams, like maybe Touya really was alive in some other place I sometimes caught glimpses of.

On New Year's Day, I was looking through the cards I'd gotten from my friends... and it kind of hit me like a truck that I wouldn't get any of his shoddily-made cards ever again.

He could play the piano and stuff, but he wasn't much of an artist. I think his dad was pretty great in that department, though, so the talent must have skipped a generation.

He used to like my sketches, to be honest. Not to brag, but I'd always had a bit of a knack for drawing.

I used to draw just as a hobby, but then an idea formed in my mind when I saw Touya's dad's work lined up on a bookshelf. It might have been a dumb idea in hindsight, but it was something I didn't want to regret.

I went to Touya's house and rang the doorbell.

"Hey. Teach me to draw."

"Uh... I dunno about that, kid. I'm hardly a master, you know?"

Touya's dad seemed a little bewildered by my sudden arrival. He had bags under his eyes. And I wasn't exactly sure if that was because it was early in the morning or not.

"Why do you want to draw?"

"...I want to write a story. One with, uh... Touya... as the main character."

I told Touya's dad about the dreams I'd been having. He nodded along slowly as I spoke. And eventually, he gave me a small, gentle smile.

"...Those dreams sound quite funny. I'd certainly like to hear the full story, personally. I suppose I could take on an assistant in my work... The pay's not great, but do you wanna give it a shot?"

"I'm in!"

I didn't know if I could become a professional manga artist like Touya's dad, but I was determined to draw Touya's story. If my friend really was alive, somehow, in some other place... then I wanted to keep the memory of him alive in our world as well.

I'll do you proud, Touya.



I had another dream. But it was one about my junior high years this time... Back then, I regularly hung out with Touya.

"Hey, Touya... You're taking it a bit far, man..."

"Think so? Well, maybe he shouldn't have pissed me off... Guess it was a bit much, though."

"...Yeah, I'd say so."

I glanced at the long-haired blonde man, who was naked on the ground. I couldn't help but feel sorry for him.

He was the leader of a motorcycle gang in the area, and apparently, he'd been stalking a woman. His advances were getting really scary, from what I'd heard. The girl had a boyfriend, and he went to confront the stalker as soon as he heard about what was going on. He was a pretty damn brave guy. But obviously, those bikers didn't just listen to him. They beat the crap out of him and sent him to the hospital.

That boyfriend was one of our classmates. We went to visit him in the hospital, and his girlfriend was there. She kept crying and blaming herself.

Touya managed to get the girl to explain the situation. Then, he left and started making some calls on his phone.

"Hey, Mr. X? It's been a while. I'm Touya, Mochizuki's grandson. Yeah, that's right. I had a favor I wanted to ask..."

"Hey, Mr. Y? I need a few men taken care of. Yeah. I don't mean to bother you, but I feel like my grandpa would've gotten a kick out of it."

"Yeah. There's a local gang leader. Need help dealing with his cronies, you know? No, no... You don't need to bring a carpet and duct tape. This situation demands a little more tact."

I remember being a little unnerved by the snippets of conversation I'd overheard.

After that, events started unfolding even more quickly. Touya found out where the gang leader was, slowly separated him from his goons, and caught him in a one-on-one situation. Well, technically, it was two-on-one, since I was there too.

Touya turned around and told me to keep out of it, so I just watched from the sidelines as he goaded the furious guy into a total fit. We didn't even have to lay a single hand on him. The guy just flew into a rage and ended up charging forward.

He had a steel pipe and a switchblade, so Touya technically acted in self-defense, but still...

After beating him unconscious, he stripped off the guy's clothes and took a few pictures of him.

“Okay... Sent.”

“Who’d you send that to?”

“His gang’s second-in-command. Apparently, they don’t get along well, so giving him some blackmail material should solve this little problem for us.”

“Wow...”

Touya laughed so casually despite the extreme subject matter. It was a little scary. He didn’t look like a bad guy, but there was clearly something terrifying lurking inside him. Still, he dealt with his problems in a pretty smart way, for the most part.

A while later, we found out that the gang leader got usurped and chased out of town. Naturally, the stalking stopped as well, but nobody ever found out it was Touya’s doing.

“I don’t need any credit. I just did it because I wanted to do it, and that’s all there is to it.”

“You didn’t even hesitate, man.”

“Only because I didn’t want to regret hesitating. My grandpa always said that you’ve got to be prepared to do anything.”

The look on Touya’s face made me think he really would do anything... Maybe even killing someone wasn’t unreasonable in his eyes. I vowed then and there to never get on his bad side.

“...He really was something else.”

“Yeah... That sure sounds like Touya. He really was influenced by his grandpa. I don’t know how my wife managed to turn out so normal with that guy raising her...”

Touya’s dad let out a soft sigh as he set down his pen. I wondered if calling him “boss” seemed better, given my new job with him.

“Things were a little tense back when my father-in-law died, honestly...”

I wanted to ask for more details, but I decided to keep my mouth shut. Instead, I looked at the tall stack of papers on the desk.

“I spent a good deal of Touya’s youth working hard on my projects, and my wife has a lot of work too... so I guess he was raised in part by his grandpa. I think they went to a lot of strange and interesting places together.”

Touya’s parents both worked from home, but they were often very busy with that work. Apparently, his grandpa had stepped in to help look after him.

“What kind of guy was he? Touya’s grandpa, I mean.”

“Hmm... He was a pretty interesting man. He had friends all over, from ones in show business to politics to the criminal underworld... We even have a baby photo of Touya being hugged by a former prime minister.”

“Wow...”

“The stories about him are pretty wild, too. Apparently he wrestled a bear, saw an alien, and took out a mafia organization.”

“Wait, seriously?!”

“Well, they’re probably at least a little bit embellished.”

Touya’s dad laughed softly, but I found myself quietly taken aback. If that was the guy responsible for Touya being the way he was, then those stories could have easily been true...

“Well, enough small talk. Let’s carry on with our work. I’m done with the penciling, so I’d like you to start filling in the lines.”

“Guh... I hope we make it in time for the deadline.”

I took another half-finished page from my boss. The end was near, at the very least. And so, I rolled up my sleeves, ready to give it my all.



“Wh-What do you think?”

“Hmm... Let’s see...”

I got a little anxious as I presented my rough draft of the story to my boss.

“It’s too long-winded. I think you should cut out the stuff unrelated to the main plot if you plan to actually pitch this. This panel isn’t necessary, and these two can be combined. Personally, I think the story would be more exciting if the

protagonist was less passive, too.”

He looked ready to continue his criticism, but then paused and looked up at the ceiling.

“Though, I guess Touya isn’t really a proactive person, is he?”

“Exactly.”

My story framed Touya as the main character, so I wanted to keep it true to the kind of person he was. His advice made perfect sense for a wholly original character, however.

The story was one I planned to write as a hobby. I also wanted to pen another manga as my actual professional work. Naturally, my boss would be overseeing that one as well.

In the modern age, there were plenty of ways to publish your work. You could make self-published content in print form or just post stuff online.

I wanted to draw Touya’s story simply because it was something I wanted to share with the world.

“But still, this is interesting... It almost feels real, you know? Maybe it’s because you knew him so well, but these things really feel like actions Touya would take.”

“Heh... Yeah, it does feel like him, doesn’t it?”

We laughed together a little bit. This story was just something I’d written based on my dreams, so I couldn’t say for sure if it was entirely my doing.

...Although they were my dreams, so it had all clearly sprung from me.

“Do you still have those dreams, by the way?”

“Yeah, once in a while. Not every single day, though.”

I had dreams about Touya once every couple of weeks. Oddly enough, I could remember them fully, so I started writing them down the moment I woke up. It was almost like watching a TV show.

“The other day, I dreamed about him beating a Black Dragon and heading to another country.”

“Hoho. Dragon-slaying, huh? That’s a pretty interesting turn of events. I wonder if he’s going through some kind of hero’s journey.”

Once I went over those details, I started asking about my other story. I wanted him to look over it, since I was planning on submitting it for a monthly magazine contest.

“Huh...? Wait, it’s not a fantasy story?”

“Yeah. I guess I got influenced by Touya...”

Instead of a tale in a fantasy setting, I’d drawn a regular school manga for the contest.

I’d managed to write Touya’s story easily enough because it was just the things I’d seen in my dreams, but it was a lot more challenging to come up with my own original manga. That was why I was looking forward to hearing what the boss had to say about it. An even mixture of fear and excitement swirled within my chest.

“S-So... how is it?”

“Hmm... Well, it’s pretty good overall, but maybe in this scene you should...”

I focused on his advice as my eyes glanced over my manuscript. I knew Touya was working hard in the world of my dreams, so I resolved to work hard as well.

Chapter II: The Royal Wedding

“I-I look a little awkward in this, don’t I?”

“You are the picture of regality, my liege.”

“Quite. You look rather attractive.”

“You’re the very image of handssomeness, sssweetie.”

I was a little embarrassed by Kohaku, Sango, and Kokuyou’s complimentary words. At the moment, I was standing in front of a mirror, modeling my white tuxedo.

It felt strange, in all honesty. There was a white rose boutonniere at the top of my jacket collar. I didn’t exactly think the ensemble looked great on me, but this was a once-in-a-lifetime event, so I opted to grin and bear it.

“Man... I’m really tense about all this...”

“Heh. So even you get anxious, huh?”

“O-Of course I do! This is a major life event for me!”

I pouted slightly at Luli’s casual commentary.

Ugh... M-Maybe we can just call off the ceremony and send out a postcard that has “We got married! Don’t worry about it!” on it...? That’d solve all of this.

...Nah, I can’t do that. I’m the monarch of an entire nation, so that’d cause a scandal. Plus, I need to let the girls have their big day, I know how much they’ve been looking forward to this.

I couldn’t run away, nor could I ask anyone else to run away with me.

Most weddings in this world were lavish parties involving the families of the wedding party, and they didn’t necessarily make vows in a religious sense or anything. I did hear that some weddings involved making vows before spirits, though.

Personally, I didn’t mind making vows before a god, but the one I believed in

was also the same one that the Ramissh Theocracy worshiped. I couldn't publicly make any vows that were pointed in that direction, since that would raise political questions about Ramissh's relationship with Brunhild.

That was why I'd instead planned to summon the Pillar Spirits and vow before them as a witness instead. Though, considering the fact that I was the Celestial Spirit King, it felt a little weird, since they were my subordinates...

Well, whatever. It's probably best not to think about it too deeply.

Someone knocked on my door, and the individual let themselves in. It was Laim, my butler.

"Your Highness, Master Shinnosuke is here to see you."

"Oh, sure. Let him in."

Laim nodded, and God Almighty walked into my room. Behind him were a few other people. Presumably, they were the newer gods who had descended for my wedding. God Almighty was wearing a kimono with a hakama skirt. Given his usual attire, it suited him very well indeed. The Mochizuki family crest adorned his clothing, taking the form of a Navagraha symbol. Given that he was my grandfather in this world, it made sense he'd be wearing the family emblem.

After Laim bowed and excused himself from the room, God Almighty shot a grin in my direction.

"Ohoho. You look rather charming. I barely recognize you, my boy."

"I can't say I feel fully comfortable in this..."

Frankly, I wondered how he usually saw me, but it was nice to receive a little praise.

"Now, let me introduce the newcomers to you... From right to left... This is the goddess of dance, the god of strength, the god of industry, the god of glasses, the god of theater, the god of puppetry, the god of wandering, the goddess of flowers, and the goddess of gemstones. They will be attending the wedding as family friends."

"Nice to meet you all. I'm Mochizuki Touya. I hope you enjoy your stay."

I'd received notice about the gods that were coming, but a lot of these guys

seemed pretty weird in general. What the hell was the point of having a god of glasses? Sure, he wore eyeglasses, but like... what exactly were the scope of his powers?

They were all dressed in formal attire, which was a relief. However, it looked like the god of strength's bulging muscles were about to ripple and burst out of his suit.

The goddess of dance, goddess of flowers, goddess of gemstones, and Grandma Tokie were all women, but the rest were male... Though, the god of theater seemed kind of androgynous. He almost reminded me of Kokuyou, in fact.

He was handsome and seemed like the type who'd be popular with women, but he also had a kind of feminine twang to his voice. I decided not to be rude and ask him about that. It wasn't any of my business, after all.

"Once the wedding ends, they will tour the world at their own discretion. Fret not, though. I have told them to try not to engage in anything reckless."

Personally, I'd have preferred to forbid it instead of asking politely... However, I had heard that gods weren't allowed to come down to the mortal realm unless they had a good deal of knowledge on how to conduct themselves, so ideally, everything would work out okay.

"Now then, we do not wish to overstay our welcome. We will be on our way. Best of luck, my lad."

"Oh, yeah. Thank you."

The other gods bowed their heads and took their leave. None of them really stood out other than the strength god or the theater god, though.

I was a little anxious about having close to twenty gods in my wedding party, but stranger things had happened.

I sighed softly as Kougyoku came flying through the nearby window.

"Welcome back. What's the situation?"

"From what I've seen, your guests are gathering with little in the way of incident."

I had Kougyoku scout out the ceremonial area. We'd chosen to have a garden wedding, and had partially renovated the courtyard to that end. The reason for that was simple enough, really. Our castle's audience hall didn't have the space to accommodate the sheer amount of guests.

Cesca, the terminal gynoid in charge of Babylon's garden, had been working tirelessly to turn our courtyard into the perfect wedding venue. Our gardener Julio had also been working hard to cultivate the right aesthetic. By the end of it all, our ordinary yard had transformed into a gorgeous paradise with plenty of flowers.

I was honestly surprised that the perverted maid could do something so amazing. Even if it made sense due to her being in charge of Babylon's garden, she hadn't inspired much confidence in me through her conduct. Honestly, the smug grin on her face still pissed me off... but she'd definitely done enough to earn my praise.

All the Babylon gynoids came down to attend the wedding as well. Naturally, Doctor Babylon, Elluka, and Fenrir were also in attendance.

Shirogane and the three maid Gollems (Ruby, Saph, and Emerl) had come from Drakliff Island. They were all working under Laim's instruction.

We were a little short on general service staff, so we had members of our knight order work as butlers and maids. Naturally, they'd get bonuses for their hard work. The three kunoichi working under Tsubaki were also maids for the day.

A knock suddenly came at the door. It was Laim again.

"It's time, Your Highness."

"...Yeah. I guess it is."

I started to hype myself up by slapping my cheeks a couple of times for motivation. Then, I started to panic because I didn't want to go out with red marks on my face, since that would've started a bunch of rumors.

I took a deep breath, in and out. Once I calmed myself down, I followed Laim.

A-Am I walking right? A-Am I gonna be okay?!

“My liege... You’re swinging your right leg and your right arm out quite rigidly at the same time.”

“Ah...” I paused slightly at Kohaku’s words. I hadn’t even noticed my own nervous conduct, which wasn’t a good sign.

“I’m more worried than I thought...”

“Fret not, sir. The king of Belfast was so nervous before his wedding that he kept drinking water right before the ceremony began.”

“Really?”

“Indeed. He was so desperate to use the bathroom throughout the ceremony that he can’t even remember the celebratory speeches that were given.”

I was more amused that Laim remembered those details, but given he once worked in service of Belfast that seemed reasonable. Plus, it was honestly a little reassuring to know that I wasn’t the only monarch in the world to have pre-wedding jitters.

“The king of Belfast used to tell this story to others quite openly. He said that too much tension and stress would never bear good results. The way to proceed is with relaxed shoulders and an easy-going gait.”

Easy-going, huh...? I guess my main fear here is how different I’m acting. Maybe I should just take it easy and be more authentically me. Yeah... That sounds good.

“Are you alright now?”

“Yeah. Sorry for making you worry.”

“There’s no need to apologize. In fact, I should be thanking you for indulging an old man’s chatter,” Laim said that, smiled, and continued onwards. I certainly felt a bit better. Things were probably going to be okay... Probably, at least...

Eventually, we reached the door to the venue-decked courtyard. Nikola and Norue, sub-commanders of the knight order, stood on either side of the door. They weren’t dressed in their usual armor. Instead, they wore formal attire that was much more suitable for the occasion.

Beyond the door, I could hear music starting up, playing through Babylon's speakers. We didn't have a personal orchestra, so this was our best alternative.

The music was, of course, Mendelssohn's classic Wedding March. Some people preferred Wagner's Bridal Chorus, but I wasn't among them. The trumpet fanfare really set the mood, and the rhythmic sounds set my heart at ease.

Plus, Wagner's composition was originally from a tragic opera named "Lohengrin." Mendelssohn's was based on Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which was considerably lighter in tone... Not that it was completely free of turmoil, mind you.

Either way, I wanted my wedding to be a story that ended happily.

Right when the fanfare peaked, Nikola and Norue opened up the great door before me. The guests were all lined up along the aisle, cheering and clapping. Royal weddings were traditionally quiet and somber affairs in this world, but we decided that we wanted to break that tradition and make it fun for all our attendees.

I showed the girls a video of a girl walking down the aisle, and they all said they wanted to do that. Apparently, there was also a similar practice in this world. The practice involved the groom walking with his mother, and the bride walking with her father. It was similar to the method I knew, but also a little different.

As I walked out with Kohaku and the other summons, a sudden rain of dancing cherry blossoms began falling down. It continued as I made my way toward the altar, which was modest, but adorned with many beautiful flowers. Cesca had decked it out with the most beautiful ones she'd ever cultivated.

I stopped by the side of the small staircase that led up to the altar. That was the spot where I'd await my brides.

Eventually, the door opened, revealing three individuals. Two women, one man. The man, who stood in the middle, was Joseph. Completely free of his traumatic fear, he beamed broadly as he walked arm-in-arm with his nieces, Elze and Linze.

“Ooh! Look!”

“Goodness, they’re beautiful!”

Our guests murmured in awe as the girls continued their march.

I’d seen their dresses before, but I hadn’t seen them wearing them. They were in a princess line style, gently blooming outward from the waistline to the hem.

Despite their contrasting personalities, they both looked equally beautiful. I remembered the day I’d met them in Reflet just like yesterday... At the time, I’d have never expected to marry them.

Elze had a harsh, go-getter personality... but she was secretly quite gentle and kind. She had a habit of keeping her anxieties bottled up inside, but she was always there for others. That was why I wanted to be there to support her.

Linze, on the other hand, seemed quite meek at a glance. However, she was actually one of the strongest people I knew. Her heart was a wellspring of kindness, and she was dedicated to a fault. She never ceased to amaze me with the things she did, so I wanted to see how far she could go.

Joseph walked slowly, taking care not to step on their dresses. He looked a little nervous, but he was leaps and bounds beyond his earlier lack of composure. Elze and Linze looked quite nervous as well, but their veils blocked a clear view of their expressions.

They gradually made their way toward the altar. And once they reached me, Joseph bowed his head.

“Please treat them with care.”

“I’ll make them happy, I promise.”

I bowed my head back to Joseph, who was probably too nervous to fully look me in the eye, before I took Elze’s hand and led her up to the altar.

In much the same fashion, I led Linze by the hand before taking my position back at the base of the stairs.

Joseph moved to his seat, and the doors opened once more. This time it was Yae and her father, Jubei. They proceeded down the aisle as Elze and Linze did.

Yae was wearing a wedding dress, which almost seemed strange given her Japan-esque heritage. Her father, however, was wearing a hakama. That kind of balanced the image out.

The order in which the girls appeared matched the order in which I'd met them. After I met Elze and Linze, I'd encountered Yae on one of my outings. Back then, I was amazed by her swordplay, since she dispatched a bunch of bad guys with ease.

She seemed like a bit of a blockhead at times, but she was truly skilled and earnest. Family was never far from her mind, and her soft heart had helped me through tough times. Yae's smile could soothe everyone in the vicinity.

As Yae appeared before me, I took her hand. Her father looked me dead in the eye.

"My daughter is in your care, now."

"Thank you. I promise to look after her."

Jubei bowed, and I led Yae up to the altar to stand with the other two girls.

Next through the door was Sue, along with Duke Ortlinde.

It wasn't long after I met Yae that I met Sue. If I hadn't met her, then I'd have never met Yumina... And I definitely wouldn't have become a world leader in that case.

When I met Sue, she was definitely childlike, but she had a more mature charm to her now. She was the youngest of the group, around twelve or so... Though, she was nearly thirteen. I couldn't help but think that was a little young, but I didn't want to postpone the wedding or exclude her from the ceremony. That was why I was happy to see her in front of me.

She was extremely energetic and excitable, always getting into trouble. And she could be a little self-centered sometimes, but that mischievous side of her had a certain charm to it.

I took Sue's hand and led her toward the altar steps.

"That girl worries me plenty, so... please take good care of her."

"I will, don't worry. I know how to keep her from acting out."

Duke Ortlinde smiled at me, then bowed his head. Sue pouted as if to chastise her father's worries, then scampered up the steps on her own.

The door opened once more, and my fifth bride-to-be appeared. It was Yumina. Her father, King Belfast, stood by her side.

Yumina was the boldest of all my fiancées, and she ended up placing herself by my side before I even knew it. I was happy to accept her feelings, in the end, because I couldn't imagine life without her.

Sometimes, it felt like I was just dancing in the palm of her hand, but I thought that side of her was charming and interesting as well.

The two of them walked down the aisle before stopping in front of me.

"Touya, lad... Please look after my daughter."

"I will."

I nodded at King Belfast as I took Yumina's hand. She slowly walked up to the altar.

Leen came next. Her parents had already moved on from this world, so the beastking of Mismede had stepped in to walk with her. Paula was also seated as one of her guests.

Even in her wedding dress, she looked cheeky as ever. She was a lot older than me, but she had a childish sense of mischief to her that often shone through. Really, her age was just a number.

Without her urging me, I'd have never tried to pursue Babylon's legacy. I'd have never gotten my hands on the Frame Gears, and the Phrase invasion might have devastated the world... In a way, my meeting with Leen might have saved the entire planet.

I took the beautiful savior's hand, then flashed her a smile.

"Y'best treat my court mage well, Touya."

"You can count on it. I won't ever stop."

The beastking grinned broadly, then turned around to take his seat.

Leen headed up to the altar, and the door opened once more. Lu walked

through this time, with the emperor of Regulus by her side.

The emperor, who was once on his deathbed, looked like the picture of health. Last I heard, he planned to abdicate and leave the imperial throne to Lu's brother.

I remembered meeting Lu during the Regulus coup. I was glad I made it... If I'd been any later, terrible things would've happened there.

Lu managed to develop her cooking skills, and I knew just how hard she'd been working to pursue her dreams. She was the kind of person who focused on a goal and never stopped until she reached it. And honestly, I wanted to follow her example.

The emperor gently bowed his head to me.

"Please keep my daughter safe."

"I promise I will."

I led Lu up to the altar, then waited for the door to open again. When it did, I couldn't help but chuckle.

Sakura appeared, her veil concealing the look of disgust she had directed toward her openly weeping father. I knew she'd have preferred her mother, Fiana, but the Overlord had gotten down on his knees and begged to walk her down the aisle, so she reluctantly agreed.

Sakura walked rather briskly down the aisle as if to get it over with quickly. Those two really had a long way to go with their relationship.

I remembered my first meeting with Sakura. She was on the verge of death thanks to assassins from Yulong. Terrible things would've happened to her if not for the Babylon tech I had at my disposal...

Sakura was usually quiet and not all that emotional, but her singing voice conveyed all manner of feelings. I wanted to continue to nurture that talent of hers, and thereby help her bring joy to even more people.

Once Sakura made it to the steps, she took my hand and quickly proceeded to the altar.

Just as I was letting out a small chuckle, the overlord grabbed me by the

shoulders.

“M-Make my daughter happy or I’ll never forgive you! Ever!”

“I-I’ll do my best.”

Auuugh! Get your face away from me! You’re gonna get snot and tears all over my tux!

The overlord scampered away to his seat, which didn’t exactly inspire confidence. I was somewhat worried about how he’d act as my father-in-law, to be honest.

I almost got lost in thought when Hilde strode through the doors with her father, the former king of Lestia.

Hilde was the seventh of the girls who got engaged to me, but she was the last of them in terms of meeting order.

She usually had a chivalrous, knightly air to her. But today, her dainty and feminine features took center stage. She wielded a bouquet of flowers instead of a sword, and a gorgeous dress adorned her body instead of shining armor.

I respected how sincere and responsible she was. Though, there was also a side of her that tended to overdo things. Even so, that was something that made her unique, and it made me want to support her.

“May good fortune bless the union between you and my daughter.”

“Thank you.”

I took Hilde’s hand from the former knight king and showed her up to the altar. We’d all gathered at last.

I bowed to her father, and he found his seat. Then, I headed up the steps to the altar. The Wedding March, which had been playing on a loop, finally came to an end.

“In the name of the Celestial Spirit King, come forth...” I whispered quietly in order to summon the Pillar Spirits to the altar. I wanted to keep it down, since there were a few people in the audience who understood the language of the spirits.

A pillar of fire erupted into the air above the altar. Next came a rushing wall of water, and then a whirling gust. A clump of sand and stone rose from the ground, followed by an orb of light, and then a clump of shadowy darkness.

“Wow...”

“Amazing... I-Is this really happening?!”

The crowd roared in excitement as the elements danced through the air before suddenly vanishing. In their place, six clearly inhuman girls floated above the altar.

They were the six pillar spirits of fire, water, wind, earth, light, and darkness.

“Ooh!”

“S-Spirits! They’re really here!”

The sight of the spirits whipped the crowd into a frenzy.

Spirits were considered more tangible objects of worship than gods. And so, they were largely considered more sacred than abstract deities. The people of the Sea of Trees region even worshiped a great tree spirit.

Some people held fast to the belief that spirits were servants of higher powers that had created the world. I knew that to actually be true, since God Almighty had confirmed it to me.

“We, the Pillar Spirits, do hereby declare the union between the Grand Duke of Brunhild and his nine brides a blessed one,” the Spirit of Light spoke in a soft, calming voice.

As if by magic, the uproarious crowd suddenly fell into stunned silence. And I wasn’t surprised. It wasn’t common for spirits to appear for weddings, much less ones of this status. Plus, only a few people in the crowd could understand their language. With the exception of the gods in the audience, I had a feeling everyone had been brought to a state of utter shock and awe.

Luckily, nobody but me seemed to have noticed how nervous the pillar spirits were. It was only natural, though. The gods themselves were in the audience, and they were blessing the wedding of their king. I felt a little sorry for them, since they were clearly under a lot of pressure.

Either way, they were doing a great job.

“W-Well then... May you share in joy and sorrow... and step forward to a life of love,” the Fire Spirit spoke with just a teeny bit of tension in her voice. She was holding it together pretty well.

“Now, allow us to grant you a marriage gift.”

Nine rings appeared on the altar once the Earth Spirit said that. Each of them emitted a gentle platinum glow.

The wedding rings were specially crafted by God Almighty, and they were infused with my divinity. As such, they could be considered sacred treasures of the highest possible tier.

The rings worked like receivers, allowing the wearers to use my divinity more directly. Basically, they were magical items that elevated a person to the same divine rank as a servile god, which was an utterly absurd boost in power. They did not affect me, though. And they also wouldn't affect anyone other than the girls.

One at a time, I took each ring in hand and slid them along the ring fingers of my brides. Once they all had one on, a small glow rose up from each of them and began floating toward my hand.

When the glow subsided, a ring similar to theirs appeared on my left ring finger. I knew just by glancing that it was a unique ring blessed by the gods, the spirits, and the girls I'd come to love so much.

The youngest of the Pillar Spirits, the Spirit of Darkness, suddenly began to speak.

“These rings are a mark of your bond, as well as proof of this ceremonial blessing. In the name of the Celestial Spirit King, your union is formally recognized.”

I felt a little amused that they'd blessed me in the name of the Celestial Spirit King, given that I was him, but I decided not to sweat the small stuff.

Smaller spirits began appearing in the air all over the courtyard, mesmerizing the guests with their dances. There were spirits colored red, blue, green,

purple, yellow, and all other kinds. They streaked through the air, leaving beautiful trails in their wake.

The Pillar Spirits transformed into their elemental forms once more, soaring into the air with the others. They then clashed with each other, creating vibrant fireworks that shot high into the air above.

The guests rose to give them a standing ovation in response to the incredible sight. The spirits had really outdone themselves. I needed to thank them later.

With the Pillar Spirits as our witness, our wedding had been properly officiated.

I'd live out the rest of my life with these girls. We were now bound by holy matrimony, and we'd be together forever.

The clock tower rang, but it wasn't doing so to tell the time. Its bell tolled to celebrate our love. It heralded good fortune and warded away evil.

Petals fell from above, seemingly in response to the bell. I wondered if that was the work of the goddess of flowers, but it was more likely the work of the Flower Spirit I'd summoned. As the petals continued dancing in the wind, I moved my hands forward and lifted Elze's wedding veil.

"You look beautiful, Elze."

"Geez... You look pretty good yourself. You better keep being the same brave man throughout our marriage. Don't make me kick your ass."

Elze sure could be scary when she wanted to. We laughed, then moved to seal the ceremony with a kiss. The two of us were pretty shy, though... so we just kissed each other on the cheek.

I had a feeling that life would be just a little bit easier with Elze leading the charge. I'd be right by her side, though. I didn't want to be left behind.

I knew that with Elze by my side, I never had to fear anything in my path. She was my courage and bravery in human form.

I turned to Linze and gently raised her wedding veil.

"You're beautiful, Linze."

“Hehehe... I’ll give you all my power, Touya... I’m here for you.”

Linze’s expression was a full-blown teary-eyed smile. I kissed her cheek as if to wipe away those tears. She reciprocated in kind, placing her soft lips against my skin.

Linze was the kind of girl who supported me from the side. And so, I wanted to be a husband capable of supporting her right back. She was sincere, always wanted to help others, and she probably had the strongest motherly instinct out of all of my brides... Maybe it was a little too soon to think about parenthood, though.

I moved opposite Yae and lifted her veil. She greeted me with a smile and began to speak.

“I want to be with you for the rest of my life, I do.”

“Thanks, Yae. I feel the same.”

I honestly wondered how long we’d actually live. Given that the girls had divinity on par with servile gods, we’d probably be able to spend a rather long time together.

Her words felt intense, but it was definitely a crystallization of her true feelings. I felt exactly the same way. I wanted to walk through the rest of my life with these girls.

Yae and I exchanged cheek kisses before I turned toward Sue.

“You’re always getting into trouble, Touya. I wanna be with you through more and more danger!”

“Hahaha... I’m sure you will be.”

Due to the height difference, I bent down to kiss Sue’s cheek. She grabbed me by the collar and pulled me further down. I really couldn’t help but laugh at how boisterous she was.

Sue’s naive nature acted as a shining beacon in a lot of tough situations. No matter how gloomy things got, she always had an optimistic outlook. Her curiosity sometimes got her into trouble, but I knew she had a pure heart.

The next bride to have her veil raised was Yumina. I was honestly surprised to

see that she had tears in her eyes. She looked right at me with the gentlest of expressions on her face.

“I’m so happy... It was my dream to get married to you... and now it’s really happening. I love you so much, Touya.”

“I feel the same, Yumina. I love you.”

Out of all my brides, she was the one who wanted this marriage the most. As a princess, she could’ve easily been married away for political reasons, so this marriage of love was likely an incredible relief to her. That said, I didn’t think her father would’ve ever used her in that way... Though, he could’ve always had his hand forced by the nobility.

Either way, Yumina forged her own path forward, which brought her to my side. I’d always respected her strength of will.

Yumina and I exchanged cheek kisses before I moved to Leen.

“I must say, I honestly never expected to experience something like this.”

“Well, you better get used to it. We’ll be living together forever.”

Leen and I laughed softly as we exchanged our kisses. Leen had many friends over the course of her life, but it’d been a long while since she’d had anyone to call family. Maybe it was those feelings of needing someone that resulted in her creating Paula.

But now she had me, as well as all the others. I vowed to never let her feel lonely again.

I moved to Lu, lifted her veil, and kissed her on the cheek. She kissed me right back, trying to make it as tender as she could.

“I’m in charge of our family meals going forward, okay?”

“Haha... Just don’t serve me too much. I’ll be keeping an eye on my waistline.”

Lu’s expression was one of pure joy. She was an incredible cook, but frankly, I worried about eating too much of her food. I wondered if my divine body was even capable of packing on that much weight... but I was pretty sure I’d seen one or two fat gods before, so I didn’t want to take any chances.

There was that stereotype of people putting on weight once they were happy and married, but that didn't mean it had to happen! It'd probably be a good idea to include more daily exercise into my routine, at any rate.

As I internalized those thoughts, I stepped in front of Sakura.

"Grand Duke... I'm a little hungry..."

"...Just hold on a little longer, okay?"

Even on her wedding day, Sakura marched to the beat of her own drum. I liked that about her, though. She wasn't a person who talked much, but I felt comfortable just being around her. The way she did things her way, much like with her singing, was a very relaxing and calming aspect of life with her.

Once I lifted her veil, we exchanged kisses on the cheek. As one would expect, she didn't show much emotion. Though, I did notice her cheeks flushing a pale shade of pink.

Before I knew it, I'd made it in front of Hilde. She was the last of the lot. Usually, she had a formal, dignified look about her, but the sight of her in a dress brought out a latent cuteness.

"Touya... I hope we live a long and happy life together."

"Same here."

Her words were succinct and straight to the point, but that was just how she was. I wanted to make sure that her hopes were fulfilled.

I lifted Hilde's veil and kissed her on the cheek. She moved a little stiffly as she kissed me back, but she managed it without a hitch.

The bell tolled once more. I was officially a married man. Perhaps the luckiest one in the world, even.



I turned to address the crowd behind me... and activated **[Speaker]**.

“Thank you all for being here today. I’m sure many of you had busy schedules. I hope you’ll all watch with anticipation as I build Brunhild into a prosperous nation. And I want you to support me as I build my marriage into a truly happy one. We’ll be taking our first steps into a new life together, and I know for a fact that I’m going to do everything I can to make these women happy. Thank you again.”

The crowd stood up to applaud, petals still dancing through the air. The girls and I all bowed our bodies forward in appreciation. And at that exact moment, perhaps due to Kougyoku’s intervention, a flock of white doves flew overhead. We watched them flutter into the distance as the bells continued to toll.

“Okay, everyone! Listen up! Where Touya and I come from, there’s a tradition called the bouquet toss! The brides each throw back a bouquet! If you catch it, you should present it to the person you love. There’s a good chance you’ll find everlasting happiness with that person, you know? Just to be clear, though, this is an event for single men only! Now’s your chance, bachelors! If there’s anyone you wanna woo, get ready to catch a bouquet!” Karen, who had appeared out of nowhere and spoke through the **[Speaker]** I’d set up, made a stampede of men charge toward the altar.

I paused for a moment upon hearing her. What she had described definitely wasn’t the bouquet toss I was familiar with.

All the girls lined up on the stage seemed a bit confused too, but that was probably because they hadn’t been informed in advance. Just as I was about to head back to the stage and ask what was going on, Moroha stopped me.

“Your world’s bouquet tossing is too intimidating for young women. Karen says it’s better this way.”

I saw her point. I remembered reading articles that said a lot of women didn’t like participating in the bouquet toss. The reasons varied. Some women didn’t want to be seen as desperate, while others felt obligated or pressured.

It would generally be less embarrassing for a guy. I’d heard about a tradition with guys, but I thought that one involved broccoli rather than flowers... Either

way, there were nine bouquets in all, so there'd be a lot of chances for love to bloom.

Plus, flower bouquets were better than broccoli ones. That much was obvious.

Bachelors of all ages gathered in front of the altar. Even Dolan was there! I mean, sure, he was technically a bachelor, since he was a widower, but should he really have been thinking about love when he had Micah and his inn?

I noticed Lanz standing awkwardly beside him. It didn't take a genius to tell he was thinking of Micah.

Wait... should our knights be participating in this?

"Don't worry about security. Mr. Mittens and his cat squad secured the area a while ago," Moroha chuckled softly as she said that. They were rather special cats, but letting them handle the security detail for the entire wedding was a bit much...

I glanced into the crowd and saw that many of the bachelors were people I recognized.

One of the boys there was Will, a knight of Brunhild. He'd been in the Rabbi Desert with Logan and Rebecca. I had a feeling he'd probably be giving his bouquet to Wendy.

I recognized one of Mismede's military captains, Garm. Rengetsu the Eashenese monk was also in the crowd. There were the rookie adventurers, Lop and Klaus... And even the boy-king of Palouf! I narrowed my eyes and saw the pumpkin-pants prince himself, Robert. And Ende joined in as well. More and more foreign knights and nobles kept pushing their way into the crowd. Sure, we had nine bouquets, but wasn't the number of people a little high?!

"Social status means nothing here, you know? If you catch it, you win it! No stealing allowed, got it? If you steal away someone's happiness, you may find unhappiness following after you!" Karen spoke sternly and clearly, hammering the point home.

The men spread out in front of the altar, taking care not to get completely lost in the crowd. They glanced up at the girls, but also kept their wits about them,

ensuring that their enemies couldn't get an upper hand. The wedding crowd at large looked upon the men with anticipation and curiosity. I wouldn't be surprised if this spectacle turned bouquet tossing into a regular tradition.

"Alright, girls, turn around! On my mark, toss your bouquets backward with all the force you can muster!"

All nine brides turned around on Karen's command. And suddenly, a drumroll started playing out of nowhere. I turned around and saw the culprit, the god of music.

"Okay, girls! One, two... and throw!"

In the blink of an eye, nine bouquets sailed through the air. Some flew higher, some lower. One shot up almost completely vertically, courtesy of Sue.

"That's mine!" Garm, the wolf beastman, roared as he sprang forward at full pelt. He was going for a low-flying bouquet, which was probably the smartest move. He reached out and was seconds away from grasping his target... when Ende appeared and swiped it away. Ouch.

"Woohoo! I got one!" Ende said as he stuck a perfect landing, merrily holding his prize in the air. I thought it was a bit of a waste, though. He and Melle were already in love with each other! Poor Garm...

"Yay!"

"Damn it!"

"Aw yeah!"

"Typical..."

A cacophony of depressed voices, mixed with a light swirl of happy voices, rose into the air.

Some of the people I knew had managed to swipe bouquets, including the young king of Palouf. I was amazed he'd managed it, given how short he was.

«A few men accidentally dropped it, and he managed to catch it before it hit the ground.» Kohaku explained what had happened through a telepathic message.

《Oh, that makes sense.》

The boy-king's fiancée, Rachael, was jumping up and down in joy.

I was pleased to see that Lanz had gotten his hands on one. His line of sight suddenly met with Micah's... and the two of them went beet red, causing them to start looking at the floor. Neither of them had noticed Dolan standing behind them, giving them a peculiar glare. Incidentally, Dolan had actually obtained a bouquet as well.

Will had managed to obtain one. Wendy, who'd come alongside him, looked positively delighted. I scanned the crowd for more winners and noticed that the pumpkin-pants prince had gotten his hands on a bouquet somehow.

I couldn't help but feel like too many men in situations of mutual love won the bouquets... It made me feel a little bit sorry for the single guys, honestly.

"C'mon, Touya. Even in committed relationships, acts of romance like this are never a bad idea."

"Hehehehe... You're pretty good at this, Karen, hic! Even if it's, hic, rigged! Bouquet tosses are nice, riiight?"

Karina and Suika had apparently been reading my mind.

Wait... rigged?

I glanced at Karen, who flashed me a coy wink.

I knew it! You used some kind of power to influence the results, didn't you? Well, whatever... I'll just pretend I have no idea what just happened. That's generally the best thing to do when it comes to these people.



After the bouquet toss, my brides and I paraded around the castle town in a large walking Gollem I'd built in the workshop. It was a fairly small town, though... so maybe it was a little too big.

It was kind of like a multi-legged double-decker bus. The needlessly flashy invention was the result of a collaborative effort between Doctor Babylon and Elluka. Rosetta was driving it.

The Gollem bus slowly made its way around the town on a circuit loop back toward the castle.

It was basically a modified Ether Vehicle, like the kinds that littered the hangar. It had an open-air upper deck, so we could sit up top and wave to the people. Honestly, it felt like a victory parade that sports teams had after winning a major tournament.

We waved out at the crowd of people huddled in the streets, and they waved back. I recognized a lot of the faces out there, but many tourists and travelers had clearly just come for the festivities. And there were a couple of adventurers, too.

“Hm?”

I suddenly spotted something suspicious in the crowd. A man had moved behind a cheering tourist and subtly slipped his hand into his pocket. There was a thief out there!

Just as I was about to use **[Paralyze]** on him with my Smartphone, the would-be thief fell to the ground. I was confused, but then I spotted Mr. Mittens with his rapier at the ready. To be clear, the man was unharmed. I’d enchanted the blunt rapier with **[Paralyze]** a short while ago for easy apprehension.

Mr. Mittens shot me a thumbs-up and a wink. I was a little bit disturbed by the sight, since I’d never noticed his opposable thumbs before.

The more people in an area, the higher the chance of crime... Luckily, Mr. Mittens’ Cat Sith squad was adept at weeding out suspicious individuals. In a way, those annoying little cats made for the world’s finest town guards.

I gave Mr. Mittens a nod of thanks. I planned to send him some catnip-infused wine later on as a show of appreciation.

The Gollem bus finished its cycle around town and started heading back to the castle. This particular machine had wheels on the side that could swap out with the legs at any time. It was in wheel mode during the parade segment, even. I originally protested the idea of having legs in the first place if wheels were an option, but I was convinced to let the legs stay when I was told that they would help when navigating the out-of-town terrain.

When we returned to the castle, we immediately headed to the dressing room to change our clothes. We still had the reception to attend. The courtyard, the castle's great hall, and the game room had all been connected by a **[Gate]** door. And all our guests were given freedom of movement between the three locations. The wedding reception was more of an after-party, so it was free of the formal obligations that had come with the ceremony itself.

Once we arrived in the dressing room, Laim appeared with a fresh set of clothes. I took off my white tux and started putting on my next outfit.

My new outfit was a grey vest over a plain white shirt, with dark grey pants and a suit jacket. I also wore a navy tie just to bring it all together. It was a much less gaudy look than the ceremonial attire.

Even though it was a wedding reception, there was no candlelight service or cake-cutting or anything like that. It was just a party to entertain guests and unwind for the evening.

I asked Laim to fix my crooked tie, then left the room. By the time we made it back, all of our wedding guests had begun looking around the game room or enjoying the food.

There wasn't any need to hurry, but I didn't want to leave people waiting. I knew it'd take a while for the girls to finish getting changed, so I decided to go on ahead.

I got Kohaku and the other heavenly beasts together, then warped to the party hall with **[Teleport]**.

The knights standing by at the door were surprised by my sudden appearance, but they let me in right away. I apologized for the shock before proceeding inside. The guests immediately took notice.

"There's the man of the hour!" the beastking roared out as an introduction, and the other attendees all started to clap.

The hall had several tables draped with white cloths, and a wide variety of food rested atop them. The guests were able to pick up a plate and pile up whatever dishes suited their fancy. In other words, it was a buffet.

Originally, I'd come up with a seating plan, but I realized that there were way

too many foreign dignitaries and nobles to match up, so instead of making a huge round table, I figured this was the better approach.

The buffet format encouraged socializing, which was a good thing given how many countries were in attendance.

“Congratulations on your wedding, Touya-dono,” Ieyahsu, who was swigging an entire bottle of Refreesian Wine, gave me a red-faced congratulations.

“Ah, thanks a bunch, Lord Ieyahsu. I hope you’re having fun.”

We had more people visiting us from Eashen than just Yae’s family. Ieyahsu, some of the Tokugawa retainers, and Shirahime were all here.

Ieyahsu wandered off, and Lefang Letra, the king of Egret appeared. His feathered headdress looked nice as ever. Upon closer inspection, the feathers were actually a lot more vibrant than they were the last time I’d seen him. I wondered if it was a special headdress for formal events.

“Hello there, Grand Duke. You’re a married man now! Make sure you treat your wives with care, eh?”

“I’ll be sure to, King Letra,” I replied as I bowed my head in gratitude.

He had seven wives, so his advice was especially useful to me. Speaking of Egret, I’d heard that the nation had begun mass fishing for Tentaculars since the last time I visited. Apparently, the food they made out of the creatures had become quite a popular export.

I had a feeling I’d see Egret’s dried Tentacular bits on the market if I checked.

“Congratulations on your marriage.”

“Indeed, congratulations.”

“Thank you. I hope to attend yours soon enough.”

The next two to congratulate me were Lupheus, prince of Triharan, and Berlietta, princess of Strain. They had gotten engaged after the big race, and they’d be married soon enough.

“I hope to see you there! We’ll be parading around in our latest ethermobile!”

“I’ve been arguing with Berli about optimization, though...”

“Tsk! I’ve been installing those new parts for a reason!”

“I get that, I just think we need to consider engine load!”

“Come now, you two.”

I didn’t want them to erupt into an argument, so I calmed them down. I was fine with them being the kind of couple who got along through competition with each other, but I wanted them to save their debates for a less crowded venue.

Just as I wondered what to do next, I suddenly heard exclamations of wonder from across the room. The large doors had opened up, and all nine of my brides appeared in wedding gowns.

Their outfits were similar to the dresses they’d worn earlier, but they were far more streamlined. They had a shorter skirt that went down to the knees, as well as lacy parts around the chest, shoulder, and arms.

These dresses emphasized cuteness over pure grace.

“Hey, go to ’em already!” Baba, former member of the Takeda Elite Four, patted me hard on the back as he said that. He and Kousaka laughed obnoxiously with each other. Apparently, they’d been hitting the sauce pretty hard, but they were doing a good job of chatting up foreign nationals all the same.

As I walked toward the girls, Sue came barreling forward and jumped up at me.

“Hey now... You think you should be doing that now that you’re my wife?”

“Huh? What do you mean? I’m your wife now, so that means I’ve gotta greet you like this! You better get used to it, Touya. It’s gonna be like this every single day!”

Ugh... I know... I’m just really shy about doing this in public.

Whether she was inspired by Sue’s actions or not, Yumina came up to greet me with a big hug. I had Yumina hanging on one arm... and Sue hanging on the other. That would’ve been bad enough, but I sensed a subtle pressure emanating from the other seven smiling faces in front of me.

I looked up and saw the king of Egret, who could only offer me a sympathetic, knowing nod. I tried to mouth for help, but it was too late...

Once everyone had calmed down, we went around as a group to speak with the guests. We spoke to the royals who were chatting in the courtyard, sampled all kinds of food at the buffet, and poked our heads into the game room where we talked up a few nobles.

By the time we finished all that, it was quite late in the evening. Guests who were leaving were sent off with a little catalog of goods for them to fill in and request stuff. Guests who were staying were shown to their quarters in the castle.

I spoke my last few words to the remaining guests before retiring from the party with my wives. The rest was up to Lapis and Kousaka. I wished them luck.

“Whew... I’m beat...”

I loosened my tie and slumped down on the couch. Everyone had gone back to their respective rooms. A wave of exhaustion washed over me, probably because the day was finally catching up with my body.

“Here you are, sir.”

“Oh, thanks...”

Laim brought me a glass of cold water, which I gulped down in a single go. I’d barely drank anything all day, since I was deathly scared of being trapped while needing to use the bathroom. In that moment, I was euphoric. The water tasted like the nectar of the gods.

Laim poured me another glass as soon as I emptied the first.

“It was a splendid wedding, Your Highness. I’m certain all your guests were pleased.”

“I hope that’s the case...”

Laim’s lavish praise made me chuckle a little as I brought the glass of water to my lips once more.

“Now that the wedding is over, all you need to do to protect your lineage is produce successors.”

“Pwwbrugh?!” I almost choked on my water when I heard him continue.

Successors?! It's a little too soon to be thinking about that!

Laim saw my concern and simply shook his head.

“It is the duty of royalty to preserve their noble blood, Your Highness. The king of Belfast had only one wife, so I was quite concerned until Yumina came around. Thankfully, you have nine brides, so the chance of successful conception has increased ninefold. What a relief.”

“You don’t have to put it like that...”

I mean, I guess it's gonna happen at some point... Love, marriage... The next step is pretty obvious.

I’d waited until I was eighteen before getting married, but the youngest of them was still twelve or so... Even in this world, people weren’t properly recognized as adults until they were around fourteen or fifteen, so I definitely wanted to wait a couple years before engaging in that kind of activity... However, it was customary to consummate the marriage shortly after the ceremony.

Even back home, the Sengoku Period commander, Maeda Toshiie, married his wife Matsu when he was twenty-one and she was twelve. That was the same age as Sue... and Matsu gave birth only a year after she got married.

That definitely didn’t mean I had to follow suit, though...

Still... apparently the order of that particular matter had already been decided amongst my wives. Without my input, of course.

Simply put, I’d be... ‘seeing’ my wives in the order we got engaged. In other words, it’d be Yumina, then Linze, Elze, Yae, Lu, Sue, Hilde, Leen, and Sakura.

In other words... I had to visit Yumina’s room tonight, Linze’s on the next night, and so on.

I felt an extreme sense of apprehension and fear, far different from the nerves I’d had before the wedding. I really should’ve prepared myself for this.

Even after Laim had left my room, I sat on my own, drinking water for a while. The ticking sound of the clock grew louder and louder as I did.

...You can't sit here forever, Touya. You have to do this!

My heart felt ready to burst out of my chest, but I stood up and made for the door. At that exact moment, I heard a knock.

"U-Uh?! Hello?!"

"It is I."

The door creaked open, revealing Cesca. She entered the room with a silver platter that had a few glasses and bottles on it. I wondered if she'd come to offer me a drink of wine, or something.

"Doctor Babylon wishes to offer you this to congratulate you on your wedding."

"Uh... what is this, exactly?"

The three bottles, which looked more like vials, glittered like precious gemstones as I held them up to the light. The liquids kind of resembled the flavoring syrup on shaved ice. Certainly appealing, but probably not healthy.

"The red drink enhances your stamina. The blue drink replenishes your libido. The green drink is a general pick-me-up that should keep you going."

"I don't want any of those!"

This is way too blunt a wedding gift!

"Flora engineered them in the alchemy lab specifically for you. There aren't any side effects, I assure you."

"I don't need anything like that. I can handle things myself."

*I have spells like **[Refresh]** to restore my stamina if it comes down to it... Um... n-not that I'm planning to keep going until I feel ready to faint or anything...*

Cesca suddenly shot her hand forward and placed her thumb against my wrist.

"Hm. Pulse is ordinary, but your blood pressure and respiration are a little lacking. You're tense."

"Well, duh!"

Anyone would be tense in a situation like this. I was even more nervous than I was when I faced the wicked god.

“There are all manner of things that can go wrong during one’s first time. I wouldn’t want you initiating a traumatic incident. I think you should do a test run with me before moving to the real consummation. Now, come. Hurry up now.”

“H-Hey!”

Cesca let out a rather crude grunt before shoving me down to the couch. She held me down with her brutish strength, then began violently unbuttoning my shirt.

“It won’t hurt. Just look at the ceiling. It’ll all be over soon.”

“Augh! **[T-Teleport]!**”

“Boo...”

I warped myself off the couch before she could go any further.

Damn it, this isn’t right! I better get to Yumina as quickly as I can...

I started briskly walking down the hallway, fixing up my shirt all the while.

“How did it go?”

“He was dragging his heels, just as you’d predicted. Our master is certainly a hopeless man, Doctor.”

Cesca let out a small sigh as she leaned back against the couch. Doctor Babylon laughed back through the phone speaker.

“Well, he’s not all that bad. I’d rather him be like this than be overly confident or the kind of brute who only sees women as sexual objects. Still, he’ll have to get used to it... He has to get used to this eventually, after all.”

“Are you sure your body could take something like that, Doctor?”

The Babylon gynoids were artificial constructs, so their bodies wouldn’t grow any further. Babylon’s body would be that of a child’s for eternity.

“Mmm... I’m sure we can find a way around that. Perhaps the goddess of alcohol could provide him with some liquid incentive.”

“How very cunning.”

The goddess of alcohol looked even younger than Babylon, but she was still seen drinking like a sailor all around the town. The only issue of getting Touya drunk was that his divinity-infused body would be highly resistant to it. Unbeknownst to the boy, the two gynoids chuckled merrily, raising a toast to the path he'd embarked upon.

“**[Prison]**.”

“Uhm... What is this?”

I activated **[Prison]** around Yumina's room, much to her surprise. With that in place, nobody would be able to peek in on us or enter the room.

I didn't exactly feel safe with that alone, though. Doctor Babylon could've easily violated our privacy with security cameras or other such measures. And so, I quickly ran a **[Search]** spell to check, but couldn't find anything. Perhaps I was just overthinking it... Doctor Babylon may have been a horrible little creature, but she probably wasn't that bad. I felt a little bad for suspecting her, but she had given me reasons to suspect her in the first place.

I let out a sigh of relief... and the pajama-clad Yumina suddenly cleared her throat from over on the bed in response.

“...Touya? Haven't you been neglecting your new wife?”

“Oh... Sorry... I just got distracted.”

Shit... Don't wanna sour the mood here...

I quickly composed myself and apologized. It seemed to lighten her mood a little.

Yumina sat upright on the bed and leaned her body forward. Before I knew it, she was bowing with her hands in front of her body.

Who'd you learn that from, Yae?!

“I'm inexperienced... but I hope we'll grow together for the rest of our lives.”

“Y-Yeah... I feel the exact same way...”

I suddenly felt compelled to mirror Yumina's actions. I crawled up onto the

bed and bowed my body toward hers. Then, I looked up and saw that she was gazing right into my eyes. All the pent-up tension in my body flew away upon taking in that sight.

I knew right then and there, with absolute certainty, that I would spend the rest of my life with these girls. No more hesitation tainted my heart.

I took Yumina's hand in mine, and we locked lips. The courage I lacked during the ceremony began surging within me.

Beneath the pale light of the moon, the shadowy forms of our bodies interlocked and overlapped in the first moment of true connection.

Suffice to say, I felt extremely sore the next nine days.

Chapter III: In Another World On My Honeymoon

“That’s our Touya. Now he’s a married man in both name and deed, you know?”

“...Well, he didn’t exactly go all the way with Sue... since she’s not really physically ready for that. Still, I think he’s happy to take things slow with her now that they’re married and all.”

“Anyway, they’re going on that honeymoon now, right? I wonder what kind of things they’ll get up to...”

“Hey, Touya! Sake! Bring me, hic, a bottle of sake back! I don’t want any non-booze souvenirs!”

Karen, Moroha, Karina, and Suika were prattling on about whatever they wanted. Personally, I’d have appreciated it if they’d kept their gossip to themselves! I didn’t enjoy my marriage being the subject of rumors by my family members... Especially Moroha and Karen! They were my wives’ sisters-in-law, so they should’ve really watched what they said... Though honestly, it’d probably take something really bad for the girls to hate them. They were family now.

“I definitely can’t warp all the girls across to Earth on my own... God Almighty said he was gonna help me, so we’ve just gotta wait on him...”

The gossiping goddesses were sitting in the castle courtyard, eating some snacks at one of the wedding tables we’d yet to put away.

The main issue with going back home was the fact that I was dead there. Back there, it wasn’t exactly normal for the deceased to rise back up. As much as I’d have loved to be like, “Hey guys, I’m back!” I couldn’t do that. It violated the fundamental norms of the world I grew up in.

That was why I couldn’t visit as Mochizuki Touya the human. I needed to go as Mochizuki Touya, the god. Well, the apprentice god, at least.

Also, I was a little worried about how thin the mana in the atmosphere over

there was. The girls wouldn't be able to use their spells as freely.

I had divinity on my side, so I was safe, but they would be fairly limited in terms of power. That said, the divine traits they'd developed from their bond with me like Yumina's foresight ability would probably work just fine.

Yumina's mystic eye probably wouldn't work, however, since it was just a Null spell manifesting in her eyeball.

"I don't think you should worry that much, you know? Your phone's a sacred treasure, so you can use magic through it to some extent. Just don't use it too much, since it's not a normal thing in that world. If some shady organization got wind of it, you wouldn't get much time to enjoy your honeymoon, you know?"

*I wouldn't want that to happen... Still, it'd be good to use it through my phone a little. I can use **[Search]** if anyone gets lost, and **[Storage]** for souvenirs and stuff.*

"God Almighty sure is late, though. He said he'd be here around noon."

"That's just how it is, you know? The divine realm's been abuzz about the upcoming resort, so I'm sure he's really busy."

A group of gods had descended for my wedding in order to get a taste of life on this planet. There was the goddess of dance, the god of strength, the god of industry, the god of glasses, the god of theater, the god of puppetry, the god of wandering, the goddess of flowers, and the goddess of gemstones. Oh, and also Granny Tokie, but she was a more permanent visitor.

It'd been ten days since their descent, and that was more than enough time for stories to spread among the gods in the divine realm. The number of gods interested in coming down to this world had reached its peak.

"They might sound selfish, but anyone would jump at the chance to experience such a fascinating thing as a human life."

"...I don't exactly relate to the idea of a regular human life being fascinating, but hey... I guess that's their perspective."

"Wahahah, hic! It's like that thing... Uhhh... That thing from your world, hic! Roll pray! Right? That's, hic, it!"

...Roll pray? Does the drunken little gremlin mean roleplay? I guess it makes sense that they'd want to immerse themselves in something completely different from their daily lives. Gods really aren't all that different from humans in the end, are they?

"I heard that the god of puppetry and the god of industry have already started creating their businesses, while the goddess of dance and the god of theater have joined a theatrical troupe. I have a feeling we'll be hearing about them before long," Karina spoke so casually, but that was a pretty short amount of time to do stuff like that... Even in human form, gods were still gods. I had a feeling they'd all end up becoming world-renowned professionals if they kept it up.

"I noticed that the god of glasses has been handing out a lot of glasses, you know? I wonder why that is..."

"Missionary work. Not a lot of people have glasses in this world, so he's trying to raise awareness. He also thinks everyone looks better in glasses. His philosophy is that anyone who looks bad in glasses just hasn't found the right pair yet."

...Well, that settles it. The god of glasses is a total weirdo. But so long as he keeps out of trouble, I'm not gonna complain about it. Hell, maybe he'll become an optician or something? Who knows.

"I just hope nobody causes any trouble while I'm away on my—"

Hm? That presence just now...

"Fret not. I shall keep a watchful eye on them."

I turned and saw that God Almighty had finally arrived. Because I directly benefited from his divinity, but he was the only god I could sense.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, my boy. I got caught up in a heated debate about the resort project."

"Makes sense."

I'm not gonna ask for details, since I'm sure it'll just make me worry.

"Now then... Touya, could you call everyone together? I would like to go over

some guidelines before your trip.”

“Oh, sure thing.”

Guidelines, huh? I guess we'll need to be careful... I think Ende mentioned something about dangers while traveling through worlds too, though I think a trip to Earth should be simple enough.

I pulled out my smartphone and sent a group text to the girls.



“Now then. Starting tomorrow, you will be visiting the planet Earth. It is the world where Touya once lived.”

Everyone was gathered in the courtyard, listening to God Almighty speak. Fortunately, we still had enough chairs set out.

Karen and the other goddesses quietly watched us from a nearby table.

“The rings in your possession will automatically convert languages, so you need not worry about communication. This will also extend to written words. I shall also provide you with some funds for the trip.”

Oh, cool. So I can understand foreigners? That's pretty convenient, but I guess it's the bare minimum you can expect from a sacred treasure.

I grinned slightly as I looked down at the wedding ring on my finger. I wasn't actually that worried about my own speech, since I was just planning on taking them to Japan, but it was still a pretty sweet feature.

I was also glad to hear he was handling our finances as well. In a worst-case scenario, I was planning on bringing some silver or gold to sell.

“I will also ensure that your phones retain functionality over there. Otherwise, it would be difficult to make a call due to the lack of magic in the atmosphere.”

The mass-produced smartphones created by Doctor Babylon made use of magic in the atmosphere to connect two individuals instead of radio waves. I didn't fully understand how it worked, but as long as both parties on the phone were surrounded by the same kind of magic-enriched air, they'd be able to have a conversation.

Considering the fact that the phones worked indoors, that meant the air was even connected in that manner... I wondered if that would mean the phones wouldn't work in a closed-off area. I heard that water had mana infused into it, but I wasn't sure if the phones would work under the sea, either...

Regardless, if their phones were being tweaked to work on Earth, then that basically just made them regular smartphones.

"The low mana in the atmosphere on Earth will make your magical abilities functionally useless, so please take care. You may be able to create small elements, like ice, but that is all."

Mhm. If there's little to no mana in the atmosphere, magic just won't work. It's like trying to light a fire without any oxygen. Wait, but what about...?

"What about self-applied magic drawn from within your own body, like my sister's **[Boost]** spell?" Linze raised a question, taking the words right out of my mouth. Elze seemed curious about the answer.

"It should be possible, but I advise against doing that. If you exhaust all the magic within your body, you will quickly exhaust your body itself. You would not want to spend your honeymoon bedridden, yes?"

"Oh, I see... The atmospheric magic being so thin means we can't replenish our own body's magic stores. That makes sense," Leen offered some astute commentary. That was definitely a major risk! If someone exhausted all their magic, they'd lose consciousness.

I had the option of giving them some magic back with **[Transfer]**, but I wouldn't be able to replenish that amount for myself, either.

"Could we not store the magic in something external, like one of Babylon's tank storage units?"

"I am afraid not. The moment you arrive in the other world, the magic would disperse. The storage tank is powered by magic. Thus, it would lose efficiency in Earth's atmosphere much like other magic tools. Even that little bear would be unable to move on Earth."

Paula cowered behind Leen after hearing that.

Don't worry, Paula. You're staying home... Man, I won't even be able to call Kohaku or the others, since they're such a drain on me. They'll quickly outrun the rate at which my magic restores itself.

Basically, any magical tool or artifact would become useless on Earth. Even the Frame Gears would just be large immobile structures over there.

"Wait. My phone's charged by magic... Won't it run out of battery pretty fast?!"

"...Electricity exists on Earth, Touya. You can just use that."

"...Oh. Yeah. That's true."

...Wow, that was a really dumb question on my part, wasn't it? I feel pretty damn embarrassed right now...

Doctor Babylon had made sure to install charging ports into the mass-produced phones, so they could charge on electricity as well.

"Lack of magic does not bother me, it does not."

"Same here."

"Mhm!"

Yae, Hilde, and Lu spoke amongst themselves. I let out a light chuckle upon hearing that, since they were clearly a little despondent about not having any aptitude for the elements.

"Well, magic isn't a thing on Earth, so I think everyone'll be fine."

"Oh, wait! What if something dangerous happens? What do we do if we can't use our spells?" Sue raised her hand and asked me a question. She had a worried expression on her face. Her concern made sense. Magic was as natural as walking in this world, after all. She'd obviously have some anxiety about being robbed of it.

"It's fine. We won't be visiting any war-torn countries or anything. We're going to a peaceful nation without any danger."

I highly doubted that we'd have much to worry about in Japan. I couldn't think of any real uses for magic there, to be honest. I personally thought that

going there with magic probably would've been more dangerous.

"I wanna ask something else! It's about you, Touya!"

"Huh? What?"

Sue's sudden direct line of questioning took me by surprise.

"You're supposed to be dead over there, aren't you? So, what are you gonna do about that?!"

"Well, that's fine, honestly."

Sure, I can't be walking around over there as a dead man, so I'll simply use [Mirage] to... Oh. Ohhh...!

"Uhhh... Wait, what? I can't use disguise magic over there, can I?"

"Technically, you should be able to. If you channel your divinity, you can hypothetically use any spell through that. However, constantly channeling your divinity to maintain a disguise will be incredibly taxing on your body. I doubt you will be able to maintain it for long."

Ugh... Yeah, I agree. Divinity's way harder to control than basic magic. The fine control is a part that I still really struggle with. I can barely keep my hair from growing all the way out when I activate my Apotheosis. If I had the fine-tuned level of control that I actually need, then I wouldn't have Granny Tokie down here repairing the barrier. Keeping my divinity constantly active would be way too stressful. I don't think I'll be able to enjoy my vacation if I do that.

"Touya, if I might... I can change your appearance. It should not burden your body, but it will be a permanent change until you return. That may be a little inconvenient, but it is the best I can do."

Oh, that sounds good! I don't wanna be paranoid about getting caught the entire time.

"Hrmm... I don't want the grand duke's appearance to change... It'd be less fun..."

"Yes... Sakura's right! Even if he'd be Touya on the inside, I don't wanna travel with someone who looks completely different!"

Sakura and Sue objected to God Almighty's proposal. They weren't being unreasonable. It was supposed to be our honeymoon, so I could see why they wouldn't want to spend it with someone who didn't look like their husband. Plus, the main purpose of the trip was to visit my parents in their sleep, and I needed to look like myself for that.

Wait, nevermind. We'll be in a dream, so I should be able to manipulate my form at will in there.

"Fret not. I have considered the matter of young Touya's form, and this is the solution I have come up with. Behold!" God Almighty suddenly said that, clasped his hands together, and formed a cloud of smoke around me.

"Wah?! Wh-Wh-What was that?!"

I waved my arms around to clear the smoke, but something felt wrong. The sleeves of my coat were far too long, for some reason... And the pitch of my voice was ridiculously high. When the smoke cleared, all of my wives were surrounding me. They were gazing at me with wonder blazing in their eyes.

Wh-What's going on?

"Is this Touya to your liking, young ladies?"

...Man, I don't know if I've ever seen him grin like that before. How weird. Wait... has he always been that tall? Wait... why's everyone so much taller than me? No... Don't tell me...

"[S-Storage]!"

I frantically pulled out a full-sized mirror and propped it up by me. The reflection in the mirror was that of a child. A five-year-old boy who looked far smaller than even Sue.

Wh-What the hell is this?! This isn't an appearance change! You de-aged me!

"Who's this?! Is this really Touya?!"

"A-Ahhh! Amazing! It's a teeny, tiny Touya!"

"S-So cute! He's so cuuute!"

"A-Ahhh! The smaller he is, the better he is! This is fantastic!"

Elze and Linze came roaring in from either side of me. And Yumina and Lu weren't far behind them, either.

H-HELP!



“Amazing! He truly does have the face of Touya-dono, he does!” Yae said as she ran right up to me.

Obviously, it's my face! I'm still me, damn it!

Yae picked me up from under the armpits and lifted me way up high.

S-Stop! Stop! My pants are falling down!

My body had shrunk, but my clothes sure hadn't. I frantically reached for my pants, but there was nothing I could do when faced with Yae's gorilla grip. My pants slipped away.

Right on cue, a sinister wind blew in and lifted up my long shirt.

...Yep. It's cold down south.

“T-Touya... Don't be sad, it's okay...”

“Don't give me that... You didn't have your lower half exposed to the elements...”

Lu tried comforting me, but her words didn't do much to help. If I had the mind of a five-year-old, I probably wouldn't have been so horrified by what had just happened.

“I am sorry, I am... It is just so rare to see children in the castle, it is...”

Yae really loved kids, so I understood how she felt. Still, that didn't exactly make me feel any better...

“No pouting, be a good boy! It was an honest mistake. It's fine! You're our husband!” Sue said that and grinned as she reached out to pat my head.

...This is a hell of a role reversal. I feel kinda embarrassed about all this...

Karina and Suika laughed as they watched from the nearby table.

“Don't worry about such little things, Touya. We're all family here!”

“Wahahaha, hic! You're reaaaaaally small, little guy! Bwahaha!”

What's small?! Are you talking about me or my manhood?! What the hell!

Right as I prepared to give Suika a piece of my mind, Sakura warped back with **[Teleport]**. She'd quickly gone to Fashion King Zanak.

“Here... I bought some things... underwear included...” Sakura said as she dropped a heavy paper bag on the table.

...Just how much did you buy?!

Immediately after producing the first bag, she produced a bunch more. They were filled to the brim, so I thought they’d burst.

Wait... what’s with the skirts? There’s girls’ clothing in here too!

“You’ll look great in this dress!”

“Ooh, this one’s pretty.”

“If we’re going to dress him up, I should prepare some child-sized armor...”

Lu, Yumina, and Hilde began whispering to each other. I wondered if Hilde was serious about the child-sized armor thing... It honestly made me worry about our future kids.

Whatever they were planning to do to me, I could only hope they’d make it quick.

The girls spent a while dressing me up like a doll, but eventually, they settled on a basic hoodie and some pants. This outfit worked well, since it looked like something an ordinary kid would wear.

“...Are you all quite done?”

“A-Ah! S-Sorry!”

I totally forgot that God Almighty had been there the whole time!

“I think you will be just fine in that child form. Even if you meet someone who knew you as a boy, they will only think of you as a child who resembles you.”

That was definitely true. No one would just assume that some kid was a dead guy they once knew.

“Couldn’t you have just made me look middle-aged or older instead?”

“...I think it is better for everyone if you are a child. Trust me.”

There was something ominous about that pause of his, but he had a point. If I was a middle-aged me walking around with all these girls, I ran the risk of being

apprehended.

Making me into an old man was a viable option, but I'd stick out like a sore thumb with all my wives. Plus, I didn't exactly want to know what I'd look like as an old man... If my body was even capable of becoming old anymore, anyway.

"Ah, and just to clarify... I did not make you any younger. I simply fixed your physical form into one static position. Once you ascend as a god, you should be able to learn that ability as well. I actually have several physical forms other than this one."

"Really? Why stick with the old man look, then?"

"It is more dignified, is it not?"

...Well, that's a pretty generic answer. But it is what it is.

"Well, that's it for preparation. Oh, girls. You should get changed into different outfits before we leave tomorrow, or you'll stick out too much over there."

Their appearances were fine, but their clothing definitely wasn't normal by Earth's standards. Most people would just assume Yae to be Japanese, but the other girls had eye and hair colors that would make them look like foreigners. Sakura's hair alone would definitely turn some heads.

I wondered if she could get a wig or something... Or maybe hair dye was the better option.

"Fashion King Zanac had a lot of clothing in stock... Since it's all based on clothing from the grand duke's world, we should go get some."

"Sounds good to me. Let's go buy a few days' worth of clothing."

Leen nodded at Sakura's suggestion, and all the girls agreed.

Shouldn't we just buy the clothes over there? I mean, we got free money and all...

"Come on, Touya. It's time to go."

"Huh? Me too?!"

Before I could react, Elze yanked me away by the arm. My other arm was

promptly seized by Yae.

“You’ve got **[Storage]**, dear. You can carry our things!”

Please no... I’m too small to carry your things! Well, whatever, it’s fine... Just don’t treat me like a dress-up doll again.

“Then I shall see you all in the morning. Take care.”

“O-Oh, yeah! Thanks again!”

God Almighty chuckled softly and gave us a wave. I bowed my head in apology as I was dragged off.

The honeymoon hadn’t even started yet, but everyone was already raring to go.



Everyone in the castle wondered why I looked like a child. It was a pretty reasonable line of questioning. I simply told them I was using **[Mirage]** to change my appearance, but that begged the question of why? And, by extension, why a five-year-old’s body?

In the end, I just kind of sidelined all the questioning. I couldn’t tell them a god had come down and turned me into a little kid.

“It would’ve been better if he’d transformed me right before the trip...”

I was way smaller, so I picked up some child-sized pajamas at Zanak’s store. I still didn’t know how to feel when I looked at myself in my bedroom mirror. It felt pretty surreal.

“Make sure you pack a lot of clothing. Do not forget anything, do not.”

“Gah!”

Damn it... Couldn’t you have made me a little bit older or at least a little bit heavier?

I winced slightly as Yae picked me up by the armpits again. It felt like I was losing pride as a man by the second, but it wasn’t really my fault... It was my body!

“You are so cute, yes you are... I wonder if this is how it will be when I have

my own son, I do...”

“...Just don’t ever bring him here to dress him up like a girl.”

“Don’t fault us, Grand Duke... It was important research... We needed to investigate how our daughters might look. Please understand...”

I groaned slightly at Sakura’s fairly casual and blunt response. Even with their excuses, I couldn’t help but feel like I’d been violated somehow.

“Hey, Leen, what’re you gonna do about your wings? It’s not like you can cast **[Invisible]** over there. There aren’t any fairies in that Earth place, right?” Elze sat on the bed, brushing her hair as she said that and pointed toward Leen’s back. She’d raised a good point.

“Oh, that won’t be an issue. The only reason you can see my wings is because a special pigment in them reacts to the mana in our atmosphere. On a planet such as Earth, there won’t be enough magic to reflect them, which will render them invisible. In a worst-case scenario, however, I could always flit my wings down against my back, then hide them beneath my clothes.”

Leen flattened her wings against her back to demonstrate her point. I’d briefly considered asking God Almighty to hide her wings, but apparently, that wasn’t necessary.

“What about Sakura’s horns?” Linze raised another fair question as she tapped her own forehead.

“My horns can retract enough to be obscured by my hair... It should be fine.”

That felt awfully convenient. Sakura’s horns had unique properties, since she was one of the overlord’s kin, so she had some degree of control over their length. They could flicker forward and retract like animal claws. That made me wonder if they were made out of keratin. I’d heard that vampires could retract and extend their claws, so it also made me curious if the overlord’s unique genetics had a little bit of that mixed in there.

The only other point of concern about Sakura was the fact that she had pointed ears, but if anyone asked, we’d just play it off as being a fashion trend or something.

“Your world sure is amazing, Touya... Even at night, the place twinkles like the stars...”

Sue was transfixed on the image I’d projected into the air. More specifically, it was a live feed of Tokyo.

We weren’t going to be staying in the big city, though.

“There are so many ether vehicles in the streets. Fascinating.”

“Indeed. From what I’ve noticed, the green light tells them when to move, while the red light tells them when to stop.”

Yumina and Lu were going over some of the things I’d told them about in advance. I figured it’d be smarter to give them a primer on certain basic things instead of just addressing them as we came across them and causing potential issues.

By using the **[Recall]** spell, I managed to share some elements of my legal knowledge with them. I also shared certain knowledge of technology, because I knew if I didn’t Yae would probably act like a samurai plucked into the modern era and attack a TV or something. If they were briefed on stuff beforehand, it made things less likely to go wrong. There were a few artifacts in this world that were similar to Earth technology anyway, so it wasn’t that hard to introduce those concepts to them. Plus, I’d shown them movies and shows before, so I doubted they’d be completely lost when it came to things like television.

“I’m rather worried about traveling around without my sword... I can’t imagine being without it.”

“I feel the exact same way, I do. However, if I cannot wield a wakizashi in the streets, then I will simply remain on guard with martial arts at all times, I will.”

Hilde and Yae expressed a little bit of discomfort. I found that a little annoying, honestly. I’d already explained to them that we weren’t going to get into a combat situation in the other world, and even if we did, we wouldn’t be facing the kinds of enemies we encountered here. No thugs with knives stood a chance against my wives.

They didn’t seem fully aware of it, but they were unreasonably strong compared to normal humans. They wouldn’t even need magic to handle most

bad guys at this point. Even Sue, the weakest of the bunch, was more than a match for a party of veterans.

Yae, Hilde, Elze, and Lu honed their physical skills every day, while Yumina, Linze, Leen, and Sakura honed their magical skills. Takeru and Moroha made sure of that. And Sue and Sakura had even been learning special techniques from Lapis and Tsubaki.

On top of all that, they all benefited from tons of divinity from multiple gods. No human from Earth would be able to lay even a finger on them. Frankly, I was more worried about the damage they could do to others, rather than the other way around.

Hopefully, we'd be able to get through the trip without any unnecessary trouble.

"We've got a big day ahead of us, so we should sleep early," Yumina said as she patted the pillow next to her. Usually, I slept at the end of the bed or on a separate couch, but now that I was a married man, I had no such reservations about sharing a bed with my wives.

Given that I was in a child's body, sleeping was the only thing we'd be doing that evening. I didn't know whether to thank God Almighty for that or resent him.

"I wanna sleep next to Touya! I call dibs!"

"Gwah?!"

Sue tackled me from behind, wrapping her arms around my front in a bear hug.

"No fair... I want to hug him as well, Sue..." Sakura mumbled as she shuffled over toward me, embracing me from the front. I was sandwiched between the two of them. Ordinarily, that would've been a pretty enviable position, but in a five-year-old's body, it wasn't as exciting as it should've been.

"Hrrgh..."

"That's enough, you two. Touya doesn't seem all that happy about it."

Lu came to my rescue, gently prying the two girls from me. Sakura and Sue

simply responded by pouting a little.

Sakura had a surprisingly clingy side to her, and she often competed with Sue when it came to my physical affection. And her childish behavior was made all the more amusing by the fact that she was older than both Lu and Yumina.

“Are you okay, Touya?”

“I am now. Thanks, Lu.”

“Now then... Let’s get you to bed.”

“Huh?”

Lu suddenly hugged me tight, pulling me down sideways to the bed.

Wh—? You’re just repeating what Sue did!

“No fair, Lu! He’s mine!”

Seeing her chance, Yumina charged in and embraced me from behind. Sakura and Sue then closed in from the sides; I was locked in a four-way nightmare wife sandwich.

I’m done for...

“Hmph... I think I deserve to sleep by Touya-dono’s side, I do.”

“Quite honestly... I don’t want to just watch.”

“H-Hey, Sis... Shouldn’t we go after him too?”

“Y-Yeah! We’ve got the right to be in there! I wanna sleep next to Touya!”

“Goodness me... I know we’re all excited about our darling’s unusual form, but is this how we’re going to behave every night? We should settle things here and now,” Leen said that, then clapped her hands together and produced a box of rectangular blocks from beneath the bed. After that, she promptly stacked them all up until they formed a tower.

The tower was made up of fifty-four identical rectangular blocks. Each tier of the tower had three of those blocks lined up next to each other. It was a very popular party game back home. The goal was to take turns pulling out the blocks, with the loser determined by whoever made the tower fall.

The one Leen had pulled out was a leftover prototype I'd produced for Olba Strand.

"So we're settling it this way?"

"I see... So we'll be eliminated until one remains..."

Elze and Linze nodded quietly. All of the girls had played this game before, so there wasn't any unfair advantage when it came to individual ability.

"Okay! Let's go!"

Sue charged toward the table, enthusiasm burning in her eyes. All the other girls shrugged and joined in as well. Personally, I thought it would've been better to sleep instead of staying up all night playing party games, but I wasn't in charge...

I leaned back into the soft mattress. Every now and then, I heard clattering noises and gasps, but I quickly faded away to sleep without finding out who won.

My slumber was a restless one, unfortunately. I was plagued by nightmares about Tentaculars grabbing me.

I woke up in the middle of the night, completely immobilized by the girls. Some of them held my arms, while others held my legs. I didn't want to stay in that position, but I also didn't want to disturb them by jostling around, so I escaped with **[Teleport]**.

It was no wonder I'd had such vivid nightmares. They'd probably been pawing at me.

Freed from the bed, I took my pillow to the nearby couch and snuggled up next to Kohaku. Then, I faded off to sleep once more. This time my dreams were peaceful. Though, I think I might've had one small nightmare about squishing Kohaku with my butt. And when I woke up, I realized that I'd done exactly that in my sleep.

"Now then, are you ready?" God Almighty smiled as he posed that question.

We were in Babylon's garden. Karen and the other gods had come to see us off, along with Doctor Babylon, Cesca, and even Ende and Melle.

The moment Ende saw my child-like stature, he burst out laughing. I made a mental note not to bring any souvenirs back for that bastard...

Yumina and the others had changed into their Earth-appropriate clothing, and they really just looked pretty normal. But not in a plain way or anything. It went without saying that they looked exceptionally cute.

Assuming all went well, every Japanese person we came across would assume they were all (save Yae), foreign tourists. I wasn't entirely sure if we'd stand out or not, but there was only one way to find out.

If anyone asked, we'd planned to use a cover story that Yae and I were Japanese siblings who were showing around a group of foreign friends.

We didn't have any luggage with us, either. The only things we'd planned to take were our phones. I could use my Divinity to interface with my phone and activate its **[Storage]** function, so I put our travel expenses and everyone's clothing inside.

I was glad my smartphone had become a sacred treasure. After all, if it was just a regular magic object, it wouldn't work on Earth. Even ether vehicles and Frame Gears would be completely useless there.

My Brunhild wouldn't be able to transform to blade mode and back, either. Not that I'd be bringing it. No sane place on Earth would just be so lax as to let someone casually walk around with a gun.

"Well then, it seems you're all ready to go. You can contact me through your phone, Touya, so just let me know when you wish to return. I shall be right there for you."

"Got it."

"Now then, I hope you all have a lovely trip," God Almighty said that, then waved his hand outward.

A sudden burst of light assaulted my eyes. When my vision returned, my surroundings were completely different. We weren't in Babylon's garden anymore. Instead, we found ourselves in the middle of a forest-lined road.

"W-We're there already?!" Linze exclaimed as her eyes darted around in a

bewildered flurry.

We were on a small paved road that stretched out between the emerald-green trees.

“Hey... Is this really Urf? Looks like a normal forest to me...”

“...It’s Earth, not Urf. And we’re definitely not in our world. Just look at me,” Leen addressed Elze’s mispronunciation, then gestured toward herself. Her wings weren’t visible. If you squinted really hard, you could kind of make out an outline where they were, but no one who wasn’t specifically looking for them would notice.

“So we are on the planet Urf, we are... But where exactly, Touya-dono?” Yae turned to me with a question.

Wait, are we...?

“Ah... T-Touya?!”

I started to sprint down the road at full speed, ignoring Lu’s confused yell. The path grew narrower as I sped down it... until I came to an uphill slope.

I spotted a single building with a red roof on top of the slope. Nostalgia washed over me. I was stunned to silence by the sight of the place. It was a western-style red brick building that was probably built in the early 1900s.

The girls managed to catch up to me, and they all looked up at the building as well.

“This house... Is this your old home, Touya?” Linze made a good guess, but I shook my head. It wasn’t my home. My house wasn’t western-styled. Though, we were within a few train rides of the place.

Anyway, this house was one I knew well, but I didn’t grow up here. It was nostalgic for completely different reasons.

“This house... used to be my grandpa’s.”

My grandpa died when I was in junior high, so I hadn’t visited since. It seemed like my mother had still been tending to the place, though. The garden looked to be in pristine condition.

It felt a little strange, honestly... The grandpa who lived here came from my mother's side. And my mother was a rather bold and brash woman, despite her modest job as a picture book author, so I didn't expect her to still be taking care of this place...

The phone in my pants pocket began to vibrate. It was God Almighty.

"Hey-o."

"Oh, good. Did you make it there safely?"

"We did... But why here of all places?"

"I thought you would need a solid location to use as a base of sorts. I made sure that the water and electricity were running properly as well. You are familiar with the location, no?"

I mean, yeah, but... Well, I guess this is pretty smart, actually. If we all tried checking into a hotel, they might get confused about the lack of adults and call the police.

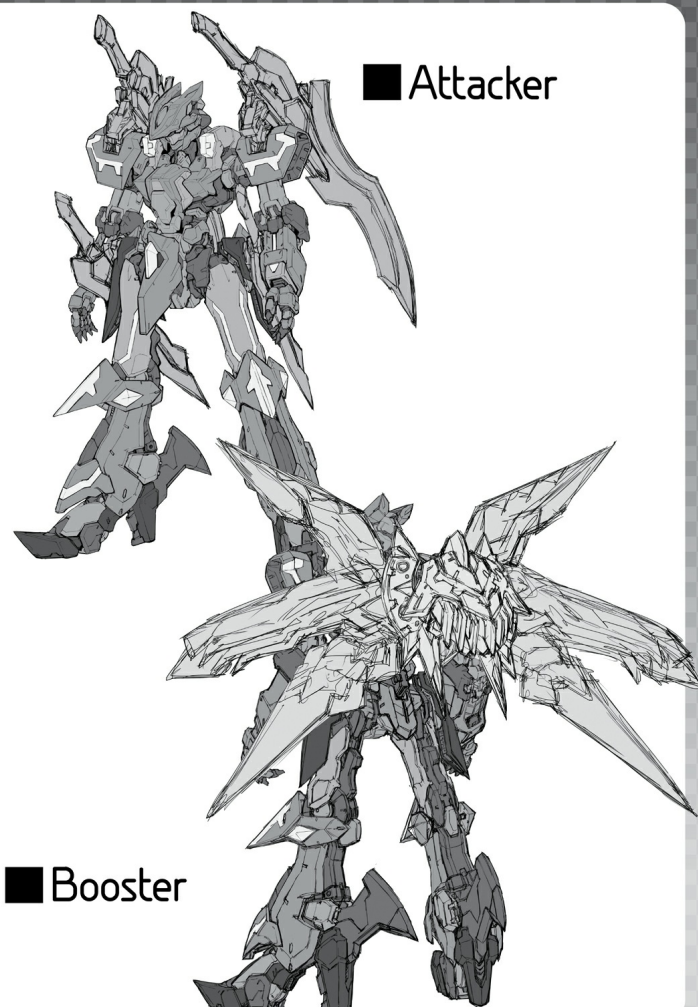
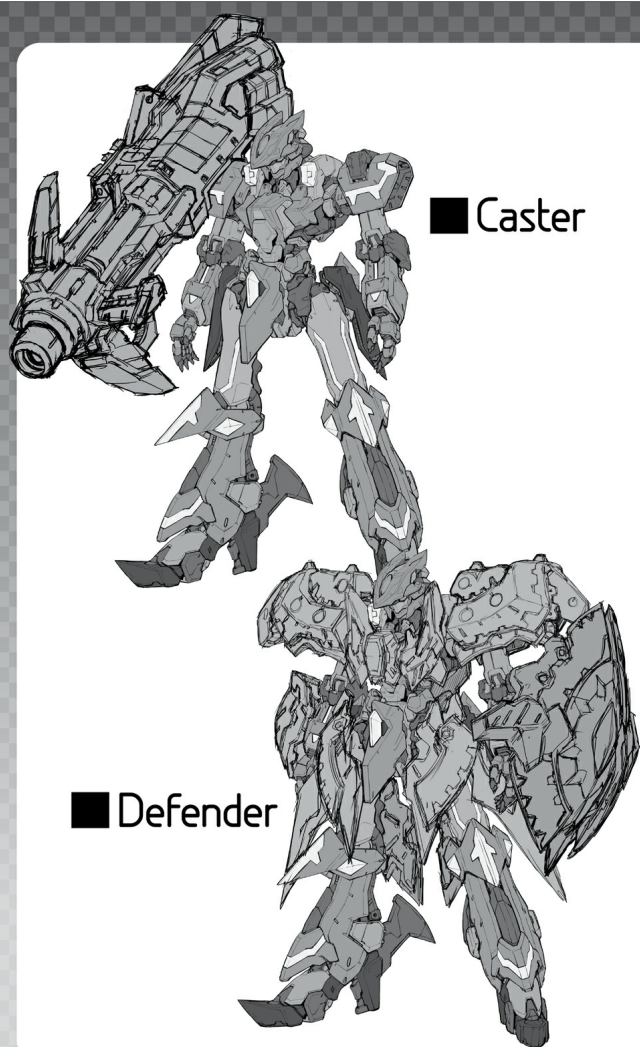
"Is it okay if we stay here without permission?"

"Come now, this place belongs to your family! Plus, it is not as if you will be there for long. So, why not?"

...Well, maybe because the owner is dead and I'm a five-year-old boy?

In the end, I agreed, since the remote location made it unlikely we'd get any visitors. In fact, the main reason my family didn't move here was because of how isolated it was.

I'll just apologize to my parents for intruding when I visit them in their dreams. That should be good enough.



Bonus Short Stories

It's a Dog's Life

“Woof! Woof! Arf! Woof!”

“What’re you barking about, Shiro? Ack! Oh no!”

Tsuzuri just barely managed to catch her daughter, Fuyuka, who had somehow crawled up to the top of the couch and nearly fell off. The little one simply giggled, completely unaware of the peril she’d been in, as her mother breathed a heavy sigh of relief. The family dog, Shiro, also let out a small sigh.

“Thanks, Shiro! I wouldn’t have noticed without your help!”

“Woof, woof!”

Shiro was the latest addition to the Mochizuki family, and Tsuzuri had her suspicions that the dog was far smarter than it looked. Somehow, the pooch just knew how to do things without being trained! She followed obediently on walks, and even patiently waited to be fed without barking or whining.

The most amazing thing about it, though, was how she treated Fuyuka. She was always looking out for the little girl and keeping her out of harm’s way. If Fuyuka needed her diaper changed, Shiro would start barking. Fuyuka headed into danger? Shiro would start barking. The pooch always acted incredibly gentle when playing with the little girl, too... It really did make Tsuzuri stop and wonder if it wasn’t her son reborn somehow.

Right when Tsuzuri muttered something to that effect, the dog began frantically shaking her head as if to say, “No way!” That was another weird thing about the dog! It was as if she understood human speech... But surely that had to be Tsuzuri’s imagination. The woman smiled and gave the dog a little pat on the head.

“Doggie... Doggie...”

Fuyuka reached out her arms to pet Shiro, prompting the dog to quietly lower

her head and accept the child's rough scratches. Tsuzuri quietly smiled, thinking about how lucky the family was to have such a patient and gentle pet.

[Shiro's Perspective]

Whew, that was a close one... If Lady Tsuzuri hadn't noticed, I might've had to use my divinity! Can't use magic in this world on account of the atmosphere, after all.

Still, I'd rather use my divinity sparingly. There's no telling what kind of danger it could end up attracting... Even though I'm sure I could handle it, I would do well not to invite trouble to this household, as my primary mission is keeping the family safe.

I swear, she's such a rambunctious little girl! I can't take my eyes off her for a single moment. You never know what kind of trouble she's going to stir up next...

From what I understand, her brother's much like that, too... Perhaps that's just part of their bloodline... I might be a low-tier god, but I'm still a god, and even I fear the wrath of Lady Tsuzuri... I get the feeling she wears the pants in this household as well... Her husband's always lacking in spine when it comes to confronting her.

"Shiro! Walkies!"

"Woof!"

Tsuzuri strolled over from the garden with a leash in hand, prompting Shiro to run up to her.

With a leash on, I can't exactly be right next to Fuyuka, but I'll still keep a close eye out for danger. This is my duty... and I intend to see it through.

A Matter Of Health

How are you all doing during this global catastrophe? I understand it's a little crazy out there as of late. I'm doing okay, all things considered.

I came down ill recently, and I began to worry because of what's going on

outside. I couldn't stop coughing for a few days, which was very scary... Then, a fever set in and the coughing got worse. I didn't want to assume the worst, but I knew I had to visit the doctor... I fearfully headed into the waiting room and found it to be surprisingly barren. There were only a few people there, but given the circumstances, it's understandable why. And luckily, that means they helped me immediately.

When I described my symptoms to the doctor, he apologized and cordoned me off from everyone else in the building. I was placed in an isolated room. I hardly blamed them for it, though, all things considered.

They took blood samples from me and stuck this big cotton swab right up my nose... In the end, it turned out to just be a cold. The fever and chills were just the results of an infection, it seems. I got some medicine, headed home... and the fever subsided after a couple of days. Unfortunately, the coughing persisted for quite some time after that. It was really uncomfortable.

But thankfully, I've made a full recovery at this point. I'm feeling much better. And I'm definitely taking steps to ensure that I don't get sick again, since that experience wasn't something I'd ever wish to relive.

I've always been the kind of person who doesn't go out all that much, so when the matter of lockdown came up, I thought I'd be okay. I didn't think living in isolation would be all that different from my usual life, so I figured what the hey, I'm prepared for that. But then, reality set in and I realized I couldn't play board games with my friends, and I still can't really go out to wander through my favorite bookstore. When that realization first hit me, it was tough. I felt way worse than I expected, in all honesty.

My board game collection is piling up, and I haven't got anyone to play with. That's why I've started playing more video games. One such game is Animal Crossing! I heard about the new one, but I'd never actually played it; I'd just seen it on Twitter and stuff like that. I know it's quite popular. The idea to give it a try actually came up during a phone call with a member of the editorial staff. He told me that you could make a museum, style your island how you want it, and get random villagers to show up! It sounded pretty cool, even if the other person didn't know everything about the game.

I play it about twice a day, usually for less than an hour. I could play more, but I'd rather take it easy... Plus, if I just do everything those shady raccoons tell me to, I'd feel like a mafia boss' underling.

At any rate, I'm glad it was just a normal cold this time around. It really made me realize how lucky I am to have my health. If it was the alternative, well... I'm just glad it wasn't.

Let's all be sure to wash our hands thoroughly, okay? Don't just look out for your own health, but your neighbors as well. Take care out there.



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In Another World With My Smartphone: Volume 21

by Patora Fuyuhara

Translated by Andrew Hodgson Edited by DxS

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Ebook edition 1.0.1: November 2020