



GOD Vol 2: Elf, Nanny, Thunderous Anger
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Credits

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HAPPY READING!

Chapter 1: Rivals in Love Meet and Suffer Extreme Jealousy

“Lalala~ I love swamp piranhas. Little flower, quickly gobble other people up. Once you’re full, Shooting Star will pick you~.”

Shooting Star happily picked the last piranha. That was, if you could call the action of forcefully digging something out that was as half as tall as him from the dirt “picking.”

After he picked it, he customarily tossed the piranha at Xiao Bai, and then customarily, Agid rushed over in the nick of time to grab the gigantic, smelly, disgusting, but beautiful flower—he was already carrying three piranhas, five coils of thorny brambles, and all sorts of other weird plants.

Even Agid, whose strength and height was much greater than most, was finding it difficult to bear, but in front of Bai Saya, even if he couldn’t bear it, he had to force himself to bear it!

Yet, his teammate was even helping to add on to his suffering...

“Shooting Star, Shooting Star, there’s another blossom here!” Belle happily waved Shooting Star over.

“Really? I’m coming over, coming over!”

Shooting Star happily sped over. The piranha mission paid per flower, and the pay wasn’t bad. What was even better was that Philo and the others hadn’t snatched this mission, so the rewards would all be his, hehehe!

Seeing the ridiculously gigantic piranha, Agid's face crumpled. He had nowhere to carry that on him!

Bai Saya kept tossing Agid sympathetic looks. Since he was mute, he couldn't persuade Shooting Star to stop. After a moment of hesitation, he walked to Agid's side and reached his hand out to take the piranha on the other person's shoulder.

"No, no, Saya, you can't carry something this disgusting." Agid dodged, unwilling to allow Bai Saya to take the piranha.

To the side, Philo's face had been dark for a long time because of Shooting Star's actions. However, upon seeing Agid's behavior, with one of them not wishing to fight yet the other willingly suffering, who was he to say anything if his teammate wanted to suffer? All he could do was sigh and say, "Saya, don't carry it. I'll help Agid carry it."

After he said that, he reached his hand out and took two piranhas. Even though he frowned at the odor, he still didn't speak a word of complaint.

Bai Saya froze. As a man, he had never been shown such attentive care before. He really didn't know what he was supposed to think about it. He didn't feel touched, but he did feel nearly overwhelming guilt.

Goodness, I've already claimed to have a fiancé. Why are they still so nice to me?

This caused the thing inside of his heart called a “conscience” to sting with relentless pain.

“Saya, Saya?”

Huh? Who’s calling me? Bai Saya dazedly looked toward the person who had called him, discovering that both Philo and Agid were staring at him. Their gazes made him feel deeply uncomfortable.

Seeing Bai Saya’s guilt displayed on his face, Philo smiled slightly. “Don’t worry. I’ve already asked Elena. After we make camp tonight and process these plants, there’ll only be a few bags of powder left in the end. They won’t be too difficult to transport.”

Oh! Bai Saya relaxed and nodded. *If we had to carry these huge, smelly flowers the entire way, no matter how much Shooting Star protested, I’d definitely throw them away!*

Afterwards, while everyone scattered to finish gathering, Bai Saya couldn’t help but pull Shooting Star aside. He whispered, “Don’t give them any more trouble. I’ll feel really guilty.”

“Why feel guilty? They’re obviously the ones who wanted to act that way.”

“B-but, they’re doing that because they think I’m a woman.”

“That means they’re huge perverts, so they have wicked intentions. Why should you feel guilty?”

Bai Saya froze. *Is that so? B-but that doesn't seem right. Agid and Philo don't seem like bad people. How is it that Shooting Star can make them into huge perverts?* He pondered over just what had gone wrong.

Shooting Star yawned widely and waved his hand. "Why not treat them worse and make them hate you?"

"Treat them worse?"

Bai Saya nodded in understanding. If a girl had a temper, he would want to distance himself from her. *Okay! I'll do that!*

Following that, Bai Saya put on a displeased expression, though his expressions in the presence of Belle and Elena were much gentler. After all, they were female... *Wait, treating women better, don't tell me I'm also a huge pervert like what Shooting Star is saying?*

Bai Saya immediately grew conflicted. *But if I had to treat Belle and Elena poorly, my conscience would only feel even worse, wouldn't it? Besides, I can't do it!* After thinking it over again and again, Bai Saya made the smartest decision he had ever made in his life—ignoring a huge portion of Shooting Star's words.

After he stopped worrying over it, Bai Saya began executing his "make Agid and Philo hate him" plan.

As long as Agid and Philo looked over, Bai Saya would vehemently glare back at them. This was truly a difficult feat for someone who was always even tempered. It wasn't even noon when he felt that his face

was stiff to the point of twitching, and his eyeballs were nearly about to fall out from glaring.

Being angry was truly a difficult feat. Bai Saya truly believed that. As expected, Shifu was correct. Treating others with benevolence was the correct path.

“What’s going on with Saya? She turned so mean...”

After being glared at for half a day, Agid finally reacted. He pulled his teammates over, asking them in confusion.

In order to avoid Bai Saya from overhearing, they had purposely moved to the side to speak, but Bai Saya had trained in martial arts. As long as he strained his ears, he could still hear the contents of their conversation.

“Did the two of you anger her in some way?” Belle didn’t have the least bit of camaraderie, immediately placing the blame on her teammates.

Agid was greatly wronged. All along, he had been trying to win Bai Saya’s favor. All that was missing was offering his entire fortune. How would he even dare to anger her?

Belle looked to the left at Agid’s aggrieved expression and to the right at Philo’s confused one.

"Saya's mood changed so abruptly for no reason." Philo wasn't very happy about it. After all, the smelly flowers he carried over his shoulder should have originally been Bai Saya's to carry.

Success! He's starting to hate me! Bai Saya, who had heard these words, nearly wanted to jump up in celebration.

At this time, the normally quiet Elena coldly snapped, "What spineless men. Women have always had a few inconvenient days. Want me to give you a few stabs so you can try out what it feels like to bleed continuously while traveling?"

"So it's that time of the month!" Belle nodded and said, "Goodness! It's that time of the month, yet she still needs to stay in this kind of dirty, stinky place, unable to bathe for several days. That really sucks."

Agid came to a sudden realization. *So it's "that time of the month"!* He nodded several times. *Right, right. Every month, there are always a few days when Belle is unhappy. As for Elena, she always has a displeased face whether or not she's happy, so it's impossible to tell.*

"S-so these are inconvenient days for her?" Philo's face reddened a bit, his expression greatly shamed. He was truly not sympathetic enough toward women.

W-what inconvenient days? Bai Saya's face was full of confusion.

So these are inconvenient days for Bai Saya right now!

Bwahaha! Shooting Star laughed so much that he collapsed to the ground.

"Shooting Star, you sure love to laugh!" Belle poked Shooting Star, who had laughed so much that he was twitching.

"Saya, we're about done with the missions. The remaining ones take more effort than is worthwhile. Why don't we hit the road and head straight to Shore City?" Philo walked beside Bai Saya, his heart full of apology. He used his gentlest voice to say, "Once we arrive, we'll go straight to an inn. You can take a good bath."

Bai Saya nodded, not knowing what was going on. He guessed that "inconvenient days" was about how his body was very dirty, so he needed to bathe?

"We can bathe? Awesome!"

After staying in such a dirty swampland for so many days, the moment she heard that they could bathe, Belle was so happy that she jumped up and yelled, "Shooting Star, we can bathe together!"

Bathe together?

Hearing that, Shooting Star, who had been laughing so much that he was rolling on the ground, immediately froze.

"Bai Saya-jiějie, we can bathe together, too!" Belle giggled and said, "I can't wait to see how good Saya-jiějie's figure is!"

Bathe together? Bai Saya paled.

Hearing that they could bathe, even the normally frigid Elena warmed up and nodded, "It's inconvenient for Saya, so she should wash up separately. The three of us can bathe together."

Hearing that he could wash up separately, Bai Saya breathed a huge sigh of relief and even peacefully enjoyed Shooting Star's somewhat pitiful expression. He felt rather gleeful... *Wait, I'm actually feeling gleeful over someone else's misfortune?*

I really have been led astray by Shooting Star. But since the person I'm felling gleeful about is Shooting Star, my conscience doesn't feel guilty at all!

With unease, with guilt, with excitement, each person carried different feelings as they began to make haste on the road.

Even though Shooting Star would have to face the serious problem of "bathing" once they reached Shore City, he still felt touched to the point of nearly bursting into tears the moment he laid eyes on the city. After all, they had been traversing the mountains and swamplands for more than two months.

They finally reached Shore City!

Grief evolving into fury, Shooting Star gritted his teeth and bit out, "Damn that Tang Wulie, causing us to spend more than two months before we could get here. When we go back, I'm definitely *for sure* flaying him!"

Compared to the furious Shooting Star, Bai Saya was rather thankful toward Tang Wulie. Even though there were nothing but mountains and swamplands during their journey, and the road was tough, the result was that they had predominantly acquired their food on the spot. Wolves, metalligators, bats, and the like, whatever there was, they caught and ate. Therefore, even though Shooting Star's appetite was as huge as always, they didn't have to spend any money at all. They had the same exact amount of money on hand as they had when they had first departed Stella City!

No, no! They had completed several missions along the way, so they had actually earned a fair amount of money. If they had taken a normal path, even though they would have spent less time, it was likely that they wouldn't have any money by now to pay for their mastery appraisal.

It's great that we still have money right now for the appraisal. Bai Saya felt happy with his money pouch in hand. He had already forgotten about nearly freezing to death on the snowy mountains.

"So many people!"

Shooting Star's eyes shone. He glanced everywhere. Compared to the small city of Stella, Shore City was much grander, and there were a lot more people coming and going. All types of stores were everywhere, and both sides of the streets were even filled with all sorts of odd and unique stalls.

This lively scene excited both Shooting Star and Belle. The two who had hit it off squeezed into the crowd, hand-in-hand. Only a head of

fiery red could be seen from time to time, buried among the crowd, before appearing on the other side, rushing into a shop, and then rushing out to stare at a certain stall. Of course, Belle was running around along with Shooting Star the entire time.

This scene caused both Philo and Bai Saya to sigh in unison. Then, they glanced at each other, simultaneously glimpsing the helplessness in the other person's gaze. All of a sudden, they began feeling sympathetic toward each other.

Philo suggested to Bai Saya, "Saya, come with me to turn in the completed missions." Then, he turned toward the team and instructed, "As for everyone else, go and find an inn first. Currently, Shore City is in its busy season. There are lots of auctions, so it might be difficult to find a place to stay."

At this time, Bai Saya suddenly remembered about getting his appraisal. He wanted to ask yet couldn't do so. He frowned, not knowing what to do.

"Is something wrong?" Seeing Bai Saya's frown, Philo immediately grew nervous.

An idea flashed across Bai Saya's mind. He grabbed Philo's hand and used his finger to write the word "appraisal" on Philo's palm. After he finished writing it, he looked up in anticipation for Philo's response. Philo smiled. "So, it's about getting appraised. Don't worry. Appraisals are done at set times, once during the middle of the month and once at the end of the month. You must register at the Adventurers' Guild three days in advance. If you register now, you'll be just in time to

make the end of the month appraisal. When we head over to accept our mission reward money in just a bit, you can register at the same time.”

Bai Saya nodded at the explanation. Even though he didn’t understand the appraisal process very well, with Philo by his side, there should be no problems.

Belle hugged Shooting Star and happily said, “All right, Shooting Star, let’s hurry and find an inn. Then, we can bathe!”

That’s not all right at all! Shooting Star tried his hardest to use his gaze to suggest to Bai Saya, *Take me with you!*

Bai Saya decided to turn a blind eye to him, pretending to be ignorant until the very end.

Because of Shooting Star’s mischief over their gender, during this entire trip, not only had he been treated as a woman, he had to hold back from speaking for more than two months. Also, he had been on the receiving end of Agid’s brash attention, as well as occasional burning gazes from Philo, causing goose bumps to rise all over his skin...

Now, Shooting Star was finally reaping what he had sown. It was such a rare event for the gods to finally address this, so of course he wasn’t going to obstruct the heavens from punishing Shooting Star.

*Heartless bastard, you are my servant **pet!***

As the servant ~~pet~~, you actually dare to let your master hang out to dry? How could you?

Receiving an endless stream of silent complaints Shooting Star shot over with his glaring eyes, Bai Saya rolled his eyes and briskly waved Philo over to head to the Adventurers' Guild. He left behind Shooting Star, who was grinding his teeth in frustration, wishing he could use his eyes to burn a hole in Bai Saya's back.

"Let's go!" Belle giggled and pulled Shooting Star along, refusing to let him go.

No! I don't want to bathe. Just let me rot! Shooting Star had two long streaks of tears as he wailed silently and got dragged away by Belle.



Compared to Stella's Adventurers' Guild that was only around three times larger than a normal house, Shore City's Adventurers' Guild was much closer in scale to what a guild building should look like. The main building was a huge one, three stories tall, made of stone, and the main entrance was nearly able to fit a horse and carriage with no problems.

There was even a small plaza in front of the entrance. In the middle of the plaza, there was a statue of a warrior raising a sword in the middle of battle. The size was a bit taller than a normal person. The entire guild occupied a vast piece of land, and the building was grand, allowing one to feel with one glance that the Adventurers' Guild's size was nothing to scoff at.

Philo turned to look. Bai Saya was currently stunned by the guild's architecture. Philo smiled and said, "Isn't this place big? Other than the Adventurers' Guild headquarters at the capital, Shore City's guild is the largest in size."

Bai Saya nodded. This place had indeed opened his eyes. *I wonder just how grand the Adventurers' Guild headquarters at the capital must be? If I have a chance, I should visit one day.*

Philo smiled as he said, "Come, let's head inside."

The moment they reached the guild's front doors, Bai Saya was shocked by the flow of people. People were scurrying everywhere. He could only see the tops of lots of different colored heads squished together. He couldn't see where the counter was at all.

"I'll head over to receive the reward money, and I'll help you and Shooting Star register for your appraisal as I'm at it. You can wait here for me. If you feel it's too stuffy in here, you can take a stroll around the plaza outside. There are many stalls there."

Seeing Bai Saya's face pale so abruptly, he figured that she had been frightened by the overwhelming crowds, so he took the initiative to make a thoughtful suggestion.

Even though Bai Saya felt it would be too lazy of him, he really didn't want to squeeze inside the crowd once he saw the countless heads crammed together. Therefore, he nodded a bit embarrassedly. Philo smiled, took the mission papers from Bai Saya's hands, and headed into the crowd.

Bai Saya strolled around inside the building for a bit. He found the mission bulletin, yet that place was similarly packed. He only stood on the outskirts to take a momentary look when he already felt it difficult to breathe from getting crowded. He didn't at all have the heart to seriously look for a mission. He could only sigh and head to the door in resignation.

I'll head to the plaza to look at the statue. No one's going to crowd me there, right?

It was evident that no one was all that interested in the statue in the plaza. Other than a few birds fooling around on the statue, there was no one else. Finally, he wouldn't be crowded. Only then did Bai Saya go over to observe the statue with a light heart.

The statue seemed to be carved out of pure, white stone. However, since it was exposed in this outdoor plaza, it couldn't be helped that all sorts of colors had stained it. The final result of the colors all mixed together was a grayish hue.

The statue was of a warrior. He couldn't tell if the facial features were vague from the start, or if it was the result of weathering. In any case, he couldn't distinguish the face. As for the statue's clothing, it had a full body of armor and even a huge sword carried over the shoulder. The sword was actually two meters long, longer than three arms put together!

Bai Saya looked at the sword in admiration. *Can the warrior really wield this sword? Maybe the size of the sword is being used by the carver to exaggerate the warrior's strength?*

"This is the Battle God Morisot. Three hundred years ago, he led the Sky Knight Company, the Earth Knight Company, the Gold Knight Company, and the Silver Knight Company. They fought against the demon race's invasion and finally chased the demon race back to the Northern Continent."

This voice! It can't be... Bai Saya snapped his head back to look. Dan was currently looking at him. He smiled and said, "They say that Morisot's power was strong enough to cleave mountains and part the sea, so he wields a double-handed heavy sword made out of shadow silver. A single swing could topple mountains and empty the sea. However, I believe it's just an exaggeration. Otherwise, he'd be even stronger than the Battle God Sot."

Suddenly seeing someone unexpected gave Bai Saya a huge shock. Since he had forced himself not to speak for over two months, he actually momentarily forgot that he could open his mouth to speak. He could only stare at Dan with large eyes.

"Long time no see, Saya. Why have you come to Shore City?"

Bai Saya was so frantic that he didn't know how to respond. On top of that, he was mute and couldn't speak...

"Saya?" Dan walked a step closer and asked in concern, "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Ah! It's not like Dan is a part of Philo's team. He knows that I'm not mute! It was like Bai Saya had just woken up from a dream. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry over how he hadn't dared to speak. I've really pretended to be mute for too long. I really thought I was mute...

He lifted his head, about to open his mouth to say a greeting when he suddenly saw how close Dan's face was. Shocked, he recalled all the things Shooting Star had said about Dan. His face paled, and he immediately shoved the other person away. He blurted, "Go away! Don't come close to me!"

Unprepared, Dan was shoved several steps away before he found his footing.

It was only at this time that Bai Saya realized what he had done and immediately felt ashamed. *I've truly gotten scared from getting pestered by Agid and Philo for over two months. I've actually pushed Dan away so rudely, and I said such hurtful words...*

"Why are you treating me this way?"

Dan, who had always had a gentle smile, showed a different expression in front of Bai Saya for the first time. However, it wasn't one that blamed him. Rather, it was a hurt expression, a pained one.

"I didn't do it on purpose. It's because y-you..." Bai Saya felt very awkward. He couldn't complete the rest of his sentence at all. Dan's voice was unyielding as he asked, "Have I taken any actions toward you beyond that of friends?"

After Bai Saya hesitated and thought about it for a while, he shook his head honestly.

"Then, why can't you think of me as a friend?"

Bai Saya stuttered, "B-because..."

"Because I like you, right?" Dan admitted generously, yet at the same time, those words simplified many other reasons. In actuality, this was much more complicated than "liking," but at this moment, the other person didn't need to know more than that.

Bai Saya nodded awkwardly.

Dan said rather sincerely, "I do like you, but I have never given voice to it, nor have I forced you to give me a response. I just want to be friends. Is that not possible either?"

"Friends?"

Bai Saya looked at Dan in suspicion, while the latter gazed back with a frank expression. It was even one that did not show any romantic overtones—at least, it wasn't like the way Agid and Philo looked at him. Thinking about it now, Dan really hadn't done anything. Not only that, he had even helped him a lot. If it weren't for Shooting Star saying that Dan liked him, he might not have discovered this matter at all. *Then, Dan and I really would have been normal friends, right?*

"All right."

Even though he still had doubts, he felt guilty since he had just yelled at him. In addition to that, there were many more reasons, such as owing him money and not being able to pay it back. In the end, Bai Saya still nodded his head, but he couldn't help but lay out the condition, "As long as you don't keep using a burning gaze to look at me, we can be friends."

"A burning gaze?" Dan was stumped. He asked in confusion, "What kind of expression is that?"

What kind of expression? Bai Saya frowned and thought about it. He said, "It's hard to describe. It's kind of like the expression Shooting Star has when he sees an entire table of delicious food."

Hearing such a comparison, Dan's face reddened. In a rare occurrence, he stuttered, "Sorry, I-I will be more aware about that."

"That would be great..."

"Saya!"

Hearing someone call him, Bai Saya turned his head instinctively. Philo's face full of anger came into view, shocking Bai Saya into a stupor. He didn't know what kind of serious thing had happened for the other to actually show that kind of expression.

Philo grabbed Bai Saya, his strength so great that the latter was dragged back several steps, forced to step behind Philo.

Dan immediately growled, "What are you doing?!"

"I'm the one who wants to ask what you're doing, demon! Don't you dare bother Saya." Philo warned. At the same time, he quickly moved to shield Bai Saya.

Dan pursed his lips, his face revealing his unhappiness. Even though he had long been discriminated against many times on this continent because of his race, and he had grown used to it, he was unwilling to bear the brunt of it considering that Bai Saya was present.

Bai Saya hurriedly held onto Philo's arm, wanting to open his mouth to explain—*Shoot! Philo is here. Great. I'm mute again!* He had never ever felt so much desire to be able to open his mouth to speak, even if it were only a single sentence!

Philo merely told Bai Saya, "Don't worry, I am here." His cautious gaze never left Dan, as he was worried the latter would suddenly sneak an attack.

Worry? What am I supposed to be worried about? Bai Saya looked at Philo in confusion, feeling that the two of them were on completely different pages.

"Saya, who is he?" Dan had also discovered that something was odd with the situation. His gaze went past Philo, looking directly at Bai Saya, hoping that the other person could explain.

Bai Saya unfortunately could not open his mouth to speak. He could only gesture at Philo. Then, he shook his hands before he waved them.

He meant that he hoped Dan would not get involved with Philo. It would be best for him to leave as soon as possible. However, Bai Saya hadn't taken into account that not opening his mouth to speak and having an expression that was full of confliction would actually make Dan super suspicious. Dan felt that Bai Saya had unspeakable difficulties, so he was even more unwilling to leave.

On the other side, Philo had decided from the start that the demon in front of him was a lecher trying to hit on Saya. In order to stop him from bothering Saya, Philo naturally answered, "I am Saya's boyfriend." *Boyfriend?* Dan was stunned for a moment before he looked toward Bai Saya. The latter of course shook his head and waved his hands as if his life depended on it. He used all he could besides using his voice to illustrate his denial.

Seeing that, Dan naturally didn't believe what Philo had said. He even mocked, "You're obviously the one who is bothering Saya. If you don't step away from Saya, don't blame me for what I'm going to do!"

Philo immediately drew out his knight's sword and shouted, "Come at me!"

"Hmph!" Dan snorted coldly. His hands weren't idle either. Not only had he drawn his weapon, his hands were also in battle-ready position.

W-what's going on? Bai Saya's mouth fell open. He didn't understand how things had turned out like this. He just had to be "mute," so he couldn't even open his mouth to stop them.

This just makes me want to cry... W-what should I do? Shooting Star, save me!

"Hot damn, is there going to be a duel?"

As if their hearts had connected, Shooting Star's voice actually did sound next to Bai Saya's ear. He turned his head to look. Shooting Star's eyes were wide, brimming with, "This is too amusing" at another's demise.

Another than Shooting Star, that fellow who was enjoying his demise, the other people in the team had also arrived. All of them stared at the sight of Philo and Dan squaring it off. They rarely ever saw Philo get so angry at someone.

"Eh, Dan? Why are you here?" Shooting Star shouted excitedly. *This is great! As long as Bai Saya is here, we can have Dan pay for our dinner, tomorrow's breakfast, tomorrow's lunch, and endless meals beyond!*

Even though having all three meals free was important, Shooting Star was more curious and amused by the current situation of Dan and Philo almost getting into a fight. No matter how he looked at it, it looked like two men getting jealous over a woman!

Philo and Dan fighting over Bai Saya... *Bwahahaha!*

"Dan?!"

Philo and Agid both paled. Agid yelled, "You are Saya's fiancé?"

"Fiancé?" Dan froze. They had only just become friends, and now he had suddenly jumped several stages to fiancé. He couldn't follow what was happening at all.

To the side, Passerby A pulled on Passerby B, excitedly gossiping, "Did you hear that? Fiancé! But isn't that a guy?"

"It's a woman! And a great beauty at that," Passerby B objected.

"It's a guy! A super handsome one!" Passerby C showed a smitten smile, staring straight at Bai Saya.

"A hot babe!" Passerby B shouted.

"A handsome guy!" Passerby D also interjected.

Bai Saya's face flushed red. He was finally unable to bear the gossiping of the people around him, as not only had they started discussing his gender, they had also began placing bets over whether Philo or Dan would win. There were even people who bet that he would choose both of them.

Hearing that much, Bai Saya rushed over and grabbed Dan. He used his light movements, fleeing the scene at a quick speed. Luckily, Dan was also quite agile. Otherwise, he would have ended up on the floor, dragged along like a broom.

"We all guessed wrong. They're eloping!" Passerby A, B, C, and D said at the same time.



Bai Saya ran for a while before he suddenly halted, glancing backward in paranoia. Both eyes narrowed dangerously. He ground his teeth as he considered, *Is that laughter behind me from Shooting Star?*

Damn it, the one to blame actually dares to laugh at me!

"Saya?" Dan asked in confusion, "Are you okay?"

"Huh?" Only then did Bai Saya remember that he was pulling someone along! He hurriedly released Dan's hand and apologized nonstop, "I'm so sorry. I got you involved."

"I don't mind that you got me involved, but the situation seems a little strange."

Dan furrowed his brows. He really couldn't figure out what kind of situation would cause a "human" man to say that he was Bai Saya's boyfriend.

Commonly, humans were rather against homosexual relationships, and they would never reveal it so openly. *Not only that, I've actually become Saya's fiancé?* He didn't recall undergoing the engagement ceremony.

Thinking of how messy the situation was, Bai Saya truly didn't know how it would all end. When he thought of Philo and Agid, he felt completely and utterly helpless.

"To sum it up, this is just a prank Shooting Star has been playing. Those people think I'm a woman, and Philo... he's the guy who was

arguing with you, and his teammate Agid, they... um... like me, so to turn them down, I could only say that you're my fiancé."

"They believe you're a woman?" Dan frowned and said, "But you don't resemble a woman. How could they mistake that? Be careful of getting tricked!"

Hearing that, Bai Saya was nearly to the point of bawling. *See! Just how am I like a woman?*

"I don't think they're tricking me. It was just a series of coincidences that made them come to the wrong conclusion."

Coincidences like his skin being pale from freezing on the snowy mountain, Bones masquerading as boobs, and Shooting Star adding oil to the fire off to the side...

When he heard that, Dan was still worried. He felt that Bai Saya was truly too trusting. No matter if it was that unqualified companion, or that lot of humans who thought he was a woman, he practically trusted anyone who came his way.

He wanted to persuade Bai Saya to leave with him, but he knew that Bai Saya wouldn't agree.

Helpless, Dan pulled out from his possessions a metal badge that was slightly smaller than his palm.

Bai Saya asked curiously, "What's that?"

"The admission credentials to the auction held by the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild. If you're interested, come take a look. It's fine if you don't bid on anything. This is a great chance to look around."

Since he couldn't make Bai Saya leave with him, Dan could only find other things to interest him. That way, at least he wouldn't forever disappear from his sight after they parted.

Bai Saya took the badge, curiously flipping it again and again. Other than the complicated designs on it, he could also feel some sort of power hidden in it. However, he was unable to determine what kind of power it was. That wasn't strange though. After all, even though he had stayed on the Western Continent for some time, there were still many things that he didn't understand.

"What kinds of things will the auction be selling?" Bai Saya thought about whether or not he should take Shooting Star there. *With how much Shooting Star likes interesting things, he would probably love something like an auction, right?*

"All kinds of things. Expensive jewelry, magic items, and slaves." Dan explained helpfully, "There's even a rarely seen elf this time... ah, you were even confined with him last time."

"You mean Alan?" Bai Saya blurted.

Seeing that he had grown interested, Dan relaxed and smiled as he said, "I don't know his name, but the only auction selling an elf on the Western Continent should be this one. That's why I have been called to maintain the order here."

Recalling the golden-haired, blue-eyed elf, Bai Saya couldn't help falling in deep thought. *So, he's about to be sold?* Even though the elf hadn't shown him any goodwill, at least he hadn't sold him out. Alan had even been willing to tell Bai Saya his name.

Learning that the elf was about to be auctioned off as a slave really made Bai Saya's feelings plummet. *But, what can I do? There's nothing I can do...*

Seeing Bai Saya's expression, Dan helpfully made a suggestion. "The auction is three days long. He is shown around for the first two days. The third day is the day of the actual auction. If you would like to see the elf, I can take you to see him now."

Hearing that, Bai Saya abruptly lifted his head, deep determination held in his eyes.



"Shooting Star~~"

Belle called out to him using a soft tone that was completely buttering him up, so much that even his bones were going soft.

"What?" Shooting Star picked at his ears. After he found a more comfortable position, he answered, unconcerned, "Is it time for dinner?"

You still want to eat? Shooting Star's gonna bankrupt us from eating! Belle pouted unhappily and said, "Look at Philo-gēge. Poor him!"

She gestured at Philo, who was sitting on the bed in the corner. The other person, with his head lowered, was currently polishing his sword without a single word. He didn't even notice that Belle was pointing at him.

Ever since Bai Saya had run off with Dan in hand, and all of them could only stare at each other, they had no choice but to return to the inn first. Philo and Agid, worried that Bai Saya wouldn't be able to find the inn, had waited at the plaza for a long time. However, their wait proved fruitless, and they could only return dejectedly. They each headed to a different corner to be depressed.

"Really? I feel that Agid is even more pitiful!"

Shooting Star used a gaze that was way more amused than sympathetic to look at the large guy hiding in the corner. *Poor guy! When Philo is turned down, at least his teammates will complain for him. Agid, on the other hand, has absolutely no one giving a damn. He can only squat in a dark corner, so deathly depressed that even ghostly fires are about to burst out around him.*

Who told you to be so ugly? The president of the Appearances Association, Shooting Star, "felt sorry" for Agid inside his heart, as if it had nothing to do with him.

"Ah, Agid-gēge is very pitiful too!" Hearing Shooting Star's words, Belle finally felt a twinge of guilt. She hurriedly added on this sentence. "Yeah! So pitiful." Shooting Star used a tone that was enjoying his companion's demise to sympathize with him.

Seeing that both her hints and appeals weren't effective, Belle couldn't help but use her fists to pound at Shooting Star several times. However, even though the latter's body wasn't all that strong, it wasn't to the point that he would get hurt from a cleric's fists. He even changed his position a bit, letting the fists travel from his left shoulder to his right shoulder. He continued to enjoy the "massage."

"Shooting Star!" Now, Belle was truly frustrated. She shouted, "Are you going to help or not?"

"Help with what?" Having had his fun, only then did Shooting Star sigh deliberately. He showed a distressed expression and said, "You know it too... Xiao Bai... Saya-jiějie and Dan are engaged. What could I help you with?"

"Philo-gēge is definitely several hundred times better than that Dan!" declared Belle in a loud voice as she clenched her fists.

Shooting Star's lips twitched. Without even taking into account that Bai Saya was a guy, even if he were a woman, Shooting Star would definitely still make him choose Dan! At least, Dan was very wealthy! Under the principle that loving someone meant loving everything about them, then Dan being nice to Bai Saya meant he would definitely also fawn on him, as he was "Bai Saya's owner."

When that happens, would it still be a hard feat to eat the most lavish meals and sleep in the most extravagant beds? Wahahaha!

Although he thought that way, he couldn't say it out loud. Shooting Star raised a normal retort, "Says who? Dan doesn't lose to Philo in looks, and he also has a proper high-paying job. He's strong too. He's a model young guy with a bright future. No matter what, he's much better than an adventurer who has to rely on missions to survive!"

Belle frantically said, "It's not like that! Philo-gēge isn't an adventurer. He's the royal..."

"Belle!" Elena suddenly shouted, stopping Belle from saying more. Shooting Star had on a baffled expression, but a strange glimmer flashed across his golden eyes.

"B-but..." After Belle was cut off, she had a face full of grief. She still refused to give up. *It would be such a pity if Philo-dàgē missed getting together with Saya-jiějie!*

"You can stop now, Belle." Philo, who had been sitting quietly in the corner of the room the entire time, suddenly stood up. Like Elena who had shouted to stop her, he calmly said, "It's late. Let's all retire to our own rooms to rest."

The rogue Pisce kicked Agid, who was in the corner. He watched as the latter unsteadily stood up. Then, he left with the dejected warrior in tow.

After Belle, who was pouting, watched Philo leave the room, she sighed loudly. She had finally seen Philo-dàgē fall in love with a woman, and she was even Saya-jiějie, whom Belle thought was very nice. Of course she would wholeheartedly help them get together!

As for Agid, he slobbered after girls day and night, so she wasn't ever going to help him chase Saya-jiějie.

"Shooting Star, help Philo-dàgē already!" Belle couldn't think of anything, so she could only do her best to appeal to Shooting Star. Seeing that, Elena frowned but didn't say anything to stop Belle.

At that development, Shooting Star felt uneasy. Belle was a girl who liked to fool around, but Elena wasn't. If even she wasn't putting a stop to this, then he had really played with fire too much!

Even though it was a lot of fun seeing them think of Bai Saya as a woman, but if they truly fell in love with Bai Saya, who knew if that love would turn into hatred when they learned the truth? At that time, there'd be consequences to face!

"Belle." Shooting Star deliberately said as if distressed, "I've watched Saya-jiějie and Dan walk an extremely hard path because of race. They're finally able to be together after overcoming lots and lots of obstacles on the way..."

As he spun the story, he actually came up with a tragic, forbidden love that transcended race. Belle's face dripped with tears as she listened, and she kept crying that it was too sad. Even Elena was touched by the story.

“So that’s how it is. Saya-jiějie really had it hard...” Suddenly, Belle wiped her tears, her tone changed, and she said resolutely, “But Philo-dàgē is definitely better than Dan! If Saya-jiějie had been with Philo back then, he definitely wouldn’t have let her suffer so much like Dan did. That’s why Saya-jiějie should be together with Philo-dàgē!”

Shooting Star immediately fell over. *Hey hey, where are your promised tears and touched blessing for them?*

“All right! I’m going to continue to work hard. I’m definitely going to help Saya-jiějie fall in love with Philo-dàgē!”

After she ambitiously shouted that, Belle turned around with a smile at Shooting Star. Just as the latter felt uneasy, he then heard frightening words.

“I’m going to see if the bathing room I’ve asked to be prepared is done yet. Shooting Star, get your change of clothes ready. We’ll be able to bathe in just a bit!”

“Eh?” Shooting Star froze.

The moment she thought of being able to bathe, Belle happily hummed a song. She pulled Elena along to see if the bathing room was ready yet.

After he saw the two women off with a smile, Shooting Star’s expression immediately changed. Please. No matter how much of a baby-face he had, he was still a guy! Even if he claimed to be “flat-

cheded” to explain his very flat chest, it wasn’t like he could hide the “little guy” down there.

Damn it, that bastard Bai Saya left and hung me out to dry! Shooting Star gritted his teeth vehemently. Just wait, when he next saw Bai Saya, he was definitely going to give him a good punch.

“But just where has that guy gone? Doesn’t he hate Dan a lot? It’s so late already, yet he hasn’t returned yet. Don’t tell me, he’s...”

Shooting Star furrowed his brows, his expression very serious—

“Sneakily letting Dan treat him to a good meal! Grrr, he didn’t invite me! That has to be it!”

Shooting Star clenched his fists and jumped on the bed. He hugged the pillow hard, as if it were Bai Saya, who had abandoned him and was eating good food without him. He used all his might to pummel the pillow. *Take this! Rawr!*

“No! What am I doing? It’s bath time soon. I have to think of something.”

Shooting Star frowned. He pondered and pondered but couldn’t think of a good solution. He sighed loudly and said, “Oh well. Even though they’re a lot of fun, if Philo and Agid truly fall in love with Bai Saya, and then find out we’re both guys, I’m not a big deal since no one fell in love with me, but if they find out that Xiao Bai is a guy...”

He couldn’t help but shiver. A broken-hearted man was not to be trifled with, let alone two of them at once!

Let's not dawdle any more. I gotta run away first.

Shooting Star immediately began packing his things, planning to get help from his pet. Even though he didn't know where Xiao Bai was, he had to leave this place first in any case. He had to escape the danger of bathing first.

After he slung on his bag for fleeing, Shooting Star kicked open the window, directly jumping through the window to flee. However, a black shadow suddenly blocked him. ...*What the! Are you serious? I ran into someone on the roof?*

Shooting Star quickly turned to dodge. Who knew that the other person would choose the same action? The person even turned in the same direction. In the end, they ran right into each other, and both cried out in pain at the same time.

"Ouch!"

Chapter 2: Let's Go Watch the Auction

"What the hell? I dodged right, and you copied me! You did it on purpose!"

Shooting Star was already frustrated that he had to flee in the middle of his game, yet he just had to run into someone, too. He was so angry that he began shouting without even figuring out who it was.

That person rubbed their head, wincing from the pain, and called out, "Shooting Star, it's Bai Saya!"

"You! Yes, you!"

Shooting Star had recognized him too. He jumped to Xiao Bai's side and used his arms to grip Bai Saya's thin neck. He loudly interrogated, "Say it! What did you eat?"

"I, what did I eat?" Bai Saya was confused.

"That's it! You left me behind and went off with Dan to eat delicious food. Spit it out!"

Is it steak or roasted pig? The more he thought about it, the hungrier he got. Shooting Star's arms gripped tighter and tighter.

"I, I haven't eaten anything yet..."

Finding it hard to breathe, Bai Saya quickly explained himself.

After he spoke, his neck was released. He coughed and lifted his head, only to meet Shooting Star's "I am very suspicious" gaze. Seeing that pair of golden eyes flash dangerously, Bai Saya hurriedly explained more, "It's true! I only went with Dan to where Alan was confined. I wanted to see if he was doing well. But when we arrived, we found out that the auctioneers had already taken Alan away, so I didn't get to see him."

"Alan?" Shooting Star tilted his head and asked, "Who's that?" Bai Saya responded in great surprise, "The elf! I told you about him before. When Mannen captured me, I was confined with an elf. Did you forget?"

"The elf!" Shooting Star's eyes sparkled. He had finally remembered that there was something like that. "Right, right, you said there was a super beautiful elf!"

Bai Saya hesitated for a moment, but he still couldn't help asking, "Shooting Star, do you want to go watch the auction? Alan will also be part of it!"

"Of course!" Shooting Star quickly nodded his head hard.

"Dan gave me admission credentials to the auction. Let's go see him."

Bai Saya was elated at Shooting Star's response. He quickly turned to lead the way...

"Hold it!"

Bai Saya froze.

Shooting Star narrowed his eyes. For the first time ever, he was worried and suggested for his pet's sake, "You haven't eaten yet, right? You must be starving! No problem! I'm not in a hurry to see the elf. It's more important for us to eat. I know. I remembered to ask Philo for our share of the reward money. It's quite a lot of money. Let's go eat this place's most famous delicacy, roasted pig. I hear that the roasted pig skin here is crisp on the outside, tender on the inside, abundantly savory, and will instantly melt on your tongue!"

"I'm not hungry."

Growl!

Bai Saya's face reddened. He quickly covered his stomach. *I don't believe you won't give it away!* Shooting Star jutted his lips out and continued, "Your stomach is growling so loudly, yet you still claim you're not hungry. Let's not hurry to see the auction. We should eat first."

Bai Saya's shoulders slumped and he resignedly turned to face Shooting Star. The latter gave two "hmph hmphs," propped his hands on his waist, and tapped his right foot continuously, as if ready to condemn him.

The two of them stared at each other. Of course, Shooting Star wouldn't lose. Bai Saya sighed and admitted, "All right, I want to

secretly save Alan.”

“You’re crazy!” As Shooting Star had expected, Bai Saya was scheming, and the contents of his scheming was just as Shooting Star had expected. He yelled, “Do you know how high an elf’s price tag is?”

“Over ten thousand gold ducats.” Dan had told him that. Upon hearing the price, Bai Saya had been stunned.

“So, you know it!” Shooting Star sarcastically said, “Then you should know that it doesn’t have to be ten thousand gold ducats. Just one thousand gold ducats would be enough for assassins to be hired to get rid of us, and they’d even throw in a complimentary corpse mincing to get rid of all traces of the crime!”

Bai Saya lowered his head and remained silent. After his experience with Mannen, he had thoroughly learned that victory depended on one’s strength. The morality of the situation had little sway on the outcome. Based on their abilities, saving Alan, who was worth ten thousand gold ducats, was definitely a pipe dream.

Shooting Star hadn’t gotten on his case enough. He used his finger to poke Bai Saya’s head several times. He added insult to injury by saying, “Don’t be stupid. Just Dan alone is so powerful that you wouldn’t be able to handle him. That’s not even taking into consideration the huge squads of guards! So yeah, watching the auction is fine, but don’t delude yourself about saving that

elf.”

Bai Saya took several steps back to dodge Shooting Star’s continuous pokes. He painfully rubbed his forehead and said in grievance, “I got it. Stop poking me.”

“Good, let’s go!” Shooting Star nodded, and he even tossed all of his luggage at Bai Saya.

“Go where? I haven’t said goodbye to the others yet. Leaving without saying anything isn’t polite!” Bai Saya wanted to say his farewells, but he saw that Shooting Star had already turned and was running along the roofs, so he could only follow him for now. Shooting Star complained as he ran, “It’s all your fault! After you dragged Dan away, the expressions on Philo and Agid’s faces could enter the top ten list of all time of a bachelor pining after an unmarried woman! If we don’t leave, are you going to wait around until they ask for your hand?”

Still, he had left so briskly, mostly because Belle had blurted the word “royal.” *Don’t tell me Philo is some kind of prince?* His actions were truly too elegant. He had the air of a noble. Even though the game was fun, he had no plans of shouldering the huge sin of deceiving someone royal just for a game. Especially when feelings were involved! They’d definitely hunt him down!

It’s all because you wanted to prank them. Bai Saya didn’t dare to say that out loud, or else Shooting Star would never let him hear the end of it.

"As for where we should go... Duh!" Shooting Star's eyes gleamed, and he loudly declared, "Of course, we're going to see the elf! With your camaraderie with Dan, it wouldn't be a problem to ask him to let us privately marvel at the elf!"

"We're not going to get food?"

Having eaten little the entire day, Bai Saya really was a little hungry.

Shooting Star berated, "Get food? Seeing the elf is more important!"

Bai Saya rolled his eyes. *Just who made a big deal about wanting to eat right now?* If he had known that Shooting Star wanted to see the elf this much, he would not have gone out of his way to trick Shooting Star to head there. He could have just tossed his admission credentials at Shooting Star. That might have been all it would have taken. Putting on a show had instead made Shooting Star wary and had botched things.

Even though he was hungry, Bai Saya accepted his fate and led the way. He felt a glimmer of hope. *Maybe Alan's situation could still change for the better?*

The two of them ran along the rooftops. Soon after, they arrived at the auction site. Once they arrived, they discovered that it was fortunate that they had taken the rooftops, and thus had arrived so quickly. After all, the streets below them were packed to the brim even several streets over.

"Well, dang! Isn't this way too many people?" Shooting Star lay flat on a rooftop, eyes wide as he looked at the long queues. *By the time you reach the front, even an elf would be ancient!*

"Shooting Star." Bai Saya tugged him. He gestured to the side, where there were only about ten or so people queued up, and said, "Over there."

"That's the entrance for nobility," Shooting Star huffed.

Can't you see that even the attendant at the door is dressed like a noble? Those people in line aren't even the attendees. They're the servants that the family heads and noble ladies sent over to line up for them.

Bai Saya explained, "Dan said that he would be busy during the auction, so he would not be able to let me in. He told me to head in through that door."

"Oh! He's quite thoughtful. What a good man!" Shooting Star immediately grinned. He was happy just from learning that they would not have to queue up in an endless line.

Bai Saya gave Shooting Star an unhappy glance. After that, the two of them leaped off of the roof.

A nearby guard approached with a menacing expression, on the verge of treating them like pests who had come to disrupt things. What kind of person who would enter through the nobles' entrance would jump off a roof?

Bai Saya quickly took out the admission credentials. The guard's menacing expression immediately turned fawning, attitude changing to that of a tour guide. He was all smiles while saying, "Please come this way to line up. It will be very fast."

Shooting Star watched the guard's abrupt change in attitude on his way to lining up over at the nobles' entrance with Bai Saya. The service at the nobles' entrance was completely different. The speed was astonishing. Shooting Star had only just begun to observe the auction building—the appearance was that of a small castle, the walls painted a pristine white, the style simple but beautiful—and was about to determine who the statue by the entrance depicted, when someone had already come over to guide them inside.

The attendant was a beautiful, blonde woman. She had a gentle smile on her face as she asked, "May I ask, which family is in attendance?"

Bai Saya glanced at Shooting Star, who still had wide eyes glued to the statue. He could only answer on his own, "Just us two." After he said that, he carefully showed the admission credentials again.

Nobles rarely personally lined up. Bai Saya's actions were very strange, but the attendant was well practiced and didn't show the least bit of surprise. She took the admission credentials and gave them a single glance before she raised her head and said with a smile, "This is a lifetime VIP admission badge. This way

please.”

Bai Saya nodded, a bit at a loss.

“Aha! This must be the Goddess of Life, Perato!” Shooting Star hit his hands together, extremely sure of his conclusion.

The attendant immediately said, impressed, “That’s right. You are very knowledgeable.”

When he heard that, Shooting Star’s head swelled so much that he was about to float away. The sight made Bai Saya cringe. Bai Saya hurriedly pulled him along, following the attendant. He had not noticed that the surrounding people had expressions of shock one after another from hearing the words “lifetime VIP admission badge.”

The attendant guided them through an extravagant corridor. The red carpet was interlaid with complicated designs. Paintings decorated the walls along the corridor. Even though there weren’t all that many, a connoisseur would be able to tell that all of them were pricey masterpieces. This was not even taking into account the lights illuminating the way—each and every one of them were glowing gemstones.

“Hot damn!” Shooting Star swallowed several times. He had the urge to pluck them all. *I wonder how much I could get for them?*

“Please enter.” It was as if the attendant had not seen Shooting Star gawking. She continued guiding them and pulled open a

door.

Shooting Star rushed inside happily. This was a private room. One of the walls jutted outward, forming a balcony in the shape of a half circle, overlooking the great hall below. There were two comfortable chairs on the balcony, as well as a white, round table.

The attendant used a gentle, yet professional tone to say, "If there is anything you need, please tug on the rope by the chair. On the table, there is a handbook with details about the items to be auctioned. If you would like to bid on an item, please raise the sign on the table. Holding the sign up once will increase the bid once..."

Shooting Star cared little for increasing the bid. He quickly interrupted, "Is there food?"

"Yes, please wait momentarily. I will have food brought over right away."

Seeing that Shooting Star had no interest in bidding, the attendant still had no change in her expression. She bowed respectfully and left to get the food.

Shooting Star immediately dashed to the balcony. He leaned against the exquisite railing and let out a loud, "Wow." The entire auction site was a three dimensional dome. There were several similar balconies halfway up, each and every one of them rather private rooms. The great hall below had a large

expanse of seats. Of course, it didn't matter whether it was the balconies or the seats, all of them faced what was most important—the auction stage. The lighting there was also the strongest, making it so that everyone would set their attention on the stage.

"Xiao Bai, Dan is really taking good care of you!" Shooting Star gestured outwards and said, "Look, we're right in front of the stage, so close."

Bai Saya rolled his eyes at him again and followed him to the balcony. The majestic sight drew him in as well.

The two of them hadn't arrived too early. The seats were already seventy percent full. By the time attendants brought food in, the seats had filled up. Even the balconies in midair were mostly full. Right then, the auctioneer walked onstage and lightly coughed several times to get everyone's attention. After that, he said, "Welcome to the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild's yearly auction. As always, we will briefly explain the procedures first..."

Shooting Star grew bored of listening. He grabbed the auction handbook that was on the table and flipped through it with great interest. From time to time, he grabbed things to eat. The only reason he wasn't wolfing the food down was because he had just had dinner, and also because the items to be auctioned had most of his attention.

To the side, Bai Saya had been starving all day, so he was engrossed in his food.

"Xiao Bai, this handbook says that they'll have the slaves bring the items on stage during days one and two. They won't auction the slaves until day three!" Shooting Star praised, "They've really thought this through. Let the slaves parade on stage, making the bidders crave them, and then hold the auction. They'd definitely be able to raise the bid like that."

Bai Saya chewed slowly. He replied only after swallowing his food, "Dan told me that's why Alan won't be auctioned off until the third day."

"Look at this item." Shooting Star suddenly burst into laughter. He gestured at an item in the handbook and said, "'A lock of hair from the Battle God, Morisot.' They're even auctioning off hair!" Bai Saya lifted an eyebrow but didn't comment.

"There's this too. 'the Sacred Magister Meijuk's underwear,' autograph included.

"W-what in the world is this... 'Yu Wo's beloved coffee mug.' Warning: using this mug to drink coffee will cause you to have multiple delusions."

Bai Saya didn't know whether he should laugh or cry. These items were too outlandish.

Even though Shooting Star had pointed out many strange items, the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild's auction was ranked among the top three on the continent. It sold all kinds of items, from

weapons, to armor, to famous people's underwear. The only commonality they all had was their outrageous prices. Even claiming a seat below would cost several dozens of gold ducats, let alone the private room Shooting Star and Bai Saya had.

It could be said that without Dan's help, these two people couldn't even have dreamt of having a seat below.

"The auction is starting now. This is the last sword he made before Glen Melos hid away from the world..."

"Hey! Isn't Glen that terrible old man? I wonder how much his sword costs?" Shooting Star opened his eyes wide and lazily grabbed the drink beside him to gulp it down. *Let's listen to the price. If it's hefty, I'll have to trick some more swords off of Old Man Glen.*

Bai Saya lowered his head to look at his Sword of Sacred White, curious about the price. Glen had said that this was his personal best. *It should be better than that sword down there, right?*

"...The opening price is five thousand gold ducats."

Right then and there, Shooting Star spewed the drink in his mouth. As for Bai Saya, he touched the precious sword by his waist in a daze, unable to react.

As people placed their bids, the price rose, and their expressions grew more and more stumped...

"Six thousand gold ducats, seven thousand... Oh! The price has been raised once more. Ten thousand gold ducats. Would anyone else like to place a bid? Going once, going twice, sold for ten thousand gold ducats! Congratulations to Prince Bol for winning this exceptional sword."

"That sword was sold for ten thousand gold ducats? I remember that old man said that your sword is his best one..."

The two of them lowered their heads at the same time to look at the Sword of Sacred White. Shooting Star gulped and said, "When we leave, use a piece of cloth to wrap the sword and make it look uglier. If anyone recognizes it, we'll die an ugly death!"

Bai Saya nodded, his face pale.

"The next item is Yu Wo's beloved coffee mug."

Shooting Star burst into laughter when he heard that. Abruptly, his laughter stopped. He stared with wide eyes at the stage. Bai Saya glanced at Shooting Star in confusion. Then, he also turned his gaze on the stage. A familiar figure walked out. The figure was slender and tall with beautiful features. The ears were pointier than a human's, paired with a head of blond hair. Under the strong light of the stage, the figure gave off an otherworldly glow.

After a moment of silence, the place erupted in noise, with

remarks such as, “elf,” “It’s an elf,” “Is it male or female?” resounding in the entire auction site.

It’s Alan! Bai Saya immediately recognized that this elf was indeed Alan, who had been confined together with him. He could not help turning toward Shooting Star to see what kind of reaction he had. Shooting Star loved beautiful things. Would he jump straight off of the balcony and carry the elf off?

Before, if Shooting Star wanted to forcefully grab someone, Bai Saya would definitely have done his utmost to stop him. But right now, he wanted Shooting Star to kidnap someone for ransom... No, demanding ransom was still wrong.

Shooting Star was frozen for a moment, but he returned to himself faster than the audience below.

“It’s a guy.”

“What?” Bai Saya hadn’t heard him clearly.

“He’s a male elf,” Shooting Star said with certainty.

After hearing him clearly this time, Bai Saya asked in shock, “How could you tell... No, that’s not important! Why are you reacting so calmly? Don’t you like beautiful people?”

“He is beautiful.” Shooting Star gave a “hmpf hmpf,” and said, “But I’ve seen plenty of beautiful things. This much isn’t enough for me to throw my life away!”

"You can't have seen anyone more beautiful than Alan." This was Bai Saya's immediate response. To him, Alan was very beautiful. "I'm serious!" Shooting Star huffed, "The demon race's first general Eminent¹ is prettier than him. You aren't too bad looking either. You're more handsome, while he has a stunning, softer beauty to him."

I'm handsome! Bai Saya suddenly felt a bit touched. He had been treated like a woman for more than two months. Now, merely hearing that he was "handsome" and "not like a woman" and such made him so emotional that he could cry.

"Don't you want to capture him as your pet?" Bai Saya was a bit disappointed. If Shooting Star personally wanted to capture Alan as his pet, then Bai Saya could openly go and rescue Alan.

"If I had ten thousand gold ducats." However, Shooting Star just sank into the soft cushion of the chair. He held the drink in his hand, sipping it as he marveled at the elf's beauty.

Seeing that Shooting Star appeared so disinterested, Bai Saya felt very strange. *Maybe it's just because it's too difficult?* He could only say inside his heart, "Alan, I'm so sorry."

Now that his fervor had been doused with cold water, Bai Saya felt himself deflate. He sank powerlessly into the chair, wondering if he was too passionate, if there was no justice in the world, and endless other negative thoughts.

At that moment, a knock suddenly came from behind. Shooting Star shot a glance to the side. Bai Saya had despaired so much that he was completely out of it, obviously unable to answer the door. Shooting Star could only take it upon himself to call out, "Come in."

When the door opened, Dan walked in. Seeing that Shooting Star was looking at him, Dan gave a polite smile and walked over to ask, "Are you two having fun?"

"Not bad, you guys are selling some interesting stuff." Shooting Star shrugged. His gaze returned to the stage. It wasn't like Dan was here to see him.

"Bai Saya, what's wrong?"

Seeing Bai Saya curled up on the chair despondently gave Dan a shock. Bai Saya hadn't even noticed his presence.

Shooting Star offhandedly answered, "Oh him? He's currently giving off sad vibes because he couldn't exercise his sense of justice."

Dan stilled, unable to comprehend what he meant. He could only call Bai Saya. The latter gave him a glance, the grievance in his gaze pitiful, enough for anyone to be willing to do whatever he asked, as long as it would make him smile—at least, Dan, Philo, and Agid would be willing to do whatever he asked.

"Saya, what's going on? Did someone bully you? Did the attendants look down on you?"

As he spoke, Dan's voice grew more and more frigid. Before Bai Saya could respond, an unfamiliar woman's voice came from the door.

"Don't you wrongfully blame it on my attendants. After learning that they're your guests, I immediately sent over the most beautiful female attendant, gave them the best private room, and served up the chef's specialties. If they still feel belittled after that, then I really wouldn't know how to attend to your darling."

Shooting Star immediately turned to glance at the door. A gorgeous beauty was leaning against the door frame. Her dazzling, long blond hair was held elegantly on top of her head with a hairpin, with only a few pearls adorning it, and some wispy strands framing her face, making her appear rather charming.

The beautiful woman's jawbone was pronounced, but that did not detract from her beauty. Rather, it made her other features appear striking. Her luscious lips were painted with the bright red of a rose, not the least bit tacky on her. Rather, it made her skin appear as white as snow. But her most striking feature was her pair of beautiful eyes that were the color of water. The way her eyes shimmered could draw your soul in.

"A gorgeous beauty!" Shooting Star's eyes lit up.

Hearing such a compliment, the red lips of the person who had

arrived lifted up into a bewitching smile. All women loved to be called beautiful, and even more when it was a boy who complimented her without any motives.

"Little guy, you're such a sweet talker." The beautiful woman stepped inside gracefully. She used her finger, whose nail was painted a bright red, to lightly bop Shooting Star on the nose. "Hehe, it's because Big Sis is beautiful." Shooting Star smiled brilliantly and angelically. Even though he did intend to butter her up, he was speaking truthfully. She was indeed very beautiful.

"You're such a talker." The beautiful woman lightly pinched Shooting Star's cheeks, her expression charmed.

She glanced at Bai Saya and introduced herself neither deferentially nor overbearingly, "I am Hyacinth, a small fry in the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild specifically responsible for auctions."

Shooting Star purposely showed an exaggerated expression of surprise and shouted, "If Big Sis is a small fry, then is the bigwig of the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild the Goddess of Life, Perato?" Hyacinth giggled and said, "Stop the sweet talking. It can't be the Goddess of Life." But she didn't say who it was either.

Damn, I can't trick it out of her. Shooting Star pouted, but he wasn't too bummed. He had felt that the guild sounded familiar, so he had wanted to find out more about it, but it wasn't like he desperately needed to know or anything.

"May I ask..."

Bai Saya suddenly spoke up. When everyone directed their eyes to him, he took the sword by his waist, placed it on the table, and said, "This is a sword made by Glen Melos. H-he even said that this sword is his personal best."

He felt as if he could feel the Sword of Sacred White tremble in his hands; however, he had no choice but to do this. Otherwise, he would never be able to live with himself. He breathed in deeply and resolutely said, "Could I use this sword to trade for the elf?"

Hyacinth smiled and teased her companion, "Aw! Dan, you're in for heartbreak. The one he likes is the elf. Poor Dan."

Bai Saya hurriedly explained, "It's not that I like Alan. I just don't want to see him become a slave."

All Dan did was frown at that.

Head bowed to examine the sword, Hyacinth praised soon after, "This is indeed Glen Melos's work, and the sword is even better than the one that was just sold. It is very possible that this sword is that swordsmith's best like you claimed."

"Then..." Bai Saya looked hopefully at Hyacinth, doing his utmost to ignore the reluctance he felt toward parting with the Sword of Sacred White.

Shooting Star didn't speak up to stop him. It wasn't like Bai Saya needed to duel anymore. Using a sword to trade for a beautiful elf wasn't a bad deal. As long as they didn't lose out, then his pet could do whatever he wanted with it.

Hyacinth was apologetic as she said, "I am very sorry. If you wanted to trade for another item, it would definitely be possible. After all, you are Dan's darling. I could make an exception for you. But that elf is special. I cannot agree to the trade because that elf is the main attraction of this auction. I can't sell him to you in private. That would affect the Guild's reputation."

It's still a no go! Bai Saya sighed and dejectedly let his head drop.

"Saya." Dan hesitated for a moment, but he still said, "I'll help you bid for that elf."

Bai Saya lifted his head in shock, but before he could speak, Hyacinth cut him off.

"Don't be silly, Dan. I have heard that across the continent, three kingdoms have expressed interest in this elf, from the Kingdom of Rising Sun's Prince Bol, the Kingdom of Pegasi's Princess Anabelle, to the Kingdom of Skipstones, King Gravel. The price will soar beyond a minimum of twenty thousand gold ducats. That is my lowest estimate. What are you going to bid with?"

Twenty thousand gold ducats? Bai Saya and Shooting Star's jaws

almost dropped. That amount of gold ducats was enough to bury them right then and there.

But other than shock, an idea flashed across Shooting Star's mind. *Among those three who want to buy the elf...*

Dan could only sigh. He apologized to Bai Saya, "I am sorry, this is outside of my abilities. I had thought that it would not take more than twenty thousand gold ducats. I could still manage that. But I can't manage it if it's more than twenty thousand." "No, you don't have to apologize to me." Bai Saya waved his hand back and forth, a bit embarrassed.

Even though he had kind of wanted Dan to bid on the elf for him, that was because he had thought that he could use his sword that was worth a hefty amount to pay back the debt. Now that he had learned that he would need more than twenty thousand gold ducats, he no longer dared to ask Dan to help him bid on the elf first and pay him back later. That amount of money was an amount that he could never repay even after an entire lifetime.

"Hyacinth-jiějie."

Shooting Star, who had remained silent this entire time, suddenly pulled on Hyacinth's arm. If any other guy did this, he would have already died without realizing it, but because Shooting Star still seemed to be a child, Hyacinth wasn't angered. Instead, she wanted to spoil him.

"What is it?" Hyacinth asked with a smile.

"My Xiao Bai really likes that elf, and I also want to look at an elf up close! Could you have that elf come here?"

Shooting Star begged her with large, teary eyes. When he saw Hyacinth furrow her brows, he immediately added, "Of course, you and Dan should stay, too. We'll have lots of fun with everyone here to chat!"

Hearing that addition, Hyacinth's brows relaxed. Under Dan and her supervision, nothing would happen to the elf. Besides, Dan had wanted to use everything he owned to bid on that elf, showing how serious he was about Bai Saya. *Since that is how it is, why not do a favor for Dan?*

After thinking it over, Hyacinth smiled. She pinched Shooting Star's chubby cheeks and teased, "Oh you! You're so cute that Jiějie doesn't want to say no."

Shooting Star widened his golden eyes and said with anticipation, "Does Jiějie mean that..."

"Wait here for a moment. I will bring the elf over." Hyacinth smiled teasingly, "Dan, do you want to come with me, or do you want to stay here and have a subordinate of yours come with me?"

"I will go with you." Dan stood up. He was always very serious about work related matters.

Shooting Star waved at Hyacinth with a smile. The moment the two of them closed the door, his expression immediately changed. He threw several sarcastic remarks at Bai Saya.

"See! It's not easy to get our hands on that elf! Besides, there are so many slaves in the world. Are you going to save each and every one of them?"

Bai Saya dropped his head. As he fastened the Sword of Sacred White back on his waist, he explained sullenly, "I was just giving it a try. If I don't even try, then I will never be able to forget this matter. At least, after trying, I will know that I have done all that I can do."

"Idiot!" Shooting Star snapped.

Maybe I am an idiot. Bai Saya sighed and said dispiritedly, "Why did you request to see Alan?"

"What?" Shooting Star shouted, "I purposely turned up the cuteness for your sake so that Hyacinth would let us see the elf! Aren't you the one who wanted to see him the most?"

Bai Saya was silent for a moment before he said, "Before, we were confined in the same jail. Both of us were prisoners. Now, I am free, but Alan is about to be sold as a slave, and I am unable to rescue him. I don't know how I should face him. Would he feel it to be very unfair? Perhaps, he would hate me because of it." Shooting Star rolled his eyes hard at his pet. He snapped, "Don't

you understand elves at all?"

"Huh?" Bai Saya had a confused expression.

Shooting Star confidently explained, "Elves don't care about any of that! Unless you actually do something that gravely injures them, they very rarely hate anything living. It could be said that they naturally lack the emotion of 'hatred.'"

"Really?" Bai Saya was a bit doubtful. Last time when he met Alan, he was very cold. He didn't seem like a man... er, an elf, who lacked hatred.

"They've always been like that! Humans are fickle, demons are heartless, elves are indifferent, and beastmen are frank. Shouldn't you at least get the major races' natures straight?"

Um, I really don't have them straight. After seeing Shooting Star roll his eyes at him, Bai Saya's face reddened. He mumbled in explanation, "Other than humans, it was rare to see any other races on the Yisite Continent."

Shooting Star shrugged and said, "That can't be helped. The demon race mostly lives on the Nuosi Continent in the north. The beastmen have gathered on the Shaosi Continent in the south. As for what is native to your Yisite Continent—the elves—they like to hide in forests without ever taking a step out."

"Now that I think about it, the Weisite Continent has all kinds of races." Bai Saya was startled as he realized this.

Shooting Star immediately retorted, "Wrong, there are no elves! Elves are super duper rare here. Or else the price wouldn't soar so high."

Bai Saya nodded. A thought suddenly flashed across his mind, and he blurted, "Then, why doesn't the demon race come to the Yisite Continent?"

"Now I'm certain that you lack all common sense about races." After Shooting Star finished mumbling that, he took it upon himself to explain, as this guy without any common sense was his pet, "It's because demons and elves are sworn enemies. Elves utterly detest demons, whose nature leans toward darkness. If they meet any demons in their own territory, even though it's in their nature to dislike murder, they will still chase the demons away from their territory, and if they are forced to, they will even go against their nature and start a killing spree!"

"I see." Bai Saya finally nodded in understanding.

A knock sounded on the door. The two of them stopped talking and turned their heads toward the door.

Shooting Star fixed his expression and sitting posture. He transformed from a lazy brat into an incomparably cute boy before he called out, "Come on in."

Yup, come on in, little elf.

Shooting Star was still very much looking forward to his first close contact with an elf.

Footnotes

¹ **“Eminent”**: The first general’s name is 皇彌 (huáng mí), of which 皇 means royal or ruler, and 彌 means abundant or full. 彌 (mí) also sounds the same as 迷 (mí), which can mean bewitching. His name can be taken to mean someone who is very majestic, or someone who charms the ruler. We will be translating names of demons mostly based on meaning instead of transcribing them based on pronunciation. “Eminent” was chosen to capture some of the meaning of his name, and to preserve the “mi” part of his name, as someone later in the story uses “Mi” as his nickname.

Chapter 3: Alan the Elf, Part One

The door slowly opened. A head of gold instantly brightened the entire private room, drawing everyone's gaze. Then, their eyes focused on a face that was gentle and delicate to the point of appearing androgynous. Even with such an indifferent expression, the elf's absolute magnificence could not be obscured.

Bai Saya was amazed. Alan was even more beautiful than that time in the prison. It was probably because the prison had been dark, and Alan had worn simple clothing then, so his brilliance had not been brought out.

Dan followed right behind the elf, and behind him was an entire row of bodyguards, but Hyacinth's beautiful and graceful figure could not be seen. After Dan commanded his subordinates to stay outside, he walked inside the room and closed the door on his way in.

Bai Saya was carefully observing Alan. The latter's hands and feet were shackled, his demeanor as cold as always, his face completely expressionless, as if he were the only one inside the room and there was no one next to him.

"A-Alan," he hesitantly called out.

He had finally gotten the elf's attention. Long, slender blue eyes stared at Bai Saya. He slowly opened his mouth and said, "You..."

Bai Saya lowered his head awkwardly, not daring to meet the

elf's gaze.

"Who are you?"

He jerked his head up, staring at the elf in disbelief. The other finally showed some expression—doubt— but looked to be in no hurry, as if it didn't matter if an answer was given or not.

Seeing that Bai Saya had met his match, Shooting Star guffawed without any sympathy. "I forgot to tell you. It's probably because elves live too long, so their memories and their ability to recognize people are usually all jumbled up."

Alan glanced at Shooting Star.

"Wow! He actually glared at me? This is the first time an elf has glared at me!" Shooting Star's eyes widened. He was beyond excited.

"Nonsense, he only glanced at you." Bai Saya thought nothing of it. *How could an elf glare at anyone?*

"To an elf, that just now can be considered a glare."

At this time, perhaps provoked by the "all jumbled up" remark, Alan finally scrutinized Bai Saya seriously. Once he saw that pair of amber eyes, the elf finally remembered.

"You're that human who was once imprisoned with me."

Bai Saya abruptly snapped his head back and blurted, "You recognize me?"

Alan nodded casually but did not speak further. He had just wanted to prove Shooting Star's words wrong, so he had seriously thought about it. Yet after proving him wrong, Alan didn't feel recognizing him had any meaning.

Seeing that, Bai Saya didn't know how to continue from there at all. Shooting Star was even yawning widely next to him...

"Have you been doing okay lately?"

In order to get rid of the awkwardness, Bai Saya could only find something to talk about even though there was nothing to talk about. Frustrated, he also glared at Shooting Star. Shooting Star was the one who had requested to see Alan, yet he was now relaxing by the side, and wasn't helping with finding a conversation topic.

Shooting Star didn't pay any attention to his pet's completely harmless glare. He was currently sneaking a glance at that head of golden hair. At first, he had thought it was bright gold, but a closer look revealed that it was a gentle, pale gold. Although not as eye-catching as bright gold, it was even more elegant and pleasing to the eye.

"Passable." Alan nodded, giving a simple answer.

A dead silence fell upon them once again.

Finally, Bai Saya could stand it no longer. He could only turn his head and beg for Shooting Star's help with his gaze.

Shooting Star's eyes shone with a strange gleam, as if he were saying: *You're the one who asked me to help!*

Bai Saya suddenly had an ominous feeling. Just as he wanted to turn down Shooting Star's aid, it was already too late.

"Hey!" Shooting Star called out to Dan, who had been standing quietly in the corner. He gestured at the elf and said, "Can I touch him?"

Dan frowned. *This request is too much.*

"Just above the neck. Please!" Shooting Star's eyes were shining. It was no big deal to him when he said, "We can exchange! You can also touch Xiao Bai above the neck."

"What nonsense are you spouting?!" Bai Saya growled through clenched teeth. *I should have known Shooting Star wouldn't have any good ideas. Actually, his good ideas are only good for himself but extremely bad for others.*

Dan looked at Bai Saya gravely, as if asking: *Are you really not going to consider switching companions?*

If their relationship really were that of companions, then Bai Saya would definitely have switched Shooting Star a hundred

times over already! Unfortunately, their relationship was currently “pet and master.”

Bai Saya suddenly realized that perhaps his situation was even worse than Alan’s.

“Go ahead and touch,” Dan said, not minding it. Above the neck would make it at most the face, and that did not matter much. Shooting Star gave a cry of joy and immediately ran over to the elf.

“Wait, Shooting Star, don’t be reckless!” Bai Saya scolded, afraid that Shooting Star really would touch him inappropriately—*But it would be above the neck. There doesn’t seem to be anything inappropriate about that? Besides, Alan is a guy. Should I stop him or not?*

The elf’s gaze, which had been aloof this entire time, began to focus, coldly staring at this person who had run to his side and even had on a lecherous expression. His coldness began to turn into chilliness, even though other people probably couldn’t tell the difference.

Shooting Star gave a “hehe,” and as if he were coaxing a child, said, “Don’t move about, okay? I’ll be super careful. I promise you I won’t hurt you.”

Hearing this, Dan began to waver over whether he should stop him...

Hearing this, Bai Saya began to waver over whether he should have Dan stop Shooting Star...

After saying this, Shooting Star didn't waver at all. He immediately pounced on the elf—

"Shooting Star!" Bai Saya cried out, wanting to rush over and drag Shooting Star away.

Dan's complexion changed.

The elf's chilliness began to turn into fury.

"Amazing...

"Really so beautiful!

"This is the first time I've seen hair this beautiful!"

Shooting Star was moved as he hugged the elf's golden hair to his heart's content. The golden hair reflected in his golden eyes, which were, of course, sparkling.

What's going on right now? Bai Saya was frozen in the posture of "being about to rush over and hold Shooting Star back."

Dan was frozen to the spot.

The elf's fury had solidified, and there were also signs of his brain short-circuiting.

Seeing Shooting Star hug the elf's hair to death and completely ignoring that beautiful face, Bai Saya couldn't help the strange expression that came over him. *Could it be that what Shooting Star meant by above the neck is... his hair?*

Dan also relaxed. As long as the elf's hair wasn't cut off, he could touch it however he liked.

Bai Saya also thought the same. It was just hair, and the elf was a guy, so it should be okay... No, it was super not okay. The elf's face was already beginning to contort.

"Let go!" The elf suddenly growled.

Shooting Star paid him no attention. If it weren't because the hair looked better when it was on the elf, he could even go to the extent of cutting it off and fleeing. It was just hair, so he believed Dan would be able to take care of it.

The elf was so angry that he was trembling. If his hands and feet weren't shackled, he probably would have struck out already. However, at the moment, he could only struggle to keep away from Shooting Star, but with his hair captive, he couldn't really leave.

Bai Saya wanted to put a stop to his companion's misdeed, but he also felt that he should let Shooting Star hug it longer... Of course, he meant the hair. *Maybe this way Shooting Star will want to rescue Alan?*

Dan really couldn't keep watching any longer. He called for his subordinates to enter, and they took the elf along with them. Shooting Star looked on helplessly as that golden hair was taken away. He narrowed his eyes dangerously, but in the end, just pouted and didn't say a single word.

Seeing that, Bai Saya found it difficult to hide his disappointment. This was probably the last time he could see Alan up close. Right then, sorrow overwhelmed him. His entire person curled into the chair, his straight posture disappearing without a trace, his body so limp it was like his backbone had been taken out.

When Dan came back and saw that Bai Saya had returned to his depressed self, he was also overtaken by gloom from not being able to help.

For their own reasons, the three people in the private room all had little interest in the rest of the auction. Shooting Star could not forget that head of golden hair, while Bai Saya could not put his righteousness to use, and Dan was full of guilt from not being able to help, so he did not ask Bai Saya to stay longer.

Soon after, the two of them said their farewells and left.

After leaving the auction site, Shooting Star and Bai Saya silently walked along the streets of Shore City. Even though it was already very late, it was like the people in this city didn't need to sleep. The streets were still rambunctious, highlighting the strange silence among these two people who were walking along

the streets without a word.

“Shooting Star...”

“Xiao Bai...”

The two of them simultaneously spoke and simultaneously fell back into silence. After glancing at each other, Bai Saya sighed and said, “You’ve noticed it, too?”

“Yeah!” Shooting Star chuckled painfully. He was rather vexed. He hadn’t thought that that elf’s hair would be so beautiful!

At first, when he had seen the elf on the stage, the blinding, bright gold wasn’t all that much to his tastes, but once closer, it was much more pleasing to the eye—*I want it so much! I want that beautiful elf to be my pet!*

“What should we do?” Bai Saya frowned.

“I’m agonizing over it! This is really super hard!”

Shooting Star’s face was all scrunched up. The Goldenstyle Merchant Guild was not to be trifled with. An item that was worth over twenty thousand gold ducats was not easy to steal. One misstep, and the pet would not be his, plus the owner and the other pet would both be goners.

Bai Saya suggested, “Should we go back and ask Dan?”

"Don't be ridiculous!" Shooting Star shot him right down. "Even though that Dan fellow likes you, he still treats his job with higher regard. This matter doesn't even have anything to do with your safety. He would never defy the Guild for your sake."

"But..." Bai Saya suddenly felt something was off.

"There's no but!" Shooting Star showed a serious expression and concluded, "We can only think of a different solution!"

Stunned, Bai Saya said, "Oh."

The two of them walked on silently for a while. Shooting Star, who had been thinking the entire time, asked, "Xiao Bai, how much money do we have left?"

Bai Saya counted inside his head and said, "Probably around twenty-five gold ducats."

"That should be enough. Okay, I've decided!" Shooting Star gave a shout.

"What?" Bai Saya jumped in surprise.

Shooting Star said, word by word, "I want that elf to be my second pet!"

"Huh?" Bai Saya was stunned.

After deciding, his heart grew light. Shooting Star's footsteps

were so joyous that it was like the elf was already his pet. However, when the two of them suddenly came to a fork in the road, he blinked and asked in some confusion, "Come to think of it, where are we going now?"

Bai Saya was speechless for a moment before he said, "I've been trying to tell you all along that we've already left Philo and the others, so we don't have an inn to stay at anymore. I wanted to ask you if you wanted to return and ask Dan to help us find somewhere to stay, but you said no, and you even said that he definitely wouldn't help us."

The two of them fell into a dead silence again.

"... Let's go back and find Dan."



"This is too amazing!"

Shooting Star's face was full of emotion as he lay on a huge bed and rolled all over it. He kept on shouting, "It's such a huge, soft bed! I knew that Xiao Bai is the most useful. As long as you're here, Dan would even give us the best luxury hotel room!"

Bai Saya rolled his eyes, not wanting to spend any more time on this topic, or else Shooting Star might even directly rent him out to Dan or something.

He changed the topic and said, "We better hurry and discuss proper business. What should we do now to rescue Alan?"

With proper business being the topic, Shooting Star immediately showed an extremely serious expression—even though he looked even more like a boy who was being a brat, and said, “Xiao Bai, we are now about to execute a very dangerous mission!”

“I understand.” Bai Saya nodded solemnly.

“So we have to be extra careful.”

“As we should.”

“In order not to become fugitives after we steal the elf, I just went and bought a lot of items for our disguise.”

“We should put on a disguise, but...” Bai Saya asked in confusion, “what does that have to do with bathing?”

Bai Saya, the moment he entered the room, had been shoved by Shooting Star into a wooden tub filled with hot water, forced to scrub his skin clean before he would be allowed to come out.

Then, seeing the pile of extravagant clothes and accessories by the side, he had already begun to wonder if Shooting Star liked the elf’s hair too much, so he had decided to exchange one pet for another?

“Idiot! Don’t you know that jobs such as protecting the goods usually always have beastmen as the security guards? Beastmen have the best sense of smell among all the races. As long as you leave behind your scent, we would never be able to escape even

to the ends of the earth!”

Only after Shooting Star explained and saw that Bai Saya had understood and was scrubbing himself with great strength did Shooting Star lay back on the huge pillow in satisfaction. He even extended his hand to grab the late night snacks by the bed to eat. No matter how you looked at him, he looked more like a pampered young master than a criminal on the eve of a robbery. Bai Saya relaxed as he washed. It was all fine as long as he wasn't being used to exchange for the elf.

“Hurry up and bathe. It'll be my turn after you. I haven't taken a bath in so long. I'm going to die from the smell.”

“I'm done.” He felt like he had scrubbed an entire layer of skin off.

Bai Saya grabbed a towel from the side and draped it on him. Then, he got out of the tub. Shooting Star immediately gave a cry of joy and jumped into the large tub to scrub and clean. The water in the tub began to grow murky as well.

Bai Saya picked through the clothes on the bed, trying to choose one that didn't have as much lace trimming. When he unfurled the outfit, he was stunned and blurted, “Shooting Star! You bought the wrong clothes. Isn't this a woman's outfit?”

I think it's even a formal dress...

“That is a woman's outfit, but I haven't bought the wrong clothes.”

Bai Saya stoically placed the outfit down. Then, he walked to the chair to the side and picked up his own, already worn clothing. Even though it hadn't been washed yet, it was still better than female clothing.

Shooting Star said indifferently, "If you don't want to rescue Alan, or if you want to be hunted after rescuing him, then you can wear your usual outfit."

Bai Saya gave him a look of incomprehension.

"We're gonna go steal stuff. If we don't put on a disguise, we're gonna become wanted, you know?"

Bai Saya couldn't help saying, "Then, we should cover up our faces, right?"

Shooting Star mocked him, saying, "Yeah, yeah, let's just cover our faces. It's just that someone has an eye color that is so unique that you won't find anyone else with that eye color in the entire city, and it's like he was afraid other people won't recognize him, so he even went out of his way to put his sword on the table today to get it appraised."

Hearing that, Bai Saya could not help the sorry looking expression that came over him, but when he glanced at that female outfit full of lace again, he decided to put up a fight for a bit longer. "But that doesn't mean I have to wear it now, right? The auction isn't until tomorrow night."

Shooting Star rolled his eyes and said, "Don't you need to try the make-up on first? Do you think you can just randomly put it on and look like a woman? Though that reminds me, you didn't even pretend before this and you were already treated as a woman."

Now it was Bai Saya's turn to start rolling his eyes. He could only repeat inside his heart with all his might: *This is for the sake of rescuing a person... rescuing an elf.*

For the sake of justice, small sacrifices were necessary. He took in several deep breaths, finally resigning to his battle with the outfit.

Chapter 3: Alan the Elf, Part Two

"The clothes are too small." Bai Saya was happy.

"That's because you're not wearing a corset underneath it. See, it's that sleeveless garment right over there."

"Um... the corset is too small." He was even happier!

"Idiot! It's not like a corset is a waistband. You have to push out all the air in your chest, and then you have to tighten it with all your strength. Just don't kill yourself!"

Bai Saya used all his strength to tighten the corset. When he lowered his head to look at the corset, there were still several centimeters to go before he could fasten it! It was practically an impossible mission.

Ugh, I can't watch any more of this! Shooting Star jumped out of the tub, and with one foot on Bai Saya's back, used both hands to pull on the rope of the corset. He shouted, "Xiao Bai, bear with it!"

"Ah!"

A piercing cry resounded in the middle of the night across Shore City, scaring awake several drunks lying by the roadside. They looked around, scratched their heads blearily, and lay down once more.

"Sorry, did I tighten it too much?" Shooting Star studied it for a bit. *His waist seems too narrow like this. The proportions of his body are a bit strange?*

Bai Saya's eyes were bugging out. He forced out his words with great difficulty, "I-If you don't loosen it *now*, I, I'm gonna suffocate..."

Seeing Bai Saya's purple complexion, Shooting Star hurriedly loosened the rope a bit. The former finally escaped from the sad situation of "getting strangled to death by a corset."

"I spent a lot of time picking out the style of these two outfits until I found formal dresses that won't hinder our movement too much."

After Shooting Star put on his close fitting clothes, he grabbed the ball gown he had his eye on from among several lacy outfits and slipped it on.

As Bai Saya rubbed his waist, he immediately reminded him, "Wait, you forgot to put on a corset!"

"I don't need one. I'm still a kid!" After Shooting Star finished speaking, he immediately saw Bai Saya's displeasure, but he boldly said, "Besides, I have a lot on my plate, too. I searched for a long time before I found this kind of ball gown. This is the only kind of dress I can hide weapons underneath."

Bai Saya glanced at the ball gown and said in doubt, "How can

you move about in such a puffy dress?”

“Oh, there are steel wires in the shape of a hoop underneath the dress. All I have to do is cut the leather straps holding up the steel wires.”

Shooting Star lifted the dress very inelegantly, pointing out the structure of the dress to Bai Saya. The latter showed an impressed expression and sighed, “What a mysterious outfit!”

“I know! This ball gown is even heavier than a set of leather armor. On top of that, people usually wear a corset underneath it, too. The corset you’re wearing isn’t much different from leather armor.”

“Women are amazing,” Bai Saya praised.

“Exactly!” Shooting Star agreed. Disguising himself once or twice was fine, but if he had to wear this kind of outfit long term, he would rather go naked as a barbarian.

After the two of them held several seconds of silence for the suffering of women across the world, Shooting Star jumped up and urged, “Hurry, hurry! There’s still so much to prep. Come sit over here, Xiao Bai. I’ll do your makeup.”

Bai Saya obediently sat by Shooting Star, letting him do this and that to his face. Shooting Star chattered nonstop while he applied the makeup.

“I’m telling you, disguising yourself is an art. It’s not that I want

to brag, but I've inherited techniques from the God of Thieves. I assure you that I'll make you even more of a beautiful woman than a beautiful woman!"

I can be an ugly woman. That's not a problem. Bai Saya answered silently in his heart.

"I promise you that Dan and Philo will be dazzled by you!"

Can't you use other people as examples? Bai Saya was already troubled enough by those two people. He didn't dare to imagine the frightful scenario that would result from those two being "dazzled" by him.

"Here, as a final touch, put on this wig. Then, we just need some magic to change the color of your eyes, and we're done."

Shooting Star took out a brown, curly wig and put it on Bai Saya's head.

How did he buy so much stuff in the handful of minutes it took for the attendant to draw the bath and for me to begin bathing? Bai Saya was utterly confused.

"What color do you like?" Shooting Star asked rather democratically.

Bai Saya thought about it and honestly answered, "White."

"White, my ass. Do you want to pretend to be blind?" Shooting Star snapped, "You're picking an eye color!"

Bai Saya quickly switched colors. "Then, blue."

After haphazardly finishing Bai Saya's makeup, Shooting Star began to prep himself. It was much faster this time. It only took around ten minutes for him to finish applying his makeup and put on a long, blond wig.

Shooting Star turned his head and asked, "What do you think?"

Bai Saya stared at him in shock. If Shooting Star hadn't just taken a bath in front of him, he would have definitely been unable to believe that this cute girl with large, brimming eyes and rosy cheeks was actually a boy!

"You're completely a cute, delicate girl," Bai Saya honestly answered.

"Heh!" Shooting Star laughed and snickered, "You haven't seen yourself yet, right? Go look at the mirror by the wall."

Bai Saya nodded a bit hesitantly. He really didn't want to look in the mirror. He wasn't like Shooting Star who had a baby face as a guy. If he saw himself looking neither like a man nor a woman, he might even regurgitate his dinner. Even worse was if he saw that he wasn't like a woman at all. That would depress him even more!

Dragging heavy feet, Bai Saya took several seconds to traverse a distance that only needed a second to cover. In the end, he still

reached the mirror, but he took several minutes to prepare himself. Finally, he braced himself and lifted his head...

"Oh my god!"



The second day of the auction arrived, and the crowd was just as huge as the day before, filling the outer boundaries of the auction site. Several people who had become experts at lining up were currently chatting in twos and threes to pass the time.

"I heard that the Kingdom of Rising Sun's Prince Bol used ten thousand gold ducats to buy a sword yesterday."

"So rich! But it's not like having money will make his swordsmanship any better."

"Haha! Your words are sure poisonous."

"As if. I'm just telling the truth. I wonder what he's going to buy today?"

"Who knows... Hey, Prince Bol is here. You can go ask him yourself."

"Nonsense. If I'm daring enough to ask him, do I still need to line up here? Hey, hey, why aren't you answering me?"

Yet, that person continued to remain silent and only used a finger to point toward Prince Bol's extravagant carriage. The

chubby and round prince had already gotten off the carriage, but he didn't continue toward the building. Instead, he turned with a smile and extended a hand to someone in the carriage.

A prince was actually helping someone else out of the carriage. Just what kind of person was in the carriage?

At that moment, only the end of a black dress could be seen as that person was stepping off the carriage. The dress extended and flared out from a slim waist, swishing about elegantly with each movement.

The woman seemed rather conservative. Her outfit was fastened all the way to her neck. Even though it was sleeveless, a thin, silk shawl covered her shoulders, concealing two arms that were most probably fair.

Just her elegant figure alone gave rise to wild imaginations, making it difficult to hold back from glancing up at her face. What reflected first in everyone's sight was that pair of blue eyes, gentle and beautiful, prompting feelings of tenderness. It was just a pity that a veil covered her face below her eyes, causing restlessness in all around her.

Suddenly, that beautiful woman tripped as she got out of the carriage.

"Countess Meyl, please be careful." Prince Bol was exaggeratedly concerned, hurriedly stepping closer to steady her. He didn't forget to caress her arm as he was at it.

Instantly, that elegant woman seemed to roll her eyes, but she instantly returned to normal as well. It made everyone feel that it must have been a trick of the eye. Such an elegant woman would never do something as rude as rolling her eyes. At this time, the surrounding crowd exploded into noise, and questions poured in one after another.

“Countess Meyl? What kingdom is this noble from?”

“I haven’t heard of them before! I’ve no clue!”

A younger, tenderly cute girl jumped out of the carriage behind the first. A cute bow was tied on top of her wavy golden hair. On her fair, goose-egg shaped face was a pair of large, bright, glistening, eyes that were looking around curiously.

The moment she saw Countess Meyl before her, she lifted the edge of her gown and nimbly trotted over to the countess’s side. Then, she intimately grabbed the countess’s arm.

A glimpse told that all others were looking at this pair of adult and child beauty with appreciation. Prince Bol, who had escorted these two here, was immediately flattered, and he was even more eager to be attentive toward these two women.

“Countess Meyl, Lady Meyl, let us enter.”

Countess Meyl nodded and followed the pretentious prince inside the auction site.

After entering his designated, large private room, Prince Bol gestured for his subordinates to place two more chairs on the balcony. Then, they were to quickly serve the best food and wine so that he could entertain these two beauties.

Prince Bol could not help but marvel at his amazing hearing. Just now on his way here, he had heard a clear voice, and he had immediately felt that it had to belong to a great beauty. He had his subordinates stop the carriage, and he listened for a good while, discovering that a coachman had wanted to extort these two beauties just because their carriage had broken down. Right then and there, he had his subordinates rescue them from their plight.

Right after Countess Meyl finished thanking him, she said that she wanted to return to the inn they were staying at, but Lady Meyl stubbornly wanted to go to the auction to see the excitement. Prince Bol couldn't let this chance escape and immediately suggested escorting them to the auction.

Hehe, to think that I would encounter beauties even while attending an auction. Prince Bol was pleased.

At this time, Countess Meyl softly said, "Your highness, please allow me to step out for a moment."

"Please, go ahead." As someone from the royal court, Prince Bol of course knew that this was something ladies said when they wanted to use the toilet.

Countess Meyl lifted her dress and left the private room with Lady Meyl. They walked to the most remote toilet, and Lady Meyl even stuck her head inside suspiciously. After making sure there was no one inside, the two of them immediately dashed in. Not only did they shut the door, they even used a broom by the side to block the door to prevent anyone from opening it.

A playful smile came across Lady Meyl's face, and she turned to say, "Xiao Bai, you're really such a natural countess! All we had to do was cram in one morning of etiquette, and no one discovered that you have nothing to do with any countesses."

"We shouldn't trick people like this, right?"

When Bai Saya spoke, the voice that came out was still a delicate woman's. Even he felt weirded out by it. He hurriedly took off the necklace around his neck. When he spoke again, his voice had returned to his original, male voice.

"On top of that, we have the admission credentials Dan gave us. There was no need to disguise as women to trick that prince, making him bring us in."

Just thinking of how that prince would caress his arm from time to time made Bai Saya shiver. Several times, he had to force himself not to jump and beat that Bol up.

"Idiot! Do you think we're here to sightsee? Dan already knows you want to save Alan. If we use those admission credentials,

then the entire world would know that we stole that elf! Besides, if we didn't approach that prince, I wouldn't have been able to steal this."

Shooting Star suddenly laughed deviously. Then, he took out a long sword from beneath his dress.

At first, Bai Saya thought it was his own Sword of Sacred White, but once he took a closer look, he saw that it wasn't. A thought hit him, and he blurted, "This was the sword that was sold for ten thousand gold ducats yesterday?"

"Exactly!" Shooting Star said gleefully, "Think about it. Alan has been shackled so tightly. If we don't use old man Glen's sword, there's no way we could open that lock."

"Can't we just use my Sword of Sacred White?" Bai Saya was in a bit of disbelief. He was more willing to believe that Shooting Star coveted the ten thousand gold ducats, so he had taken this chance to steal the sword from Prince Bol.

"Calling you an idiot is giving you too much credit!" Shooting Star was so angry that flames were almost bursting from his eyes. He growled, "You've just told Dan and Hyacinth yesterday that you have a sword of Glen's. If we use that sword today to bust that lock, even an idiot could guess that you're the thief! The only way to free you from getting suspected is to use another sword to commit the crime. Do you understand me?!" Bai Saya's face reddened and he hurriedly said, "I get it. You're right... Um, but stealing is wrong." His voice grew smaller and

smaller. In the end, he was still the one who had put them in this situation.

"Using this sword can even shift the blame onto Prince Bol. Plus, he was the one who brought the two of us here. Hehe! That guy will definitely be in a world of trouble!"

Glee appeared on Shooting Star's face. Only a genius like himself, Shooting Star, could come up with this kind of method that could kill two birds with one stone!

Bai Saya frowned. Even though he didn't like Bol, it wasn't like Bol had done anything to them. Framing him was overdoing it.

When Shooting Star saw Bai Saya's expression, he knew that Bai Saya was worrying for Bol. He patiently explained, "Relax, Chubby Bol is the King of Rising Sun's only little bro. The Goldenstyle Merchant Guild wouldn't dare to do anything to him!"

Hearing that, Bai Saya finally relaxed a bit.

"Besides, it's that damn fatty's fault for being so lecherous!" Shooting Star gave a snort and said disdainfully, "All we did was find a coachman to put on a show with us. He took the bait just like that!"

"We were the ones who tricked him in the first place, saying that I'm a widowed countess, and that you're my husband's little sister."

Bai Saya sighed. He really couldn't be like Shooting Star, treating trickery of others as if it were nothing, even if it was for the sake of rescuing someone.

"Hmph!" Shooting Star boldly said, "He's just too stupid. I already 'honestly' declared that you're Countess 'Male!' He's the one who wanted to hear it as Countess Meyl. That has nothing to do with me anymore. I was super honest!"

...If you're honest, then there are no liars in the world! Bai Saya shook his head, thinking to himself that he had to educate Shooting Star on morality in the future. The brink of a robbery was not a good time to educate him on morality.

At this time, Shooting Star curled his finger to beckon Bai Saya and explained in detail, "Listen up. We'll split up. Find a place to hide in the great hall below, somewhere close to the stage. Once Alan appears on the stage, I will cause a commotion and draw everyone's attention away. You will immediately go on stage and cut his shackles apart. Then..."

Bai Saya listened very attentively. He knew that they were about to execute something extremely dangerous. If they were to fail, it wouldn't just be him, even Shooting Star would be blamed, so he couldn't take this lightly.

"You got all that?"

Bai Saya nodded and said, "Got it."

"All right!" Shooting Star shouted, "Then Mission Capture... I mean, Mission Rescue the Elf has begun!"

Bai Saya smiled wryly. *I am saving Alan and not pushing him deeper into the fire, right?*

Chapter 4: Thunderous Winter Anger, Part One

Alanmishusgrodiatila, often shortened to Alanmishus by his clansmen, meant “thundersnow” in the elven language.

Just like the nature of all elves, he was indifferent, but his clansmen claimed that Alanmishus was just like his name implied. Although he was as cold as the winter, once angered, his wrath was as alarming as thunder in winter.

Even if one was angry, it would not help the situation at all, so why get angry in the first place? This would most likely be the response of all elves in his current situation.

Alanmishus was a slave who was about to be auctioned off.

Although he had never met a slave before getting captured, he had heard tales from the older generation about what happened to elves after getting captured.

First was getting confined in a dark prison. He had already experienced that. Then came getting marveled at like a commodity by humans. This he had experienced yesterday. Last came getting bought by someone, forever losing his freedom.

He would not be able to return to the forest, and he would never be able to freely leap between the trees and breathe in the forest air.

The first two had already happened. Tomorrow, some human

would bring a bunch of sparkling gold metal in exchange for taking him. Then, his freedom would be gone forever.

Alanmishus absentmindedly took the auction item that the human next to him passed over. Yesterday, it was a baffling cup. Today, it was a baffling scarf. Why do humans like such things?

Whatever. It had nothing to do with him. He stopped guessing at the minds of humans and merely walked expressionlessly onto the stage. The place was just like yesterday, still and silent, but it wouldn't be so silent tomorrow. *At the very least, voices would clamor with bids*, the elf mocked inwardly.

Alanmishus calmly stood on the stage, but his attention had drifted away to who knew where. However, a sudden explosion drew his attention. He stared confusedly at the panicking crowd below. Yelling came from all directions, occasionally interspersed with the voices of guards calming the crowd to no avail.

Even faced with such a chaotic situation, the elf remained standing expressionlessly on the stage. But what happened next shocked even this indifferent elf.

A woman rushed onto the stage and slashed apart the shackles on the elf's hands and feet. Then, before the elf could react, she grabbed him and began running.

But before they got anywhere, the auctioneer saw them and yelled for the guards. Several people rushed over in front of the elf and the woman, blocking off their path of escape, as well as

the elf's path to freedom...

The woman raised her sword and engaged in battle with the guards.

Alanmishus hadn't regained his senses yet. He stood rooted to the spot, somewhat unused to the light feeling of his hands and feet. The heavy shackles there were now gone. He had worn them for a full half year. He had long forgotten this unfettered feeling. *So my arms and feet can feel this free...*

He was never going to wear shackles again!

His indifference faded, his heart that had been sealed by ice was released, and the elf struck like lightning toward his desire of freedom!

"Woman, out of the way!"

The woman in front of him glanced behind her when she heard the shout. She paled and immediately leaped away.

How could even the most indifferent elf, after experiencing capture, half a year of imprisonment, treatment as an auction item, and the despair of forever losing his future freedom, continue to remain indifferent?

It wasn't that he wasn't angry. He had just been bearing with it. His indifference had just been his way of resisting when he couldn't resist in any other way.

Once there was a possibility of resistance, no matter if it were just a sliver of hope, he would use his life to fight for it!

Alanmishus's head of soft, golden hair danced crazily. His hands that had regained freedom were raised in front of his chest, and a ball of white blue light rested upon his palms, so bright that no one could look directly at it. It rapidly grew from the size of a person's fist to the size of an adult's head, and electricity occasionally sputtered from it.

Finally, when this ball of lightning was so huge that it no longer fit on his palms, he raised it high above his head, as if thunderous clouds had rolled in, making the crowd at the scene scatter in screams.

Toward the guards, the elf growled, "Walilabaka!"

These were already the crudest words possible in the elven language. But in the human language, it was merely along the lines of "damn you," though the inadequacy of the language didn't matter at all. The gigantic ball of lightning above the elf's head thoroughly expressed his anger.

With thunderous anger strumming through him, the elf viciously threw the ball of lightning out.

Boom!

The woman... No, "Bai Saya," who was disguised as a woman,

stared in shock.

He had never imagined that the elf, who had shown indifference this entire time, would suddenly go crazy and would even release such a frightening power. He had actually destroyed the entire auction hall!

Although smoke billowed throughout the building, he could still see that the auction hall had been blown to smithereens. The guards who had been blocking their path were all twitching on the floor.

If they're twitching, then they should still be alive, right? Bai Saya couldn't help worrying. They just look half cooked.

At this time, Bai Saya heard uniform footsteps with his sharp ears. *Other guards must be approaching, and they sound very experienced. We should hurry and flee.*

He grabbed the elf's thin wrist and pulled him along as he fled like the wind.

Throw the guards off your tail and bring Alan to this female toilet.

Thinking back on Shooting Star's directions, Bai Saya had originally been worried that he would not be able to throw the guards off their tail with Alan in tow. He had not thought that the elf's anger would directly solve this big problem. He of course ran like his life depended on it, dragging Alan to the female

toilet!

“Who are you? Why did you rescue me?”

In a single utterance, the elf had used the elven language, the language of the Yisite Continent, and the language of the Weisite Continent.

Bai Saya glanced behind them to see if there were any pursuers. Afraid to stop, he had to run and divide his attention to answer the elf’s question at the same time. “I am Bai Saya. I was confined with you before. Alan, I will definitely rescue you. Please believe me!”

The elf frowned and did not respond, but he didn’t shake off Bai Saya’s hand either.

They ran all the way to the female toilet. Bai Saya flitted inside with the elf. Shooting Star was already in position inside. He was currently holding an entity that resembled an elf, but a closer examination would reveal that it was just a bunch of ragged cloth bundled together.

Perhaps their long association had resulted in a tacit understanding between them, or perhaps the current situation was so pressing that Bai Saya’s mind worked faster than ever, but he didn’t need Shooting Star’s orders before he immediately ran to take that bundle of cloth. The two of them exchanged a glance, and Bai Saya ran out of the female toilet with the elf’s replacement.

"Where is he going?" Alanmishus finally asked. Compared with this unfamiliar redheaded boy, he trusted Bai Saya a little bit more.

"To draw away the pursuers," Shooting Star explained. Then, he took out an outfit from underneath his ball gown. "Change into this. Hurry!"

Alanmishus took the clothes and only hesitated for a moment before changing into the clothes. The elf understood that the lightning magic just now was only enough to defeat the common guard. There definitely would be stronger people pursuing him. If he didn't want to end up as a slave again, he could only follow the orders of these two humans before him.

At least, they had gotten rid of his shackles. The elf would remember this point.

"Done." The elf could tell that this was just ordinary human clothing, but he had his misgivings about the need of changing. No matter what he wore, an elf would not look like a human.

From below his gown, Shooting Star then took out leather armor that would cover half the body. With no reservations, he continued to direct, "Put this on."

The elf followed his orders once more.

"And this too."

He pulled out a black wig from below his gown.

The elf began staring at the gown with a somewhat odd expression.

Shooting Star bent down, his entire body buried underneath his gown as he dug for something. Finally, he pulled out a shiny, long sword. By this time, the elf's reaction toward the gown had already completely turned into regarding it as a garment that contained a pocket dimension.

Shooting Star handed a sword over to Alanmishus and detailed, "Take this. Remember! If someone asks you who you are, you have to use the language of the Eastern Continent and say that you're called Bai Lan. You're Bai Saya's little brother."

"I'm an elf."

Alanmishus frowned as he interrupted Shooting Star. This was also what he had been doubting all along. No matter what he wore, he still looked like an elf. No one would think he was human, let alone Bai Saya's little brother.

Shooting Star gave a "hehe" and removed a bracelet from his wrist. He handed it over to Alanmishus. The latter was an expert at magic. He felt the magic flowing through the bracelet, all at once feeling that putting this thing on would be dangerous. Maybe this was fundamentally another shackle...

Alan hesitated a bit, but when he thought of the youth with gentle amber eyes, he decided to trust these two people this time. He resolutely put the bracelet on.

A surge of magic flowed through his entire body, and pain especially prickled his ears. The elf could not help lifting his hands to touch his ears. To his surprise, he did not feel those familiar, pointy ears. Rather, he felt the round ears of a human. Shocked, he glanced toward the mirror on the wall.

He had actually turned into a human!

His pointy ears had turned into round ones. Also, as a moon elf, Alanmishus's skin should have a faint silver gleam to it, yet now his skin had also turned into a normal human's, just that it was paler than most men's. His facial features hadn't changed much, just that it had lost the delicate, androgynous beauty of an elf and had turned slightly coarser, more like a man.

Shooting Star gleefully said, "With some makeup, I promise you that no one can tell you're an elf!"

Alanmishus now believed that this red-haired boy really could successfully rescue him. Therefore, he said nothing, letting Shooting Star put makeup on his face.

"Remember!" As he applied the makeup, Shooting Star rambled about things to pay attention to. "You're called Bai Lan. You're Bai Saya's little brother... Ah! You know magic, right? Use your magic to change your eye color to resemble Bai Saya's amber

ones.”

Alanmishus nodded, using magic to disguise his sky blue eyes. “Xiao Bai’s eyes are still prettier. But getting it down to this degree of similarity is not bad!” Shooting Star mumbled and then continued to say, “Ah! I almost forgot. You have to remember, okay? Bai Saya is a woman. I’m also a girl!”

Even an elf would not be able to help showing an odd expression at those words. He frowned and said, “You are male. Bai Saya is also male.”

“I know that I’m male!” Shooting Star huffed, “In any case, if you want to escape, just follow what I say!”

“Elves do not lie.” After a moment of silence, Alanmishus slowly stated this rule that governed the “heart of elves.”

“Dammit!” Shooting Star really wanted to slap himself. He clearly knew that elves had this particular trait, yet he had momentarily forgotten about it. “Then why didn’t you stop me from saying it?!”

The elf “slowly” looked at him and said in a serious voice, “I have.”

He had also forgotten—elves lived too long. Not only were their memories a mess, their reaction also lagged by several beats! Shooting Star held his forehead, his head hurting like crazy.



Bai Saya carried that "simple and crude Alan," deliberately making a lot of noise to let the guards chasing him clearly know where he was and prevent them from doing a sweeping search. Otherwise, Shooting Star and Alan, who were hiding in the women's toilet, would be in deep trouble.

Let them chase you for ten minutes. After that, immediately shake the guards off your trail, get rid of that disguise, and knock on the door to the private room of the Kingdom of Pegasi's Princess Anabelle. It's just two doors down from Prince Bol's room.

At this time, Bai Saya was deeply grateful toward Alan. Thanks to that shocking, earth-shattering lightning ball, a small blaze had started. Although it had already been extinguished, fumes billowed throughout the surrounding corridors, making things difficult to see. Thus, not only did Bai Saya easily make the guards chase after him, he also didn't have to spend much effort to shake them off in the end.

He flitted into the blind corner of a corridor and hastily tore off the formal dress on him. The outfit underneath was yet another woman's garment, only that he had changed from a gorgeous formal dress to a simple white knee-length skirt.

He took off his brown wig, letting his long, black hair cascade down. Finally, he followed Shooting Star's orders and rubbed away the heavy eye shadow on him. Then, he tossed away the ten thousand gold ducat sword in his hand and walked out.

I have to make it look casual. Bai Saya recalled Shooting Star's orders. He did his best to relax, making himself appear like an ordinary person. But before he could even calm his nerves from getting chased, someone was already calling him to a halt.

"That lady over there, please hold up."

Bai Saya froze. The guard was already behind him. Seeing that she wasn't willing to turn around, he forcefully grabbed her shoulder and turned her around.

Bai Saya knew that his current expression must look very frantic, not at all casual. *Now what?*

"What do you want?" The moment he opened his mouth, he felt that his voice was too sharp and not natural at all. He was frustrated beyond imagination, but there was no way he could take it back.

Luckily, the guard looked at her face and instead appeared apologetic. He said, "I am very sorry. Miss, have you seen a woman wearing a black formal dress run past here?"

Originally, Bai Saya had even wanted to give them the wrong directions, but he discovered that he was so nervous that he couldn't even speak. He could only shake his head hard.

Seeing that, the guard softened his voice as he said, "Please do not panic, Miss. The fire has already been contained. It is just

that the culprit has yet to be captured. Please return to your private room."

Bai Saya's heart trembled, and he hurriedly said, "I-I can't find my private room."

"May I ask which private room is yours?" Suspicion flashed through the guard's eyes.

I said the wrong thing again. I should have just nodded and gone directly to the private room. Bai Saya felt frustrated once more, but he couldn't take this back either. He could only answer, "I-It's Princess Anabelle's private room."

Several guards exchanged suspicious glances with each other. After that, they politely said while leaving no room for refusal, "Please allow us to escort you there."

Oh no! Bai Saya wailed inwardly. *I don't know that Princess Anabelle!*

There was no getting out of it now. He could only follow the guards over, desperately wishing that Princess Anabelle's private room was on another continent and that they would never reach it in an entire lifetime.

Unfortunately, Princess Anabelle's private room wasn't on a different continent, and it was even very close to where they were. All they did was turn two corners, and Bai Saya discovered that he had already returned to the corridor where Prince Bol's

private room was located.

There were several rows of guards standing outside of Prince Bol's private room, and he could be heard loudly shouting that he had nothing to do with that woman.

"That woman," who was actually Bai Saya, expressionlessly walked past Prince Bol's door and arrived at Princess Anabelle's private room. He had already started to regret why he had thrown away the sword. Now, he didn't even have a weapon on him.

As it was the most expensive private room at the auction site, the guards very politely gave the door a few knocks. Soon after, the door opened by a crack, and a person inside cautiously glanced out, apprehension not dissipating even upon seeing that it was a guard outside.

"May I ask if something is the matter?" the person behind the door asked politely.

"This lady says that she's from this private room." The guard angled his body, letting the person inside clearly see Bai Saya. *Oh no!* Bai Saya's mind went blank. He didn't know what to do. Shooting Star hadn't told him what to do!

"Saya!"

Who knew, however, that the person inside would give a surprised shout and immediately pull open the door the entire

way.

Bai Saya stared in shock. He couldn't be any more familiar with this person.

Chapter 4: Thunderous Winter Anger, Part Two

"Philo?"

That's right. The person in front of Bai Saya was none other than Philo, who had adventured with him for around two months and thought of him as a woman the whole time!

However, Philo was currently not dressed like an adventurer. He wore a dark blue knight's outfit of high quality make, and a gorgeous knight's sword hung by his waist. He looked just like an elegant noble, much more than Prince Bol.

Philo looked rather surprised. He asked in a hurry, "Saya, I thought you had left..? Eh? Did you just call my name?"

I thought I would never see you and Agid again either, Bai Saya answered in his heart.

"Is it Saya?"

Agid rushed over, squishing his entire body by the door, his eyes large and round. He shouted, "Saya, you're so beautiful in a dress!"

"Is it Saya-jiějie? Let her come in right away!" came a surprised shout from a girl within.

"Brute, no matter how skinny Saya is, she can't squeeze through a door that you're blocking!" The rogue Pisce's mocking words also sounded from within.

This really is the adventurer team I just left. Bai Saya thought it to be a little strange. *Isn't this Princess Anabelle's private room?*

Agid scratched his head and moved aside with a foolish smile so that Bai Saya could enter. Even though Bai Saya didn't understand what was going on, the guards were piercing holes into his back, so he could only head inside first before anything else.

Philo told the guards, "Thank you for escorting her over."

Given the situation, the suspicion in the guards' eyes dissipated, and after giving a nod to Philo, they left to continue chasing that woman in a black formal dress.

"Saya, you can speak now?" Philo asked both happily and doubtfully.

"Saya, that Dan didn't bully you, did he?" Agid shouted angrily.

"Saya-jiějie, where's Shooting Star?"

Bai Saya felt his head spin from getting bombarded by three questions at the same time. Just as he was thinking of how to answer, he was stumped by an enigma—who was that person who asked the last question?



"Remember, since you can't tell lies, you should just say nothing at all. Just be standoffish."

Shooting Star instructed him once again.

By this time, he had already discarded the ball gown and returned to his original adventurer's appearance. The "man" beside him also had the look of an adventurer. With black hair, brown eyes, and a tall, slender figure, at first glance, he did share some similarity with Bai Saya. This person was indeed currently disguised as Bai Saya's little brother, Bai Lan.

These two were likely to be the most relaxed criminals who were "currently being pursued" in all history. Not only were they brashly trampling over the property of their pursuers, the way they held themselves was rather relaxed. From time to time, Shooting Star would stop to look at a painting and then even touch a set of armor.

Several teams of guards passed by them. Whenever any suspicious glances came their way, Shooting Star would use a dazzling smile and an impressed tone to say, "Mr. Guard, thank you for all your hard work."

The guards would then smile in response and say, "No need for thanks. This falls within our duty." Several of them would even say in concern, "Little girl, it's dangerous out here. Hurry back to your private room."

"Okay! I'll return at once." Shooting Star smiled sweetly, grabbed onto the elf's arm, and brashly walked by several guards.

In the end, the two of them arrived at Princess Anabelle's private room. Shooting Star knocked on the door with great strength. The person inside didn't open the door carefully like last time. Instead, he directly

pulled the door completely open.

"Hello! Philo-gēge." Shooting Star greeted with a smile.

Philo smiled in return. "I see you aren't surprised to see me at all."

"Of course not!" Shooting Star didn't care that no one had invited him in. He dragged the elf into the private room just like that and began looking all over for Belle.

"I overheard one of the maids at the inn gossip about how Princess Anabelle of the Kingdom of Pegasi has a super duper handsome bodyguard, called Philo or something."

Hearing that, everyone had looks of realization on their faces. As for Philo himself, he felt awkward and even glanced at Bai Saya secretly, afraid that the maids might have given her a bad impression of him.

"There was Belle's name and Philo-dàgē's. If I didn't figure out who you were from that, then I'd be a huge idiot! Speaking of that, how strange. Where's Belle?"

Shooting Star frowned. Inside the room, Philo stood next to the door. The rogue Pisce was squatting in a corner like usual, with almost no presence. Agid was being attentive next to Bai Saya, while Elena was currently seated next to a stranger... A stranger!

Shooting Star's attention landed on the stranger. Then, his golden eyes immediately began sparkling.

Oh, oh, oh, it's a huge beauty!

Her cute, heart-shaped face was delicate, her dark brown hair fell in waves against her chest, her pair of eyes were as green as a lake—all of her features were similar to Belle's, but they were not quite the same, yet she was much more beautiful than before. She was definitely a breathtaking beauty.

"Belle, you're so beautiful!" At this time, Shooting Star understood that this should be Belle, who was the Kingdom of Pegasi's Princess Anabelle. As for why her appearance was different, it had to be because she had been in disguise earlier. After all, she was the princess of a kingdom. She couldn't just run around with her actual appearance.

The breathtaking beauty's childish action was definitely incongruous with her elegant air. She grabbed Shooting Star's chubby cheeks and said, moved, "Shooting Star, you too! You're so cute when you don't wear feminine clothing! Why don't you come home with me? I'll give you a pink lacy tutu dress to wear. You'll definitely be super cute!"

I just got rid of a puffy dress. Shooting Star rubbed his cheeks. It wasn't that he cared about wearing feminine clothing, but he did care about whether or not he'd get exposed. Teasing a princess was no small crime. At first, he had thought Philo to be the noble, yet Belle was the true princess. He hadn't considered that at all.

"That reminds me! Why did you run off? I was so looking forward to bathing with you. I got the bath ready, but you were gone." Anabelle pouted and asked in displeasure.

"Because of him!" Shooting Star grabbed the elf. *Hehe! I already have an excuse prepared!*

"Him? Who is he?" At this time, Anabelle finally noticed the person beside Shooting Star.

Shooting Star chuckled and said, "He's Saya-jiějie's little brother. He's called Bai Lan."

Little brother? Bai Saya stared at that "so-called" little brother of his. *He looks a bit familiar...*

That finally sparked Anabelle's interest. She giggled and said, "Wow! Saya-jiějie's little brother is so handsome!"

Alanmishus just gave Anabelle an indifferent glance and didn't say anything.

"Don't mind him!" Shooting Star propped his hands on his waist and said, "He's just like that. He's cold on the outside, but Bai Lan is actually a really good guy! This time, Saya-jiějie accidentally consumed poisonous herbs and turned mute. He took it upon himself to travel afar to find the antidote.

"That reminds me, I left last time because Bai Lan found the antidote. The two of us went to search for Saya-jiějie. I thought that after we finished giving Saya-jiějie the antidote, we could come back to find you all, so I didn't say goodbye. I let you all worry. I'm so sorry!"

In a few words, Shooting Star explained away Bai Saya's ability to speak now, the elf's cold attitude, and even the reason he had left without a word that night. As for why searching for Bai Saya had taken a whole day and night, he just skipped over explaining that.

"So that's what happened." Anabelle nodded to show her understanding. But even though she understood, she still pouted and said, "I don't care. I waited so long for you. You're going to bathe with me today!"

Why do you want to bathe together so much?! Shooting Star cried to himself.

"But it's too bad that we don't know if the auction will continue. I wanted to buy the elf. Then, we could bathe together with the elf."

When Anabelle suddenly said that, Shooting Star was surprised and tried his hardest not to laugh out loud. *Belle definitely doesn't know that the elf is male.*

"Besides, our team is just missing an archer!" Belle glanced at Philo and the others, while they smiled wryly one after another. She continued to say, "I hear that elves are all natural archers. Then, we would be the perfect adventurer team and could go adventure in even more exciting places."

Elena frowned and said, "Princess, you have been away for so long. The king, queen, and the prince will worry."

Philo also tried to persuade her, "Indeed, Belle, it's about time to

return.”

“But adventuring is so fun.” Belle was obviously a bit disheartened, but after glancing at Shooting Star, she was immediately all smiles again and said, “Oh well, at least I got to know Shooting Star and Saya-jiějie this time. Shooting Star, have you visited our kingdom before?”

“The Kingdom of Pegasi? Nope.” Shooting Star shook his head.

“That’s great then! You can come back with us. I can take you to lots of fun places!”

Anabelle was so happy that she had clapped her hands together.

“To Pegasi, huh?”

Shooting Star hesitated for a moment. If he followed a beautiful princess home...

-Fantasy VCR-

Shooting Star was lying on a large, soft bed, happily being lazy, unwilling to get up from bed. At this time, a delicious aroma drifted over from the doorway...

“Shooting Star, Shooting Star, do you want to eat roasted pig or roasted chicken today?”

Anabelle held a roasted pig in her left hand and a platter with a roasted chicken in her right. She walked over to the bed from the doorway.

"I want both!" Shooting Star shouted. He looked left and right... and suffered a great shock.

"Where's my Xiao Bai and the elf I just captured?"

Anabelle sliced off a delicious chicken wing and stuffed it into Shooting Star's mouth with a smile. She explained, "They're capturing the most beautiful angel for you. Hurry and eat. After you finish eating, it's naptime. Once you wake up, you'll be able to see a beautiful angel!" *Angel!* Shooting Star's eyes shone. Mouth stuffed full of delicious food, he mumbled, "So tharsh ow it ish..."

Hehehehe, there can be no days better spent than this! Shooting Star squatted down and laughed his head off.

"Hehe, Shooting Star is laughing so much that she's rolling on the ground again. So cute!" Anabelle squatted down along with him, giggling as she poked at Shooting Star.

The rest of them looked at this scene without a word.

Philo turned his head and said with a smile, "Saya, since the Princess has extended her invitation so wholeheartedly, why not come and visit our kingdom?"

Seeing Shooting Star's lecherous and greedy look, Bai Saya was rather speechless. He forced out a reply and said, "If Shooting Star wishes to go, then we will."

After all, he wasn't the one who decided on their destinations. Even though he didn't want to travel with Philo and Agid, if Shooting Star wished to go, Bai Saya could not stop him.

"Awesome!" Anabelle raised her hands in a cheer.

Shooting Star was really excited too. *This is really too good to be true! A super big and soft bed! Roasted pig! Roasted chicken! Angel!*

"Let me tell you, Shooting Star, I have a beautiful, huge bathing chamber!"

Oh! And there's even a beautiful, huge bathing chamber—Wait. Bathing chamber?! Don't tell me...

Anabelle happily said, "Then, we can bathe together!"

Oh my god!

Chapter 5: Dan's Uncle, Part One

Out of the thirty-six stratagems, fleeing is the best!

Shooting Star took all his belongings—two pets—and fled in the middle of the night through the window.

What a joke! He hadn't even needed to flee after stealing away an elf worth twenty thousand gold ducats from the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild, yet for the sake of something he had to do every day—bathing—he was forced to jump through the window and flee in the middle of the night!

Sob, sob, sob! Why is Belle so focused on bathing? It forced him to steel his heart and flee from the enticing thought of a palace full of delicious food and a beautiful princess.

Compared to Shooting Star who was reluctant, Bai Saya was pretty much jumping for joy. *We're finally leaving! I can finally escape from a future full of Dan, Philo, and Agid.* He was practically so happy that he wanted to kneel down and thank every single god of the Northern, Western, Southern, and Eastern Continents.

One was pulling a face, the other was full of cheer, and the last one had no clue what was going on from start to finish.

"I think... it's time for me to leave," Alanmishus said.

"What?! Where are you going?" Shooting Star and Bai Saya were both surprised to the point of speaking simultaneously.

Alanmishus said as if it were a matter of course, "Back to the Eastern Continent."

"Oh!" Bai Saya nodded and said, "I see. You're heading back? What a pity. I thought I would be able to adventure with you for a while."

"I have no interest in adventuring," Alanmishus answered indifferently.

Bai Saya understood it well. Although the Eastern Continent had a lot of elves, he had never heard of any elves going on adventures. They always hid in the deepest parts of the forests, unable to be found.

Just as he was about to open his mouth to ask, "Want us to escort you to the harbor—"

"What do you mean you have no interest in adventuring?" Shooting Star suddenly shouted. "If you're not going adventuring with me, then why did I spend so much effort rescuing you?"

Bai Saya was taken aback. Only now did he remember why Shooting Star had spent so much effort rescuing Alan. It was for the sake of making him his pet. He would never let Alan go just like this.

But, to have a proud, cold elf agree to be a pet... all right, let's say Shooting Star passes it off using the word servant... the problem is, would a haughty elf willingly be a servant?

"I have no means to give you any compensation," Alanmishus said with complete honesty.

Why do these words sound a bit familiar? Bai Saya frowned.

"Who says you have nothing to give me?!" Shooting Star chuckled.
This sounds even more familiar!

Alanmishus finally showed some expression. He asked doubtfully,
"Then, what do you want?"

Shooting Star brashly said, "I want you!"

"Me?" Alanmishus's face darkened. In the end, these two people weren't the least bit different from those humans who had captured him.

"Exactly! I want you to be my servant." Shooting Star said in a straightforward manner, "I rescued you from the super duper terrible conditions of slavery. Becoming my servant to repay me is totally normal!"

These words can't be any more familiar. Bai Saya didn't know whether to laugh or cry. *Shooting Star, this speech of yours is so useful. From kidnapping a person to kidnapping an elf, you can use the same few words and don't need to revise anything at all.*

"Then, I would rather return and be auctioned off." After Alanmishus said that, he turned right around to walk back.

He hadn't thought he would receive such a response. Shooting Star was stunned. Bai Saya, on the other hand, quickly held the elf back

and called out, "Alan, don't go."

"If I am to be a slave either way, what difference is there?"

Alanmishus's expression was extremely frigid. He forcefully shook Bai Saya's hand off and coldly corrected him, "Also, my name is Alanmishus."

"It's not the same, Alan. It's really not the same!" Bai Saya pulled on him without letting go with even more determination. "Because I am also Shooting Star's servant."

"You are a servant?" Alanmishus doubted that very much because the two people before his eyes didn't at all have a relationship that looked to be that of a master and servant. Rather, it looked more like a helpless older brother taking care of his mischievous younger brother.

"Yes, because Shooting Star once helped me, I agreed to be his servant."

After saying that, Bai Saya smiled slightly and said, "But, have you ever seen a master and servant who haven't signed any contract whatsoever? Or a master who gives all of his money and possessions to his servant?"

He added on even more helplessly, "Or have you seen the kind of master who needs his servant to make a living to feed him?"

"I don't understand what you mean." Alanmishus frowned. From what he was hearing, that did not at all sound like a master and servant relationship.

Bai Saya pulled Alanmishus a few steps away and said next to his ear, "Actually, Shooting Star..."

Before Shooting Star could react, Bai Saya had pulled the elf to the side to speak in hushed tones. His ears suddenly began to itch. *Don't tell me Xiao Bai is saying bad things about me?* He immediately shouted, "Xiao Bai! What are you telling him?"

"Hm?" Unexpectedly, Bai Saya did not reply frankly. Instead, he tactfully said, "Nothing much."

There was no way Shooting Star would let it drop like that. He pressed on, "What did you say? Tell me!"

"I really didn't say anything." Bai Saya raised both hands to show his surrender, but he still didn't tell him what he had whispered into Alan's ears.

"Liar!" Shooting Star shouted and made a fuss, "You clearly told Alan something, yet you're not telling me. You know, you're my pet! How can you have a secret conversation with someone else? And you're not telling your master what it was about!"

Yikes! You actually said the word pet in front of Alan. Bai Saya was completely helpless. After that, could the elf still be willing to be Shooting Star's pet?

"I agree!" Alanmishus suddenly said.

"Tell me already..."

When Shooting Star, who was about to force Bai Saya to talk, and Bai Saya, who was helpless, heard that, both of them were stunned. They immediately turned to look at the elf. Shooting Star used large, shining eyes to stare at him, his tone hopeful as he asked, "You, what did you just say?"

Alanmishus repeated, "I agree to be your... servant."

"Welcome to the team." Bai Saya smiled as he welcomed their new teammate.

However, Shooting Star was stunned. This, this surprise was really too sudden. The cold, beautiful elf had actually yielded just like that, and was willing to be his pet? *Don't tell me I'm dreaming—stomp!*

"Ah!" Bai Saya felt so much pain that his face twisted. He hugged his foot as he hopped around on the other.

Shooting Star turned his head to ask, "Does it hurt?"

Bai Saya yelled in disbelief, "Of course!"

"Then, I'm not dreaming!" Shooting Star clenched his fists. *This means that the elf actually said that he's going to be my pet!*

Can you really tell you're not dreaming like that? Bai Saya didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Hurray!" Shooting Star jumped and shouted happily, "My pet elf Alan has been captured!"

Hearing that, Alanmishus frowned and stressed, "My name is Alanmishus."

Since he was now his pet, he wasn't going to be all proper with him! Shooting Star drawled, "I'm telling you, I'm not even willing to use three syllables to call Bai Saya, this memorable pet number one. He's just Xiao Bai. Why should I use a full four syllables to call you Alanmishus?"

"My name is Alanmishus." The elf was not the good-natured Bai Saya. Not only was he unwilling to accept that, he even used a frigid tone to answer.

Shooting Star refused to budge. "You're Alan! Or else, I'll follow the conventions I used for Bai Saya. I'll call you Xiao Lan! You choose!"

Alanmishus was silent for a long time. Finally, he forced himself to say, "I believe that I will be more used to the name Alan."

"Hmph, hmph!" Hearing that, Shooting Star wasn't happy about his victory. His two pets had actually held a secret conversation without him earlier. He turned his head away and urged unhappily, "Come on, let's go! If we don't hurry, aren't we just waiting for Philo to capture us?"

After saying that, he left angrily.

Alanmishus—no! He should be called Alan now—watched Shooting Star, who was not all that far away. He turned and said to the new teammate beside him, “It is just as you said.”

“Right?” Bai Saya scratched his face and smiled wryly. “I meant it when I said that Shooting Star is just a kid who wants a playmate. You don’t need to argue with him over whether he calls that a servant or a pet.”

“Since that is the case, given that my race can live for around a thousand years, while you humans won’t live longer than two hundred years at the most,” Alan said indifferently, “then I will use two hundred years to repay him. My kind never owes any favors, and he has rescued me.”

Bai Saya smiled and said, “Perhaps these two hundred years will become fond memories for you.”

When he heard that, Alan just gave him an indifferent glance. He did not think it would be like that at all, but he didn’t give any of his own thoughts about it.

“Hey! The two of you are having a secret conversation again.” Shooting Star walked back in a huff. He used his two index fingers to poke Bai Saya and Alan in the chest and said, “I’m warning you. Don’t whisper behind my back. Even when you do, you can’t secretly badmouth me. You got that?”

“Got it, let’s go. If we don’t leave, Belle will seek you out again to bathe with you,” said Bai Saya with a slight smile.

What? Belle is going to find me to bathe with me? My god! Please no!

Shooting Star had a frantic expression on his face as he stuttered, "T-Then, come on! If we don't leave, Xiao Bai, you'll be in trouble when Philo finds us!"

Now that Philo was brought up, Bai Saya's face also changed. The two of them dragged the elf as they fled the city in the middle of the night frantically, as if a dragon were chasing them.



Dan looked quietly at the statements his subordinates had taken and the evidence splayed across the table.

One item was the sword Prince Bol had won. Dan couldn't keep it for long. After all, it was something that the prince had used ten thousand gold ducats to win. As long as it was proven that Prince Bol had nothing to do with the elf's abduction, then this sword must be returned to the owner as soon as possible.

The other person's statement mentioned two beauties whom he had met on the streets. It had obviously been a trap.

The guards had also said that there was a woman among the abductors, whose height was rather tall. She had heavy makeup, and her swordsmanship was pretty good.

Aside from that, there were two ripped up evening gowns and a bundle of cloth disguised as an elf.

Dan thought for a while. Even though he really didn't want his thoughts to go in that direction, it wasn't like "thoughts" were something he could control.

Sigh. Perhaps, even if he had to borrow money, he should have bid on that elf.

Hyacinth stood by the side, calmly enjoying the sight of this worried person. This was a rare sight! Her lips curled up. Objectively speaking, this plan was actually pretty decent, especially the part where the blame was pinned on Prince Bol.

With royalty involved, it wasn't like they could actually interrogate Prince Bol. It was already pretty good that they could get two statements out of his subordinates. Their investigation met plenty of resistance. Besides, the Kingdom of Rising Sun was quite wealthy and would possibly just pay a sum to close the case.

However, this entire case, when both Dan and she clearly knew a certain someone who wanted to rescue the elf no matter the cost, was entirely too easy to solve.

Those two children should have at least found another person and pretended to be a trio! Hyacinth sighed. Then again, if a certain someone's existence were not known, this case would not have been so easy to solve.

Dan looked at Hyacinth. The latter had already been waiting. Dan had always been indifferent. In all these years that she had known him,

she had never seen him care much about any particular human. He cared so much this time that it was obvious he wouldn't sit by and do nothing.

"I can't shoulder this." Hyacinth shook her head. She had spent a lot of effort to crawl up to her current position. There was no way she would let this matter topple her back down.

"I will!" Dan said resolutely.

He's really going all out. Hyacinth smiled and said, "It's not like this is something you can shoulder just because you said so if you have no one to show for it."

At least several dozens of people would need to take responsibility, and that wasn't even factoring in the guards yet. As for herself, as the overseer of the auction site, she definitely couldn't escape responsibility. Only by capturing the culprit and bringing the elf back could the repercussions be minimized.

Dan alone was not enough for her to make such a sacrifice.

Dan was silent for a long while before he said resolutely, as if he had come to some sort of decision, "It won't affect you."

Hyacinth grew curious. As acquaintances, she was pretty familiar with this guy's personality. Dan was not someone who would claim an untruth. However, she clearly understood his position. When it all came down to it, his position and Hyacinth's were around the same ranking, even though Hyacinth had always suspected that it was just

for show.

Hyacinth smiled not quite a smile as she looked at Dan. The latter also knew that if he didn't explain it clearly, Hyacinth would not agree to let it go without investigation.

"I have someone backing me up."

"You're sure he can handle it?" It wasn't that Hyacinth didn't believe him. She just wanted to find out more. Dan was a half demon, and she had always suspected that the true power behind the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild was...

Dan glanced at her and said indifferently, "If you keep your mouth shut, the auction sites around Shore City will also fall under your jurisdiction."

This is going beyond shouldering the responsibility. Hyacinth stilled and showed a perplexed expression as she said, "I don't know anything. Why do I need to keep my mouth sealed?"

Dan didn't pay any attention to her fooling around. As long as Hyacinth agreed not to meddle, then that person should be safe. However, his frown was no less severe.

Why must my... be a human?

Dan sighed once more.

Chapter 5: Dan's Uncle, Part Two

Under the bright and clear moonlight, the swaying grass gave off a faint, silver glow. In the midst of the grass hid a glittering lake. If you didn't take a close look, you might think it was a particularly dense expanse of grass.

Next to the lake was a handsome, carefree figure, whose posture was as straight as a pine tree, with supple, black hair tied at the back of their head and white clothes caressed by the night wind. It was a sight so beautiful that you wouldn't be able to bear to make any noise to disrupt it.

Even Alan, who was a beautiful elf himself, was mesmerized by this sight. He quietly took in the view of the handsome figure before his eyes.

The figure suddenly turned around and smiled faintly, and even those amber eyes carried a trace of that smile. The elf couldn't help but admit that even though he held no positive feelings toward humans, he could not bring himself to hate this human.

Bai Saya said with a smile, "The moonlight is resplendent today. It's perfect for doing a certain task."

"Do you wish to dance?" Alan expressed his understanding.

He was a moon elf, and moon elves were the race that loved to dance under the night sky the most. In his opinion, from Bai Saya's tall, slim figure to his flowing attire, everything about him was suited for

dancing. Even a moon elf, a lifelong dancer, couldn't help but anticipate the sight of Bai Saya's elegant dancing.

"Dance?"

Bai Saya's smile was a bit stiff. A piece of clothing smacked the side of his face, covering that friendly smile.

Bai Saya was still smiling. Alan looked at him expressionlessly.

"Hey!" Shooting Star shouted brashly with his hands on his waist, "The moonlight is so bright, you're gonna take this chance to do some laundry, right? Help me wash my underwear, too!"

The moonlight was still bright and clear, the grass was still giving off a faint, silver glow, the lake was still as fair as the surface of an egg, and the beautiful person remained elegant, a sight most suitable for a moon elf's dance. Of course, it was also very suitable for adventurers to use the moonlight to wash clothes by the lakeside.

The graceful beauty wasn't going to dance and was just washing underwear.

Hardworking pet number one, Bai Saya, was currently diligently washing clothes. Shooting Star wasn't slacking off either. He used his cooking-dedicated fireball to roast a certain foolish black bear that had dared to attack them. The elf was still overcome by shock and wasn't able to do anything.

As Bai Saya hung up the underwear, he asked curiously, "Shooting

Star, where are we heading next?”

Shooting Star clenched his fists and shouted, “Duh! Of course we’re finding a city of culinary delights and eating our fill!”

“Um!” Bai Saya frowned and said hesitantly, “Shooting Star...”

“What?” Shooting Star snapped back. Using Fireball to cook required high amounts of concentration! A moment of inattention, and the food would turn into burnt charcoal, yet Xiao Bai kept interrupting him. *Do you want food or not?*

Bai Saya warily reminded him, “Shooting Star, in order to sneak into the auction site, we bought a lot of things for our disguises.”

The full tally included two female evening gowns, wigs, makeup, footwear, and the like. If not for Shooting Star bargaining to cut the price down, just short of cutting the owner down, then the money on hand wouldn’t have been enough to buy all those things in the first place.

Silence fell abruptly.

Shooting Star cooked the bear without a single word. He wiped his hands, pulled off a leg for Bai Saya and Alan, and then tore into the rest of the bear. After he gave a burp, he stood up abruptly, scaring Bai Saya, who was eating next to him.

“Ah! We have no money agaaaaiiiin!”

After he shouted into the sky, Shooting Star turned in a huff to look at his two pets.

"You!" He pointed at the elf, who was silently eating, "are worth at least twenty thousand gold ducats!"

Then, he turned and pointed at Bai Saya. "You! Mannen said back then that even though you're not worth as much as an elf, you're still a catch. Let's just say that you're worth five thousand gold ducats!"

"Also!" Shooting Star's expression was full of grief and indignation as he grabbed his head and shouted, "Old man Glen's best sword is at least worth nearly twenty thousand gold ducats, right?"

"You wish to sell us?" Alan asked coldly.

"Nonsense!" Shooting Star shot him down. "Among my likes, pets are definitely ahead of good food! I would never sell a pet for the sake of delicious food!"

Beauty over delicacy, Bai Saya inwardly summarized Shooting Star's fixation.

"I'm just angry! Twenty thousand gold ducats, plus five thousand gold ducats, plus fifteen thousand gold ducats... Oh my god! I have forty thousand gold ducats by me, yet I don't even have money to buy a bowl of beef noodle soup that costs forty copper ducats. Where. Is. The. Justice. In. This?"

There's no beef noodle soup, but we can cook bear noodle soup? Bai

Saya silently chewed on the bear meat in his mouth. *Why do I feel like bear meat should be worth more than beef?*

"Is there a problem with food?" The newcomer Alan didn't understand the situation. He seriously thought about a way to solve the food shortage and suggested, "I can find many things in the forest. Fruits, wild vegetables, mushrooms, and edible seeds are all not a problem. I can also catch fish. We won't starve."

Shooting Star didn't react, but Bai Saya said very happily, "Really? Then, when we don't have money in the future, we won't have to keep eating beast meat. We'll also have vegetables to eat? That's amazing!"

Alan was taken aback. Only then did he remember that he was holding meat. *With the strength of these two people, all they have to do is go hunting, and they wouldn't starve, so why are they worried about food?*

"Shooting Star, did you hear what Alan said?" Bai Saya shook Shooting Star, who was depressed over having no money, and said, moved, "Never again will we have to keep eating only meat when we have no money."

As far as the elf knew, weren't people only able to eat meat when they had money? Alan began to doubt if something was wrong with his understanding of humans and their way of life—or was there something wrong with the minds of these two humans?

"I don't care, I don't care! I don't care anymore!" Shooting Star sat his butt down. He shouted and screamed, "I want to go to a restaurant,

eat good food, go to an inn, sleep on a soft bed, and take a hot bath!”

Bai Saya could only console him, “There, there, then let’s go to the nearest Adventurers’ Guild and take on a mission. After we complete it, we can sleep at a restaurant and eat at an inn.”

“Okay, the nearest Adventurers’ Guild!” Shooting Star took out a map right away. For his desire of good food, he seriously studied the map.

“Here! A dream city known as the metropolis of the arts! I hear that there are many beautiful dancers there.”

Shooting Star’s eyes shone, but then he said with pity, “Actually, Belle’s true visage was very pretty too, but it’s too bad that she’s a princess. Getting her to be my pet is way too difficult.”

Bai Saya nodded. Belle’s true visage was truly pleasing to the eye. Although she couldn’t compare to Alan, she was definitely better looking than Bai Saya himself.

Thinking of that, he thought something was odd. He couldn’t help but ask, “Shooting Star, I feel that Philo and Dan both look better than I do, so why don’t you want to capture them as pets?”

Even though this question was like digging his own grave, as Bai Saya didn’t want to ignite a desire in Shooting Star to capture the two of them as pets, he couldn’t help his curiosity. Furthermore, this way, he could also figure out Shooting Star’s preferences so that he’d be mentally prepared. In the future, whenever they met people of certain qualities, they could immediately avoid them to prevent Shooting Star

from bringing them misfortune.

Shooting Star gave him a weird look and retorted, "Do you rarely look in the mirror or what?"

Bai Saya tilted his head and answered honestly, "I have lived in the mountains with my shifu since I was young. We did not have luxury items like mirrors."

At the most, he had seen his face reflected in the water's surface, but of course, that was never all that clear. Besides, Bai Saya had never been someone who cared about appearances.

Shooting Star immediately turned to ask the elf, "Say, Alan, is Xiao Bai pretty?"

"No idea," Alan answered simply. Even though elves liked beautiful things, they were often very beautiful themselves, and thus their perception of beauty was all fatigued. Something that wasn't extremely beautiful would not attract their attention.

Shooting Star pondered over it in frustration before he changed tactics. "Then, would you say that Xiao Bai's eyes are beautiful?"

Upon hearing that question, Alan then scrutinized Bai Saya's eyes. The latter also stared back at him seriously.

That was a pair of gentle, amber eyes. Whenever Bai Saya looked at someone, he always did so attentively. Stared at by such a pair of eyes, Alan let slip, "Yes."

"See!" Shooting Star said gleefully, "Even Alan says they're beautiful. Xiao Bai, I'm telling you, elves have a super duper strict standard of beauty. If they claim something looks nice, then it must be super beautiful!"

So it's my eyes that look nice? Bai Saya touched his eye and suddenly thought of something. When Shooting Star saw Alan, he immediately requested to touch his golden hair... *Don't tell me that Shooting Star always likes a certain "area" and not the entire person?*

Then, what about Belle? Bai Saya couldn't help blurting, "Then, what part of Belle do you like?"

Bai Saya knew him well, as Shooting Star actually answered with excitement, "The shape of her face! Where else would you find such a cute heart-shaped face?"

He really does like a certain "place?" Bai Saya didn't know whether to laugh or cry. So, what Shooting Star liked was actually "his eyes," "Alan's golden hair," and "the shape of Belle's face."

After discussing thus far, Shooting Star could not help but stare at Alan's hair with regret. In order to avoid getting caught, they had no choice but to disguise him. After all that effort to rescue the elf, he couldn't even admire that head of beautiful, golden hair.

Shooting Star said vehemently, "When we've escaped far enough, we must return your hair to its original color."

Alan turned his head away. Even though he disliked disguises, if it could prevent the other person from touching his hair, then he would rather continue with the disguise.

"Then, we're heading to the City of Dreams next?" Bai Saya finally remembered that they had been discussing this earlier.

"Yeah..."

Shooting Star answered casually, but halfway through, his expression changed, and he spun to the side.

"Shooting..." Bai Saya had wanted to ask what was wrong, but before he even got the words out, he saw a black feathered arrow shoot past where Shooting Star had been sitting earlier. Then, it disappeared into the fire that they had been using to keep warm.

In an instant, the Sword of Sacred White and the Crimson Snake Whip both appeared in the hands of their wielders. By now, both of them had already stood up, and Shooting Star asked with a cold voice, "Who are you? What do you want?"

"Hehe, you're pretty sharp!"

A figure moved among the grass, only around ten meters from where Shooting Star and the others were.

So close, yet none of us were aware. This person is probably super strong! Shooting Star's heart sank.

Bai Saya growled, "Who are you? Why have you snuck up on us?"

The figure walked out from the grass, clad in a long robe, yet not that of a mage, leaving their profession a mystery. A head of long, silver hair draped across the person's shoulders. Violet eyes stared at Shooting Star and the others, the person's facial features particularly bewitching. There was an odd pattern on the person's face, and that pair of eyes and that lazy attitude obviously indicated that these three people were nothing.

"Demon!" Alan clenched his teeth and growled.

Hearing that, Bai Saya looked at that person in surprise. Or perhaps, he should say that demon. This was the first time he had seen an actual demon. He could not help his curiosity as he took measure of the demon.

This demon looked even more bewitching than Dan, who was half. Although Bai Saya felt it was weird to describe a guy as "bewitching," other than that word, he couldn't find a more suitable one.

"I am called Ice Chess." The demon actually gave his name without prompting, and then smiled beguilingly as he said, "My name probably means nothing to you, but if I tell you that Dan's father is my older brother, that should mean something, right?"

"Who cares who you are!" Shooting Star completely slighted him and shouted, "That arrow earlier was shot at my back!"

"I was just testing your strength." Ice Chess's expression was rather

relaxed, as if Shooting Star were making a big deal out of nothing.

Hearing him respond in such a way, Bai Saya didn't feel happy either.
"How can you do that? What if you actually hurt someone?"

Ice Chess shrugged his shoulders and said, "Then, someone gets hurt. Who cares? He's not the one who matters to Dan."

"You!" Bai Saya couldn't believe him. There actually existed someone in this world who would treat hurting others as something inconsequential.

"That's exactly what to expect of a demon." Alan coldly said, "Other than what matters to that demon, the demon can casually harm or destroy everything else, even life itself."

"Even though it's in your nature to hate us, an elf is an elf, always straight to the point with your words." Ice Chess sighed. "Unlike humans. When it benefits them, they claim that we're a race who follows our desires. When it doesn't benefit them, they say that we're the incarnation of evil itself, hah!"

Hearing him say this, Shooting Star's complexion changed. Ice Chess actually knew that Alan was an elf even while in disguise. That meant that Dan was likely also in the know, even though it would always have been a difficult feat to keep him unaware.

"We demons do indeed only care about what we love. We care so much that even when we know the truth, we will choose to lie to others and to ourselves. We would rather list as wanted two beautiful

women who never existed in the first place.”

Hearing that, Bai Saya was stumped. He asked, “What do you mean?”

“You know what I mean!” Ice Chess snorted coldly. “Did you really think Dan wouldn’t know? Do you know how much effort he spent so that you’d be able to roast meat here instead of eating jail food?!”

Bai Saya moved his mouth but couldn’t say anything back. No matter what, Dan had really helped them a lot, and there was no way for Bai Saya to repay him.

“Honestly speaking, your scheme was not bad. For two children, it was a performance that exceeded expectations.”

Until then, Ice Chess had been leisurely playing with his fingers while he spoke, but following that, his expression suddenly changed, and his voice also hardened. “But you must have known that this would never work on Dan, and it wouldn’t work on the person responsible for the auction site. You were completely banking on Dan’s help in cleaning up the mess!”

Shooting Star’s face froze, but he still forced himself to say, “He likes cleaning it up, so why do you care? Or else, what do you want?”

“To give you three to the Guild?”

Shooting Star and the other two immediately paled.

“No, I can’t. Dan would hate me. That stubborn child so rarely asks me

for anything. I have to make it work for him.” Ice Chess had on a conflicted expression. Then, his eyes narrowed dangerously, and he said maliciously, “But I can’t just stand by and watch you use Dan and desert him without a word.”

After saying that, Ice Chess clapped his hands and said, “How about this. Let’s do an exchange.”

This guy cycles through cheer and anger like its nothing. I don’t know if he’s crazy or pretending to be crazy. Shooting Star frowned and then asked, “What’s the deal?”

“This time, Dan was unsuccessful in protecting the auction item. In order not to be punished, he was sent on a mission by the higher ups to that damn Shaosi Continent.” After saying that, Ice Chess shot them a look and said unhappily, “No matter what, this is your responsibility, yes?”

Dan got punished? Bai Saya couldn’t help feeling guilty. After all, Dan had always been helping them, and Bai Saya had only just said that he wished to treat Dan as a friend, yet he had troubled him immediately for the sake of rescuing Alan.

“Do you want us to go with him?”

Shooting Star bluntly hit the nail on the head, yet he was inwardly doubtful. He had originally only hoped for Dan to help delay the inevitable, letting them escape from the city. He hadn’t thought that Dan would directly take care of the entire situation. He’d lost an auction item worth at least twenty thousand gold ducats. *Is Dan able*

to control such a situation?

Dan's position seems to be more important than I thought. Shooting Star was a little worried. He had only wanted to take advantage of him a bit. He didn't want to lose his pet over it.

"Exactly!" Ice Chess showed an expression that implied, "You're so smart."

Like I thought. Shooting Star hesitated and said, "What if we don't go along with it?"

"I don't know what will happen to you, but Dan will definitely buy that amber-eyed human."

Hmph! You mean that the three of us will all become slaves to be auctioned. Shooting Star suppressed his anger and calmly said, "Then, if we agree, can Alan come with us?"

Ice Chess said as if it were a matter of fact, "Of course. Do you think I'd dare to return the elf to the Guild on my own when the culprits haven't been caught?"

Hearing that, Shooting Star frowned. For a moment, Shooting Star couldn't decide if they should agree, or if they should take the opportunity and kill this guy in front of them. If they killed him and got rid of the body, then there would be no evidence...

"Oh right, when you meet up with Dan, remember to bring along my birthday card to him." Ice Chess took out a "black" birthday card and

softly muttered to himself, "In two days, it'll be Dan's one hundred and fiftieth birthday. I thought for several days before I got the idea of sending his sweetheart over to travel with him as his gift..."

Dan has reached a hundred and fifty? Shooting Star paled and blurted, "Then, how old are you?"

Now it's crossed your mind? Ice Chess's lips curled up and he said teasingly, "I'm an old fart over a thousand years old."

A demon over a thousand? Shooting Star paled even further. *No wonder this guy is so crazy!*

Living over a thousand was no small feat. Even though demons lived long, they often died in battle. A demon reaching their one thousandth year was already as rare as the feathers of a phoenix and the horns of a unicorn. But since they didn't have an elf's indifference, they often weren't able to withstand such long years. Therefore, demons over a thousand were nearly always a pain. Because they'd gone crazy, many of them would be sent out by the demon king to the battlefield to get rid of them.

Why do I feel like I'd rather be pursued by the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild than to have the attention of a thousand year old demon? Shooting Star began to regret taking advantage of Dan. In the end, what was free was the most expensive, the cost priceless. *It's not that easy to run into a thousand year old demon!*

"Are you going to keep Dan company on his trip to the Shaosi Continent or not?" Ice Chess demanded with a smile.

Shooting Star suddenly began smiling, an innocent and cute expression on his face. Even Bai Saya and Alan who were next to him were stunned.

"Of course! I've never gone to the Shaosi Continent in the south! I really want to go!"

"That's great." Ice Chess had on a deep smile and asked, "Then, you will do it?"

"Of course!" Shooting Star accepted right away. *Between the Shaosi Continent and a thousand year old demon, is the choice even hard?*

Ice Chess stopped smiling and said flatly, "Good, now go back to Shore City and find Dan. You won't be fugitives anymore."

After he said that, he walked up to Bai Saya, who was still wary, but all he did was hand the black card to Bai Saya. Then, he solemnly said, "Remember, you must give this to Dan yourself."

Bai Saya was stumped. He glanced at Shooting Star. Upon seeing no disagreement in the latter's eyes, he then reached his hand out to take the card.

"If you can give him a kiss, I would be even more grateful." Ice Chess waggled his eyebrows at Bai Saya teasingly.

Bai Saya paled.

"I'm kidding. Hehe, but if you're willing, that would be amazing." After laughingly saying his piece, he slowly backed up a step. White light pulsed from his body, and then his entire person turned into light, instantly flying away from this place.

Shooting Star stared at that beam of light. After a long while, he finally said, "Good thing I didn't attack him. A thousand year old demon..."

"He is very strong." Alan finally relaxed his fists. In order to keep his hatred of demons at bay, his hands had been clenched into fists, and his own nails left streaks of blood.

The three of them were silent for a while. Shooting Star could only helplessly say, "Guess we can't go to the City of Dreams anymore."

At this time, Bai Saya opened his mouth to say, "Helping Dan is good." After all, they owed Dan too many favors.

"Xiao Bai!" Shooting Star suddenly placed both of his hands on his pet's shoulders. With a serious face, he said, "You must bear with it! Even if Dan does this or that to you, you have to bear with it!"

This or that? He already said last time that he wants to be friends with me. Bai Saya didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Shooting Star had tears in his eyes as he said, "But, don't worry, Xiao Bai. Even if you can't keep chaste, I won't look down on a pet like you. But, how about occasionally throwing a bone to Dan and getting him to gift me and Alan delicious food? After all, I am your owner!"

What kind of owner are you?! Bai Saya lifted his fist, which was pulsing with throbbing veins.

"Ouch! Stupid Xiao Bai. You actually dared to hit me on the head! You disobedient pet! Ouch, ouch! Stop hitting me! Sob! I'm sorry, okay..."

Sigh! Alan stood up silently, the reason being that he had glimpsed a piece of clothing about to get blown away by the wind. He walked to the clothing rack built from branches and silently hung the shirt again, to prevent everyone from having to wear clothing speckled with dirt on the morrow.

However, the elf did not notice Bai Saya shooting him a sympathetic look. He too had started from silently picking up Shooting Star's clothes. Then, he ended up as a nanny who washed underwear, earned money for food, solved all sorts of problems, and even had to capture pets.

Chapter 6: To the South, Part One

"Yahoo! Xiao Bai, look! The color of the sea looks so similar to the color of Alan's eyes!"

Shooting Star brazenly held on to the side of the boat, with half of his body hanging out of the boat. He repeatedly shrieked at the churning waves below. Right now, his favorite thing to do was to throw whatever object was within reach off the boat and watch the rolling waves swallow the innocent objects.

"Reckless abandon." This phrase was simply tailor-made for Shooting Star.

When they first went to find Dan, Shooting Star hadn't shown any expression of guilt. In fact, whether or not he had any feelings of guilt at all was up for debate. Not only that, he boldly gestured at Alan and said, "This is Alan. You recognize him, right? He's that elf!"

Shooting Star, you... Bai Saya simply wanted to find a hole and crawl into it. Who would steal something someone was guarding and then shamelessly introduce that thing to the person?

"Since Ice Chess said Dan already knows, it's all right!" Shooting Star said confidently, "If we tell Dan early on, then when we're out at sea, we can have Alan restore his golden hair! I don't want to have to continue to look at this ugly black hair!"

"Ice Chess went to find you?" Dan was silent for a while and hurriedly turned to ask Bai Saya, "He didn't hurt you, did he?"

Woah woah woah! Shooting Star elbowed Alan, who was beside him, a few times and taunted them, "Look! He only cares about Xiao Bai. I think we simply shouldn't tag along anymore. If we go, we might incur resentment. Don't you agree?"

Bai Saya threw a harsh glare at Shooting Star. Regrettably, the latter's skin was so thick, even the peerlessly sharp Sword of Sacred White wouldn't be able to cut through it, let alone a mere gaze.

Bai Saya took multiple deep breaths and sincerely apologized, "Dan, I'm really sorry. Because of us saving Alan, we created a lot of trouble for you."

Dan shook his head. "It's all right. You didn't create that big of a problem. Ice Chess didn't make things difficult for you, did he?"

Being sent away to another continent isn't considered that big of a problem? At the side, the corners of Shooting Star's mouth twitched. He still held some suspicions that this had all been planned by Ice Chess. *Dan is protected by a thousand-year-old demon, which is plenty for him to live the easy life, yet he's punished simply because he lost an elf?* No matter how you looked at it, this punishment was just to put Dan and Bai Saya on the same boat.

Bai Saya nodded. "No, he only wanted us to follow you to the Shaosi Continent to see if we could be of some help."

"Is that so? Was Ice Chess really looking for 'us' to go help? Didn't he just want Bai Saya to go?" Shooting Star asked Alan at a side, looking

shocked. The latter was too lazy to even roll his eyes at him.

“He wanted you all to come and help me?” Dan’s eyebrows furrowed even further.

Specifically because of this, he was always unwilling to ask Ice Chess for help. The other party did whatever he wanted and exactly what Dan didn’t want. He had no intention of bringing Bai Saya along. The situation at the Shaosi Continent was uncertain. He didn’t want to bring Bai Saya on a risky venture.

“Oh right, he also gave us a card for us to pass to you.” As he spoke, Bai Saya started looking in his bag.

“What does it have to do with ‘us!’ That Ice Chess clearly asked Xiao Bai to personally pass the card to Dan.” Shooting Star commented sarcastically to a side.

After finding the black birthday card, Bai Saya didn’t forget to shoot Shooting Star a glare. Then, as he passed the card to Dan, he hesitated for a bit. Finally, under the overbearing reproach of his conscience, he congratulated, “Dan, happy birthday.”

Dan paused. Evidently, he hadn’t at all expected Bai Saya to have known about his birthday. He took the card and saw a familiar insignia on the outside. It was the insignia that Ice Chess always used. He thought about it and realized that Ice Chess had definitely been behind it.

He sighed. *What meaning does this kind of thing have, unless it’s from*

Bai Saya personally? “Regardless of what Ice Chess wanted you to do, you only have to agree, but you don’t have to actually do it. Naturally, I will cover for you.”

In response to those words, Bai Saya felt a strong sense of shame and unease. Despite Dan saying so, Bai Saya was unable to do those types of things.

Dan frowned as he read the contents of the card.

“Shooting Star!” Bai Saya shouted.

Shooting Star had crept beside Dan, purposely putting on the appearance of strolling around. However, his eyes were trying very hard to sneak a glance at the contents of the card.

He had wanted to know what was written on the card this entire time, and thus had tried to brainwash Xiao Bai nonstop. He said a whole bunch of maybes: *Maybe the contents will endanger us. Maybe it says things like “These three people are the murderers” or something.* He used every method to encourage Bai Saya to show him the contents of the card.

However, because of Bai Saya’s righteous personality, he would never peek at other people’s mail. Moreover, the recipient was Dan, whom he felt he had treated very shamefully. Afterwards, Bai Saya even placed the card in front of his chest and kept it on him at all times. He did so to avoid Shooting Star from reading the card, which would betray what had been entrusted to him.

Blockhead! Shooting Star nearly had a fall-out with him, if not for Bai Saya putting down his foot: *if you dare peek, I won't help you wash your underwear and socks anymore.*

Shooting Star compromised.

Even though there was also Alan to do the chores now, he was an elf. Elves hate dirty things the most and have a severe obsession with cleanliness. If he were told to go wash underwear and socks, Shooting Star would most likely be struck down by lightning.

Shooting Star didn't want to wash his underwear and socks himself, and he also didn't want to be struck down by lightning for no reason. He could only compromise.

However, now that the card was no longer in Bai Saya's hands, his "accidentally" seeing the contents of the card could not be considered going against the promise he made to Bai Saya!

Bai Saya did not think the same and vocally halted Shooting Star. His intention wasn't to stop Shooting Star but to warn Dan that there was someone taking a peek.

"Biting the hand that feeds you!" Shooting Star puffed his cheeks out and huffily stomped his way back from Dan's side.

Alan coldly remarked, "It was clearly Bai Saya who has been feeding you all this while. No matter how you look at it, it cannot be said that he is being 'fed' by you."

"It's an idiom! In idioms, you don't have to stick rigidly to the meaning of the word. You got that or not?" Shooting Star retorted, full of self-confidence.

Alan humphed disdainfully, "The point of languages is to use words to convey meanings. Naturally, the meaning of the words should be the focus. Only humans would say one thing, yet be secretly referring to the opposite."

"Pot calling the kettle black! The language where the phrases don't match the meanings the most is clearly Elvish!" Shooting Star retorted, without any courtesy.

Alan lifted his brows and argued back, "This is slander! Our Elvish is the best in conveying meanings, and thus misunderstandings will never be created."

"Yes yes, of course listening to Elvish will indeed prevent misunderstandings. What we can say with a single sentence, you take the whole morning to say. There is no one who can listen to the end, so of course there will be no misunderstandings!" Shooting Star's sharp tongue was absolutely more powerful than an elf's who "always expressed each meaning clearly."

"You..." The elf narrowed his eyes. His ice cold expression seemed about to be ruptured by lightning.

Bai Saya grimaced. Just as he was about to go resolve the stormy argument and brawl, Dan finally finished reading the card and lifted his head. "I understand. Everyone, travel with me."

Hence, the adventure team set out to sea.

Bai Saya sincerely wished that Shooting Star would be content with his lot, and not anger Alan until there was a thunderstorm. *What if the boat is struck?* Bai Saya was not very good at swimming.

Luckily, two days into the sea trip in the present moment, everything was going unexpectedly smoothly. The boat that the group of people had boarded left the Weisite Continent and headed for the Shaosi Continent.

Shooting Star was busy looking at the waves all day and throwing things into the sea.

Quite a few disgruntled sailors approached Bai Saya one after another. They complained that their mop, hat, water bottle, shirt, and even adult magazines (the sailor whose magazines were thrown overboard looked particularly angry) had been thrown overboard by Shooting Star. Afterwards, Bai Saya arranged a whole circle of fish bones around Shooting Star and peace returned.

Alan also appeared to be very happy. Even though his face was still ice-cold and didn't show much expression, he spent all the time he was not sleeping looking at the sea. It appeared that the elf that rarely left the forest really liked the sea.

The only person who was unhappy was actually Bai Saya. This was due to a simple reason, yet it was also one beyond remedy: he was seasick.

Moreover, it was the type of seasickness that left the mind a mess. They had only been out at sea for two days, yet he had become so thin that even his cheeks had sunk in. In these two days, he had been puking out all three meals, plus dessert and late night snacks. Even if he were made of metal, he would have caved in.

Shooting Star threw objects until he was bored and finally remembered his pet. He went over to poke Bai Saya, who was lying in the shade on the deck. Bai Saya was so pale, he looked like a corpse.

"Xiao Bai, when you were seeking revenge, didn't you take a boat from the Yisite Continent to the Weisite Continent? Were you seasick then?" Bai Saya weakly replied, "Yeah, I was. B-But I was only thinking about revenge all day long, so I wasn't as sick as... as I am now."

"Oh, then how about I hit you so you can think about taking revenge on me. This should help, right?" Shooting Star concocted a terrible idea with utmost seriousness.

Bai Saya summoned his strength to roll his eyes at Shooting Star, and snapped, "No need. Just don't create more messes for me to clean up."

"When have I ever? I'm so well-behaved." Shooting Star shrugged his shoulders and then ran over to the side of the boat to resume throwing his fish bones.

After Shooting Star had run off, Alan also walked over. He asked indifferently, "Do you need help with anything?"

"Help me supervise Shooting Star. Make sure he doesn't burn down

the boat,” Bai Saya answered weakly. He absolutely did not want to have to go swimming while seasick.

Alan was silent for a bit, and said with a bit of effort, “All right, I will.” Then, he walked off in Shooting Star’s direction.

With someone to look after Shooting Star, who specialized in making messes, Bai Saya heaved a sigh of relief. He turned, preparing to nap for a bit to alleviate his body that was so seasick it was unbearable...

“Alan, your hair is so pretty. Under the sun, it’s even shinier!” Shooting Star was extremely moved. *As expected of my pet.* At the same time, he became handsy. “Come! Let me, your owner, feel it for a bit~”

“Let go!” The elf started to overflow with anger.

Bai Saya, who was asleep, tossed and turned restlessly.

Shooting Star shouted stubbornly, “I’m not letting go! I committed a robbery exactly for ‘this,’ so I have to touch it until I’m content!”

Bai Saya’s brows creased, like he was having a nightmare.

“Let go of me!” The elf’s uniquely melodious voice was laced with the crackling of lightning.

“Not letting go!~~”

“Let go!” Alan stretched out a hand. There was an impressive ball of

lightning above his palm.

The surrounding sailors started to scream and flee.

Just as the ball of lightning was about to be launched, a pair of ghostly white hands grabbed onto the corners of Alan's clothes. The two people looked over toward the hands. Bai Saya was half sprawled on the ground. He spoke weakly, "A-Alan, you better go to the other side of the deck to look at the ocean."

Alan frowned. "You told me to watch over Shooting Star. I can't see him from the other side of the deck."

"Sorry, I was wrong! I retract that request. You don't have to watch over him anymore."

Bai Saya wanted to cry, but he had no tears to do so. He wanted to slap himself. *Am I so seasick that I've lost my mind? Why on earth did I ask Alan to watch over Shooting Star?* When the two of them were together, they would only escalate messes into disasters.

"Humans, they are truly a fickle race." Alan's brows creased. However, he didn't want to watch over Shooting Star anyway. He thus casually strolled over to the other side of the deck.

Bai Saya wearily let go. In order to prevent Shooting Star from doing things such as "burning down the boat" or "angering Alan, causing the elf to burn down the boat," he could only give up on lying in his originally very comfortable spot. He hunkered down by Shooting Star. Bai Saya's eyes were half closed. He ended up in a half asleep, half

awake state where he alternated between wanting to sleep and being afraid that Shooting Star was going to stir up more trouble.

This tragic scenario continued until Dan was done with his work. When he went onto the deck to find Bai Saya, he spotted Bai Saya lying there, as ashen as a corpse.

He immediately went over, concerned. "Saya? Why are you lying here? Do you want to go back to your room to rest?"

Bai Saya, who was half asleep, opened his eyes. However, he was not fully conscious. He groggily replied, "I have to watch over Shooting Star."

Dan frowned as he glanced at Shooting Star. The latter seemed not to care and even made a face at him. Dan strongly suppressed his anger and calmly said to Bai Saya, "I'll help you back to rest."

"No!" Bai Saya abruptly woke up. He shouted, "Shooting Star will burn down the boat!"

Dan frowned even harder.

"Hey! What are you saying?" Shooting Star shouted rudely. He forcefully jabbed Bai Saya's chest and interrogated, "What do you mean I will burn down the boat? Maybe I would if I weren't on the boat, but I can only stay on this boat right now. There are also no islands nearby. I wouldn't do something like burning down the boat, which would harm someone else and also myself!"

"Oh right, you only do things that harm other people but benefit you."
Bai Saya laughed foolishly for a bit.

You dare to say it directly! Shooting Star shot a glare at Bai Saya.
Then, he smiled and played dumb with Dan. "This fellow, he's so seasick that he's lost his marbles. I think you should help him inside."

"I will naturally do so." Dan's tone was cold. Upon looking down and seeing Bai Saya's anxious expression, he resolved to task a sailor to specially look after Shooting Star the entire trip. First of all, it would help reduce Bai Saya's workload. Second of all, should the boat really be burnt down, it would be detrimental for everyone.

He helped Bai Saya up. Bai Saya could not even stand properly, which prompted Dan to say anxiously, "I'll help you to your room."

"Thank you," Bai Saya replied gratefully.

Dan supported Bai Saya back to his room, helping the latter sit on a chair. He then warned Bai Saya again, "He isn't a good companion."

"Who... Oh. You mean Shooting Star?" Bai Saya was confused. Hadn't they already discussed this a long time ago? Moreover, Dan should already be familiar with Shooting Star's personality. After all, during their first meeting, Shooting Star had already nicked his neck.

Dan nodded and hinted, "If, for any reason, you are suffering because of him, I can help you resolve this problem."

Upon hearing those words, Bai Saya's first thought was blankly

wondering how Dan would be able to help him solve this problem. *Does he have a way to make the cheeky and troublemaking Shooting Star become obedient? Or is he able to get Alan to allow Shooting Star to touch his hair?*

"Can you make him more obedient?"

Dan's tone and expression didn't change as he said, "I have no way of making him obedient. However, I make it so that he can never cause trouble ever again."

Never cause trouble ever again... That does sound good. However, there's no way that Shooting Star would become obedient... Unless... All of a sudden, Bai Saya understood the true meaning behind those words. His eyes widened and he growled, "What are you saying? You want to bring harm to Shooting Star?"

Dan tactfully replied, "If you permit it."

"Shooting Star is only a child!" Of course Bai Saya wouldn't allow it. He clenched his hands and growled, "He is just particularly mischievous, occasionally creating a few small messes. Also, he often creates trouble for other people yet doesn't reflect on his mistakes..."

Without realizing it, his voice grew smaller and smaller the more he spoke. *Seriously! Shooting Star, aren't your shortcomings a bit too many? Even those who want to say good things about you have to put in so much effort!*

"He put you in danger." Dan rarely spoke so sternly.

Bai Saya immediately rebuffed, "Shooting Star didn't put me in danger. I was the one who wanted to save Alan. This cannot be blamed on Shooting Star."

Dan shook his head. "That is a small matter."

When he heard that, Bai Saya furrowed his brows and pondered. It was true that the number of disasters Shooting Star had caused was not small. However, the number that Dan would have known about was small. Furthermore, to be considered "danger," the only incident that fit was saving Alan.

Upon thinking this, he looked at Dan with suspicion. He couldn't think of what event Dan had in mind, that he was even willing to eliminate Shooting Star.

Dan was silent, as if he were debating if he should divulge the event that he was referring to. However, he feared that if he did not say it out loud, Bai Saya wouldn't leave Shooting Star willingly.

At last, he still chose to speak. "Saya, the Guild has been watching you two."

Bai Saya stared at him blankly and asked, "Is this because of the matter regarding Alan?"

"No." Dan shook his head. "It's because of the matter regarding Mannen Ford."

Chapter 6: To the South, Part Two

"Mannen?" Bai Saya was even more confused. *This is already a matter from many months ago. Why would the Guild only start investigating now?*

"Saya, Mannen went insane while dueling you two due to a small gem, right?"

Bai Saya remembered that when he was in Stella City's Adventurers' Guild, Dan had asked this same question. However, he had impulsively replied that there was no gem. Upon thinking of this lie that could be seen through the moment it left his mouth, Bai Saya instantly felt so awkward that his face reddened.

"Yes, there was a gem." Even though it was very embarrassing, he still admitted it. After all, Dan had helped them out multiple times. Truthfully, even now, he was still trying to help them. The lie had also been seen through a long time ago, so stubbornly holding on to it was meaningless.

Dan hesitantly asked, "After the two of you took the gem, has anything unusual happened?"

"Anything unusual? Nope." Bai Saya scratched his face. They had actually completely forgotten about that thing. He didn't even know if Shooting Star had kept it. There was a chance that he might have sold it when they were short on money.

"Really? Do you really not suspect that your companion might be

hiding something from you? After all, isn't the gem not with you?" Dan's tone was rarely as harsh as it was when he brought up the question. He added meaningfully, "That gem can allow a person to gain true power, just like Mannen. It was just that he did not use it correctly. Saya, are you sure that your companion doesn't hunger for power?"

Hunger for power? Why do I feel that hungering for food describes Shooting Star's personality much better? Bai Saya mumbled these words to himself.

However, seeing how serious Dan was, he didn't dare to joke around. He only shook his head furiously. "No, we only picked the gem up offhandedly at that time. In these past few months, we've completely forgotten about it. Shooting Star is really childlike. He played around and created trouble this entire journey. He wouldn't hunger for power."

Upon hearing these words, Dan was silent in reply. It wasn't that he didn't trust Bai Saya's words. Knowing Bai Saya's naive personality, even if he was tricked, he wouldn't realize it.

When he saw Dan's expression, Bai Saya couldn't help but to start panicking inwardly. If Dan continued to hold suspicions against Shooting Star, there might come a day when he would hurt Shooting Star for Bai Saya's sake.

"If you want, I can go fetch the gem for you right now!" Bai Saya blurted out.

After all, upon seeing what had happened to Mannen, he had always

felt that the gem was unlucky. Since Dan seemed interested in the gem, then they might as well give it to him.

Dan hesitated for a bit.

The card that Ice Chess had sent looked like it only had Happy Birthday written on it. However, he had actually used a special type of magic that only allowed Dan to read the real hidden message.

Ice Chess had researched a lot of this type of weird magic. There were many useful ones. However, he wasn't a generous person. He kept all of them hidden, only using them as bargaining chips when asking for favors.

Dan only had to think about the hidden content on the card and he would feel vexed.

The letter talked about how the Guild had uncovered the series of events regarding Mannen's loss of the gem. However, Dan was not ordered to retrieve the gem. Instead, he was tasked with finding a way to make the current owner of the gem use it. It was to be a test to see if they were the rightful user of the gem. If they were not, they would naturally meet the same end as Mannen, the first user of the gem.

In his letter, Ice Chess repeatedly warned that "That Person" cared a lot about matters concerning the gem. He warned that Dan must carry out these orders. However, Ice Chess had managed to request the exception that Bai Saya be exempt from the test.

Dan had never liked to ask for help from Ice Chess. This was because

the latter possessed a lot of research regarding magic. Everyone knew that whenever he needed a favor, he needed to pull out those magic spells in exchange. Especially this time, when the matter even involved "That Person," Ice Chess must have given up an untold amount of magic research for this one exception.

Dan couldn't ask for any more from Ice Chess, but Bai Saya was so concerned about his companion. He was trapped between a rock and a hard place. Just as he was hesitating and unsure of what to do, he glanced at Bai Saya's face. It was full of panic, yet he was also afraid to disturb Dan's thoughts. That pair of gentle amber eyes entreated him, full of expectation.

Dan sighed. "Give me that gem."

Bai Saya was delighted beyond his expectations. He immediately replied, "All right! I'll go get it immediately."

The minute he finished his sentence, he jumped off the bed. Bai Saya didn't even seem to care that he was still sea-sick. He stumbled for a moment, hurrying to Shooting Star's room. If he didn't remember wrongly, Shooting Star's pouch should still be in his room.

Rushing into Shooting Star's room, Bai Saya saw the tremendous mess within it. His dirty laundry was thrown about. There was a piece of half-eaten bread placed on the table, with a cockroach using the bread as a bed. The blanket was the same. It would have been fine if it was just tossed to the floor. *But, the blanket is actually twisted into a roll, and it's even under the bed?*

How did his blanket end up in such a place? Bai Saya had a hundred questions but no answers. *Besides, didn't we just get on the boat two days ago?* Shooting Star was actually able to make a garbage pile out of a sparse room with only a table, a chair, and a bed.

Although Bai Saya had already gone through one tribulation after another, and he felt his headache get worse upon seeing this tremendously messy room, he still resigned himself to searching through the garbage pile for the pouch.

"Kiki?"

Bai Saya was stupefied. *The noise sounds like it came from under the bed? Don't tell me there are rats, too?*

Without waiting for him to move closer to investigate, a small, pale-gray creature scurried out from under the bed. It grasped Bai Saya's body and started to climb, finally coming to a rest on his shoulder.

"Bones, you gave me a fright." Bai Saya smiled weakly.

"Ki?" Bones turned its large head. Its eyes, made of flames, flickered. It seemed to be indicating how innocent it was.

Bai Saya smiled helplessly, stroking Bones's head with his hand. Bones seemed to enjoy it tremendously. Its flame pupils even curved into a crescent shape, which looked like a pair of eyes curved in enjoyment. Upon seeing this, Bai Saya was shocked.

Bones always surprised Bai Saya. Although it was like a normal pet

most of the time, it was occasionally so uncommonly intelligent that it made Bai Saya suspicious if it was really a pet... *Eh, a set of bones doesn't seem to be a very normal pet to begin with.*

Some day, he should probably ask Shooting Star what was up with Bones... *Wait!*

"Isn't this Shooting Star's pouch?" Bai Saya eyes clearly spotted a small red pouch hanging from Bones's neck. It was exactly what he was looking for.

"Bones, I'm looking for a blue gem. Is it inside the pouch?" Bai Saya asked directly. After all, this was Shooting Star's personal belongings. If possible, he didn't want to open it himself to check. Being able to directly retrieve the gem would be the best outcome.

Bones tilted its head to express its confusion. It jumped onto the table. Pulling the pouch open, Bones tipped it over. Some small objects clattered onto the table.

Bai Saya didn't know whether to cry or laugh. If he had known this would happen, he would have just looked for it himself. That would have prevented Bones from messily throwing the objects on the table.

The pouch did not contain many objects. Bai Saya quickly spotted the eye-catching blue gem. He put the gem aside and began to tidy up the remaining objects.

Among them was a very intricate black pentagon necklace. It looked to be made from a gemstone, which was deep black. However, it shone

with threads of silver.

When Bai Saya picked it up, he realized that the pentagon was upside down. He was intrigued by the silver dots on it. Upon taking a closer look, he saw that the silver dots were actually inlaid into the patterns decorating the upside down pentagon. He didn't know what material they were made from, but they glowed a soft silver. Furthermore, the patterns were carved in a complicated and intricate fashion. Even Bai Saya, who didn't know anything about accessories, was able to see that this was not an ordinary object.

However, how could something so valuable appear in the pouch of the perpetually dirt poor Shooting Star? Bai Saya really didn't dare to think more about it, afraid of coming to the conclusion that his companion was something along the lines of a thief or a bandit.

Although, to be precise, they had even snatched Alan away. The two of them could long have been considered first rate bandits.

At that moment, Shooting Star and Alan could faintly be heard arguing outside. Bai Saya hurriedly swept the upside-down pentagon and the other objects into the pouch, only leaving the blue gem.

Just as Bai Saya hung the pouch back around Bones's neck, the floor suddenly shook. The table slid all the way to the bed and smacked into it. The blue gem on the table fell, rolling about on the floor. Bai Saya also stumbled for a while before he was able to regain his balance.

What happened? It can't be that Shooting Star has really burned down the boat!

After picking up the gem and putting it away, Bai Saya immediately went to the ship's deck.



"Ah, ah! I'm so bored."

Shooting Star finished throwing the last of the fish bones and pouted. He rested his chin on the mast, looking extremely unhappy!

"Xiao Bai is seasick, and Alan is ignoring me. There are so many people here, so I can't have an undead creature like Bones come and throw things with me, sigh! I'm so pitiful. There isn't anyone to play with me!"

Shooting Star lamented to himself. To think he had spent so much effort to capture two pets, but one ended up falling seasick, and the other was ignoring him. *I'm angry! Angry! So, so furious!*

Some of the sailors were carrying weighty wood, some were scrubbing the deck on their knees, and there were those who were using the last remnants of their strength to pull on the sail. Upon hearing this person who didn't know just how easy he had it, they all glared vilely at Shooting Star's back, wishing they could burn a hole in it. However, the skin on the latter's back and face had similar thickness. Without a dragon's fire, it was useless to even think about burning through it!

Shooting Star impatiently paced back and forth for a minute. He then rested his chin on his hands on the side of the boat for another minute. Once more, he began to lament for another minute.

He impatiently ruffled his flame-colored hair again and again, tugging it over and over. Finally, he howled at the sky, "No! I've got to find something to do, or I'll grow mad from boredom!"

It was just past three minutes since he had finished throwing all the fish bones.

Shooting Star had on a serious expression. He decided to do an important thing that should be done every day!

If he didn't do it, his eyes would dry up and become itchy!

If he didn't do it, his hands would start to tremble and shake!

If he didn't do it, his heart would start wanting to cause trouble!

Thus, the serious-faced Shooting Star slowly reached and pulled out—a comb!

While joyfully skipping toward Alan, he sang a nonsensical tune, "I'm going to go comb the little elf's hair! My pet should obediently let his master comb his hair. My pretty hair~~ Your master is coming!"

This ear-splitting tune immediately made Alan feel the danger behind him toward his hair. He abruptly turned. His pair of blue eyes contained the onslaught of a storm. His shimmering golden hair was carried by the sea winds, whipping around violently. The elf, who was as elegant as a gazelle, actually emitted an air of extreme evil in that moment.

Shooting Star's feet were shoulder-width apart, his legs as steady as a meteorite. His right hand held the comb, while his left hand formed the perfect protective position. His stance looked simple, but it allowed him to change tactics in response to his opponent at any moment. It could be considered the most practical V-sign.

The battle between man and elf seemed to be imminent. All of a sudden, the sea winds started to blow, creating a sense of strengthened heart and determination.

"Ptooeey!" Shooting Star stretched out his tongue and licked his lips.

"This wind is quite salty. Pretty tasty."

"You glutton, even eating the wind!" The elf was unable to keep watching. Earlier, he had already thought that Shooting Star's appetite was unreasonable. Now, it had gotten even more ridiculous. He wasn't even letting shapeless things go.

Shooting Star replied flippantly, "I'm not like you, an elf who eats even less than the wind to be full! In the future, I might as well feed you with the wind. Would you like a breeze, a blast of wind, or having your mind blown away?!"

"Nonsense! We don't eat the wind. Elves can eat fruits, vegetables, bread, meat..."

Alan was so angry that he listed a whole bunch of examples of foods elves ate. Right now, one of the things he hated the most was mankind's various misunderstandings regarding elves. Because of

these misunderstandings, he had been forced to eat fruits as his meals for a whole half year during his captivity.

Even though Alan did like fruits, there was no race who could bear eating the same thing for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a whole half year!

"Who says! Elves don't eat meat. Everyone knows that elves love animals, so they never eat meat!" Shooting Star immediately retorted, ignoring the fact that Alan was an actual elf, while he himself was not one at all.

Alan worked hard to overthrow these stereotypes that humans held about elves. "There is no such thing! It is true that we elves love animals. However, compared to animals, we love plants and trees more. Yet we continue to eat plants in spite of that. So, how could we not eat meat just because we like animals?"

"You are very long-winded!" Upon listening to the whole spiel, Shooting Star said unhappily, "Can't you directly say 'We love creepers, but we still eat them, ya know?' You used five sentences to say what you could have said in one. You're wasting my valuable youth!"

Alan narrowed his eyes dangerously and said, "Elves never use coarse language, or words that can easily cause misunderstandings..."

Shooting Star yawned. *What? Alan isn't done speaking yet?*

"...It is ungrammatical, ugly language without any style or imagery!"

Therefore, the reason every elf was so serious and taciturn was because the minute they opened their mouth, they would need to speak in long strings of beautiful, grammatically correct, and vivid language.

Get out! Just “thinking” about these strings of words caused Shooting Star to feel as though his brain was twisting itself into several knots.

“I don’t care!” Shooting Star shouted, “I didn’t come to chat with you anyway. Bring your head over here! I want to comb your hair.”

Bring your head over here? Alan was displeased by this. Such ugly and unpleasant words simply should not be inflicted on anyone’s ears! Furthermore, his hair was not for humans to use as entertainment!

The elf was so angry that he turned his head to ignore Shooting Star. He didn’t even want to say a single word.

“Hey!” Shooting Star protested loudly, with dissatisfaction, “You are my pet. Do you know what a pet is? You have to obediently obey me. You should sprawl on the floor and let me pet your fur, and then you need to wag your tail and bark a few times to show how happy you are!”

Do you take me for a dog?

The elf was truly riled up. His body was surrounded by numerous small sparks of lightning. Shooting Star only needed to say a single thing more, a single thing more, and the violence-hating elf would not hesitate to send a bolt of lightning over.

Given Shooting Star's personality, words that would cause a tremendous lightning storm to descend upon himself were probably about to escape at any moment.

"You..."

Shooting Star's face was mocking. He was only able to say one word before the deck under his feet suddenly shook violently. The sudden development meant he was unable to react in time, causing his entire body to fling forward.

Just as he slid to the side of the boat, another violent shake up and down caused him to fall on his face. Half of Shooting Star's body dangled out the boat. He was about to fall off the boat, just like how the fish bones had been thrown into the ocean. In that moment, Alan grabbed Shooting Star's waist just in time and prevented the latter from experiencing the same fate as the fish bones.

Shooting Star patted his chest quite a few times in fear, tightly gripping on to Alan's forearm. This finally helped him calm down. His voice returned and he shouted loudly in displeasure, "What the hell! Steer the boat properly. I almost sailed overboard!"

Not a single sailor bothered to pay him any attention. Everyone was gazing in a single direction. Naturally, Shooting Star and Alan also looked over to where everyone was looking at.

Shooting Star and Alan's faces changed.

“That’s...”

Chapter 7: Overlord of the Seas VS Sovereign of the Skies, Part One

“Whoa, a sea serpent!”

Shooting Star joyfully shouted as he tugged on Alan’s sleeve, “Alan, look! It’s a huge sea serpent!”

Alan shot a look at Shooting Star and felt a bit helpless. *Should I say that Shooting Star has courage, or say that he has no brain? Is this the time to be excited?*

However, the elf’s worry was reduced by half because of Shooting Star’s obtuse personality. He calmed down and studied the giant creature in the sea in detail. Probably only one third of its body was showing, yet it was taller than the ship’s highest point at the crow’s nest. This body could be described as “long and thin.” However, when faced with the fact that it was three times the thickness of the mast of a huge ship, the word “thin” couldn’t be applied to it at all.

The other party had a flat head, satiny skin, incomparably gigantic eyes that were long and slender, and long narrow fangs that poked out from its mouth. It did indeed look like what Shooting Star had mentioned, a “sea serpent.” Only this one was many times larger than the average sea serpent.

The sailors started to scream in despair. There was only a teenager of about fifteen or sixteen shouting in delight, “There’s a sea serpent!”

It was as if he had seen some beautiful sight, worthy of opening a

bottle of champagne to celebrate.

At that moment, the serpent moved. Even though it had not touched the body of the boat, the boat immediately began to rock strongly.

The sailors ran around on the deck in panic, yet powerlessly realized that they did not know where they could escape to. The situation was unbelievably chaotic. There was only a young boy gripping a completely unperturbed elf in a death-grip, with an expression of great happiness and joy.

Amidst this terrifying shaking, Alan did not move at all. Upon taking a closer look, one would discover that his feet weren't even touching the surface of the deck. He was floating mid air.

Magic was divided into wind, fire, water, earth and metal magic. The lightning element was not its own branch of magic. Instead, it was a subset of wind magic, considered to be advanced. Therefore, before being able to learn lightning magic, one must be familiar with wind magic.

Alan, who specialized in lightning magic, naturally knew wind magic. The most iconic spell from wind magic was the Spell of Flight.

Currently, he was using the Spell of Flight to float in the air. Therefore, he was not affected by the rocking of the boat. This was also the reason why Shooting Star was so unworried. Even if the boat were to capsize, he still had a flying elf!

"Even though I am an elf versed in magic, I cannot carry both you and

Bai Saya in flight. At most, I would only be able to carry one person. And even if I were carrying no one and flying alone, flying across this vast ocean means that the chances of finding land before I run out of magic is very low.”

Alan seemed to have utterly seen through Shooting Star’s plans. To prevent him from making the wrong judgment, the elf hurried to explain the situation clearly.

Shooting Star blinked. He finally understood the severity of the situation!

“Why didn’t you say so earlier? You made me stand by and watch the excitement. If the boat really were to sink, we’ll be in deep trouble!”

Even if you did not watch the excitement, would that stop the boat from sinking?

They had not been acquainted for very long, so Alan did not know Shooting Star’s strength. However, according to his knowledge, teenage humans did not have much power.

Suddenly, the elf detected danger. He threw himself aside reflexively. A life-threatening ray of lightning magic shot past. Where it glanced the side of the boat immediately turned charred.

Is the magical beast also of the lightning element? The elf raised his eyebrows. This is a troublesome situation. Lightning type magical beasts tend to have high levels of defense against lightning magic. This means that my lightning magic is very likely to be ineffective

against this magical beast.

Alan opened his mouth and spoke with severity, "Shooting Star, this magical beast is of the lightning element. My magic may be ineffective against it. What do you think we should do..." *Something is odd! Why is Shooting Star so quiet?*

Turning his head to look, the elf was so shocked that he darted to one side.

A burnt raven-black figure was standing next to him... *Wait, is that Shooting Star?* Alan suspected it but was in disbelief as he widened his eyes to stare at the lump of charcoal.

"Whew~~" The top of the charcoal sported a head of hair that was styled by the exploding lightning. His face was entirely black, with only a pair of large golden eyes that could be seen blinking. He then spat out a mouthful of soot. As if recalling past suffering, he said, "So it actually isn't a serpent but an electric eel!"

He turned his head to see Alan judging him with an expression of suspicion. The burnt Shooting Star immediately said with impatience, "When you dodged the magic, you forgot to bring me along. You caused the lightning to graze me. If it weren't for the protective barrier that I immediately set up, I really would have become charcoal!"

"I am so sorry," Alan apologized rather awkwardly.

"Forget it!" Shooting Star was uncharacteristically nonchalant about it because there were more life-threatening matters to solve!

Even though being on the boat was very boring, the time had been spent pleasantly. He definitely did not want to cling onto a wooden plank and experience the excitement of floating across the sea for more than ten days to reach Shaosi Continent. Or worse still, they might never even make it there!

However, if this electric eel that had been mistaken as a serpent still didn't beat it, the journey of floating across the sea would soon start after ten minutes.

Therefore, even though Shooting Star was so lazy that he made it an art, and he only wanted to watch from the side and not put in effort, he still had to think of a way to deal with the electric eel.

Alan had just said that his magic was ineffective, so he could not rely on the elf.

The serpent was also in the sea. Neither he nor Bai Saya could walk on water, so how were they going to fight now? He didn't have to use the fireball magic used for cooking to roast the serpent to make serpent meat skewers, right?

It would take eight hundred years!

"I wonder if it would taste good?" Shooting Star actually started to feel a bit hungry.

"Unless your teeth are sharper than a precious sword, it is impossible to eat it." Alan pointed at the electric eel. "Look."

Shooting Star followed Alan's line of sight. It turned out that during the period of time when he was agonizing over a plan, Dan had already climbed onto the deck and was directing the people around them to deal with the situation. He really behaved in a manner worthy of a one hundred and fifty year old member of the demon race. Even this kind of magical beast that rose from the sea was not enough to rattle him.

"Shooting Star!"

In that moment, Bai Saya had also hurriedly rushed out. He immediately noticed the giant electric eel in one glance. He balked for a moment before hurriedly looking around for Shooting Star. Upon spotting him, he ran over and asked worriedly, "You didn't summon this giant monster, right?"

Shooting Star impatiently rolled his eyes at him and retorted, "How would I have summoned it? Do you think I'm a summoner, or the prince of the electric eel race? If I were able to summon such a large and long fellow, why would I still need to carry a whip as a weapon! Wouldn't it be easier to just summon it to crush my enemies to death?!"

"That is true." Bai Saya smiled, embarrassed. He had been so scared that Shooting Star was going to cause trouble that he forgot that Shooting Star did not even know offensive magic. *How could he have the ability to summon a magical beast this huge?*

"It's all good now. There isn't a need to think of a plan, and there is

also a giant battle that shatters the skies and causes gods and demons to cry to watch.” Shooting Star smiled so widely that his eyes narrowed into crescents. He used his hand to knock the person beside him, and said, “Xiao Bai, look how amazing Dan is. He actually is a rarely seen mage blade!”

“Mage blade?” This was the first time Bai Saya had heard of this profession. He immediately turned his head to look.

Dan was wielding his sword gracefully. Even though there was still a considerable distance between him and the serpent, this did not affect his ability to punish this magical beast that had dared to come and make trouble.

Even though Dan had pulled out his sword, it was a bit of a stretch to say he was using his sword to fight. It was more like he was using his sword as a magical staff. He was shooting spikes made of earth as attacks, or suddenly spewing an earth wall to protect against the electric eel’s lightning magic.

“He’s an earth element mage blade. No wonder Dan’s personality doesn’t seem to be like someone from the demon race. Rather, he gives off the feeling of someone who is honest and easy to bully, as patient as the ground we step on.”

As he finished his sentence, Shooting Star threw a glance at Alan who was standing next to him and said in an understanding tone, “And no wonder a certain elf’s personality is not elf-like, always as irritable as lightning.”

The elf in question who was always irritable glared at him.

“Is he really a swordsman? Wouldn’t it be more appropriate to call him a mage?” Bai Saya was unwilling to group such a style of fighting under that of a swordsman. In his mind, a swordsman used sword techniques that were graceful as a dance to charge forward. They would use superior martial art skills to achieve different attacks, fighting amidst flesh and blood. It was not this kind of offense engaged from a distance.

“That’s because the opponent is an electric eel. More than that, we’re currently out at sea. That’s why he can only fight like this. Otherwise, mage blades would still normally mainly use their sword, with magic as support.”

Shooting Star gestured at Dan and the magical serpent beast, explaining, “Look, the distance between Dan and that electric eel is quite large. He can’t fly either. Unless you expect him to jump into the sea and wield his sword while swimming?”

After listening to Shooting Star’s explanation, Bai Saya started to think that if it were him in the battle... He would have become a meal for the electric eel a long time ago. He had absolutely no way of attacking the electric eel! He was already not very good at releasing battle aura in offensive attacks. Moreover, the distance was rather far. If he sent out a good chunk of his battle aura, having just some of it hit the body of the serpent would be pretty good already!

However, Bai Saya did not believe a fraction of battle aura could do much damage to the electric eel. It might not even notice getting hit.

Dan was actually able to go on the offense and defense, as well as protect the boat. His earth walls were able to foil the attacks of the electric eel, and his earth spikes made the electric eel unable to attack the boat, as it was only able to retreat to protect itself. If not for this, the boat would be unable to survive the battle between man and eel.

"Dan is really amazing!" Bai Saya praised him sincerely and generously admitted to his own mistakes at the same time.

"Duh!" Shooting Star shouted, "Dan is a one hundred and fifty year old member of the demon race! Now you should understand just how powerful that thousand year old Ice Chess is? He doesn't even need one finger to crush us!"

Bai Saya said with even more admiration, "He truly is too powerful. As expected, no matter how powerful a person is, there will always be another person more powerful out there."

"Don't you mean another *demon* out there?"

"Sorry, I spoke wrongly."

"Aren't you going to help?"

Alan suddenly spoke up and even had on an odd expression as he looked at the two relaxed people. The sailors to the side were all running around, all unbelievably busy. All were desperately thinking of how to maintain the stability of the boat's body amidst the battle. Only the three of them were behaving as leisurely as usual, making them

stick out like sore thumbs.

"Are you helping?" Shooting Star rolled his eyes at the elf.

"My lightning magic is ineffective against it. I am also not a warrior. I cannot use weapons to launch an offensive." Alan very seriously explained why he was not helping.

Shooting Star self-righteously said, "But you can shoot arrows. That type of long-distance weapon is the best for this fight!"

"Right. According to legends, elves are inherently godly archers!" Bai Saya had suddenly thought of this point, too. He looked at the elf with eyes full of expectation, hoping to be able to witness the godly archer of legends.

"I have never said I know archery. I am a mage, not an archer!"

Alan felt anger well up in his heart. *There it is again! Another stereotype by humans who always think they are right!*

Bai Saya was shocked and asked with disbelief, "But every elf knows archery, right?"

Alan shrieked in frustration, "An elf's eyesight and sense of nature are better than other races. So if elves were to learn archery, it would be easier for them to become godly archers. However, this does not mean that every elf would choose to learn archery! Elves are also inclined toward magic. I chose to become a mage, a mage that specializes in lightning magic!"

"Really? So you don't know archery?" Bai Saya was very disappointed. Compared to magic that he did not understand, he would much rather see a profession like an archer's who used actual weapons to fight.

"I don't!" Alan answered savagely and flew off in anger and frustration.

Bai Saya's heart missed a beat in fright. He did not understand why the elf was so angry.

Shooting Star laughed loudly, "Xiao Bai! I really couldn't tell. Your ability to anger people... No, I should say your ability to anger elves is even stronger than mine!"

"What? I did not..."

Just as Bai Saya wanted to clear the record by asserting that he had not meant to anger Alan, the boat's sudden and violent shaking cut him off. The shaking was so strong that he fell flat onto the deck and even slid toward the edge of the boat.

"The element of light, the children of the sun, please use your warmth... Protective Barrier!"

Shooting Star chanted the incantation at three times the speed, setting up a protective barrier around himself and Bai Saya, who had fallen to the floor.

Bai Saya had already been dizzy from sea-sickness. With the addition of such a hard fall, his head spun and throbbed for a good while before

he was able to recover his senses. After recollecting his wits, he lifted his head and saw Shooting Star with his mouth wide open. This fellow who was able to clap his hands excitedly in response to the appearance of an electric eel actually revealed an expression that said “we’re doomed.”

“Just how unlucky are we going to get! First, it was the electric eel snake”—Shooting Star had personally named it—“and now another thing has actually appeared!” Shooting Star held his head and wailed, “This boat is definitely cursed! No, I want to get off the boat. Please let me off the boat!”

Bai Saya balked. He had barely raised his head by a bit, yet he could already see the incomparably large electric eel snake being enveloped in a shadow. *Just how tremendously huge does the creature have to be to be able to cover this humongous overlord of the sea with its shadow?*

He raised his head again. He caught sight of two tremendous, muscular wings flapping up and down nonstop. Each downward stroke caused huge waves to form on the surface of the sea. Beautiful red scales covered the creature’s entire body, glittering and shining under the sun’s rays.

In that moment, its mouth broke open and sent forth an earthshaking and genuine dragon cry!

A dragon, the strongest sovereign of the skies, was now facing the overlord of the seas, the electric eel serpent.

“Heavens! Can’t they take this fight anywhere else?”

Shooting Star grabbed Bai Saya’s hand, dragging him over to Alan’s side. He proceeded to cling tightly on to the latter.

Alan did not scold him as he usually did, saying things like “Elves do not like to be touched.” Instead, he tightly hugged the two people back. Then, he used the Spell of Flight to hover in midair at the height of about two people.

Even though the weight of three people slightly exceeded his abilities, it was fortunate that Bai Saya and Shooting Star were not too heavy. Alan considered the limits of his abilities. If it was not for an extended period, he should be able to support them for a while.

Except, will the battle of two such giant creatures end in such a short time?

“The sailors...”

Bai Saya watched in panic as the faces of one sailor after another twisted in screams, and then they were flung overboard by the boat. He even reached out his hand, wanting to grab a sailor who was thrown past him, but was only able to catch hold of a small piece of his clothes. That person’s eyes widened with despair, carrying an accusatory trace of “why didn’t you catch me,” and then the sailor disappeared beneath the tumbling waves.

Bai Saya’s chest suddenly felt violently tight. His hand that was still holding on to the small scrap of cloth trembled. He felt as though he

had just ended a life...

Shooting Star grabbed onto Bai Saya's forearm and said angrily, "What are you doing? Don't let go of Alan. He's an elf. He doesn't have enough strength to hold on to you!"

Bai Saya hurriedly grabbed Shooting Star's hand and anxiously said, "Shooting Star, all the sailors have fallen into the water. Please help them!"

"You're crazy! Who cares about them?! We're barely able to protect ourselves!" Shooting Star gnashed his teeth together in anger. *This Xiao Bai, can't he see how terrible Alan's complexion is? We could become the companions of those sailors in the next second! How could we care about saving others?*

"But, those people... they, they are humans, like us!" Bai Saya did not know how to express how he felt, but he was just unable to watch these lives get swallowed by the ocean one by one before him.

Humans my foot. There are demons among them and a few beastmen as well... Shooting Star sputtered for a bit. However, upon seeing how Bai Saya's complexion was just too terrible, he could only speak up to coax him, "Xiao Bai, stop thinking about saving these sailors. If there were a way to save them, Alan would definitely have done so earlier than you. You can't have forgotten that he is of the elf race, who treasures life the most?"

As he heard that, Bai Saya immediately looked at Alan imploringly. Then, he heard Shooting Star say, "However, the current situation is

that Alan doesn't have any way to carry any more people. If you catch one person, not only will you be unable to save him, you will send the three of us down with him!"

Alan nodded his head to show that Shooting Star was right. He did not even want to waste energy by speaking. Any little bit of energy saved was still something.

At that moment, another sailor flew closely past Bai Saya and company.

Bai Saya reached out instinctively. However, as he remembered Shooting Star's words, he violently withdrew his hand. Then, he watched the sailor slide into the rolling waves of the terrifying great sea.

Sorry! Bai Saya clenched his fist and strongly suppressed his desire to reach out his hand. Finally, he closed his eyes and chose not to watch. Only by not witnessing the horrible situation that the people were in would Bai Saya not feel his heart tightening again and again. Strong feelings of guilt settled in his chest, making him almost unable to breathe.

"Hah!"

When he heard a familiar voice drift to his ear, Bai Saya wrenched his eyes open. In a glance, he saw Dan stab his sword into the deck. Both his hands were clenched around the sword hilt, and he was exerting a lot of effort to support himself and not be thrown into the sea. Dan's entire body had long been drenched by seawater, his entire

appearance haggard.

"Dan!" Bai Saya could not control himself and shouted loudly.

Upon hearing this shout, Dan turned his head to look at him.

Despite already being in danger of falling over, he actually took one hand off the sword hilt and pointed toward a particular direction. He then shouted with effort, "The Western Continent is in that direction. Fly that way."

The call caused not only Bai Saya to balk for a bit. Even the demon-hating elf Alan turned his head to look at Dan, and his heart held some degree of new realization.

"Bai Saya is his 'checkmate?'"

Shooting Star had a glint in his eye as he nodded.

That explains it. Alan looked at Dan. This demon was already finding it hard to ensure his own safety, yet he was still worried about Bai Saya's safety. For the merciless demon race, this was extremely odd. *Yet, if he is his checkmate...*

Bai Saya stared dumbly at the ragged Dan. The latter seemed about to fall into the ocean at any moment, just like the sailors, and then be swallowed by the sea without a trace.

Regardless of what race one was from, they were all similarly helpless in the face of the raging sea.

Bai Saya suddenly turned his head and said, "Save Dan!"

Shooting Star paused and then shouted, "What? Didn't I already tell you that Alan is incapable of..."

Before he even finished his sentence, Bai Saya suddenly let go of his grip on Alan. He even threw aside the arm that Alan had placed around the other two. An elf mage was too physically weak. In reality, one arm was not enough to support the weight of a man, much less if this man himself threw aside his arm.

Originally, Bai Saya would have fallen onto the deck. However, he used his superior physical abilities to do a few flips in the air and fell off the side of the boat. He fell directly into the tumultuous sea.

Dan revealed a horrified expression as he watched Bai Saya fall. In that moment, he was only able to catch a glimpse of amber eyes, eyes that were so open and frank. They held not the slightest bit of panic and fear of imminent death. The meaning they sought to convey was also clear.

All that I owe you, I now return.

No!

"Saya!"

"Xiao Bai!"

Those gentle amber eyes were buried by the heartless tossing waves...

Footnotes

The April Fools version can be found [here](#).

Chapter 7: Overlord of the Seas VS Sovereign of the Skies, Part Two

"Bastard!" Shooting Star was furious. He turned his head to shout at Alan, "Go save Dan!"

Upon hearing these words, Alan hesitated for a bit. However, Shooting Star did not even bother to explain. He also threw the elf's hands aside and then jumped onto the deck. Because the body of the ship was shaking so terribly, he slid across the deck. Upon seeing a chance, he grabbed a thick rope that was waving in the wind. Then, using the rope, he pulled himself to the side of the boat.

Standing on top of the side of the boat, he yelled loudly, "Bones! Where the hell are you? Hurry up and come out!"

His shout was so loud that even the sounds coming from the battle between dragon and serpent were unable to drown him out.

"Kiki—"

A small, gray skeletal creature scampered to and fro across the boat, seemingly unaffected by the swaying of the boat. It scampered onto Shooting Star's shoulders.

Shooting Star pointed at the surging waves and commanded, "Xiao Bai fell in there. Go find him and pull him out!"

"Ki!" Bones made a noise of agreement, immediately diving into the sea.

In that moment, Alan flew Dan over. He reached out to grab Shooting Star, who was swaying in the wind. Alan was worried that one misstep would cause the latter to fall into the sea.

"Saya, Saya..."

Dan looked at the sea, his chest in so much pain that he felt as if it were cracking. He did not expect to feel this much pain. He was only a half demon, not a full demon. He thought he would be able to escape the fate of having a checkmate. With regards to Bai Saya, he could only do everything in his ability to help him. However, if he really were unable to help, letting go was also an option...

At that moment, he could only think about letting go of himself.

Alan noted the demon's expression of indescribable pain. He firmly believed that if Bai Saya could not be saved, Dan would also jump down.

This was the characteristic of a "checkmate" of the demon race. Not every demon would meet that person. However, once they did, they would do everything they could to protect that person. The person could be a relative, a lover, or a friend. They could also have no relationship at all. They were just one thing—a checkmate.

Upon seeing how much pain Dan was in, the elf reconsidered his view of the demon race for the first time. In certain ways, perhaps the demons' heartlessness was because they put all of their passion into things that they truly cared about?

The three of them looked at the sea with hearts full of expectation. They did not even notice that the battle between dragon and serpent beside them had already drawn to an end. Under the repeated heavy blows from the sovereign of the skies, the electric eel serpent was severed into two. The overlord of the seas was forever buried in the water. It could be said that it was restored to its rightful place.

At that moment, a small dark shadow slowly floated to the surface from the depths of the sea. Just as all three people got their hopes up, Bones's large, gray head popped out from the surface of the water in one go. However, there was no one else to be seen. All three persons' spirits sank back down...

"Kiki!"

Bones used its small, skeletal hand to pull out another creature. Black hair floated about on the surface of the water. Bai Saya coughed nonstop in discomfort and pain.

"Xiao Bai!" Shooting Star shouted.

"Saya... Thank goodness, thank goodness." The cracking pain that Dan felt in his chest finally subsided. His whole body trembled uncontrollably. He was nearly incapable of speech.

Bai Saya raised his head just in time to see Shooting Star, Alan, and Dan. The fact that all three of them were fine made his worries recede, and he revealed a weak smile toward them.

“Kiki!” Bones suddenly started to call out loudly.

“What?” Shooting Star exclaimed. He was the only one who could understand what Bones was saying. He immediately turned to look behind him, and what he saw made his jaw drop.

Since he left home, this was the first time he truly felt helpless, like they were done for.

The dragon that had just defeated the electric eel serpent was watching them.

“W-what in the world do you want?” Shooting Star was so nervous that he could not even speak properly. That was a dragon! Eight to nine out of ten people who had ever been noticed by a dragon all suffered terrible ends! All that stuff about dragon knights was just tricks to fool children. Who could ride something so huge? You could even build a house on top of a dragon to live in. How could you ride that?

The dragon suddenly flew over, skimming across the water’s surface quickly. The tremendous winds made Alan unable to hold on any further, throwing all three directly across the deck. They tumbled about haphazardly, but this was not the time to be dizzy and lost. Each one pushed themselves to get up. Even if they were to die, they still had to put up a fight first.

As per the well-known fact, the dragon was not interested in them. That pair of strong claws dipped into the seawater and plucked out a person. Then, with a boost, it instantly flew far away.

The sovereign of the skies' superior flying ability meant that this process was over in an instant. The three people on the deck could not respond at all. They dumbly watched the dragon carry Bai Saya away. The last thing they saw was Bai Saya hurriedly reaching out his hands, wanting to grab onto his companions...

What a group of people, followed by disaster after disaster.

While Shooting Star and Dan were in a daze, Alan, who had spent relatively less time with them and thus did not have as strong of an attachment as they did, was the first to react.

He gazed at the other two's heavy expressions, the thought of being "plagued by misfortunes" coming to his mind subconsciously.

Since the elf joined Bai Saya and Shooting Star's two-person team, they first met the threat of a thousand-year old demon. After that, it was the electric eel serpent, and after that was the battle between the dragon and the electric eel serpent. Finally, they had held on until the dragon killed the serpent. Everything should have been all right then. However, a member of the dragon race, who normally ignored humans, actually went out of its way to kidnap Bai Saya!

"That's too bad!"

After Alan blurted those words out, he showed an odd expression. He had actually used such a crude, ungrammatical expression, incomplete in meaning. He felt that he had indeed been influenced by Shooting Star. They had only been acquainted for such a short time, but...

"That accursed dragon!" Shooting Star's furious howls pulled Alan's train of thought, which had been running wild, back.

"Bastard! Don't you know that Xiao Bai is a pet that I spent so much effort to capture! No one is allowed to snatch him away, not even a dragon!"

Then, he jumped onto Alan's back. Before the latter could resist or protest, Shooting Star tapped him on the shoulder and shouted with all his might, "Hurry up! Fly now and give chase! I want to snatch my pet back!"

Alan rolled his eyes at him. *Am I a horse now instead of a dog?*

This time, the elf was not angry. Instead, he resigned himself to using the Spell of Flight and lifted Shooting Star into the air.

"Wait a moment! Bring me along." At that moment, Dan's mind returned to him. He said urgently, "I want to save Saya!"

Shooting Star only made a face at him and said, "You're too heavy. Alan can't carry two people. Find your own way of catching up."

Then, an elf and a human flew off in the direction the dragon had left in.

"Hm! The dragon seems to have taken a turn."

Shooting Star frowned, his finger pointing in a vague direction uncertainly.

"Seems?" Alan did not like this very vague word. It meant that he was very likely going to have to waste his magic to fly in the wrong direction. He also did not know if he had enough strength to fly back and start all over.

Since Bones had also been taken by the dragon, his master Shooting Star was naturally able to detect which direction it was taken. However, as the distance grew larger, his ability to sense it grew weaker. As a result, Shooting Star could only do his best to detect where exactly Bones was, give Alan a general direction, and pray that it was not the exact opposite direction.

If Alan were to hear Shooting Star's prayers, he would definitely be so angry that he would send multiple lightning bolts to burn Shooting Star to a crisp.

"Maybe... Should be, perhaps, no, no, it definitely is this direction!"

Upon seeing Alan about to use a new technique of shooting lightning bolts with his eyes, Shooting Star started furiously nodding his head. Even though he felt a bit bad, he felt wronged, too. He was also doing his best to save Bai Saya, but this distance really was getting larger and larger.

Alan's doubt in Shooting Star was almost a hundred percent. Still, he thought that since Bai Saya was captured and his life was in danger, Shooting Star would not be fooling around as usual? Thus, he flew in the direction that Shooting Star indicated.

As a result, the two turned ninety degrees and flew toward an unknown territory for almost a day.

If not for the naturally magically gifted elf, whose basic magical abilities were truly tremendous, the two would have long changed from flying to swimming.

Just as Alan lost all faith in Shooting Star and was about to use his remaining magic to murder him to prevent this demonic child from harming anyone else, the pair who had been flying like birds for a whole day finally saw land.

Since Alan's strength had been used beyond his limit, they practically slid and crashed onto the land. Shooting Star bounced and rolled a few times, using the rolls to lessen the impact of the fall. This was clearly not the first time he had made full-body contact with the ground.

Alan, who had exhausted all of his magic, directly fell onto the ground. The delicate elf mage gasped and nearly fainted dead away. Clearly, this was the first time that the dexterous and elegant elf had hit the ground so hard that he was eating dirt.

"Ha ha ha! I knew it must have been this direction!" Shooting Star got up and started laughing loudly. He had not had to put in an ounce of effort, only responsible for sleeping on the elf's back. Thus, he was in wonderful spirits at that moment.

Alan lay on the ground. He only had enough energy to throw a glare at Shooting Star. His chest was still heaving up and down as he struggled to get his breath back.

"Hm!"

Shooting Star crossed his arms and frowned as he studied the environment around them.

Since they were currently in a region near the sea, they were just surrounded by a beach. The area closer inland had yellowish green reeds. He squinted his eyes and peered into the distance. All that he could see were grasslands, which were filled with short shrubs and yellowing grass fields.

Regardless of how you looked at it, this did not seem like a place where dragons would haunt.

This is terrible!

Shooting Star's brow creased together. Actually, when he had caught sight of land from afar, he was already unable to detect where Bones was anymore. He could only make a plan that was better than drowning in the sea, which was landing on land first before deciding on what to do.

After landing, he had the feeling that this place was completely wrong. In order to avoid humans who loved to kill them and those who were naturally inclined toward plundering, most dragons lived in places that were hard to reach. These included the tops of mountains or the depths of valleys, which required a lot of trouble to reach. However, all that was in front of their eyes were grasslands. Even if he peered into the distance, he would still be unable to see a single mountain.

Dragons didn't live in places like this. It seemed like their mistake with the direction was not a small one.

Shooting Star couldn't suppress his disappointment. *Will Bai Saya already be a lump of dragon dung by the time I find him?*

"Were you wrong?" The elf's melodious voice floated by. He had gotten his breath back, but still sat on the floor because he did not have enough energy left to move.

Alan's sentence was so simple this time! Just as he was about to praise him, Shooting Star suddenly remembered that every time Alan's words were short, it was because the elf was so angry that he did not want to speak and was ready to use his lightning bolts to strike someone!

Turning his head, Shooting Star saw that Alan was still sitting on the ground, but there was no electricity crackling. He immediately let out a sigh of relief and said, "Whew~~ Thank goodness, I thought you were going to use electric bolts to strike me to death!"

"No energy." Alan replied coldly.

That means that if you had magic left, you would strike? Shooting Star had on an expression of defeat.

"Don't be like that. Little old me didn't do it on purpose. This concerns whether or not I can get my little pet Xiao Bai back! I wouldn't say the wrong direction intentionally!" Shooting Star felt wronged. That dragon had flown so fast that they had grown far apart in an instant. Once the distance got too large, he was unable to sense Bones's location.

Alan struggled up and asked, "What do we do now? If we do not hurry, there is a high chance that Bai Saya will be eaten by the dragon."

"He won't."

Shooting Star saw Alan's look of suspicion and explained impatiently, "Please, Xiao Bai is a tiny speck for the dragon! The size difference is akin to the difference in size between us and a caterpillar. Would you go out of your way to catch a caterpillar to eat? Plus, he had just killed that huge electric eel serpent. Wouldn't it have been better to eat that?"

When he heard that, Alan considered Shooting Star's words and was forced to admit that he was right.

"That dragon must have captured Xiao Bai for some other reason. It definitely isn't to eat him or to kill him."

Shooting Star considered it seriously. *If it's not to eat, why would a dragon capture a human? Could it be that it wants him to help catch the fleas on its back?*

"Then, what should we do now? Even if we know that Bai Saya is not in life-threatening danger for now, we still have no way of locating him."

Alan, who had lived in the depths of the forest for many years and only left when he was captured, knew that his inexperienced self could not come up with any concrete solutions. He could only count on

Shooting Star, even though he knew that out of ten of his plans, eight of them were trash!

"Let's first get more information before we decide on what to do. Regardless of how secretive a dragon's lair is, its departure and arrival must have been seen by someone. The people living near it must know of its presence. I definitely only need to get close to where the dragon lives to be able to detect Bones and find Xiao Bai."

This time, Shooting Star was serious and came up with a good plan. Since the person that was captured was his most important pet, he definitely had to get him back! Even though Alan was also his pet, he was nowhere as important as Xiao Bai!

This was because the elf would not help him wash his underwear, put his socks out to dry, hunt for food, or clean his room. As a result, he would not have clean underwear to wear, nor dry socks to put on. He would also not have already skinned game for him to roast or even a clean room to stay in!

If that happened, Shooting Star would become a stinky and starving fellow. He absolutely refused to have such a thing happen. Thus, he sought to find Xiao Bai in the shortest amount of time possible!

"Let's first find a place where there are people to gather information."

"All right."

Alan nodded. He had not slept for a day and a night and had exhausted his magic. He desperately needed rest and sleep. Despite

that, he did not say half a word about needing rest. Bai Saya was the one who had saved him from being sold into slavery. Now that he had a chance to repay him, the elf was not going to complain about being tired.

Even though Shooting Star also was one of the people who had saved him, he automatically discounted this. Just agreeing to go on adventures with the two for two hundred years was a significant loss for him. In the few days since he had agreed to accompany them, not only were they threatened by a thousand-year old demon, they had met the sovereigns of the skies and the seas simultaneously. Furthermore, his companion had been stolen away by a dragon, a creature that one might not even see over the course of an entire lifetime.

The elf sincerely doubted whether or not he would be able to live past these two hundred years.

“Alan, little elf, back to earth!”

Shooting Star waved his hands in front of Alan’s face. He was quite happy that Alan was in a daze, because he took advantage while the elf was in a daze to comb his golden hair quite a few times. However, compared to combing hair, Xiao Bai was more important.

Alan reached out and grabbed... Not the hand that was waving in front of his face, but the other hand that was sneakily combing his hair.

The elf sincerely suspected that, if he were to become bald, there a was chance that Shooting Star might let him go home straight away.

Under the dangerous gaze of the elf, Shooting Star retracted his hands without a change in his expression. He spoke very properly, "Look! There's a clan over there. Let's go collect some information."

Alan nodded.

The two of them thus walked carelessly into the clan. This was a small clan, anyway. Shooting Star felt that there was nothing much to be wary of. However, in the following moments, he would deeply regret and hate his own stupid actions. He had momentarily forgotten that Alan was an elf, who was rarely seen everywhere.

An entire clan of minotaurs with eyes that flashed gold coins in them chased them around with the intent to kill the two of them. To be more accurate, it was to kill Shooting Star and then capture Alan.

What a joke! He had spent such a tremendous amount of effort to capture two pets. *One was already snatched by a dragon, and now you want to snatch away the other one. Is there no justice?*

While lamenting his terrible fate with tears in his eyes, Shooting Star carried an exhausted pet elf, escaping a whole chain of minotaurs. The two of them fled for some time before they were finally able to lose the minotaurs behind them. Shooting Star was so out of breath that he could barely talk. The elf he was carrying was originally already spent. Now, he was in a state where one could not tell if he had fallen asleep or fainted away.

After catching his breath, Shooting Star raised his head to consider his

surroundings. The view before his eyes was actually an azure blue sea and pure white sand. This sight was of utmost familiarity—there was no difference between it and the place where they had landed earlier. *It might even be the same!?*

Oh my god!

Shooting Star covered his face and cried in despair. *Where in the world is my little pet!*

Chapter 8: Stone of Fury, Wrath, Part One

With his heart hung up on Bai Saya, Dan did not even bother to find a port to dock the ship. He simply left the boat in the open sea and rowed a small boat to shore. He caught sight of Shooting Star and Alan immediately. They were not searching. One was sitting on the sand and staring blankly, while the other was asleep on his side, dead to the world.

Dan accused them anxiously and angrily, "Why are you here? Where is Saya?"

Shooting Star threw him an unhappy look and responded despondently, "I don't know! Alan is so tired he can't move anymore. Other than sitting here, waiting for him to wake, and guarding him all night long... No, it's still day so it should be guarding him 'all day long.' Other than this, what else can I do? Do you expect me to carry him to search for Xiao Bai?"

Upon hearing his words, Dan paced back and forth worriedly. He was too distraught, and this was detrimental toward the mission. He needed to calm down first. Dan worked hard to push down his emotions, and said to Shooting Star, "I will collect information about where the dragon lives from nearby. If the distance is not too far, you should be able to sense your undead pet, right?"

Shooting Star looked at Dan admiringly. This fellow's brain was not half bad. Dan was actually able to think of the same plan as him!

"You actually still have sailors?" Shooting Star stood up, looking at the

group of about twenty people on the cluster of small boats in curiosity. With so many people splitting up to gather information, there was sure to be news soon.

Dan shook his head. "No, almost all the sailors were lost to the sea. These are my underlings from the guild. They are strong at martial arts and were able to just barely avoid falling into the sea with tremendous effort."

Shooting Star replied without any courtesy, "Your underlings? That's even better. Hurry and tell them to gather information about where the dragon is living! If this gets dragged out any longer, what should I do if my pet gets turned into dragon dung?!"

In response to the word "pet," Dan balked for a bit. However, he only creased his brows before turning his head to command his underlings to get to work. Before they could blink, the twenty odd underlings each showed off their abilities, dashing out in various directions, yet not a single one of them repeated another's path.

"They sure are efficient."

Shooting Star praised them, unknowingly slipping into a daydream. If he were able to catch more than ten beautiful pets, he could then shout, "Everyone, help me catch an angel." Then, these ten or so pets would reply with "yes" and speed off in every direction—that would be such a stunning sight!

However, back in the present, Shooting Star realized depressingly that he still only had two pets. What was more, the whereabouts of one

was unknown, and he did not know if that pet had been turned into dragon dung yet.

The answer was no.



Bai Saya opened his eyes and was dazed for quite a while. He was not sure where on earth he was. He had just had a dream where he saw a dragon and an electric eel serpent, where the boat nearly flipped, and then...

As he was deep in thought, he subconsciously felt at the surface beneath him and grabbed a large fistful of something. Bai Saya curiously looked at what was in his hand, and his eyes glittered with its brightness. *Gold coins!*

He stared downward, dumbstruck. He was actually lying on a huge pile of precious treasure! In that instant, a thought flashed across his mind: "This is great! Shooting Star's food allowance is taken care of!" ... *No!* Bai Saya smacked himself on the head. He should be thinking about where on earth he was right now!

Bai Saya finally collected his wits and did not shrug off the battle between the dragon and the serpent as just a dream. The last memory he could remember was of him falling into the sea, then getting picked up and flown into the sky by the dragon. He did not know how long he had been in the air before he fainted.

In mid-thought, he reached his hand up to hold down his hair, which had been flying about messily. A gust of wind repeatedly tugged at Bai

Saya's hair. As it turned out, his hair tie had fallen off at some point. The feeling of his long hair flying around messily was something he was not used to... *Wait, why is the wind blowing so strongly?*

And, it smells fishy...

Bai Saya stilled. He slowly turned his head. The thing that was behind him, which he had thought was a "mountain," was using eyeballs that were larger than a human head to watch him.

With it right in front of his eyes, Bai Saya could even smell the fishy breath of the dragon which had never brushed its teeth before. He stared blankly and felt lightheaded and short of breath. His fate should not be to become food for the dragon, right?

"Do not be afraid."

Bai Saya paused for a bit. He then heard, "I will not hurt you."

He started to look around him to check if there were any other "food items" in his surroundings. Otherwise, why would there be a voice?

"I am before your eyes."

Before my eyes? Bai Saya lifted his head to look at the dragon in confusion. The other party still had not moved. It did not seem to want to eat him.

Without the threat of becoming food, Bai Saya was finally able to calm down. He considered the situation and the words he had just heard.

Regardless of how he thought about it, it was just weird.

He asked, carefully, "Were you the one speaking?" However, once he said that, he felt a bit silly. *This dragon isn't human. How could it speak?*

"Yes."

Not only did the dragon reply, it also nodded its head. Only the nod caused an earthquake of precious treasure, almost burying Bai Saya under gold.

"You can actually speak!" he shouted in surprise.

The dragon seemed to be amused and replied with, "Did you not know I could?"

Bai Saya shook his head in bewilderment.

If Shooting Star were here, he would definitely throw a punch at Bai Saya's head. Then, for the sake of his pet, he would once again become a loud and obnoxious explainer.

Dragons are a very wise race. The reason they haven't become the dominant race in the world is only that there are so few of them. It isn't because they are less smart. In contrast, few humans would be considered smart compared to a dragon. Just being able to speak is nothing!

Even though Shooting Star wasn't here, the dragon actually explained

for Bai Saya in detail, much more responsibly than a loud and obnoxious explainer.

"The construction of our voice boxes is even more complicated than that of elves. We can speak all the languages in the world. Not only that, when we use our magic, the speed at which we recite spells is so fast that it appears as if we have not spoken at all. This has also led to the misunderstanding that when we use magic, we do not have to chant incantations. It is not so."

"I'm truly sorry. I actually considered you to be the same as a normal animal."

Bai Saya blushed. He really needed to spend a lot more time brushing up on his common knowledge. Normally, he did not feel much whenever Shooting Star scolded him, but making a fool of himself in front of a dragon this time made Bai Saya truly want to change. In the future, he should consult Shooting Star and Alan much more.

However, he needed to reunite with the two before he could ask them anything.

"May I please ask, why have you captured me?"

Even if Bai Saya was extremely stupid, he now knew that the dragon was not going to eat him. No one would explain the construction of their voice box to their food, right?

However, there was a possibility that the dragon could have the same ridiculous personality as Shooting Star. He once saw Shooting Star

babble while killing a rabbit, "Little rabbit, I didn't kill you on purpose. However, you should know that the number of unfair things in this world is high. For example, I must eat you and you must be eaten by me," and other things of the like.

"I have a favor to ask of you."

What? A dragon needs my help? Bai Saya was shocked senseless. *Something that even a dragon could not do is not something I could accomplish, right?*

Upon seeing Bai Saya's shock, a trace of amusement actually appeared in the gaze of the dragon. The dragon comforted him, "Do not worry. I will not make you do anything along the lines of fighting the sea eel king.

Sea eel king? Bai Saya thought for a bit before realizing that this was probably the electric eel serpent that Shooting Star had been talking about. He relaxed a bit. As long as he would not have to fight that type of creature, it was fine. His thoughts had been way too off. *How could this dragon need someone else to help it fight? It must definitely be something else.*

"May I know what kind of favor you want from me?"

Bai Saya had relaxed considerably. This dragon could be described with the words "peaceful" and "kind." This persona was too different from the terrifying strength it had displayed when it was fighting the electric eel serpent. This led to the knot in Bai Saya's heart slowly unraveling. He even started to feel indebted toward this dragon who

had treated him with such kindness.

"I have a friend. A few days ago, while he was on a boat out at sea, he came across the sea eel king that you saw. In order to save the crew onboard, he fought to his last breath. In the end, he was buried at the bottom of the sea. However, his wife managed to escape. She bore grave injuries to climb this mountain of mine to plead with me to kill that sea eel king. She wanted vengeance for her husband, and to ensure that no other boats would ever be attacked. Then, she died of her heavy injuries."

Bai Saya's eyes were swimming in tears. This was truly a couple with both passion and righteousness. As it turned out, the dragon's act of killing the sea eel king was not just to avenge his friend. He was also ensuring the safety of all future boats. *This is simply too touching!*

However, he could not stop thinking of the sailors who had fallen into the sea. He felt extremely conflicted. Then, he thought of how it was the sea eel who had appeared first before the dragon rushed over. When it all came down to it, it could be said that the dragon had saved them!

Bai Saya was never one to hold a grudge. The only grudge he had ever held in his life was the one regarding the murder of his shifu. However, after settling the grudge, he was no longer steeped in anger and hatred. He simply followed Shooting Star on his adventures all over without a care in the world. Therefore, now that he knew the truth, he no longer felt wronged and could even start to see the dragon as his savior.

The dragon requested, "Can you help me complete her grave? She is buried in that corner over there. I'm too large and would easily damage her corpse. I could only dig a grave to put her in and pile some earth on top."

Bai Saya immediately nodded. He walked in the direction that the dragon mentioned. There really was a small mound of earth there, and it was not very packed. A rotting stench fanned outwards, making it hard to approach. However, Bai Saya did not mind. He walked over and started to use the sheath of the Sword of Sacred White to push aside the dirt. He cared not at all about the stench.

This was a woman who had dragged her severely injured self to seek help to avenge her husband. She was worthy of his respect.

Bai Saya was a swordsman, after all, with plenty of strength. Without much time, he was able to make a proper grave. It was much better than the loose dirt pile from earlier.

Then, he walked over to the side of the mountain of precious jewels and metals to look for something. He found a portrait of a beautiful woman inlaid with multi-colored jewels. After asking the dragon for her name, he used the tip of the Sword of Sacred White to carve her name on it. He then placed it at the head of the pile of dirt as a tombstone.

Should any antique dealer witness this scene, their heart would most likely hurt and ache. This portrait of a beautiful woman made out of jewels was created for OO beauty by XX king. He had specially gathered famous and expensive jewels from all over, and then commissioned the most famous YY jeweler. It was a masterpiece made

with skill and quality. Not only was it very valuable, the additional historical significance meant that it was a priceless treasure!

However, in the hands of Bai Saya, it was only a slightly unsuitable tombstone. The various shining jewels made the name hard to read. He could only carve a little deeper, destroying the jewels a little more thoroughly.

"I did not misjudge you."

The dragon had been observing Bai Saya. When the latter was digging through the pile of treasure to look for a tombstone, it was finally certain that this human did not know anything about the nature of dragons. He had actually dared to take treasure from a treasure-loving dragon in front the dragon. More than that, he had dared to carve on its surface. If Bai Saya had not been brought over by the dragon itself, and was someone who had just wandered in, he would have been eaten alive by the dragon a long time ago.

Bai Saya turned around and asked doubtfully, "What?"

"When I was above the sea, I overheard your conversation with the other humans. You wanted to save those people, right?"

Bai Saya again thought of the sailors who had fallen into the sea. He was unable to control his sorrow. "Yes. If your fight with the sea eel king had been a bit farther away, then those sailors might not have died."

"I am very sorry. More than once, I tried to lure the serpent away.

However, it was too cunning. It refused to follow from the start to the end. I could only try to finish the battle as soon as possible.”

So it was like that. Bai Saya nodded. He completely understood. He then raised his head to look at the dragon. The dragon’s huge body no longer seemed as scary. “When I was out at sea, your strength amazed me. However, the feeling that I now get is one of a benevolent mother. You do not seem terrifying at all anymore.”

“You are not wrong in saying so. I am an elderly female dragon. I have given birth to two dragons. I am indeed a mother.”

“Huh?” Bai Saya balked. *So this dragon is female?* He had never thought that this dragon would be female. He had thought that animals that were so huge and powerful were usually all male. However, after some consideration, he realized dragons could not all be male. Otherwise, how would they reproduce?

“What about you? Tiny human, are you male or female?”

Male or female? It sounded weird to him, but Bai Saya smiled wryly and replied, “I am a man, which means male.”

The dragon thought out loud, “Male? For humans, I believe that mothers are responsible for raising children?”

“Yes.” Bai Saya nodded. However, he thought about it a bit more. He helped Shooting Star wash his underwear, wash his clothes, catch prey, and earn money to buy food for him to eat... In certain terms, he was pretty much raising Shooting Star.

"Then, this will not work. To be honest, the woman you have just buried left behind an egg. Even though I am perfectly happy to help her take care of it, that egg is just too small for me. The child that would hatch from it would also be too small. I have no way of taking care of it."

Oh, I see... Wait, wait a minute! What do you mean by leaving behind an "egg"! Humans cannot lay eggs, right? Unless that woman was an elf? However, do elves lay eggs? Bai Saya truly did not know. He decided to ask Alan some other day.

"Why does she lay eggs?" Bai Saya asked, confused.

"Why would she not lay eggs?" The dragon sounded even more confused than he did.

...Never mind! He could ask Shooting Star some other day about which races laid eggs.

If Shooting Star were here, he would definitely be spewing flames and shouting angrily, "Do you take me for an encyclopedia! Didn't your mother give birth to you, this stupid egg!"

"Then, where is the egg?" Bai Saya was beginning to grow curious about what the egg that presumably a human, or an elf, or a demon laid would look like.

The dragon slightly lifted her right claw. An egg, which was a bit larger than the size of a human head, was hidden in a pit underneath that

claw.

Bai Saya was not at all afraid of the sharp claw. He directly went under the claw. Carefully, he picked up the egg and studied it.

Chapter 8: Stone of Fury, Wrath, Part Two

"How heavy." Bai Saya was a bit surprised to feel the weight of the egg.

"The egg is about to hatch. However, it is just too small. I am unable to take care of something so small."

The dragon sighed. Regardless of how willing she was to take care of her friend's child, she was forced to face reality and put the egg in the care of others. Unfortunately, although they had formed a friendship, she had not concerned herself with her friend's family. She also did not know if the latter had other extended family members that could help take care of the child. She had no one to ask anymore either.

"Human, you are male and unable to take care of this child. However, are you willing to help me find a mother for the child?"

Looking at the egg in his hands, Bai Saya's heart was filled with pity. As Shooting Star would say, he was radiating the light of righteousness everywhere again. The swordsman naturally could not refuse the request because of his morals. He nodded and said, "All right, I will do everything I can to find him a good mother."

"Good." The dragon nodded her head and replied, "You can take some things from here as you wish as your reward."

"How could I..."

Bai Saya originally wanted to refuse immediately. He carelessly said a

few things along the lines of, "For the noble mother of this child, it is what I should do." These were righteous words required of a swordsman.

Sadly, he suddenly recalled Shooting Star's terrifying appetite. There was also now an elf, another mouth to feed. In the future, should they want to stay at an inn, it was inevitable that they would need another room. These were all expenses...

Upon considering the problem of their livelihoods, he felt discouraged and gave up on the passionate speech that swordsmen always gave after saving someone. With a red face and a small voice, he said, "Then, I'll just take a little."

After the dragon nodded, Bai Saya carefully set aside the egg that was in his hands. He started to rummage through the pile of treasure. He picked up a gem that was by his hand, but felt that it was too large and seemed very expensive and precious. He decided against taking it.

After putting the gem back down, Bai Saya suddenly felt a shiver down his back. It was as if Shooting Star were standing behind and watching him.

He then picked up a necklace. Upon looking at it, he realized that it was encrusted entirely with jewels. They shone so brightly that Bai Saya's heart trembled. It looked even more expensive. He again decided to choose something else, and continued to feel about...

"Ouch."

Suddenly, he felt a pain in his hand. Bai Saya raised his hand to take a look and discovered a cut about three centimeters long on his palm. Since the injury was not very deep, Bai Saya did not really care about such a small wound. Rather, he pulled out the offending object that had cut him. It was a small, palm-sized letter opener. It was unsheathed a little and thus was able to injure his hand.

The style of this small object was extremely simple. Even though it was entirely made of a silver metal that gleamed and the carving on top was extremely intricate, at least there were no jewels encrusted on top of it. It should not be very expensive or precious, so he was going to choose this one!

"May I know if I can take this one?" Bai Saya asked the owner of the object very respectfully.

The dragon nodded. She did not seem to care a lot about the letter opener. This made Bai Saya feel a little better. His swordsman's heart did not suffer too big of a blow.

While putting the letter opener in front of his chest, Bai Saya felt something else was already there. He was confused and pulled it out to have a look. Then, he realized what it was. "So it was this blue gem. I need to remember to give this to Dan later."

The blue gem was stained red with blood. It looked very odd... *Wait! Stained with blood?*

Bai Saya looked at the blue gem in his hand and the wound that the letter opener had inflicted on his palm. He was completely stupefied.

He had actually gotten his blood on the gem!

Thinking back, he recalled that Mannen had dripped his blood on the gem and gotten a huge increase in strength. Soon after, he went crazy until he drove himself to death.

This is bad! Bai Saya panicked. *I don't want to go crazy!*

The dragon's eyes suddenly widened, and she growled, "Could that thing be—the Stone of Fury, Wrath!"

Stone of what? This was the last thing Bai Saya thought before his vision went dark and he collapsed.



It is the Stone of Fury, Wrath.

"The Stone of Fury, Wr... Why are you speaking in Elvish? I don't understand that language at all."

Bai Saya was upset at himself that his knowledge of foreign languages was so terrible. However, if Shooting Star were here, he would surely shout, "Hey hey hey! What do you mean foreign language! Elves come from the same continent as you. It should be considered to be a local language!"

Then, just refer to me as the Stone of Fury.

"Oh, that's better." Bai Saya replied distractedly.

Bai Saya sat in a stupor for a bit before suddenly jumping up. He shouted, "Where am I?"

I thought you were not going to ask. This is your consciousness.

My consciousness? Consciousness should mean the brain right? Bai Saya furrowed his brows. I'm inside my own head?

"Wait a moment! If this is my consciousness, then who are you?"

I am the Stone of Fury, Wrath.

Bai Saya replied with an "oh" blankly. Then, he asked very politely, "Stone of Fury, what are you doing in my mind?"

Because you formed a contract with me. Therefore, I responded to your call and appeared in your consciousness.

"I didn't form a contract with you!"

Bai Saya flinched in shock. Ever since forming a contract with Shooting Star and selling himself off to become a pet, he had formed a fear of the word contract. At the moment, he had nothing but himself. Moreover, he did not even belong to himself and thus he had nothing to use to form contracts with others.

Your dripping blood onto me is the ritual for forming a contract.

Bai Saya's eyes widened, and he hurried to explain, "I only accidentally got a cut on my hand, and then picked you up by

accident.”

...Regardless, you will be my master till death. I will provide you with power as per your wishes.

“Wait a minute!” Bai Saya’s face twisted. “Can I choose not to be your master?”

Bai Saya had not forgotten Mannen’s end. He did not want to go crazy, nor did he want to die in such an ugly way!

The previous master went mad because he overused his strength. If you use the power given a bit at a time according to my advice, there will not be any negative side effects.

“Is that so?” Bai Saya relaxed. As long as he did not go mad, hurt other people, and then end up dead, all was well.

However, in return, I will require certain remuneration from you.

“What do you want? I have nothing!” Bai Saya shot back quickly.

...Please calm down. I will not request the only valuable thing you possess. I am referring to the letter opener that you intend to sell for money to feed Shooting Star.

“Hahaha... You found out my plans? Oh right, this is my mind. So whatever I think, you will know! Hey Ro...Roth!”

Bai Saya touched the back of his head with a stupid smile. He then used the same naming convention used to name Alan to give the jewel Wrath a name.

Please refer to me as the Stone of Fury.

“Oh, Roth, what specifically do you want?” Bai Saya also followed his previous habits, completely ignoring the opinion of the being who had gotten named.

... I require your anger. If you provide me with enough fury, I will be able to return larger amounts of strength for you to use.

Bai Saya revealed an expression of comprehension. As it turned out, not only could he sell himself, he could even sell such a thing as “fury”!

If it is fury, then I should have some to sell? Even though he rarely got angry, with Shooting Star by his side, he should be able to get angry. Bai Saya heaved a sigh. “Roth, must you form a contract with me?”

Upon the drop of blood falling on me, a contract was already formed.

“Then, it can’t be helped. Who asked me to be so careless and get blood on you?”

Bai Saya accepted it with some feelings of helplessness. Forget about anger, he did not even feel a trace of negative feelings.

The Stone of Fury suddenly felt like it had the wrong person. However, the gem did not feel many emotions. It did not exactly have much of a problem with “not having anything to eat.”

I hope that you will be able to survive longer, new master.

Please do not call me master. It sounds really weird...

“Just call me Bai Saya or Saya!”

Bai Saya wrenched his eyes open. He then saw three pairs of eyes: a pair of large and round, shiny golden eyes, a pair of weary sea blue eyes, and a pair of deeply worried purple eyes.

“I don’t want to! I only want to call you Xiao Bai.” Shooting Star said coldly.

Bai Saya jumped up and shouted, “Shooting Star, Alan, Dan.”

Shooting Star hurriedly covered his pet’s mouth and quietly said, “What are you doing, shouting so loudly! What if the dragon heard us?”

Hearing that, Bai Saya then realized that the dragon had disappeared, and he did not know when. They were the only ones left in the cave, as well as the small hill of precious objects.

He wanted to explain the truth to Shooting Star. However, the other person was covering his mouth so tightly that he could not even make a single sound.

"So many precious jewels and treasures! I'll take a few treasures as compensation for these few days of work!"

Shooting Star's eyes reflected the light of the treasures. With the gold coins, would sleeping at inns and eating at restaurants be a problem anymore? He started toward the mountain of gold coins...

These few days? Wasn't I only unconscious for a day?

Even though Bai Saya was very suspicious, when he saw Shooting Star actually stretch his hand out to take some treasure, he immediately shouted, "You cannot take those treasures!"

Shooting Star paused, and his action of taking the treasure really stopped.

Bai Saya pleaded, "That dragon is a good dragon. Shooting Star, do not touch her things."

At that moment, Dan also spoke, "Do not take those things. Dragons care deeply about treasures and riches. If they discover that their treasure has decreased, they will definitely catch up to us to exact revenge. We have no ability to counter a dragon's efforts at vengeance."

Shooting Star looked at his handfuls of treasure. These things could let him eat many full meals! He was very unwilling and stroked them for a bit. In the end, he still put down these sparkly bright treasures. Even though riches would let him eat huge meals and sleep in huge beds, without his life, would he be able to eat? Sleep was possible, but he

would never be able to wake up ever again!

Upon weighing his options, Shooting Star was only able to give up while crying.

"It isn't like nothing can be taken." Bai Saya looked at Shooting Star's pitiful, teary appearance and immediately felt his heart soften for him. Just as he wanted to pull out the letter opener that the dragon gave him, the other person suddenly went from being dismayed to being delighted. He jumped up.

"Dragon egg!" Shooting Star dashed across a hundred meters to the egg. Holding his face, he screamed loudly, "There's a dragon egg! There's a dragon egg! I don't care. I have to take this. I want a baby dragon as my third pet!"

"No!" Dan's expression changed. Even though dragons cared deeply about their treasures, it paled in comparison to their regard for their descendents. Once they took this egg, there was no way that they would be able to escape the dragon chasing after them.

"I will!" Shooting Star clung on to the egg for dear life with the resolve to never let go.

"You cannot take away another person's child!" In that moment, even Alan was getting angry. Elves were also a race that cared deeply about their children. He definitely would not allow Shooting Star to do something like stealing someone else's child.

"I don't care!"

Like a stubborn child, Shooting Star clung onto the egg and refused to let go. He even had an attitude of “if you come over, I will take the egg and escape.” He had taken to those shiny scales, which were more beautiful and dazzling than gold coins. It was only that the difficulty of catching a dragon was too much. He did not even dare to think about it. Now, he was actually able to stumble across a dragon egg. How was he supposed to rest if he did not bring it with him?!

“Then, you should just take it. However, you cannot touch the treasure.”

Bai Saya spoke calmly. As he finished speaking, he made eye contact with three incredulous pairs of eyes. He smiled and did not explain further.

Dan was familiar with Saya’s personality, as was Alan. The extent of this person’s righteous nature was far more than the demon or the elf. He would not let Shooting Star steal away a child. However, if he was willing to let Shooting Star take the egg, he must have more insider information about the situation.

The elf and the half demon fell silent, no longer objecting. From this, it could be determined that Bai Saya’s trustworthiness stretched beyond Shooting Star’s by the length of many streets.

“Xiao Bai!” Shooting Star looked at his number one pet and spoke emotionally, “I knew you cared about me the most. It was really worth traveling hundreds of miles to come and save you.”

Bai Saya kept smiling stupidly. Regardless, let Shooting Star be satisfied for now. Otherwise, he might turn his attention to the pile of treasure. The egg was entrusted to him by the dragon, in any case.

"Saya, are you really all right?"

Dan did not actually care about the egg. The only reason he stopped Shooting Star from taking it was because he was worried about the dragon coming after them. Out of everyone present, he only cared about Bai Saya.

"I'm fine." Bai Saya asked curiously, "How did you find me?"

"Bones came to find us, and then led us to you." By then, Alan was able to refer to Bones, the undead creature, in a tone that resembled praise.

From regular interactions, the elf was now very clear that even though Bones was an undead creature, Bones was much more reliable than its owner, and had a much cuter personality. If Alan had to pick someone he trusted, Bones definitely scored higher than Shooting Star!

Kiki—

Upon hearing praise, Bones immediately climbed out from within Alan's short cape and chirped happily. It appeared that other than Bai Saya's shoulder, it had found a new place to stay.

Alan cast an odd look at Bones. Previously, while it was leading the way, Bones had appeared to be a reliable companion. *Why does it*

appear so stupid now?

“Let’s hurry and leave. It was not easy waiting for the dragon to leave to save Xiao Bai. If we don’t leave now, the dragon might return. We’d be doomed, then!”

Shooting Star clung on to the egg. As per the principle that a thief who has stolen something needs to run away quickly, stealing a dragon’s egg meant that he needed to run even faster. Shooting Star pushed everyone to get back on the road immediately, and to not waste any more time.

Chapter 9: GOD, Part One

"Hey! Xiao Bai!"

Shooting Star was looking backward in disbelief. Bai Saya was currently walking at the pace of a tortoise, making Shooting Star so anxious that he shouted, "We're fleeing for our lives right now! You think we're taking a stroll or something? Wanna stop and have a bite, too?"

"Huh? Can we?" Bai Saya was indeed walking very slowly. First of all, he knew that the dragon wasn't going to chase him, and second of all...

Growl!

"I'm so hungry."

Shooting Star's jaw dropped. He had been traveling together with Xiao Bai for so long, yet this was the first time he had ever heard him say these words! Normally, before Xiao Bai got hungry, Shooting Star would have already said he was hungry seven or eight times. Then, before he could say it the ninth time, they would already be eating. At those times, Bai Saya was usually still so full that he could only nibble on a couple of leafy veggies.

Bai Saya, having said that he was hungry, did feel a bit embarrassed about it. He quickly explained, "It's because I haven't eaten anything since I was captured by the dragon."

"What?" Everyone was shocked. Shooting Star asked with increased

disbelief, "You haven't eaten for over ten days, yet you're still so lively? You're pulling my leg!"

"Over ten days?" Bai Saya looked at Shooting Star and asked in confusion, "At most, it was only two days, right?"

This was even assuming that he had been unconscious for a full day after the dragon had taken him, and then he had fainted for another day after dripping blood on Roth.¹ At most, that came out to two days.

All three of them began to feel that something was wrong. Dan explained with concern, "Saya, today is the thirteenth day since you were captured by the dragon."

What? The thirteenth day? Bai Saya was shocked. *How can that be?!*

"Please, do you even know how far a dragon can fly with just one flap of its wings? You were so far away from us. If we take into account the time it took Bones to come back to find us, and the number of days it took us to rush over—I mean, we gave it our all. Alan even flew us until he had no strength left and Dan had to carry him on his back, the two of us running the rest of the way—we just barely managed to find you in thirteen days!"

Shooting Star gestured at the elf and said, "Haven't you noticed how Alan is so tired that his face has lost all color? Though honestly, elves have always been pale. I really can't tell if he is paler than usual or not!"

Shooting Star's face was saying, "Hmph, hmph, it's all your fault, Bai

Saya, for getting captured by a dragon out of nowhere,” without considering just who it was that had forced Alan to fly off track by ninety degrees, landing them in their current predicament.

“But I really feel like it’s only been two days! Even though I was unconscious for most of it.”

As he spoke, Bai Saya grew uncertain of it, too. *Could I really have been unconscious for such a long time? But how could I only feel hungry after not eating or drinking anything for over ten days?*

“You were unconscious?” Dan was, in the end, the one who cared about him the most. He immediately asked with worry, “Why? Was it the dragon?”

“Yes. When the dragon flew me up, I fell unconscious then. Later, when I accidentally dripped blood on the gemstone, I lost consciousness a second time.”

Fainting all the time was making Bai Saya feel embarrassed. If Shifu were still around, he would definitely scold him: *When did you become as fragile as a maiden?*

“Gemstone? What gemstone?” Dan’s shout was sudden and fierce.

“It’s...”

Bai Saya was about to say that it was the gemstone he was returning to Dan, so he might as well return it now, but he abruptly realized he didn’t know where the stone was. He had been holding the stone when he had fainted. *Don’t tell me...*

"Oh no! I think I forgot the stone at the dragon's lair!"

At the side, an odd expression came over Shooting Star's face. He grabbed the Sword of Sacred White that was hanging by Bai Saya's waist. The originally pure white and pristine sword now had an ocean blue sapphire the size of a goose egg on it. The addition of the azure gemstone against the pure white of the sword made the entire sword even more magnificent. However, both Shooting Star and Dan had frantic expressions on their faces.

"This is that thing from when Mannen went crazy..." Shooting Star cried out, "This is terrible! I knew that Xiao Bai would never say anything like he was hungry. It must be just like what happened to Mannen back then. He's gone crazy!"

If saying I'm hungry means I'm crazy, then Shooting Star, you've never been sane. Bai Saya didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Just what is going on?"

Alan had no idea what was happening. He didn't know what had happened to that person called "Mannen" to make both Shooting Star and Dan so frantic. However, to his eyes, Bai Saya appeared very normal—the only thing that was odd was that he was standing there just fine even after not eating for thirteen days.

Even though Shooting Star's words made no sense, Dan was already so frantic that he was about to lose it. Even this nonsense sounded almost reasonable to him. He hurriedly asked, "Saya, can you tell me what happened in detail?"

"Okay." Bai Saya immediately nodded.

Shooting Star thought about it. He sat down cross-legged and placed the egg between his legs. He rested his chin on his hands, like an obedient kid asking for a story.

Bai Saya began retelling how he had met the dragon, and the dragon had asked him to help properly bury the corpse. At that moment, he glanced at the egg in Shooting Star's possession and decided to skip over the part of how the dragon had entrusted the egg to him. The dragon had decided to give him a reward. He chose an exquisite looking letter opener.

Bai Saya emphasized that it was exquisite, afraid that Shooting Star would feel that he had chosen something that wasn't worth much and might even force him to go back and choose something expensive completely encrusted in precious stones.

Shooting Star immediately jumped up shouting about where the letter opener was. Under Alan and Dan's cold glares, he shrank back to the ground, grumbling that he'd ask Xiao Bai for it later in any case.

Bai Saya continued his story. He accidentally cut his hand. The blood dripped onto the gemstone. As a result, he fell unconscious. A guy called Roth appeared in his mind.

"Roth? Why does such a strange guy have such a civilian name?"

Shooting Star shouted in disbelief. *Roth, Roth. Just about every tavern has a waiter called Roth.*

"Oh, he said that he's the Stone of Fury, Roth!"

So he's the Stone of Fury, Wrath... The three of them retorted internally, correcting Bai Saya.

As the previous victim of his random naming, Alan resolutely decided that he must teach Bai Saya how to speak fluent Elvish later on during their journey!

"In the end, Roth said he would give me power, but I'm to exchange for it with my fury. After that, I opened my eyes and saw you guys right then."

Bai Saya finished the story all at once.

At this point, Shooting Star and Alan were both confused. Exchange fury for power? Is fury so valuable? Oh, but Bai Saya's fury could possibly be very valuable indeed?

Alan had yet to see Bai Saya ever get angry. As for Shooting Star, he had seen it a few times when he had first met Bai Saya. At that time, he had been entrenched in the pain of losing his shifu, his heart yearning for vengeance. But even then, Bai Saya had only directed his anger at Mannen. He had never gotten angry at anyone else, not even Mannen's son.

"Dan, the gemstone is set in the sword. You can take the sword, too."

Although Bai Saya would miss the Sword of Sacred White, he would

not renege on what he had already promised.

Dan was silent for a while. Finally, he said with a tired expression on his face, "It's not that easy, Saya. Matters surrounding that stone are very complicated."

Why? Why must it be Saya? The lenience that Ice Chess had obtained for them now seemed practically pathetic.

"Why is it very complicated?" Bai Saya had a confused expression.

In response to Bai Saya's question, Dan reflexively opened his mouth, wanting to answer. Fortunately, he caught himself in time and firmly shut his mouth. He was silent for a long time. In the midst of that silence, there were several times when Bai Saya wanted to tell him, "You don't need to say it if you don't want to," but Shooting Star was gripping the corner of his shirt, with the implication, "If you dare to interrupt, I'm gonna pull down your pants." Bai Saya could only keep his mouth closed.

Giving voice to it seemed to be a highly difficult thing to do. Only when Bai Saya was nearly about to faint from hunger did Dan finally open his mouth to say, "Alan should have heard of the 'Seven Stones of the Original Sins.'"

Everyone's gazes immediately moved to Alan, who didn't feel that this was something that he couldn't speak about. He directly said, "In the ancient legends told among the elves, it is said that GOD created Seven Stones of the Original Sins, used to swallow the seven deadly sins that living creatures gave rise to, in order to protect the beauty of

the world.”

“What a minute, what’s GO... Gawd?” Bai Saya asked like an inquisitive student.

... It’s GOD!

“GOD is the deity that which created this world.” Alan explained with extreme helplessness, having not thought that GOD would become the third victim of Bai Saya’s random naming. The name had even been altered to sound abnormally terrible. Compared to Gawd, the name Alan was nearly beautiful!

Curious student Bai Saya asked again, “But Roth isn’t a Stone of the Original Sins. He said he’s the Stone of Fury.”

“There are seven of the stones. Legend has it that they all have their own names, but we among the elves and other races have already lost their names to the flow of time.”

Dan opened his mouth to say, “The Stone of Fury, Wrath; the Stone of Ego, Pride; the Stone of Avarice, Greed; the Stone of Indulgence, Gluttony; the Stone of Lethargy, Sloth; the Stone of Desire, Lust; and the Stone of Grudge, Envy.”

Alan stared at Dan in shock. He had not thought that these names that had been lost to time among the long lived elves would actually resurface from Dan’s mouth.

“I don’t care what the heck those stones are called. Now that Bai Saya

has gotten involved with the Stone of Fury, how will he be affected? Spit it out!” Shooting Star asked impatiently. Ever since the story had begun, he hadn’t cared about the legends or about GOD. Compared to all those intangible things, he wanted to know if that damn stone would bring harm to his pet. Would he go insane like Mannen?

Dan slowly opened his mouth and sang a beautiful, lyrical song. He knew that Bai Saya didn’t know Elvish, so he even translated it along the way.

GOD, the creator.

GOD, the destroyer.

The final test comes from Him.

A test between existence and doom.

Wrath descends upon the East.

Greed and Sloth take the West.

Pride and Gluttony choose the South.

Lust and Envy fall to the North.

Seven original sins.

Seven types of evil.

Seven precious stones decide on existence or doom.

"T-That sounds really serious!" Bai Saya had a shocked expression on his face.

Shooting Star asked suspiciously, "How do you know how serious it is?"

Bai Saya answered honestly, "I don't. It's just that the words existence and doom are part of it, so it sounds very serious."

Shooting Star snapped, "Eight out of ten legends have to do with the world coming to an end. If you believe every single one of them, that means the world has ended more than eight hundred times already!"

Unexpectedly, Alan agreed with Shooting Star. He looked at Dan doubtfully. "Shooting Star isn't wrong to say so. There are hundreds of legends about the world ending. I don't believe that this one is any more important than the others."

Dan shook his head and said, "The things in the other legends won't appear in the real world, but the Seven Stones of Sin have actually appeared and they are searching for masters everywhere."

"So, our Xiao Bai is currently Wrath's master?" Shooting Star had on a bitter expression. He hated trouble the most. Why must his pet get involved with something as troubling as the end of the world!

"No, not yet." Dan looked at Bai Saya in worry and sighed, "His situation is similar to Mannen's. The Stone of Fury is just residing in him. Perhaps he will truly become the master of the Stone of Fury in

the future, but he must never use the stone's power. If he overuses it, he will go insane and die just like Mannen!"

Just thinking of that was making Dan deeply afraid.

"Then, I just won't use the stone's power." Bai Saya's way of thinking was very simple. Since he couldn't use it, then he wouldn't, and wouldn't things be fine then?

Dan sighed and said, "Things aren't that simple. Sometimes, it's not whether you wish to use it or not. Rather, you would have no choice, such as you and your companions coming across a strong foe. Wouldn't you want to borrow the stone's power to save them?"

However, Bai Saya didn't show any signs of internal conflict. Instead, as if it was strange, he asked, "But if I went crazy because I borrowed the stone's power, then I wouldn't be able to save them because I'd be crazy. Why would I use it then?"

"That's..." Dan, who had been trying to talk Bai Saya around, was instead stumped.

"Xiao Bai's thinking is very inflexible. No need to worry about him! Since he said he won't use it, then there definitely isn't a chance in hell that he will!" Shooting Star changed the topic nonchalantly and asked, "Why not quickly tell us whether or not your Goldenstyle Merchant Guild wants this Stone of Sin?"

Dan glanced at Shooting Star with surprise.

"The lyrics in the song mentioned that the Stones of Pride and Gluttony chose the south, and you probably knew from the start that we'd taken Mannen's stone. That's why Ice Chess threatened us into coming with you to the Southern Continent. If you can bring back three stones at once, not only would you make up for your mistakes, but it would also be making quite the achievement, right?"

And you might also snatch away Bai Saya while you're at it. Shooting Star gave a "hmph." Freakin' Ice Chess, killing three birds with one stone!

He asked suspiciously, "But why do you guys want this stone? Don't tell me that the ultimate wish of the big boss behind the scenes is actually to destroy the world? That's just too cheesy! Unacceptable!"

Dan shook his head. "I don't know. I was only sent here to the Southern Continent to search for the stones. Ice Chess's card instructed me to bring back the Stone of Fury and for me to also test to see if either of you two are the Stone of Fury's master."

"Oh? Us 'two'?" Shooting Star gestured sarcastically at himself and Alan. Even though he was obviously angry to the point of gnashing his teeth, he pretended to feel it was a pity and sighed, "How unfortunate! Fury just had to pick the one person you didn't want to test."

Dan fell silent.

"Shooting Star, don't pick on Dan anymore." Bai Saya couldn't bear to keep watching. No matter what, Dan had helped them out a lot, and now he was even telling the truth behind everything to them. Besides,

his acquisition of the gem couldn't be blamed on Dan... All in all, as someone who didn't bear grudges, he couldn't watch Shooting Star digging at Dan.

"If I can't pick on him, then you better let me pick on you! Why has a beautiful, lazy journey changed into a luxurious one-way trip straight toward doomsday? What do you want me to do?"

Shooting Star was furious. Xiao Bai didn't understand the situation at all. Now that the Stone of Fury refused to leave Bai Saya, it meant that they were fighting over the same thing as the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild. The three of them would have to fight an entire guild!

There were only two paths left to take.

First, they could hand Xiao Bai over. Even better, they might even get a pretty good reward out of the Guild... *What a joke! Xiao Bai is my pet! Never!*

Second, they wouldn't hand Xiao Bai over. After that, they would become wanted criminals going for pretty large rewards on wanted posters.

Meaning, they had no future to speak of.

As Dan struggled between the dilemma of his checkmate and his duty, as Shooting Star cried that his days of eating and sleeping his fill were now beyond reach, as Bai Saya began to regret his own carelessness over dripping blood on Roth, Alan the elf who had been an onlooker this entire time opened his mouth rather nonchalantly.

"Since this is the case, then we should hide on the Shaosi or Yisite Continents. No matter how powerful the Guild is, they can't be powerful to the point that they can hop over continents to chase us down, especially in the case of the Yisite Continent. That's the home of us elves. Even Ice Chess, a thousand year old demon, would not easily be able to set foot there."

Right! Shooting Star's eyes sparkled with hope. The Yisite Continent was a pretty good choice. That was the homeland of Xiao Bai and Alan. On the plains, they had a human to lead the way. In the forest, they had an elf to lead the way. They could finally escape from the current situation of having three idiots with directions wander the world!

Besides, Xiao Bai and his shifu must have had a house that they lived in? Since his shifu had already croaked, then the house was definitely Xiao Bai's now, and Xiao Bai was currently Shooting Star's pet. A pet's house was of course the master's house, so didn't that mean that Shooting Star actually had a house on the Yisite Continent?!

(Bai Saya: Hey, that's not how it works, right?)

Dan calmly said, "Going to the Yisite Continent is a good choice. As you said, the Guild doesn't have the power to chase you there."

It was exactly because they didn't have enough control that Mannen had been able to stow away the stone without turning it over, causing this mess in the end.

"We'll go to the Yisite Continent? Then, what about you?" Bai Saya

asked in a hurry.

"I have to work for the Guild. I can't go with you all," Dan struggled to say. If he were just a normal merchant, he wouldn't hesitate in the slightest to leave with Bai Saya. Unfortunately...

"But if you let us go, the Guild won't let you off, right?" Shooting Star tilted his head in thought. He asked doubtfully, "But, Ice Chess should be able to cover for you?"

"I will be fine." Dan's expression was calm the entire time.

Shooting Star looked at Dan's serene expression with some suspicion, but then he considered how a thousand year old demon should have been able to climb to a high position. If it weren't that Dan had been punished, Shooting Star would have thought that Ice Chess himself was the big boss behind the scenes! Even if he wasn't, a thousand year old demon must have a high position. Ice Chess also looked like he cared for his nephew a lot. He would probably cover for him!

So, it was still best to leave Dan behind. He'd take both of his pets and quickly flee... No! It should be three of his pets.

Precious egggy egg, your owner hasn't forgotten you. You should quickly hatch! Shooting Star caressed the smooth egg with extraordinary tenderness. When he finished rubbing it, he lifted his head and immediately saw his other pet staring at him with a gaze that said, "I can't do the right thing, so now my conscience hurts."

Seeing such a gaze, Shooting Star felt that his head, stomach, and his

entire body hurt. He just knew this matter couldn't be solved so easily. Even though Xiao Bai was a guy who pretty much went with the flow—he didn't even complain when he ended up as a pet—when he turned into a swordsman whose conscience smarted, then he would become even more putridly headstrong than the rocks at the bottom of a dung pit. There was no room for negotiation at all!

"Shooting Star, can't we help Dan find the other two stones first before we leave?"

Bai Saya used an extremely amiable tone to discuss it with Shooting Star, but his face shone with the light of righteousness that left no room for negotiation.

What else could Shooting Star, who almost got blinded from the shining light of righteousness, do? If he didn't agree with Xiao Bai, then he wouldn't be able to open his eyes anymore! "Fine, fine. But we're leaving right after we find the stones!"

Bai Saya nodded.

However, it was Dan who shook his head. "Saya, for your safety, you should go to the Yisite Continent right away..."

"No!" Bai Saya shot the idea down. "You said last time that we're friends. Bringing trouble to a friend and fleeing from the situation on my own is not the conduct a swordsman should ever have. That is the behavior of one without honor. Therefore, I must help you find the gems in order to prove that I am not one without honor!"

Dan looked at Shooting Star, his eyes seemingly asking: *Are you really not going to stop him?*

Shooting Star had long since left to play with his “dragon egg.” He had already given up on dispelling Bai Saya’s light of righteousness eight hundred years ago. Asking this guy, who could jump into the sea without thinking to save someone, to throw away his honor was practically a waste of breath. He would much rather prefer to go off to the side to play with the egg.

Dan then looked at Alan, who actually glared at him and growled, “What are you looking at me for? Don’t get in your mind that I have stopped hating you just because we are temporarily journeying together, half demon!”

How did Bai Saya end up with such strange companions? Dan sighed and helplessly said, “Then, let’s head back and meet up with my subordinates before going off to search for the stones.”

“Wrong!” Shooting Star shouted, “We should eat first before anything else!”

“Where do we have anything to eat in this wilderness?” Dan frowned. *What a willful child. He really isn’t a good adventure companion.*

Shooting Star, Bai Saya, and Alan all slowly turned to look far into the distance.

Bai Saya, who was responsible for hunting, looked deep into the

mountain forests. From there came the alarming howls of wild beasts. But not only was he unafraid, he even had on a contemplative smile as he said, "The entire mountain is full of fresh meat."

Alan scrutinized the entire floor of yellow-green wild vegetation. There were spotted fungi under the trees and strangely shaped fruits growing on the trees. He had on a thoughtful expression, as if contemplating what vegetables to include for a balanced diet. He smiled coldly at the half demon, a smile so cold that even demons would fear it. "The entire ground is covered with vegetables to eat."

Shooting Star materialized two fireballs above his hands. "To finish off this poem: we're never short on heat!"

Dan suddenly regretted that he hadn't brought with him the medicine kit from the ship. *There is medicine for stomach aches inside of it...*

Footnotes

1 **Roth:** We translated this initially as “Wrathie” in the previous chapter but now feel that a different translation is more appropriate, as Bai Saya’s naming of the Stone of Fury is more giving him a different, common name that’s somewhat of a mispronunciation of Wrath rather than a nickname. We will be going with Roth from this point forward.

Chapter 9: GOD, Part Two

After everyone finished eating that pot of food cooked from unknown fruits and vegetables and the meat of unknown beasts, Shooting Star cut straight to the point and asked, "So, where should we go now to find your subordinates?"

Dan replied indifferently, "Doesn't matter where. As long as I give them the signal, they will naturally find me."

He looked at Bai Saya, who was to the side, and wished to have a discussion with him instead, but once Bai Saya ate and drank his fill, he automatically went to clean up. His light of righteousness he had given off earlier was all used to scrub the pots and wash the dishes. To the side, the elf was currently rubbing dust off of the dragon egg. The two of them didn't seem to have any notion of how terrible their current situation was, and they weren't nervous at all either. The only one who was asking questions was actually Shooting Star.

Maybe Shooting Star isn't that terrible of a companion, Dan thought to himself.

"Then, let's go to a big city!" Shooting Star immediately shouted. When he saw Dan look at him with a frown, as if he were trying to guess at Shooting Star's intentions, Shooting Star coughed and said in a serious tone, "Big cities have lots of sources of information. It would help our search for information on the Stones of Original Sin."

Hearing that, Dan nodded outwardly, but inwardly, he was alert. *Searching for the Stones of Sin won't benefit Shooting Star much.*

Why is he so passionate about it? Could it be that he also has intentions on the Stones of Sin?

Bai Saya sighed and exposed the truth behind Shooting Star's "intentions."

"Shooting Star, don't be so gluttonous and lazy. We have no money to our name. You can't always dream of going to a big city to eat at a restaurant and sleep at an inn!"

...Seems like Shooting Star is still a terrible companion. Dan decided not to change his evaluation of him again.

"Who says we have no money to our name?!" Shooting Star didn't feel embarrassed at all to have his intentions exposed. He even brashly declared, "I have forty thousand gold ducats with me! Forty thousand! No! With the letter opener you took from the dragon's lair and this dragon egg, heavens, I might be a millionaire!"

Dragon egg... Bai Saya abruptly remembered that he should quickly explain that the egg wasn't a dragon egg and that they should quickly find a good mother for the egg.

"Shooting Star, that egg..."

"Egg?" Shooting Star looked at the egg in Alan's arms. When he raised his head and saw Bai Saya's concerned expression, he snapped, "What? You think I'm gonna eat it? Although it does look really tasty..."

Shooting Star couldn't help but glance at the egg again. He swallowed

unconsciously. Following that, Shooting Star righteously said, "But it's my pet dragon. Among my list of favorites, pets definitely win over good food, so I won't eat it. Relax!"

... So, you mean that if it's not a dragon, you would eat it?

Bai Saya's face darkened, and he immediately swallowed down the truth about how this egg wasn't a dragon egg. Otherwise, if he revealed it, Shooting Star might swallow the egg down instead.

"We still have to go to a big city." Dan was always thinking about proper matters. Even though Shooting Star's intentions weren't pure, his thinking was right. If they were to search for information in a small town or village, they could search for their entire lives and still not come up with anything. They had to go to a big city where information was plentiful.

Alan said to Shooting Star flatly, "If we're going to the big city, then I need your bracelet to disguise myself."

For some reason, Shooting Star glanced at Dan hesitantly. Seeing that Dan was lost in thought, Shooting Star then quickly took off one bracelet out of a pair on his wrist and gave it to the elf.

When Alan took the bracelet and put it on, he once again transformed into the black-haired, brown-eyed "Bai Lan," although the elf, who never lied, was determined never to use this fake name again.

"This bracelet is very valuable." Dan frowned. He had come into contact with many auction items over the years. He naturally knew the

value of magical items, especially a magical item such as this one with such great usefulness. It might not even be any cheaper than the value of an elf. *Why would Shooting Star have something like this? And it seems to be part of a pair, too...*

"Who cares about the bracelet?" Shooting Star cut Dan off and asked, "You should tell us, how are we supposed to find two stones that are only the size of a chicken egg on such a large continent? You should know that if we can't help you find the stones, my Xiao Bai won't be willing to hide on the Yisite Continent!"

Dan hesitated for a moment and dodged the main point as he said, "I have a way of knowing where the Stones of Sin are, but I can't tell you the method. That's a Guild secret. I can't tell any people I don't trust."

Well gosh, so sorry! Shooting Star rolled his eyes at him exaggeratedly. There were only two "people" here, and one of them was Bai Saya. Shooting Star believed that Dan cared for Bai Saya with all his heart, so much that he would even go as far as digging his heart out for Bai Saya. Bai Saya was definitely among Dan's trusted, so these words meant that the guy Dan didn't trust was Shooting Star.

Shooting Star huffed, "Whatever. In any case, when we can't find the stones, remember to help me tie Xiao Bai up and toss him onto a ship heading to the Yisite Continent."

"Okay." Dan nodded.

Can you two please not talk about tying someone up and throwing him on a ship right in front of the person? Bai Saya didn't know whether he

should laugh or cry.

“All right then!” Shooting Star shouted and jumped up. “Then since it’s all settled, let’s rest up and then hit the road. We’ll do our best to quickly reach the big city to eat at a restaurant and sleep at an inn!”

Even Dan didn’t have anything to retort. Even though his goal wasn’t eating and sleeping, by reaching the big city as quickly as they could to search for news of the stones, he could send Bai Saya away earlier. Their goals aligned.

Although they wished to hurry on the road, Dan, Alan, and Shooting Star had already been on the road for thirteen days for the sake of rescuing Bai Saya. They were already fairly exhausted, especially the elf whose stamina wasn’t that great. Therefore, their speed wasn’t that much faster than taking a stroll.

“Heavy, the egg is so heavy!”

At first, Shooting Star hugged the egg stubbornly, unwilling to let go of his future pet. However, after carrying it for a day, he resolutely decided to throw the egg at Bai Saya and even consoled himself by saying, “Even if I don’t carry it, it’ll still be my pet when it hatches!”

Following that, caring for nothing but himself, he hummed a tune and hit the road with light feet and no egg.

In response to such a situation, Bai Saya could only carry the egg and smile wryly. However, the dragon had entrusted the egg to him in the first place, so he carried it rather willingly, without a word of complaint.

"Let's take turns," Dan suggested helpfully.

Alan wanted to help too, but after he considered his own stamina, he decided to give up on it. Instead of helping, he might create a problem for the team instead.

Bai Saya shook his head and said, "You all spent so much effort to rescue me and are probably exhausted. Let me hold this egg by myself. I am a swordsman. This bit of weight is nothing."

Hearing that and seeing how Bai Saya was holding it with ease, as if it were a pigeon egg, the two of them didn't argue with him over it.

At night time when it was time to sleep, Shooting Star stole the egg away and hugged it as he slept. He claimed that since he was the egg's owner, a tough job like "incubating" the egg should be given to him. He, the owner, would sacrifice himself and do his best to help the egg hatch!

All three of the others knew that the weather on the Shaosi Continent was sweltering, so hugging a large egg that had a cool surface while sleeping was actually rather comfortable.

Even though they knew the truth, the three of them only shook their heads. None of them fought with Shooting Star over hugging the egg.

At night, when they were discussing which order they would keep watch, Shooting Star just said, "I'm gonna incubate the egg. No time." Then he hugged the egg, turned around, and went to sleep just like

that. Among the three left, Bai Saya immediately chose to take the hardest shift, the middle one.

Moon elves loved the moonlit sky filled with stars, so Alan didn't exactly want to sleep early. Therefore, he was given the first shift. He dutifully walked around, the light steps common to elves giving him little worry that he would wake his companions.

He patrolled for quite a while. Nothing in particular happened. Alan walked back to the camp and sat down in his own spot. He turned to survey his companions. Bai Saya and Dan were both sleeping among the grasses. They had spread out, their postures proper. Even from their sleeping positions, you could see their personalities.

Only Shooting Star was sleeping spread eagle. His position made Alan frown. It was true that the pose was unsightly, but he also felt that there was something wrong about it... *Wait, his limbs are all spread out? And there's nothing on his stomach!*

Then, where is the egg he was hugging?

Alan immediately looked all around him and saw something white rolling rapidly toward the campfire...

"Ah!"

The elf, who was always calm and elegant, gave a high shriek and pounced toward the campfire.

"What's going on?" Bai Saya jumped up frantically.

"Are we being attacked?" Dan pulled out a knife from underneath his pillow with practice.

The two of them held their weapons in high alert but didn't see any enemies at all. They looked toward Alan in suspicion. He was currently on his knees by the campfire and hugging the egg to himself, his face pale. He was even trembling.

"Alan, are you okay?" Bai Saya asked in shock.

Alan had been frightened to the point that he felt drained. It took him a long time before he answered weakly, "We almost ended up with egg as a late night snack."

The elf slowly got his breath back. He told the two of them exactly what had happened. The three of them glared at Shooting Star together...

That guy is actually still sleeping!

Alan glared at Shooting Star coldly. This guy had clearly said that he wanted to incubate the egg, yet he had almost served a late night snack to everyone. He told the two of them, "Go back to sleep. I'll hug this egg myself. I won't let Shooting Star do it anymore."

Hearing that, they nodded. Since Alan would look after it, there shouldn't be any more problems.

As the others went back to sleep, Alan continued to keep watch,

except he had an egg in his arms now.

Suddenly, a faint noise attracted Alan's attention. He listened carefully. It sounded like something stepping on grass. However, the sound was very faint, so he couldn't tell what kind of creature it was. It might be just a wild rabbit.

He picked up the egg and slowly stood up, walking in the direction of the noise. Even though the grass was thick, it only came up to his calves, so it wouldn't keep any large animals from view.

Maybe it really is just a wild rabbit? Alan observed for a while but didn't spot anything out of the ordinary. He sat down again.

As he sat down, a small breeze blew past. Before he could react, several long objects wrapped around his four limbs and even muffled his mouth. Those lengthy things abruptly wrapped him up tightly, from head to toe. Alan didn't have any time to react, let alone make any noise to alert his companions.

It had only taken an instant for him to be completely wrapped up. He couldn't even open his mouth. However, his opponent probably wasn't trying to kill him, as his nose hadn't been covered, allowing him room to breathe.

Alan struggled to look at those lengthy objects and discovered that the things that had tied him up were actually the weeds surrounding him!

Crack...

What was that noise? Alan lowered his eyes but abruptly widened them. The egg in his arms had also been wrapped up tightly by the weeds. The weeds just kept wrapping tightly, with no consideration of the egg's ability to withstand the pressure. There were already cracks on the egg!

If this continues, the egg will crack open! Alan struggled with all his might, but unfortunately, as an elven mage whose physique wasn't all that great, he couldn't even move.

Crack! Another cracking sound came from the egg.

No! Witnessing the cracking, Alan screamed hopelessly to himself, *Bai Saya! Dan! Wake up! If you don't wake up, a life will be lost!*

At this time, a red streak shot past him. The weeds that had wrapped Alan up fell down in segments. They had all been severed. Alan, without checking up on himself, frantically parted the grass to check on the condition of the egg's shell. He discovered that while there were cracks, they did not seem to be too deep. This allowed the elf to breathe a sigh of relief.

Only then did he have time to care about his surroundings. He had thought that Dan had helped him, but when he turned to look, he blurted, "Shooting Star?"

Shooting Star's face was dark. He held a crimson whip in his hand. He pursed his lips and the crimson whip abruptly shot out once again. In midair, the whip crashed against weeds that seemed to have come to life. He yelled, "Xiao Bai, Dan, get up already, or do you want to wait

until you're all sliced up and won't ever need to get up again?"

By this time, the two of them had already jumped up, but they were a bit out of sorts and didn't understand what was going on.

"I-is this... grass?" After Bai Saya discerned what was dancing in the air, he was so shocked that he didn't know how to respond.

A long string of beautiful words flowed from the elf. The dark night flashed with blue lightning, beautiful beyond words, yet also dangerous beyond words. The elf's beautiful face filled with fury. With electricity dancing around him, he looked both severe and breathtaking.

He growled, "No matter who you are, I will never forgive you for this misdeed of demeaning the value of life, attempting to cut short a budding life for no reason!"

"As expected of an elf. What a waste of words." Shooting Star picked at his ears and nonchalantly pulled his whip back. He immediately jumped backwards by two steps to prevent himself from ending up as collateral damage. You had to understand that the lightning had them surrounded. Even their own people had lightning dancing around them. If he didn't scam now, then when was the time for it?

"What's going on? Could it be that the plants Alan picked for us to eat in the daytime are now taking revenge?"

Bai Saya stared at the lightning intermingling with spraying blood... Wrong! It was spraying grass. This situation couldn't be any odder.

When they heard that, Shooting Star and Dan slowly turned to look at Bai Saya, who blushed and explained with a stutter, "I, I just heard that, um some plants live so long that they become magical and could turn into monsters to hurt people."

Shooting Star mocked him, "Then tell me, was it the rainbow mushrooms we ate, or the tofu boiled in the soup that's taking revenge on us?"

"Um..." Bai Saya was stumped.

At this time, the elf, who had his hands raised high, abruptly dropped them and growled, "Pillar of Lightning!"

Shooting Star paled. *Hot damn! He's even using Pillar of Lightning!*

"Dodge now!" Shooting Star yelled as he put distance between himself and his teammate. He would rather face an unknown foe than his own elven companion!

"Huh? Why?" Bai Saya asked in confusion.

It was suddenly as bright as day above them. Dan raised his head to look up at the sky and sucked in a breath. Without a word, he dragged Bai Saya and ran.

A pillar of white blue light shot down from the sky, piercing apart the night. It shot straight down, creating chaos ten miles wide. Those with legs picked them up and fled. Those without legs hopped wildly. All the animals around used their quickest speed to flee.

Alan's own companions were among the chaotic animals. They ran for their lives, but when the pillar of lightning shot down, the resulting burst of wind knocked them straight to the ground.

After the explosion, Bai Saya scrambled to his feet and called out in a hurry, "Shooting Star, Alan is still over there!"

"Of course he's over there!" Shooting Star climbed up from the ground and howled, "He was the one who released that lightning pillar. Where else would the culprit be? Don't tell me you think that an experienced elven mage would get hurt by his own magic!"

"Oh, so it won't hurt him? I don't understand magic." Bai Saya let out a sigh of relief. Shooting Star glared at him, but Bai Saya didn't mind. *As long as our companion is okay.*

"Hurry back. The enemy controlling the grass might not have been hit by such a reckless spell." Shooting Star quickly said, "And Alan just used such strong magic. He must have exhausted his magic. Leaving him there would be really dangerous."

"Alan is in danger?" The moment Bai Saya heard that his companion was in danger, he shot off with his quick agility.

"Saya, assess the situation first..." Dan didn't even have time to grab him.

After Shooting Star rolled his eyes at Dan, he followed after Bai Saya while turning and making a face at Dan. "Idiot! If he heard that his

companion was in danger but still stopped to assess the situation, he wouldn't be Xiao Bai!"

You're right. Dan sighed helplessly and followed behind them quickly.

Shooting Star had hit the nail on the head. Once Bai Saya reached their previous location, he saw Alan kneeling on the ground, breathing heavily and hugging the egg tightly without letting go. Soon after, he saw a figure dashing toward Alan...

"Don't you dare hurt my teammate!" Bai Saya raised the Sword of Sacred White to meet them.

"What's the hurry? I'll play with you after I finish off this small fry." The black shadow broke into a grin and chuckled. "I am so curious which of the original sins you are."

Original sins? Bai Saya was stumped. Before he came back to himself, the weeds near his feet twisted and shot toward Bai Saya's limbs. However, he was a sharp swordsman. He didn't even need to think before he reflexively chopped apart the weeds.

Yet, when he chopped apart some, even more weeds began moving, forcing him to retaliate again.

At this time, the elf's shriek reached his ears. Bai Saya lifted his head. The black shadow held a long whip and was swinging it at the elf, again and again. Alan, in order to protect the egg, could only lower his body and hug the egg tightly, letting the whip hit him directly.

"Alan!" Bai Saya cried out. He wanted to go over to save his companion, but the moment of distraction allowed the surrounding weeds to grab his ankle. Furious, he swung his blade wildly but was unable to extricate himself right away.

"A whip? Interesting! You dare to use the same weapon as me to hit my pet? You're asking for it!"

Another figure shot past Bai Saya. Before he reached Alan, the whip in his hands struck out, accurately flying at the black shadow.

It's Shooting Star! Bai Saya felt relieved.

The black shadow seemed to already know that his opponent used a whip. When he heard the sound of the whip, he immediately turned and swung the whip in his hand as well. It clashed with the crimson whip in midair. Both whips tangled up. Both sides pulled on their whips, not giving an inch.

The black shadow smiled. "You're pretty good with the whip. Good, now it's getting fun."

"Hmph!"

Shooting Star didn't feel amused at all. His pet's body was covered with crimson blood with a silver sheen. That was a color unique to a moon elf's blood. This couldn't be the result of a mere whip. An elf, whose physique was poor, would have already collapsed by the time a whip would cause this much blood to flow. *There has to be something weird going on with that whip!*

Suddenly, the whip was yanked even harder, and Shooting Star was pulled over by the black shadow.

"Shooting Star!"

Bai Saya cried out but couldn't rescue him in time due to the surrounding weeds trapping him. Dan was also helping him chop apart the weeds and didn't react in time. Or perhaps, he didn't want to respond in the first place...

"Aurora Lightning!" Alan extended one hand and shot out a ray of lightning from his palm. It shot straight at that person, giving Shooting Star a chance to find his balance.

The black shadow smiled wickedly. Tons of weeds around them gathered together, stacking layer by layer to block that ray of lightning. Even though charred leaves fell one by one, even more weeds sprouted from the ground, shooting toward Alan like a long spear.

"Oh no!"

Alan wanted to dodge with the egg, but he tripped and fell right to the ground. When he turned his head, he realized that weeds had already wrapped around his leg. He reached out his hand, wanting to cut apart those weeds, but the spear formed from weeds had already reached him, forcing him to twist left and right yet still fail to escape unharmed.

"Where the heck do you think you're looking!" Shooting Star jumped at the black shadow. He didn't have time to pull his whip back. Instead,

he gave up on the whip and curled his fingers into a claw shape as he pounced on the black shadow.

The black shadow gave a bark of laughter and mocked, "Are you a girl? Are you gonna use your nails to scratch me?"

In the moment the claws were about to scratch the black figure, he finally noticed something wrong. The nails had still been completely normal until just now when they suddenly grew exponentially to reach ten centimeters. They weren't colorless and translucent like normal nails. Rather, they were—crimson!

Those claws even swung down with a spin and accompanying wind. The black shadow leaped backward. However, he was too late. The claws brushed past his chest. They didn't hit him directly but were enough to leave three deep claw marks.

By now, the other hand had also reached him but not in a swinging attack. Instead, the five fingers closed together into the shape of a spike, piercing straight toward the black shadow's heart.

Ruthless! An excited grin broke out over the black shadow's face.

Shooting Star had wanted to pierce the guy with one strike, but he abruptly stopped and turned, jumping to the side. Both claws shot out, cutting apart all the weeds entangled around Alan's neck.

Alan, with one hand around the egg, used his other hand to hold his neck. He coughed violently. Distinct, red strangulation marks could be seen on his neck. If Shooting Star had been any later, Alan's neck

would probably have been snapped by the weeds.

"Heh! I knew you cared for this companion of yours." The black shadow jumped backward. After he found his footing, he touched his chest. He was actually a little scared. He hadn't thought that Shooting Star would have this up his sleeve. He had almost met an unexpected demise.

Finally, Bai Saya and Dan managed to escape the weeds, running over to protect Alan.

Seeing that Alan wasn't in grave danger, Shooting Star immediately turned and glared at the black shadow. He growled, "Duh! He's my pet. Even if I kill you a hundred times, it wouldn't make up for his life."

"Pet?" The black shadow was stunned. It hadn't crossed his mind that the elf would have this kind of identity. He was a freaking lightning mage. Wasn't making him a pet and not even putting any restraints on his magic way too dangerous?

Suddenly, Bones burrowed out from who knows where, hooking the Crimson Snake Whip back onto Shooting Star's hand. The latter grabbed the whip with one hand and put his other hand on his waist, angrily shouting, "Bastard, not only did you wake me up in the middle of the night, you damaged my dragon egg and even hurt my Alan! Haven't you ever heard that beating a dog means you'll have to answer to its master?"

You're treating me as a dog again! Alan was angry but also felt something else he couldn't name. He kept being rescued by Shooting

Star. Even though Shooting Star's mouth always infuriated Alan, he wasn't truly angry, not like how he had felt in the beginning.

The black shadow smiled strangely, his voice sounding quite excited. "Hehehe! You even have an undead creature? Interesting. Your team is interesting! I've truly found the right entertainment."

Dan spoke rather calmly, "You mentioned original sin earlier. What is that?"

The black shadow said with disdain, "You playing dumb with me? You obviously know what I'm talking about."

"Playing dumb, my ass! You're the one putting on an act, giggling freakishly like a pervert!" shouted Shooting Star.

He really couldn't stand it anymore. The spell of sunlight burst out from his hands, immediately illuminating the entire place.

The black shadow was naturally no longer a black shadow. A man was currently squatting on the ground. A long whip of thorns wrapped around one of his wrists. Silver-red blood dripped from the thorns.

The man had a head of bright orange hair that was braided into countless small braids. His turquoise eyes gleamed with the wickedness of a wolf. He didn't look amiable at all and was even wearing the tight, black clothes of an assassin. No wonder he had been a dark shadow just now, hidden against the backdrop of the night.

"Not only are you a pervert, you're even a pervert who doesn't wash

his hair!" Shooting Star deliberately made a disgusted expression.

"How do you know I don't like washing my hair?" Not only was the person who had been mocked not angry, he even had on a curious expression.

"Duh!" Shooting Star sneered and said, "I don't believe that a guy like you would have the patience to braid your hair like that every single day! Maybe you even used your whip to force some girl to braid them for you!"

Braids giggled for a good long while. "It was three. I used grass to hold three girls' feet, forcing them to stay still to braid my hair. How does it look?"

"What? You actually forced girls to help you braid your hair? Unacceptable! Shameless!" Bai Saya gripped the Sword of Sacred White. Before the other three could react, he had already raised the sword and rushed out.

... It's just braiding hair. Is that so offensive? The other three thought to themselves.

Braids still had a weird grin stretched across his face, but he didn't move at all. He just had the grass around him surge up and shoot toward Bai Saya.

"What strange magic." Bai Saya chopped apart the plants with frustration. Even though, as a swordsman, he wasn't afraid of these plants, he was held back because of them and was unable to attack.

"Magic?" Braids jumped up exaggeratedly and howled, "My ears must be playing tricks on me? You said magic? Let me tell you, I'm a warrior. I don't know shit about magic!"

"What?" Bewildered, Bai Saya lifted his head and retorted, "Nonsense. A warrior would never use such a strange power to battle."

"You playing dumb with me, sissy?" Braids retorted unhappily.

Crack!

"Just now... was that the sound of something cracking?" Alan looked around warily.

"Yeah!" Shooting Star scratched his face. Braids had really ruffled the wrong feathers. After the incident with Philo and Agid, Xiao Bai utterly hated people saying that he was like a woman!

"Cut the crap." Braids waved his hand impatiently and said, "Just what original sin are you? Fine, fine, I'll say it first. I'm Gluttony. Stone of Indulgence. You see this?"

As he spoke, he lifted his right hand. A large, wide bracelet was on his wrist, and embedded in the middle of the bracelet was an orange gemstone.

Dan's complexion changed all at once.

"Ah ah, right, I recall that the Stones of Indulgence and Ego are in the

south, right?” Shooting Star recalled the contents of the song. He had thought they would have to search for a long time. Instead, one of the stones had actually found them instead!

Shooting Star said in dissatisfaction, “Perverted Braids, you think we’d just casually tell you—”

“Stone of Fury, Roth,” Bai Saya responded and glanced curiously at the orange Stone of Indulgence.

...the name? Shooting Star had even brashly pointed his index finger at Braids, and now he really wanted to lift his foot and trample his companion to death.

“Saya.” Dan also felt helpless. He hadn’t thought that Saya would admit that he possessed a gemstone. If this were to get out, even if they escaped to the Yisite Continent, the Guild likely wouldn’t be willing to give up and would still send people after them.

“Huh? What?” Bai Saya turned his head, looking at the two of them in confusion.

“Nothing!” Shooting Star snapped. Then, he turned and gave Dan a glance. Dan returned his glance coolly. At this moment, these two, who had never seen eye-to-eye, could both see a murderous intent in each other’s gaze.

Only by killing this guy can we keep the fact that Bai Saya possesses a stone a secret!

"What power does your stone have?" Braids asked very curiously.

"I don't know." Bai Saya answered very honestly, too.

"You don't know? Are you a newbie who just got his stone?" Braids made a fuss over it.

"Yeah," Bai Saya admitted so honestly that his companions wanted to choke him again.

"I see..." Braids pulled at his braids in frustration and said, "How about this! I'll let you go this time. Let's set up a time. Once you use the stone's power and familiarize yourself with it, let's fight again."

Bai Saya shook his head and said, "I don't plan to use the stone's power."

"What? You won't? Hahaha, how can you not? That's impossible!" Braids was shocked at first, but then he began laughing loudly, as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world.

"Why is it impossible?" Bai Saya asked in confusion.

Shooting Star and Dan stayed composed to the side. Shooting Star even ran over to check on Alan's injuries. The elf's injuries weren't light, but they weren't grave either, so he left Alan alone for now. He even let Xiao Bai continue to chat with Braids. After all, Braids seemed to know a lot of stuff, so getting more out of him was the right thing to do.

"Hahaha, because the stone will use the power you want the most to entice you!" After Braids finished speaking, his face fell, as if he had thought of something. He tossed away his previous happy-go-lucky expression and coldly said, "As long as you're unable to discard the sword in your hand, unable to hide away on some remote mountain and never touch a battle again, never meet anyone again, then you would never be able to escape from the stone's power!"

Bai Saya didn't believe that would be the case, but he didn't want to argue over it with the other person either. He just shook his head.

"Hey you, how did you know that Xiao Bai has a stone?" Shooting Star asked bluntly. His tone wasn't at all courteous like what would be expected of someone asking a question. In any case, Braids seemed like he liked to talk, so he might as well ask.

Braids shrugged and said, "Every original sin can sense where the others are, even if they're on a different continent. It's just that the closer someone is, the more accurately they can sense the location."

After he said that, he turned to look at Bai Saya and surmised, "I bet that you didn't know I was nearby because you haven't used any powers yet?"

As long as it's someone who possesses a Stone of Sin, they can know where the others are? Then isn't it completely meaningless for us to flee to the Yisite Continent? Shooting Star glared at Dan, but the latter also had on a shocked expression.

Dan felt Shooting Star's suspicious gaze on him. He smiled bitterly and

said, "I didn't know. I really didn't know. I would never harm Saya."

Hearing that, Shooting Star hesitated. Long before they had gotten entangled with the Stones of Sin, Dan had already fallen for Bai Saya. Bai Saya should be Dan's checkmate. There was no doubt about it. Therefore, there was no way he would harm Bai Saya.

However, Shooting Star still felt deeply wary of the half demon. Dan wouldn't harm Bai Saya, but he definitely wouldn't care about harming Shooting Star or Alan.

Braids stood up and even stretched. He complained, "Ah, how boring! What a waste of all that rushing. I thought I could have a good fight with another original sin, but you don't know squat. There's nothing I can do! I'll just have to come back to find you later."

Should I still kill him? Shooting Star began to hesitate. Since everyone who possessed a Stone of Sin could detect the other people's locations, then killing this guy to protect the secret that Bai Saya had one of the stones wasn't useful at all. *Killing him seems to have no benefits?*

Then again, this guy had hurt Alan right off the bat, and he might come and find Xiao Bai again in the future. Leaving him alive was asking for endless things to bite them in the ass later!

Thinking of this, Shooting Star's large, golden eyes began to darken. He should take this opportunity to kill him since he would currently have Dan's help, when that might not be true in the future.

Shooting Star glanced at Dan surreptitiously, and Dan also looked back

at him calmly. For a rare moment, the two of them were totally in sync. Both held a murderous intent toward the owner of the Stone of Indulgence who had shown up out of nowhere.

"Hey, Fury!" Braids called out casually.

Bai Saya blinked. Seeing that Braids was looking at him, only then did he react. "Are you calling me? I'm not called Fury. I'm called Bai Saya."

"Heh, whatever!" Braids flashed a smile full of teeth at him and laughed. "You really should learn from your companions. Look at how practical they are. I've only just finished leaking info, and their killing intent has immediately shot to the skies. Tsk tsk, so practical!"

"What?" Bai Saya turned and indeed saw the severe expression on Shooting Star's and Dan's faces. Dan aside, even Shooting Star looked so solemn. *Could it be that Braids is right about their killing intent? Do they really intend to kill him?*

"Don't stop us, Xiao Bai." Shooting Star got into a battle-ready stance.

"But..." Bai Saya still felt that killing someone wasn't right.

"If I hadn't severed the weeds in time, our dragon egg would have already cracked, and Alan's neck would have been snapped by this guy."

Shooting Star knew where Xiao Bai's weakness was very clearly. Bai Saya was very simple. As long as someone hurt his companions, then that person was an evil person beyond redemption.

Hearing that, Bai Saya looked toward Alan. The latter was very quiet and hugging the egg without a word. However, there was a super obvious, red mark around his neck. It was clear how much force had been used to choke him.

"Can't you just punish him a little?" Bai Saya still couldn't bear killing someone just like that.

Dan tried to talk him around, too. "This guy says he'll come again. Do you want Alan and the young dragon who will hatch soon to face this kind of danger that will jump at us at any time? He is not just targeting you, Saya, or else he wouldn't have attacked Alan first. He didn't even let the egg go."

Bai Saya's heart chilled. *That's right! Even the egg started to crack. If that egg perished because of this, how am I to ever face the woman I buried? This is the only child that caring and courageous couple left behind!*

"Xiao Bai, fall back. Go protect Alan and the egg." Shooting Star knew that even saying this wouldn't ensure that Bai Saya would be able to harden his heart to kill a foe that had laughingly conversed with him. So, Shooting Star quickly decided to have him fall back to protect Alan and the egg.

Bai Saya pondered over it for a moment but didn't say anything. He quietly backed up to Alan's side.

Before his shifu had been murdered, Bai Saya, who had been raised as

a swordsman since childhood, would never have let his companions bully someone with numbers, and even go as far as taking the other person's life. However, it was different now. He still followed the rules of a swordsman, but only under the condition of not bringing harm to his companions.

He never wanted to see anyone close to him die again.

"Heh heh, interesting. Hey, you're Bai Saya right? What you possess is the Stone of Fury..." Braids thought about it for a moment. "So, if I force you into feeling furious, you might be able to learn how to use the stone's power earlier!"

He giggled and said, "I wonder, if I kill these two, will you feel angry?"

"You..." Bai Saya's expression changed. By now, he no longer felt any sympathy toward this foe.

Shooting Star growled without turning his head, "Xiao Bai, protect Alan with all you have!"

Bai Saya stopped himself from rushing off to help the two of them. *Right, Shooting Star is very strong. Dan is even stronger.* His current most important mission was to protect Alan and the egg. He once again fell back to Alan's side. From then on, he didn't dare to relax his guard at all.

Shooting Star bit out, "You wanna kill us? Give us your best shot!" After he said that, his right hand gripped the Crimson Snake Whip, and crimson nails once again exploded in growth on his left hand.

Dan didn't say a word, but faint golden battle aura radiated from his body, a color unique to the earth element.

Chapter 10: The Stone of Original Sin Here to Attack

"A demon and a half demon. You think you can defeat me with that?" Braids squawked in a high pitch, "Do you all have any clue of the true power behind the Stones of Original Sin?!"

A demon and a half demon? They were taken aback, a bit confused by what Braids meant.

"No matter how amazing something is, it'd become rotten in the hands of an idiot like you!" Shooting Star shouted, drawing everyone's attention. The long whip in his hands shot toward Braids as if it were alive.

"You fight him in close quarters. I'll strike stealthily." Shooting Star took this chance to whisper to Dan beside him.

Dan nodded. He was a steadfast, mage blade of the earth element. As for Shooting Star, he was obviously the agile type. This way of arrangement was indeed correct, so Dan did not suspect that Shooting Star was being lazy. In fact, in order to prevent Braids from sneakily readying some sort of trap with the grass, Dan actually dashed right at him.

Along the way, many weeds surged up to block his way, but Dan did not falter for even a single step. He let the grass strike at him, the battle aura around his body naturally taking care of such weak attacks.

However, against the personal swings of Braids's thorny whip, Dan did not dare to gamble. He raised the magic sword in his hand, properly

swinging his sword to block the attacks. Even though the whip's attacks were irregular and ever changing, Dan's defense was also solid. While the earth element did not have strong offensive power, its defensive power was unparalleled.

The naturally sly demon race rarely ever chose earth elemental magic. It was perhaps because Dan was influenced by his human blood that he would choose this element.

Dan also did not fail to live up to his one hundred and fifty years as a half demon. To him, Braids's attacks were not crafty. The weeds were just in his way, preventing him from defeating Braids.

Just then, the bloodred whip cracked through the air from a tricky angle, timed to match Dan's retaliation against Braids. Braids, who was dealing with Dan's attack, had little attention to spare to notice the whip.

Braids had already suffered three deep claw marks across his chest. Now, he suffered another of Shooting Star's attacks, hit straight on by the whip from the left side of his face all the way down to his left arm.

"Hot damn, you sure are ruthless!" Braids laughed instead of getting angry. He excitedly said, "You guys are competent enough for me to use a teeny-tiny bit of my true power to play with you both."

"I'm just a kid who sleeps early and wakes up early, which is good for your health. You should just play with Dan." Shooting Star made a face and immediately flitted far away, hiding to the side to await his next opportunity at a sneak attack.

"I'm just afraid he won't be enough!"

After Braids lightly muttered something, his turquoise eyes glowed faintly. The dark of the night made the strange color of his eyes appear even odder.

Dan was a cautious guy. From start to end, he had never gambled haphazardly just because of his age. When he saw their opponent's eyes glow oddly, his wariness rose even higher. He also strengthened the defensive battle aura around him.

Unexpectedly, it was far from enough.

The earth below their feet suddenly rumbled. Even though it was only a slight vibration, what kind of power was enough to make the earth itself rumble?

"Look over there!" Alan cried out in alarm from afar. "The forest is moving!"

Everyone immediately looked toward the forest. First, the tall trees swayed. Then, gigantic roots burst out from the dirt. The trees advanced root by root, as if they had grown legs!

Braids guffawed. "You think I only know how to control grass? If I only had such weak power, then why would anyone put their life on the line to chase after the Stones of Sin?"

A wide expanse of trees all "stood" up from the dirt and began to move step by step to where Shooting Star and the others were. Each

step from the gigantic trees shook the earth incessantly, as if the earth were shivering from this odd occurrence.

"F***!" Shooting Star stared with his mouth open. *W-what in the world is going on? Is this a dream?*

Even a half demon who had lived over a hundred years clearly had never seen such an odd sight before either. In response, Dan froze on the spot, not knowing what to do. The Shaosi Continent had a small population, so the forests were well preserved. Forests that were hundreds to thousands of years old were everywhere. Many trees were so tall that it was impossible to even see the tops of them. How were they to fight that?

Shooting Star was actually the first to react. He suddenly shot toward the trees, a ball of fire materializing in his hand. He intended to use fire to burn the trees. Even a three year old kid would know that trees were weak to fire. Although his fire magic sucked, burning some logs was no problem!

When he ran to the first tree, he saw many leaves falling down from above. At first, Shooting Star didn't think much of those leaves. They were just leaves—what were they going to do to him?

However, he had forgotten that although these were just "trees," they could even walk now.

When one leaf brushed against the side of his neck and a wave of pain hit him, he abruptly came to a realization. These leaves were definitely no joke. However, by this time, the sky was already full of leaves.

Shit, this is too much!

Shooting Star gulped. He immediately swung his whip, barely managing to clear a path before him among the countless leaves. At the same time, he shot out like an arrow. However, there were too many leaves. No matter how skilled he was at using the whip, many leaves still escaped his reach, like fish slipping out of a net. Each of those leaves left a bloody mark against Shooting Star's skin.

Ouch! It hurts! It hurts so damn much! Shooting Star wailed inwardly but continued to fight with everything he had, the whip never stopping. His two legs also took him dodging nonstop. He didn't dare to falter. If he did, this one Shooting Star would turn into several pieces of Shooting Star!

"Shooting Star!" Bai Saya ran, wanting to aid him.

"Don't come! Protect Alan!" Shooting Star forcefully rushed out of the entrapment of leaves as he shouted while short on breath.

However, it was not because he felt the elf's life was more important than his own. After all, even though a pet was important, it still came second on Shooting Star's list of importance. First place definitely went to his own survival!

It was just that if the situation had gotten so terrible that even he couldn't deal with it, then Bai Saya coming over was no help either. It would be better for Bai Saya to remain where he was and protect the other pet. Alan was a mage, and he had exhausted his energy from

casting the lightning pillars. If he were to get hit by these countless leaf projectiles, then they would be able to have elf shabu-shabu right then and there.

Bai Saya abruptly stopped in his tracks. He obediently stayed beside Alan, although he focused his gaze on the sight of Shooting Star getting chased by the leaves. His originally gentle amber eyes began to darken like bleeding ink...

Dan did not move to rescue Shooting Star. He understood the situation better than Bai Saya. Rather than having an extra person head over and get attacked by the leaves, it was better for someone to attack the culprit behind the leaves.

Therefore, he dashed toward Braids, no longer holding back. As he swung his sword down, several earth spikes burst from the ground. Dan planned to end the fight quickly. He was not going to allow this person in front of him to wreck any more havoc!

"How naïve of you all. Do you really believe that the Stone only has this tiny bit of power?"

Braids snorted. He actually remained squatting where he was, too lazy to even care about Dan's attack.

What? Dan did not understand. He had already reached Braids and didn't plan to retreat... *Someone's attacking me from behind!*

Dan did not stop his current attack. Based on experience, he calculated the location of the person attacking him from behind. Then,

several earth spikes thrust toward that person.

"Stop, that's Bai Saya!" Alan cried out.

"Ugh!" A muffled voice came from behind.

It really is Saya! Dan was shocked. He no longer cared at all about attacking Braids. He abruptly turned to look. The sight before his eyes made his heart thud heavily. An earth spike he had cast had actually pierced through Bai Saya's calf!

"Saya!" Dan was so frantic that he was unable to pay attention to anything else, about to run over to inspect Bai Saya's injury.

"Don't come over!" Bai Saya actually stopped him. He frantically said, "I can't control my body anymore. I-it moved by itself. Don't you come over!"

"What?" Dan was stunned.

However, Bai Saya himself actually walked toward Dan. Since an earth spike had pierced through his leg, he pretty much had to stiffly force his leg up to walk over. Each step of his splattered the ground with blood. No matter how good he was at enduring the pain, he couldn't help but let it show on his face. He clenched his teeth and told Dan, "M-move away. My body isn't listening to me. I might attack you. Go!"

Dan was furious to see the terrible state Bai Saya was in. He turned and growled at Braids, "Stop it! You're behind this, right? Stop it right now!"

As he shouted, countless earth spikes surged from the ground, piercing toward Braids...

Braids nonchalantly said, "If you don't stop it right there, I'll make him jab some holes in himself."

The earth spikes stopped only a centimeter away from Braids. Dan's expression was ugly. Hatred to the point of wishing to pierce thousands of holes in Braids burned in his eyes. However, he was afraid that the other person would actually carry out his threat, and Bai Saya would suffer again.

By this time, Shooting Star had escaped from the leaves and saw how dire the situation was. Without alerting anyone, he snuck behind Bai Saya and struck him heavily across the back of his head.

Bai Saya fell down, relief and reluctance warring on his face. He was relieved that he would not be used to harm his companions but reluctant that he wouldn't be able to help them after this. He might even become a burden...

Shooting Star, Dan, Alan... I beg of you. Please be safe! When I wake up and open my eyes, you must all be safe!



Bai Saya immediately opened his eyes, but he did not see any of those three. He was confused at first but soon recognized the familiar sight before him. This was the place he had met Roth last time. It was supposedly his own consciousness, which meant he was in his head.

I have felt your fury. Although it is weak, you have indeed provided me your fury. In accordance with our contract, I will reward you the power you wish for.

"Roth? No, I don't want your power!"

Bai Saya hurried to turn it down. He could go crazy and die from using the stone. If that was all that happened, he would not care, but he might even attack his own companions. That was something he could never allow!

Why? Do you not wish for power? If you have power, you can quell the reason behind your fury.

"No, I don't want power!" Bai Saya kept shaking his head. Shooting Star wasn't wrong about Bai Saya's stubborn personality. No was no. The stone was quiet for a good long while.

Then, can you tell me what has given rise to your fury?

Bai Saya did not hesitate at all to say, "That's because someone has hurt my companions. I must pay him back!"

Your fury is for the sake of vengeance?

Wrath was disappointed. It had repeatedly and repeatedly waited for so many years and still had not received a satisfying answer.

Bai Saya paused and discovered that he had not gotten it quite right.

He hurried to say, "No, my fury isn't because I can't avenge them. It's because I'm not able to protect the people who are important to me. I'm angry because I don't have the power to protect my important people."

Your fury is not for yourself, but for others?

Is that how it is? Bai Saya frowned and thought about it. He was finding it a bit difficult to express what he was thinking.

"I don't think that's how it is. It's because I want to protect them, but that's because they treat me well. I don't wish for them to leave me, so I want to protect them, yet I failed and even became a burden. That's why I'm angry at myself. So I can't say it's for their sake. I think I'm angry at my own failings?"

Bai Saya was more and more confused as he explained it and even turned it around and asked Wrath about it.

I do not know.

I have searched endlessly with each repetition for the origin of fury, but I have never found a satisfying answer.

Fury is an original sin. If the reason for fury can be found, then perhaps this sin can be forever abolished.

"Wait a moment, why is fury a sin?" Bai Saya was taken aback and quickly put a stop to Roth's words.

Why is fury not a sin? Do you feel that fury is a good thing?

"I don't know if fury is a good thing or not." Bai Saya honestly admitted to his own ignorance, but he also resolutely said, "However, if I see a companion suffer and don't feel an ounce of fury, then that would be a sin!"

Not feeling fury... is actually a sin?!

"Yes, if someone you cared about got hurt, anyone would feel angry, right? If someone never ever felt angry, that would be too scary. It would mean that he doesn't care about anyone else at all! If he cares, then there's no way he won't get angry when those he cares about gets hurt!"

Fury is because you have things you care about?

"Yes, because I care, I feel anger." Bai Saya nodded as if it were a matter of course and said, "I respected and loved my shifu. When he was murdered, I was extremely angry then. When someone I love is hurt or killed, I won't ever get to see them again."

"So if there's someone who never gets angry, even when his loved ones get killed, then does such a person even possess the ability to love? A loveless person like that is what true sin is!"

Because there is love, there is fury?

Having said all of this, Bai Saya suddenly missed his shifu greatly. He recalled his shifu's past guidance and wistfully said, "Because love

exists, fury naturally exists as well. My shifu used to say that where there is light, there will always be shadows. You cannot just keep the light and forsake the shadows, right?”

When I felt your fury, it actually meant that I felt the love that you possess. Therefore, fury is not a sin, but a way to express love.

“Yes.” However, Bai Saya frowned. Even though he didn’t dislike talking with Roth, he really wanted to wake up quickly and see if Shooting Star and the others were safe.

Indeed, I have felt love within your fury. You have allowed me to understand one facet of fury. Although not completely, I can feel the uncertainty within me lessen.

As long as the fury you provide me in the future originates from love, I will provide you power endlessly.

“Huh?” Bai Saya was shocked. *Why do you want to provide power to me again? I already told you I don’t want it!*

You need not worry. From here on, you are my true master, the master of Wrath. Even if you overuse my power, you will not go insane.

But please be careful not to use more power than you can withstand. The more you go over your limit, the more damage you will cause to your body. Benign cases will land you in bed for several days. The worse case will result in death.

When he heard that, Bai Saya hesitated but then recalled the situation before he had fainted. He truly did need power.

"I really won't go crazy, right?"

Compared to getting stuck in bed or dying, he was more concerned about going insane on the spot. Bai Saya was truly too afraid that he would attack at random like Mannen, with no care for friend or foe.

His original intent was to save his companions. If he ended up going crazy as a result and killed them himself, then that would be way too ironic. He could not take such a risk at all.

No, any damage from power overuse will be reflected on your body, not your mind.

My body, huh? That's fine. Bai Saya calmly said, "Then, I want power, and I want it now. My companions are in danger."



After Shooting Star knocked Bai Saya unconscious, he hurriedly dragged him beside Alan and shouted at the latter, "Help stop the blood."

With that done, Shooting Star did not know what to do next. He couldn't leave Alan and Bai Saya without someone looking after them or else they would likely end up as hostages. However, Dan could not possibly win against Braids by himself. Just the encroaching trees around them and the leaf projectiles were enough to kill them!

At this time, the towering trees had Shooting Star and the others surrounded, Braids included, forming a perfect encirclement. Shooting Star no longer dared to use fire to burn these trees. The trees might get burned to crisp, but they would also suffocate and get toasted!

He could not make a decision. He looked toward Dan, not knowing how long he would be able to hold on.

Dan was extremely mad. He was so angry that when he saw Bai Saya get knocked unconscious by Shooting Star, he immediately went on the offensive against Braids. Even when the leaves flying about the entire sky attacked him, Dan merely used his battle aura to block them. He cared about nothing, only attacking Braids.

"Hey, hey, are you actually mad?"

Braids jumped about exaggeratedly, dodging the myriad of earth spikes shooting out of the ground. His exaggerated shock suddenly turned into erupting anger, and he screamed, "I only poked at him a bit, and you've gotten so angry. F***, you're trying to kill me, so how should I respond to that, huh?"

To the side, Shooting Star was so angry that he bit out, "You're blaming *us* when you attacked first? You obviously started it and nearly strangled Alan and the dragon egg! If you didn't attack first, we wouldn't have so many problems!"

Dan's response was more practical. He did not speak at all, instead using waves of strong attacks to express his opinion.

Even though Braids had pretty good skills, Dan was a half demon over a hundred years old who was well-versed in fighting. As for his opponent? It barely took any time for his body to be covered in wounds.

By now, Braids was truly angry. The smile that had been ever present on his face vanished without a trace, leaving behind a cold expression. His tone was even more frigid as he said, "I just wanted to play around with you guys, but now I'm really angry!"

"Dan, careful! Those trees are running over to attack you." Shooting Star shouted and screamed, looking pretty much like a lunatic with his body covered in blood and tattered clothing.

After Shooting Star shouted, Dan sensed a strong force pressing toward him. He alertly leapt to the side. As he jumped, a thick branch slammed down, rendering a chasm in the ground. The branch itself splintered into wood pieces, yet the gigantic trees did not retreat just because of some damage to the branches. Instead, sharp pieces of wood flew out in all directions, causing their foe quite a hindrance.

Fortunately, Dan was a mage blade of the earth element who paid special attention to defense. Otherwise, just these pieces of wood would give him enough of a headache.

However, although the pieces of wood would not inflict any harm, the gigantic, ancient trees behind them were frightening foes. Any and all of the branches and trunks were several times wider than Dan's entire person. Every attack caused alarming shaking and even left deep

chasms in the earth.

Dan had no choice but to dodge the attacking branches. As a result, he could not extricate himself to attack Braids.

During such a battle, Braids actually knelt down in his original spot again, his improper smile returning to his face.

"That baby face has given me a great idea. These large trees are effing scary, but heh, a tree on fire? That's even scarier, right?"

What? Shooting Star's face immediately darkened. They were already surrounded by the trees. If the trees were to catch on fire, then the only possible fate awaiting them would be suffocating and burning to death.

All right, let's scram! Leaving this foe alive was very dangerous, as he could detect Bai Saya's whereabouts and could easily find them. However, no matter how much Shooting Star thought about it, that was still better than becoming roast meat right now!

"Dan! Come back!"

Shooting Star shouted and caught Dan's attention. The latter hesitated for a moment. Even though he could not guess Shooting Star's intentions, Dan felt that Shooting Star probably wouldn't joke using his own life no matter how much he enjoyed fooling around.

After he forcefully chopped and sent several branches flying, Dan speedily retreated beside Shooting Star and the others.

Shooting Star quickly said, "Block him. I'll cast group teleportation. When I reach the final part of the incantation, you must make sure to be in contact with me."

Dan nodded. At the moment, fleeing was indeed the best choice. Even though this person was a great threat to Saya, the current situation was too dangerous. They had to escape first and think of some way to get rid of this enemy in the future. *But... Shooting Star actually knows group teleportation? That isn't a simple spell.*

"The element of freedom, the child of the wind..." Shooting Star began to chant the incantation.

Nearby, Braids heard him and his smiling face abruptly twisted.

"Trying to escape? I possess the Stone of Indulgence! You think I'd let prey within my grasp escape? Cute leaves, hurry and attack with your all!"

The giant trees began to move one after another. A great number of leaves were shaken loose and immediately swirled in the air, rushing toward Shooting Star and the others like a rising tide.

"Shoot!"

Dan's expression changed. Against such a huge number, he could not block all the leaves even if he released all of his battle aura!

"Hurry and block them. I'll help you," Alan shouted. Lightning danced

across his hands. He now deeply regretted that he had recklessly cast pillar of lightning earlier. If not for that, he wouldn't have become such a huge burden.

The elf made a decision. Even if he was mentally spent, he refused to let himself remain a burden!

At this time, Dan's golden yellow battle aura exploded outward like a semi-transparent shield that stood before them all.

Green leaves crashed against the golden shield like a wave, the leaves instantly shattering into charred dust. However, even more leaves flew around the shield to attack Shooting Star and the others behind it.

"Aurora Lightning!" Alan released several long and thin currents of electricity from his hand. His mental powers were spent, so he could only lower the power of the currents in order to release a wider expanse of them. Fortunately, the leaves were not sturdy. Lowering the power was actually the right choice, as it was enough to destroy the leaves while also conserving power. It was a much better option than the pillar of lightning he had wasted.

However, even with Dan's shield and Alan's lightning, they were unable to completely block the wave-like leaves. Under Braids's command, all the small leaves that had managed to escape flew toward Shooting Star, who was reciting the incantation.

Even though he had seen the sky full of leaves, Shooting Star was unwilling to stop chanting. He was almost done. Even if he were to gain dozens of holes all over his body, he had to finish chanting. If he

didn't finish it now, they would possibly lose their chance to escape!

At this time, Alan jumped over and hugged Shooting Star. The innumerable leaves nailed him in the back, arms, and legs. The delicate elf cried out in pain, "Ahhhh..."

Even though Alan had sacrificed himself to protect him, several leaves still brushed past Shooting Star, rendering his body that was already in a pitiful state to an even bloodier one.

This is the final phrase! Enduring the pain, Shooting Star loudly cried out, "Please use your carefree wind to send us..."

A leaf brushed past Shooting Star's throat, cutting off all hopes of survival that the remaining words would have brought.

Bai Saya's eyes abruptly shot open. He searched for his companions frantically, and as he wished, he saw them right away. However, it was not a sight he wished to see.

His two companions were drenched in blood.

Alan, with silver-red blood coating his body, sliding down onto the ground powerlessly and silently.

Shooting Star, who was but a child, painfully clutching his throat with both of his hands, trying his hardest to give voice to the last phrase. Just one more phrase was all they needed. But all he could utter was, "Guhhh," intermingled with gargling blood.

The terrifying state that his two companions were in wiped Bai Saya's mind blank. The elf was in mortal peril. Shooting Star's throat had been nicked. *Are they going to die? Will my companions die like Shifu?*

"Nooooo!"

A wave of intense white light exploded outward with Bai Saya in the center of it all. It instantly swallowed up the entire plain, enveloping friend and foe alike.

Shooting Star stared at Bai Saya with wide eyes, not understanding why this guy had gone crazy right after waking up.

Collapsed against the ground with wide eyes, Alan, the elf who was evidently still alive, wore an odd expression that seemed to say, "I never thought that I would die without even having gotten through two months, let alone two hundred years."

Seriously, did I not tell you not to use more power than you can withstand?

Yet, you have only used it for the first time, and you have already immediately gone over your limit.

Wrath sighed. *My master this time seems to have plenty of headaches in store for me. I wonder, just how far will things proceed this time?*

To be continued

Epilogue: Character Introductions

Afterword

The new edition has reached volume two. If you have read the old edition, you will know that they are visiting a certain kingdom next.

The progression of the plot has finally reached one of the parts that I felt was regretful. I didn't develop this kingdom enough in the past, so I hope I can add more to their visit of this kingdom. I also want to show more of matters between a certain king and his subordinate.

I have built up Dan's presence more in this volume and strengthened the mystery behind the Guild. I also felt I could have done better with the Guild, but I have to say that my entire depiction of the demon race was too undeveloped. The new edition will develop them more.

Of course, the elves could use more development, too.

All in all, what I regret the most about the old edition is my lack of development of each race and kingdom. I believe this is because my first series was written in first person. I kept feeling that the story must revolve around the protagonist, so whenever the main characters separated, I would very simply skim over the branching paths of the other characters.

But now that I think back on it, that wasn't the right way to do it. Wasn't choosing to tell this story in third person exactly because I can write about things that don't have to do with the protagonist? Yet in the end, the story still completely revolved around the protagonist,

wasting the biggest advantage of third person!

Fortunately, I still have the chance to fix this imperfection and create a true “group of main characters.” It no longer has to resemble a first person story that revolves around a single protagonist.

I want to create a group of compelling characters!

So far, I wonder who your favorite character is among these “main characters?”

Even though I can’t help but ask it now, you can tell from the “dragon egg” that the main characters haven’t completely assembled yet! As for which characters are left, I will have to ask everyone to wait and see in order not to spoil new readers.

This time, each of the main characters will have more of a role. No longer will someone’s story be skimmed on. I hope everyone will enjoy the stories of this group of characters in *GOD*.

By Yu Wo

Character Introductions



Character

Bai Saya

Sex: ♂

Race: Human.

Profession: His main profession is being Shooting Star's dedicated nanny, mainly part-timing as a pet, and secondarily part-timing as an adventurer.

Age: Eighteen years old.

Personality: Gentle and in possession of extreme tolerance.

Favorite color: White.

Favorite food: Vegetables.

Least favorite food: Food that has a meaty smell.

Most afraid of: A burning gaze.

Weapon: The Sword of Sacred White.

Greatest dream: Being able to utilize his righteousness and Shooting Star eating less.

Bai Saya

Sex: Male.

Race: Human.

Profession: His main profession is being Shooting Star's dedicated nanny, mainly part-timing as a pet, and secondarily part-timing as an adventurer.

Age: Eighteen years old.

Personality: Gentle and in possession of extreme tolerance.

Favorite color: White.

Favorite food: Vegetables.

Least favorite food: Food that has a meaty smell.

Most afraid of: A burning gaze.

Weapon: The Sword of Sacred White.

Greatest dream: Being able to utilize his righteousness and Shooting Star eating less.



Sex: ♀

Race: Avian.

Profession: Pet.

Age: Zero years old.

Personality: A mischievous newborn.

Favorite color: Pink and red.

Favourite food: Mushroom crackers.

Least favorite food: Nothing.

Weapon: Arrows.

Greatest dream: Staying with Mama forever.

Yaya

Sex: Female.

Race: Avian.

Profession: Pet.

Age: Zero years old.

Personality: A mischievous newborn.

Favorite color: Pink and red.

Favorite food: Mushroom crackers.

Least favorite food: Nothing.

Weapon: Arrows.

Greatest dream: Staying with Mama forever.

Old V2 Character Introductions

Belle: Someone from the adventurer team Shooting Star met. Her profession is that of a cleric. She has a cute heart-shaped face and adores Shooting Star a ton. She often wants to bathe with Shooting Star!

Philo: The captain from the adventurer team Shooting Star met. His profession is that of a holy knight. Shooting Star played a prank on him, making him think Bai Saya is a woman. He seems to have developed feelings for him...

Agid: Someone from the adventurer team Shooting Star met. His profession is that of a warrior. He is another victim of Shooting Star's prank and has also fallen in love with Bai Saya.

Elena: Someone from the adventurer team Shooting Star met. Her profession is that of a mage. She was cold to Shooting Star and Bai Saya at first, but she grew to like them quite a lot.

Pisce: Someone from the adventurer team Shooting Star met. His profession is that of a rogue. He has a sharp tongue and likes to make fun of Agid.

Water Lily: A woman in the Goldenstyle Merchant Guild responsible for auctions. She belongs to the gorgeous beauty type. Her actual combat ability is unknown.

Ice Chess: Claims to be the younger brother of Dan's father. He is a pureblooded demon. He has silver hair and purple eyes. He is the

person responsible for forcing Shooting Star and the others to accompany Dan to the Southern Continent. His true combat ability is currently a mystery, but he is definitely super powerful.