

Chapter 1 - A Marriage with Katia...Might Be Far Off

"Jeeez, I'm really tired of dresses like this, you know...? Long skirts are stuffy and hot. For humans it's a major pain to wear something they are not used to." (Katia)

The instant the official tunnel opening came to an end and no one was looking any longer, Katia lifted her skirt and began to enjoy a cool breeze by flapping the hem as if having completely forgotten Elise's education up until now.

It's a behavior that's unbelievable for a noble lady, even if her house might be small, but since she didn't have many opportunities to conduct herself as noble lady to begin with, it might be inevitable.

"What a truly lost case." (Luise)

"Luise, even I won't do something like that at an official occasion. But, there are no guests present anymore, so it's alright, no?" (Katia)

Because the invited guests have gone home, leaving only those related to the Earl Baumeister House behind, Katia acts as usual with a peace of mind.

"Even though Elise went out of her way to teach you manners and behavior befitting a noble lady."

"Katia-san, your memory is very good." (Elise)

In order for Katia to not be treated like a fool by the invitees as the Eulenberg House's daughter, she received an intensive course on manners and similar for several days until the official tunnel opening from Elise.

According to Elise, she was a student with a very good memory, but as soon as the necessity to act like one was gone, she immediately returned to her usual acting.

Personally I don't consider it a problem if she only acts like a noble at such times.

"Well, even I'm normally not very noble-like..." (Wendelin)

"As expected of my husband, how kind of you." (Katia)

I pay attention to proper manners and conduct myself as a noble on official occasions, but I would get exhausted if I had to do so all the time.

I mean, originally, by birth, I'm just barely a noble.

If I didn't have my magic talent, I might have lost my status as noble after becoming an adult.

"Umm...for better or worse, I'm here as well...it might be a blessing to be considered family by a remarkable adventurer as Katia-san, though."

Margrave Breithilde, who also participated in the tunnel's official opening, joined the discussion while smiling wryly.

"If I can get you to understand that this is the usual me, it will be nice as I won't have to stand on attention each and every single time I meet with you, Margrave Breithilde-sama." (Katia)

"Such way of thinking really fits a top-notch adventurer. It's very logical." (Breithilde)

I guess that means she deliberately demonstrated her usual behavior in front of Margrave Breithilde, despite conducting herself noble-like when it's necessary.

"However, since another event is still awaiting you, you must do your best, Katia-san." (Breithilde)

"There's still more to come?" (Katia)

"Katia-san, is it fine for you to not have your marriage ceremony?" (Breithilde)

Margrave Breithilde pointed out that there's still the important event of her getting married to me left.

"Now that you mention it, that's true! But, we can do without being so flashy about it..." (Katia)

Even if Katia might be a daughter of the Eulenberg House, it's impossible to hold a ceremony more extravagant than the one with Elise and the others.

If we did something like that, I would get complaints from Elise grandfather, Cardinal Hohenheim. Besides, it's also a bad idea to cause a stagnation in the development of Lord Eulenberg's and Veith-san's new territory through an excessive burden. If it becomes too luxurious, there will be the danger of those two collapsing.

"Let's see. As result of the dispute over the tunnel, there's no one who doesn't know about the fact that you will marry Earl Baumeister, Katia-san. As you have exhibited your dress to all those, who were invited to the previous opening, I don't think that it's necessary to go at it so flashily." (Breithilde)

Since many nobles were informed about Katia marrying me during today's opening, there's no need to hold a gaudy marriage ceremony.

"Right, Margrave Breithilde-sama?"

As it seems that Katia herself dislikes such a extravagant marriage ceremony, she approved Margrave Breithilde's thoughts.

"However, you also have to consider the fief's population of the Eulenberg territory."

The daughter of the feudal lord is getting married, and moreover the other party is their new patron who prepared a new territory for them.

There's no need to be especially flashy, but preparing a marriage ceremony at the lowest scale was the duty of a feudal lord.

"That's true. Even my family holds important family ceremonies on a reasonable scale..." (Erwin)

"It's the same in Mizuho, too." (Haruka)

Erw and Haruka agreed with Margrave Breithilde.

"As my home is in the sticks, it might be rude to say so, but there are many people looking forward

to important family ceremonies among those living in rural territories." (Erwin)

"That also applies to Mizuho. It's an opportunity to celebrate and it's also possible to drink some sake." (Haruka)

There's little entertainment in rural areas. Thus there are many anticipating those few occasions to party to their heart's content.

It's a kind of amusement, and thus they usually save their money living frugally in preparation for those events.

Since Erw originally hails from a rural territory, he could sympathize with such circumstances well. As Mizuho is resembling Japan, they might cherish important family events.

"Since they followed the relocation of the territory, you have to marry while holding a proper ceremony."

"It's the duty of the lord's daughter. It will also give the Eulenberg territory's residents a peace of mind if they are shown the marriage between Wend-sama and Katia." (Wilma)

Indeed.

No matter how much effort Lord Eulenberg and Veith-san are putting into it, the fief's population should be uneasy on a new plot of land with no people living in the vicinity yet.

It's necessary to demonstrate to them, who are clearing huge fields from scratch, that they can expect the support of the Earl Baumeister House after their lord's daughter married into it.

"For nobles, marriage is a part of their job. The residents of the Waigel territory, who watched my ceremony with Wendelin-san, felt relieved, I believe." (Katharina)

As the Waigel House, Katharina's home, had just relocated to a new territory on top of it being right after the house's revival, there was no way for the residents to not feel anxious.

I suppose, with mine and Katharina's marriage ceremony in front of their eyes at that time, they felt reassured after once again confirming... 『It will be alright since the Earl Baumeister House will support us』.

"It's just as Katharina-san says. A marriage between nobles is a duty and also a job."

We agreed with Margrave Breithilde's statement.

Whatever he might say, he also had five...or was it six wives?

Anyway, he had many wives.

And yet it's amazing that it's said there's too few for a Margrave.

With even marriage being work, nobles sure don't have it easy, I ended up thinking.

"No matter what kind of reasons there might be, there are many noble couples who trust and love each other while living together happily. Katia-san, it would be great if you could reach a mutual understanding with Wendelin-sama from now on. Just like me." (Elise)

Elise makes a sound argument at the crucial moment.

Moreover, she admitted that she's currently happy as my wife since she has a very good marital relationship with me.

If such things are said unskillfully, they sound false, but Elise's way of saying so with a smile

makes anyone believe that it's really the case.

As a matter of fact I also believe that it's great for me to have been able to marry Elise. I love her as my wife, but as might be expected of her authority as first wife, or rather you might say it's because she's a person of character.

...Thinking of such things, am I slightly rebellious?

"That's right, isn't it? There aren't overly many cases where romance between married couples sprouts right at the beginning. What matters is how much of a good relationship one builds after the marriage."

Haruka, who's going to marry Erw, energetically expressed her approval of Elise's words.

"Umm...if I'm not mistaken, it was a discussion about Katia-san's marriage ceremony, but...well, I have also been happy with my marriage to Wendelin-san. I haven't heard about Katia-san having any particular complaints either..." (Katharina)

Because of Katharina's readjustment of the topic, everyone's looks gathered on Katia who was still flapping the the hem of her dress while saying that it's hot.

"If my husband were to be a born high-ranking noble, we wouldn't match each other since our upbringing would be much too different, but if Earl Baumeister-sama becomes my husband, I won't have any complaints. Above all, he won against me." (Katia)

"That part is the most important to you, isn't it? Katia, are you possibly a battle junkie?" (Ina)

"Ina, please don't start such rumors!" (Katia)

Katia, who had the doubt about her being a battle junkie which became apparent a little ago pointed out by Ina, denied it with all her might.

"No, that's not what I meant. I'm also fairly strong as adventurer, right? That means I might end up going full power during small fights...even though things may appear like this, I do worry about my opponents." (Katia)

"I wonder what to think about using your full power during small matrimonial quarrels..."

"A horrible tragedy."

Luise and Wilma pull the rag under Katia's feet by saying that she might one-sidedly beat a weak husband black and blue in case of a matrimonial quarrel.

"No matter how much you're going to quarrel with Wend-sama, I don't think that he will resort to magic." (Wilma)

"Indeed...I think that you have some misunderstandings about married life, Katia."

"Really? The married adventurer couple I know..." (Katia)

There shouldn't be that many couples whose matrimonial quarrel turns into an actual battle.

I believe, normally it's limited to a verbal argument, but Katia's acquaintances seem to be different. Or rather, seeing as each of their quarrels turn into battles, they are certainly a dangerous couple.

"Please feel relieved, Katia-san. Wendelin-sama isn't such a violent person." (Elise)

It's as Elise says.

Or rather, did I actually fight with Elise and the others after getting married to them?

"Wend is only really fussy about his food preferences, isn't he?"

Ina, that sounds as if my gluttony is the only thing sticking out...

"Even if you start worrying about those matters now of all times, there's no point in it. Katia-san, it's your marriage ceremony, but I think it'll be fine if you invite a few guests to the new Eulenberg territory. After all your real debut has finished with the formal opening of the tunnel."

The Eulenberg House became a vassal of the Baumeister House, but they are still vassals of the Margrave Breithilde House, too.

I guess it'll be fine to just invite those related to those two houses from the outside.

"Earl Baumeister, aren't you forgetting a house?"

"Is that so?" (Wendelin)

"Which territory is the closest to the new Eulenberg territory?"

"Ah, my parents' home!" (Wendelin)

As a matter of fact, the noble territory closest to the new Eulenberg territory is my parents' home, the Baumeister Knightdom.

By the way, I previously asked Hermann to try help out the Eulenberg House as much as he can. If there's some big problem, then the Earl Baumeister House must deal with it, but it's more efficient and convenient to entrust the normal, miscellaneous issues to my parents' home as a fellow Knight peerage.

And, there are plans to have both houses expand together by increasing the assistance towards my parents' home as payback.

"Then we have to invite Hermann and his folks, too."

"Fellow neighboring territories inviting each other to important family ceremonies will strengthen their bonds. It will also be great if they can tie their relationship through marriage sooner or later."

That's another reason why I have to get Hermann to participate in the marriage ceremony.

"If it's that, let's visit them for greetings ahead of time."

"That's a nice idea."

Ina supported Elise's suggestion, resulting in us going to depart to the Baumeister Knightdom.

Before that I decide to drop off the busy Margrave Breithilde in Baulburg with 『Teleportation』.

"Say, hubby." (Katia)

"Is there anything wrong, Katia?" (Wendelin)

"Is it okay for me to change out of this dress before going to your parents' home?" (Katia)

"Sure. My parents' home is located quite deeply in the sticks, after all." (Wendelin)

She will wear the dress again during the marriage ceremony anyway. Today we're just going to privately extend our greetings.

There's no paved road in the Baumeister Knightdom. Thus they are always wearing clothes that are easy to move in since all traveling happens by walking.

Also, Hermann might get surprised if he suddenly sees Katia in her dress.

I'm saying this, but the people of the Baumeister Knightdom aren't really accustomed to such things.

"Hubby, you're quite the reasonable guy, aren't you?" (Katia)

"Is it something so delightful?" (Wendelin)

"I dislike this dress 'cause it's hard to move in it." (Katia)

"I see. I guess you're the same as me." (Wendelin)

I'm also bad with noble attires since I haven't been born as high-ranking noble to begin with either. I can understand Katia's feelings quite well.

"We might actually get along well." (Katia)

Katia said after swiftly changing into her usual attire, and I agree with her opinion, too.

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"I see. I guess the number of your wives is going to grow again, Wend." (Hermann)

"Yes. Are you jealous?" (Wendelin)

"Whether I am or not...I have already plenty of difficulty with my two wives." (Hermann)

We headed to the Baumeister Knightdom with 『Teleportation』, and I introduced Katia to Hermann.

The speed of news spreading is slow, but even the Baumeister Knightdom is up to date on the details of the tunnel dispute. Although I mentioned that I will take Katia as wife, my brother wasn't surprised.

"Are you going to invite us to the ceremony as well? That's really appreciated." (Hermann)

There are many people in the Baumeister Knightdom who have never left the territory so far. It looks like even Hermann is looking forward to being able to go to the Eulenberg territory for the marriage.

"I guess we have to prepare some celebratory gifts."

"Indeed."

Hermann's wife, Marlene, and Jutta-san, the daughter of a certain Baron, who had become his new concubine, seem very happy about having been invited to a marriage ceremony by another noble. Jutta-san is the non-blood-related daughter of a certain Baron, or rather Baron Feinen, but it looks like she has lived in a city until her marriage. It doesn't appear that she's overly worried about country life, but she's glad to be able to go outside the territory.

"On that account, I wonder whether I can't have you help out in the Eulenberg territory a little bit before the ceremony."

Different from the Eulenberg House that didn't have any awareness of other nobles, the Knight Baumeister House owned a minimal amount of aristocratic thinking. Accordingly I asked Hermann whether he can assist them if there's anything lacking in order for the marriage ceremony to succeed.

"Us? I don't really mind, but...hey Marlene, Jutta." (Hermann)

"Yes...however, even we aren't in any position to tell other people to do this or that, or rather...isn't it fine if you keep it at the same scale as Amalie-san's marriage ceremony?" (Marlene)

"Helping with the marriage ceremony, it is? Understood." (Jutta)

Jutta-san doesn't know, but Hermann and Marlene are conscious of the Knight Baumeister House being situated at a very low rank as nobility. They are probably thinking that they don't have such an exaggerated social standing allowing them to teach other nobles.

"It's actually the contrary."

"Is that so, Erwin-kun?"

"Indeed... Right, Katia?" (Erwin)

"Leaving it to just the Eulenberg House will very likely end in failure...the least noble-like part would be to know that they must hold that ceremony, but whether they are aware of that..." (Katia)

If we leave it in their hands, it might end up becoming something like a farmer's marriage ceremony. There's no way for the current Eulenberg House to organize a marriage ceremony befitting nobles.

It means I'd like the to guide the Eulenberg House towards preparing a Knight Baumeister House-styled 『Minimal Noble-like』 ceremony.

"I got the circumstances. But, for there to be someone lower than us..." (Hermann)

"Dear." (Marlene)

"Truly, this is quite startling, isn't it?" (Katia)

Marlene chided Hermann who badmouthed the Eulenberg House in front of Katia. However, given that Katia knew about the not-noble-like parts of her home better than anyone else, she not only didn't mind it at all, but actually agreed with Hermann.

"You're a woman able to befriend others quickly, aren't you?" (Hermann)

"Right?" (Katia)

As my brother says, Katia's good points are her being easy to talk with and her friendliness. Come to think of it, she has many acquaintances among the adventurers, too.

"Now that it has come to this, you just have to go to the Eulenberg territory beforehand and help out. While at it, they are your neighbors, so I suppose you should take some gifts with you."

"Makes sense. Having said that, our main local products are honey, honey liquor and bears."

"Bears?"

I knew that they are in the middle of expanding their honey and honey liquor production, but I wasn't aware of bears being a local product. Certainly, I could agree with wyvern and flying dragon materials being their special local products, after taking over the dismantling of the prey that was hunted by dragon hunter parties other than Golf-san.

"The more the number of bee hives increases, the more bears are lured in by those. It's just a reuse of the killed bears."

It looks like they can sell the processed bear meat and fur, as well as the bears' gall as ingredient for medicine.

"Honey liquor is just the right stuff to drink at the ceremony." (Hermann)

"Isn't it? Booze is indispensable on such occasions. Seeing as it's a rare invitation, we will prepare a somewhat larger share of it."

"Thank you very much, brother." (Wendelin)



The preparatory arrangements of the marriage ceremony itself finished right away.

The rest is just Marlene and the others entering the the Eulenberg territory a few days before the ceremony to teach the Eulenberg House the necessary things while helping with the preparations.

"Uncle."

"Uncle Wendelin."

Since it took some time for that to finish, my nephews joined us, and played together with us by fishing at streamlets and eating with everyone.

Once I tell the stories about the civil war in the Empire as I fish, especially Leon as boy listened to my stories with his eyes sparkling.

The girl Klara chats with the female camp while eating the sweets prepared by Elise and the others. Even though she's still quite young, she's considerably levelheaded since she's a girl.

Actually there's a third boy who was born during the civil war, but given that he's still a baby, he couldn't play around with us.

"I wonder, Leon, Klara, are you going to participate in the ceremony?"

"Yes."

"It's the first time for me to leave the territory." (Klara)

"Uncle Wendelin, me too. I'm really looking forward to it!" (Leon)

Not just those two. There's almost no one who has left the territory with the children of the Baumeister Knightdom.

That's why they are excessively looking forward to departing to the Eulenberg territory.

"Being able to look forward to something is very joyful, but as they only moved to that territory recently, my parents' home has nothing of interest, you know?" (Katia)

Katia looked apologetically at the two.

"Since we have to go shopping before the ceremony, I will take you along to Breitburg and Baulburg." (Wendelin)

"Really, uncle?" (Leon)

"Really?" (Klara)

"Yeah, I promise." (Wendelin)

""Yahoooooo!""

Learning that they will be able to go to a city for the first time, Leon and Klara were very happy. If it finished at this point, it would be a truly great story, but an unexpected person made a bombshell announcement at this point.

"If it's like that, I will let you ride a magic car next time." (Elise)

"Magic car; what kind of vehicle is that, Aunt Elise?"

"It's a vehicle that will boost your mood if you ride it as it's very fast." (Elise)

"I'd like to ride it!" (Leon)

"Me too!" (Klara)

"In that case I will drive as well." (Haruka)

Haruka, who had stayed silent until then, announces that she will drive a magic car, resulting in a revival of the nightmare from a few days ago.

It seems those two aimed for an opportunity allowing them to legitimately drive a magic car.

"Elise, the travel to the Eulenberg territory will be fine as long as there's 『Teleportation』." (Wendelin)

"Haruka-san, that method will also keep the travel time short..." (Erwin)

Erw and I earnestly tried to stop their reckless action.

I have already grasped the location of both territories. Since I have traveled there with 『Teleportation』 many times, there's no need to unreasonably use magic cars.

Or rather, I cannot afford to let my still young, pure nephew and niece experience that tragedy. I couldn't do something so pitiful as planting a trauma into the hearts of little children.

"Uncle, I'd like to try riding a magic car." (Leon)

"Me too." (Klara)

However, without knowing anything, the two were full of happiness over being able to ride an unknown vehicle. Or rather, if I don't allow them to ride a magic car here, I will end up becoming a villain.

"Wendelin, is that magic car dangerous? Our children are still small, so something dangerous would be..." (Hermann)

"No, basically it's safe." (Wendelin)

"Basically?" (Hermann)

To the bitter end it's limited to the case of driving it normally.

Anyone should be able to do something like that, but unfortunately it was a difficult matter for two people who had been possessed by the devil called speed.

Since Leon and Klara are going to be on board, they will drive them normally while taking the children into consideration...something like that doesn't apply, does it? ...If we limit it to those two.

"Then, Ina and Luise will drive..."

"I want to drive."

"Umm...Elise-san..."