

## **Chapter 2 - Honeymoon and Rainbow Jewel**

"Yawn——, I slept well."

Three days after I had my wedding ceremony with Katia, I slept together with her since we're newly-weds, but when I woke up, she wasn't there anymore. Once I head over to the living room while wondering whether she's training...

"Good morning, dear master..."

"Eh? Is that some kind of punishment game?"

"Since I've been told by Luise to do it..."

Katia, who wore a black maid attire (NEW version) as waitress, stood next to me, who had his breakfast prepared for him, while looking very embarrassed.

Coupled with her good-looking face, the black maid attire suits Katia very well.

However, although our association hasn't lasted long yet, I'm slowly starting to understand her character to some extent.

Katia wouldn't wear maid clothes by her own choice.

Rather, she has a personality that would feel ashamed of wearing such outfit.

"It suits you very well, but Katia, you wouldn't wear it based on your own decision, right?"

"I'm happy that I can get you to understand...hubby." (Katia)

As her embarrassment is gradually growing stronger, Katia's face steadily turns red.

Since she should have believed that she won't wear maid clothes for her whole life, she must feel exceedingly embarrassed.

"Huh? Have you possibly been bullied?"

Is Luise harassing the newcomer Katia?

Even though I thought that my wives have a good relationship, do I have to give a proper warning here?

"My reputation is sure bad. I wouldn't do something like that." (Luise)

At this point Luise showed up.

Next Ina and the others also enter the room in order to take their breakfast.

"I just thought that maid clothes would suit Katia. And, I felt like wanting to see it." (Luise)

"What undisguised display of your own desires."

"Hahaha, isn't it fine at times?" (Luise)

Even upon Ina's sharp remark, Luise honestly stated her thoughts without being perturbed at all.

"While I also had such an objective, there's a reason why I came up with this. Wend, aren't you going to take along Katia on a honeymoon soon?" (Luise)

"Now that you mention it, I completely forgot." (Wendelin)

"Wend, you're really hopeless, aren't you?"

Since I was busy with the wedding ceremony, the bridal night, and the newly-married life...having said that, it's only the third or fourth day at most, but...I entirely forgot about it.  
In reality I work hard at public works and Roderich's requests during the day.

『Milord, since the night is free, even a newly-wed life is no problem.』 (Roderich)

I think Roderich, who assigned the next job to me while saying so with a self-satisfied look, is in a certain way amazing.

"Honeymoon? That's only done by high-ranking nobles and rich people, right? Don't mind it." (Katia)

"Just for your information, Katia you became the wife of Earl Baumeister who is such a high-ranking noble."

"Ah, true. It completely slipped my mind." (Katia)

"Don't forget it!"

『Even though you got married to him just three days ago...』, Ina pointed out to Katia.

"Did you guys also go on a honeymoon with hubby?" (Katia)

"The friendship visit to the Empire served at the same time as honeymoon."

That's true, isn't it?

We ended up getting dragged into a civil war in the middle of it, but that was my honeymoon with Elise and the others.

In a certain sense it turned into something we definitely won't forget, though.

"It became a quite long honeymoon, didn't it?"

"It took more than one year."

As Wilma says, if you consider it a honeymoon until you get back home, it's not wrong to say that we had a honeymoon for more than a year in the Empire.

"Therefore, it will be fine if you go out somewhere together with Wend-sama for two or three days." (Wilma)

"That's correct. And that's why maid clothes in anticipation that it would turn out like this."

In the eyes of Katharina and the others, just me and Katia going on a honeymoon should have an enviable, or rather, upsetting side. That means they had some fun by having Katia put on maid clothes instead.

"Be grateful for our broad-mindedness for being allowed to go on a honeymoon with only this much, Katia." (Luise)

"So that's why the embarrassing outfit...? Or rather, the skirt is really short." (Katia)

Given that it's the Japanese Heisei styled maid clothes designed by me, the skirt is short, forcing Katia to walk pigeon-toed out of embarrassment.

"Katia-san, is there any place you'd like to visit?"

"Let's see..." (Katia)

Katia pondered for a bit over Elise's question.

"I have gone to quite a few different places in the Kingdom. After all there are also nominated requests." (Katia)

As excellent adventurer Katia is highly valued for being able to defeat wyverns and flying dragons by herself. There were many situations where she received requests from all over. Hence you can say that she sporadically traveled to all kinds of places.

"There's also the option of going to the Empire, isn't there?"

Even Katia should have never been in the Empire.  
Believing so, Elise recommended a honeymoon in the Empire to her.

"No, I think it's fine to leave that for later, too. As a matter of fact..." (Katia)

As she finally put her thoughts in order, Katia announced her preferred honeymoon destination to everyone.



"Are you really fine with that?"

"If the person herself says that it's fine, then it should be fine."

"I also think that it's okay as long as Katia is fine with it."

"It sure is unusual."

"Let's respect it since she herself has wished for it."

Such being the case we decided to depart on the honeymoon as Katia had wished on the next day.

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"It's pretty much a weird honeymoon. With me and Haruka-san at the same time." (Erwin)

"I think it suits Katia-san just fine to say that she wants to enjoy it together with everyone."

"I guess that's true as well. It's wonderful since Haruka-san and I can freely hunt, too." (Erwin)

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The next day we departed to the Demon Forest with Teleportation.

The honeymoon Katia had wished for was to spend around three days to willfully hunt in the Demon Forest as adventurer.

Moreover, the members aren't just Katia and me, but the usual lineup of Elise, Ina, Luise, Wilma, Katharina, Erw, and Haruka.

Or rather, a honeymoon with such a big number of people...last time it was the same as well though.

"Is it okay for us to participate, too?"

"Well, look, even I think that I might still not have interacted with you guys enough. I considered about going with just hubby as married couple, but since we're going to live together for a long time from now on, I think it might be better to have some fun here with everyone." (Katia)

I see, so this is what you'd call a cheerful and active character.

I could fully understand the reason why Katia has many acquaintances and work friends.

I'm not as bad as Katharina, but since I'm closer to a gloomy and plain character, I feel that Katia is amazing.

Moreover, the aspect that Katia is capable of realizing this without any sly calculative motives is probably based on her being a positive character.

"So, what's the other objective?" (Luise)

"Hahaha, I guess you have seen through me, Luise. Actually I never visited the Demon Forest." (Katia)

Katia usually only received requests to quickly subjugate wyverns and flying dragons that appeared close to human habitations.

As she didn't have the time to come to the Demon Forest so far, she apparently considered this to be a good opportunity to do so.

Her not only taking others into consideration, but also satisfactorily fulfilling her own desires is a great skill, I think.

"Somehow it's no different from usual. Though it's convenient for me." (Erwin)

"It's nice to not have to be so formal." (Haruka)

"That's true, Haruka-san." (Erwin)

Erw and Haruka started their honeymoon that didn't seem to be one without any opposing opinions.

"We have to first grab an inn."

"The greetings to the guild come before that."

"Ah, true."

Ina donned an expression as if agreeing with Wilma's input. I'm the feudal lord of this land, but it was decided that I wouldn't receive any special treatment when active as adventurer. Since the guild will become flustered if we hunt as we please without greeting them, it's better to get that done in advance.

"It looks like a new building is under construction."

"The first shack hit its limit in handling the increasing number of adventurers."

"Certainly, it's overflowing with people..."

Many people, even outside, crowded the adventurer guild's Demon Forest branch that's located in the center of the restaurant district of the inn town catered towards adventurers.

The Demon Forest, which allows one to earn money with collecting materials, has become a popular spot among adventurers. The number of adventurers staying in the Demon Forest was gradually increasing.

The adventurer guild, which manages them and buys the collected materials and monster materials, has become busy in proportion to that. At the same time it became impossible to carry out all tasks in the initial shack.

A new building was in the middle of construction in the plot right next to the current building, but since it still hasn't been finished, they created temporary reception desks outside for the staff members to deal with the adventurers.

"It sure is packed. Just as rumored."

"Rumors?"

"Hubby, you don't know? It's commonly talked about between adventurers that you can earn good money in the Demon Forest. Since I heard that there are many unusual things and materials to collect, I got interested as well, you know?" (Katia)

"Hm——m, I see." (Wendelin)

Nevertheless, I think Katia is quite unusual for picking hunting and collecting in the Demon Forest as honeymoon, but meeting the expectations of his wife is a husband's duty, too.

After all it's not like she's asking for anything unreasonable either.

"Wend, there's someone who's really delighted."

"Eh?"

At the end of Ina's look a young man was happily talking with a guild member at one of the reception desks set up outside while being excited.

"Luckily I got a rainbow jewel."

"Congratulations. We will buy it for a large amount of money."

"Sorry, but I will take this home. I'm going to marry soon, so I will turn this into a ring and give it as present."

"I'm sure your lover will be pleased with that, too."

"Even among the daughters of royalty and nobility there are few who possess a rainbow jewel."

The young adventurer took the thing called rainbow jewel...well, going by its name, there's no doubt about it being a gem...back home without selling it to the guild.

"Elise, do you know anything about a gem called Rainbow Jewel?" (Wendelin)

"No, it's the name of a gem I hear for the first time." (Elise)

"So even you don't know about it, huh? ...Excuse me." (Wendelin)

I called out to the guild member who talked with the young adventurer.

"Ah, Earl Baumeister-sama!? It's been quite a long time since our last contact. Are you going to hunt and gather in the Demon Forest?"

As that staff member seemed to know my true identity, he dealt with me politely even while being surprised.

"That's correct, but can I ask you one thing? What's a Rainbow Jewel?" (Wendelin)

"It's a new gem that had been recently discovered in the Demon Forest. To be precise, it's actually not a gem..."

According to the staff member's explanation, a new kind of monster had been found in a certain area of the Demon Forest.

"Even if it's categorized as monster, it's a small squirrel with a total size of around 50 cm, thus it doesn't possess fighting strength to harm humans. Instead it's not as easy to catch it since it moves at a speed that difficult to track, but the Rainbow Jewel is embedded in the forehead of that squirrel. And because it's very beautiful, it has become popular."

A squirrel monster that moves very fast, but has no fighting strength, eh?  
It seems that unknown monsters still exist inside the Demon Forest.

"Was it recorded in the 『Schematic Monster and Produce Encyclopedia』?"

It's not like I looked completely through it, but I don't have any memory of having seen it mentioned in the old picture book I lent from Margrave Breithilde.

"It wasn't recorded in there. I'm pretty sure since we're possessing an exemplar of it as well after having Margrave Breithilde-sama give us a copy since we need it as well."

So it's not recorded in the detailed illustrated reference books of the Ancient Magic Civilization either, eh?

Maybe we will discover such unknown monsters and produce from now on, too.

"The scholars in the capital already investigated it, but the Rainbow Jewel seems to not be a jewel."

The squirrel monster originally possessed an eye in the center of its forehead.  
That eye degenerates and the eye resin gradually accumulates in the remaining cavity. Once it reaches a certain size, it starts shining in rainbow colors. At least that's the assumption.

"Oh, so it's originally eye resin."

"It's called popular because even the eye resin is beautiful. However, it's mysterious how it manages to shine in rainbow colors. And there's one more thing."

It's the fact that you have to definitely catch the squirrel unhurt to obtain the Rainbow Jewel.  
If one hurts or kills the squirrel, the Rainbow Jewel buried in its forehead turns into a light brown clump, losing any kind of value.  
The Rainbow Jewel is probably weak to stress?

"Catching it unhurt, huh?"

"Yes. If you hurt or kill it, the rainbow-colored glittering disappears. You need to carefully remove the Rainbow Jewel from its forehead after catching it. Since the squirrel won't die even if you take the Rainbow Jewel, you can release it without any problems."

A squirrel that had its Rainbow Jewel removed once again amasses eye resin at its forehead over the long period of many months and years.  
Once it reaches a certain size again, the whole process repeats itself.

"Many months and years, you say. How long does it take?"

Luise asked the staff member while looking very interested.

"According to the scholars, it takes around one thousand years."

"Wha——! So it's a gem that can only be obtained once every thousand years?"

"The collecting is difficult, too. If such a rare gem appears, one royal, noble and rich person after the other wanting it appears."

The purchase price of the guild has steeply risen. The staff member explained that this considerable high rate of adventurers being here in great numbers is owed to the Rainbow Jewel.

"It's not a gold rush, but a Rainbow Jewel rush, eh? The dream of making a fortune at a single stroke has come in sight for them. After all there exist no women that hate gems."

Even in this world many people gather if gold is found, and begin to collect it. That means it's not strange that Erw compares it with a gold rush.

"The majority becomes discouraged on the first day, though."

"Why?"

"It's because the squirrel is abnormally fast. Many people challenge it, probably thinking that they will be able to somehow deal with it no matter how fast it might be. The majority fails at capturing them."

The staff member begins to explain Wilma about the quickness of the squirrel.

"If you were to describe just how fast it is; most people can't even confirm its appearance even if it's moving close-by. Even if they are capable of confirming it by sight due to a good dynamic vision, it's a different story whether they will actually be able to catch it."

"What about traps?"

"Given that squirrel isn't just fast, but also clever, there hasn't been a single squirrel that got caught in a trap so far. Besides, it's inside the Demon Forest. It often happens that traps are broken by other monsters."

"That sounds difficult."

Wilma apparently comprehended that it was fairly difficult to capture a squirrel.

"But, it's a rare gem shining in rainbow colors, right? If I'm told something like that, it makes me want one as well."

The part that it's a rare gem desired by all royals and nobles apparently triggered Katharina's greed who obsesses over nobility.

"You know, Katharina..."

"It's easy to imagine what you are going to say, Luise-san, but seeing as you were born as woman, there are people who dislike jewels, right?"

"It stings if I'm told something like that. Even I'm not disinterested." (Luise)

Luise apparently wants a Rainbow Jewel as well.

"I wonder, do you have any interest in a Rainbow Jewel, Katia?"

Without putting any particularly deep thoughts into it, Ina asked Katia, whom no one has seen wearing gems so far.

"Gems, eh? Even if I could wear something like that, I never bought any, but since it's my honeymoon right now, I might want one as commemoration if we catch a squirrel." (Katia)

It's not like she's fixated on gems. Katia answered with a feeling of really wanting one as commemoration as it fits the timing.

"A commemoration for having married, huh?"

"As far as I hear, it looks like it's not that simple to catch one, but since we're going to especially enter the forest, it will be fine to give it a try, won't it? If you were to catch one, I'd like to have it as present."

"Sure."

I acknowledged Katia's request.

After the tunnel dispute came to an end, Katia hasn't said anything willful or caused any troubles to us. She also has no greedy character that desires a Rainbow Jewel by all means. Therefore she casually asks me to give it to her as present if I obtain one. I willingly confirmed that.

"Let's immediately go to the Demon Forest then."

"Oo——h!"

"Erw, you're quite motivated, aren't you?"

"I will very soon get betrothed to Haruka-san. Hence I want to get my hands on a Rainbow Jewel and give it to her as present."

As far as I heard, a Rainbow Jewel should be anything that fits as engagement ring. I guess Erw wants to obtain it by all means.

"First we have to confirm just how fast that squirrel is."

"Having said that, there must certainly be limits to it. I wonder how many gems we're going to obtain?"

Being lured in by Erw's optimism, we entered the Demon Forest.

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"Pweh!"

"Erw-san, are you alright? I will heal you right away."

"Sorry, Elise."

We expected it to be easy to obtain at least one.

We arrived at the area taught to us by the guild's staff member while harboring such thoughts, but at first we struggled as we couldn't find any squirrels readily.

No, there was a rustling, and I detected the existence of squirrels with magic.

However, even if I quickly looked in the direction of the detection point, I couldn't confirm the squirrel by sight.

Given that they run away after sensing our presence, I could only sense some small creature moving about, to say nothing of any afterimages.

It's the same for Erw as well, but he ends up doing the unreasonable in his attempt to obtain a Rainbow Jewel as present for Haruka. He ended up being healed by Elise after crashing into a tree where a squirrel had been.

"You really can't see them...they're too fast."

"That's probably the reason why they survived in this Demon Forest."

Elise stated her own opinion while casting healing magic on Erw.

The squirrels, who have no strength and small bodies for monsters, have specialized on speed. They likely survived by not being preyed upon by other monsters.

"If they were slightly fast, the Rainbow Jewel should have circulated in society a lot more."

As Ina says, it could be called rare exactly because it's not readily obtained even by a great number of remarkable adventurers.

"Wend-sama, you could just move quickly with magic."

"I had thought of that as well, but well..."

If you move as fast or faster than the squirrels by using magic, it will be possible to capture them. Wilma's strategy would be acceptable if it was a plain with no obstacles, but the squirrels' habitat is the Demon Forest.

Many trees and shrubs are growing densely here. If one moves at high speed with magic in the forest, they will likely crash into obstacles.

"You have to quickly move in-between the trees like this."

"I wonder about that..."

As it requires quite a bit of practice to master such a combat style, it would take me years even if started training it from now on.

"If I move around while inexperienced, I will end up like Erw."

In other words, crashing into a tree and receiving treatment from Elise.

"Magic is convenient. But, as it needs training to master it, it's not like you can do everything with it."

"How regrettable."

Since Wilma is a woman as well, it looks like she's looking forward to possibly receiving a Rainbow Jewel as present as well.

Even in my previous life, my girlfriend told me 『There's no woman that hates jewelry』.

"There's another problem."

Katharina declared that there's another difficulty in obtaining a Rainbow Jewel.

"Another one?"

"Yes. This place is prominent area with a dense monster population even on the Lingaia Continent. The reason that they shouldn't disturb us since we came here to get Rainbow Jewels won't work on monsters."

"I guess there was that as well..."

The monsters of the Demon Forest are very aggressive to begin with.

They should consider small humans that invaded their turf as nothing but fodder.

Once I check the surroundings with Detection, many medium and large sized monsters were closing in on us.

"Get ready for battle."

Erw, who got healed by Elise, and Haruka become the guards of Elise, has the lowest fighting strength among us. Ina readies her spear, and Wilma her big ax in preparation for fighting against the monsters.

"If you consider it for a bit, it's the perfect content for the honeymoon that Katia-san had originally requested. We can hunt as many of the Demon Forest's monsters as we like."

"That might be true, but..."

Ten-odd seconds after that we started the battle against a big number of monsters who couldn't tolerate humans to trespass into their territory.

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